

Wombat's is in the absolute center of the city. If you go outside from the lobby and go down Király street to the right, you arrive at Deák Ferenc square—the heart of Budapest. From there, you can reach most sights by foot, bus, tram or metro (subway) to get to the places listed below.



However, we advise you that you cross the square, and walk towards *Vörösmarty square* which offers a very nice *Christmas fair* during winter months. You can enjoy chimney cake and roasted chestnuts, while sipping some mulled wine. During summertime, it offers craft fairs and some seasonal events.

From the square, you can easily walk down to the *Danube*. The little princess bronze statue sits near the river. Take a few minutes to



admire the view of the *Buda Hills*, the *Royal Castle*, *Chain Bridge*, *Fisherman's Bastion* and *Matthias Church* and the *Citadel* with the *Statue of Liberty* on top.

Stop before you start crossing the Chain bridge. In that region you will see beautiful buildings which include: The Hungarian Science Academy, and The Four Seasons Hotel. The latter is one of the most beautiful examples of Hungarian art nouveau.

The *Chain bridge*, inaugurated in 1849, was the 1st bridge linking *Buda* and *Pest*. Once you cross the bridge you will find yourself ready to face The Buda hills. To climb up to the top, you can take the cable car or walk up the stairs on the left side.

Take your time to visit now the *Castle district*. At the *Royal Palace* you will find the National gallery, beautiful gardens, and fountains. When lunch time arrives, do not

hesitate in trying one of the bars or shops for a sandwich. Be careful with prices, and reserve yourself for dinner time!

On the other side of the district are the *Fisherman's Bastion*, and *Mattias Church*. The latter, is one of the oldest churches in Hungary.



If you would like to visit the labyrinth cave, then find *Uri street*. Follow the road that goes to Buda, and take the stairs between this street and The Royal Palace.

Follow the road behind the *Royal Palace*, and take the stairs in between the roads. Soon you will get to Dobrentei square, where you can cross the Erzsébet Bridge. Váci utca will get you back to *Vörösmarty square*.

Before the night starts, How about a warm up at our WomBar? Remember, happy hour is from 6:00 to 8:00pm. After, you might like to try different pubs at Kazinczy street, especially "Szimpla kert" — recently awarded 3rd best pub in the world.

DAY 2: ANDRASSY AVENUE AND CITY PARK

Lets start by going left across Király utca. We will find the *Opera house*, which is located on the 3rd street to the left. It is a neo-renaissance building by Miklós Ybl (a major figure of 19th century Hungarian architecture). He inspired most of architecture in buildings on Andrassy Avenue.

Our next destination is the city park. On our way, we will find many attractive places to visit, which include: *Mai Mano House* (a photography museum), *the Alexandra* book store (settled in the *old Parisian Department Store*), the *House of Terror* (a controversial museum that is a must see for a serious traveler, priced at 2000HUF), or the *Liszt Ferenc Academy*. Don't forget, the square full of amazing restaurants!

After seeing a large amount of 19th century buildings, and many embassies, we will arrive in front of the *Heroes Square*. There you will see: a representation of the seven tribes who formed Hungary, as well as the most important kings, and politicians of Hungarian history.



The museum of fine art is on the left, and the art gallery is on the right. Both hold some important expositions. So, please ask our receptionist before you leave the hostel if you want to know more information.

Behind the square you can try the famous *Szechenyi thermal baths*, which cost around 4000 HUF per person. They are perfect for a relaxing time before going out to dinner.



Furthermore, you will find the "*Vajdahunyad castle*", inaugurated in 1908; it shows the different architecture styles of the old Hungarian Kingdom.

Now, it is time to go to the center, and have some dinner; what is a better idea to get there, then travel with the *3rd oldest metro (subway) in the world*? Get on Hősök tere and get off at Oktogon.

Remember the long Liszt Ferenc square? It was there we advised you to try some great restaurants. We recommend Menza! It has a remarkable menu, great service, and an eclectic choice in cuisine. But, you can also try Kiado, which is right in front of this square (near Andrassy Avenue).

Need an idea of where to go out? Near the Opera, along the Nagymező Street, you will find cheap bars to have a drink;

some you can even dance, similar to Instant or Morrison's 1.

DAY 3: BASILICA, PARLIAMENT, GELLERT HILL AND SINAGOGUE.

Last day! Let's start the same way we did on the 1st day – to Deák tér. There you can find the basilica on the right side of the square. On your way there, you will cross the Akvárium club, which features daily concerts, and is the meeting point for the youth Budapest.

St. Stephen's Basilica is a Roman Catholic basilica in Budapest, Hungary. It is named in honor of the first King of Hungary (c 975–1038). His right hand is housed in the reliquary!



Following the street in front of the Basilica, we will find Október 6 street, and at the end of it, *Szabadság tér* (Freedom Square). The latter is where many Hungarians fought for their freedom in the 1956 uprising. This was during the time when the Soviets controlled the country, as part of the USSR.

Next, cross the square to get to the *Parliament*. It was finished in 1904 by Imre Steindl. His design was inspired by the English Westminster palace. It costs 3000HUF for non EU citizens.



Our advice is to go there at 9:00am, if you would like to purchase a ticket to visit the place; there is a long queue every day. Behind the parliament, you can have a look at the Jewish memorial – *Shoes on the Danube Promenade*. It consists of brass shoes and the *Chain bridge* as well. On the left side of the *Parliament*, take tram number 2, and get off at Fővám tér. *The Central Market Hall* is located directly in front of this square. It is a good place to eat cheap

Hungarian food such as: langos or the world famous "goulash". The *Gellért hill* is waiting for you to go up it. There, you will see one of the most beautiful views the city has to offer. At its peak, the fortress and liberty statue stand proud.



After walking down the hill, continue to cross the bridge, and go through the boulevard. It will take you to the *Great Synagogue*, the second largest in Europe; it holds up to 3000 people.

Now that you have seen the most important places in Budapest, you deserve some "you time"! Try shopping at *Vörösmarty* or *Váci utca*. You can even have a cup of espresso at famous *Café Gerbeaud* or *Café New York* (near Blaha Lujza tér).

Souvenirs to bring the folks:

Unicum: a Hungarian herbal drink, drunk as a digestif and apéritif.

Anything with Hungarian folklore motifs

Pálinka: a traditional fruit brandy (plum, apricot, cherry, walnut and many more flavours)

72 HOUR BUDAPEST GUIDE

- Vörösmarty square
- Danube
- Parliament
- Basilica
- Chain bridge
- Castle district
- Great Market Hall
- Heroes' square

Tip: The Wombat's map you received when you checked in will help you find the places described in this guide!