



## Zoom in: Budapest

No Hungarian city can compare to Budapest, in size or importance. Hungary's captivating capital combines old world-charm with a cosmopolitan lifestyle. But it is the beauty of Budapest – both natural and manmade – that sets it apart. This glorious city is a work of art, and a joy to walk around.

Home to almost 1.7 million people, the city is actually the merging of two cities that span both sides of the Danube River—historic Buda on the east bank and the more cosmopolitan Pest (pronounced “Pesht”) on the west. Dubbed “The Pearl of the Danube” and “The Little Paris of Central Europe,” Budapest is brimming with history, culture and attractions. It's full of baroque, neoclassical and Art Nouveau architecture, with plenty of exciting things to see and do.

### WHERE TO GO:

Our city tour takes you to numerous famous sites and still leaves you time to explore further. **Castle Hill, in Buda** is where you'll find most of the city's old streets and medieval buildings, including the neo-Gothic **Matthias Church**, with its colorful tiled roof and interior of lovely murals. **Fishermen's Bastion**, an elaborate neo-Gothic arcade built on fortification walls is the perfect place for taking pictures. From here you look out across the Danube to the grand **Parliament Building**.

At the **Royal Palace** at the far end of Castle Hill, you'll find the **Hungarian National Gallery** and the **Budapest History Museum**.

South of Castle Hill is **Gellért Hill**, another “high spot” overlooking the Danube. At the top and visible from almost anywhere in town is the **Liberty Monument**, an enormous statue of a woman proclaiming freedom.

Below Gellért Hill is the **Gellért Baths**, with its majestic domes and healing thermal waters. This Art Nouveau palace has dreamy spas where you can (literally) immerse yourself in its brilliant architecture. (Open daily, 6:00-8:00 PM.)

Next to Gellért Hill at Margaret Bridge is **Margaret Island**, a green, flower-filled island that's a peaceful haven any time of year.

In **Pest**, at the end of Andrásy Út, is Budapest's most impressive square—**Heroes' Square**. Flanked by the **Museum of Fine Arts** (open daily, 10:00 AM-7:00 PM) and the **Hall of Art**, which displays contemporary Hungarian and international art, and situated at the entrance to City Park, Heroes' Square stands in honor and memory of the great leaders of Hungary's history.

Behind Heroes' Square, **City Park** features boating in the summer and is home to the spectacular **Vajdahunyad Castle** and the **Széchenyi Baths**—the neoclassical thermal baths that offer a choice of different temperature thermal mineral pools. (Open daily, 6:00-10:00 PM.)



## Fast facts: Hungary

**WHERE:** Right in the heart of Europe, landlocked Hungary is bordered by Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia and Slovenia.

**SIZE:** Hungary covers 35,919 square miles, making it slightly smaller than Indiana and slightly larger than Scotland.

**GEOGRAPHY:** The country is divided into east and west by the Danube. Eastern Hungary is mostly flat plains. In the west, rolling hills and low mountains form the Transdanubian region. The Carpathian Mountains rise in the north. More than half of Hungary's land is arable; its rich agricultural industry can feed the entire country.

**CURRENCY:** Hungarian forint

**LANGUAGE:** Hungarian (Magyar)

**GOVERNMENT:** Parliamentary Republic. An elected president is chief of state and a prime minister is head of government. Parliament consists of a 386-seat house, called the Országgyűlés (“National Assembly”). Voting age is 18.

**POPULATION:** 9.9 million

**ETHNIC GROUPS:** 90% Magyar, 5% Romanian, 4% Romany, 2% German, 2% Serb, 1% Slovak

**RELIGION:** Catholic 54%, Protestant 19.5%, None/Other 15.5%, Not stated 10%

**EDUCATION:** Free and compulsory education from ages 6–14. Most students go on to secondary school for technical training or study for higher education.

## Where to shop

**Váci Utca:** One of Budapest's main pedestrian shopping streets, Vaci Street offers a variety of designer shops, bookshops (for which the street was once famous), as well as gifts and souvenirs, including the renowned Herend Porcelain (produced in Hungary since 1839) and the decorative folk-style embroidery.

**Andrásy Út:** Connecting the inner city with Heroes' Square and City Park, this elegant and iconic avenue, similar to the boulevards of Paris, dates back to 1872. Discover high-end shopping and more great architecture, including the richly decorated, neo-Renaissance **Hungarian State Opera House**.

Budapest is particularly impressive at night. Many of its grand buildings and bridges are beautifully illuminated. The Parliament Building, with its neo-Gothic façade and countless turrets that look like torches at night, is magical. After dinner, head to the top deck with your camera for some great shots!

Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Today's Weather: Sunny  
14-27 °C / 58-80 °F

**6:00 - 11:00 AM**

**Café Breakfast:** Coffee, juice and pastries are available at the coffee station in front of The Lounge.

**6:30 - 9:30 AM**

**Continental Breakfast:** A selection of beverages and breakfast items are available on The Aquavit Terrace.

**7:00 - 9:00 AM**

**Breakfast:** Enjoy a buffet breakfast and a choice of dishes cooked to order in The Restaurant.

**7:30 - 8:30 AM**

**Concierge Desk Hours:** Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard please visit the Concierge.

**8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Shore Excursion: Budapest.** Visit highlights of Buda and Pest, including the National Opera House and the historic Heroes' Square; walk along Fishermen's Hill to Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church; and discover the history of this vibrant city, including its Romany folklore.

**12:30 PM**

**Lunch:** Join us for lunch in The Restaurant.

**12:30 PM**

**Café Lunch:** If you prefer, enjoy a lighter, buffet-style lunch on The Aquavit Terrace.

**2:00-5:30 PM**

**Optional Excursions**

**Hungarian Horsemen.** See the legendary Hungarian Pusztá "cowboys" in a show of fearless horsemanship.

**Dohány Street Synagogue.** This magnificent twin-towered building is also home to the Hungarian Jewish Museum.

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

**Cocktail Hour:** Enjoy one of our cocktails and live music in The Lounge.

**6:45 PM**

**Daily Briefing:** Please meet Program Director Caspar in The Lounge to bid you farewell.

**7:00 PM**

**Dinner:** We invite you to join us for dinner in The Restaurant.

**7:00 PM**

**Bar Menu:** Enjoy a casual meal on The Aquavit Terrace.

**9:00 - 10:00 PM**

**Concierge Desk Hours:** Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard please visit the Concierge.

**9:00 PM**

**Evening Entertainment:** We welcome you to The Lounge for our Hungarian evening.

**IMPORTANT SHIP CONTACT INFORMATION**

Your Viking Atla team wishes you a happy and memorable day!

**Ship Contacts:**

Reception: +49 152 225 38 048  
Program Director: +49 152 225 38 177

**Ship Location:**

Akademia  
Chainbridge, Budapest

BUDAPEST

Departure Information

Time to place your luggage outside your stateroom door	Room number and ribbon-color code for your luggage	Transfer-flight number	Time of departure from ship
3:00 AM	Green Tag 211, 224, 301, 311	DL9694	3:30 AM
3:45 AM	Orange Tag 119, 212, 327,340	AF1695, DL8454	4:15 AM
5:00 AM	Light Blue Tag 225	BA865	5:30 AM
6:15 AM	Pink Tag 205,303	4U9785, UA7759	6:45 AM
7:00 AM	Green Tag 100,108,110,114, 117, 125, 200, 201,202, 204, 208, 217,325	AF1395,DL8503	7:30 AM
7:45 AM	Purple Tag 305	LH1337	8:15 AM
8:00 AM	Red Tag 101, 105, 214, 219, 226, 232,234,307,320,328,339	Hilton Prague	8:30 AM
8:30 AM	Grey Tag 102, 209, 231, 233, 304, 319, 321, 323, 329	Hilton Budapest	9:30 AM
8:30 AM	Dark blue Tag 106, 107,109, 111, 115,116, 123, 207, 210, 213, 215, 227, 228, 312, 313, 341	LH1677, KL1976, DL9696	10:00 AM
8:30 AM	Orange Tag 216, 222, 230, 335	BA867	11:30 AM
8:30 AM	Pink Tag 113	LH1339	12:15 PM
8:30 AM	Green Tag 237	LH1341	16:30 PM
	White Tag 103, 104, 112, 118, 120, 121, 122, 203, 206, 221, 223, 229, 235, 236, 308, 309, 315, 316, 317, 324, 330,331, 332, 333, 334, 336, 337, 338	Independent or taxi	