

# CERME13 GUIDED TOURS 1

## Architecture and History of Budapest

### GOLDEN AGE BUDAPEST

City walk, 2.5 km mostly flat	Length of the programme: 2 hours	Price/person: <b>25 EUR</b>
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Discover the shiniest years of Budapest, when a new metropolis emerged along the banks of the Danube. Towers, domes, gold and marble from an era of unbelievable optimism and the bright times of peace and prosperity.

This was the time when Budapest became an important hub of the Monarchy, with representative buildings to match. On this tour, we won't only explore some of the most photographed landmarks of Budapest, but we will also give you the historical context that inspired them.

We kick off our tour in front of one of the largest parliament buildings in the world and learn the neo-gothic building's fascinating story and why a contemporary writer compared it to a "Turkish Bath". We move on to Szabadság (Liberty) Square, a charming, semi-hidden green square of downtown Budapest, which had been occupied by a huge military prison, and later became the first public park of the city. We explore 19th-century shopping habits at the gorgeous Hold Market Hall and take a look at Saint Stephen's Cathedral. This massive church is one of the most well-known buildings in downtown, and home of Hungary's first king's right arm. We visit Hungarian State Opera House where the most famous opera singers, conductors and ballet dancers of the world have performed, then finish our tour at the Napóleon-udvar with its breathtaking, colourful windows.

Immerse yourself in the glittering era and its buildings, and explore some of the most spectacular spots in Budapest!

- Main sights:
- The House of Parliament
- St. Stephen's Basilica
- Andrassy Avenue
- Hungarian State Opera House



### ART NOUVEAU TREASURES OF BUDAPEST

City walk, 4 km mostly flat	Length of the programme: 2.5 hours	Price/person: <b>25 EUR</b>
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Explore the colourful art nouveau style of Budapest: an international trend with an authentic Hungarian twist! On this tour, we show you that Art Nouveau has always been more than just a style: it was a worldview.

The latest international trends of the 19th century, combined with local traditions created a special style which is unique to Budapest. We start our tour at Liberty Square, rich in history and stately buildings. After learning about the historical context of art nouveau, we walk to our first apartment building. We explore the importance of animal and floral motifs in the rapidly developing 19th century Budapest, then walk to the Postal Savings Bank, where even the rooftop is special- the architect believed that he designed for the birds of the sky as well. We continue our tour to another apartment building, where we explore how art nouveau architects aimed to design more modern and comfortable spaces. We take a look at the old Parisiana Dance Hall, where we can observe the impact of the Austrian art nouveau and its geometrical shapes in Hungary. We finish our walk at the Kazinczy Synagogue, where orthodox Jews combined traditions with cutting-edge architectural solutions.

Explore the hidden art nouveau gems of Budapest and experience how history and dreams were carved on to the facades of the city!

Main sights:

- Liberty Square
- Bedó House - House of Hungarian Art Nouveau
- Parisiana Dance Hall
- Kazinczy Synagogue



### BRIDGES OF BUDAPEST

City walk, 3 km mostly flat	Length of the programme: 2 hours	Price/person: <b>25 EUR</b>
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From the rise of an empire to total annihilation of the city: explore the modern history of the Hungarian capital through the tales of the famous bridges of Budapest. Explore the rich history of the Danube-crossings and enjoy the spectacular panorama as well!

The inauguration of the Chain Bridge, the first permanent bridge of Budapest marked a huge milestone in the history of the city. Even though the first bridge with its friendly lions remains the favourite and the most famous, every new bridge in the city was an exciting addition. On this tour, we explore the history of Budapest through its bridges, as they are both architectural masterpieces and guardians of history. From the golden years of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the horrors of the Second World War and the tedious reconstruction, experience the story of Budapest, then have a glass of spritzer on one of the loveliest terraces of the riverside.

Main sights:

- Danube Bank
- Széchenyi Chain Bridge
- Liberty Bridge
- Downtown Budapest



### ARCHITECTURE OVERDOSE - THE CITY PARK

City walk, 2 km mostly flat	Length of the programme: 2 hours	Price/person: <b>25 EUR</b>
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Városliget is famous not only because of its green park but also because of its wide range of institutions offering endless opportunities for leisure and cultural activities. It has always been a curious part of Budapest since the beginning of the 19th century hosting The Budapest Circus, Szechenyi Baths, the Budapest Zoo, Budapest's Amusement Park. The main attraction of the park is the gorgeous Vajdahunyad Castle that amalgamates the finest buildings in the historical Hungary into a single eclectic palace next to a charming Lake. With many sights come many stories.

Main sights:

- Vajdahunyad Castle
- Széchenyi Bath
- Heroes square
- House of Music



### HIGHS & LOWS OF BUDA CASTLE - EXPLORING THE CASTLE DISTRICT AND CAVING UNDER THE BUDA CASTLE

City walk, 4,5 km easy walk	Length of the programme: 2.5 hours	Price/person: <b>50 EUR</b>
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The Buda Castle complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered one of the top tourist attractions in Budapest. It includes several historic buildings, as the Royal Palace, the Matthias Church, and the Fisherman's Bastion. The complex was originally built in the 13th century and was expanded and renovated over the centuries by various rulers and dynasties. The castle has served as the residence of Hungarian kings and queens, as well as the seat of government.

Before the Buda Castle Cave Tour, our guide will give us a general overview of the history and legends of the Buda Castle:

- Why could our most popular king never see the church named after him as we know it?
- Regarding the Trinity statue, we will discuss the characteristics of Catholic saints and legends related to the persons depicted on the statue.
- During the tour, we will visit on the surface locations that we will also see during the cave tour, only underground. For example: City Hall, Úri Street 72, Ruszwurm, Hadik statue, Fisherman's Bastion with a view of Pest.

Participants of our walking tours in the Buda Castle Cave can catch a glimpse of a 3,3 km long cave system hiding underneath the streets of the Castle District and discover the history and the unique geology of the Buda Castle Hill.

Natural limestone caverns and 800-year-old man-made cellars were connected to a labyrinth-like underground system thus becoming one of the most extraordinary caves in Hungary. The tour will take you to a journey through time: the underground halls and corridors were used in a variety of ways, from wine cellars, bomb shelters to even a medieval prison. In its present form the cave system is showing the result of the combined work of man and nature throughout many centuries.

**Good to know:** The walking tour in the cave takes place in a cave environment on paved roads with lighting. **The inside temperature is 12°C (54°Fahrenheit), suitable clothing and comfortable shoes are recommended.** The tour is recommended from the age of 12.

The participation fee includes the entrance to the Castle Cave.

