

Hungary's capital city: Budapest



Budapest is the capital and most populous city of Hungary, one of the largest cities in the European Union and sometimes described as the primate city of Hungary. It has an area of 525 square kilometres (203 square miles) and a population of about 1.8 million within the administrative limits in 2016. It is both a city and county, and forms the centre of the Budapest Metropolitan Area, which has an area of 7,626 square kilometres (2,944 square miles) and a population of 3.3 million, comprising 33 percent of the population of Hungary. Budapest became a single city occupying both banks of the Danube river with the unification of Buda and Óbuda on the west bank, with Pest on the east bank on November 17, 1873.

The history of Budapest began with **Aquincum**, originally a Celtic settlement that became the Roman capital of Lower Pannonia. Hungarians arrived in the territory in the 9th century. Their first settlement was pillaged by the Mongols in 1241–42. The re-established town became one of the centres of Renaissance humanist culture by the 15th century.

Following the **Battle of Mohács** and nearly 150 years of Ottoman rule, the region entered a new age of prosperity, and Budapest became a global city after its unification in 1873. It also became the co-capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a great power that dissolved in 1918. Following World War I. Budapest was the focal point of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, the Hungarian Republic of Councils in 1919, the Battle of Budapest in 1945, and the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

Budapest is an Alpha- global city, with strengths in arts, commerce, design, education, entertainment, fashion, finance, healthcare, media, services, research, and tourism. Its business district hosts the Budapest Stock Exchange and the headquarters of the largest national and international banks and companies. Budapest is a leading R&D and financial centre in Central and Eastern Europe.

Among Budapest's important museums and cultural institutions, the most visited art museum is the **Museum of Fine Arts**, as well as the **Hungarian National Gallery**, which is noted for one of the largest collections of all periods of European art and comprises more than 100,000 pieces.

The central area of the city along the Danube River is classified as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.



The town also has many notable monuments, including the **Hungarian Parliament**, **Buda Castle**, **Fisherman's Bastion**, **Gresham Palace**, **Széchenyi Chain Bridge**, **Matthias Church** and **the Liberty Statue**.



Fisherman's Bastion



The House of Parliament

Further famous landmarks include **Andrássy Avenue**, **St. Stephen's Basilica**, **Heroes' Square**, the **Great Market Hall**, the **Nyugati Railway Station** built by the Eiffel Company of Paris in 1877 and the second-oldest metro line in the world, the **Millennium Underground Railway**.



Nyugati Railway Station



St. Stephen's Basilica



Heroes' Square

Budapest is home to numerous museums, galleries, libraries, sporting events and other cultural institutions, including the **Hungarian National Museum**, **House of Terror**, **Franz Liszt Academy of Music**, **Hungarian State Opera House**, **National Széchényi Library** and **Hungarian Academy of Sciences**.



Franz Liszt Academy of Music



Hungarian State Opera House