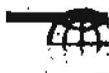


# Budapest is for relaxing

Shop, spa and dine in this constantly evolving city

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This beautiful Hungarian city, with its grand 19th-century buildings, offers the perfect recipe for a rejuvenating vacation. You can enjoy stunning architecture, delicious food, fun people, beautiful weather, public parks, swimming pools and spas to loaf in, and most importantly, prices that won't break the bank.

## Shopping

Pick salamis are the finest in Hungary. Find an entire selection at its store near Parliament at Kossuth Lajos. tér 9.

For Budapest's best contemporary designer clothes, visit **Vass Éva** at her shop at Paulay Ede utca 67 ([www.vasseva.com](http://www.vasseva.com)). She designs costumes for movies and theater as well.

If you're looking for souvenirs, avoid the usual folk-costume-wearing dolls and check out **Repülő tehén**, where you'll find funky gifts at Veres Pálné utca 40 ([www.repulotehen.hu](http://www.repulotehen.hu)).

The best market in the city is **Központi Vásárcsarnok**

(Central Marketplace) at Fővám tér 1-3, where producers sell fresh meat, fruit and specialties and you can experience a slice of local life.

## Dining

**Spoon Cafe & Lounge:** This trendy café and restaurant resides on a 246-foot, three-decked docked boat on the Danube River with a beautiful view of the city (main courses from \$25, [www.spooncafe.hu](http://www.spooncafe.hu)).

**Gundel:** Voted best restaurant in Budapest a number of times since it was established in the city park in 1910, Gundel is the city's most esteemed traditional restaurant. Dine on goose liver, caviar, venison and pheasant in its ornate interior salons, or book a table for your group outside on the terrace (main courses from \$27, Állatkerti út 2, [www.gundel.hu](http://www.gundel.hu)).

## Spas

Budapest has been a popular spa destination dating back to Roman times, with steam rooms that capture the healing properties of the natural springs. The most famous Budapest spas are those built at the turn of the 19th century,

when bathing culture was booming in Europe.

**Gellért Thermal Bath:** The history of the water here dates back to the 15th century, and even then it was used for healing. In 1918, a beautiful hotel was built on the spring, with a splendid spa that is now open for hotel guests and day visitors. Inside are steam rooms and several indoor pools lined with elegant mosaics, and outside are several pools, including one with a wave machine (entrance from \$17 for swimming pool with locker, Kelenhegyi út 4, [www.gellertbath.com](http://www.gellertbath.com)).

**Széchenyi Bath:** One of the largest spa complexes in Europe, the neo-Baroque Szechenyi was built in 1913 and offers 15 different pools and baths. Many come here for multi-day courses of medical treatments using the therapeutic waters, but it's also a great place to come for the day. Soak in the thermal pools that have different temperatures and specific health benefits, dip in the outdoor pools, sunbathe, or book a massage on the terrace (entrance from \$15.50 with locker, Állatkerti krt. 11).

