

Chapter 5

5

BELVÁROS (INNER TOWN)

DISTRICT 5

Updated by
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 Sights
★★★★☆☆

 Restaurants
★★★★☆☆

 Hotels
★★★★★★

 Shopping
★★★★★★

 Nightlife
★★★★☆☆

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	QUICK BITES
<p>■ Walk down Dunakorzó: This café-lined riverside promenade, which runs south between the Chain Bridge and Elizabeth Bridge, makes for a pleasant stroll day or night.</p> <p>■ Stay in luxury: From the Kempinski to the Ritz-Carlton, this neighborhood is home to Budapest’s highest concentration of five-star hotels—so why not treat yourself?</p> <p>■ Step back in time: Visit the Inner City Parish Church, the oldest in Budapest, to discover a thousand years of architectural history (and ruins dating back to Roman times).</p> <p>■ Drink in a ruin: Budapest is famous for its atmospheric ruin bars and Csendes is one of the city’s best, with quirky decor including hanging bicycles and mannequin limbs.</p> <p>■ Shop ‘til you drop: Splash out on big-name designer brands on Deák Ferenc utca (Fashion Street), or seek out independent boutiques along the Inner Town’s smaller streets.</p> <p>■ Feel like a Parisian: You needn’t stay at the Párisi Udvar Hotel to stroll through its art nouveau arcade, delighting in its gilded arches, decorative cupolas, and charming cafés and shops.</p>	<p>■ Molnár’s kürtőskalács. This is the place to try a traditional Transylvanian “spit” or “chimney” cake, a cylindrical pastry made from sweet yeasty dough. It’s cooked over a charcoal fire then sprinkled with sugar. 📍 <i>Váci utca 31, Inner Town</i> 🌐 www.kurtoskalacs.com 🗺 <i>M3: Ferenciek tere</i></p> <p>■ Gentry Coffee & Brunch. This contemporary café serves some of the best all-day breakfasts in town (try the duck-filled croissant), as well as an excellent choice of coffees, craft beers, and champagnes. 📍 <i>Királyi Pál utca 9, Inner Town</i> 🌐 www.gentrycoffeebrunch.hu 🗺 <i>M3, M4: Kálvin tér</i></p> <p>■ Rózsavölgyi Csokoládé. This boutique Belváros chocolate shop has a tempting selection of artisan bars and truffles, many with unusual flavor combinations, and the sweet treats are wrapped in lovely, arty packaging. 📍 <i>Királyi Pál utca 6, Inner Town</i> 🌐 www.rozsavolgyi.com 🗺 <i>M3, M4: Kálvin tér</i></p>
GETTING HERE	
<p>Belváros is extremely well-connected with the rest of the city, with half a dozen Metro stations serving four different lines. The main hub is Deák Ferenc tér where three of those four lines converge. There’s also a regular bus connection (Bus 16) to Castle Hill. Traffic and parking can be a challenge.</p>	
PLANNING YOUR TIME	
<p>If you’re staying elsewhere, come here during the day, when you can stroll, shop, and eat at your leisure. There are some lively spots in the evening, particularly along Váci utca, but most head a bit farther east of here (to District 7) for the best bars and clubs.</p>	

The Inner Town is the beating heart of Pest, and the city’s most visited neighborhood, yet this isn’t an area that’s brimming with big-ticket sights. Rather, the neighborhood itself is the attraction, with its mix of tiny, stroll-worthy streets and grand avenues lined with stately old buildings—some freshly sparkling after their first painting in decades, others silently but still gracefully crumbling—along with some of the city’s best shopping and dining.

The neighborhood is small, and remains more or less equivalent to the historic old town of Pest; its boundaries are Deák Ferenc utca (just below Erzsébet tér, or Elizabeth Square) in the north, Várház körút (just above Nagy Vásárcsarnok, or the Central Market Hall) in the south, and Múzeum körút (right by the Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, or Hungarian National Museum) in the east. The Danube marks the Inner Town’s western boundary. Pedestrian shopping street Váci utca is at the center of things, with its rich array of antiques stores, luxury boutiques, bookshops, cafés, and restaurants, but perhaps the area’s most romantic promenade is the Dunakorzó, which runs parallel to Váci utca along the bank of the Danube.

Belváros also boasts many of the city’s biggest foodie highlights, from famous *cukrászdas* and coffeehouses to revered fine dining restaurants, along with its most luxurious and exclusive hotels.

Factor in the easy access to Gellért Hill and the Castle District (just across Elizabeth Bridge) and the rest of the city (via a host of transport connections) and this neighborhood makes a perfect base for any Budapest city break.

Sights

The neighborhood’s main attraction is the historic church Budapest-Belvárosi Nagyboldogasszony, but keep your eyes open for other architectural highlights as you stroll the Inner Town’s streets.

Budapest-Belvárosi Nagyboldogasszony (Inner City Parish Church)
RELIGIOUS SITE | Located at the Pest end of the Erzsébet híd (Elizabeth Bridge), this is not only the oldest church in Budapest, but the oldest building anywhere on this side of the river (a fact illustrated by the evasive bend in the main road beside it). The relatively understated 18th-century baroque facade belies the long history

Did You Know?

Between 1858 and 1871 Franz Liszt lived in the rectory of the Inner City Parish Church. You can hear the same organ he played when he led the choir here during regular performances.

and variety of architectural styles you'll find inside, where a medieval Gothic nave stands over the remains of the original 11th century Romanesque basilica (complete with fragments of frescoes) and the ruins of the Roman garrison that it was built upon. You will also find frescoes from the 14th and 15th centuries, a 16th century Islamic *mihrab* (prayer niche)—a holdover from the 150-year Ottoman occupation of Hungary—a 19th century rococo pulpit, and a 20th century high altar. The church contains the relics of Saint Gellért, the bishop who was first buried here in 1046 after pagans pushed him off a hill across the river, as well as those of 11th century Hungarian king Saint László. ☒ Március 15 tér, Belváros 🌐 www.belvarosiplebania.hu 📞 2,000 HUF; free Sun. ☒ M3: Ferenciek tere.

Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum (Petőfi Museum of Literature)

MUSEUM | Founded in 1954 as the national museum of 19th- and 20th-century Hungarian literature, this lovely venue—named after Hungary's most famous poet of the 1848 revolution, Sándor Petőfi—is well worth a visit regardless of what you know (or don't know) about Hungarian creative writing. For one thing, it's in the ravishing neoclassical Károlyi Palota (Károly Palace), which has some grand staircases and stunning rooms filled with period furniture; all free to visit with a museum ticket. And behind the palace is the lovely, flower-filled Károlyi Kert (Károly Garden), a pleasant spot for a post-exhibition amble. ■ **TIP→** When entering the palace, look down at the “cobblestone” floor, as closer inspection reveals it's actually made of wood. The owner got fed up with being awakened by horses hooves. ☒ Károlyi utca 16, Belváros 📞 1/317-3611 🌐 www.pim.hu 📞 800 HUF; temporary exhibitions 1,000 HUF ☺ Closed Mon. ☒ M3: Ferenciek tere.

Török Bankház (Turkish Bank House)

BUILDING | This eye-catching, glass-covered building, designed in 1906 by

architects Henrik Böhm and Árpád Hegedűs, proudly displays Budapest's largest outdoor mosaic. Can't see it? Take a few steps back and crane your neck until you have a good view of the facade's upper gable. It's there you will find the Secessionist-style mosaic by Hungarian master Miksa Roth, which depicts the Virgin Mary wearing the country's royal crown and wielding a sword before a veritable who's who of Hungarian heroes. ☒ Szervita tér, Belváros ☒ M1, M2, M3: Deák Ferenc tér.

Váci utca

NEIGHBORHOOD | Running south from Vörösmarty Square to Elizabeth Bridge is Váci utca, Budapest's best-known shopping street and most unabashed tourist zone. This pedestrian precinct with electric 19th-century lampposts has a lot of chain outlets, souvenir stores, and overpriced cafés, but also springs the odd surprise with high-quality china shops, independent bookstores, and folk-craft emporiums. Most notable of all is the architecture, which is consistently beautiful: look out for **Philanthia Virág** at number 9, a tacky flower and gift shop set within a beautiful art nouveau building blessed with original tiles, frescoes, and arches. Other notable art nouveau buildings along Váci utca include the four-story **Thonet House** (no. 11/A) by renowned architect Ödön Lechner, and—somewhat surprisingly—the **McDonald's** on the corner of Régi posta. It was Hungary's first, and remains one of Europe's most beautiful. ☒ Belváros.

🍴 Restaurants

Babel

\$\$\$\$ | **HUNGARIAN** | This atmospheric and intimate Michelin-starred restaurant, which sits in the shadow of the Inner City Parish Church, serves a choice of tasting menus inspired by the beautiful mountainous region of Transylvania in Romania (though it was once part of Hungary). Chef István Veres and his team



Housed in the sumptuous neoclassical Károlyi Palota, dating from 1840, the Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum is devoted to Hungary's beloved poet, Sándor Petőfi.

specialize in innovative, flavorful, and playful dishes that put gourmet spins on traditional Carpathian country fare, such as *húsleves* (broth) laced with Tokaj wine and *tojásos nokedli* (egg dumplings) sprinkled with truffles. **Known for:** intimate dining with only a dozen tables; inventive dishes and theatrical presentation; very expensive for Budapest. [5] *Average main:* 29,900 HUF ☎ *Piarista köz 2, Belváros* ☎ 70/600-0800 🌐 www.babel-budapest.hu ☺ *Closed Sun. and Mon.; no lunch* 📍 M3: *Ferenciek tere*.

Borssó Bistro

\$\$\$ | **FUSION** | The chefs at this cozy high-end bistro combine fresh market ingredients and spoonfuls of imagination to create unique Hungarian-French fusion dishes; think rabbit schnitzel, veal paprika dumplings, and cottage cheese crepes. Everything's beautifully presented, and the friendly servers (or "hosts") are always happy to recommend wines to complement your main. **Known for:** elegant but unpretentious decor; good choice of wines; only open

Thursday through Saturday. [5] *Average main:* 4,500 HUF ☎ *Királyi Pál utca 14, Belváros* ☎ 1/789-0975 🌐 www.borss.hu ☺ *Closed Sun.–Wed.; no lunch* 📍 M3, M4: *Kálvin tér*.

Dionysos Taverna

\$\$\$\$ | **GREEK** | Stone walls and floors, Mediterranean white and blue paint, and a lively terrace will transport you to Santorini. While a bit on the pricey end, this authentic Greek restaurant offers high-quality Greek food and service and a palate break from typical Hungarian fare, which is a popular break apparently as there is often a long wait for a table. **Known for:** Budapest's best Greek restaurant; souvlaki; Piatela Dionysou sharing plate. [5] *Average main:* 6,000 HUF ☎ *Belgrád rakpart 16, Belváros* ☎ 1/318-1222 🌐 www.dionysos.hu.

Gerlőczy

\$\$\$ | **EUROPEAN** | The wicker chairs and café tables of this elegant brasserie, on a quiet and leafy square tucked behind Váci utca, are reminiscent of a scene out

of a French movie; the summer terrace is about the prettiest location for lunch in Budapest. At other times of year, visitors can still enjoy the seasonal Hungarian favorites, like *sült libacomb* (crispy goose leg) in winter and asparagus soup in the spring, in the Parisian bistro-style interior.

Known for: seasonal French and Hungarian dishes; Budapest's fluffiest breakfast croissants; lovely terrace. [5] *Average main:* 4,000 HUF ☎ *Gerlőczy utca 1, Belváros* ☎ 1/501-4000 🌐 www.gerloczy.hu 📍 M2: *Astoria*.

Govinda Veggie Corner

\$\$ | **VEGETARIAN** | The basic Indian-style dishes at Govinda may not be that exciting from a culinary perspective but everything is vegan and made from fresh products coming straight out of Krishna Valley, a communal village of Hare Krishnas near Lake Balaton that dates back to the change in regime. This religious eco-community is almost completely self-sufficient, using solar energy and sustainable subsidies, and supplying their six Hungarian restaurants with vegetables and other stocks. **Known for:** Indian vegan cuisine; puri and homemade chutney; Krishna theme. [5] *Average main:* 2,500 HUF ☎ *Papnövelde utca 1, Belváros* ☎ 70/255-2195 🌐 www.govinda.hu.

Kárpátia (The Carpathia)

\$\$\$\$ | **HUNGARIAN** | Celebrated Roma musicians play traditional *csárdás* as well as more contemporary tunes in this historic 1877 restaurant with traditional furnishings that include hand-painted walls, heavy curtains, rich wood-paneling, and cushioned red chairs. The menu offers a rather basic fare of traditional, hearty Hungarian cuisine heavy on pork, goose, and beef which you could find elsewhere, but not with this enchanting setting. **Known for:** authentic Hungarian cuisine; elegant old world interior; live folk music. [5] *Average main:* 6,000 HUF ☎ *Ferenciek tere 7, Belváros* ☎ 1/317-3596 🌐 www.karpatia.hu.

Kiosk

\$\$\$ | **INTERNATIONAL** | This restaurant's large outdoor terrace in the heart of the Inner Town makes it a popular lunch stop with tourists throughout the summer, who are also tempted by the great-value midweek lunch menus (2,450 HUF for two courses or 2,950 for three). Come later in the day and you will find a full menu of delicious dishes—from seasonal Hungarian foods like *lecsó* (pepper stews) to international favorites like burgers, soups, and salads—as well as an unbeatable cocktail menu and (very loud) live music. **Known for:** chic interior and pleasant terrace; delicious homemade lemonades; service can be wilfully slow. [5] *Average main:* 3,750 HUF ☎ *Március 15. tér 4, Belváros* ☎ 70/311-1969 🌐 www.kiosk-budapest.com 📍 M3: *Ferenciek tere*.

Monk's Bistrot

\$\$\$ | **HUNGARIAN** | The decor at this high quality Inner Town restaurant is said to be inspired by the Piarist monastery that once stood here, but with its hip industrial lighting, plushly upholstered furnishings, and sleek open kitchen, it takes quite the imagination to picture monks dining here. Instead, you're likely to find a mix of hip locals and food-loving tourists tucking into the bistro's modern takes on age-old Hungarian dishes. **Known for:** bold and inventive seasonal dishes; extensive wine menu; good value three-course lunches. [5] *Average main:* 3,500 HUF ☎ *Piarista köz 1, Belváros* ☎ 30/789-4718 🌐 www.english.monks.hu ☺ *Closed Sun.* 📍 M3: *Ferenciek tere*.

Pampas Argentin Steakhouse

\$\$\$\$ | **ARGENTINE** | Meat lovers will be spoiled for choice at this dedicated steak house specializing in imported Argentine beef, where cuts difficult to find in Hungary (like rib eye and New York strip) are aged and lovingly grilled. Steaks can be ordered by weight and come with classic side dishes like jacket potatoes and creamed spinach. **Known for:**



The upper gable of Torok Bankház sports a wonderful Secessionist mosaic by Miksa Róth which depicts Hungary surrounded by great Hungarians of the past.

reasonable prices for quality meat; hard-to-find Wagyu burgers; tasty homemade cheesecake to finish. **☎ Average main:** 10,000 HUF ☎ Vámház körút 6, Belváros ☎ 1/411–1750 🌐 www.steak.hu 📄 M3, M4: Kálvin tér.

Szimplý

\$\$\$ | CAFÉ | Fresh, quick breakfasts and light lunches are offered in this cheery little street-side café, open 9–3. The menu is simple but with vegetarian options and attentive service. **Known for:** very popular little spot; fresh and local ingredients; avocado toast. **☎ Average main:** 2,300 HUF ☎ Róser udvar, Budapest ➔ just off of Károly körút 22 🌐 www.szimplu.com ☺ Closed Sun. 📄 M2: Astoria.

Coffee and Quick Bites

★ Auguszt Cukrászda

\$ | CAFÉ | This old-fashioned bakery-café has a loyal following for some of the lightest, most buttery pastries in Budapest. All the classic Hungarian cakes like rétes (strudel filled with sour cherries, apples,

or cheese) and *dobos torta* (chocolate cream cake with caramel) can be enjoyed here, along with some unique in-house creations. **Known for:** to-die-for cakes and pastries; good coffee selection; located on a busy main road. **☎ Average main:** 650 HUF ☎ Kossuth Lajos utca 14–16, Belváros ☎ 1/337–6379 🌐 www.auguszt.hu ☺ Closed Sun. and Mon. 📄 M2: Astoria.

★ Centrál Kávéház

\$\$\$ | CAFÉ | A classic turn-of-the-20th-century gathering spot for Hungarian writers, this coffeehouse has endured two wars and a communist closure. Today, it offers 19th-century grandeur in 21st-century luxury: coffees are served on silver trays with glasses of mineral water like in the old days, but in air-conditioned comfort. **Known for:** fancy coffee service on silver trays; traditional dishes like borjú paprikás (paprika veal stew); excellent cakes and pastries. **☎ Average main:** 4,500 HUF ☎ Károlyi utca 9, Belváros ☎ 01/266–2110 🌐 www.centralkavehaz.hu 📄 M3: Ferenciek tere.

Csendes Társ

\$ | CONTEMPORARY | This adorable outdoor-only café is set by the entrance to the lovely Károlyi-kert park, known for its colorful flower beds and manicured lawns. A pleasant spot for breakfast, a light lunch, or for evening drinks in the glow of lanterns, Csendes Társ is open from April to mid-October only. **Known for:** sister café to cool Casendes ruin bar up the street; lovely setting; cash only. **☎ Average main:** 650 HUF ☎ Magyar utca 16–18, Belváros ☎ 30/727–2100 🌐 www.csendes.es 📄 M2: Astoria.

Kuglóf

\$\$ | CAFÉ | Named after a popular Central Eastern European Bundt cake, this bistro's French flair shines in the presentation of its breakfast and cake selection. Enjoy everything from quail eggs and homemade English muffins to spare ribs and cherry pie out on the arched walkway terrace with a view to Március 15 tér (March 15 Square) and the river in the distance. **Known for:** breakfast menu; delicious croissants; outdoor seating with views. **☎ Average main:** 2,500 HUF ☎ Piarista köz 1, Belváros ☎ 30/948–1805 🌐 www.kuglof.hu 📄 M3: Ferenciek tere.

Leves

\$ | INTERNATIONAL | As life in Budapest becomes increasingly mobile and fast-paced, this fast food restaurant caters to on-the-go locals with no time to dither by specializing entirely in soup. While the menu is limited to soups, it is not limited: there are soups of all flavor and origin on the always-changing menu. **Known for:** gluten-free soups; varied menu includes Thai, Catalan, and Hungarian soups; cold raspberry cream soup. **☎ Average main:** 1,200 HUF ☎ Vámház körút 14, Belváros ☎ 30/527–9495 🌐 www.facebook.com/levespont ☺ Closed Sun.

Hotels

Hotel Rum

\$\$ | HOTEL | This smart boutique hotel, located within a 1920s town house in the heart of the Inner Town, offers stylish bedrooms, a superb fine dining restaurant, and one of the city's most popular rooftop bars. **Pros:** great rooftop bar and top-notch restaurant; quiet location within a busy area; showcases modern artworks from a local gallery. **Cons:** breakfast not included; basic "light" rooms are very small; no gym or pool. **☎ Rooms from:** 43,500 HUF ☎ Királyi Pál utca 4, Belváros ☎ 1/424–9060 🌐 www.hotelrumbudapest.com ➔ 40 rooms 📄 No meals 📄 M3, M4: Kálvin tér.

Hotel Vision

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Opened in 2020, Hotel Vision is one of Budapest's most appealing boutique hotels, thanks to its lovely riverside setting, its beautiful art nouveau exterior, and its sleek and stylish bedrooms. **Pros:** romantic river views from suites; free tea and coffee in lobby all day; relaxing wellness area. **Cons:** not all rooms overlook the river; fitness facilities are limited; geometric wallpaper hurts your brain. **☎ Rooms from:** 45,000 HUF ☎ Belgrád rakpart 24, Belváros ☎ 20/423–0195 🌐 www.hotelvision.hu ➔ 91 rooms 📄 No meals 📄 M3: Ferenciek tere.

★ Kempinski Hotel Corvinus Budapest

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | The moment you step inside the Kempinski it's clear you're in one of Budapest's finest five-star hotels, as the lovely lobby area gives way to a charming promenade lined with cafés, bars, takeaway delis, and even a small art gallery, not to mention two exceptional restaurants: the swanky Japanese-fusion Nobu and the steak-focused brasserie ÉS Bisztró. **Pros:** ideal location overlooking Fashion Street; room service from on-site fine dining restaurant Nobu; huge underground parking lot. **Cons:** stone-and-glass exterior makes for a rather cold entrance; breakfast an expensive add-on;

fussy bathroom faucets. **Rooms from:** 125,000 HUF **Erzsébet tér 7–8, Belváros** ☎ 1/429-3777 www.kempinski.com ➔ 351 rooms **No meals** **M1, M2, M3: Deák Ferenc tér.**

Marriott Budapest

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | It may be one of the least attractive buildings in Pest, but the Marriott's prime Danube location makes for some breathtaking views: Gellért Hill, the Chain Bridge, and Castle Hill are all visible from every single guest room. **Pros:** spectacular views from every aspect; stylish and modern interiors; free yoga for guests. **Cons:** very ugly building (though guests don't have to look at it); lacks any authentic local flair; bathrooms are a little small. **Rooms from:** 85,000 HUF **Apáczai Csere János utca 4, Belváros** ☎ 1/486-5000 www.marriott.com ➔ 364 rooms **Free breakfast** **M1: Vörösmarty tér.**

Matild Palace

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Built by Princess Marie Clotilde of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha during La Belle Époque, this grand old building is now home to one of the city's most elegant luxury hotels, complete with a dizzying array of drinking and dining options. **Pros:** elegant rooms and sumptuous suites; unique bathrooms inspired by thermal baths; vast rooftop bar open year-round. **Cons:** different room styles means an odd mix of guests; situated on a busy main road; recently opened so still finding its feet. **Rooms from:** 75,000 HUF **Váci utca 36, Belváros** ☎ 1/550-5000 www.marriott.com ➔ 130 rooms **No meals** **M3: Ferenciek tere.**

★ Párisi Udvar Hotel Budapest

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Set with an impossibly ornate, Parisian-style arcade in the heart of Belváros, this Hyatt hotel is a feast for the eyes, with original Gothic and Moorish features combining with a gorgeous art nouveau design. **Pros:** stunning art nouveau building from 1806; top-floor residences among best rooms in Budapest; soothing ZAFIR Spa

has three treatment rooms. **Cons:** basic bedrooms are a little small; service can be slow and surly; arcade can get busy with tour groups. **Rooms from:** 95,000 HUF **Petőfi Sándor utca 2–4, Belváros** ☎ 1/576-1600 www.hyatt.com ➔ 110 **No meals** **M3: Ferenciek tere.**

The Ritz-Carlton

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Originally built for an insurance company, this grand palatial building is now home to a popular five-star hotel offering stylish and contemporary rooms, an appealing fitness center and spa, a fine grill restaurant serving Mangalitzka pork, and a charming Viennese-style coffeehouse. **Pros:** great location right by a major Metro station; breakfast is beneath a beautiful stained-glass cupola; café has original marble floors and stucco ceilings. **Cons:** can hear street noise and feel Metro from some rooms; swimming pool is beautiful but small; service can be hit and miss. **Rooms from:** 135,000 HUF **Erzsébet tér 9–10, Belváros** ☎ 1/429-5500 www.ritzcarlton.com ➔ 200 rooms **No meals** **M1, M2, M3: Deák Ferenc tér.**

Nightlife

BARS AND PUBS

★ Csendes Létterem Vintage Bar & Café

BARS/PUBS | Among Budapest's best ruin bars—drinking holes built within old, abandoned postwar buildings and populated with flea market furniture—Csendes oozes underground atmosphere. *Csendes* means quiet in Hungarian, but this spot is in fact, almost always lively. The junk shop chic decor (think hanging bicycles, vintage knick-knacks, and industrial artworks) brings in the hipster crowds, while the great beer selection, quality bar food, and incredible prices ensure they stick around. Check out their shop, the Csendes Concept Store, just around the corner, which sells handmade Hungarian designer goods from jewelry to ceramics and homemade local food products including cheese, honey, and

craft beers. A few doors down, Csendes has a lovely café with a terrace (on the corner of Károlyi Kert). **Ferenczy István utca 5, Belváros** ☎ 30/727-2100 www.csendes.es **M2: Astoria.**

LIVE MUSIC

Fat Mo's

MUSIC CLUBS | Established Hungarian jazz headliners and young up-and-comers play from Wednesday through Sunday in the small but stylish brick-walled cellar pub. The music is good, but the audience is mainly expats and tourists. **Nyári Pál utca 11, Belváros** ☎ 70/623-8844 www.fatmo.hu **M3: Ferenciek tere.**

Performing Arts

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Pesti Vigadó

DANCE | FAMILY | This romantic riverside concert hall, designed by Frigyes Feszli in the mid-19th century but extensively rebuilt after World War II, is the place to come for classical concerts by leading international orchestras, including the Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra. The beautiful 700-seater Main Hall also hosts regular folk dance shows and drama performances, while the rest of the building is given over to temporary art exhibitions and other events. Take the lift to the sixth floor for stunning Danube views from the panoramic terrace. **Vigadó tér 2, Belváros** ☎ 20/429-4124 www.vigado.hu **M1: Vörösmarty tér.**

Shopping

The Inner Town is a shopper's paradise. For designer clothes, head for the pedestrianized Deák Ferenc utca (aka "Fashion Street"); for souvenirs, make a beeline for touristy Váci utca; and for anything else, take a stroll down some side streets.

CLOTHING

Nanushka

CLOTHING | Part designer boutique, part artisan coffee shop, the flagship outlet of this high-end Hungarian fashion brand is well worth a look. Founded by London College of Fashion graduate Sandra Sandor (whose nickname is Nanushka), it has gained a loyal international following for its stylish, feminine, but functional designs. The clothes aren't cheap, but you'll get more bang for your buck than at the big-name luxury brands on nearby Fashion Street. The coffee is fantastic, too. **Bécsi utca 3, Belváros** ☎ 70/394-1954 www.nanushka.com **Closed Sun.** **M1, M2, M3: Deák Ferenc tér.**

Vass Shoes

CLOTHING | If you are looking for a really luxurious indulgence, why not consider a pair of handmade leather shoes, specifically measured to your feet? You can choose from a variety of traditional styles, from cordovan to nubuck. Though wildly expensive when compared to the cost of ready-made shoes, prices are still very competitive with bespoke shoes in Europe and the United States. There's a small selection of ready-to-wear shoes available as well. **Haris Köz 2, Belváros** ☎ 1/780-7418 www.vass-shoes.com **Closed Sun.** **M3: Ferenciek tere.**

CRAFTS

Holló Műhely

CRAFTS | Master wood craftsman László Holló has resurrected traditional motifs and styles of earlier centuries to create the beautiful handicrafts on sale in this shop. You'll find lovely hope chests, chairs, jewelry boxes, candlesticks, Easter eggs, and more—all hand-carved and hand-painted with cheery folk motifs (most commonly birds and flowers in reds, blues, and greens). **Vitkovics Mihály utca 12, Belváros** ☎ 1/317-8103 www.facebook.com/hollomuhely **Closed Sun.** **M2: Astoria.**

Paloma

CRAFTS | Located within an ornate 19th century building centered around a charming courtyard, Paloma brings together a collective of local designers to showcase their handicrafts. The small boutiques are run by the designers themselves and sell all manner of creative designs, including handbags, ceramics, jewelry, stationery, and children's toys. The space also hosts regular contemporary art exhibitions. ✉ *Kossuth Lajos utca 14, Belváros* ☎ 20/961-9160 🌐 www.palomabudapest.hu ☺ Closed Sun.
 🚶 M2: Astoria.

FOOD AND WINE

Szamos Marcipán

FOOD/CANDY | **FAMILY** | Marzipan has always been a favorite in Central Europe, and this well-loved confectioner has spent more than 75 years mastering the art. The store has always been most famous for its marzipan cookies, cakes, and candies, as well as its edible marzipan roses, but today just as many people come for the ice cream. ✉ *Párizsi utca 3, Belváros* ☎ 30/535-0259 🌐 www.szamos.hu 🚶 M3: Ferenciek tere.

SHOPPING NEIGHBORHOODS

Fashion Street (*Deák Ferenc utca*)

STORE/MALL | This historic street has been recently renovated and redesigned as a sophisticated, high-concept shopping street to complement the traditional pedestrian shopping promenade located just around the corner on Váci utca. Upscale iconic brands meet local fashion favorites as well as small boutiques, restaurants, and bars. This street hasn't quite taken off like other shopping areas but it's still worth a wander across as you head from Deák Ferenc tér to Vörösmarty tér. ✉ *Deák Ferenc utca 15, Belváros*
 🌐 www.fashionstreet.hu.

STATIONERY

Bomo Art

BOOKS/STATIONERY | Open since 1997, this charming little stationery store sells hand-bound notebooks, diaries, postcards, writing utensils, wrapping paper, and more besides. The attractive, often Budapest-related graphical designs make them perfect souvenirs or gifts. ✉ *Régi posta utca 14, Belváros* ☎ 20/594-2223 🌐 www.bomoart.com ☺ Closed Sun.
 🚶 M1, M2, M3: Deák Ferenc tér.