

BELVÁROS (INNER TOWN)

Updated by
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 Sights
★★★★☆

 Restaurants
★★★★☆

 Hotels
★★★★★

 Shopping
★★★★★

 Nightlife
★★★★☆

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	PAUSE HERE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. ■ Stay in luxury: From the Kempinski and the Ritz-Carlton to the extraordinary Matild Palace, this neighborhood is home to Budapest's highest concentration of five-star hotels—so why not treat yourself? ■ Step back in time: Visit the Inner Town Parish Church, the oldest in Budapest, to discover a thousand years of architectural history (and relics dating back to Roman times). ■ 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. ■ 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. ■ Feel like a Parisian: You needn't stay at the Párisi Udvar Hotel to admire its gorgeous Art Nouveau arcade of gilded arches and decorative cupolas—instead, why not go for a fine dining experience at the Párisi Passage Restaurant, or a casual coffee and cake in the Párisi Passage Café? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bustling Vörösmarty tér, at the northern end of Belváros, is a great spot for people watching. A large, open square with tree-shaded benches, low walls and café tables galore, it marks the meeting point of two of Pest's busiest streets: Deák Ferenc utca (Fashion Street) and Váci utca. Come during the festive period and the square is even busier, with dozens of beautiful, fairy-light-covered Christmas Market stands, all set around a giant tree.
<p>GETTING HERE</p>	<p>PLANNING YOUR TIME</p>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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.

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* (pastry shops) 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 Inner Town Parish Church, but keep your eyes open for other architectural highlights as you stroll the streets.

Budapest-Belvárosi Nagyboldogasszony (Inner Town Parish Church)

CHURCH | 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; its importance is illustrated by the evasive bend in the main road



- Sights** ▼
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- Hotels** ▼
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 - 5 Matild Palace G6
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Housed in the sumptuous neoclassical Károly Palota, dating from 1840, the Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum is devoted to Hungary's beloved poet, Sándor Petőfi.

beside it. The relatively understated 18th-century baroque facade belies the long history 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* ☎ 1/318-3108 🌐 www.belvarosiplebania.hu 🗨 3,000 HUF. Free on Sun. 🚏 M3: Ferenciek tere.

Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum (*Petőfi Museum of Literature*)

ART 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 the local literary scene. There's limited English-language information—and only in the permanent exhibition, not the temporary ones—but the audiovisual readings of Petőfi's poems are still soul-stirring. Besides, even if the exhibits are best suited to Hungarian speakers, the setting is the ravishing neoclassical Károlyi Palota (Károlyi 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 (Károlyi 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*)
NOTABLE BUILDING | This eye-catching, glass-covered building, designed in 1906 by architects Henrik Böhm and Ármin 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

STREET | 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* 🚏 M1: Vörösmarty tér.

🍴 Restaurants

★ **Babel**

\$\$\$\$ | **HUNGARIAN** | This atmospheric and intimate Michelin-starred restaurant, which sits in the shadow of the Inner Town Parish Church, serves a choice of tasting menus inspired by the lands of the Carpathian Basin, from Austria in the west to Romania in the east—and, of course, Hungary at the heart of things. Chef Kornél Kaszás and his team specialize in innovative, flavorful, and playful dishes that put gourmet spins on traditional Central European country fare: think oysters served on cheese crackers, layered potato with mangalica bacon, and schnitzel with sweetbread, as well as surprisingly effective flavor pairings like white asparagus and coffee. **Known for:** intimate dining (only a dozen tables); inventive dishes and theatrical presentation; very expensive for Budapest. 📄 *Average main: Ft55,000* ☎ *Piarista kőz 2, Belváros* ☎ 70/600-0800 🌐 www.babel-budapest.hu ☺ Closed Sun. and Mon. No lunch 🚏 M3: Ferenciek tere.

Dionysos Taverna

\$\$\$ | **GREEK** | Stone walls and floors, Mediterranean white and blue paint, and a lively terrace will transport you to Santorini. While a little pricey, this authentic restaurant offers high-quality Greek food and service, as well as a welcome palate break from typical Hungarian fare (so welcome, in fact, that there's often a queue outside). **Known for:** Budapest's best Greek restaurant; excellent gyros and souvlaki; tasty walnut-honey-chocolate-almond Flogger dessert. 📄 *Average main: Ft6,500* ☎ *Belgrád rakpart 16, Belváros* ☎ 1/318-1222 🌐 dionysos.hu 🚏 M4: Fővám tér.

ÉS Bisztró

\$\$\$\$ | **STEAK HOUSE** | With an expansive terrace on swanky Fashion Street, as well as an appealing interior connected to the Kempinski hotel, this bistro is a popular choice for lunch and dinner. Steak is the specialty here, with excellent cuts of Austrian Alpine, Angus, and Wagyu beef—regulars can even get a personalized steak knife, which is displayed in a glass cabinet between meals—but there are plenty of other options too, from salads to soups, grilled duck liver to pan-seared salmon. **Known for:** superb steaks; terrace on a lively shopping street; tasty lángos starter with burrata and mangalica ham. 📍 *Average main: Ft8,500* ☒ *Deák Ferenc utca 12, Belváros* ☎ *20/474-5000* 🌐 *www.esbisztró.hu* 🚗 *M1, M2, M3: Deák Ferenc tér.*

Gerlóczy Kávéház

\$\$\$ | **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 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. 📍 *Average main: Ft5,800* ☒ *Gerlóczy utca 1, Belváros* ☎ *1/501-4000* 🌐 *www.facebook.com/gerloczycafe* 🚗 *M3: Ferenciek tere.*

Govinda Vega Sarok (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.

📍 *Average main: Ft3,500* ☒ *Papnövelde utca 1, Belváros* ☎ *70/255-2195* 🌐 *www.govinda.hu* ☺ *Closed Sat. and Sun.*

🚗 *M3: Ferenciek tere.*

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 good-value midweek lunch menus (3,950 HUF for two courses or 4,450 for three). Come later in the day and you will find a full menu of delicious international dishes, including pasta, noodles, 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. 📍 *Average main: Ft4,950* ☒ *Március 15. tér 4, Belváros* ☎ *70/311-1969* 🌐 *www.kiosk-budapest.com* 🚗 *M3: Ferenciek tere.*

Kuglóf

\$\$ | **CAFÉ** | It may be named after a type of Bundt cake that's popular in France and throughout Central and Eastern Europe, but this place is more than just a café-bakery. A stylish French-style bistro, it's popular for its extensive breakfast and brunch menu, including everything from croissants to banana bread, eggs Benedict to avocado toast, as well as a lunch menu comprising creamy soups, grilled cheese sandwiches, and Hungarian specialties. **Known for:** delicious croissants; sparkling wine and cocktails served all day; outdoor seating with views. 📍 *Average main: Ft4,500* ☒ *Piarista köz 1, Belváros* ☎ *30/948-1805* 🌐 *www.kuglof.hu* ☺ *No dinner* 🚗 *M3: Ferenciek tere.*



Did You Know?

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



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

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; think rabbit tenderloin with potato dumplings, duck breast with kohlrabi pottage, and catfish fillet with clams. **Known for:** bold and inventive seasonal dishes; extensive wine menu; hip decor. ☑ *Average main: Ft7,000* ☒ *Piarista köz 1, Belváros* ☎ 30/789-4718 ☉ www.english.monks.hu ☑ 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:** hard-to-find Wagyu steaks; late dining option (open until 11 pm weekends); tasty homemade cheesecake. ☑ *Average main: Ft13,000* ☒ *Vámház körút 6, Belváros* ☎ 1/411-1750 ☉ pampas.hu ☑ M3, M4: Kálvin tér.

Spago Budapest

\$\$\$\$ | INTERNATIONAL | The first European outlet of Wolfgang Puck's celebrated Beverly Hills restaurant, Spago Budapest's eclectic menu reveals a wide range of influences, from Hungarian and American to Mediterranean and Asian. Expect everything from spicy sushi rolls to buffalo steak tartare, corn-fed roast chicken to house-smoked salmon pizza—all immaculately presented and full of flavor. **Known for:** wonderfully varied menu of international dishes; spectacular

salmon crudo; attentive service. ☑ *Average main: Ft14,500* ☒ *Matild Palace, Váci utca 36, Belváros* ☎ 70/534-9000 ☉ www.spagobudapest.com ☑ Smart casual ☑ M3: Ferenciek tere.

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: Ft1,190* ☒ *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 Hungarian dishes; excellent cakes and pastries. ☑ *Average main: Ft6,500* ☒ *Károlyi utca 9, Belváros* ☎ 30/945-8058 ☉ www.centralgrandcafe.hu ☑ M3: Ferenciek tere.

Csendes Társ

\$ | CONTEMPORARY | This adorable outdoor-only café and wine bar 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 evening drinks in the glow of lanterns, Csendes Társ is open from April to mid-October only.

Known for: good coffee and cocktails; lovely setting by the park; a little expensive. ☑ *Average main: Ft1,950* ☒ *Magyar utca 16-18, Belváros* ☎ 30/727-2100 ☉ www.facebook.com/CsendesTars ☑ Closed Nov.-Mar. ☑ M2: Astoria.

EPOCH Vegan Burger

\$\$ | BURGER | For a quick, cheap, vegan fix, it's hard to beat this fast food burger place on Királyi Pál utca. Order from a screen and your food will be with you in a jiffy; you can sit inside or take it to go. **Known for:** choice of vegetable patties (from mushroom to pea); tasty potato sides; good value fast food. ☑ *Average main: Ft2,850* ☒ *Királyi Pál utca 20, Belváros* ☎ 70/242-6182 ☉ www.epochburger.hu ☑ M3, M4: Kálvin tér.

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 flavors and origins on the always-changing menu. **Known for:** gluten-free soups; varied menu includes Thai, Catalan, and Hungarian soups; cold raspberry cream soup. ☑ *Average main: Ft2,400* ☒ *Vámház körút 14, Belváros* ☉ www.facebook.com/levespont ☑ Closed weekends ☑ M3, M4: Kálvin tér.

Molnár's Kürtöskalács

\$ | DESSERTS | 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. **Known for:** delicious yeasty spit cakes; long lines; free pastry with a Budapest 72h PLUS Card. ☑ *Average main: Ft2,000* ☒ *Váci utca 31, Belváros* ☎ 1/407-2314 ☉ www.kurtoskalacs.com ☑ M3: Ferenciek tere.

Szimply

\$\$ | CAFÉ | Fresh, quick breakfasts and light lunches are offered in this cheery little street-side café, open 9 am to 4 pm. As the name suggests the menu is simple, but the ingredients are good, the food looks beautiful, and the service is great. **Known for:** very popular little spot; fresh and local ingredients; colorful salads. 📍 *Average main: Ft3,500* ☒ *Röser udvar, Semmelweis utca 19 / Károly körút 22, Belváros* 🌐 www.szimply.com ☺ *No dinner. Closed Sun.* 📍 *M2: Astoria.*

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 rum" rooms are very small; no gym or pool. 📍 *Rooms from: Ft55,000* ☒ *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; two-night minimum stay. 📍 *Rooms from: Ft75,000* ☒ *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 lounge cafés, cocktail music bars, boutique flower and gift shops, takeaway delis, and even a small art gallery. **Pros:** good-sized swimming pool for a city-center hotel; superb food options; huge underground parking lot. **Cons:** breakfast service can be slow; lacking the history of some Inner Town hotels; expensive in summer (but off-season bargains to be had). 📍 *Rooms from: Ft135,000* ☒ *Erzsébet tér 7-8, Belváros* ☎ *1/429-3777* 🌐 www.kempinski.com ➡ *353 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; lacks any authentic local flair; bathrooms are a little small. 📍 *Rooms from: Ft135,000* ☒ *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 luxurious hotels, complete with sumptuous rooms and suites, world-class dining options, a hip rooftop bar, and a well-equipped spa. **Pros:** beautiful rooms with bathrooms inspired by thermal baths; fine dining at Spago by Wolfgang Puck; ritzy rooftop bar open year-round. **Cons:** smart toilet seats constantly up

and down (look for the off switch); some noise from neighboring rooms; breakfast costs extra. 📍 *Rooms from: Ft170,000* ☒ *Váci utca 36, Belváros* ☎ *1/550-5000* 🌐 www.marriott.com ➡ *130 rooms* 🚫 *No Meals* 📍 *M3: Ferenciek tere.*

★ Párisi Udvar Hotel Budapest

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Set in 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 suites are the best rooms in Budapest; excellent Zafir Spa with Jacuzzi and saunas. **Cons:** entry-level bedrooms are a little small; one of the city's most expensive hotels; café can get busy with snap-happy tourists. 📍 *Rooms from: Ft190,000* ☒ *Petőfi Sándor utca 2-4, Belváros* ☎ *1/576-1600* 🌐 www.hyatt.com ➡ *110 rooms* 🚫 *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 Italian restaurant, and a charming Viennese-style coffeehouse. **Pros:** great location right by the Metro; breakfast 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: Ft145,000* ☒ *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

BARS | 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 vintage bar is, in fact, almost always lively. The junk shop chic decor (think hanging bicycles, vintage knickknacks, and industrial artworks) brings in the hipster crowds, while the great beer selection, quality bar food, and incredible prices ensure they stick around. A few doors down, Csenedes also has a lovely café-wine bar with a terrace (at the corner entrance to Károlyi-kert). ☒ *Ferenczy István utca 5, Belváros* ☎ *30/727-2100* 🌐 www.facebook.com/csendesvintagebar ☺ *Closed Sun.* 📍 *M2: Astoria.*

For Sale Pub

BARS | At the southern tip of the Inner Town, facing the Central Market Hall, this popular pub is most notable for the thousands of pieces of paper stuck all over the walls and ceiling. Every guest is encouraged to add their own note—but only after enjoying a drink and a hearty meal (like the enormous bowl of homemade goulash soup). ☒ *Vámház körúti 2, Belváros* 📍 *M4: Fővám tér.*

Performing Arts

CABARET

★ Matild Cabaret

MODERN DANCE | Every summer, Matild Café hosts a variety of spectacular cabaret evenings. Guests enjoy a superb three-course meal with wine while being entertained by cabaret performances, featuring a heady mix of music, dance, and even acrobatics. Each themed show offers something different—and something unlike anything else in the Inner

Town—and lasts for around two to three hours. Check the website for upcoming shows and to book your tickets in advance. Private bookings are possible year-round. ☒ *Matild Café, Váci utca 36, Belváros* ☎ 70/407–1600 🌐 www.matild-cafe.com/cabaret 📄 M3: *Ferenciek tere.*

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Pesti Vigadó

MUSIC | 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-seat 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 elevator to the sixth floor for stunning Danube views from the panoramic terrace. ☒ *Vigadó tér 2, Belváros* ☎ 1/328–3300 🌐 www.vigado.hu ☺ *Closed Mon. and Tues.* 📄 M1: *Vörösmarty tér.*

Shopping

The Inner Town is a shopper's paradise. For designer clothes, head for the pedestrianized Deák Ferenc utca, known as "Fashion Street," where upscale iconic brands meet local fashion boutiques—with a smattering of upmarket bars, restaurants, and hotels along the way. For souvenirs, stroll along touristy Váci utca to find everything from tacky key rings to valuable antiques. 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 📄 M1, M2, M3: *Deák Ferenc tér.*

Vass Shoes

SHOES | 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 elsewhere in Europe and the United States. There's a small selection of ready-to-wear shoes available as well. ☒ *Haris köz 6, 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* ☎ 70/559–8147 🌐 www.facebook.com/hollomuhely ☺ *Closed Fri.–Mon.* 📄 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



Head to the Inner Town for all of your shopping (and window-shopping) needs, from the touristy to the artisanal.

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* 🌐 www.palomaartspace.hu ☺ *Closed Sun.* 📄 M2: *Astoria.*

FOOD AND WINE

Rózsavölgyi Csokoládé

CANDY | 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. ☒ *Párisi Udvar, Petőfi Sándor utca 2-4, Belváros* 🌐 www.rozsavolgyi.com ☺ *Closed Sun.* 📄 M3: *Ferenciek tere.*

Szamos Marcipán

CANDY | 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.*

STATIONERY

Bomo Art

STATIONERY | Open since 1997, this charming little stationery store sells hand-bound notebooks, diaries, postcards, writing utensils, wrapping paper, and more. The attractive, often Budapest-related graphical designs make them perfect souvenirs or gifts. There's a second and equally lovely Bomo Art store almost directly across the river by Várkert Bazár. ☒ *Régi posta utca 14, Belváros* ☎ 20/594–2223 🌐 www.bomoart.com ☺ *Closed Sun.* 📄 M1, M2, M3: *Deák Ferenc tér.*

SOUVENIRS

★ Impact Shop

SOUVENIRS | Want to make a positive impact when buying your souvenirs? This socially conscious design gift shop sells ethical, sustainable, natural goods made by social enterprises and NGOs from all over Hungary. You'll find everything from artisan chocolate to handmade candles, along with some of Pest's friendliest shopkeepers. ☒ *Váci utca 41, Belváros*
☎ 20/544-4804 🌐 www.impactshop.eco
📍 M3: *Ferenciek tere.*

Rhododendron

SOUVENIRS | This quirky art and design store is a browser's paradise, with a variety of eye-catching artwork on sale, including original paintings, prints, photos, posters, and postcards. But that's just the start: shoppers can also pick up original clothing, jewelry, cosmetics, homeware, toys, books, and even food-stuffs. The store is located in a passageway between Semmelweis utca and Károly körút (and accessible from both). ☒ *Röser udvar, Semmelweis utca 19 / Károly körút 22, Belváros* ☎ 70/419-5329
🌐 www.odoart.com 📍 M2: *Astoria.*