

BUDAPEST

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Budapest this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



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PACKING TIPS

1. If you're shy about baring all in the baths (or wish to go to the co-ed baths), be sure to bring a **bathing suit**. Also, pack a bathing cap if you plan on using the pools in the baths.
2. "All the bathhouses in Budapest are great. Leave all your valuables at the hotel (hidden from view). **Only take to the bath the items needed to get in** (money, your wallet, etc.)."—TripAdvisor Member, Dallas, Texas
3. "When visiting some of the churches, you may wish to bring a **shawl** or something to cover your shoulders, ladies, if you're wearing something skimpy."—TripAdvisor Member, Bournemouth, England
4. "Use **ATMs**: That's the most convenient, cheapest and most secure way to get your money!"—TripAdvisor Member, Linz, Austria
5. "To understand more about what the Hungarian people went through during communism, read **The Bridge at Andau** by James Michener."—TripAdvisor Member

Inside BUDAPEST

The capital city of Hungary as we know it didn't form until 1873, when three different towns—Buda, Pest and Óbuda—united to create the modern-day Budapest. Geographically, the River Danube shapes the city, with industrial Pest on the right bank; hilly, historic Buda on the left bank and Óbuda on the outer edges of the city. Its continental climate brings short but bitterly cold winters and long, warm, sunny summers.

The area has been successively ruled by many different peoples—Celts, Romans, Mongols, Germans, Austrians, to name a few. And the mark of each remains on the Magyar city in cobbled streets, hidden courtyards and old-world architecture.

Since the departure of communism, investments are revitalizing Budapest, bringing in new hotels, malls and clubs. Yet at its heart, Budapest remains unpretentious. So go ahead, savor a cup of gulyás, sample the pastries at a local café, soak in the thermal waters of one of its 14 baths, wander through castles and centuries-old churches. Experience the wonders of Budapest.

Top VIEWS



BUDAPEST'S BEST VIEWS

See Budapest from a bird's-eye view: For spectacular sights over Budapest and the Danube Bend or to "watch the sunset from a plane, sightseeing **pleasure flights** are available."—TripAdvisor Member, Budapest

Pleasure Flight, Program Centrum, Madách I. u. 13-14, 1075, | 317 7767

Ride the **Libego** chair lift to Budapest's highest point. "Turn right when you come out of the top. The road takes you up to the Erzsébet Kilato, which has fantastic views across Budapest."—TripAdvisor Member, Bath, U.K.

Libego (chair lift), Zugligeti ú. 97, 1121, | 394 3764

"The panorama of Budapest is breathtaking. It does not get old to look from the **Fisherman's Bastion** or **Citadella** onto its fantastic scenery."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

Fisherman's Bastion (Halászbastya), Behind Matyas templom; Citadella, Gellert Hill (Gellérthegy)

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Faust Wine Cellar, Hess Andras ter 1-3, | 889 6873
2. Shoes on the Danube Promenade, On the bank of the Danube
3. Castle Hill (Varhegy), Szent Gyorgy
4. Royal Wine House and Wine Cellar Museum, Szent Gyorgy, Buda Castle, | 267 1100
5. St. Stephen's Basilica (Szent Istvan Bazilika), Szt. Istvan Ter | Pest, | 317 2859
6. Parliament (Orszaghaz), Kossuth Lajos Ter, | 441 4904
7. Gellert Hill and Statue (Gellert Hegy)
8. Hungarian State Opera House (Magyar Allami Operahaz), Andrassy út 22, | 331 2550
9. Great / Central Synagogue (Nagy Zsinagoga), Dohany út 2 - 8, | 342 1335
10. Chain Bridge (Szechenyi lanchid), Between Clark Adam ter and Roosevelt ter



FAMILIES

The **Palace of Wonders**, with attractions for both younger and older children, is a hands-on science museum with "exhibitions and smart interactive gadgets" that promise to entertain (and educate) grown-ups, too.—TripAdvisor Member, New Orleans, La.

Palace of Wonders, Fény u. 20-22, 1024, | 336 4000

While grown-up engineers drive the trains, at the **Children's Railway**, kids ages 10 to 14 operate the switches and signals, take care of tickets and work with the passengers. "A fantastic ride through the hills, all enhanced by the enthusiastic youngsters working on the trains."—TripAdvisor Member, Bath, England

Children's Railway, | 397 5392

"**Budapest Zoo** is an absolute must for everyone. It's quite old-fashioned in style, but all the nicer for being so."—TripAdvisor Member, Warrington, England

Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden, Állatkerti krt. 6-12, | 273 4900

"...a breathtaking display"



ROMANCE

While you can take a guided tour to see the interior of the spectacular **Hungarian State Opera House**, the best way to appreciate it is by seeing a performance. "It is a beautiful building with an old-world feeling, paintings and big chandelier."—TripAdvisor Member, Hampshire, U.K.

Hungarian State Opera House (Magyar Allami Operaház), Andrassy u. 22, | 332 7914

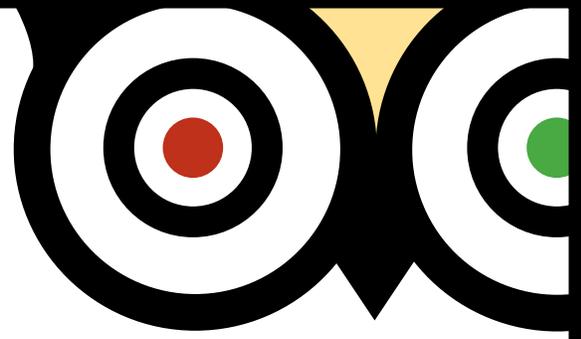
Matthias Church "is a mid-13th century church named after the much-loved 15th-century Renaissance king who contributed the towers and who was twice married here. Beautiful architecture!"—TripAdvisor Member, Lighthouse Point, Fla.

Matthias Church (Matyas Templom), Szentháromság Ter. 2, | 355 5657

"The **Danube River** is a great stretch to take a cruise. If you can, go at night. The city lights up all the bridges, buildings and monuments for a breathtaking display of artistry and national pride."—TripAdvisor Member

Danube River, Boat Station Pier 7, 5th district, Vigado Ter.

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

The **Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art** “houses a collection of international contemporary art, the only museum in Hungary that does so. It also features the works of notable contemporary Hungarian artists.”—TripAdvisor Member, Budapest

Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art, Komor Marcell u. 1, | 555 3444

The **Castle Hill** “is an area on the Buda side of Danube that is home to the ancient palace and other attractions such as St. Michael’s Church and Fisherman’s Bastion. You can cover all these attractions, by foot once you are in the Castle District.”—TripAdvisor Member, United States

Castle Hill (Varhegy), Szent György Ter.

Bargains await at the **Central Market Hall**. “A visit to this vast market is a must for people who want to experience the Budapest locals. It is a treat for the eyes.”—TripAdvisor Member, Falmouth, Mass.

Central Market Hall (Nagy Vasarcsarnok)

“It is a treat for the eyes.”



ADVENTURE

Not for the claustrophobic, exploring **Matyas Caves** “was very hard work, and downright frightening at times; however, we all felt a great sense of accomplishment at the end. It was something completely unique and gave you a new perspective on the thermal baths in Budapest—the caves were carved out by the thermal springs.”—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia

Matyas Caves

“**Varosliget** is a great place to spend all day long. In summer, you can look at the architecture of Vajdahunyad Castle, feed the ducks, visit Szechenyi spas or visit a zoo and Vidam Park. In winter, it’s a perfect place for open-air ice skating.”—TripAdvisor Member

City Park (Varosliget), Behind Heroes’ Square (Hősök Tere)

“I’m not a very outdoorsy person, but I really enjoyed my tour of **Pálvölgyi Cave**. The cave is not difficult or treacherous for an in-shape adult or adolescent, as they have put hand rails and steps in where needed.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Massachusetts

Pálvölgyi Cave, Szépvölgyi u. 162, | 325 9505

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EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

The **House of Terror** is a controversial but popular museum with “an impressive tour on how Hungarian people suffered under Germans, Hungarian fascists, Soviet Union and Hungarian communists and how, finally, they got their freedom after half a century of bad times.”—TripAdvisor Member, Alava, Spain

House of Terror, Andrásy u. 60, | 374 2664

The **Nagy Zsinagóga**, or Great Synagogue, is the largest synagogue in Europe. “Our guide gave some interesting background not only for the building but also on Jewish culture in Budapest during the last century and a half.”—TripAdvisor Member, Alava, Spain

Nagy Zsinagóga and the National Jewish Museum, Dohány u. 2, | 342 8949

See “Budapest on display” at the **Historical Museum of Budapest**. “It gives a detailed overview of Budapest’s history, as well as giving one the opportunity to have a look inside the Castle.”—TripAdvisor Member, Malta

Historical Museum of Budapest (Budapesti Történelmi Múzeum), Buda Castle, Szent György Ter. 2, Budavári Palota “E” épület, | 487 8801

“...that’s the magic of it.”



RELAXATION

Heroes’ Square “is a must-see. It’s a very beautiful monument to the unknown soldiers who died in the various wars in which Hungary was involved.”—TripAdvisor Member, United States

Heroes’ Square (Hősök Tere)

Pick any of the many wonderful thermal baths in Budapest for a soothing respite from the bustle. At the **Széchenyi Baths**, you can use the outdoor pool year-round. “There are inside and outside pools; you’ll probably love the outside ones the most. The building itself is old, but that’s the magic of it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Budapest

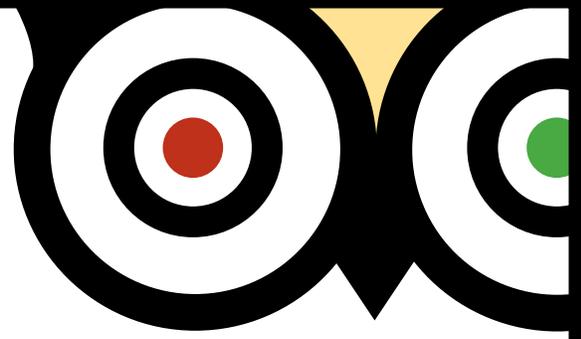
Széchenyi Baths and Pool, XIV, Állatkerti krt. 11, | 363 3210

“We had the most pleasant evening at the **Faust Wine Cellar**. The host was so passionate about the wines he served us that we couldn’t help but to be as well. We loved every single wine we tasted. We even came home with 5 bottles!”—TripAdvisor Member, Hohenfels, Germany

Faust Wine Cellar, Inside the Hilton Budapest, Hess Andras ter 1-3, | 889 6873

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"Tour the city on a **Segway**, the one-man people-moving contraption. People look at you like you are from Mars. You make great time around the monuments and stop when you want and have a hilariously fun time doing it."—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

The **public transportation** system "consists of a combination of the bus, trolley, tram, metro and train lines and is streamlined so that tickets for all of them can generally be purchased at the same locations."—TripAdvisor Member

"Public transportation virtually stops in Budapest after eleven o'clock at night (except for night buses, which can be up to two hours apart) so travelers interested in enjoying the nightlife will want to also learn about **taxis** in the area."—TripAdvisor Member

Take the **tour of Parliament**: "The tour covers the main entrance stair and hall, the Hungarian Crown Jewels, one of the lobbies and the old House of Lords. It's well worth taking to have a look at the building, even if politics doesn't interest you."—TripAdvisor Member, Scotland

Want more information on Budapest? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Budapest or any other destination you choose.



WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

"For inexpensive and typical Hungarian food, try **Nancsi Neni**. Excellent, just like the food from my grandma."—TripAdvisor Member, Vienna, Austria

Náncsi Néni, II, Ördögárok u. 80, | 397 2742

"If you want to experience true Hungarian, **Kehli** is the place. This non-fancy restaurant offers authentic, traditional food, gypsy music and family atmosphere. It reminded me of my childhood!"—TripAdvisor Member, Zurich, Switzerland

Kehli, Mokus u. 22, | 368 0613

"The food was very good and very cheap" at **Arnyas**, a hundred-year-old restaurant serving up Hungarian fare with live music and a play corner for the kids.—TripAdvisor Member, Guildford, U.K.

Arnyas Restaurant & Garden, Diós árok 16, District 12, | 212 5681

ROMANCE

"We had a fantastic meal at **Fausto's**. The ambiance is very sophisticated and romantic. The staff were extremely attentive. The food was delicious, and we were pleasantly surprised at the price."—TripAdvisor Member

Fausto's, Szekely Mihaly u. 2, | 877 6210

"**Gundel** is an absolute must if you really want a special treat! Set menus include specially selected wine per course. On one floor there's a mini orchestra and on the ground floor a string quartet. The atmosphere is second to none, and it is an unforgettable evening!"—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

Gundel, Állatketti u. 2, | 468 4040

"**Ristorante Krizia** is my favorite place for a romantic tête-à-tête. The quiet, discreet and elegant dining room is attended to by quality staff and a superb, authentic Italian kitchen."—TripAdvisor Member, Budapest

Ristorante Krizia, Mozsar u. 12, | 331 8711

BUDGET

Momotaro Ramen is "excellent value for money! Visited this restaurant the day after an expensive and average meal at a restaurant nearby. What a difference! Friendly and helpful staff. Good, tasty food at an amazing price."—TripAdvisor Member

Momotaro Ramen, Szechenyi u. 16, | 269 2037

"When my Hungarian friends suggested **Paprika**, we knew it had to be great! The portions are huge and represent a great value. The Paprika platter has four kinds of meat, rice, potatoes and vegetables. Though advertised to feed two, it could have easily fed three!"—TripAdvisor Member, Desborough, U.K.

Paprika, Dozsa Gyorgy ut 72, 70 574 6508

"Don't pass up **Ruszwurm**, one of the city's best pastry shops, located on the Buda side. Believe me, it's well worth the hike up the hill!"—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Ruszwurm Cukrászda, Szentháromság u. 7, | 375 5284

"...it's well worth the hike up the hill!"

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“The food at **Govinda** is extremely good quality, and the prices are very affordable. Though I don’t usually frequent vegetarian restaurants, this one is an exception. Well worth a visit from meat-lovers and meat-haters alike.”—TripAdvisor Member

Govinda, Vagyazo Ferenc u. 4, | 269 1625

“Hungarian cuisine is not the most vegetarian friendly. **Fruccola** saved me. I was able to get an excellent salad with bread and an orange juice. Healthy and wholesome!”—TripAdvisor Member, Alfred, N.Y.

Fruccola, Arany Janos utca 32, 30 251 8656

For Middle Eastern vegetarian treats such as shakshuka, sabich, falafel and “the best hummus in Budapest,” try the **Hummus Bar**.—TripAdvisor Member

Hummus Bar, Kertesz u. 39, | 321 7477

“Healthy & wholesome!”

HIDDEN GEMS

“We couldn’t have been more warmly welcomed, professionally treated or well fed” at **Ket Szerecsen**. “The food was good. Not Cordon Bleu or pretentious, trendy stuff—just simple dishes, well presented and enjoyable.”—TripAdvisor Member

Ket Szerecsen, Nagymezo u. 14, | 343 1984

Hungarian ballads waft around you as you feast on Hungarian fare, with an emphasis on meat and game at **Kisbuda Gyöngye**, “an excellent, authentic, non-touristy place,” popular with both visitors and locals.—TripAdvisor Member, Budapest

Kisbuda Gyöngye, Kenyeres u. 34, | 368 6402

“I will give you a local secret that we hate to share: **Cafe Kor** has been an institution here for many years and one of my favorites for visiting friends and family. It’s a small restaurant with daily specials ranging from fish to traditional Hungarian fare.”—TripAdvisor Member, Budapest

Cafe Kor, Sas u. 17, | 311 0053

SPECIAL EVENTS



See the latest in European theatre during the **Contemporary Drama Festival**, an annual event that features all of the new and previously unseen innovations in the world of theatrics. (November 25 – December 4)

Contemporary Drama Festival, Bokréta utca 10., | 786 2933, <http://www.dramafestival.hu>

The ornate Matthias Church fills with the majestic music of the season during the **Lights of Christmas Music Festival (A Karácsony Fényei)**. Beginning with an Advent concert, the church will host a series of concerts featuring beloved Baroque and Classical composers. (December 4 – 23)

Lights of Christmas Music Festival (A Karácsony Fényei), Matthias Church, | 340 4883, <http://www.broadwayjegyiroda.hu>

Find one-of-a-kind gifts for your loved ones or just kick back and enjoy the live entertainment and festive atmosphere of Vörösmarty Square during the **Budapest Christmas Fair**. (November 18 – December 30)

Budapest Christmas Fair, Vörösmarty Square, <http://www.budapestinfo.hu> (Tourist Board)

All things boats—and windsurfing, jet-skiing, kite surfing and more—can be found at the **Budapest Boat Show**. (March 1 – 4)

Budapest Boat Show, Hungexpo Budapest Fair Center, Albertirsai ú. 10. (Expo Ter. 1.), 1101, | 263 6435, <http://www.boatshow.hu>

Patriotism abounds on **Revolution Day**, which remembers the failed 1848 revolution against the Hapsburgs. (March 15)

Revolution Day, Sándor Petöfi statue on Belgrád rakpart (the Danube embankment) and the National Museum

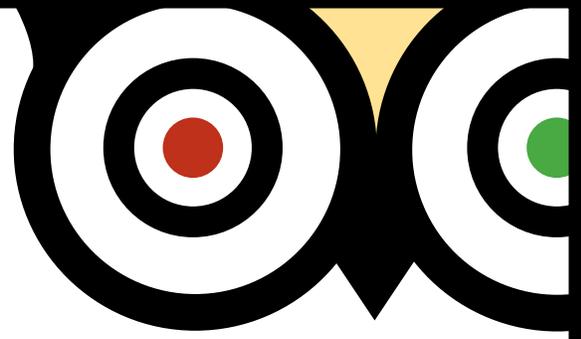
For two weeks, Budapest comes alive at the **Spring Festival** to honor the arrival of the season, with ballet, opera, classical and dramatic performances as well as exhibitions at local museums. (March – April)

Budapest Spring Festival, Various venues, <http://www.festivalcity.hu>

Films from around the world will be screened at the 19th annual **Titanic Film Festival**. The 2006 festival introduced competition, including a juried Breaking the Waves Award and an Audience’s Award. (April)

Titanic Film Festival, Various venues, <http://www.titanicfilmfest.hu>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

At **Residence Izabella**, “the apartment was very large and was both stylish and in excellent condition. A number of small points make this hotel stand out from the rest, like the DVD player (a good thing to have when you bring children on your trip).”—TripAdvisor Member, Sweden

Residence Izabella, Izabella u. 61, | 475 5900

“The services at **Normafa** are very good: lovely restaurant with a gorgeous terrace, good food, kind staff. Our kids also loved the swimming pool and the saunas and appreciated the tokens in the room.”—TripAdvisor Member, Spain

Normafa Hotel, Eotvos u. 52 – 54, | 395 6505

“At the **Kalmar**, the owners were very friendly, and the location is great. Our daughter was the star attraction and everyone, including the staff, was eager to help.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kennesaw, Ga.

Kalmar Bed & Breakfast, Kelenhegyi u. 7, | 20 460 2134

“Unique and very memorable!”



Have questions about Budapest? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“**Brody House** is unique and very memorable! Every room is a mini art gallery and it’s a wonderful experience to open your door, look out onto a grand old courtyard and feel like you’ve been transported to Hapsburg-era Budapest.”—TripAdvisor Member, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

Brody House, 10 Brody Sandor St., | 266 1211

Find “luxury, elegance and inner peace” at the **Andrassy Hotel**. “Staff is professional, friendly, helpful and will welcome you with a glass of Hungarian champagne. A perfect place for a romantic weekend.”—TripAdvisor Member, France

Andrassy Hotel, Andrassy u. 111, | 462 2100

“We spent our honeymoon at **Hilton Budapest**. Our room was luxurious, with a fantastic view to the Danube. The Hungarian food was great. They really made our week in the city a memorable experience.”—TripAdvisor Member, Prague, Czech Republic

Hilton Budapest, Hess Andras Ter. 1-3, | 889 6600

“I could pleasantly live in a place like this.”

BUDGET

“I was quite impressed with **Locust Tree Apartments**. The exterior had a pleasant modern finish that really stood out in contrast to the surrounding old neighborhood. I thought I could quite pleasantly live in a place like this.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Locust Tree Apartments, 1074 Akacfa u., | 70 394 2651

Mandragora Doubles is “Mandra-great indeed! Lovely decorated room, nice bathroom, comfy shared sitting room and kitchen areas. It was super clean and felt like staying at a friend’s flat.”—TripAdvisor Member, Copenhagen, Denmark

Mandragora Doubles, József krt. 2., | 789 9515

EasyHotel Oktagon is “a superb hotel if you don’t need pool, spa, room service and Michelin-star restaurants. Otherwise, you won’t find ANY more centrally located, cheaper sleep in the city. It’s clean, new, cheap and, most importantly, centrally located.”—TripAdvisor Member

EasyHotel Budapest Oktagon, Eötvös u. 25/a, | 30 205 8798

“...historic and glamorous atmosphere.”

LUXURY

Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace is “perfect for both business and leisure. The building is one of the best palaces in Europe. What a dream to ‘live in’ for your stay. You find yourself almost ‘on’ the Chain Bridge, with the city center a few steps away.”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace, Roosevelt Ter. 5-6, | 268 6000

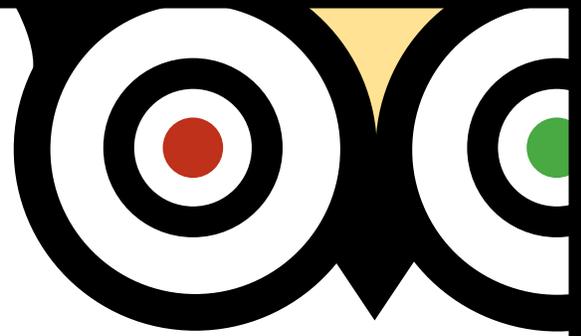
“When you visit a city like Budapest you definitely need to stay in a hotel with the same historic and glamorous atmosphere as the city itself. The **Corinthia** is that kind of hotel. Our room was lovely, and the spa is absolutely amazing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Corinthia Hotel Budapest, Erzsébet krt. 43-49, | 479 4000

“**Le Meridien Budapest** stands out for its architecture, its design, its facilities and the quality of service—in particular, front desk, bell captain, driver, restaurant staff. In short: excellent choice.”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

Le Meridien Budapest, Erzsébet Ter. 9-10, | 429 5500

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

Buda Castle Fashion Hotel is a “lovely small hotel. Outside impression is deceptive—the hotel is very spacious and modern, but still retains character. Modern facilities but not bland.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kent, U.K.

Buda Castle Fashion Hotel, Úri u. 39., I 224 7900

“**Kapital Inn** is a B&B with a human heart. Every day we came back after a long day to open the door, see the host, speak with him, then go upstairs to the room and finally drink something in the lovely kitchen. We just said, ‘Home sweet home.’”—TripAdvisor Member, Naples, Italy
Kapital Inn, 30 Aradi u., 30 931 1023

Staying at **B&B Bellevue** is “like staying with friends. The owners took time to recommend special Budapest sights and the best way to go about seeing them. I could tell they really loved introducing their city to us.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

B & B Bellevue Budapest, I, ker. Szabó Ilonka u. 15/b, I 340 1040

“Home sweet home.”

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