

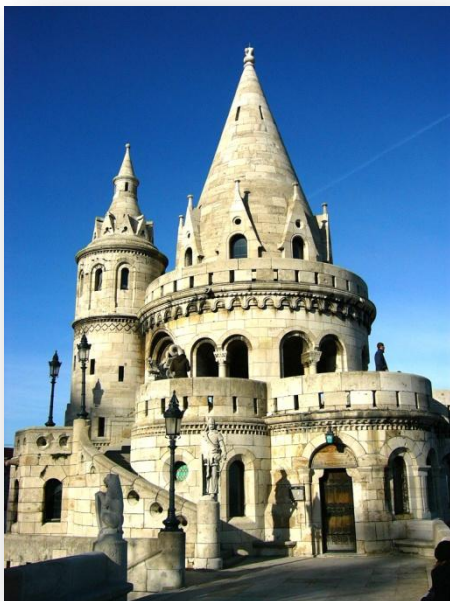
Chain Bridge



The 375 metres long bridge is the oldest one in the capital - older than Budapest itself as it was established only in 1872 with the union of Buda, Pest and Óbuda. Between the two towns - Buda and Pest - there used to be an interim turning-bridge, then a pontoon-bridge but these became unable to fulfill the needs of the capital. The construction of the Chain Bridge is bound to the name of István

Széchenyi, who was a rich aristocrat of the period. The bridge was built between 1839 and 1849, its entrances are guarded by two lions made of stone. Later in World War II the Germans exploded it while assaulting Budapest, the traffic restarted only in November 1949. The Chain Bridge is the most beautiful bridge in Budapest; it creates a connection between the former city central around the castle and Pest. On the occasion of festivals the bridge is floodlighted, this time the stone pillars illuminate like torches in the Budapest night.

Fisherman's Bastion



The Fisherman's Bastion is one of the most famous points of the Buda Castle, which was set up by Frigyes Schulek in 1901-1902. Here used to stand the bastions of a former fishermen's guild in the Middle Ages. The Neoromanesque style bastion-line never had defending functions; it is more likely to be a piece of decoration which gives a nice frame for the Castle's building and serves as a staircase up to the Castle Area. On the occasion of festivals the white bastion is sparkling in the floodlight; its domed, lacy corridors make it look like a fairy-tale castle, which can be seen from the whole eastern side of the Danube. Both the Fisherman's Bastions

itself and the superb panorama opening from here attract amateur photographers. In the evening when tourist groups have already moved to the

pleasant restaurants teen-aged couples visit the Fisherman's Bastion to have their first kisses in this magnificent place.

The House of Parliament



The baroque-plan, neo-gothic Parliament was built from 1885 to 1904, based on the planning of Imre Steindl. The enormous building is 268 metres long and 118 metres wide.

It is divided for ten courts, it has 29 staircases and 27 entrances. At the outside the building is decorated by 88 statues; at the Danube side they represent Hungarian monarchs from the seven leaders to King V.

Ferdinand, while at the square side princes of Transylvania, famous warlords and heroes can be seen. The main staircase is decorated by frescos from Károly Lotz. At the same place the bust of Imre Steindl is placed in a marble cassette. The main stairway drives to the cupola room on the second floor where the statues of great figures from the Hungarian history can be seen.

This is the most ceremonious room of the country where high rank state honors are distributed. Similarly fascinating room is the chamber, where the highest constitutional body assembles. Above the presidential platform the Arms of the Hungarian Republic can be seen surrounded by Zsigmond Vajda's frescos, which capture two famous moments of the Hungarian history. The congress hall, the presidential council's presence chamber, the delegation's room and the Parliament's library are also worth visiting, so as the treasures in each room.

Europe's fifth biggest parliament's library is open for the public; anybody can brows among the books to his liking. As the Hungarian parliament has only one chamber, only one of the assembly rooms is used. (Groups can visit it every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10, 11, 14 and 15 o'clock, and every month on the second and third Sunday at 11, 12 and 13 o'clock. Groups should be register at the guide by the Parliament.

The entrance is free for EU members.

Heroes' Square



The historical monument was erected for the 1000th anniversary of the state foundation. Here used to be the main entrance of the Millennium's World Fair. The constructions of the impressive memorial lasted for several decades, between 1894 and 1929.

The first figure to erect was the statue of Genius standing at the top of the huge column in 1901, surrounded by the equestrian statues of Árpád and the Seven Leaders on the plinth. Statues of Hungarian rulers and great persons decorate the semicircular monument while under these various events of their lives can be seen on relieves. In front of the main column the memorial of heroes and martyrs of the revolution was placed. The square is bordered by the Museum of Fine Arts and the Hall of Arts.

The Buda Castle



The foundations of the old castle were laid by IV. Béla in 1255. The old fortress was replaced by a palace during the reign of King and Emperor Zsigmond (1387-1437) which was broadened by King Mátyás (1458-1490). During the 150-year Turkish occupation the palace fell into ruin then

Hillebrandt reconstructed it in Baroque style during the reign of Mária Terézia (1740-1780).

The new building could also not avoid its destiny; it was destroyed in the conflagration after the assault of 1849. The reconstruction made at the turn of the century hid totally the old walls which turned up again only later. The construction was finished in 1904 according to the plans of Miklós Ybl and Alajos Hauszmann. At the end of World War II German troops were pushed here and after the assault of Budapest the palace burnt totally down. At the present time three major museums and the Széchenyi István Library operates in it. Among the curiosities of the library the 32 pieces of Corvina, the Pray-codex, the Gestas of Anonymus and the Szenci-Codex can be found here as well. The book stock of Kossuth, Deák and other leading figures of the Hungarian history are held in a separate collection.