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# Rick Steves' Budapest, 3rd Edition



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in Budapest. In this guide, you'll find a thorough exploration of Europe's most underrated city. Soak with Hungarians in a thermal bath, sample paprika at the Great Market Hall, and take a romantic twilight cruise on the Danube. Wander through the opulence of Budapest's late-19-century Golden Age: the Parliament, Opera House, Great Synagogue, and Heroes' Square. For a break from the big city, head into the countryside to Habsburg palaces, Hungarian folk villages, the historic wine-making capital of Eger, and colorfully tiled PÃ¶cs. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. He'll help you plan where to go and what to see, depending on the length of your trip. You'll get up-to-date recommendations about what is worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Europe Through the Back Door in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle; Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening

for Americans. Cameron Hewitt writes and edits guidebooks for Rick Steves' Europe. He first visited Budapest on a lark in 1999 and now he can't stay away. From Budapest's colorful and quirky history, to its grandiose architecture, to its mouthwatering food, to its uniquely enjoyable thermal baths, Cameron can't get enough of this enthralling, enigmatic, exhilarating city. When he's not on the road, Cameron lives in Seattle with his wife, Shawna.

We are just back from our Budapest vacation, and took two copies of Rick Steve's Budapest along. We found this to be a very useful practical guide. He includes many practical details, that one would have to have actually done, to know. Also included, for example, is an expanded narrative about the "House of Terror" tour (other museums or attractions are also expanded on). The 'House of Terror' (which really should just be called "House of History" - I think their PR firm tried to enhance the excitement) has an audio guide and printed English pages in each room; however Rick Steve's expanded information in Budapest Guide enables one to grasp and understand the material or subject more readily, efficiently, and thoroughly. The book includes a good summary of historical background and events, to put things in context. He has a lot of good honest assessments of various places and attractions, and good information about getting around, local behavior, etc. As in his other guides, for each attraction or place, he includes information about hours, Days open, costs, how to get there, and finding it on the map. We carried this around and used it all the time. Well organized, honest points of view, and effective.

I am currently studying abroad in Budapest and Rick Steve's guide has been really great for finding restaurants and/or places to go. The information is very detailed (which is so important because I don't speak Hungarian) like he tells you exactly how to go about getting a ticket for something and then what to do after you get the ticket (this example in the case of the thermal baths). I love this book and my friends borrow it all the time. I don't think the restaurant list is all that expansive, so you can supplement it with blogs like [chew.hu](http://chew.hu) or other things. I highly recommend this book as a starting place for people visiting Hungary. My roommate has the Lonely Planet one which doesn't have pictures and isn't very helpful... she borrows my Rick Steve's all the time. The only thing lacking from this book is a better list of more inexpensive places. Food is very cheap here and it'd be nice to see more local places with local prices. The prices of the restaurants in the book aren't bad by American standards (like 2000 HUF - 4000 HUF, \$10-\$20), but honestly you can get food for like \$5. The best langos place I have found is right by Keleti station off of Garay and Bethlen Gabor St. for example... Best of luck to people travelling. Budapest is my favorite European city to live in!

We used this book, as well as the one for Salzburg, Vienna, and Tirol on a recent trip and found them very helpful. My favorite part of this one was the chapter on Hungary past and present. It provided a concise and insightful history that explained a lot of what could have been pretty confusing about the history of this city and how the past has affected the present. In one small example, he pointed out that clinking beer glasses is still considered bad form by some folks due to a massacre of 13 Hungarian generals in the mid-19th century to quash an uprising, followed by the victors clinking their beer glasses in celebration. While we enjoyed the walking tours, some of them were hard to follow, probably because things change and a landmark present when the book was written is now gone, throwing us off the path. We ate at some of the restaurants he advised and liked most, but not all, of them. I have to confess that I find some irony in his 'Europe through the back door' philosophy in which he seeks out places off the beaten path not frequented by tourists. To begin with, I would say that every guidebook I've ever read tries to do the same, furthermore, as soon as a place is cited in a major guidebook as a place to go, it immediately becomes a tourist destination. Nevertheless, I found this book to be interesting, well-organized, and useful and will buy his guidebooks in the future. I also like that we could download the Kindle edition, which meant that I could just slip my iPad in my purse, rather than carrying around an unwieldy book.

I got this before I moved to Budapest and I felt it was very helpful. After now living here for half a year, we don't use the Rick Steves guide for food recommendations (use the Four Square app!!) but it is still very useful for information or opinions about art galleries, places in town, or how to get there. As a tourist, this is really all you need. The only issue that is not the fault of the book but rather the way Budapest operates: businesses come and go quickly here, so check online before you spend the evening trying to find it to make sure it's still open.

This book was extremely helpful on our recent trip to Budapest. Our trip was planned at the last minute so the book was very helpful to figure out the best things on which to spend our time. There is a LOT of information, so I do wish we would have had the opportunity to review it more before our trip so I would have been better prepared. But the book is well written and very informative. My favorite part of the book is the walking tours. There are quite a few of them and they give great instructions on where to go to see some of the greatest sites and also give the historical/interesting points along the route. I usually prefer self-paced touring rather than being in an organized group so this works perfect for me.

I travel a good bit and have used Rick Steves' books for other destinations but this book was by far the best one I have used. The advice was outstanding and spot on (though I didn't go to the public bath which the author loves). I made the cost of the book back on the taxi back to the airport alone. Knowing what the official company prices were (capped at 3990 FT at FOTaxi) I was able to avoid my Hotel's cab (and had them call me the other company that night to pick me up for my AM flight). I did a couple of the walking tours which were outstanding. Description of where the ATMs near my incoming train station was, the hidden Metro platform near the park, etc. etc. were all indispensable. Hope to go to Budapest again and will definitely carry Rick Steves' with me.

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