



HUNGARY

Exploring the Danube Bend: Budapest, Esztergom, Visegrád ...

June 22-29, 2024
8 Days / 6 Nights



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF GREATER HOUSTON**
Global Perspectives, Local Conversations



ITINERARY

DAY 1	Sat, Jun 22, 2024	Leave USA.	
DAY 2	Sun, Jun 23, 2024	Arrive in Budapest.	Budapest
DAY 3	Mon, Jun 24, 2024	Budapest sightseeing.	Budapest
DAY 4	Tue, Jun 25, 2024	Budapest sightseeing.	Budapest
DAY 5	Wed, Jun 26, 2024	Excursion to Danube Bend.	Budapest
DAY 6	Thu, Jun 27, 2024	Excursions in and around Budapest.	Budapest
DAY 7	Fri, Jun 28, 2024	Leisure Day in Budapest. Possible meetings.	Budapest
DAY 8	Sat, Jun 29, 2024	Departure.	

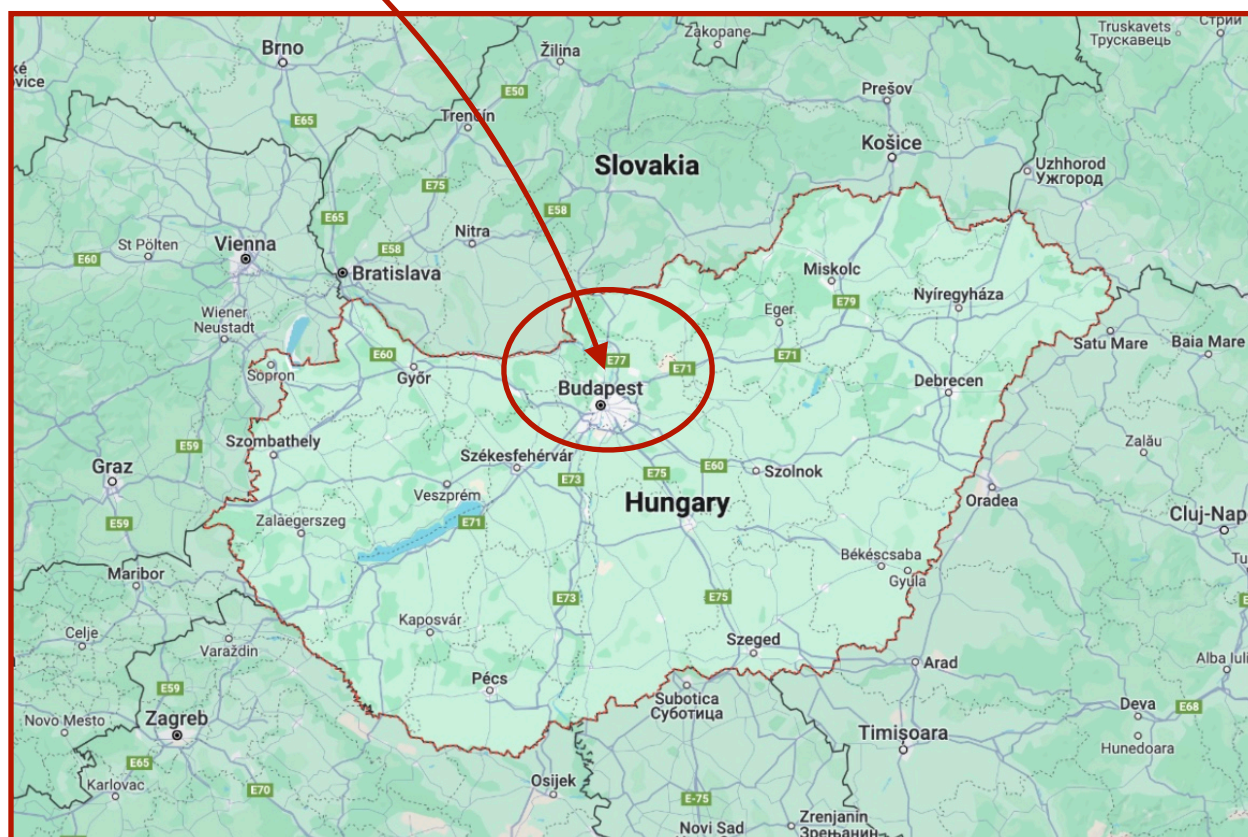


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MAP TRAJECTORY





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HIGHLIGHTS

Tour of Hungarian Parliament.

Saint Stephen Basilica.

House of Music.

Buda Castle.

Chain Bridge.

Hungarian National Gallery.

Budapest Central Market.

Dohany Street Synagogue - largest in Europe.

Esztergom.

Wine Tasting in the Cellar of Former Cardinals.

Visegrad Castle.

Medieval City of Szentendre.

Roman Military Garrison of Aquincum.

Farewell dinner with Folklore Evening.

Delicious Hungarian Food and Wine.



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INCLUDED

Six nights' hotel accommodation in Budapest with daily breakfast.

Arrival and departure transfers for suggested flights.

Meals as indicated in the itinerary.

Two small bottles of water per person per tour day on the bus.

All entry fees for above-mentioned places.

Private English speaking guide.

Private transportation with driver.

Service charges for included meals and hotels.

Local taxes.

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare.

Drinks with included meals, except drinking water and tea or coffee for breakfast and where indicated in itinerary.

Gratuities for guides and drivers.

Personal expenditures like phone calls, laundry, medical expenses.

Travel insurance.



SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

Suggested flights are on Lufthansa:

22 June Houston to Frankfurt
LH 441 dep: 3:35 pm / arr: 8:15 am on 23 June

23 June Frankfurt to Budapest
LH 1338 dep: 12:05 pm / arr: 1:40 pm

29 June Budapest to Frankfurt
LH 1337 dep: 11:10 am / arr: 12:55 pm

29 June Frankfurt to Houston
LH 7601 dep: 1:55 pm / arr: 5:45 pm

Economy class: \$2,135
Premium Economy: \$5,723
Business class: \$10,113
per person, including taxes, surcharges and fees
as of March 20, 2024.
Fares may change based on availability.



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ACCOMMODATIONS

Anantara New York Palace - Budapest



The Anantara New York Palace, a luxury hotel in Budapest, is an architectural ode to Europe's Belle Époque. A marble façade is adorned with ornate carvings and a clock tower, while inside, impressive columns, chandeliers and frescoes transport you to another era.

Located in the historical downtown of Budapest.

Home of the famed New York Café, known as “the most beautiful café in the world”.

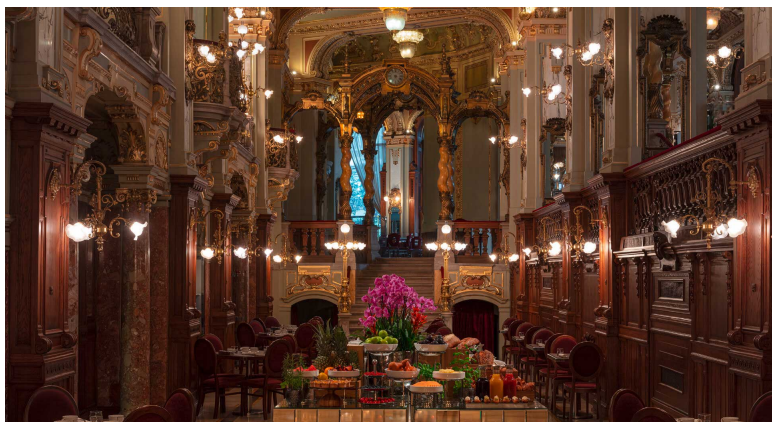
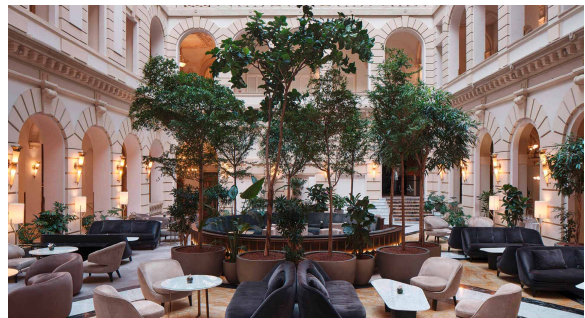


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Program Details

Day 1: Sat, June 22 **USA - Budapest**

We will leave USA for Budapest, Hungary.

Nestled along the picturesque banks of the Danube River, **Budapest** is a city steeped in history and brimming with modern charm. Originally two separate cities, Buda and Pest, the Hungarian capital has a rich and complex past that is reflected in its diverse architecture and cultural heritage.

Buda, with its historic Castle Hill and medieval streets, is a testament to Budapest's royal past. Here, visitors can explore the magnificent Buda Castle, which has stood watch over the city for centuries, and take in panoramic views from Fisherman's Bastion. Pest, on the other hand, is a bustling hub of modernity, with its grand boulevards, vibrant markets, and stunning Parliament building, which dominates the city skyline.

Today, Budapest is a vibrant metropolis that seamlessly blends its storied past with a dynamic present. The city is home to a thriving arts and cultural scene, with world-class museums, galleries, and theaters showcasing the best of Hungarian and international talent. Visitors can also indulge in the city's famous thermal baths, which have been soothing weary travelers for centuries.

Budapest is also a culinary delight, with a diverse array of restaurants, cafes, and bars serving up traditional Hungarian dishes alongside innovative international cuisine.

Whether you're exploring its historic streets, relaxing in its thermal waters, or sampling its delicious food and wine, Budapest is a city that offers something for everyone, making it a must-visit destination for any traveler.



Day 2: Sun, June 23 Budapest

We will arrive in Budapest in the afternoon.

Upon arrival, our guide and bus will transfer us to our hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Budapest

Meals: None

Day 3: Mon, June 24 Budapest

On our first day in Budapest, we will experience the rich history and vibrant culture of this city with our comprehensive day tour.

We will begin our journey with a visit to the iconic Hungarian Parliament, where we'll marvel at the stunning Neo-Gothic architecture and learn about Hungary's political history. Next, we will walk to the moving "Shoes on the Danube" memorial, a poignant tribute to the Jews who lost their lives during World War II.

After a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, we will continue our exploration with a visit to Saint Stephen's Basilica, home to breathtaking architecture and panoramic views of the city. Wander through Heroes' Square, adorned with statues of Hungarian national leaders, before strolling through the picturesque City Park which houses Museum of Ethnography and Szechenyi Baths which we can visit on our leisure time.

Then we will walk to the House of Music, a museum which was opened recently, dedicated to the country's musical heritage and won awards for its architectural design and exhibits.

In the evening, we will enjoy our welcome dinner at a cosy Hungarian restaurant with a 3-course meal, a glass of welcome champagne and wine.
After dinner, we will enjoy Budapest illuminated by night, driving back to our hotel.

Overnight in Budapest

Meals: B-L-D (welcome dinner)



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Day 4: Tue, June 25 Budapest

On our second day, we will explore Budapest's Buda side: We will begin our day with a visit to the historic Buda Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site that offers stunning views of the city. Explore the castle grounds and visit the impressive Matthias Church, known for its beautiful Gothic architecture.

Next, we will make our way to Fisherman's Bastion, a fairy-tale-like structure that offers panoramic views of the Danube River and the city skyline. Walk through the charming Jewish quarters to Vienna Gate, where we'll see the Office of the Hungarian Prime Minister from outside.

We will take a ride on the funicular to Sandor Palace, where we can witness the changing of the guards and admire the beautiful view from the castle hill. After lunch, we will continue our tour with a visit to the Hungarian National Gallery and the History Museum, where we can learn about Hungary's rich cultural heritage.

In the afternoon, we will also drive to the pedestrian street of Vaci, where we can enjoy some free time to explore the shops and cafes. Visit the Central Market Hall, a bustling marketplace where we can sample local delicacies and shop for souvenirs. Finally, visit St. Michael's Chapel, a beautiful chapel located near the market hall.

In the evening we will enjoy a buffet dinner with unlimited wine and soft drinks.

Overnight in Budapest

Meals: B-L-D

Day 5: Wed, June 26 Danube Bend

Today, we will escape the hustle and bustle of Budapest on this full-day excursion to Danube Bend.

The Danube Bend is a beautiful region in Hungary, located just north of Budapest. It's named after the dramatic curve the Danube River takes here, creating a stunning natural landscape. The area is known for its charming historic towns, including Esztergom, Visegrád, and Szentendre, each offering its own unique attractions.



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Our day begins with a scenic drive to Esztergom, where we'll visit the largest Catholic Basilica in Hungary and the former seat of the Hungarian cardinals. Marvel at the stunning architecture and learn about the history of this important religious site.

Next, enjoy a unique wine tasting experience in the cellar of the former cardinals, located under the Basilica. Sample a variety of local wines and learn about the winemaking traditions of the region.

Afterwards, drive to Visegrad and explore the historic Visegrad Castle, which offers panoramic views of the Danube River and the surrounding countryside.

Following lunch, continue our journey to Szentendre, a charming town known for its artistic heritage. Take a leisurely walk through the town's picturesque streets and admire the colorful buildings and quaint shops. We will have time to taste "Langos", a traditional Hungarian fried bread, during our visit.

We will enjoy some leisure time in Szentendre to explore further or shop for souvenirs before returning to Budapest late in the afternoon.

This evening, we can explore the dining options in the city on our own.

Overnight in Budapest

Meals: B-L

Day 6: Thu, June 27

Budapest

After breakfast, we will drive to Aquincum, the ancient Roman city that once thrived on the banks of the Danube. Delve into the past as we wander through the archaeological site, marveling at the remnants of Roman baths, temples, and houses. The accompanying museum provides a detailed look at life in Aquincum during its heyday.

Next, travel back in time further as we visit the Hercules Villa, a Roman ruin that offers a glimpse into the luxurious lifestyle of the ancient Romans. Admire the intricate mosaic floors and imagine the villa's former glory as a retreat for the elite.



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After a leisurely lunch, we will immerse ourselves in the world of modern art at the Vasarely Museum, dedicated to the works of Hungarian-French artist Victor Vasarely. Explore the museum's collection of op-art pieces, which use optical illusions to create mesmerizing effects.

We will continue our exploration with a visit to the Dohany Street Synagogue. Built in the 19th century, this historic synagogue provides insight into Budapest's Jewish history and architectural heritage. It is the largest synagogue in Europe and second largest in the world.

We will conclude our day at Vajdahunyad Castle.

Vajdahunyad Castle, located in Budapest's City Park, is a stunning architectural masterpiece that reflects Hungary's rich history and architectural heritage. Originally built in 1896 for the Millennium Exhibition to showcase Hungary's architectural styles, the castle is a stunning example of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture.

The castle's name, Vajdahunyad, translates to "Castle of Hunyad," and it is modeled after the Hunyad Castle in Transylvania, Romania. This replica, however, includes elements from several other famous Hungarian buildings, creating a unique and eclectic design. Today, Vajdahunyad Castle houses the Museum of Hungarian Agriculture, where visitors can learn about Hungary's agricultural history and traditions.

Beyond its historical and architectural significance, Vajdahunyad Castle is also a popular cultural hub, hosting various events, concerts, and festivals throughout the year. Its picturesque setting, surrounded by a tranquil lake and lush greenery, makes it a favorite spot for locals and tourists alike to relax and soak in the beauty of Budapest.



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We will return to our hotel late afternoon and have the evening for ourselves to choose from Budapest's dining options on our own.

Overnight in Budapest

Meals: B-L

Day 7: Fri, June 28

Budapest

Today is a leisure day in Budapest. There are quite a number of places to visit, things to do on our own.

It is also possible to have a few meetings arranged for our group. We will have a definite program as trip date comes close.

This evening we will have a farewell dinner with folklore evening in a typical 200-year old wine cellar restaurant outside the center of Budapest, with three-course dinner and welcome drink: apricot brandy, wine and mineral water.

Overnight in Budapest

Meals: B-D (farewell dinner with folklore evening.)

Day 8: Sat, June 29

Departure

Today we will be transferred to the airport to take a flight back to the U.S.A.

Meals: B

Contact Us

713-522-7811

www.wachouston.org