

Budapest, your way

A practical seven-night itinerary for 20–27 August 2026, routed from either Danubius Hotel Hungaria City Center or ibis Budapest Stadium.

National-day arrival Széchenyi thermal bath 6.6 km medium hike Thrift circuit One big night out Public transport first

[Choose hotel](#) [The week](#) [Bath](#) [Hike](#) [Thrifting](#) [Transport](#) [Budget](#) [Book first](#)

READ THIS FIRST

The trip in one minute

You land during Budapest's biggest annual celebration. The rest of the week balances the famous sights with enough breathing room for baths, a proper green-space hike and a Saturday night in the Jewish Quarter.

Thursday 20 August is Hungary's national holiday. The Danube fireworks are scheduled for 21:00, but you may only reach your hotel shortly before then. Central roads and some stations can close. Treat the fireworks as a lucky bonus, not a stressful appointment: check in first, leave your bags, and consult BudapestGO before heading toward the river.

YOUR TWO BASES

Which hotel fits you better?

These are separate hotels. Both work without a car, but they produce noticeably different evenings.

Best for: shorter sightseeing journeys, easier nightlife and fast east-west travel.

- About 5–7 minutes on foot from Keleti station.
- Roughly 15–20 minutes on foot from Szimpla Kert.
- Choose a twin room and request a quiet, higher-floor room away from Rákóczi út.
- Worth choosing when the all-in twin total is around €650 or less.

Best itinerary fit: this is the easier base for your plans.

[Booking.com](#) · [Trip.com](#) · [Map](#)

Best for: a modern, highly rated room while holding the hotel budget near €600.

- Approximately 10–12 minutes on foot from Népliget M3.

- Most central sights require the M3 plus a walk or change.
- The live Accor rate checked on 19 August was €594.21 total with free membership for a twin room.
- Use Bolt/Uber after nightlife instead of a long late-night transfer.

Best price fit: keep this if the Danubius total climbs well above €650.

[Booking.com](#) · [Trip.com](#) · [Map](#)

20–27 AUGUST

Your day-by-day itinerary

Times are deliberately roomy. The route notes at the bottom of each day show the practical difference between the two hotels.

Danubius route ibis route

20Thu

Arrival and festival sky

Keep it light

17:45

Depart Eindhoven. Keep BudapestGO, Bolt and Uber ready before landing.

~19:40

Land, collect bags, then use the official Főtaxi booth or public transport.

~20:30

Check in. If you are settled and central access is still open, head toward the Danube for the 21:00 fireworks. Otherwise have a late dinner near the hotel and recover.

From DanubiusAirport: 100E to Astoria + M2 to Keleti, or Főtaxi. Do not chase the river if you check in after 20:30.

From ibisAirport: 200E + M3 to Népliget is pass-covered. A taxi is simpler with luggage, though holiday closures may slow it.

21Fri

Buda Castle and the river

Icon day

09:30

Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church before the busiest part of the day.

11:30

Walk through the Castle District and the Festival of Folk Arts programme.

14:00

Lunch in Buda, then descend toward Clark Ádám tér and cross Chain Bridge.

17:00

St. Stephen's Basilica, central Pest and a relaxed Danube sunset walk.

From DanubiusM2 Keleti → Széll Kálmán tér, then bus 16/16A toward the Castle. About 30 minutes.

From ibisM3 Népliget → Deák Ferenc tér, then bus 16. Allow about 40 minutes.

22Sat

Thermal pools and a big night out

Signature day

08:00

Enter Széchenyi Bath at opening. Spend 3–4 hours across the outdoor thermal pools, indoor rooms and saunas.

12:30

Lunch around City Park, then Heroes' Square and Vajdahunyad Castle.

15:30

Return to the hotel for a proper rest, shower and early dinner.

20:30

Begin at Szimpla Kert, then move to Instant-Fogas around 23:00. Use Bolt/Uber back to either hotel.

From Danubius M2 Keleti → Deák, change to M1 → Széchenyi fürdő. Nightlife is also walkable from the hotel.

From ibis M3 Népliget → Deák, change to M1. For the return after midnight, budget for Bolt/Uber.

23Sun

Normafa and János Hill hike

Medium · 6.6 km

09:00

Travel to Normafa and start the official circuit: Anna-rét → Erzsébet Lookout → Tündérszikla → Normafa.

10:15

Reach the lookout after the main climbing section. Stop for the Budapest panorama.

12:30

Finish the loop and have a strudel or lunch near Normafa.

15:00

Return for a quiet afternoon. Keep the evening flexible for dinner on Bartók Béla

Boulevard or near the hotel.

From DanubiusM2 Keleti → Széll Kálmán tér, then bus 21/221 to Normafa. Roughly 50 minutes.

From ibisM3 → Deák, M2 → Széll Kálmán tér, then bus 21/221. Allow about 65 minutes.

24Mon

Market, Parliament and Margaret Island

Grand Budapest

09:00

Breakfast and browsing at the Great Market Hall, then walk the Pest riverfront.

12:30

Lunch near the centre. Continue past the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial.

14:30

Pre-book a Parliament tour; arrive early for security and bring your passport or ID.

17:00

Margaret Island for a slow walk. Optional evening Danube cruise after sunset.

From DanubiusM4 Keleti → Fővám tér for the market. Tram 2 then follows the river toward Parliament.

From ibisM3 Népliget → Kálvin tér, then walk 8–10 minutes to the market.

25Tue

Jewish Quarter and vintage treasure hunt

Thrift day

10:00

Dohány Street Synagogue and the Jewish Quarter's courtyards and street art.

12:30

Lunch around Astoria, followed by a three-stop thrift circuit: Humana Vintage → Szputnyik D-20 → Retrock.

16:00

Choose a café break or continue along Andrásy Avenue. Visit House of Terror only if you still have energy.

19:00

Sunset choice: Gellért Hill viewpoint or a rooftop drink in Pest.

From Danubius Walk about 15 minutes to Szputnyik, then continue to Humana Astoria and Retrock near Deák.

From ibis M3 Népliget → Deák. Start at Retrock, then walk to Humana and Szputnyik.

26Wed

Szentendre riverside escape

Easy day trip

09:30

Take H5 from Batthyány tér toward Szentendre. Buy the small extension ticket beyond Budapest's boundary.

11:00

Explore the old lanes, riverside promenade, galleries and colourful main square.

14:00

Long lunch, then choose a museum or simply stay by the Danube.

17:00

Return to Budapest for a final Hungarian dinner and pack without rushing.

From DanubiusM2 Keleti → Batthyány tér, then H5. Approximately 60 minutes to Szentendre.

From ibisM3 → Deák, M2 → Batthyány tér, then H5. Allow about 75 minutes.

27Thu

Breakfast and departure

No rushing

Morning

Breakfast, one last neighbourhood walk and checkout. Ask reception to hold bags if your flight is later.

Flight –3h

Leave the hotel about three hours before departure when using public transport, or roughly 2½ hours before with a pre-ordered taxi.

From DanubiusM2 to Astoria + 100E with the 1,000 HUF pass-holder add-on, or order Főtaxi/Bolt/Uber.

From ibisM3 Népliget → Kőbánya-Kispest + 200E. The monthly pass covers the full public-transport route.

SATURDAY MORNING

Széchenyi Bath plan

What to book

Book directly through the official website. Saturday hours are listed as 08:00–20:00. A 2026 standard ticket with locker is 14,800 HUF on Friday–Sunday, while official peak pricing is 15,800 HUF. Online inventory can sell out.

Arriving at opening gives you calmer outdoor pools and better photos before tour groups build up.

What to bring

Bring swimwear, towel, flip-flops, water and a small waterproof phone pouch. Slippers are mandatory; towel rental is not offered. A swim cap is needed only for the lap pool.

The standard locker is enough for a backpack. A private cabin costs extra and is unnecessary for two light day bags.

Swimwear Wear it under your clothes to save time.

Towel Bring your own; buying one there is expensive.

Flip-flops Mandatory in the bath complex.

Water Thermal pools can dehydrate you.

Locker ticket One secure locker per person.

Screenshot Download the ticket QR before leaving Wi-Fi.

SUNDAY OUTDOORS

Normafa medium hike

The official Normafa circuit is 6.6 km, takes about two to three hours with stops, and climbs approximately 234 metres. It is rated medium because of gradual slopes and the final approach to Erzsébet Lookout.

Route

Normafa → Anna-rét → János Hill → Erzsébet Lookout → Tündér-szikla → Normafa.

Follow the official waymarks rather than relying only on Google Maps. Download an offline map or keep the Normafa route page open.

Practical safety

Wear trainers with grip, take at least 1 litre of water each, sunscreen and a light rain layer. Start earlier if the forecast is hot. Skip exposed viewpoints during thunderstorms.

The optional chairlift is not included in the Budapest pass.

The downtown thrift circuit

All three stops sit in a compact central loop. Allow two to three hours, and begin with the shop closest to your hotel route.

Best for: digging through more affordable rails and catching Humana's changing stock cycle. This is the closest thing in the loop to classic thrifting.

[Open map](#) · [Official Humana site](#)

Szputnyik: distinctive vintage and contemporary pieces; open Monday–Saturday 10:00–20:00. **Retrock:** Budapest's larger curated designer-vintage stop, generally pricier but fun to browse.

[Szputnyik map](#) · [Retrock map](#)

Simple shopping rule: set a cash budget before entering the curated stores.

Humana is where to hunt for value; Szputnyik and Retrock are better for one

memorable statement piece. Check condition, zips and seams carefully because

second-hand return policies vary.

Pass, airport and taxis

Monthly Budapest-pass

Buy one per person for 8,950 HUF in BudapestGO and link it to the ID you will carry. It covers unlimited M1–M4 metro, trams, regular/night buses, trolleybuses, 200E and HÉV travel inside Budapest.

It does not cover taxis, sightseeing boats, the funicular, chairlift, or the H5 section beyond Budapest. For 100E, pass holders can buy the 1,000 HUF add-on ticket.

Taxi rule

At the airport, use the official Főtaxi booth. In the city, use Bolt or Uber Taxi. Licensed Budapest taxis are yellow, show the official licence markings and use regulated meter fares.

Never accept an unsolicited terminal offer. Pay in HUF by card and decline dynamic currency conversion into euros.

FOR TWO PEOPLE

Realistic spending guide

The hotel target is treated as roughly €600 total for seven nights. The table below estimates on-the-ground spending for both of you, excluding flights and hotel.

Item	Estimate for two	Notes
Monthly transport passes	17,900 HUF · about €46	One pass each.
Széchenyi Bath	29,600–31,600 HUF ·	Standard locker tickets, weekend or peak

Item	Estimate for two	Notes
	about €76–81	rate.
Food and drinks	€280–420	Mix of bakeries, casual lunches and one or two better dinners.
Night out	€45–90	Drinks plus one taxi back; Instant-Fogas usually has free general entry.
Paid sights and extras	€70–150	Parliament, synagogue, museum and optional cruise.
Taxis	€35–75	Airport and late-night choices determine this.

Comfortable trip estimate for two, excluding flights and hotel: approximately €550–780. You can stay near the lower end by using 200E/M3 at the airport, eating one casual meal daily and skipping the cruise.

DO THESE FIRST

Booking checklist

[1. Compare Danubius twin total](#) [2. Hold the ibis twin if still available](#) [3. Buy Saturday bath tickets](#) [4. Reserve Monday Parliament tour](#) [5. Install BudapestGO](#) [6. Save the official hike route](#) [7. Check Humana's current stock cycle](#)

CHECKED 19 AUGUST 2026

Official links and sources

- [St. Stephen's Day fireworks programme](#)
- [BKK monthly Budapest-pass](#)
- [BKK 100E pass-holder add-on](#)
- [BKK licensed taxi guidance](#)

- [Budapest Airport Főtaxi guidance](#)
- [Széchenyi opening hours](#)
- [Széchenyi official 2026 prices](#)
- [Normafa official medium circuit](#)
- [Instant-Fogas official site](#)
- [Humana Budapest stores](#)
- [Szputnyik D-20 address and hours](#)
- [Danubius on Booking.com](#)
- [ibis Stadium on Booking.com](#)

Final choice: book Danubius Hungaria City Center when its all-in twin price is close to ibis; keep ibis Stadium when protecting the €600 hotel budget matters more. Check BudapestGO each morning for live changes.