

THE TREASURES OF BUDAPEST

25 - 29 OCTOBER 2026

FROM
£3,785
PER PERSON

Tour Leaders: Douglas Skeggs & Joanna Worsley


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

Travel with lecturer Douglas Skeggs and Joanna Worsley, to the historic city of Budapest, separated by the River Danube, which is really two cities in one. On the northern shore is the ancient city of Buda, which is dominated by the Castle high on its rocky crag, beneath its foundations are a 1,000 years of history waiting to be discovered. Cross the Chain Bridge and you are in Pest, and here are wide boulevards and imposing 19th century buildings, historic churches and varied museums. This tour explores these fascinating cities of Buda and Pest, showing how this combination makes this unified city one of the most interesting in Central Europe.

Outside the city, there will be a visit to the Lázár Equestrian Park which was established in 1991 by the Lázár brothers, incredibly successful horse racers. You will also have a private tour of the Károlyi Palace at Fot, the former estate of one of Hungary's oldest noble families, accompanied by Countess Károlyi.

There will also be the option to watch a performance at the Hungarian State Opera House, one of the most splendid opera houses in Europe.



Gates at Buda Castle



Fisherman's Bastion



Lobby at Párisi Udvar Hotel Budapest



Hero Square

5-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 25 OCTOBER 2026

25 October London / Budapest

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 866 departing London Heathrow at 07.50 hrs arriving Budapest at 11.20 hrs. Group transfer to the Párisi Udvar Hotel, where four nights are spent. Located a stone's throw from the river on the Pest side, this decadent hotel has one of the most extraordinary lobbies in the world. Originally built in 1817 as Budapest's first shopping arcade, it was inspired by the famous Passage des Panoramas in Paris. The building was originally designed by the same architect who worked on the Hungarian National Museum.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon orientation walk through the Belvaros district. Afternoon tea at the historic Café Gerbeaud, dating back to 1858 and renowned for its cakes and pastries. Return to the hotel. Lecture by Douglas Skeggs followed by dinner at the hotel.

26 October Budapest

Morning exploration of the Pest side, largely developed in impressive style in the 19th century with wide boulevards and ornate and imposing buildings. Travel along Pest's main avenue, Andrássy Útka, to Heroes Square to view the statues

of Hungary's kings and Magyar warriors. Continue to the neo-classical Museum of Fine Arts which faces Heroes Square and has a fine collection of European paintings. These range from works of the Italian, Dutch, German and Spanish Schools to works by English, French and Flemish artists from the 14th century onwards. There is also a fine collection of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings.

Lunch at Reteshaz Restaurant. Afternoon visit to the massive 19th century St. Stephen's Basilica, Budapest's largest church, which sustained severe damage in World War II and has only recently been renovated. Time permitting, explore the Pest side of the city on foot, including Freedom Square. Return to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

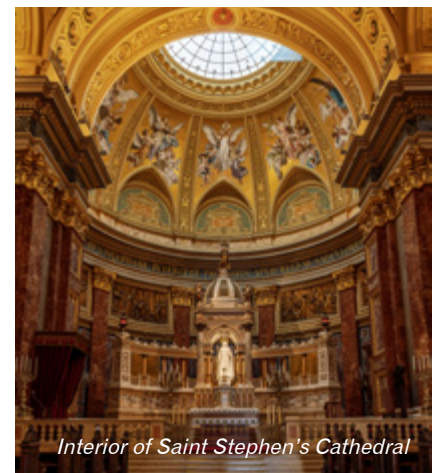
Optional visit to the Hungarian State Opera House.

27 October Budapest

This morning cross the Chain Bridge to visit the Buda side. Take the 19th century funicular railway up to Buda Palace on Castle Hill. Visit the historic Matthias Church, dating from medieval times but largely rebuilt and with a mainly Neo-Gothic interior, this church

displays the eclectic mix of styles found in several buildings in city which can only be described as 'Budapest Romantic style' – a culmination of Gothic, Art Nouveau and Neo-Classicism. Stroll along the walls of the Fisherman's Bastion, a folly of towers and lookout points built in the 19th century which gives splendid views over the city.

Lunch at a local Restaurant. Visit the Hungarian National Gallery to see a selection of Hungarian historical paintings, before going out to look at the statues of Eugene of Savoy and the Tural Eagle, the mythical protector of the Hungarian nation. Return to the hotel. Dinner at Gundel Restaurant.



Interior of Saint Stephen's Cathedral



Lázár Equestrian Park

28 October Budapest & Lázár Equestrian Park

Morning departure to Lázár Equestrian Park, located 35km outside Budapest, to see the spectacular Horse Show, which bring to life the traditions of Hungarian horsemanship.

Lunch at the Equestrian Park. Return to the hotel. Time at leisure. Hungarian horsemanship. Lunch at the Equestrian Park. Return to the hotel. Time at leisure. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

29 October Budapest / London

This morning, visit the Parliament Building. Built on the banks of the Danube, the Parliament Building is reminiscent of our own Parliament buildings in superb Neo-Gothic style. Here, see the Crown Jewels including the legendary Crown of St. Stephen.

Drive a short distance out of the city for lunch at the former estate of one of Hungary's oldest noble families, Count and Countess Károlyi, at Fót. Originally a small 18th century mansion, the property was acquired by Count István Károlyi in the early 18th century. The Károlyi family had to escape Hungary during World War II, and in 1957 the palace was 'nationalised' and a children's home established there. Today, following years of neglect, the palace is under the ownership of the Károlyi once again through their Foundation, which is slowly restoring the palace to its former glory and attempting to retrieve the original furnishings. Private tour with Countess Károlyi around the estate. Group transfer to the airport for suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 875 departing Budapest at 18.30 hrs arriving London Heathrow at 20.10 hrs.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£3,785
Single Supplement	£725

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 4 lunches; 3 dinners
- Group transfers and transportation as per the itinerary
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to guides/s; gratuities to driver/s; portage
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader and guest lecturer throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Opera tickets
- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 12/08/25.



Hungarian State Opera



YOUR TOUR LEADERS

Douglas Skeggs

Douglas Skeggs read fine art at Magdalene College, Cambridge and since 1980 has been a lecturer on the history and techniques of painting. He has made several art documentaries and written and advised on many more. An accomplished painter in his own right, he has held three one-man exhibitions of his work. His biography of Monet, *River of Light: Monet's Impressions of the Seine*, sold 65,000 copies, and he has also written several novels.



Joanna Worsley

After leaving school, Joanna travelled extensively through Asia working in Hong Kong and Delhi and developing a passion for India. She then spent several years in Los Angeles producing film and music videos. Being half-Greek she has a particular love for Greece too and has a house on the island of Skyros.