
Budgbest
THE
Book of Dreaming

WELCOME TO THE BOOK OF BUDAPEST

This is our guide to this ecstatic city



We are the authors of this book and we all go to the Hungarian-Ukrainian Bilingual Primary and Secondary school. We are from Ukraine but we live here in Budapest.

Some of our special skills are singing loudly, doing the splits, juggling two objects, twisting our ears, bending our elbows and doing scary things with our eyes which we can't really describe. We walk on our hands and know all the countries of the world and their flags by heart. We can drink hot tea, make things out of paper that no one else knows and even curl our tongues three times to make a flower. If we had superpowers, we would like to fly or to read minds to know everyone's secrets or teleport so we're never late to anything. We'd also like to be able to run really fast and to pause time so we can sleep longer.

When we first arrived in Budapest we were surprised by all the trees and the beautiful architecture. We were amazed by how beautiful the city is at night. We love the little sculptures hidden around and how different all the bridges are across the Danube. We love the Hungarian Parliament and the views from any part of the city. We love the food – lángos is our favourite.

This guidebook is better than other guidebooks because it is about how children see Budapest and not how adults see it. We will tell you about our unique point of view and not the same information all the other guidebooks give you.

For example, we can tell you about the playgrounds around Budapest where children spend their time, and the small parks adults don't notice where we walk and play and hang out with our friends. We can tell you how many McDonald's there are in Budapest and about all the streets that adults don't pay attention to. But there are some special secret places we know about that we wouldn't like to share.

We recommend you read this guidebook somewhere quiet where no one will bother you. Read it on the toilet or by the river Danube with a nice breeze blowing. Read it under your desk where no one can see you or tell you stop. Read it near the famous places we mention in this book or in a park where you can see all the sights we talk about through your binoculars.

Do not read this book in a shop or at the circus. Do not read it in a restaurant or at school because it's so noisy and impossible to concentrate. Do not read this book under water.

When you have finished reading this book you could put it on your bookshelf to decorate the room or put it under the leg of a table to stop it from wobbling. You can sell it to earn some money. Or give it to another person. Give it to your friend from another country, or your sister or your grandma or your parents. Give it to some people who have never been to Budapest or a famous author so they can appreciate our writing. Give it to Millie Bobby Brown and ask her when she's finished with it to give it to another celebrity like Jimmy Fallon. Or it might be nice just to read it again and again and again.



We hope you enjoy our guide to the astonishing city of Budapest. A place so beautiful it is impossible to describe.

FACTS AND INFORMATION



In Budapest there are 1,136,520 people. There are 879,000 children and it's getting bigger every day.

There are 91,052 dogs and 31,671 cats. We think there are approximately 2,000,000 birds because there are a lot of them in the 4th district. There are probably only 1000 rats because we haven't seen them at all. Maybe only 8-10 times near the garbage on the street.

There are either **2 ghosts** in Budapest or there are millions of them everywhere but you can't see them. Or there are no ghosts because some of us don't believe in them. **There are very many trees**.



The people of Budapest like to eat pizza, lángos, varenkiki (we like them too), goulash, bograch, kürtőskalács, broth, khinkali, sweet rolls, chips and foreign foods.

For fun they go to festivals, walk near parliament, go to the ice rink, have picnics, take part in various competitions, sit on the phone, ride boats and watch TV. At night, they dream about the beauty of the garden, outstanding people, elephants, money, hedgehogs, weekends, ghosts and what will happen to them in the future.

The most common jobs in Budapest are taxi driver, construction worker, programmer, cooks (those who make lángos and kürtőskalács), waiters, tour guides, hotel cleaners, dentists, teachers and pilots (because every day we see a lot of planes in the sky). The average adult in Budapest earns somewhere around 10,000 to 100,000 ft per week.

On a scale of 1 to 10 we think the **average happiness of people in Budapest is 5** because there are happy people and there are sad people. People from Ukraine are happy but they have a desire to return home.

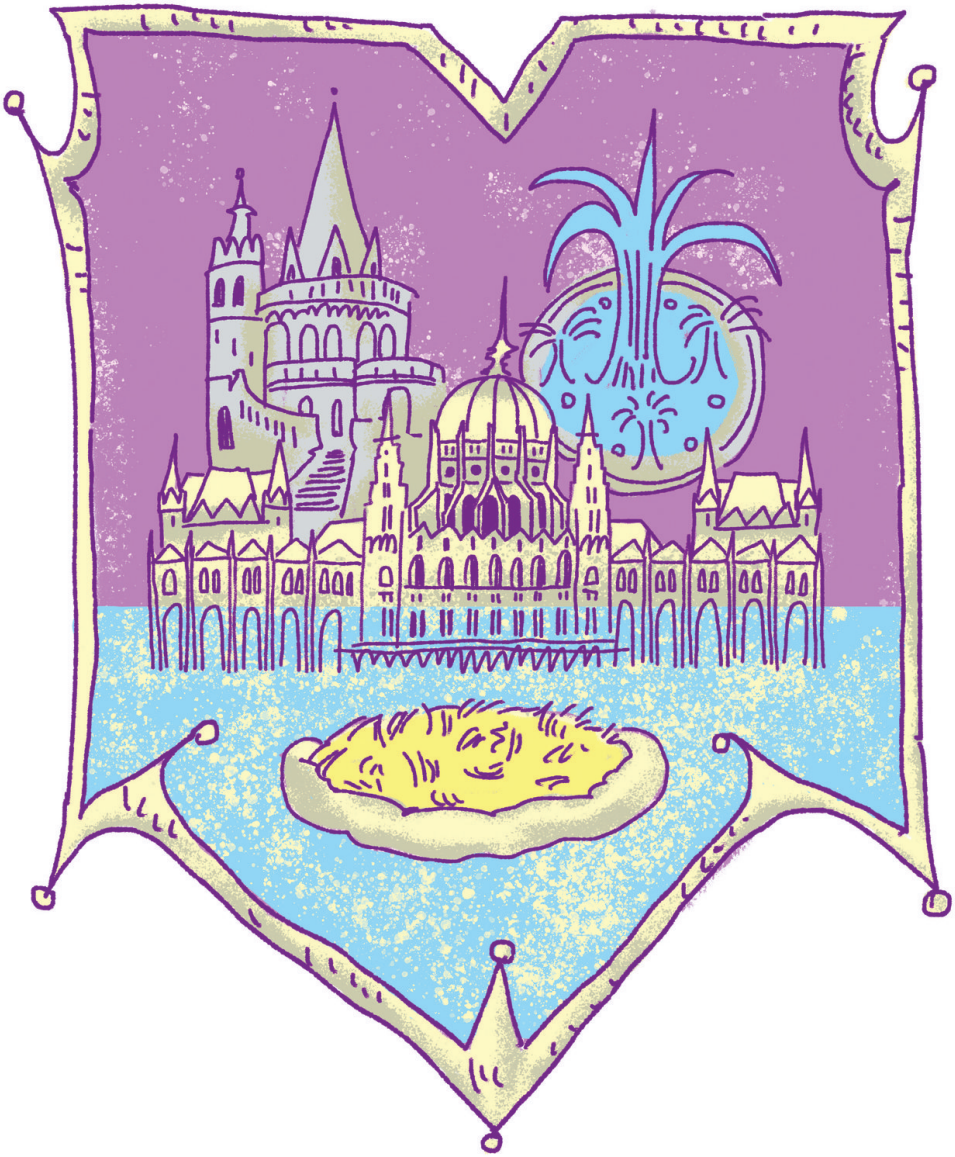
The people of Budapest like to complain about their salaries, their dogs, garbage on the streets, traffic jams, not having enough space on trams and the war between Ukraine and Russia.

Some things all the people of Budapest have in common is respect, maybe joy, a love of the Danube and of smoked meat and that they all live in Budapest.

THIS IS THE NEW FLAG OF BUDAPEST



THIS IS THE NEW COAT OF ARMS OF BUDAPEST



THIS IS THE NEW SONG OF BUDAPEST

Давайте подорожувати разом — з чого почати?
Давайте перегорнемо книгу, а потім підемо на прогулянку.
Ми прочитаємо книгу та сплануємо наші маршрути!
Можливо, з річки, можливо, з парку...
щоб швидше пізнати світ...
Гори, море, річки та степи, і всі кольори Угорщини.
Ми побачимо все це разом!
Гори, море, річки та степи
У них краса та сила нашої землі.

Let's travel together — where can we start?
Let's flip through a book and then go for a walk.
We'll read a book and plan our routes!
Maybe from a river, maybe from a park...
to get to know the world faster...
Mountains, sea, rivers and steppes, and all the colours of Hungary.
We will see it all together!
Mountains, sea, rivers and steppes
In them lies the beauty and strength of our land.

THESE ARE THE FAMOUS SIGHTS OF BUDAPEST

The Embankment

If you come to Budapest, first of all we will show you the embankment and the boats. It smells delicious and there are ships and you can go for a ride. It's very beautiful there in the evening, when the sun goes down. There is a bench, you can sit, think about life, and your problems. It's sometimes quiet there and it gives a special feeling. It's very, very cool there.

The Holy Crown of the King

This is the state building, in which the parliament is held. It stands by the beautiful Danube River, where many boats sail. It has a green dome and white walls like a huge holiday cake with spires. And in the evening it glows with golden light and is reflected in the river. It is one of the most beautiful parliaments in Europe.



Friends

This is a monument to friendship and to all our friends – it has a representation of 14 friends on it. The monument is placed on Margaret Island.

Városliget Park

This is a very large and beautiful park with a lot of flowers and greenery and tall trees. There are fountains and courts for volleyball, basketball and football. There is an ice rink in the winter and in the summer people relax and have picnics here. The playground has 5 slides, a lot of swings, horizontal bars and a trampoline. There is even a hot air balloon and a castle and music. Also, a lot of drunk people. The main thing is the castle. It looks historic and you immediately want to go inside. The castle has a lot of everything, but there are no skeletons and vampires.

Shoes on the Danube

This is where Jewish people were shot and pushed into the water from the shore during World War II and their shoes remained on the shore. There are metal shoes standing right by the water. It is quiet and a little sad there, because it is a memory of people who died. We think that it is very important to remember history and to be kind to each other.

The House of Music with Holes in the Roof

In a large park there is a very strange and beautiful building - House of Music Hungary. It has a roof with round openings, as if someone carefully made holes in it. When the sun shines, the rays pass through them, and it seems that this is a magical forest house for music. Inside you can listen to different sounds and melodies. It seemed to us that even the walls were singing a little.



Fisherman's Bastion, St. Matthew's Church

Even when you just walk around the area near the Fisherman's Bastion, you immediately begin to feel the vibe of the ancient city. There are white towers, like from a cartoon about princesses. In spring you can see incredible trees, sakura, along the alley. They make the views even more picturesque. You can take very cool photos.

Buda Castle

This is a large fortress on a mountain with beautiful views of the Danube. It has many windows in white and green colours, with a park all around. It's very interesting. It's nice to walk there.



Dove

This monument is shaped like a dove in flight, and you can find it in the centre of the city. It represents love and peace.

Heroes' Square

It's like a whole story, there are all the Hungarian kings, heroes and famous people there. You can get acquainted with Hungarian history. It's one of the most popular places in Budapest. There are beautiful statues, there are rallies, concerts and fights. There are fireworks on holidays.

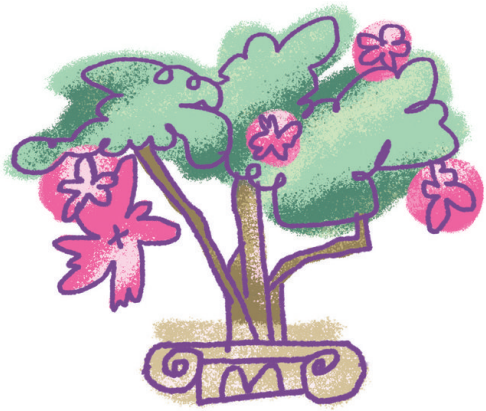


Park Near Mammut

There is a park near Mammut shopping centre. There is a small pond, benches and in the spring very beautiful sakura blooms. There is a three-story building there, which is all overgrown with vines. I used to walk there very often with my girlfriend. I have many good and warm memories with this city.

The Musical Fountain

Between Buda and Pest is Margaret Island, the largest island in Budapest. It looks like a garden and there are many beautiful flowers. There are many bicycle paths and places where you can relax and lie on the grass. You can rent a bike there and have a good ride and see everything. There is a very beautiful fountain, it lights up in the evening, music is playing, you can look at this fountain forever.



Sakura Tree

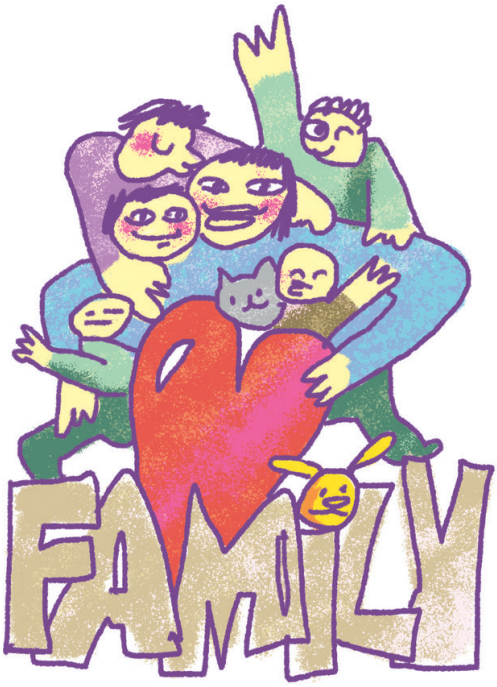
This monument is a symbol of beauty. The sakura tree is as beautiful as the whole country and the whole city. It is beautiful and aesthetic, we love it very much.

Statue of Liberty

A beautiful place with a beautiful panorama of the city, it is best to zoom in at sunset or at night. The mountain was named in honour of the bishop who was thrown from the mountain. You can see almost all of Budapest. The emotions are unbeatable.

Our School

When we think of our school, we think of fun, curiosity, suffering, friends, dignity and Ukraine. If you sit at the back the teachers don't see you and you can laugh, but if you sit at the front it's closer to the dining room. At school we study mathematics, Ukrainian literature and Ukrainian language. We wish there were more lessons on cooking, cybersecurity and the history of the future, where we would talk about the possible future of humanity and its potential.



Family

This monument honours family, which is the most important thing in the world. We love our families very much. The monument has the word FAMILY in big letters next to a red heart. It can be found in the centre of Budapest.

These are the less famous sights of Budapest

Under the Liberty Bridge
On the pebbles under the green bridge, it's quiet and you can relax there, no one pays attention to this place.

The Forest Where Denis Got Lost
We made a bonfire there. I fell in the water, and Denis got lost.

Old Car Place
There is an abandoned metro station somewhere near the Parliament. I found out about it from YouTube. There are old cars there. Few people go there because they don't know.

A High Place
In the park near my house you can climb high and no one will see.



The Corner
Behind my house you can sit in silence with friends. call it "The Corner". I keep this place a secret.

A Special Place
This place is behind the school playground, where physical education classes usually take place. I think that many people know about this place, but few people pay attention to it. That's what makes it special.

Somewhere
I would like to have a secret room in Budapest. I'm sure it's somewhere. It's somewhere under a hatch. I'll meet a stranger and they will tell me about this place. There will be a GPS-5 and a lot of sweet food. I'll only tell children about this and I won't tell adults anything.

A Tunnel
The tunnel under the embankment on Mupa is dark and wet. No one is there and no one goes there because it's not interesting.

The Most Beautiful Balcony on Gellért
There's a balcony on Gellért Hill that my family and I always go to in the evenings. We think this is the coziest and most beautiful balcony on Gellért.

The Damned Stop
There is a place between the stops of the H-7 train where you never have time to run to the train. I call it "The Damned Stop". There's almost no one there.

THE ORDINARY STREETS OF BUDAPEST

Away from the centre you can find the ordinary streets of Budapest. These streets are quiet and full of kind people.

There is nature here on the ordinary streets of Budapest. To the left is a mountain and to the right is a forest. There is playground and a park nearby full of lanterns and in the winter there are garlands. There is an alley with a fountain and **the most delicious ice cream**. There is a bakery and although the shopping centre is small, everything is there and the prices are low. There used to be a sculpture museum here and many people liked it. On the ordinary streets of Budapest there are many concerts and festivals and all the neighbours decorate their houses for the holidays.

When you look at these streets you can see reds and purples. Burgundy and yellow. But the most important is the green grass and the grey houses and everything else multi-coloured.

On the ordinary streets of Budapest there are squirrels and lizards, dogs and hamsters. Hedgehogs and rabbits. There are moles. There is a husky dog named Belle and they say a hare with red eyes lives here. There is a parrot. There is one cat. There's even a panther at the neighbour's house and **one time we saw a man walking a wild boar.**

There is our neighbour who is very kind and loves to sing. There is one uncle who changed the colour of his car many times (we don't know why). There is a neighbour who plays the violin every day and has a scythe and our neighbour downstairs who comes running when he hears the slightest sound. There is a fat security guard and a grandfather who walks with sticks. **There is a woman who has her own tattoo parlour** – she is covered in tattoos – and our Ukrainian neighbour and our grandfather-neighbour who is like a real grandfather to us.

The worst thing about these streets is all the construction and the noisy casino. Sometimes there is a lot of garbage and sometimes a lot of smoking and drinking. When you try to sleep, dogs bark and the hospital next door is very loud. We wish there were more places to walk.

If we could, we would add more **flowers** and trees **and a shopping mall**. We would remove all the garbage and put more garbage cans out. More water sprinklers in the summer and more lights in the winter. Instead of the bar we would add a **fountain** and instead of the casino, a Lidl supermarket. We would make a home for the elderly and decorate all the houses. We would add a café for dogs, a water park nearby, a circus, a shopping mall, an amusement park and some stages for concerts. But mainly these streets are perfect as they are and we wouldn't change a thing.


tarttoo

THE MOST FAMOUS STREET IN BUDAPEST

The most famous street in Budapest is the street we designed ourselves.



We made flowerbeds and a fountain so that birds can stop and drink water and then planted trees all around the neighbourhood and watched them grow.

Then **we added tables and benches so that we could sit down and play boardgames** and a Lidl store for food and a pedestrian crossing. We made everything bright colours and built a great playground with trampolines so we could jump so high.

After that we built an amusement park with lots of interesting attractions like a **Ferris wheel**, a roller coaster and a house of horrors, for cool, fun, exciting experiences and crazy emotions. And then a place like a hotel but only for teenagers 24 hours so they had something to do. Finally, **we made a free zoo for children, a free café with goodies and lots of places where you could relax**.

When we were finished we knew this was a place that children will remember. The best street in the whole of Budapest.


LIDL


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THE MAP OF BUDAPEST

1. **The best smelling place** is the water park, because there is the smell of chlorine.

2. **A good place to keep a dinosaur** is Budapest Zoo, because there are enclosures and the animals are watched and fed.

3. **A place we hope never changes** is the Singing Fountain because it is one of the most famous and charming places in Budapest.

4. **A good place to hide a spaceship** is the Danube River because it is so deep.

5. **The most pleasant place** is Heroes' Square because you can meet a lot of cheerful people and tourists.

6. **A good place to play hide and seek** is the City Park.

7. **The best place in the city** is Margaret Island because there are huge parks where you can walk all day, lie on the grass and eat ice cream.

8. **The most beautiful place** is the Parliament Building because it has the best architecture.

9. **The most peaceful place** is Gellért Hill because you can see Budapest from above and find places where you can be alone in nature.

10. **The most dangerous and scary place** is Blaha Lujza Square.

A WALK IN BUDAPEST

We want to take you on a walk in Budapest. For us, this is a city of castles, lions, warm pools and very tasty food. It is boats on the Danube and secret figures to find. It is tunnels under the mountain and houses that sing. History lives among the trees. You can be a knight, a traveller, or just a happy child holding a Langos in your hands and looking at the Danube.



On our walk first we will walk calmly to Heroes' Square to learn something new. We'll tell you about a special queen once upon a time named **Anastasia Yaroslavna who was queen of Hungary and was originally from Ukraine**. We think this is very cool, because it means that there is an ancient connection between Ukraine and Hungary. It is interesting to imagine how she once looked at this city.

After this we'll go by metro to Deák Ferenc tér, and then to the Parliament. We'll make sure you see the Ferris Wheel and then ride along the Danube Embankment on electric scooters and then take a 4-6 tram across the bridge so you can see **Gellért Hill and Liberty Bridge**. When you stand on the bridge, it seems that you are between two parts of the city and you are the one connecting them. After that we'll get the metro to Városliget to have a picnic and a walk and then to a shopping centre. Then we'll finish at Margaret Island to see the singing fountain and the many flowers. You can ride a bike and at sunset we will take beautiful photos.

On this walk you should pay attention to the sky and the colours of the island. Look at the old houses and the people. Look at how the Ferris wheel glows and the rainbow on the island when the grass is watered. Notice the drinking taps and the guards with sabres. **Notice the small details**, flowers, nature. Notice the seagulls and the beau-



tiful trees. Notice the landscapes. Notice the story of the boots and the war. Listen to learn something new about Hungary. Listen to the singing fountain and the hum of cars and planes. The bustle of the centre. Listen to the laughter and the silence on the island. Listen to the sounds of the Danube on this beautiful day.

On our walk you will smell pizza, shawarma meat and grass. You'll smell fragrant flowers and perfumes. Coffee and hot chocolate. Cotton candy and car exhausts and the smell of the Danube. You'll feel admiration and joy. You'll be surprised and cheerful but also sad because of the history. You'll feel measured and see that there are a lot of amazing things in Budapest.

This walk will be remembered, because it is beautiful.

When we walk around Budapest, we see something that adults almost never notice. Adults look at the Hungarian parliament building and say: "Oh, what architecture!" but to us it seems that fairy-tale characters live there. Adults cross the Széchenyi Chain Bridge and think about taking pictures. **We look at the lions** and imagine that at night they come to life, stretch and quietly growl at the boats sailing on the Danube.

This city is a big fairy tale in which you can walk all day and still not have time to see everything.

THE WILD ANIMALS OF BUDAPEST

These are the wild animals of Budapest. Try and spot them when you are on your walk.





The Fly
I don't like anything about it but it somehow survives.

Grey Lizard
I saw it under the leaves, it was hiding. It hides in a hole and in the bushes near the house. It eats berries and leaves. I like that it is fast and dangerous.

Moustache Beetle
I saw the moustache beetle on a tree. It has long whiskers and is a bright blue colour. It has a good sense of smell. The moustache beetle is very strong. I wanted to take it, but it didn't give in to me.

The Rat
I saw a rat on the steps near the Parliament. It was the size of a bird.

The Green Snake
The green snake hides in the grass in the park. I think it eats insects. I like its skin.

The Ground Squirrel
I read about the ground squirrel in the Red Book of Hungary. I don't like it and I'm glad I didn't see it.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



Did you like reading our book?

Which chapter did you like most?

Would you visit Budapest?

Where will you go first after reading this guidebook?

What is the first thing you would do in Budapest?

What is your favourite place that we put in our guidebook?

Would you like to thank the authors of this book?

Would you like to work at the Parliament?

What city would you like to learn about
in the next guidebook?

To the Children of Latvia,

Hello from Budapest. This city is very big. There are places to walk and many historical monuments. We really like it. When we got here we understood and saw with our own eyes how beautiful it is.

What is the most beautiful and famous landmark? What language do you speak? What is your currency? What kind of entertainment do you have?

In Budapest there are many different parks and beautiful houses and streets. The Parliament is very beautiful and there is a big river here. We really like the architecture and various decorations. There are so many beautiful landscapes.

Some of us have been living here for 2 years or 3 years and some for even longer. We are from Kharkiv and some are from Transcarpathia and some from other places in Ukraine. In Budapest we live like ordinary people. We mainly like it here but many of us also we want to go home. A lot of us don't understand Hungarian, but there is one corner where we feel good and that is at school. There are friends there. We hope you have a good life in Latvia too.

What is your school? It's probably good. And the teachers are good. Yes? Our favourite lesson at school is Ukrainian. And yours? How many lessons do you usually have and what kind? And how do you grade? Do you throw your hat around the classroom when you have fun?

We imagine you have fresh air, lots of trees and lots of birds, and we guess you have dogs, cats, and squirrels on the streets. We think you don't have hedgehogs running around at night. We bet you have delicious food, nice people and beautiful cities. You live in houses but your houses are different to ours. We have a lot of sculptures on our houses. What do you have? You probably have big houses with many floors. It seems you don't have many sparrows.

We think in Latvia it's cold and there's snow in winter. We think you have different food and drinks and that you don't have Ukrainian school like ours. In our opinion, you're very cheerful, cool and kind, just like us.

What is your national food?
And what is your favourite?
Do you dye your hair?
Do you have crackers in the stores?
Would you like to come to our place?

From the children of Ukraine living in Budapest

CREDITS

Thank you for reading our guidebook to Budapest. We love Budapest and think it will be even better in the future.

We think in the future Budapest will be a melting pot with a lot of different cultures and languages. There will be water taxis on the river, like in Venice, and helicopter taxis too. The streets will be cleaner and it won't be dangerous to walk alone at night.

In the Budapest of the future there will be flying trams and drones that deliver lángos by air (because everyone still likes lángos). There will be more parks and more flowers and more greenery. There will be animal hotels. More sculptures. There will be robots everywhere to help you and deliver food and teach in schools, but we hope not too many robots because then humans will be useless like zombies.

Everything in Budapest is developing and even the playgrounds will become better, but the beautiful hills and views will always be the same. There will still be traditional Hungarian food because it's very tasty. The streets and the sculptures will stay the same because you cannot just destroy history. The Hungarian Parliament cannot be replaced. The Hungarian language and Hungarian people will still be here. Lángos will still be here. The Danube will still be here.

Some of us will still be here to see it all but some of us will be in the USA or in Italy or in the mountains in Switzerland. We will be cruise ship captains and fashion designers and computer programmers and models. We will be Twitch streamers and builders and taxi drivers. Or we will follow in our fathers' footsteps and become priests and engineers. Many of us will return to Ukraine.

We are not afraid of the future, but we do think about what will happen if our dreams don't come true. What if modelling and acting and other jobs are replaced by AI? We think about our future jobs and whether we will have to make some difficult decisions. We study hard in school. We play basketball. We dance and we sing. We are learning Italian and how to play the piano. We try to be responsible.

Wherever we are now and wherever we are in the future, remember us and remember this moment in time. This is what it was like for us to live in Budapest in 2026.

Thank you for reading our guidebook; we appreciate it. We hope the next guidebook you read will be as interesting as this one.

The Book of Budapest was created by children from the Hungarian-Ukrainian Bilingual Primary and Secondary School in collaboration with artists Andy Field and Beckie Darlington.

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