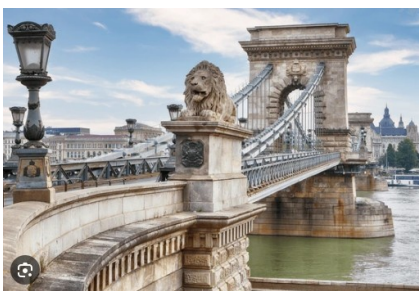
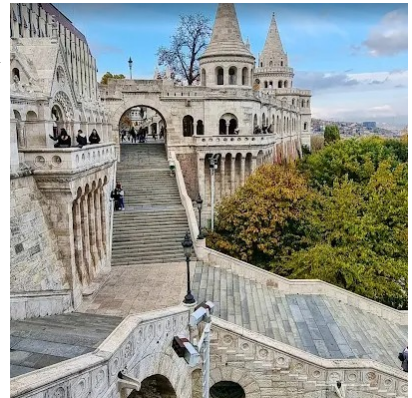


BUDAPEST

October 2025

Oh my goodness....Budapest was a delightful surprise to me. I had always had it on my to-do list but somehow missed going before now. It did not disappoint. As a matter of fact it was beyond my expectations. I admit that I was fascinated mostly by the unique differences and beauty in the buildings there. Budapest is like a living museum of architectural history. Many public buildings with ornate designs are now a part of UNESCO's world heritage. Most of these were built in the Golden Age at the turn of the 20th century. There were palaces, towers and mid-evil town centers almost all adorned with colorful tiled roofs, statues or gargoyles and ornate pinnacles. It almost felt like being in a movie, seeing so much variety of structures. There was everything from Gothic to Baroque and Renaissance to Art Nouveau styles.



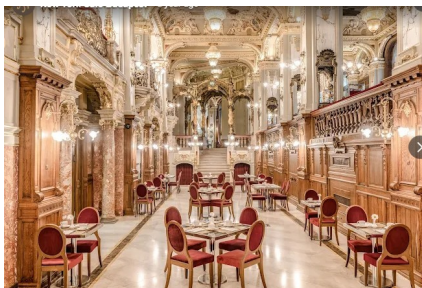
Unfortunately many of these priceless structures were destroyed or damaged during WW11. Today there is a comprehensive effort to restore what they can. There is a lot of construction but from what I can see, they are being remade with great attention to detail and workmanship. Also very noticeable to me was the infrastructure. Again probably designed after the war, it works. There is a lot of public

transportation and it runs smoothly in separate lanes even when the traffic is otherwise congested. The people we spoke to were mostly in tourist areas like hotels or restaurants but all seemed well educated and spoke English better than our own citizens here in America.

Budapest is a walking city. It's easy to get around. The streets are well lit and the sidewalks are lined with trees and feel safe. We walked everywhere, even across the Chain Bridge which crosses from the Buda side to the Pest side and over the Danube. Nice memories on that. Of course I had to check out the famous Szechenyi Thermal Pool. The three



pools are surrounded by a Neo Baroque complex and have a Roman feel. It dates back to over a century. That was a full day of fun and relaxation. It was worth it. Another surprise to me was the New York Cafe. This wasn't mentioned in any of the tour



information for "things to do" but for me it was a must-do highlight. Inside is the elegance and charm of a time long ago. It is pure luxury, complete with live music even during the breakfast hours. This small cafe does not usually take reservations and the line to get in is always... shall we say, blocks long. I loved everything about Budapest.