



Budapest: A City Reborn

左圖：北極光超現實的顏色和光影閃耀在夜空中，
育空地區瀰漫著寒意，卻有著蒼涼又奇妙的美。
Queen of the Danube: Budapest's romantic skyline
anchors the fabled river.

Amidst antique treasures and tales of a tumultuous past, Budapest opens its doors to a new golden era.

歐洲之心

——遊匈牙利首都布達佩斯

在恢宏與斑駁的古蹟間穿行，心中遐想著過往的紛飛煙雨。在寧靜的多瑙河畔，布達佩斯似一顆破蚌而出的明珠，向今天到來的人們展示著它歷經歲月沉澱與磨礪的動人光彩。

English Text by *Kate Missine and Anya Andronov* Chinese Text by *Rui Chen* Produced by *Brett Price*

photo.ua/Shutterstock.com

多瑙河是歐洲文明的母親河，匈牙利的首都布達佩斯正是誕生在這位母親身畔。它銜接著東歐與西歐，被譽為「歐洲的心臟」。當我踏上布達佩斯的街道，這顆心臟清晰的跳動聲，像是與我的靈魂某處始終保持著奇妙的共鳴。這裏是美麗的，它珍藏著一個歷史久遠的，偉大的歐洲城市所應具備的一切特質。在奧斯卡獲獎影片《布達佩斯大飯店》中，那瀰漫了半個世紀的戰火硝煙，在古老的布達佩斯的灰色天空下，最適宜地呈現出來，讓人相信如果要觸

Pearl of the Danube. Paris of the East. Heart of Europe. Hungary's elegant capital has gathered its share of majestic epithets; yet their grandeur somehow falls short of capturing this fascinatingly complex city. Budapest is beautiful, yes, and it ticks all the boxes of a great European destination. It's even in the Hollywood spotlight lately, what with the Oscar-nominated film *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. Perhaps it was my Eastern European heritage, the



左上：光彩奪目的手繪反向玻璃畫裝飾牆，為早餐室增添了一份華麗優雅的情懷。右上：被古董質感櫥櫃環繞的廚房，多了一份親切和溫暖。拱形的曲線，訂製木工的中央島檯

Above: Atop the hills of Buda, a window into the past at Buda Castle, c. 1356. Opposite: Bronze shoes line the riverbank, an enduring memorial to those lost during the Holocaust. Baker from the house is glorious.

摸到歐洲的靈魂，那布達佩斯是不可錯過的目的地。

對於任何一段久遠的歷史來說，悲涼淒美的過去往往會有一種莫名的吸引力。布達佩斯的美便有這樣一種淡淡的憂傷和陰鬱情懷。牆壁上依然保留著二戰炮火的痕跡；街角處一位蹣跚的老婦人正在賣花；國會大廈的河堤前，那舉世聞名的青銅鞋子雕塑，記錄著當年猶太人在這裏被屠殺的歷史。布達佩斯就是這樣一座一分为二的城市，它曾是分列於多瑙河兩岸的兩座城市，一座名叫布達，一座叫佩斯，走過了幾個世紀的光陰，方才合為一體。它擁有過輝煌的過去，也歷經過悲傷，這讓今天的它對眼前的寧靜安詳分外珍惜。

二戰結束之後，本應享受久違和平時光的布達佩斯，在1950年又被蘇聯軍隊佔領了。隨後到來的幾十年的共產主義獨裁

統治，讓布達佩斯的天空難得晴朗起來。當1989年蘇聯解體，布達佩斯也終於重見天日，開始了一個國家重建的計劃。借助傳統古老的人文積奠，敞開大門的布達佩斯的現代經濟迅速崛起。曾經因受壓制而蕭條的市場，如今被街道兩側鱗次櫛比的時尚專賣店取代。時代的活力逐漸湧入了布達佩斯的血管之中，這顆「歐洲之心」終於開始恢復到往昔的躍動節奏。

而當我站立在布達佩斯的伊始——布達城堡前，心中不禁更加感嘆滄海桑田、世事變遷。曾幾何時，這座古堡的主人統治著近四分之一的歐洲。國王路易大帝在1356年時，打贏了一場戰役，讓匈牙利的土地從意大利擴展到立陶宛，向東延伸至黑海。縱觀歷史，路易大帝是匈牙利歷史上最偉大的國王，當時的記載中描述他統治國家既不要煽動民眾，也不靠強權，而是依靠維護正

Taweepat / shutterstock.com



Usolteva Anastasia / shutterstock.com

locals' warm, dry wit, or the soul-soothing ruby-red goulash, but it was here under the greying skies that I felt inexplicably like I had come home.

Budapest's beauty shimmers deeply, subtly. Poignant history is carved into it: WWII shrapnel marks on walls, an ancient-looking woman selling flowers on a street corner, bronze shoes lined up along the river — a throat-constricting Holocaust memorial to the Jews who lost their lives at its banks. A city split into two halves, Buda and Pest, by the Danube river, a lot of its charm lies in contrasts: East and West, old and new, treasure and tragedy.

A major European hub at the turn of the century, Budapest is no stranger to risings and fallings. Its days of glory came to a tragic end with the war, culminating in Soviet troops occupying the city in 1950 in one of the era's darkest sieges. Decades of communist rule descended, as did a bleakness where national color once was.

When the Iron Curtain lifted in 1989, so did people's spirits. What followed were tentative steps to rebuild a nation: the buds of a modern economy and traditional culture peeked through hesitantly, then grew relentlessly. Traces of oppression have given way to boutique-lined streets and a city

reclaiming its gilded age with youthful exuberance; a city rediscovering itself and waiting to be discovered.

I started at the city's beginnings, at Buda Castle, where a quarter of medieval Europe was once ruled from its rooms. The tale begins with King Louis the Great in 1356. His chivalrous nature and success in war secured Hungarians an empire that extended from Italy to Lithuania and east to the Black Sea. According to the Louis the Great's contemporary, John of Küküllő, the king "ruled neither with passion, nor with arbitrariness, but rather as the guardian of righteousness." Antonio Bonfini, another record-keeper of the time, described Louis as a "just king wandering among his subjects in disguise to protect them [from] the royal officials' arbitrary acts." And in 1845, the poet Sándor Petőfi referred to King Louis's reign as a period when "the falling stars of the north, the east and the south were all extinguished in Hungarian seas" (the Adriatic, the Baltic and the Black Seas.) There hadn't been a ruler like him, and another one didn't come again — he was the only king Hungarians titled "Great." King Louis died in September, 1382, leaving his crown to his daughter, Mary.

For the next 600 years, Buda Castle's fate would parallel that of the resilient local people themselves



左上：光彩奪目的手繪反向玻璃畫裝飾牆，為早餐室增添了一份華麗優雅的情懷。右上：被古董質感櫥櫃環繞的廚房，多了一份親切和溫暖。拱形的曲線，訂製木工的中央島檯和油煙機外罩，以及精緻的吊燈，讓奢華感依然得到延續。環繞的廚房，多了一份親切和溫暖。拱形的曲線，訂製木工的中央島檯和油煙機外罩，以及精緻的吊燈，



Felix Lipov / Shutterstock.com



Akos Horvath Photographer / Shutterstock.com

義。1845年，詩人Sándor Petőfi形容當時的匈牙利是四方臣服。然而，像這樣傑出的統治者，匈牙利歷史上僅僅誕生了這一位。1382年九月，路易大帝離世，王位留給了女兒瑪麗。

隨著強大主人的逝去，布達城堡在此後的600年間命運多舛，一次次在戰亂中被夷為平地，又一次次被重建起來，最後一次重建是在二戰之後。翻建完畢後，布達城堡變成了一座博物館，裏面有匈牙利國家畫廊和國家圖書館，收藏有匈牙利所有已出版的圖書。如今，這裏每天被成群結隊的遊客和書蟲們包圍著。

在來到布達佩斯的第二天，我來到鵝卵石鋪就的多瑙河林蔭道上散步。想像自己是一位歐洲中世紀的貴婦，打著美麗的蕾絲陽傘，驕傲優雅的行走著。遠處標誌性的鏈子橋，連接著河岸兩端的城市。簇擁在河畔邊的建築，更像是一座十九世紀建築博物館。巴洛克、新古典主義、新藝術運動風格的建築，每一座都美輪美奐。而讓我印象最深刻

的，還是新哥特式風格的匈牙利國會大廈，超過90米高的屋頂，恢宏對稱的設計，都讓這座歷時8年建成的龐大建築顯得分外尊貴。

一番漫遊之後，腹中漸漸空蕩起來。在布達佩斯尋找美食，不是一件難事。沿街售賣的傳統小吃「煙肉捲」(kurtos kalacs)是不容錯過的。這種將麵團捲在木棒上烘烤，表面焦黃酥脆，內裏鬆軟的甜點，恐怕是匈牙利最著名的美食之一。此外，還有同樣在街邊隨處可見的烤錐形蛋糕，那瀰漫在空氣裏的甜蜜味道和香草香，讓我忍不住一次次駐足深深地呼吸。

如果想吃頓當地特色的正餐，「中央市場大廳」(Central Market Hall)可說是美食家的天堂。從掛在店裏的肉類，到成桶的醃漬蔬菜，這裏的驚喜只能自己去發掘。一位當地人建議我們前往三樓嚐一下lángos，一種油炸的小麵包乾，上面塗著蒜味酸奶油，味道酥脆香濃。當然這裏也少不了各式甜點，像是餡餅、奶油Dobos蛋糕和蓬鬆的甜甜

Exterior view. Ocity / Shutterstock.com



Rafal Kubiak / Shutterstock.com

— razed to the ground in battle again and again, only to be built back up. Last reconstructed in the wake of WWII, Buda Castle is now besieged only by throngs of daily tourists, and is home to museums, the Hungarian National Gallery and The National Library, a bookworm's heaven of ancient texts that also holds copies of every book published in Hungary.

The next day, I walked along the cobbled pathways to tree-lined Danube Promenade, a place that conjures days of parasols and kid gloves, and crossed the iconic Chain Bridge linking the city's two halves. The streets are a jewel box of late 1800's architecture: baroque, neoclassical, Art Nouveau all have their stunning presence. Impossible to miss, the mesmerizing Neo-Gothic Hungarian Parliament Building rises to dominate the city from its riverside throne.

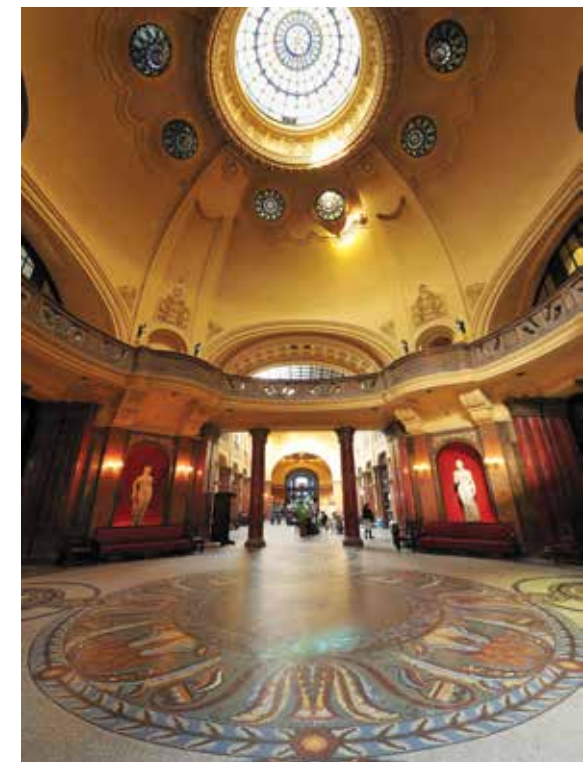
All that walking can make a girl hungry,

so it's a good thing Hungarians don't fool around when it comes to food. It starts with the smells: carts peddling kurtos kalacs, cone-shaped pastries baked on a spit, tantalizing passersby with wafts of sugar and vanilla.

An essential stop is the Central Market Hall — a foodie's paradise where everything from hanging meat to barrels of pickled vegetables is waiting to be discovered. A local pointed me towards the third floor, where I found a lángos, a delightfully oily fried flatbread topped with garlic and sour cream. And of course, there are the pastries — flaky strudels, buttery Dobos cake, fluffy kremes — best savored at an ornate coffeehouse draped in gold and history, such as the iconic New York Cafe, opened in 1894 by a Hungarian baron.

And don't overlook the country's wines. They hold their own: sip a honeyed Tokaj or a robust red from Villány or Eger wine country, either of which is worth a day trip.

Opposite: The Central Market Hall, Budapest's oldest and largest, is a treasure chest of foodie delights. Above: Visible from anywhere in the city, the majestic Hungarian Parliament Building is a gem of Neo-Gothic architecture.



左上：光彩奪目的手繪反向玻璃畫裝飾牆，為早餐室增添了一份華麗優雅的情懷。右上：被古董質感櫥櫃環繞的廚房，多了一份親切和溫暖。拱形的曲線，訂製木工的中央島檯和油煙機外罩，以及精緻的吊

Left: Bathe like the ancient Romans did amidst Gellert Baths' Art Nouveau elegance. This page: The vivid colors and domed cupolas of the Veli Bej are a token of Hungary's Turkish occupation.

圈，買上三兩樣，拿到華美的咖啡廳裏慢慢享用，這裏的咖啡廳正如紐約的「New York Café」一樣，是一種文化象徵，在1894年由匈牙利一位男爵建造。此外，來一杯美酒也是讓你走近布達佩斯的方法之一。儘管匈牙利的葡萄酒不像法國和意大利那樣久負盛名，但這裏的釀酒業同樣不容小覷。品嚐一下Tokaj蜂蜜酒，或是Villány的紅酒，著名的釀酒地Eger是值得花費一整天前去遊歷的地方。

在享用過了視覺和味覺的盛宴之後，布達佩斯還有一個驚喜在等待著我們。也許因為特殊的地理位置，這裏的沐浴文化與古羅馬和土耳其各有幾分相似。在公元一世紀，布達佩斯有著「城市浴場」的稱號。如今，無論是當地人還是遊客，都願意繼續享受沐浴帶來的舒適和愜意。這裏富含礦物質的泉水，據說能治好從哮喘到宿醉的世間一切病痛。羅馬時代留下的大理石的沐浴水池，在13世紀蒙古人入侵之後，便廢棄了。改為現在16世紀的

土耳其浴室風格，不變的是牆面上華麗繁複的馬賽克貼畫和圓形的屋頂。從新藝術風格的蓋勒特浴場（Gellert Baths）到Veli Bej的八角形浴池。這些精心修復過的土耳其式浴池，像是有著一種神奇的魔力，讓人的身心自然放鬆在其中，回復著精神和體力。而土耳其注重在浴室裏社交的文化在匈牙利同樣延續著。

這就是布達佩斯的美，成熟而精緻。它那一條條美麗的街道，記錄下了歷史曾在這裏留下的足跡。它或許沒有巴黎的浪漫浮華，沒有倫敦的包容並蓄，但卻有著一顆躍動的心和日漸強大的靈魂。而此時，它正微笑歡迎著每一個來到這裏的人們，療去舊傷，拋下過往，迎風走向通往未來的道路上。

To fully understand Budapest, I had to take a bath. “Taking the waters” here in “The City of Baths” has been a beloved pastime for locals and visitors since the 1st century AD, when the region's natural thermal springs first attracted aqua-loving Romans.

These mineral-rich pools are touted to cure everything from asthma to hangovers. The Roman-era marble-bedecked pools were abandoned during the Mongol invasions in the 13th century, and brought back to life with the 16th century Turkish occupation that left its legacy in intricate mosaics and pierced cupolas.

Meticulously restored Turkish details bedecking the walls of different baths worked their hypnosis on me, from Art Nouveau Gellert Baths to the tranquil octagonal pools of Veli Bej. Most bathhouses you visit here will likely have two things in common:

a powerful, very un-spa-like sulphuric odor, and gatherings of chatty middle-aged men, for whom it's a social venue of sorts.

In all its sophistication, a faint weathered patina still rests over Budapest's pretty streets, betraying its struggles. Dynamic, wistful... it is not yet a glamorous Paris or cosmopolitan London. But the city's faded scars soften and humanize it, like a great-aunt's laugh lines, smiling and ushering me away from thoughts of ever leaving.

Botond Horvath / Shutterstock.com

Top right: T.photography / Shutterstock.com