



VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Széchenyi Baths

Budapest · From 39€

<https://szechenyibath.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

A Century of Thermal Heritage

GOOGLE **4.2** ★★★★★ 67 624 reviews

TIQETS **4.28** ★★★★★ 28 769 reviews

The story of the Széchenyi Thermal Baths begins not with a grand opening, but with a vision for public health and leisure in early 20th-century Budapest. Construction commenced in **1909**, driven by the desire to create a monumental facility that would serve both locals and tourists. The project was realized under the guidance of architect Győző Czigler, whose design blended neo-Renaissance elegance with functional thermal infrastructure. This ambitious undertaking reflected the city's status as a European capital of wellness during the Austro-Hungarian era.

When the gates finally opened in **1913**, the complex was immediately recognized as a masterpiece of engineering and architecture. It was named after István Széchenyi, a pivotal figure in Hungarian history who championed modernization, tourism, and the therapeutic benefits of thermal waters. His legacy is deeply embedded in the site, transforming a simple bathing establishment into a cultural landmark. The inauguration marked the beginning of a century-long tradition of relaxation and social gathering within these walls.

For decades, the baths remained primarily a local institution, frequented by Hungarians seeking respite from daily life. However, the landscape shifted dramatically in the 2000s as global tourism surged. What was once a neighborhood secret became one of the most visited attractions in the country, attracting over **1.5 million visitors annually**. This influx brought international recognition but also challenges related to crowd management and maintaining the serene atmosphere that defines true thermal culture.

Today, the Széchenyi Baths stand as a testament to endurance and adaptation. The original 1913 structure has been meticulously preserved while expanding its offerings to include saunas, steam rooms, and specialized spa treatments. The water, rich in calcium, magnesium, and sodium, continues to flow from deep underground sources, providing the same mineral-rich experience that captivated guests over a century ago. It is no longer just a bath; it is a living monument to Budapest's soul.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the ornate entrance, you are immediately struck by the sheer scale of the interior. The high ceilings, adorned with intricate frescoes and natural light filtering through large windows, create an atmosphere of **grandeur and tranquility**. The air is warm and humid, carrying the distinct scent of minerals that signals the start of your ritual. As you walk along the tiled corridors, the noise of the city fades, replaced by the gentle murmur of conversation and the sound of water.

Entering the main pool area feels like stepping into another world. The vibrant turquoise water, heated to a soothing temperature, contrasts beautifully with the historic architecture surrounding it. You can feel the immediate relaxation in your muscles as you submerge yourself, experiencing the unique sensation of the **mineral-rich water** enveloping your body. Whether you choose to swim laps or simply float in the warm currents, the experience is one of pure sensory immersion, bridging the gap between historical heritage and modern wellness.

PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

14th District • Metro: Széchenyi fürdő (Line M1, direct exit) or Hősök tere (Line M1, 5 min walk).

OPENING HOURS

Open 7am-8pm on weekdays, 8am-8pm on weekends.
Outdoor pools may be closed in winter depending on the weather.

FARES

From €39. Check if your ticket includes a locker or cabin, as they are not provided by default.

VISIT DURATION

Allow at least 2 to 3 hours to fully enjoy the 18 pools and relaxation areas. A half-day is ideal for alternating between hot and warm pools.

PHOTOS

Personal photos are allowed without flash in common areas.
Avoid bulky devices to prevent obstructing traffic in the narrow pool walkways.

AUDIENCE

Ideal for adults and teenagers over 14 years old. Since August 2025, those under 14 are excluded unless there is an approved medical exception 24 hours in advance.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

**Metro**

: Széchenyi fürdő — 2 min à pied

Budapest-Ferenc Liszt International Airport (44 min) • Széchenyi fürdő (6 min)

**Bus**

: Széchenyi fürdő — 2 min à pied

Budapest-Ferenc Liszt International Airport (71 min) • Széchenyi fürdő (9 min)

**Car**

Budapest-Ferenc Liszt International Airport (55 min) • Széchenyi fürdő (4 min)

**Bike**

Budapest-Ferenc Liszt International Airport (74 min) • Széchenyi fürdő (3 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Széchenyi Baths ?



 Budapest

 47°31.119' N, 19°4.943' E

ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Complex Layout

Main Pool Area (Ground Level)

This is the heart of the complex, featuring three large outdoor pools and several indoor sections. The central pool, known as the 'swimming pool,' is the largest and often the busiest. Surrounding it are smaller pools with varying temperatures, ranging from refreshing cool water to intensely hot springs. The area is designed for social interaction, with many visitors floating and chatting.

Indoor Relaxation Zones

Located adjacent to the main pools, these areas offer quieter spaces for those seeking a calmer experience. You will find multiple indoor pools with different mineral concentrations and temperatures, allowing for a gradual acclimatization. There are also designated lounging areas where you can rest on benches or mats, observing the activity outside without entering the water.

Spa and Wellness Facilities

Housed in separate wings, this section includes saunas, steam rooms, and private treatment cabins. Here, the focus shifts from communal bathing to individualized wellness. You can book massages, thalassotherapy sessions, or enjoy the Sparty Beerspa for a unique evening experience. This area requires specific tickets or packages and offers a more intimate setting compared to the open pools.

ACCESSIBILITY

**Disabled Access**

Easy access available to several main pools and relaxation areas; please check specific details befo

**Families**

Recommended for teenagers aged 14 and older; those under 14 require a strict medical waiver as of Au

**Audio guide**

French, English, Hungarian

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark jacket, is smiling at a woman with dark hair tied back, also smiling. They are in a bar or restaurant setting with a stone wall and a red curtain in the background.

Must-sees

SELECTION

Essential Pools and Rituals

01

Central Complex

The Main Outdoor Pool

The centerpiece of the Széchenyi Baths, this massive pool is heated to approximately **40°C**, making it ideal for year-round bathing. Its size allows for a lively atmosphere, especially in the evenings when the lights reflect off the water. It is the most photographed spot in the complex, capturing the essence of Budapest's thermal culture.

💡 During winter months, the steam rising from the pool creates a magical fog that often obscures the surrounding park, giving the scene an ethereal quality.

02

Outdoor Section

The Swimming Pool

Distinct from the relaxation pools, this lane-style pool is maintained at a cooler temperature, suitable for active swimmers. It is less crowded than the main pool and offers a chance to clear your head with exercise. The water here is slightly less mineral-heavy, providing a crisper sensation.

💡 Local residents often use this pool for morning laps before the tourist crowds arrive, maintaining a traditional rhythm of daily life.

03

Indoor/Outdoor Mix

The Hot Spring Pools

These smaller pools feature water directly sourced from the hottest springs, reaching temperatures that can feel intense for first-time visitors. They are ideal for targeted muscle relief and joint pain. The variety of temperatures allows you to alternate between heat and mild warmth, enhancing circulation.

💡 Many regulars claim that the specific mineral composition of these pools helps alleviate arthritis symptoms, a belief passed down through generations.

04

Wellness Wing

Sauna and Steam Rooms

For those who prefer dry heat, the sauna facilities offer a complementary experience to the wet baths. The humidity in the steam rooms opens pores, preparing the skin for the subsequent cooling effect of the pools. This combination is key to the traditional Hungarian bathing ritual.

💡 Silence is traditionally observed in the saunas, allowing visitors to meditate on the warmth and the rhythmic breathing of others.

05

Adjacent Pavilion

Széchenyi Garden Restaurant

After your soak, this restaurant offers a relaxed setting to recharge. The menu features local Hungarian dishes and light fare suitable for post-exertion. The garden terrace provides a pleasant view of the park, blending culinary pleasure with scenic beauty.

💡 It is a popular spot for families and groups to gather, often extending the bathing experience into a full-day outing.

06

Evening Event Space

Sparty Beerspa

On select nights, the baths transform into a lively social hub with live music and beer service. This event combines the comfort of the thermal pools with the energy of a club night. It is a unique way to experience the venue after dark, when the architecture glows under artificial lighting.

💡 The 'SPADAY' events are particularly famous for ending the work week with a festive splash, attracting young professionals and tourists alike.

07

GYŐZŐ CZIGLER Main Building

Historical Architecture Details

Beyond the water, the building itself is a work of art. Look closely at the **neo-Renaissance facades**, the detailed mosaics, and the elegant ironwork. Every corner reflects the craftsmanship of the early 20th century. Taking time to appreciate these details adds a layer of cultural depth to your visit.

💡 Some of the original tiles and fixtures from 1913 have been restored, preserving the authentic look of the inaugural era.

08

Perimeter

Városliget Park Views

The baths are surrounded by one of Europe's largest urban parks. From certain vantage points within the complex, you can see the lush greenery of Városliget. This integration of nature and architecture is a defining feature of the site, offering a peaceful backdrop to your thermal session.

💡 In spring, the cherry blossoms in the park provide a stunning pink canopy that frames the baths, a favorite spot for photographers.

TIPS

Maximizing Your Bathing Experience

TIMING

To avoid the peak crowds of up to 1.5 million annual visitors, aim for early morning (right at 7 am) or late afternoon (after 6 pm). These times offer a calmer atmosphere and easier access to lockers.

BILLET

Always check if your ticket includes a locker or cabin, as they are not provided by default. Compare packages online before purchasing to ensure you get what you need, such as towels or massage add-ons.

PARCOURS

Start with the cooler pools to acclimate your body, then gradually move to the hotter ones. Allow at least 2-3 hours to fully enjoy the 18 pools and relaxation areas without rushing.

PHOTO

Personal photos are allowed without flash in common areas. The best shots are taken in the main outdoor pool during sunset, when the water reflects the sky and the architecture glows.

PAUSE

Visit the Széchenyi Garden Restaurant for a light meal or snack after your session. It is located conveniently near the exits and offers a relaxing environment to recover.

ENFANTS

Since August 2025, children under 14 are excluded unless they have an approved medical exception submitted 24 hours in advance. Plan accordingly if traveling with younger kids.

AUDIOGUIDE

An audioguide is available in French, English, and Hungarian. It is useful for understanding the history of the building and the significance of István Széchenyi, but the primary experience is sensory, so don't let the guide distract you from the water.

CONFORT

Bring mandatory sandals for walking around, a classic swimsuit or burkini, and a cap only if using the swimming pool. Avoid street clothes and bulky devices to prevent obstructing traffic in narrow walkways.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I really need to book in advance?

Yes, booking is highly recommended, especially in summer and on weekends. Attendance can exceed 1.5 million visitors per year. Book online to guarantee your slot and avoid queues.

How far in advance can I cancel?

Conditions depend on the seller and the date chosen. Always check the specific cancellation policy of your ticket before confirming. Some flexible tickets allow free cancellation up to 24 hours in advance.

Is there a current promotion?

Seasonal offers are regularly available on standard tickets. Keep an eye out for promotions for packages including a locker or cabin. Buying in advance often saves money compared to the gate price.

Does the ticket include a locker or cabin?

No, the standard ticket does not provide a towel or locker. You must check if the exact product you are purchasing includes a private locker or cabin. Without this mention, plan to rent these services on site.

How long does the visit last?

Allow at least 2 hours to explore the 18 pools. Many visitors stay for the entire half-day to alternate between hot pools and cold ones. The ideal duration depends on your personal pace of relaxation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

The Name Behind the Water

The baths are named after **István Széchenyi**, a Hungarian statesman who was instrumental in promoting tourism and thermal treatments in the 19th century. His advocacy helped establish Budapest as a leading destination for wellness, and his legacy lives on in this iconic infrastructure.

Mineral Composition

The water is sourced from deep underground springs rich in **calcium, magnesium, and sodium**. While not strictly medicinal, this specific mineral composition contributes to the softness of the water and its perceived therapeutic effects on the skin and joints.

Architectural Endurance

Designed by Győző Czigler and inaugurated in **1913**, the building has survived two World Wars and numerous renovations. Its neo-Renaissance style remains intact, serving as a protected national monument that coexists seamlessly with modern spa facilities.

Seasonal Variations

While the indoor pools are open year-round, the outdoor pools may close during harsh winters depending on weather conditions. However, the steam rising from the water in cold weather creates a unique atmospheric experience that many visitors find particularly enchanting.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Széchenyi Baths are nestled within the lush greenery of **Városliget Park**, offering a perfect pre- or post-bath stroll. Just a short walk away lies the prestigious Museum of Fine Arts, allowing you to combine cultural enrichment with physical relaxation. For those looking to refuel after their session, the nearby Restaurant Mazel Tov offers a friendly atmosphere ideal for a light lunch or afternoon snack. If you wish to extend your day, the Buda Castle provides panoramic views of the Danube, creating a striking architectural contrast with the neo-Renaissance style of the baths. The Grand Synagogue of Budapest is also accessible, further enriching your historical exploration of the city.

Leaving the Széchenyi Baths, you carry with you more than just wet hair; you carry a sense of profound renewal. The combination of **historic beauty** and therapeutic warmth creates a memory that lingers long after you have dried off. It is not merely a visit to a pool, but a journey into the heart of Budapest's culture. Whether you seek solitude in a quiet corner or camaraderie in the bustling pools, this place offers a unique sanctuary for the body and mind, proving that sometimes, the best way to understand a city is to soak in its history.