



## Budapest Bucket List

Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace Budapest

Welcome to the

# Budapest Bucket List



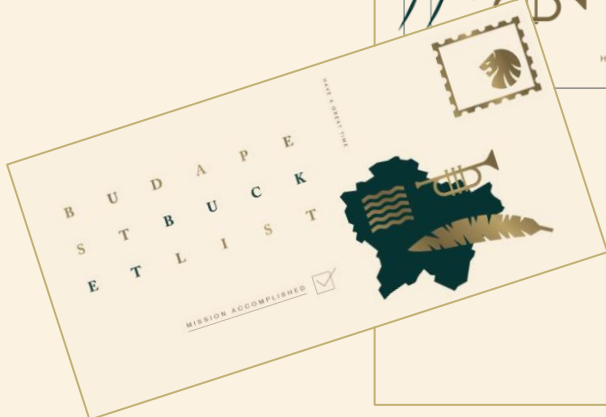
Created and curated by Peter Buday, Chief Concierge and President of Les Clefs d'Or Hungary and the Four Seasons Gresham Palace Budapest.

Budapest is a one-of-a-kind city with charisma, beauty and charm. There are several ways to explore the city, but we've hand-picked eight unforgettable experiences that will nourish your mind, body, and soul, and all but guarantee you've spent your time wisely while visiting. We invite you to immerse yourself in moments of wonder, excitement, education, inspiration, beauty, and taste, just to name a few. There is no particular order, so choose your experiences at your leisure. This is YOUR Bucket List now, so make the most of it. Achieve all eight experiences and your mission is accomplished.



Hashtags to use for your most instagrammable moments:  
#BudapestBucketList #fbudapest

HAVE A GREAT TIME



**FOUR SEASONS**  
HOTEL  
GRESHAM PALACE, BUDAPEST

## Glow with the Flow



Be awe-inspired by the incredible lights of the city. At night. On the river. There is nothing quite like cruising right next to the Parliament building as it shines in all her glory.

- Opportunities:
- Dinara's for Speed
  - Thelis for Leisure
  - Legenda for Education



## Citadella Sunrise



The best view point of the city is from the highest point along the river - the Citadella (or Gellert Hill), in the morning. Start your day off beautifully.

- Opportunities:
- Buda Before Breakfast "hike"
  - Free Solo
  - Taxi Up / Walk Back



## Get Ruined



The 7th District, filled with "Ruin" Pubs, offers travelers a glimpse into the Bohemian side of the city. Very unique to Budapest, this area must be explored.

- Opportunities:
- Ruin Bars (Stimula is a must)
  - Street Art & Design Stores
  - Meander the Markets



## Bor Me a Glass



"Bor" = Wine. One of Hungary's best kept secrets is the incredible wine country, so be sure to swirl, sniff, sip, and repeat wherever & whenever possible.

- Opportunities:
- KOLLÁZS Wine Tasting
  - A day trip to Etyek
  - Also try: Unicum, Főcso, Pálinka, and Flavoured Lemonades



Mission Accomplished



CONGRATULATIONS!

You have now accomplished your mission and earned the sense of fulfillment in one of the best cities in the world. We hope you agree. And remember, Budapest is a place to be not just to see, so visit us again, soon.

## Listen Live



From a rich history of classical music to an eclectic modern music scene, there is a live performance taking place somewhere for every type of concert-goer.

- Opportunities:
- Live at The Estates / KOLLÁZS
  - Jazz at Opus, Contemporary at Műpa
  - Classical at the Opera



## Taste Traditional



If you want to try traditional Hungarian food, make it a culinary experience. Your challenge is to try at least one traditional soup, one main course, and one dessert (per person).

- Opportunities:
- Traditional Taste at KOLLÁZS
  - More suggestions: Soup: Fish Soup, Goulash, or Húsleves; Main: Chicken Paprikash, Lecsó, or Duck Leg or Cabbage; Dessert: Cottage Cheese Dumplings, Dobos Torta, or Bontói Galuska.



## Tap the Fountain of Youth

Hungarian women (sorry gents) are often referred to as the most beautiful in the world. Learn about the unique Hungarian land and the secrets to staying young.

- Opportunities:
- Touch of the Earth SPA Treatment
  - Visit a Thermal Bath



## Choose Your Own Adventure

There are plenty of other experiences we recommend to add to your list. Choose one or more from the following to make your Budapest Journey complete.

- Escape room
- Half Day in Szentendre
- Falk Mikas Antiques
- 5th District Design Shops
- Shop local fashion - Manushka
- Art Factory Inspiration
- Become a Local Yogi
- Afternoon Tea in the Lounge



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# CREATIVE OVERVIEW

Having worked as a Concierge for close to 15 years and having visited many different countries, I consider myself a traveler as opposed to a tourist. To me, a traveler is someone that wants to get caught up in the daily life of the locals that live there. A tourist wants to visit the historic sights of the people that *used* to live there. A traveler will wake up early to avoid the lines filled with tourists. A tourist will 'eat local food' surrounded by other tourists, whereas a traveler will seek out similar food yet be surrounded by locals. Tourists tour where travelers explore.

**I personally believe that most tourists would like to become travelers.** And the easiest way to get the feeling of being a traveler is to **have a friend in the city** to help you explore the right way. The Four Seasons Gresham Palace is that friend.

Peter Buday, President of Les Clefs d'Or Hungary and Chef Concierge, and the team at Four Seasons Gresham Palace Budapest created ***The Budapest Bucket List*** – a guide for those travelers seeking moments of excitement, education, taste, and inspiration. However, it is not a “visit here, eat there” type of list. Instead, they are insightful suggestions on what you **should not miss** while visiting the city. Yet there are a variety of ways to achieve those moments, leaving the decision up to you.

In the coming pages, you will read about the experience and why they are suggested, followed by descriptions of the opportunities to achieve those experiences.

Also, *the whole is greater than the some of its parts* - so challenge yourself to achieve as much as you can in order for this entire experience to become transformative. Complete it and you will nourish your mind, body, and soul.

# GLOW WITH THE FLOW

As people travel to destinations, they will often visit the most historic landmarks within the city – the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Empire State Building in New York, and so on. In Budapest, one of those marvels is the Parliament building. You shouldn't visit Budapest without gazing up on this wonder. However, the most incredible time to see this building is after sunset when it is lit up with the night sky as a backdrop. In fact, this building, as well as others, are what make Budapest-by-night one of the most enchanting cities in the world. Therefore, one of the insightful suggestions is **to travel along the Danube after sunset and see the city of lights come to life**. People often refer to Budapest as the Paris-of-the-East, but after this experience you may start referring to Paris as the Budapest-of-the-West. Do not miss out.

Opportunities:

**Dunarama** – these private Venetian style speedboats are floating limousines that will whisk you away like royalty, with a glass of sparkling in your hand. Do not be surprised if the tempo changes within the last 15 minutes and you're trying not to spill your glass while speeding through the city of lights. You'll be Thunderstruck. This is for the glamorous few that also enjoy a thrill. [250€ for 50-minute ride – maximum capacity per boat: 10 people]

**Thetis Boat** – A little more conservative than the Dunarama, this privatized boat comes complete with dining area and sundeck (as well as a bathroom). For a leisurely cruise, perhaps with some nibbles and a selection of wines, this option would be great for those spending a little more time on the river. [300€ per hour, 2-hour suggestion – maximum capacity per boat: 10 people]

**Legenda** – The Danube Legend (night tour) offers educational tours to the public with over 30 languages. Glass in hand you will be able to experience how the legends of Budapest come alive. [19€ per adult, 1 hour – public boat]





# CITADELLA SUNRISE

*This is an experience that is most difficult to convince someone to do, yet is easily **the most rewarding** for those that complete it. The hill across the river with the 'Liberty Statue' **has the best views of the city**, bar none. However, these views lead to the most tourists, which can often lead to a negatively impacted experience. So we encourage people to tackle this challenge, but do it at the best time – when you have the Citadella (or Castle) relatively to yourself. If you **get there before 8AM**, you're ahead of all the tour buses carrying loads of people to drop off and take pictures. It's also when the sun is at it's best angle to take captivating landscape shots. AND... during summer it is before the sun is too hot. So our suggestion is to check this box, but wear comfortable shoes and wake up a little earlier to do it. Trust us, it's worth it.*

Opportunities:

**Buda-Before-Breakfast Cultural Workout** – Every Thursday at 7:00AM between April – September subject to the weather, a few members of the Four Seasons Management Team gather at the Front Drive and set off to hike one or both of the hills. This is a great way to connect with our staff, who will take it slow, medium, or (maybe) fast, depending on your pace (and ours). Have Jet Lag? We have the cure. [\[This is complimentary of course\]](#)

**Free Solo** – As the hike described above is limited to one day per week, we still encourage you to beat the crowds and head to the top. The Concierge can easily guide you. It's completely safe and you won't get lost. We suggest getting a coffee to-go from KOLLÁZS, then come back for breakfast. While enjoying your eggs, you will feel as if you accomplished so much more than everyone else that day and you'll have the best images to prove it. Good work.

**Taxi up / Walk Back** – This is self explanatory. Not in the mood or condition to hike? You should still beat the crowds. Coffee to-go and take a yellow chauffer.

# GET RUINED

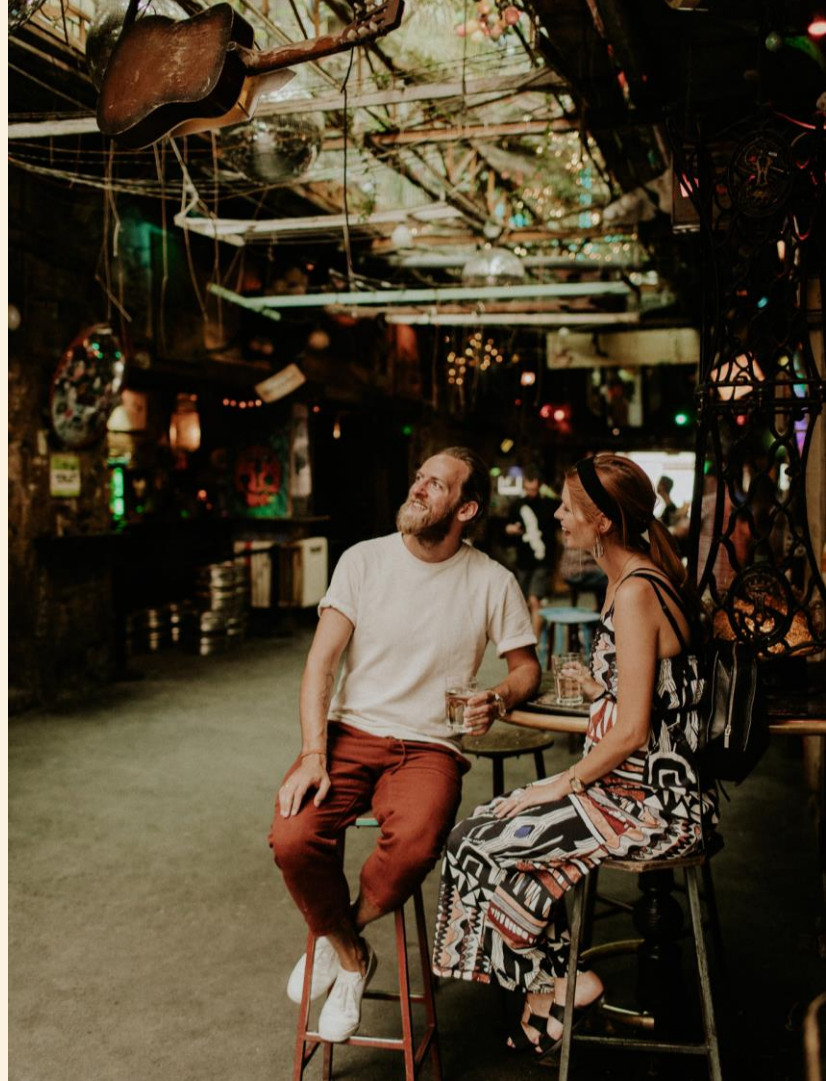
There is a district in Budapest that is like nowhere else in the world. Some cities try to imitate the 7<sup>th</sup> district, but there is nothing quite like the original. It has a reputation as being the “party district” for which it does deserve, yet it is much more than that. Home to where ‘ruin pubs’ and escape rooms were founded, the **7<sup>th</sup> District**, or “**Ruin Pub Area**”, or “**Jewish Quarter**” is home to a thriving Bohemian scene filled with bustling youngsters, tourists, and artists (as well as a Hasidic Jewish community for even more diversity). To visit Budapest and not at least stroll this extremely eclectic part of town would be similar to... never mind, it's not comparable to anything else. However – a word of caution – as the lights start to dim and the music starts getting louder, the district does turn into a party. So our suggestion is to know what you're looking for, and **choose day** or night based on your interests.

Opportunities:

**Ruin Bars** – The grande dame of the Ruin Pub Scene is Szimpla Kert:14. Kazinczy Street used to be homes and a stove factory set to be demolished before 4 owners turned it into what it is now. Being the original, this pub (called an open-air cinema at the time) then set off a trend of taking dilapidated building and converting them into hangouts for the youth. Our suggestion is to go during the day as the crowds are fewer and the daylight allows for best pictures (Instagrammers love this place). Ask the Concierge for a list of others (Lunch @ Mazer Tov for example)

**Street Art & Design Shops** – The 7<sup>th</sup> district is a canvass for artists, and often their work can be found towering above you on the many buildings within the district. If design is your thing, try one of the many design shops in the 7<sup>th</sup> district (*Printa* is a good example).

**Meander the Markets** – Fancy a Farmer's Market? Check out Szimpla on a Sunday morning. Also on Sunday, is the antique market at Klauzal Ter. Craft goods are found walking through Gozsdu on any day.





## ‘BOR’ ME A GLASS

“Bor” = Wine. Contrary to what some may think, Hungary is actually a wine country as opposed to a beer country. Boasting **over 22 different wine regions**, **Hungarian wine is nothing short of incredible**. The rest of the world is quite unaware of the quality as very little of the wine is exported, aside from the well-known sweet wine called Tokaj. But wine here is much more than Tokaj. Anyone who has ever enjoyed a superb glass of red or white, needs to spend a little time getting to know about the **incredible local varietals**.

Also, it doesn't stop at wine. If you're perusing restaurants and bars, you'll need to ask your service staff for other tasty beverages to complete the local experience, whether it is the Palinka, Hungary's fruit brandy, or the cocktail-style elegance of a lemonade. There are more suggestions below.

Opportunities:

**KOLLÁZS Wine Tasting** – This is exactly as it sounds, a tasting. Let us do the 'leg'-work for you and bring four or more varietals directly to your seat in Kollazs, and let one of our knowledgeable and talented Sommeliers engage your mind with knowledge and your taste buds with tannins. If you're a wine enthusiast, choose this experience. If you're not a wine enthusiast, choose this experience. Either way, you will be impressed and entertained.

**Day trip to Etyek** – Do you have a little more time? Believe it or not, the closest wine region is just a 35-Minute drive on the Buda side. Etyek is a beautiful part of the country that has a wide range of great wineries to tour. Talk to our Concierge and enjoy the countryside.

**Other Beverages to Try** – It would be short-sited to only mention wine as there is so much to sip and sample: Fröccs (ask where soda-water was invented), Palinka (Hazi Palinka if you're lucky), Unicum, and Flavored Lemonades. There are 3 meals in a day. Make it count.



# LISTEN LIVE

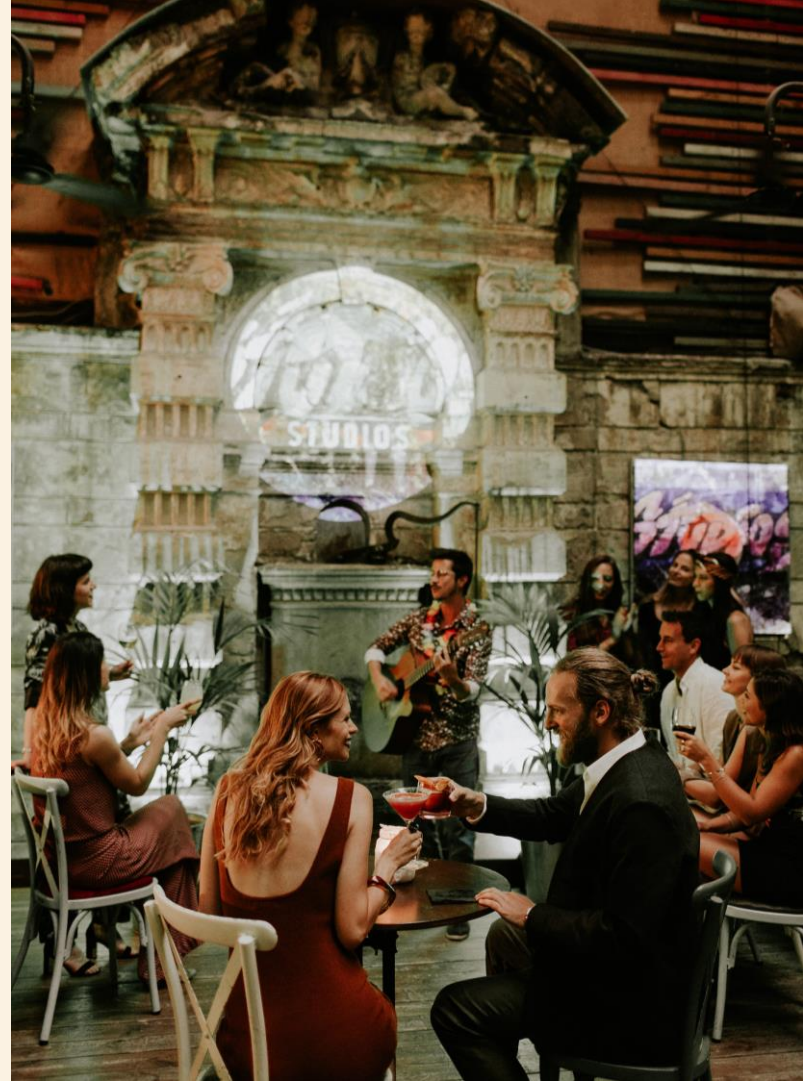
I challenge you to find someone who doesn't enjoy music. We truly believe that the **best way to experience music is to see it performed live**. Even if it means stopping for a few minutes to watch a street performer. After you get your video for your insta-story, stop, put your phone in your pocket and try to be in the moment. Keep this moment for yourself as it does not need to be shared. Everyone has a different preference of performance, and it does not need to be limited to music. So see below a number of different opportunities to engage your ears, eyes, and...soul.

Opportunities:

**Live at the Studios or KOLLÁZS** – Brody Studios is an event space/bar/hangout that offers an eclectic mix of live performances - from music, art, fashion, to comedy and quiz nights. This venue is one of the 'coolest' spots in Budapest, so check with the Concierge to see what is taking place and reserve your space. *If you want to feel like a hip, bohemian local, get into the Studios (or the Workshop) - trust us.* Closer to home at Four Seasons Gresham Palace, KOLLÁZS offers live music as well, from DJ's to local pop bands, you can easily check this off the list by hanging out at the bar as the live music resonates throughout.

**Jazz at Opus or Contemporary at Müpa** – If you're a fan of jazz, you know the importance of hearing it live. The good news is, the Opus club can feed your craving. For a Contemporary music scene, check to see what is going on at Müpa.

**Classical Venues** – Somewhere in your guidebook they are mentioning the Opera House. It is one thing to see it and take pictures of it. But it is entirely different experience to "hear" it. You'll know what we mean when you're at a live performance there or at any other classical and gorgeous venue in the city (try the recently renovated Music Academy for example).





# TASTE TRADITIONAL

*Goulash, Chicken Paprikash, Bone Marrow, or Duck Leg w/ Cabbage? There are too many Hungarian dishes to name and there are too many very good restaurants to recommend. Trying to be insightful within the food category is very difficult, but we've got a solution for you to be full...filled (yes, that was on purpose). First of all, don't make jokes about being "Hungry in Hungary". It's not funny to us any more, but we'll still smile to not offend you. Second of all, we ARE hungry and we enjoy life – so **we enjoy our meals**. And we enjoy soup. So try our soup, some form of it (hint: Goulash). But you can't leave without trying a main course as well, such as Chicken Paprikash or Lecso. And it's almost impossible to come to Hungary without indulging in dessert. So if you're doing the math at home, that is **1 soup, 1 main course, and 1 dessert**. It's very easy, so please do this early and hopefully you're sampling our traditional dishes often.*

Opportunities:

**Traditional Taste at KOLLÁZS** – Kollazs offers diners an amazingly beautiful menu created by our very talented local Chef, Arpad Györfly. However, there is a special lunch that was originally created by Arpad's Grandmother, the **Traditional Taste Menu**. Directly from her recipe book, this section of the menu explores the traditional cuisine of the country. And to make your decisions easier, you can choose the "**Traditional Journey**", which provides you a 3-course tasting menu – allowing for 3 courses of appropriate serving size to not slow you down in the afternoon. If there are two of you – you're now able to sample 6 traditional foods at one sitting. Learn the term "Jó étvágyat" before dining.

**More Suggestions** – When it comes to food, also consider the following: Husleves, Fish Soup, Turo Rudi (cottage cheese dessert found in stores), Langos (like pizza but not at all like pizza), and many more. And when it comes to other eateries, considering one of SIX Michelin Star restaurants found in the city. The culinary choices are plenty from white tablecloth to food truck. **Jó étvágyat.**

# TAP THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

*We all want to look younger, feel younger, and be younger. So how do the Hungarian women do it so well? The secret is about to be exposed – they take care of themselves by using special ingredients found in the land. Hungary, although land-locked, is still considered a country full of water. From having the largest lake in Europe, to thousands of hot springs all over the country, it is obvious that Hungarians have a strong connection to water. But it doesn't stop there. If you can, you should unlock other secrets found in the land and use it to your benefit. It is imperative that you take time to reward your body as it is the vessel of your mind and soul – and it can get worn and tired. When you decide to treat yourself, do it the Hungarian way, so you can also make a connection to this location while you're visiting. Our suggestions for replenishing yourself are below.*

Opportunities:

**Touch of the Earth Spa Treatment** – The ultimate in pampering, this treatment is more than a treatment. Using only locally-sourced hand-selected ingredients – such as Lavender from Tihany, Salt from Bük and Hungarian Moor Mud by Omorovicza – our team of experts created a bespoke experience that will leave you relaxed and glowing. This full treatment consists of a scrub, wrap, face and body massage, and is not duplicated anywhere else in the world. Our team has mastered an ancient traditional facial massage technique which will allow you to feel the effects days after the experience. Connect to Hungary in a way you didn't know you could.

**Visit a Thermal Bath** – There are plenty of baths to visit so speak with our Concierge. But we recommend visiting for the right reason – to *really* relax and replenish. With so many tourists coming to Budapest, some of these historical sites can often lose the charm with the increase of the crowds – which isn't necessarily relaxing. Find the balance here between rewarding yourself because you deserve it or getting the right picture for your Instagram audience. We believe you deserve a break, so go out and seek relaxation and replenishment. [Prices Vary]



# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

We can't do all the decision making for you, so this one is completely up to you. Budapest does not stop offering travelers a list of exploring opportunities, but we couldn't make the list 100 items long. Therefore, below we have some great suggestions on how you can continue to synergize with the city and culture found within it. Choose one or more of the following and your mission here is complete. Heck, choose something off the list as well and we'll still give you credit. It's all about you doing something ELSE to connect here. Enjoy and be safe.

Opportunities:

**Escape Rooms** – Traveling with friends or family? Turn off your phones and connect by solving puzzles to escape before the time is up. You may have heard of escape rooms before, but did you know they started in Budapest?

**Half or Full-day in Szentendre** – Not far from the city is the cutest town along the river. Take a step back in time and get away from the big city for half a day or more. We highly recommend if you have a little more time.

**Shop the Antiques on Falk Miksa** – If antiques are your thing, there is a street you'll want to visit and it's not a far walk from the hotel. Out with the new and in with the old.

**Shop Local Fashion** – Stop by Nanushka and the *Home of Fashion* (HoF), where you get a sampling of local fashion designs and you can choose your favorite.

**Design Shops** – There have been significant changes in Hungarian design life; ask our Concierge about the shops or showrooms of the 5th district. For example, *Tipton* creates designer sunglasses made with old vinyl records.

**Art Factory Inspiration** – 3 Hungarian Painters develop their craft at this factory, which is available to you via appointment with our Concierge.

**Become a Local Yogi** – In season, the local Yogi's, such as *Petraflow*, offer sessions in various locations in the city. See what's happening when you're here.

**Afternoon Tea in the Lounge** – Dine like British Royalty using incredibly detailed *Herend* porcelain from Hungary. Sir Thomas Gresham was English after all. Time to pay homage.



# SAMPLE ITINERARY

## Day 1:

12 PM | Taste Traditional - Lunch at KOLLÁZS

3 PM | Touch of the Earth - Spa Treatment

5 PM | Choose Your Own Adventure – i.e. Shop local fashion, Antiques, or Herend Afternoon Tea

7 PM | Glow with the Flow – Dunarama Boat Ride

\* \* \* \* \*

## Day 2:

7 AM | Buda Before Breakfast – Cultural Workout at the Citadella

12 PM | Get Ruined – Ruin bar tour including lunch at Mazel Tov or Meander the Markets

4 PM | 'Bor' me a Glass – Wine Tasting at KOLLÁZS or Afternoon trip to Etyek

9 PM | Listen Live – Brody Studios / Workshop or KOLLÁZS



Budapest  
Bucket List



## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

As mentioned before, **the whole is greater than the sum of its parts**. So hopefully you are able to complete this journey and you recognize all the different sensory touchpoints along the way. If you liked one of the experiences, let us know. If you loved one, tell a friend (#BudapestBucketList). If you completed the Journey and feel the transformation, congratulations. That was our ultimate goal in creating the Budapest Bucket List in the first place.