

BUDAPEST-GUIDE

Cultural and historical introduction to Budapest

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

The aim of this course is to help foreigners (students, professors, employees and their families) staying in Budapest feel more at home in the city by obtaining a basic knowledge about Hungarian culture and life in Budapest. The course aims at identifying the cultural patterns of Budapest (often similar to most Central European cities) related mostly to the 20th century.

AIMS:

During the course, participants will

- become familiar with the history and cultural characteristics of different districts of Budapest,
- have the opportunity to develop an understanding of the cultural patterns of Budapest,
- learn the basic expressions and signs you may encounter during your everyday life in the city,
- learn about Hungarian architecture, art, music, literature and photography

OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, participants should be able to

- identify Budapest districts and their characteristic elements,
- find their way in various cultural parts of Budapest,
- recognize and be aware of the variety of culture and mentality in Budapest,
- understand basic expressions and signs in public places,
- feel more involved in the city they are staying in.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The course focuses on different parts/districts of Budapest connected to different periods. Each session covers different forms of Hungarian architecture, forms of housing, transport, cuisine, sights, cultural institutions.

1) Introduction to Buda and Pest

Aims: to introduce the differences of Buda and Pest in geography, architecture, functions and mentality.

2) Centre of Budapest (around CEU, Andrásy út) – turn of the 19th and 20th century

Aims: to offer an insight into the history of Budapest by understanding touristic sights and symbolic spaces (Bazilika, Szabadság tér, Hősök tere)

3) Újlipótváros – 1910s–1940s

Aims: to help understand the history of Hungarian society in the 20th century with the guidance of the short stories of Hungarian writer Iván Bächer.

4) Inner Buda: Pasarét, Rózsadomb –1930s–1950s

Aims: to introduce the Hungarian examples of Bauhaus, the world famous education system of the designers of modern life, its social influences, and the changes in Hungarian society after World War II.

5) Elements of collective memory

Aims: to raise awareness of the signs of different forms of memories (statues, places) remembering the most influential events in Hungarian history.

6) A walk in Budapest

Aims: to put theory into practice: a short tour in Budapest (the route and the program will be designed in collaboration with participants).

READINGS:

Mandatory reading

Török, András: Budapest - A Critical Guide, Park Kiadó, 2014.

Suggested readings:

Barabás, Áron: Culture and cuisine in Budapest at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Central European University, 1997.

Dent, Bob: Budapest: a cultural history, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Gyáni, Gábor: Identity and Urban Experience: Fin de Siècle Budapest (Chsp Hungarian Studies), East European Monographs 2005.

Gyáni, Gábor: Parlour and Kitchen: Housing and Domestic Culture in Budapest, 1870-1940, Central European University Press, 2002.

Gábor Gyáni, György Kövér, Tibor Valuch (eds.): Social history of Hungary from the reform era to the end of the twentieth century, Boulder, Colo.: Social Science Monographs, 2004.

Komoróczy, Géza (ed): Jewish Budapest: monuments, rites, history, CEU Press, 1999.

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