
Our trip to Budapest

By Elizabeth, Leah, Olivia and Masha



Thank you to the Henry Morris trust for making this amazing trip possible and allowing us to have these new experiences.

On the 29th of May we flew to Budapest so we could compare it to our own city, Cambridge. We compared the two cities on their architecture, language, and value for money (common things you might buy in a city eg, coffee, or a gift) and traditions. We recorded the differences and similarities with photos and by writing a travel journal on all the things we did when we went. We also visited Cambridge to do the same. This trip increased our knowledge of Hungary and their culture. This trip also made us notice lots of different things in Cambridge and how beautiful the architecture is because we had never visited from a tourist's point of view.

Our goals going on this trip

- 1) To learn more about the culture in Budapest
- 2) Explore the popular places of Budapest
- 3) Learn about and compare the architecture
- 4) Learn more about independence when navigating a new city and country
- 5) Experience the language

Day 1 (29th May)

We arrived at Stansted Airport with everyone in 2 different cars, our flight was in the morning and we got to Budapest around 11:00. We took a taxi to our accommodation in Moricz Zsigmond Korter. It was pouring it down with rain so didn't get any photos that day as we did not want to get the camera wet, so we just walked around to get to grips with our area. We brought fruit and bread and other things for breakfast for the following morning from a local market. While we were there we noticed how much cheaper the food prices were after converting the Forints into Pounds. 1 large pack of strawberries was 1200 forints, which is £3.21. At the top of this market there was a buffet style café that had local Hungarian food as well as food from around the world. There were a lot of stews and fish, pork and sausages. After the market we then went to a pizza restaurant for lunch and we were surprised again about how low the prices were. We also noticed how good everyone's English was as they spoke to us. Also one side of the menu was in English. Once we finished lunch we went into a shopping centre, we went in there because it was heavily raining and we went inside to stay dry. In the shopping centre we were very surprised about the prices of products, especially in shops that we had in Cambridge as well which were known to be quite expensive, for example Claire's Accessories.

Day 2 (30th May)

Our first full day in Budapest! We woke up early and made breakfast from the bread and fruit we had got from the market the day before. It was raining so we put on our coats and headed out. We went into the travel information office and bought a family day ticket for the tram, the first attraction we visited was called the Hungarian Parliament. We walked around the outside of it taking photos then got back in the tram and crossed over the Danube river all the way to Buda castle that was created in the 14th-20th century. We watched the Budapest Castle Hill funicular, but then, instead of going up it, we walked up to the top then looked around taking photos. After looking around for an hour or so we started making our way back down and into a restaurant nearby which sold Hungarian food. We made our way back to our accommodation to grab towels and head out to Gellert spa to spend our evening there. We went round the insides and outside pools, the whole building was absolutely stunning and the pools in Cambridge don't even come close to the ones in Budapest. Then after a few hours we went back to our flat and sorted our selves out then went out for dinner at a tapas restaurant.

Day 3 (31st May)

We went out for breakfast to a bakery/café which was very close to our Airbnb. Then we took a tram further out of the city and walked around some very pretty streets until we got to the Fisherman's Bastion, which is in the First district of Budapest. Building finished in 1851. The building is very different to anything we had seen before and looked a lot like a sandcastle. Then we went to the Matthias church but unfortunately we couldn't go inside. The

building itself was very grand and it's a roman catholic church. Then we got on the tram again then walked to Margaret Island, which is an island in the middle of the Danube river. It was very hot and the views were beautiful. On Margaret Bridge there were lots of flowers and candles because, sadly, the day before a river cruise crashed unfortunately leading to the loss of lives. There were army boats looking for casualties. Once we got to the island we went to Palatinus Strand Baths, which was amazing! There were water slides, wave machine and lots of different pools. We left to go on a river cruise which was amazing as we got to see the city as the sun was setting and when all the lights were on it was stunning. We had dinner then took a tram back to the Airbnb.

Day 4 (1st June)

We had breakfast at the Airbnb again then set out for the day. We took a tram to a church inside a hill. The weather was very good today it was hot and sunny. The average temperature in May in Budapest is 23C and the average temperature in Cambridge is 18C. The Gellért Hill Cave has a church built inside which we visited. The cave itself is part of a network of caves in the Gellért hill. The cave is also known as the Saint Ivan's Cave because a man used to live in the caves and believed that natural water from a nearby river would heal the sick and dying. As the church is sacred we had to wear long skirts and t-shirts to cover our bare skin out of respect. We then walked up Gellért hill where there was a massive cross and an amazing view of both Buda and Pest. It was a 30-minute walk up some really steep stairs but the beautiful view was truly worth it. Gellért hill is 235 meters in total. The hill got its name when saint Gellért from Italy visited Hungary who was killed in the rebellion of 1046. He was put in a barrel and rolled down the hill. We carried on

walking up the hill until we got to liberty statue, which is a 14m bronze statue, which remembers Hungary's role in WW2. We then crossed the Liberty Bridge and ate our lunch in a hummus bar. We then went to the great market hall which is know for large popular market stalls but unfortunately it was closing so we briefly looked around. We then walked around the city and bought gifts. After that we took a tram back to our Airbnb packed the reset of our belongings. We took another tram into town where we got a bus to the airport. We arrived home at 1 am the next day after our wonderful trip.

Architecture

As we first arrived we went to a shopping centre as it was raining heavily we found that even though it was in the middle of half term it was not crowded this was down to the design as it was very large and spacious. It had a modern design and had a very clean interior. The shopping centre in Cambridge, the Grand Arcade, is a lot smaller and not as new.

We also saw the Liberty Bridge while we were walking, which connects Buda and Pest across the River Danube. Production of the bridge started in 1894 and the bridge actually opened in 1896. The bridge is 334 meters long and was designed by János Feketeházy. In Cambridge there is the Mathematical bridge, it's a lot smaller only 12m long. The bridge itself is made out of wood and connects Queen's colleges together. The bridge is located in the southwest of central Cambridge. The bridge was built in 1747 by James Essex. Here are the Liberty bridge and the Mathematical bridge

Some thing that is similar between Cambridge and Budapest is that there are no skyscrapers. In fact in Cambridge the library's tower in

the university of Cambridge is the tallest building and nothing is built higher than that. In Budapest there are power stations taller but we have not counted them but Parliament is tallest at 94 meters taller. The Hungarian parliament was one of the most stunning buildings we saw in Budapest it really looked amazing from all angles it also overlooked the Danube river.

Another thing we learned on our visit to Budapest was the differences and similarities between our food, culture and value for money.

Common dishes associated with Britain include quite simple meals such as fish and chips or roast dinners, where as in Budapest/ Hungary common meals include goulash and fisherman's soup. Goulash being somewhere between a soup and a stew and almost each region has its own variety, with beef (occasionally veal or pork), carrot, potato, spices and the typical paprika. One thing we noticed from our trip is the reliance of salt in food, after every meal a regular comment was about the amount of salt used. Whilst more than we were used to, we would consider this a similarity because British food hardly consists of much spice, as the spicy taste pallet is more widely linked with oriental flavours, both British and Hungarian dishes, based upon what we had tried are not very spicy and we would class them as simple. However, we also noted a difference in food markets; in Britain markets are commonly made of stalls with raw ingredients like fish or vegetables and food stalls often consist of many different cultures, for example at many food stalls or trucks in Britain sell foods from other countries like Indian or Mexican. Where as the area we went to in Budapest, the food

stalls/market primarily sold traditional Hungarian street food for example Lángos and other things which are typical to Hungary.

In terms of the money comparison, Budapest's value for money is much better compared to England. England is already known to be a quite expensive country, especially Cambridge, seen as a fairly "rich" area, however we were quite surprised to see what you could buy in Budapest for such little money. During the trip to Budapest we collected some prices of items that we could also buy back in Cambridge. For example in Cambridge a coffee from either a well established coffee chain or even a coffee shop, which are a common feature on a Cambridge high street as well as in Budapest, would cost from around £3 whereas in Budapest it cost the British equivalent of £1.70, almost half the price and this pattern continued across most coffee places and other shops in Hungary. This price difference was also true for many goods like ice cream from a stand, which would cost around between two to three pounds in Cambridge but buying from practically the exact same stands in Budapest only cost us the equivalent of 82 pence, once again a largely noticeable difference in price. This holds true for everything in Budapest, not just in shops or stalls, but also in restaurants. A typical, not fancy, restaurant in Cambridge and the area surrounding it, would cost one person around £10 - £15 for the meal plus drinks and dessert or any other complimentary dish, totalling a costly amount to pay. However whilst we went to Budapest we also went to typical restaurants familiar to our taste buds, like Italian restaurants as well as traditional Hungarian places, and the bill always came to around £10 per person and although a child's drink doesn't contribute hugely to the bill, a meal, drink and deserts all to come to under £10 in restaurants like the ones we visited (La Nube and La Botte) is very cheap and made our total bill for everyone per evening very affordable and possible to do nearly every night. The comparison rate between the two currencies of

Hungarian Franks and the British pound is around three hundred and forty, where by one would multiply the British pound by this figure (340). This made paying seem like a lot as things cost in the range of hundreds and thousands, however in British pound this actually equals a low figure. Overall we would say that the value of the pound is much higher than the Hungarian frank, but the value for money is so much better in Budapest as everything there is a lot cheaper and reasonably priced compared to the same items in Cambridge, England.

A feature that you cannot find in England, definitely not in Cambridge was the use of the tram network in Budapest as public transport. Public transportation in England includes the underground tube networks in London, tubes, buses and other vehicles but in Budapest they commonly use trams and buses. In Cambridge for our group of the four of us, we would typically take the number 13 bus from Linton and take it into the town centre of Cambridge. The cheapest way to do this, and what we did, was a family day rider for four and this ticket would cost thirteen pounds in total therefore equalling three pounds and fifteen pence for each of us. This ticket could take us all across the number thirteen route which stops off in many places in Cambridge but also extends to Haverhill, for the whole day. The best equivalent which would be the cheapest was the tram ticket, which also lasted a full day each time, although there were three day tickets available, and this only costed an equivalent of one pound each. This also comments of the value of money in each country once again demonstrating Budapest to be cheaper. In Cambridge we don't have a true equivalent to the tram network, however I think it was very useful on our trip around Budapest, as they take you practically everywhere and the stops are very regular and easy to get on, provided you are on time for the trams arrival. The residents of Budapest use these trams a lot as every tram was always full of people on their daily work and just

basic travel routes, therefore I think they'd be a useful asset to Cambridge as they could declutter roads more as people are too reliant on cars, which I feel as though isn't the case in Budapest, helping rush hours and climate change issues we face; not only this but they were very affordable in Budapest.

On our trip to Budapest I would also say that culture wasn't hugely noticeable travelling around the cities, therefore I'd say apart from the architecture and food similarities and differences already mentioned, we couldn't comment much on culture.

Budapest - The language and common phrases

Szia / Sziasztok

Meaning: Hi / Hello / Bye

Jó napot

Meaning: Good day / Good morning

Viszontlátásra

Meaning: Goodbye

Igen / nem

Meaning: Yes / no

Elnézést

Meaning: Excuse me

Köszönöm / Kösz

Meaning: Thank you / Thanks

Hogy vagy?

Meaning: How are you?

While we were in Budapest we noticed that the locals spoke good English to us. Hungarian is a more phonetic language than English. Words are pronounced like they are spelt.

Hungarian comes from Asia and belongs to the Finno-Ugric language group, its closest languages to it are Finnish and Estonian.

13 million people speak Hungarian . The language it's self is very hard to learn because it's very unusual, it isn't very similar to any other languages. It's also hard to learn because language was originally written right-to-left, which is the opposite way to many other languages and there are a lot of accents on the letters.

Hungarian is spoken in many countries such as Romania, Serbia, Ukraine and the Czech and Slovak republics as well as there national language.

English and Hungarian but both use letters from that Latin alphabet but in Hungarian the letters q,w,x and y do not exist.

Some of the photos we took





