

Hi,

Here are a few pictures of my recent trip to Budapest.

I hope that you enjoy them.

Larry -

Budapest

The next group of pictures are of Budapest. Budapest is famous for their thermal spas. There are Turkish Spas which date several hundred years ago. They are world renowned, and people come from the world over to dip themselves in the therapeutic waters. Unfortunately, I have no pictures of them.

The valley in which Budapest resides has been inhabited very early. Recent diggings have uncovered “humanoid” remains over 1 million years old. Celts, Romans, Huns, Mongols, Turks, Slovaks, Austrians, Germans and Russians have called this region home. The city has an “official” beginning at 896.



This is Budapest. In ancient times it was two cities-Buda and Pest. Pest is on the right side on the Danube and Buda is on the left. They combined into the city we know today - Budapest. Originally it was called Pestbuda.



This is a typical city street in Budapest.



Over the years Hungary was occupied by several foreign armies. One of them was the Turks. This building shows the Turkish influence. Today it is the Museum of Applied Art. It is equally beautiful on the inside.



This is the Museum of Art. It contains one of Europe's best collections of Spanish Art.



I was walking down the street and saw a very familiar sight - a mid-80s Corvette with Texas license plates. I had to take a picture to capture this Capitalist icon in a former Communist city.

The original king of Buda-King Stephen-ruled a pagan nation. He was surrounded by Christian states. He soon realized that he must convert to Christianity to survive. He invited in Benedictine monks to teach the people. Saint Gellert came to teach the people. When the Turks conquered the land, they took Gellert and put him in a barrel partially filled with nails and needles. They rolled him down the mountain. Of course he perished. This is a monument to that saint.





One of the amazing things about Budapest is it's natural hot springs. This is one of the oldest, and was first built by the Turks.



This is the place where Beethoven lived when he was in Budapest in 1800.



This is the Budapest Opera House.



This is the castle complex on the Buda hillside. Note the ancient walls and guard tower in the foreground.



These life size guards are in the Ferdinand entrance. This is gate which accompanies the “Royal Way” into the castle complex.



This is a courtyard of the Fisherman's Bastion by the gates to the castle complex. The Ferdinand entrance and "Royal Way" are directly ahead.



This is a statue of King Stephen who later was sainted. So, in this statue he has the full royal dress with a halo and church staff.



This is the church of St Matthias. It was used as a Turkish Mosque when the country was ruled by the Turks.

This is the Mace Tower which is near the “Royal Way”. It is easy to see the Turkish influence on this guard tower.





This is the Hungarian parliament on the Pest side of the Danube. The spire is 96 meters and there are 96 steps going up the main entrance to the building. The steeple on St Matthias Church is also 96 meters. The reason is that the Hungarians want to commemorate the year of 896 when the city was first inhabited.

This is Saint Stephen's church. This is the church of "Christian King" Stephen I who was later canonized by the Roman Church as a Saint for making all of Hungary a Christian state in the year 1000.





One of the sacred artifacts of the St Stephen is the actual mummified hand of Stephen. This is a picture of it. This artifact was transported to the US for safe keeping during WW II.

This is the main sanctuary at St Stephen's. You can get a perspective by looking at the main altar in the bottom of the picture. The alter with the candles is about 4 feet high.





This is one of the alcove ceilings at St Stephen's. Yes, that is real gold paint.

This has been a few of the 180+ pictures that I took. I chose only a select few that I feel give a general orientation of these two great cities.

I hope that you enjoyed them!

Please take a look at a travel log that I wrote and put on my web site at www.LEWolfe.com. Select “Some Trips” and then go to the log you want to read.

Thanks again,
Larry -