



The main façade of Széchenyi Baths divided by three domed pavilions, with the main entrance in the centre

Széchenyi Medical Baths

Completed in 1913 to the plans of Győző Czigler, the neo-Renaissance Széchenyi Medical Baths in the City Park are one of Europe's largest bathing complexes. In 1926 outdoor pools were added (by Imre Francsek). Between 1998 and 2006 the buildings were renovated and the pools were fitted with whirlpool and modern hydraulic equipment.



The fountain depicting a centaur in the central dome hall was made by József Róna

The water of Budapest's deepest and hottest spring (spouting to the surface from a depth of 1,246 m at a temperature of 76 °C) supplies 21 outdoor and indoor pools to relax and heal guests. It is most effective against articular diseases. The baths also have a thermal and a wellness section, provide health services, and the outdoor pools are warm enough for bathing even in winter. A unique feature of these extremely popular baths is the sight of gentlemen playing chess in the water on floating chessboards.

Originally the symmetrical building was divided into a men's and a women's section. The dome of the main entrance hall has mosaics, stained glass windows by Miksa Róth, statues, and stucco decoration. Next to the baths is a pump room where you can drink the water of healing properties. The hippopotamus in the nearby zoo also enjoys the benefit of the spring that feeds Széchenyi Baths as the composition of the water is similar to that of the Nile.



The outdoor pools in the inner courtyard of Széchenyi Baths

The Jewish Quarter

Before World War II Budapest had about 200,000 Jews, the world's 6th largest Jewish community. The Jews came to Hungary in the 13th c, but until the mid-18th c settling in Pest was forbidden for them. Parallel with the economic and commercial boom, however, the majority moved into the Pest side of the city. Most Jewish artisans lived and worked in the district with today's Király utca (street) as their high street lined with rows of Jewish portals.

The synagogues in Dohány, Rumbach and Kazinczy utca, the principal scenes of Jewish religious life, were all located here, close to

the inner city. It was also this area where in 1944 the "great ghetto" was set up, cramming tens of thousands of Jews together. Due to its history, since the early 2000s the district has been called Jewish Quarter, still central to the Jewish community because of the only ritual bath (*mikve*) in use, a kosher butcher's and grocer's, as well as kosher confectioneries and restaurants.

In 2002 the Jewish Quarter, as part of the area of Budapest's inner city recognized as a World Heritage Site, was also put on the UNESCO World Heritage list.





The shop of a shochet, a butcher selling kosher meat

The synagogue in Kazinczy utca



The former Jewish Quarter still features several kosher restaurants

The Fröhlich pastry shop at 22 Dob utca sells kosher cakes



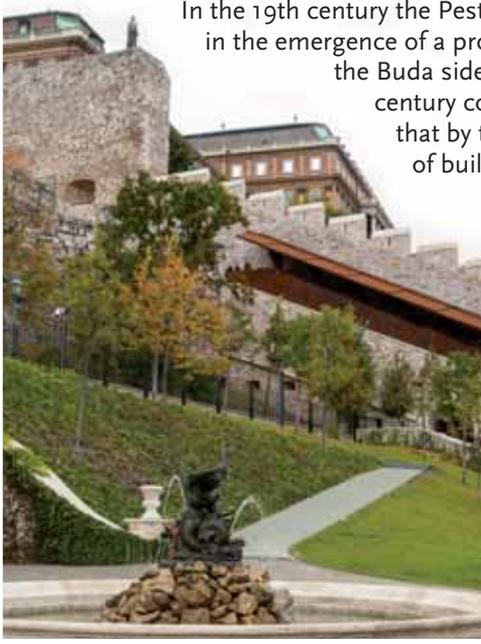
The only ritual bath (mikve) in use in Budapest (left)



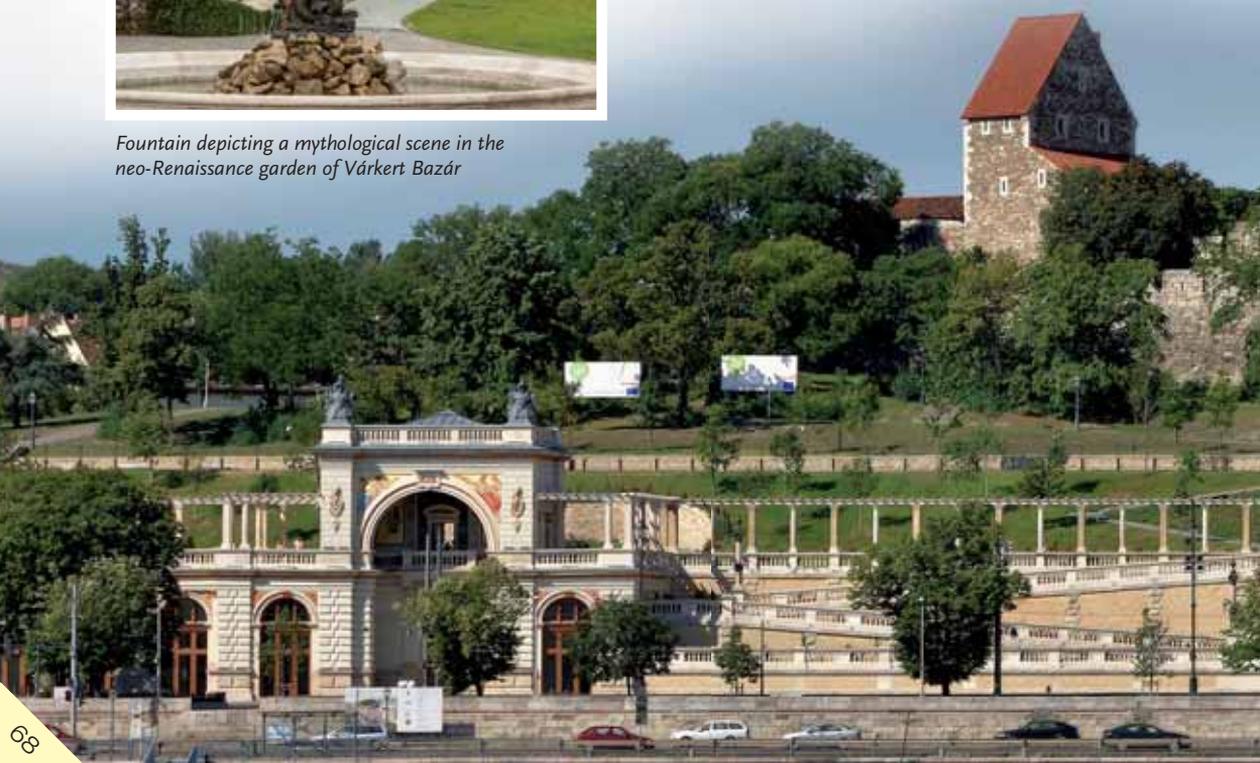
The Castle Garden Bazaar

In the 19th century the Pest side of the Danube started to develop, resulting in the emergence of a promenade and an imposing row of hotels, while the Buda side, with its single-storey houses, was left in 18th-century condition. So in the 1870s a decision was taken that by the foot of Castle Hill a similarly imposing group of buildings and garden be built. They commissioned Miklós Ybl to design the plans, based on which between 1875–83 the neo-Renaissance Várkert Bazár (Castle Garden Bazaar) was built.

Originally there were shops under the arcades (hence the name Bazár, i.e. bazaar), which were later turned to studios and exhibition spaces.



Fountain depicting a mythological scene in the neo-Renaissance garden of Várkert Bazár



Between 1961–84 the place served the youth as a venue for dancing and rock music concerts, then it fell into ruin and was only renovated in 2014. Now the complex has spaces for exhibitions and events, as well as an open-air stage. Moreover, the neo-Renaissance garden of some 5,000 square metres featuring paths, fountains and special plants has also been restored. Apart from the steps, Castle Hill is also accessible by escalator from here.



The ramp leading to the garden in the middle of the renovated Castle Garden Bazaar

