

Alexander Zhidchenko

Budapest — Bratislava

Hungary and Slovakia
2 cities in 1 WEEKEND

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and Slovakia. 2 cities in 1 weekend**

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Express reference book for those who can fly in the first acquaintance with two cities, the main attractions which can be visited in one weekend.

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Содержание

Introduction	6
Departure	7
Part 1 Budapest	9
ARRIVAL	9
THE WAY TO METRO	10
METRO STATIONS	12
EXIT TO THE CITY	13
DEAK-FERENZ-TER	14
HOUSE WITH THE HOSTEL	15
HOSTEL “CAPTAIN B”	16
10-people MIX-RUM	17
COMMON SPACES	18
VIEW FROM THE BALCONY	19
Explore the city	20
Szent István Bazilika	21
INTERIOR OF THE BASIL OF THE HOLY ISTWAN	22
Szent István ter	23
STREET Deák Ferenc	24
Vörösmarty tér	25
ANOTHER McDonalds	26
MONUMENT OF VÖRÖSMARTY	27
Streetart	28
Dormition Cathedral	29
Danube embankment	30
TRAM RAILS	31
THE BUDAPEST TRAM	32
Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.	33

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Budapest-Bratislava
Two cities in one Weekend

Introduction

A trip to two eastern European capitals – Budapest and Bratislava, is, perhaps, one of the most memorable trips. The desire to go to Slovakia and Hungary for many years did not give me a generation, and the key moment came when one day I found a budget variant of flight – airline tickets through Wizz to Budapest and back for only 11 thousand rubles.

Yes, the price for a lowcoster is not as low as it is, but given that it is often difficult in Hungary to buy a ticket for 15,000 ₴ roubles, I was pleased with the purchase and booked an inexpensive hostel in the center of Budapest via Hostels.com.

After that, I checked the possible options for moving from Budapest to Bratislava and back for one day, and it turned out that the most inexpensive and convenient option is a train that travels just 2.5 hours, and costs some 16 euros round-trip. But I did not manage to buy it on the Internet, and I decided to do it at the ticket office at the station, thereby not having lost.

My trip took place on October 8—10, 2015. It should be noted, October is the ideal time to visit the countries of Eastern Europe, especially if you are lucky with the weather. When I was lucky with the weather, I can confidently recommend going to these dates for an unforgettable vacation.

Departure

Departure of my flight was planned at 10—05 am from Sheremetyevo airport. And then something interesting began!

When you fly the airline Wizz, be careful of their cunning rules. When I went to the front desk, I was asked for a boarding pass. By habit, I never print a boarding pass, even if I register in advance. Somehow I prefer not to bother. And then there is such a surprise – you need a ticket already printed, otherwise you need 2 600 rubles. In the same situation as I was the majority of passengers on my flight.

Not to pay this money there was no chance, there was not much time left before the flight. I already learned later that they had detained the plane for 2 hours. Scandal was also useless. And in general, my advice to all people whose rights at the airport are violated, not scandal at airports. The airline staff will call security, you will be late for the plane, and nothing good will end there. It is better to ask at once all the details, collect as much as possible all information about the violation of your rights, find out the names of the employees, and tell them about where all these materials will be sent, and what awaits unscrupulous carriers. There are, indeed, a lot of structures, where you can then turn to collect what is due.

But in my case it did not work, because I bought a ticket through an intermediary company – Aviakassa, which was supposed to warn me that if a passenger did not register in advance, he would pay a fine. So, Aviakassa worked very well – they registered me in advance for the flight and sent me a boarding pass with a window seat. Of course, the staff at the front desk knew this, but there was nothing to tell me, forcing me to pay money. I missed this letter with a boarding pass. I had to pay a large sum, but at the same time the place was not at the window.

You know, such events can often cloud all the mood before any trip. I think many will agree with me that this behavior of the airline is simply unacceptable.

In the waiting room, girls of the student sat next to me, and one of them called Mama on the phone and cried, saying that these two and a half thousand rubles paid by her were exactly half of what she took with them on the trip, and did not know how now to be.

In general, we put two to WIZZ on a ten-point scale!)



Part 1 Budapest

ARRIVAL

The first thing on arrival was to exchange a few euros for the forints to buy a bus ticket at number 200E and the subway. At the airport of Ferenc Liszt, the rate was rather profitable (as shown by comparison with exchange offices in the city).

The bus takes you to the final station of the Budapest subway – Kőbánya-Kispest.

It should be noted that there were a lot of passengers on the bus, almost all of them were carrying suitcases and bags, which means that there were very few places on the bus. We drove about half an hour.



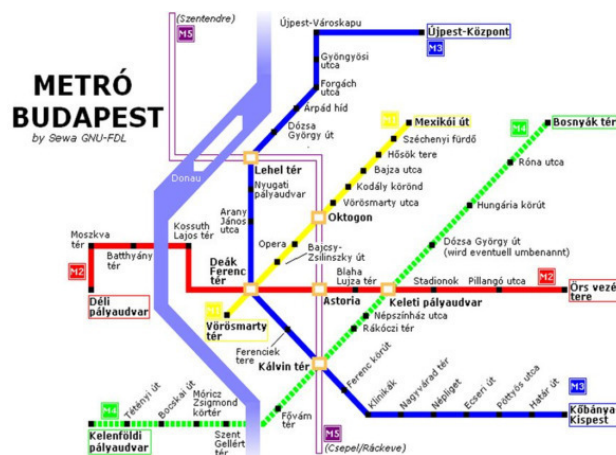
THE WAY TO METRO

From the final bus stop to the terminal metro station it was necessary to walk about 200 meters. I do not know with what it was connected, with a temporary repair or with a plan originally planned for such a route, but my first impression of Hungary fits into this distance.

Budapest Underground

The first sensation from the entrance to the metro of this European capital is “you got to Moscow”.

The idea of building a metro appeared here in 1870, and the first line was opened already in 1896, that is, 39 years earlier than the metro in Moscow appeared. Then it was the first subway on the continent.



Map of Budapest metro.

Source: http://think-differ.by/images/stuff/budapest_metro_map.jpg

Today the Budapest Metro include 4 lines and 52 stations, and the average passenger flow exceeds half of the city's population.

What reminds in this Hungarian subway about Moscow is the rolling stock. Here, so-called letter cars of the type “Ev” are used. Today in Moscow you can see cars of this type, but a similar model of the “Hedgehog” on the Tagansko-Krasnopresnenskaya metro line. They are also called “Hedgehogs”.



METRO STATIONS

Basically, as in most European pages, the metro stations in Budapest are the most ordinary. Somewhere tiled with some works of modern art, some elements of socialist constructivism, but mostly billboards decorating platforms, vans and vestibules.



EXIT TO THE CITY

I left the metro station at the central station – at the intersection of three lines, at Deak Ferenc Ter.

The first impression is the noisy, talkative, classical capital of a European country. The lunch time of Friday promised to see all the city's vanity and everyday life in all its diversity.



DEAK-FERENZ-TER

Ferenc Deak is a famous Hungarian political figure of the XIX century. He is called the founding father of the Austrian-Hungarian agreement of 1867.

Today, its name is one of the central squares of Budapest and the metro station.

It is here that I recommend finding a place to stay. I booked a hostel “Captain Budapest” in advance on the Hostels.com website, which offered at a very good price, only 10 euros per night, bed in a 10-bed room, and breakfast.



HOUSE WITH THE HOSTEL

The house where my hostel was located, I found right away. This is a large, historic building in classical style at Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 3.

What immediately surprised, so it's a courtyard-well with balconies-open galleries around the perimeter.

At the same time, the building was under reconstruction. The builders were already downstairs, they were pouring concrete into the arch. And at the top of the renovation has not yet been started – shabby walls, an old elevator – all this reminded of the Hungarian routine of the 1970s.

Behind the bars was the entrance to other rooms, which were also abandoned. Judging by the inscription that was created 50 years ago, it was also a door leading to some kind of baths.

And in general, the sensation of some abandoned hospital from the horror film.



HOSTEL “CAPTAIN B”

But despite the devastation in the corridor, the hostel was new, renovated and very decent.

At the reception, I met a pretty nice girl with glasses, who agreed to settle me despite the lack of a local currency to pay for my stay, gave me a password from Wi-Fi and explained where the exchange office is located.



10-people MIX-RUM

Bed in a 10-bed room, designed for both boys and girls – a good option for a budget tourist.

All the beds were clean and there were no things on them, I could choose any one I liked.
I prefer to sleep at the top)



COMMON SPACES

Advertising to this hostel is useless. As it is written on google maps that it is closed forever. Yes, and in the services of hotel booking it is no longer there. It is unfortunate that such good and inexpensive hostels are closed. Look at the spacious living room.

Everywhere, the superman is depicted as a symbol of the hostel with the image on the shield of the letter “B”, meaning “Budapest”.



VIEW FROM THE BALCONY

From a small balcony opens a chic view of the avenue Bajcsy-Zsilinszky and all the city bustle that unfolded outside the window.



Explore the city

Armed with a great mood, tourists rush to explore the sights of the Hungarian capital. Fortunately, they are in abundance. It's so hard to see not just for one Weekend, but even for a whole week, if not in a hurry and in detail.

So, let's start from the heart of Budapest, its famous district "District V".



Szent István Bazilika

It is worth a little walk along the central street, as before you will open the majestic temple – the Basilica of St. Stephen.

This is the Catholic Cathedral, the largest temple in Hungary. The height of the cathedral from the base to the top of the dome is 96 meters.

The temple was built for half a century, from 1851 to 1905.



INTERIOR OF THE BASIL OF THE HOLY ISTWAN

Be sure to go inside the cathedral. Near the entrance there is a box for donations. For the entrance, an amount of HUF 500 is indicated, but as a rule, people leave as much as they can. I left just that much.

Inside you will see an ornate decorated with stucco molding and mosaic, marble-covered walls and columns.

In the space of the altar there is a sculpture of Saint Istvan.

Inside you will also be able to see a small exposition devoted to the history of the construction of the cathedral. There is a plan for the layout of the temple, architectural designs and ancient photographs of the cathedral, which was destined to become the pearl and crown of architecture of classical Budapest.



Szent István ter

In front of the Cathedral of St. Stephen there is a square with the same name, on which there is a small walking area and many ice cream parlors, restaurants. Further this street leads to the Danube embankment.



This is the place where it is always pleasant to take a walk – in the morning, in the evening, in the afternoon. Here, a girl approached me with a petition for some help. For some reason I realized that I was from Russia and started to speak a few words in Russian.

STREET Deák Ferenc



Another street leading to the Danube embankment is Deak Ferenc Street.

This is a real Fashion street. It is full of expensive shops, hotels, restaurants and local women of fashion. At the same time it is pedestrian, which makes it even more frequented by tourists.

Vörösmarty tér



If you walk along Deak Ferenc street, on the way you will definitely get to the area of Vöröschmarkt ter. It was so named in honor of the Hungarian poet Mihai Vöröschmarty.

Under the square is the Budapest subway station of the same name, the terminal on the first line.

During the Christmas holidays, a festive Christmas market is arranged here.

ANOTHER McDonalds



In order to save time and money for lunch, I went to one of the McDonald's located in the 5th district.

With my familiar travelers, we have long noted that, unlike Russia in Europe, in all McDonald's, food has a completely different taste. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the products are supplied by local producers.

What was in this unusual bistro is the headphones installed in the wall, where you can listen to music at dinner, choosing to your taste. There are classical music, pop, country and anything. Never seen this.

MONUMENT OF VÖRÖSMARTY



In the shade of trees and surrounded by shops on the first floors of houses on the square there is a monument to a poet from Carrara marble (Italian Alps).

Streetart



I think it's cool to have around the city colorful graffiti – works of contemporary artists. I think this is an excellent variant of decorating the faceless walls of many houses in the center of the city.

Dormition Cathedral



This is an Orthodox church built in 1791—1801. It was founded by a community of Greeks and Macedonian-Vlachs, who lived here.

During the Second World War, the temple suffered, one of the towers was destroyed.

Since 1950, the cathedral is under the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church. In 2000 the church became the cathedral of the Hungarian diocese.

Danube embankment



You can talk about it for a very long time. Exactly as much as walking along it, considering the monuments, works of architecture, square, inhabitants and guests of Budapest.

The Danube is the second longest river in Europe. It is also called the “international river”, as it goes beyond Hungary to the territories of Germany, Slovakia, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ukraine and Moldova.

TRAM RAILS



The peculiarity of the embankment is that two tracks of tramways with periodic stops separate the pedestrian zone from the water's edge. So, the embankment can be passed and passed.

THE BUDAPEST TRAM



Trams are one of the most significant sights of modern and historical Budapest. In the city there is a very ramified tram network, which allows this type of transport to overtake the subway by passenger traffic, leaving the palm tree only to bus transportation.

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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