

St. Stephen's Basilica

After my first month wandering through Budapest, I finally found my favorite monument, just ten minutes of walking from our place: St. Stephen's Basilica. This grandiose structure, located in the heart of the city, is not only a significant religious site but also a masterpiece of architecture and history.

St. Stephen's Basilica, named after Hungary's first king, was completed in 1905 after more than 50 years of construction. Designed by József Hild, Miklós Ybl, and József Kauser, the basilica combines neoclassical and Renaissance elements. Its impressive dome, standing at 96 meters, symbolizes the balance between church and state, as it matches the height of the Hungarian Parliament Building.

One of the basilica's most remarkable features is its interior, which is richly decorated with marble, gold, and intricate frescoes. Visitors are drawn to the breathtaking ceiling paintings and mosaics depicting biblical scenes. The most revered artifact inside is the Holy Right Hand, the mummified right hand of St. Stephen, displayed in a glass case.

Beyond its religious significance, St. Stephen's Basilica is a cultural and musical hub. It hosts organ concerts that attract music lovers from around the world.

For those seeking panoramic views, the basilica's dome is accessible by stairs or an elevator. From the top, visitors can admire a stunning 360-degree view of Budapest, stretching from the Danube River to the Buda Hills.

The basilica also plays a crucial role in national celebrations, including Hungary's national day on August 20th, which honors St. Stephen. Every year, thousands of people gather here for ceremonies and religious services. The building's magnificent façade, adorned with statues and intricate carvings, serves as a breathtaking backdrop for these events.

Visitors can also explore the treasury and museum within the basilica, which display various relics, liturgical artifacts, and historical documents that provide insight into Hungary's Christian heritage. The peaceful ambiance inside makes it an ideal place for reflection and appreciation of history.

Whether for its spiritual importance, architectural beauty, or cultural events, St. Stephen's Basilica is an unmissable landmark. It stands as a testament to Hungary's rich heritage and continues to inspire both locals and tourists alike.



<https://www.budapest.org/en/things-to-do-budapest/st-stephens-basilica/>

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilique_Saint-%C3%89tienne_de_Pest