# Buda Castle Quarter

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History

### The Castle Quarter

#### Várnegyed (Castle Quarter)

- Located within the defensive walls of the Buda Castle Complex
- Located on the Varhegy (Castle Mount) which rises 50-60m above the Danube
- The northern part contains the Var (Old Town)
- The south contains the Royal Palace (Buda castle)
- The oldest part of Budapest and houses many historic monuments and colourful houses
- UNESCO heritage site (1987)













### Buda Castle (Budavari Palota)

- The first fortress of Budapest, built during the 13th century
- It has been built and destroyed multiple times
- Now contains: National Széchényi Library, Budapest history Museum, Hungarian national gallery

#### - 1400's

- King Matthias Corvinus married Beatrice of Naples
- Italian humanists arrived in the city → Palace was rebuilt in renaissance style
- only fragments of this design remain: red marble balustrades, decorative glazed tiles

#### Ottoman Empire

- it was left to decay by the Ottomans - was mostly used as a storage facility for ammunitions

#### - 1686 - the Great Siege

- Buda was captured by the Christian forces the palace collapsed due to heavy bombardment amplified by the ammunition which remained on the site
- During the Habsburg rule, Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor ordered most of the remains of the building to be destroyed (1715)
- Between 1715 and 1860 the palace was destroyed and rebuilt various times

#### - Franz Joseph (King of Hungary 1867)

- The building was reconstructed in a neoclassical baroque style
- served as a place for ceremonies during the reign of King Franz Joseph

#### - WW2

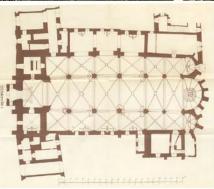
- Buda Castle was the last major stronghold of Budapest held by Axis Forces during the siege of Budapest (29 Dec 1944 13 February 1945)
- Thus Soviet blockade/shelling on 11 February 1945 left the palace in ruins
- Palace rebuilt by 1966, with some modernisation and some re-construction of remaining elements. (Communist era)



## Matthias Church (Mátyás-templom)

- Roman Catholic church
- Located in the square of the Holy Trinity
- Originally built in Romanesque style in 1015
- Destroyed a first time by the Mongols in 1241
- Reconstructed in the late Gothic style in the second half of the 14th century
- In 1370, construction of the Maria Gate and redesign in mature Gothic architecture
- In 1384, the southern tower collapsed and lead to important renovations
- In the 15th century, King Matthias Corvinus rebuilt the southwest bell tower
- In 1526, some parts of the church were destroyed during the Turkish invasion
- Turks rebuilt the church and converted it into a mosque
- After the retaken of Buda in 1686, the church was restored in Baroque style
- During the 19th century, the church was reconstructed again and restore to its original 13th century plan by the architect Frigyes Schulek
- Between 1933 and 1944, the church was restored again by the son of F. Schulek , János Schulek
- The church was severely damaged during the WWII
- Restoration took place one more time in 1954 and lasted 20 years
- Finaly the church was fully refurbished again between 2004 and 2013





## Fisherman's Bastion (Halaszbastya)

- Was built between 1895 and 1902 as part of the series of developments to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Hungary.
- The seven towers represents the seven Hungarian chieftains.
- The statue of St. Stephen was built in 1906.
- The architect was Frigyes Schulek and he also redesigned the Matthias Church
- It has a Neo-Romanesque style based on the early medieval style that was used in the city in the year 1000.
- The "T" shape was for embrace the church and enhance its beauty.
- The stairs was designed like that to make an spectacular entrance to the Buda Castle Quarter.
- Was built as a viewing terrace due to the Castle hill was no longer considered as a military place since 1874.
- There were thick walls in this place before the construction of the Bastion.

#### - WW2

- Was very damage during the war.
- The reconstruction was in charge of the son of Frigyes Schulek a few years later.
- Thanks to the Castle District Municipally the Fisherman's Bastion is fully restored now.

#### - The name

- There are many theories:
  - The walls were protected by the fishermen who lived below the walls in Fishtown.
  - Only for commemorating the people of Fishtown.
  - The fish market that was near to the Matthias Church gave the name.

