

Before the Baths

Plan the bath backwards from closing time, not forwards from breakfast.
Everything on this page is the timing you need before you walk through the door.

1 · WHAT TIME DO THE BATHS CLOSE

the two rules that cost you the most time

BATH	CLOSES	OUT OF POOLS	CASH DESK SHUTS	ARRIVE BY
Széchenyi	20:00 Mon–Thu, Sat–Sun 22:00 Fri only	19:40 21:40 Fri	19:00 21:00 Fri	17:30 — gives you 2 h 10 19:30 on a Friday
Rudas	22:00 wellness and sauna night bathing Fri–Sat 22:00–03:00	21:40	21:00	19:30 for the rooftop at dusk
Lukács	Check on the day	20 min before	1 h before	The quieter, cheaper one
Gellért	Closed since October 2025, not expected back before around 2028. Any guide still recommending it for this year is out of date.			

2 · WHEN IT GETS DARK

steam needs cold air

MONTH	SUNSET	ARRIVE BY
October	17:55	16:30
November	16:07	16:00
December	15:52	16:00
January	16:19	16:00
February	17:06	16:30
March	17:48	16:30
April–August	19:30–20:45	Friday, or daylight

From April to August sunset lands at or after closing time, so the floodlit dark-water shot is only possible on the Friday 22:00 close.
November to March, any normal day works.

3 · WHAT TO CARRY

Széchenyi rents nothing

- + **Towel** — no rental. 6,900 HUF (~€17) on site
- + **Flip-flops** — required outside the pools
- + **Swim cap** — lap pool only. 2,100 HUF (~€5)
- + **Bank card** — on-site tickets are card only
- + **Glasses, not lenses** — steam and 38°C water
- **No suitcase** — the ticket includes a locker, not a cabin
- **No alcohol** — banned in any quantity or packaging
- **No jewellery** — thermal water tarnishes silver

4 · THREE THINGS MOST GUIDES STILL GET WRONG

Under-14s cannot enter

Not since 1 August 2025, and not just the medicinal pools — the whole building. Photo ID is checked.

There is no evening ticket

Széchenyi has no afternoon or evening rate. The only discount is "Good morning Budapest", 10,500 HUF, inside before 09:00.

Eat 60–90 minutes before

Hot water pulls blood away from digestion. Food may be brought in. The wine belongs to the part of the evening after you dry off.

Prices change in January. Budapest's baths re-price at the start of the year, and every figure here was checked in August 2026 against each bath's own site. A Széchenyi weekday ticket with locker is 13,200 HUF (~€33); Friday and weekends 14,800 HUF. Subscribe and you get the corrected numbers the week they change.