

Bonus Tour

Traveling with number 150 bus to the Memento Park-25 minutes? Might be worried that this sounds too long and too boring? No! Unique stops throughout the journey, and places where tourists never go.

1.

Departure from Újbuda központ in case you just missed the bus and have to wait, but you do not want to go into the Allee shopping mall for coffee, then try the nearby market! The building itself is unique: In addition to a box-shaped building with an inner pyramid-shaped, terraced stores are hidden. Vegetables, fruit, bread, meat, dairy products, cakes are not only available in the larger stores, but they can be purchased from around 100 farmers. The upstairs bar offer food and drink, real Hungarian dishes (fried sausage, black pudding, stuffed cabbage), not only nicer but cheaper than in restaurants! Mainly local people do their daily, weekly shopping here. Everyone is very friendly towards foreigners but please be aware English is not widely spoken.

If the No.150 bus finally arrived, please hop on sit back and relax, preferably on the right hand side!

2.

-Kosztolányi Dezső tér

-Vincellér utca

Our tour begins on a busy road, where our way lead amongst 4-5 storey apartments built in the first half of XX. century. Shortly after departure, on the right side there is a park with the so called bottomless lake in the middle, which according to legend is very deep.

Nearby the park a vintage pub can be found called Penguin söröző, its main attraction are the many decades old neon-specific crest.

http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMAAP9_Penguin_beer_house_Budapest_Hungary

3.

- Hollókő utca

- Ajnácskő utca

- Dayka Gábor út

- Sasadi út

The next section of the road continues west highways. After turning right on the right hand side we can see for a moment cemetery of U.S. soldiers killed in Hungary during World War II.. A monument is erected in the middle of the garden. The site is unique because there are no actual graves out here, because after the war, the bodies of british pilots and american soldiers were brought back home by the end of 1946. Therefore, it is more of a symbolic memorial and cemetery itself.

Sasadi road stop is the famous "Ostapenko junction." Captain Ostapenko's statue used to stand at this spot prior to 1990, Ostapenko was a Soviet Red Army soldier. The memorial is

now at Memento Park. The sculpture used to be very popular, but not because of historical reasons, also because it was popular meeting place for young people in the 1970s and '80s, they used to hitchhike to travel to Hungary's most popular holiday destinations: down to Lake Balaton.

Interestingly, the name remains even until today, in fact, reformed! On the opposite side of the road red cake store named Ostapenko Bakery, behind the bifurcation the fast food restaurant is named Ostapenko McDonald's.

4.

- Kérő utca
- Neszmélyi út
- Péterhegyi út
- Órmezei utca

A Typical Soviet-model made panel housing are coming up, which was built between 1972-1984. In Hungary almost 788 000 panel type flats can be found, one fifth of the population live in these buildings. The forced industrialization resulted in that the population moved to the cities from 1970s onwards, and this has caused housing shortages. To solve the problem a sort of building technology had to be used which had to be a quick and inexpensive way to build homes. For practical reasons, in many cases, the homes kitchen furniture, complete with bathrooms and cupboards in the house were also made in factories, and they were installed in buildings with concrete elements. The 10-storey blocks were usually made of 1.5-2 bedroom homes. The buildings were normally surrounded by health and educational institutions, restaurants, service centers, which now has been completely transformed. The mass production and to complete deadlines resulted in a low level quality. Facade and mechanical equipment of the building has been modernized nowadays, but that did not affect the size and position of the houses positively. Therefore usually people with low income occupy these flats.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwrGLFUyFxl> (Hungarian)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLf9Yb2nOWs> (Hungarian)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHNrRsbsPw8> (English)

5.

- Bazsalikom (Basil) utca
- Torma (Horseradish) utca
- Husáng utca
- Péterhegyi köz
- Kápolna (Chapel) út

Next destination is Kelenvölgy a family housing area. This part of Budapest was founded at in the XIX-XX.century. The former builders of these homes were mainly working in factories of South-Buda, officials, railway, post office employees, judges, industrial workers. In the 1980s and 90s, significant improvements have been made in the area. More and more houses were built on the site of demolished old buildings.

6.

- Ady Endre út

After this stop, on the right side there is a large grassy field in nice weather we can sometimes see horses out here. Many riding farms, sport grounds can be found in this area, some horses are often released for a walk from local farms.

7.

- Tordai út

- Hittérítő út

Family housing zone continues on the way. The area used to be called Rose Valley which was famous for its vineyards and vegetable gardens. Then, as the city developed, these gardens have become smaller, their value has increased significantly, therefore the owners built bigger and bigger houses on them.

8.

- Budafok, Vincellér utca

Now, do not worry if the bus will start moving backwards! Our journey continues towards Memento Park, but somehow we have to get out of this no through road.

9.

- Kapisztrán út

- Tanító utca

- Budatétény benzinkút (petrol station)

Soon we will reach the busy Balatoni road. On the right side there is a small, long, green and white building its Budatétény petrol station. It is famous for being the first Hungarian petrol station, and is still operated by the founding family! After 1945, the communist authorities - along with all other private property - this intended to be nationalized too, but this was hampered by the crafty owner who rented out the petrol station to the Chinese embassy. Thus, the gas station was under Chinese rule for some time. After the political changes, after some legal struggle the family could get back their rightful property. The film was made about the petrol station, a Reuters published an article about the story.

<http://mobile.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSTRE6133SM20100204> (english)

http://film.indavideo.hu/video/f_motalko-egy_benzinkut_kronikaja (hungarian)

<http://vimeo.com/29455515> (trailer with english subtitles)

After the petrol station stop, to be able to get off at the next stop it should be indicated by the taking off signal button because after a sharp left turn we will arrive to our destination! Here comes Memento Park stop.

For your return trip to the city you can optionally take the same blue 150 bus or seven hundred and something yellow bus.

A few more tips on further secret locations:

If you don't take No.150 bus till the final stop (Ujbuda kozpont) but get off one stop earlier at Kosztolanyi Dezsó square you can find Art Cafe tranzit which is in Bukarest street. This cafe used to be an old bus terminal, but later was converted into a very cozy restaurant. Excellent choice of food and drink is available as well as wide variety of tea, their speciality is carrot cake with mascarpone! The place is unfortunately closed on Sundays and public holidays.

<http://tranzitcafe.com/>

From here you can get back to the city center by tram No.49.

If you choose to return to the city by taking one of the yellow buses please get off at the final stop-Kelenfoldi Railway Station (on this bus BKK tickets or Budapest Card is not valid). In this area two places are worth a visit:

1./ At the beginning of Vasút utca, trams terminal, at the slightly alarming-looking kiosk shops you will find a lángosbaking store. Please make sure you try this Hungarian specialty of fried bread! There are many available, but "plain" or with sour cream are the best! You might end up with a garlicky breath smell ... but it's a great new experience!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-N20g08QpiE>

2./ Two blocks away on Etele tér house number 3 is a bakery, cake shop called Erdős és Fiai Cukrászda (Erdős and Sons Patisserie). True, crafts, antique, homemade flavors based on believed to be forgotten recipes. One of Budapest's best ice cream and cakes can be found here.

<http://www.facebook.com/ErdosEsFiaiCukraszda>

From Etele square you can take number 49 tram or number 7E bus to return to the city center.