

## *Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest*

The Fisherman's Bastion was built between 1895 and 1902 as part of the series of developments that were to celebrate the 1000th birthday of the Hungarian state.

The 7 towers of the Halaszbastya features the 7 Hungarian leaders who had led their tribes to the present day Hungary to settle down in 895, and the Statue of St Stephen, the first Hungarian king (1000-1038).



The architect of the Halaszbastya is Frigyes Schulek, who also restored and redesigned the Matthias Church.

The bastion was built as a viewing terrace with lookout towers on the base of a stretch of the castle walls. Rather than building sturdy thick stone walls, the intention was to present the locals with a communal panorama terrace, as the Buda Castle was no longer considered to be a military place. The romantic notion was to recall the old times. It was meant to be like a fairy tale, feel like history rather than be history.

### *St Stephen King at Fishermans Bastion*



The ceremonial, wide stairs leading up to the Fishermen's Bastion provide a dramatic entrance to the Castle Hill attractions and to the views of the Pest side sights. The stairway features further historical statues, from bottom to top: the Statue of John Hunyadi, the statue of St George Piercing the Dragon and the 10th century soldiers guarding the gate (at the

top of the stairs, under the arch).

The Bastion was damaged in World War II, but soon restored by the son of the architect. By the 1980s, the walls of the Bastion became grey due to the household fumes, and urban air pollution. Also, many of the statues were in neglect. Thank to the Castle District municipality Halaszbastya is fully restored now.

During the construction of the Fisherman Bastion, the medieval underground St Michael Chapel was revealed, and part of it, incorporated into the Bastion. You can descend into the Chapel from the Fisherman's Bastion.

### *History of the Fisherman's Bastion*

If you look at the Fisherman's Bastion in Budapest you can see that its walls are quite new, and the whole structure is more like a fancy terrace than a fortification or a castle wall. Its walls are whitish, there are lots of windows, stone benches, arches, arcades which castle walls do not have. The current building of the Fisherman's Bastion was already designed to be a beautiful panoramic view terrace to serve as a perfect lookout point in any weather, and also to enhance the beauty of the Matthias Church.



*Building Fisherman Bastion*

### *Why is Fisherman's Bastion called Fisherman?*



There are several theories for explaining the origin of the name, one says that the walls were protected by the fishermen who lived below the walls, in Watertown (Viziváros) also known as Fishtown in Budapest, and who also protected the walls in war time.

Others say that the name was used simply commemorating the fishermen who lived in Watertown by the river Danube.

And the third theory goes that the castle's hilltop fish market next to the Matthias Church gave its name to the Fisherman's Bastion.