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#21372 Soaking in a Baroque Palace in Budapest, Hungary

I'm floating in waters warmer than my blood. They well up from searing fissures in bedrock, uncoiling muscles and bringing a pleasant stupefaction to my mind. The surroundings, however, are a far cry from the tiled sterility of a high-end hotel. Tongues of steam curl around Corinthian columns. Small windows from the domes above emit a dreamy filtered light. A leisurely bath in a Baroque palace in the heart of a dusty city of five million—delicious hedonism! Lolling about in the waters at the [Szechenyi Thermal Baths](#), centuries peel back like so much forgotten wallpaper and suddenly I'm a guest in a Habsburg palace or a Roman dignitary enjoying an ancient bathhouse.

By [Rich Carriero](#) | Photo: [Rich Carriero](#) | [Feedback](#)

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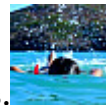
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