



The **Gróf Széchenyi** is not just a ship on the Danube – it's a floating time machine that takes you back to the golden age of Hungarian river cruising. Its classic paddle wheels slowly turn the water, while beneath its elegant two-deck structure, the refined atmosphere of a bygone era comes to life..

Inside, it feels like stepping into a turn-of-the-century ballroom: glowing inlaid wood paneling, cut-glass bronze chandeliers, and warm-toned teak decks set the scene. The upstairs Lánchíd Hall can host up to 220 guests, and through its huge panoramic windows you're treated to the view of the Chain Bridge and Budapest's illuminated riverbanks. What makes it truly special is that it is the only operating paddle-wheel event ship in Budapest. In the engine room, the old machinery is still thundering away, so the ship carries a piece of the past not only in its look, but also in its sound and atmosphere.

Short story

- **1937–1940:** Built in Austria, originally named *Stadt Passau*.
- **1940–1942:** Used for night cruises on the Danube between Vienna and Passau, featuring 24 cabins.
- **World War II:** Served as a hospital ship.
- **1945–1995:** Returned to passenger service in Austria.
- **1996:** Taken out of service and became property of the city of Passau, where it lay idle in the harbour for years.
- **2001–2006:** Transported to Budapest and fully renovated into an event ship, receiving the name *Gróf Széchenyi*.

Today, the Gróf Széchenyi is not just a ship, but a floating, light-filled monument – the jewel of the Danube.

