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Travel Information for Hungary

A. Transportation Information

Budapest: Name and airport code: Budapest Ferihegy Airport (BUD). Website: www.bud.hu/english. The Budapest Airport is serviced by major airlines such as Lufthansa and British Airways, as well as many low-cost carriers such as EasyJet and RyanAir. It is well-connected to downtown Budapest by public transportation, or easily reached by taxi.

Using Public Transportation in Budapest

BKV operates buses, trolleybuses, trams and underground trains in the Budapest. Tickets must be purchased in advance and validated for travel. The city also has a night bus service and a suburban railway (HEV). Day passes and season tickets are available. Web: www.bkv.hu/english/home/index.html

To and From the Airport

By Bus: Bus 200 connects the Kőbánya-Kispest metro terminal to the Budapest airport.

By Train: Numerous daily trains connect the Budapest Airport from the Western Railway Station in Budapest to the Budapest airport. The trip takes about ½ hour.

By Taxi: Taxis can be called from hotels or hailed from one of the taxi stands. It should cost about HUF 3,800 to HUF 5,100 (status 2017) to get from downtown Budapest to the airport.

Sightseeing in Budapest

The Budapest Card (Kártya) provides unlimited travel on public transport, free entry to 60 museums and discounts on everything from sightseeing tours to restaurant meals. Cards come in two or three day versions and include a decent pocket sized brochure containing maps of Buda, Pest and the metro system. For travelers using Budapest Airport's minibus or car rental service, the card remains valid for an additional two days (you can also purchase the card at the minibus desk). Youngsters under 14 are automatically covered by adult cards. Widely available in hotels, museums and tourist information offices, ticket offices at larger metro stations also carry stocks.

Train Transportation Information

Hungary Train Information: BKV Budapest Public Transportation. Web: www.bkv.hu/english/home/index.html

You can travel to many cities within Hungary using the train system. Taking intercity trains is the fastest way to travel to/from Budapest from the following cities: Bekescsaba, Debrecen, Dombovar, Györ, Gula, Hajduszoboszlo, Kaposvar, Kecskemet, Miskolc, Nyiregyhaza, Pecs, Sopron, Szeged, Szolnok, and Szombathely.

In all Hungarian train stations a yellow board indicates departures (indul) and a white board shows arrivals (érkezik). Express trains are indicated in red, local trains in black. In some stations, large black-and-white schedules are plastered all over the walls. To locate the table you need, first find the posted

railway map of the country, which indexes the route numbers at the top of the schedules.

Eurail Passes may be purchased for travel in Hungary.

Other Types of Transportation

Buses: A suggested bus line is Volanbusz. Web: www.volabusz.hu. There are three important bus stations in Budapest. Most buses to Western Europe as well as to Prague, Bratislava, Slovenia and Croatia leave from the international bus station at Erzsébet tér (metro: Deák tér). Volanbusz service links Budapest with major provincial towns. Hungary's Volan buses are a good alternative to the trains, and bus fares are only slightly more expensive than comparable 2nd-class train fares.

Taxis: Taxis can easily be found outside airports and train stations. Before getting into a taxi, it's a good idea to ask the driver roughly how much it will cost to get to your destination. Taxis are all supposed to have working meters and be able to issue a receipt. City Taxi and Fo Taxi have a reputation for trustworthiness. Taxi drivers will expect a tip from you at the end of the journey. Do not get into taxis that are unmarked and do not have yellow license plates (these taxis aren't licensed or regulated).

Rental Car: If you decide to rent a car, we suggest arranging this from the U.S. – it's cheaper. Be sure to find out the exact address of the location to pick up your rental car, (preferably at your arrival airport). It's best to make these arrangements in advance and many of the rental car companies are the same ones found in the US (i.e. Avis, Hertz, and National) among others that are specifically European (Europcar, Joka, and Sixt).

B. Language Tips

Language Lesson: Hungarian belongs to the Finno-Ugric group of languages and is unlike any Germanic, Slavonic or Indo-European tongue. For instance, rather than using prepositions, such as "from", "to" etc. Hungarian relies on adding suffixes to words.

- Good morning - Jó reggelt
- Good day - Jó napot
- Good evening - Jó estét
- Goodbye – Viszontlátásra
- Yes – Igen
- No – Kérem
- Thank you/No thank you - Köszönöm/Nem köszönöm
- Excuse me - Bocsánat!
- Pleased to meet you – Orvendek
- I understand/don't understand - Értem/Nem értem
- Entrance – Bejárat
- Exit – Kijárat
- Open – Nyitva
- Closed – Zárva
- How much is it - Mennyibe kerül
- That's all thank you - Köszönöm, mást nem kérek
- Patisserie – Cukrászda
- Cafe/Coffee House – Kávéház
- Restaurant - Étterem/Vendéglő
- Menu (Food) – Etlap
- Menu (drinks) - Italap
- Wine or drinks shop – Italbolt
- Department Store – Áruház
- Souvenir Shop - Ajándék Bolt
- Foodshop/Supermarket – Csemegebolt
- Laundry – Ruhatisztító

- Travel Agency - Utazási iroda
- Breakfast – Reggeli
- Lunch – Ebéd
- Dinner - Vacsora
- Where is the (nearest)... Bus stop - Hol van a (legközelebbi) Buszmegálló
- Where is the (nearest)... Railway Station - Hol van a (legközelebbi) Palyudvar
- No entry/admittance - Tilos a bemenet
- Police – Rendőrség
- Ambulance – Mentők
- Do you speak English (German / French)? - Beszél on angolul (németül/franciául)?

C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers

The International Access Code (IAC) for the US and Canada is 011 and for Hungary it's 00

The Country Code (CC) for Hungary is 36 and for the US and Canada it's 1

Area Codes in Hungary can be various digits in length

Hungary uses a trunk code, it is 06

To call Hungary from the US or Canada, dial IAC + CC + LN.

Example: The local telephone number for the Hungarian National Museum is (06)- 3277720. The number could also be listed as +36-(06)- 3277720. In both cases, you would dial 011-36 3277720. Cell phones and VoIP allow you to simply enter the plus sign and wireless networks automatically know it is an international call. Notice the Trunk code (06) is dropped when you dial.

To call the US or Canada from Hungary, dial IAC + CC + LN.

Example: The local telephone number of the ExperiencePlus! headquarters in Colorado is 970-484-8489. You would dial 00-1-970-484-8489.

To call Hungary from another European country, dial IAC + CC + LN.

Example: The local telephone number for the Hungarian National Museum is (06)- 3277720. The number could also be listed as +36-(06)- 3277720. In both cases, you would dial 00-36 3277720.

To call Hungary from within Hungary, dial LN

Example: The local telephone number for the Hungarian National Museum is (06)- 3277720. You would dial 06-3277720. Unlike the US there is no need to differentiate local and long distance by dialing a 1. Notice that the Trunk Code (06) is dialed.

D. Eating and Drinking

Contrary to widespread belief, Hungarian cooking isn't all gulyás (goulash) and heavily spiced paprika dishes, just in the same way as Italian isn't all pasta, and Indian isn't all flavored with hot spices. Hungarian dishes have a distinctive, unmistakable character of their own, often rich with sour cream, onions, eggs, butter and wine. An abundance of good local produce, meat and fish make for dishes such as Halászlé (Fish soup), Sült libamájszelet (pan-fried goose liver), Almával töltött fácán (pheasant stuffed with apples), Szarvastokány erdei gombával (venison stew with wild mushrooms) and Fogasszelet bakonyi módra (fillet of pike-perch Bakony style).

Vegetarians fare less well though with a Hungarian diet that's traditionally meat heavy, but vegetarian restaurants do exist. Most traditional restaurants will offer fried mushrooms (rántott gomba), Trappista sajt (Trappist cheese in breadcrumbs) or egg dishes.

E. Hotel Recommendations

Hungary – Budapest

[Hotel Unio](http://www.uniohotel.hu/) (www.uniohotel.hu/)

Dob str. 73, H-1077 Budapest

[Hotel Palazzo Zichy](#) (www.hotel-palazzo-zichy.hu)

Lorinc pap ter 2, Budapest 1088 Hungary

[Art'otel Budapest](#) (www.artotels.com)

Bem rakpart 16-19, 1077 Budapest Hungary

[Butterfly Home Bed and Breakfast](#) (www.butterflyhome.hu)

1053 Budapest, Képíró street 3.

Located in a pedestrian only neighborhood with easy access to sights. No elevator.

F. Reading and Movie List

Literature on Hungary

- *The Spirit of Hungary: A Panorama of Hungarian History and Culture*, by Stephen Sisa. Sisa succeeds in producing a comprehensive history of various aspects of Hungarian culture and art, while illuminating the spirit that is Hungary.
- *The Hungarians: A Thousand Years of Victory in Defeat*, by Paul Lendvai and Ann Major. This is an extremely informative and easily readable history of a little known people, culture, and country. This would be a great book to brush up on Hungary before your trip.
- *Strictly From Hungary*, Ladislas Farago and John Farago, a humorous account of the talented people, from wonderful artists to spectacular con-artists and charlatans, that have hailed from Hungary.
- *Danube* by Italian scholar, Claudio Magris. Sometimes ponderous, in the style of Italian writers, it is worth a read before you depart.

Literature by Hungarian Authors

- *Journey by Moonlight*, by Antal Szerb, An exciting and beautifully written/translated story of a young man haunted by his past while he flees employment in his father's factory and endures the disastrous start to his marriage. Szerb has been hailed as one of the master novelists of the 20th century, check out his other books, specifically, *The Pendragon Legend*.
- *Kaddish for an Unborn Child*, by Imre Kertesz. This eloquent yet tragic story tells about a Jewish writer in Hungary who is haunted by his decision to not bring a child into the world of the Hungarian Holocaust. It is an interesting meditation on the Holocaust, and although painful at times, it brings anyone who reads it into a contemplative mood.
- *Memoir of Hungary, 1944-1948*, by Marai Sandor. This is a humorous and astute memoir by exiled novelist Marai Sandor. He clearly and scathingly enlightens the reader to the life of a Hungarian in the years between the Nazi attacks and the solidification of communism in the society.
- *The Adventures of Sinbad*, by Gyula Krudy. If you're looking for a fun, Hungary-based novel, on the lighter side of reading, this should be your choice.
- *The Door*, by Magda Szabo. An unsettling exploration of the relationship between two very different women.

Movies About or Set in Hungary That We Have Enjoyed

- *The Porcelain Doll*, Three fables of Hungarian rural life are interwoven in a whimsical tale set in the time period between the 1930's and 1950's.
- *Somewhere in Europe*, This film is about an older musician who takes in children orphaned by WWII. It is a story of human compassion and the necessity of people to befriend and rely upon each other.
- *The Nazi's Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary*, Randolph L. Braham and Scott Miller. This book recounts the history of the last country to be invaded by Nazi Germany, a topic that is often left out when discussing Holocaust history.

G. Other Travel Resources

If you'd like to explore more transportation options, we find that <https://www.rome2rio.com/> is a helpful resource.