Travel Information

Budapest, HUNGARY

This travel information package has been prepared for telecommunication standardization meetings, e.g.: <u>http://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2016/admin-Budapest-delegate-information-pack-0116-v07.pdf</u>. Note that this information package far from being complete; prepared by a standards meetings attendee who is not involved in tourism.

1 Visa Information

Citizens of certain countries and territories need a visa to visit or transit Hungary.

Please visit the following Government of Hungary webpage to determine if you require a VISA: <u>http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/en</u>.

2 Entering Hungary – Identification Requirements

Please visit the following Government of Hungary webpage to determine the identification requirements: <u>http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/visa-waiver-agreements</u>.

3 Budapest International Airport (BUD) – Ferenc Liszt Airport

The Budapest International Airport (BUD) is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week and supports a number of regional and international carriers. For further information about the airport please explore the website: <u>http://www.bud.hu/english</u>.

There are ATMs at the carousels at the baggage claim and at the arrival level in the landside waiting hall in both Terminal 2A and Terminal 2B:

http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/shopping_and_gastronomy/services/atm-8166.html.

3.1 Traveling from the airport

Please use one of the official passenger transportation partners of Budapest Airport, i.e., either the officially appointed taxi company to service the airport (Főtaxi) or the official shared shuttle (MiniBUD). Strips on the floor lead to the booth of the official transportation companies from the carousels at the baggage claim.

As in all major cities, use caution and avoid taking a ride with strangers offering transfer to the city; DO NOT accept any 'special offer'.

3.1.1 Taxi: Főtaxi

Főtaxi is the official taxi partner of Budapest Airport. From the carousels at the baggage claim, follow the strips with the sign "Főtaxi", which lead you to the booth of Főtaxi on the left hand side after exiting of the airport terminal building through the revolving door. One has to order a taxi and give the destination address

at the booth; and then get the appointed taxi waiting at the stand. Payment is to the driver at the destination (not at the booth). All cars are equipped with a POS terminal; they accept credit cards.

http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/access_and_parking/by_taxi

http://fotaxi.hu/?Language=en#main-menu

Further taxi information is provided in section 13.

3.1.2 Shuttle: MiniBUD – Airport Minibus

MiniBUD is the official shuttle bus partner of Budapest Airport. MiniBUD provides a door-to-door shared ride from the airport to the city. Upon arrival, follow the strips to the booth of MiniBUD from the carousels at the baggage claim.

https://www.minibud.hu/en

http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/access_and_parking/by_airportshuttle

4 Currency

HUF: Hungarian Forint is the official currency in Hungary.

Coins: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200

Bank notes: 500, 1.000, 2.000, 5.000, 10.000, 20.000 (You can check the recent banknote series here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banknotes_of_the_Hungarian_forint#Recent_series.)

Some hotels and other merchants accept Euros.

It is easy to exchange currency in Budapest at the various currency exchange bureaus, hotels, banks, and post offices. Most businesses accept major debit and credit cards as a form of payment. You can also get forints from an ATM.

DO NOT change money on the street! It is against the law. Change money only in an official currency exchange bureau, a bank, or at your hotel.

5 ATM

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are located in banks and in various other locations throughout the city. They are usually available during and outside of regular banking hours. The first ATM is at the carousels at the baggage claim. There are ATMs at arrival level in the landside waiting hall in both Terminal 2A and Terminal 2B: <u>http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/shopping_and_gastronomy/services/atm-8166.html</u>.

6 Electricity

The standard voltage is 230 V. The standard frequency is 50 Hz. The power sockets that are used are of type F, which socket also works with plug C and E.



7 Telephone

The country code of Hungary is 36.

The area code of Budapest is 1. All other area codes are 2-digit, e.g. that of the major mobile operators: 30, 20, and 70.

When dialing a Hungarian number from Hungary you may use 06 - area code - 7-digit or 6-digit phone number, e.g., 06-1-889-6600 for Hilton Buda Castle.

7.1 Useful Telephone Numbers

- Ambulance: 104
 - o 24-hour medical assistance in English (Falck SOS Hungary): 06-1-2400-475
 - 24- hour pharmacy:
 - Déli Gyógyszertár 1123 Budapest Alkotás u. 1/b. Tel: (1) 355 4727, (1) 355 4691 near Déli Railway station
 - Teréz Gyógyszertár 1067 Budapest Teréz krt. 41, Tel: (1) 311 4439
- Police 107
 - o Tourist Police English-language hot-line (0-24): 06-1-438-8080
- Fire service: 105
- Central help number: 112
- More at http://www.budapest.com/travel/tourist_information/useful_phone_numbers.en.html

7.2 Mobile Coverage

7.2.1 Telekom

- 900/1800MHz GSM (GPRS, EDGE)
- 2100 MHz UMTS, HSDPA, HSUPA, HSPA+, DC-HSPA+
- 800/1800/2600 MHz LTE
- (original area code: 30)

7.2.2 Telenor

- 900/1800MHz GSM (GPRS, EDGE)
- 900/2100 MHz UMTS, HSDPA, HSUPA, HSPA+, DC-HSPA+
- 800/1800 MHz LTE
- (original area code: 20)

7.2.3 Vodafone

- 900/1800MHz GSM (GPRS, EDGE)
- 900/2100 MHz UMTS, HSDPA, HSUPA, HSPA+, DC-HSPA+
- 800/2600 MHz LTE
- (original area code: 70)

8 Time Zone

Hungary is located in the Central European Time (CET) zone, also known as European Central Time (ECT). Due to the daylight saving, it is summer time from April to October, i.e., it is Central European Summer Time (CEST) (UTC +2:00).

9 Language

Hungarian is the official language of Hungary. English or German is often spoken in touristic places.

A couple of useful words:

- thank you: köszönöm
- you're welcome: *szívesen*
- exit: *kijárat*
- entrance: *bejárat*
- pull: *húzni*
- push: tolni
- toilet: mosdó, WC
- woman: *nő*
- man: *férfi*
- tram: *villamos*
- bridge: *híd*
- street: út, utca
- boulevard: körút (krt.)
- square: *tér*

Further ones can be found, e.g., at: http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/hungarian.php

10 Taxes

For up-to-date tax information, visit the website of the National Tax and Customs Administration of Hungary (NTCA) at:

http://en.nav.gov.hu/taxation http://en.nav.gov.hu/taxation/inromation_leaflets

An informational page: <u>http://www.budapest.com/travel/tourist_information/custom_and_vat_rules.en.html</u>.

11 Weather

Budapest has a temperate continental climate with four seasons, warm summers and no dry season. More details:

http://www.met.hu/en/eghajlat/magyarorszag_eghajlata/altalanos_eghajlati_jellemzes/altalanos_leiras/.

12 Public Transportation

Most of Budapest's city center and historic districts are suitable for walking. There are pedestrian precincts in downtown Pest and traffic is restricted in the Castle Hill, so walking is probably the best way to get around. However, Budapest also has an excellent public transportation system: subways (metro) trams, trolley buses, buses, boats, and HÉV trains (suburban railway), which are operated by the Budapest Közlekedési Központ (BKK). Please explore their website for further information:

http://www.bkk.hu/en/maps/

http://www.bkk.hu/en/tickets-and-passes/

http://www.budapest.com/travel/getting_around/public_transport.en.html

When using public transportation, follow the passenger information notices, which are usually printed in English at the stops and on the vehicles. Validate your ticket in one of the orange boxes before starting your journey (before you get to the platform if travelling by Metro; and immediately after boarding buses, trams or trolley buses). Keep your ticket until the end of your journey and show it to inspectors on request. You have to validate another ticket every time you change lines.

12.1 Trip planner:

• <u>http://futar.bkk.hu/?map=13/47.501/19.053&layers=SVB</u>

12.2 Mobile App:

- <u>https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hu.webvalto.bkkfutar</u>
- <u>https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bkk-futar/id916193835?l=hu&ls=1&mt=8</u>
- https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/bkk-futar/9wzdncrdm4h6

13 Taxi

It is better to phone for a taxi from a reputable local company instead of hailing one in the street. When called, they are cheaper and there is no chance that you will pick up a 'private taxi' who may charge outrageous fares.

Cabs in Budapest are marked with the word "Taxi", often accompanied by a company name / logo such as "City Taxi". All taxi vehicles must be yellow and must have a yellow registration plate (as opposed to the white background on regular car plates). All taximeters are equipped with a receipt-printing function, displaying the fares charged and identification of the driver.

Ericsson is in contract with Budapest Taxi: <u>http://budapesttaxi.hu/en</u>. There is no discount price as the prices are regulated by law. When calling, tell them that you are a guest of Ericsson. Their phone number is 777-7777, which works with the area code of Budapest and the area codes of the mobile operators, e.g. +36-1-777-7777 or +36-30-777-7777.

Further information, e.g., on prices and on other taxi companies is available at: <u>http://www.budapest.com/travel/getting_around/taxi.en.html</u>.

14 Safety

Public safety is said to be good in Budapest on an international average. Nonetheless, you should follow the basic rules just like in any other big city, see e.g., <u>http://thesavvybackpacker.com/scams-safety-health-</u><u>europe/</u>.

Some tips to Budapest: <u>http://www.budapest.com/travel/in_emergency.en.html</u>.

Further, do not let seemingly helpful taxi drivers or (seemingly) local women lure you to an establishment they recommend. They often receive a commission to recommend certain bars, clubs and restaurants to passengers; and your bill may be overpriced.

15 Smoking

In Hungary, smoking is banned in all enclosed spaces, including offices, restaurants and pubs, as well as on public transportation, in playgrounds, and in underpasses.

16 Tipping

For good service at a restaurant, a tip of 10% (or more) of the total bill (which includes VAT) is customary. Some restaurants add a service charge to the bill, especially in large groups, in which case further tipping is not expected. Tipping is also customary in bars, salons, and taxis.

17 Tourism Information

A lot of information is provided on various sites, e.g., <u>http://www.budapest.com/</u>, <u>http://welovebudapest.com</u>, or <u>http://gotohungary.com</u>. Some samples are collected here and at <u>http://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2016/admin-Budapest-ITU-info-0116.pdf</u>.

17.1 UNESCO Sites

There are a number of UNESCO sites in the city: <u>http://www.budapest.com/city_guide/attractions/world_heritage_sites.en.html</u>, <u>http://welovebudapest.com/budapest.and.hungary/budapest.s.sites.on.the.unesco.world.heritage.list</u>.

For instance, one of the most beautiful parliament buildings of the world is worth a closer look or even a visit: <u>http://latogatokozpont.parlament.hu/en</u>.

There are more than 230 monuments in the city; there are a lot to see in addition to the UNESCO sites.

17.2 Museums

Museum lovers can also enjoy their visit, as the city and its immediate surroundings host more than 200 museums, see e.g.: <u>http://visitbudapest.travel/arts-entertainment/budapest-museums/</u>.

For instance, there are museums in the Castle district:

National Gallery: <u>http://www.mng.hu/en</u>,

National Széchenyi Library: http://www.oszk.hu/en/permanent_exhibitions,

Telephony Museum: http://www.postamuzeum.hu/en/,

Military: <u>http://www.budapest.com/city_guide/culture/museums/museum_of_military_history.en.html</u>.

17.3 Music

Hungary has some important contributions to the field of classical music. Ferenc Liszt is probably the greatest of all Hungarian composers: a piano virtuoso (his contemporaries lauded him as the greatest pianist of all time) as well as a composer, inspiring forward looking contemporaries and even anticipating some ideas and trends that would only come in the 20th century. The beginning of the 20th century brought about two other exceptional characters: Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály both set out to collect Hungarian folk songs all over the Carpathian Basin and incorporate them into their music. Hungarian folk songs and dance are characteristic (http://hungarianfolk.com/). Like the ancient language, Hungarian folk music has maintained its basic structure through more than a thousand years of statehood in Central Europe. Kodály has also developed a world-renowned teaching method: http://www.musicstaff.com/teaching-methods-kodaly-method. Hungary has also produced Károly Goldmark, Ernő Dohnányi, and a number of internationally renowned conductors, pianists and violinists; a great one of our times is Félix Lajkó (http://www.lajkofelix.hu/en). We can also mention composer Miklós Rózsa, who won three Oscar Awards, e.g., one for the music of Ben Hur.

Opera has been also important in Budapest. There have been Hungarian opera singers among the best in the world, e.g., Éva Marton, Erika Miklósa, and Andrea Rost of recent times. The Budapest Opera House is one of the most beautiful neo-renaissance buildings in Europe, and it is considered to be amongst the best opera houses in the world in terms of its acoustics. Opera programme and tickets:

http://www.opera.hu/programme#?y=2016&m=5&helyszin=mind&mufaj=mind, https://www.jegymester.hu/eng/PlaceInfo/100/.

Ferenc Liszt Music Academy programme and tickets: <u>http://zeneakademia.hu/en/all-programs</u>.

Palace of Arts (Müpa) https://www.mupa.hu/en/events/calendar/05/2016.

A concert at Matthias Church: <u>http://www.matyas-templom.hu/MUSIC_EVENTS.html</u>.

Further tickets at e.g.: https://www.jegymester.hu/eng/zene/Orchestra.

17.4 Hike in the City

One can hike within the city, in the Buda Hills. Various paths can be taken on the well signed trails. It is easy to get there and back with public transport. A great spot is János Hill with the Elizabeth lookout for this view: <u>https://goo.gl/maps/1qpjtk1iwez</u>.

(http://welovebudapest.com/budapest.and.hungary/sights.1/janos.hill.elizabeth.lookout.tower)

One can hike to the top of Gellért Hill daytime and/or take a taxi at night for this view: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ABudapest_from_Gellert_Hill_MC.jpg.

17.5 Spas

Budapest can be also referred to as the "City of Spas" because it has more thermal and medicinal water springs than any other capital city in the world.

(http://www.budapest.com/recreation_wellness/budapest_thermal_baths.en.html)

One may relax in a spa listed among the most beautiful ones of the world, e.g.:

- <u>http://www.gellertbath.hu/</u> (www.eleconomista.es/evasion/tendencias/noticias/5441538/01/14/Lascinco-piscinas-mas-impresionantes-del-mundo.html)
- <u>http://en.rudasfurdo.hu/</u> (<u>http://www.thrillist.com/travel/nation/11-hot-tubs-in-worlds-most-beautiful-places</u>)
- <u>http://www.szechenyibath.hu/</u>

17.6 Near Budapest

Budapest's surroundings also offer lots of attractions. Right to the north of Budapest you'll find some exciting holiday spots starting with the charming Szentendre (<u>http://www.hungary-tourist-guide.com/szentendre.html</u>, <u>http://budapest.gotohungary.com/budapest-en/-/article/szentendre-skanzen</u>) with its cobble-stoned, crooked streets, and artistic atmosphere; and a great open air ethnographic museum: <u>http://www.skanzen.hu/en</u>.

The Visegrád Hill towers above the Danube bend providing a breathtaking view. Once having been a royal seat, Visegrád (<u>http://www.hungary-tourist-guide.com/visegrad.html</u>) is rich in historical and cultural sights: the former Royal palace, Solomon's tower. You can explore the natural beauties of the hill on meandering hiking tracks.

The imposing Basilica is the most famous attraction of Esztergom (<u>http://www.hungary-tourist-guide.com/esztergom.html</u>), a city on the Danube bank some 25 km from Szentendre.

There are scenic hikes in the Pilis Mountains, e.g., around Dobogókő (Pulsating/Beating Stone), which considered the hearth chakra of the Earth, e.g. by the Dalai Lama (https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.471310312896415.119084.108146725879444&type=3).

18 Food and Drink

18.1 Hungarian Cuisine

The traditional Hungarian dishes abound in piquant flavors and aromas. Dishes are flavorful and spicy. Flavors of Hungarian dishes are based on centuries old traditions in spicing and preparation methods. The exquisite ingredients are produced by local agriculture and husbandry. The fertile Hungarian plain and the favorable climate provide excellent conditions for growing tasty vegetables, fruits, and to raise domestic animals whose meat is savory. It is way much more than goulash. Hungarian cuisine provides great variety, which promises a lot of excitement for gastro-curious travelers. An example short list <u>http://edition.cnn.com/2013/11/22/travel/hungarian-foods-the-world-should-know#.qre2Y3rw2</u>. You can try some on the street or in a Michelin star restaurant.

The excellent fruits allow various kinds of use and processing, e.g., pálinka (<u>http://gotohungary.com/palinka</u>) and wine.

18.2 Hungarian Wine

Hungarian wineries are producing wines that are recognized at prestigious wine contests. The most successful wines are the classic varieties of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and merlot along with the world-famous dessert wines of Tokaj (<u>http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/02/dining/tokaji-aszu-wine.html?_r=5</u>), which are referred to as Vinum Regum, Rex Vinorum (<u>http://www.royal-tokaji.com/wine_of_kings.php</u>). 22 wine regions are distinguished in the country altogether (<u>http://www.hungarianwinesociety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Wine-regions.png</u>). You may consider sampling some wine, e.g. from the following lists:

http://www.abouthungarianwine.com/news/hungarian-success-at-the-vinalies-international-wine-contest/ http://www.abouthungarianwine.com/news/hungarian-results-of-the-the-challenge-international-du-vin-2015/

http://www.abouthungarianwine.com/news/eighteen-gold-medal-was-awarded-to-hungary-in-bordeaux/

It is possible to taste it, e.g., at: <u>http://www.cultivini.com</u>, or by visiting a wine bar, e.g., DiVino right next to St. Stephen's Basilica: <u>http://welovebudapest.com/clubs.and.nightlife.1/bars.1/divino</u>.

It is suggested to prefer any other vintage to 2014.

18.3 Central Market

The biggest market hall of the city, the Központi Vásárcsarnok (Central Market or Great Market Hall), stands right next to the Pest-end of the Liberty bridge. This market hall is one of the biggest and most gorgeous ones in Europe (http://travel.cnn.com/europes-amazing-city-markets-354731), The building also has some architectural significance with Hungarian ornaments and neo-gothic touch. The metal roof structure is still the original, and the roof is covered with decorative tiles made by the world-renowned Zsolnay porcelain manufacture. Nowadays, the market hall is a real tourist paradise, where you will more likely find fresh local delicacies, fruits, vegetables, wines, spirits, salamis and meat products (straight from the producers) than typical souvenirs. You can try local dishes as well, like lángos (http://welovebudapest.com/cafes.and.restaurants.l/get.the.dough.savor.budapest.s.best.langos, with cheese & sour cream is a classic one) in one of the buffets or restaurants on the upper storey.

18.4 Hungarian restaurants

A couple of restaurants are listed here where you may sample Hungarian cuisine. Note that reservation is recommended.

18.4.1 Michelin star

- Borkonyha / Winekithcen (Sas u. 3. V. ker., Tel: +36 1 266 0835) http://www.borkonyha.hu/?lang=eng https://goo.gl/maps/PGjeegwrau72
- Costes (Ráday u. 4., IX. ker., Tel: +36 1 2190696) <u>http://www.costes.hu/en</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/iMK9odK8pdu</u>
- Costes Downtown (Vigyázó Ferenc u. 5., V. ker., Tel: +36 1 920 1015) <u>http://costesdowntown.hu/en</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/8FxdVm2mVMu</u>

- Onyx (Vörösmarty tér 7-8., V. ker., Tel: +36 30 508-0622) <u>http://www.onyxrestaurant.hu/en</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/gsz4J83XDcE2</u>
- Tanti (Apor Vilmos tér 11-12., XII. ker., Tel: +36 20 243 1565) <u>http://www.tanti.hu/en/</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/sVCqaQT16r82</u>

18.4.2 In the Castle

- Alabárdos (Országház u. 2., I. ker., Tel: +36 1 356 08 51) <u>http://www.alabardos.hu/site.php</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/uJov2yK82Ty</u>
- **Pest-Buda** (Fortuna u. 3., I. ker., Tel: +36 1 225 0377) <u>http://www.pestbudabistro.hu</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/tJtiJ3XzLtu</u>

18.4.3 Danube bank

- Szegedi halászcsárda (Belgrád rakpart, V. ker., Tel: + 36 1 235 0865) <u>http://www.szegedihalaszcsarda.hu/menu/menu-en.pdf</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/R4h2pvXkbmQ2</u>
- Vén Hajó (Vigadó Square dock, pier 2, V. ker., Tel: +36 1 411 0942) <u>http://www.venhajo-etterem.com/</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/asUMTJM7GkL2</u>

18.4.4 Other parts of the city

- 100 éves étterem (Piarista u. 2., V. ker., Tel: +36 1 230 0329) <u>http://www.100evesetterem.hu/eng/</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/Ee3o1qJKs752</u>
- Bock Bisztró (Erzsébet krt. 43-49., VII. ker., Tel: +36 1 321 03 40) <u>http://bockbisztropest.hu/en/</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/QZyxnEErYUM2</u>
- Gundel (Gundel Károly út 4., XIV. ker., Tel: +36 1 889 8100, +36 30 603 2480) <u>http://www.gundel.hu/en/</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/w6QC9hvSVsS2</u>
- Halbisztró (Jókai tér 6., VI. ker., Tel: +36 30 693 3997) <u>http://www.halbisztro.hu/index.php</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/xYeDmP7wKG72</u>
- Kárpátia (Ferenciek tere 7-8., V. ker., Tel: +36 1 317 3596) <u>http://www.karpatia.hu/en</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/jKMdHHp9fY22</u>
- Korhely (Liszt Ferenc tér 7., VI. ker., Tel: +36 1 321 0280) http://www.korhelyfaloda.hu/ https://goo.gl/maps/23RKT4TwtGm
- Mátyás pince (Március 15. tér 7., V. ker., Tel: +36 1 266-80-08) <u>http://eng.matyaspince.eu/</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/nTKFWay1z472</u>

 Náncsi néni (Ördögárok út 80., II. ker., Tel: +36 1 397 2742) <u>http://www.nancsineni.hu/eng/index2.html</u> https://goo.gl/maps/pykAKpY1JQU2

18.4.5 Vegetarian

 Napfényes étterem (Ferenciek tere 2., V. ker., Tel: +36 20 311 0313) <u>http://www.napfenyesetterem.hu/english</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/1uhXtUYbiUk</u>

18.5 Coffee Houses

There are a number of coffee houses (confectioneries) in the city. Visiting a millennium style coffee house and tasting the cakes can be part of a Budapest experience, e.g.:

- Auguszt Cukrászda (Kossuth Lajos u. 14-16, V. ker.) <u>http://www.auguszt.hu/en</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/fgXwRWjz62E2</u>
- Centrál Kávéház (Károlyi. u. 9, V. ker.) <u>http://www.centralkavehaz.hu/eng</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/hFVQrVLazet</u>
- Gerbeaud Kávéház (Vörösmarty tér 7-8, V. ker.) http://www.gerbeaud.hu/confectionery.html https://goo.gl/maps/BQ9W2mS2SYC2
- Művész Kávéház (Andrássy út 29, VI. ker.) https://goo.gl/maps/skVamyj3bXF2 https://goo.gl/maps/z3GWu5gpTdC2
- Szamos Cukrászda (Erzsébet krt. 43, VII. ker.) <u>http://www.szamosmarcipan.hu/en/shops/view/15/Royal+Caf%C3%A9,</u> <u>https://goo.gl/maps/FDXJosQ2bkz</u>

János Farkas Ph.D. Meeting Host Budapest, May, 2016