

MONEY AND TIPPING

EASY

HUNGARIAN FORINT (FT OR HUF)

“Round to 5” rule:

Cash payments that don't end in 5 or 0, will be rounded to the closest 5 or 0, e.g. for Ft 152 you pay Ft 150 and for Ft 158 you pay Ft 160.

Prices in shops are gross (VAT is included).

Tip: give around 10% (service is sometimes included in the price, so check the bill).

Rounding up: you can tip by saying how much you want to pay (e.g. Ft 8,000 instead of Ft 7,200).



Be careful of saying “Thank you!” when paying. If you say it while handing over the money, this is informally taken to mean that you don't expect any change to be given back.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO



Buying alcoholic drinks in shops is not allowed after 10 or 11 p.m., depending on district. By law, only those over the age of 18 are allowed to buy alcoholic drinks. Tobacco products can be bought only in specialized shops (Nemzeti Dohánybolt) Persons under 18 cannot even enter these places. Please be aware that, if you visit such a shop with children, they will have to stay outside.

ELECTRICITY



AC: 230 V / 50 Hz. - European standard
Sockets: Type F - European standard 2 pin
If necessary, you can buy a travel adaptor in an electrical store in any mall.

TIME ZONE



Central European Time (GMT+1)
Daylight saving time: runs between the end of March and the end of October (CET+1/GMT+2).

METRO MAP OF BUDAPEST

CIRCLE THE CLOSEST STATION TO YOUR ACCOMMODATION.



DRAW THE ROUTE TO THE CLOSEST CORNER TO YOUR ACCOMMODATION, OR NOTE THE NAMES OF THE INTERSECTING STREETS THERE:

For your own safety do not provide an accurate address.

Emergency hotline: 112

Budapestinfo Tourist Information Offices:
in the city centre at Sütő utca 2. (close to Deák tér);
at City Park on Olof Palme sétány 5. (close to Hősök tere)

Further information:
www.spiceofeurope.com - www.budapestinfo.hu
www.bkk.hu [BKK Centre for Budapest Transport]
Essential tips online:
www.spiceofeurope.com/budapest-essential-guide/

BUDAPEST ESSENTIAL GUIDE

TAKE IT EASY,

IT'S EASY



GET TO THE CITY



BY TAXI -

look for the licensed taxi service kiosk.



BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT -

from the airport take the direct airport shuttle 100E to the city centre - or the local bus 200E to Kőbánya-Kispest metro station, from where you can access the metro network.

TICKETS

VENDING MACHINES

are at the airport exits (all major cards are accepted). You need either a special ticket for the shuttle 100E, or a transfer ticket to the city centre using 200E + additional tickets at each transfer (except transfers within the metro network). Transfer tickets need to be validated again at the transfer.

ALWAYS VALIDATE your ticket at the entrance gates (metro) or on the vehicles (bus and tram lines). **1 SINGLE TICKET = 1 RIDE ON 1 LINE**, with no transfer (except for the metro). Buy individual tickets if you plan to travel less than 5 times (unlikely); in all other cases buy a pass!



PASSES

Unlimited journeys within their timeframe.
Recommended options:
24-HOUR PASS
72-HOUR PASS
7-DAY OR 15-DAY PASS - still better option than buying tickets!

BUDAPEST CARD

A special offer from the city that gives:

- ▶ Unlimited free travel on the Budapest public transport system
- ▶ Discounts and free entry to many museums

Available for 24, 48, or 72 hours. The Budapest Card service desk at the airport is open until 10 p.m. If you arrive later but are considering this option, you can purchase it online (www.budapestinfo.hu) or the next day in the city centre. In this case, choose tickets when heading into the city (see above).

CHANGE

Exchange only the necessary amount of money upon arrival (use cards where you can, you can change more money later at anytime).



KÜRTŐSKALÁCS: Chimney cake - sweet pleasure for the afternoons! **BEWARE:** addictive!

IN THE CITY DAY

DO

Always carry some cash in forints (If you want to use a card and it is not obvious if they are accepted, look for the usual window stickers)

Validate your public transport ticket - but not your pass

Look for prices at places, check them before ordering

Stay alert, just as you would be in any European city (or at home)

Always have photo ID with you

Use exchange bureaus in the city centre, they have the best rates

Stay away from people who offer you free items on the street; there are no free items!

DON'T

Don't travel on public transport without a validated ticket or pass - it's strictly controlled and you can be fined

Don't pay in Euros, even if a shop accepts the currency (the exchange rates are very poor and you will pay more)

Don't exchange money on the streets with random strangers since it is prohibited by law.

Don't leave your belongings unattended while traveling the country.

Don't hand over your ID card to anyone, except uniformed police or immigration officers with proper identification

Don't miss visiting one of the Budapestinfo Tourist Information Offices to learn the latest tourist info, offers and programs (see contacts)



NIGHT

DO

Ask trustworthy locals to offer authentic places to go out

Avoid flirty girls who suggest you to take them to specific entertainment spots and run up bills at visitor's expense. It's a common scam



LÁNGOS: Fried dough covered with various toppings. Fitness people **BEWARE:** lovely but stodgy.

ÚT, UTCA: road, street, avenue
TER: square
KÖRÜT: boulevard or ring road
KÖZ: alley or lane

TÚRÓ RUDI: Sweet cottage cheese snack bar, covered with chocolate.
BEWARE: you will love it or hate it!

DON'T

Don't drink alcohol in public places and do not smoke at bus/tram stops. You can be fined for doing either

Don't smoke indoors in cafes, restaurants and pubs as this is prohibited by law

Don't smoke within 5 metres of any business entrance



BASIC PHRASES

Hello/Goodbye - Szia!
(pronounced "Seeya")
Cheers! - Egészségedre!
("Egeeshgedre!")
Thanks! - Köszönöm!
("Koesoenom!")

ABOUT THE LOCALS

The locals' level of English varies, but younger people are more likely to speak it. Hungarians are frugal when it comes to smiling, but they spare nothing on being hospitable.

BEFORE LEAVING

SOUVENIRS

We recommend buying original handcrafted material, products of young designers or paprika powder and salami, as these are permitted in airline cabins. Hungarian quality wines and spirits are available at the airport departure hall for those who travel with hand luggage only. Keep in mind that your destination may refuse the entry of meat, vegetables and dairy products.

LAST MINUTE POSTCARD

There is no postal service at the airport, but if you have forgotten to send your postcards, you still can do so at the last minute at the non-stop post office at the Keleti Railway Station (accessed via the Keleti pályaudvar Metro Station).

HOW TO GET AROUND



LICENSED TAXIES

- ▶ Yellow, TAXI-sign on the roof, company logo, chequered stripe on the side, "Licensed Budapest taxi" statement, car brands vary
- ▶ Prices shown outside and inside as well
- ▶ Prices are fixed and unified
- ▶ All major credit and debit cards are accepted, check the stickers
- ▶ Crossing the Danube multiple times in one journey is suspicious, be sure that the driver isn't doing extra mileage to run up the metre.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Metro, tram, bus, trolleybus, suburban railway (HÉV), cogwheel railway, chairlift, funicular (Sikló) - and many more!

MOL BUBI

Budapest City Bike System

ON FOOT

Look left first, and **LOOK CAREFULLY**. Drivers are sometimes unwilling to stop.

DAY

MUST HAVES

- ▶ Opera House
- ▶ Hősök tere (Heroes' Square)
- ▶ House of Parliament
- ▶ Batthyány tér (photo point for the Parliament)
- ▶ St. Stephen's Basilica
- ▶ The Great Synagogue
- ▶ Buda Castle (Fisherman's Bastion, Matthias Church)
- ▶ Citadella

DAYS

- ▶ The Danube bridges (use tram line 2)
- ▶ Andrásy út
- ▶ Great Market Hall
- ▶ Váci utca
- ▶ A bath or spa
- ▶ A culinary experience
- ▶ A party

DAYS

- ▶ Broader Castle District
- ▶ A museum
- ▶ Városliget (City Park)
- ▶ Margitsziget (Margaret Island)