

Tourist information



LISZT FERENC TÉR

ON-LINE:

www.budapestinfo.hu

VIA E-MAIL:

info@budapestinfo.hu

OVER THE PHONE:

Round-the-clock information service:

06-1/438-8080

Tourinform hot-line (0-24):

from abroad: +36-30/30-30-600

from Hungary: 06-80/630-800

IN PERSON:

In the Tourinform Offices listed below:

DOWNTOWN 1 – Police Inform office

1052 Budapest, Sütő utca 2.

Open: 8 am-8 pm

DOWNTOWN 2

1061 Budapest, Liszt Ferenc tér 11.

Open: Monday-Friday: 10 am-6 pm

Saturday-Sunday: closed

CASTLE DISTRICT

1014 Budapest, Szentháromság tér

Open: 9 am-7 pm

AIRPORT TERMINAL 1

1185 Budapest, Ferihegy Airport, Terminal 1

Open: 9 am-10 pm

AIRPORT TERMINAL 2A

1185 Budapest,

Ferihegy Airport, Terminal 2A, Arrivals

Open: 9 am-10 pm

AIRPORT TERMINAL 2B

1185 Budapest, Ferihegy Airport, Terminal 2B,

Arrivals, Transit Lounge

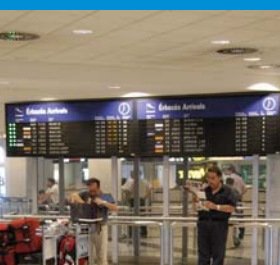
Open: 9 am-10 pm



CASTLE DISTRICT



AIRPORT TERMINAL 1



AIRPORT TERMINAL 2A



AIRPORT TERMINAL 2B



Parking your Vehicle

If you arrive in Budapest driving your own car, we suggest that you leave it in the guarded parking lot or garage of the hotel. The most practical way of getting around the city, especially if you are not familiar with Budapest, is by public transportation. Should you decide to drive, always make sure that your car is locked before walking away. Do not leave anything of value in your car, not even an empty bag, objects or articles of clothing! In all cases, take your car stereo or the faceplate with you!

Budapest is divided into various parking zones, with different parking fees applicable in each (ranging from HUF 115 to HUF 430 per hour). According to the relevant regulations, parking tickets must be purchased Monday through Friday, 8am - 6pm. You may park free of charge on Saturday, Sunday and national holidays. You may obtain your parking ticket from the vending machines. It must be displayed behind the windshield. It must be visible and legible from the outside. The minimum parking period is 15 minutes. Vendor machines provide tickets according to the amount inserted. You may not stay longer than 2-3 hours. If you need to park your car longer, we suggest you seek the so-called 'park-and-ride' (P+R) parking lots. These lots are located near major subway stations and bus terminals (head of Árpád Bridge in Pest, Nagyvárud tér, Örs vezér tere, Népliget, etc.). It is more convenient continuing your trip by public transportation from these lots.

Cars parked at unauthorized locations, without a parking ticket or with an expired ticket are subject to penalty. Penalty tickets and/or wheel-clamps may be applied by the company operating the Parking Facility or by the Fővárosi Közterületfelügyelet (Capital Public Area Directorate). A multi-lingual information sticker will be affixed on the car, informing the owner on the steps to be followed.

There are many ways you can guard your car against theft. Always have your car alarm and ignition blocking device on, park your car in a guarded lot and never leave any documents in the vehicle. Unfortunately, despite all the possible precautions, incidents might still occur. If your car was stolen, please alert the police immediately at the nearest police station in the interest of affecting the necessary steps to recover your vehicle.



Police

We hope that observing the suggestions above will allow you to avoid any possible incidents while in Budapest and any memories associated with your stay in the Hungarian capital would be pleasant ones.

If you have any problems, please contact police officers on duty. To make sure no one can abuse your trust, please keep in mind that the Hungarian police uniform consists of a light blue shirt, navy blue trousers and a baseball hat. On the right vest pocket of the uniform a badge with the word "RENDŐRSÉG" and a five digit service number can be seen while on the left side on a small metal nametag the name of the police officer can be read. On the sleeve of the shirt or jacket the insignia of the Budapest Police is sewn.

Plainclothes police are also identified by their badge and his or her credit-card sized, plastic identification card, displaying the words "RENDŐRSÉG" and "POLICE", with a circular hologram on the right corner. Our plainclothes colleagues regularly wear a reflective yellow vest with the word "POLICE".

If you need the assistance of the police:

Call the **internationally used 112** emergency number, or the number of the Hungarian Police, **107**. The call centre will be able to direct you to the nearest location where you may file your claim in a foreign language. If you are the injured party, or otherwise become involved in a police procedure, you may ask for Consular assistance through the authorities involved. Your request will be honoured immediately.

brfkbunmegelozes@orfk.b-m.hu



If you are the victim of a crime, you will be notified of your rights at the Igazságügyi Hivatal Áldozatsegítő Szolgálat (Office of Justice Victim Assistance Unit). If warranted, you may qualify for immediate financial assistance or as the victim of a violent crime be eligible for lump sum compensatory damages or a stipend.

For additional information please turn to:

06-80-244-444 (toll free in Hungary) or www.kih.gov.hu



At the following police stations a 24 hour tourism desk is available:

Ist District Police Station, 1013 Budapest, Pauler út 13.

Vth District Police Station, 1055 Budapest, Szalay utca 11-13.

XIth District Police Station, 1113 Budapest, Bocskay út 90.

XIIIth District, Budapest Police, 1135 Budapest, Szabolcs utca 36.

XIVth District Police Station, 1144 Budapest, Stefánia út 83.



Stadt der Sinne

miastem pokus

city of senses

la ville des sens

有感应都市

город ощущений

la città dei sensi

känslornas stad

sansernes by

עיר החושים

stad der zinnen

oraşul simţurilor

az érzékek városa

placer para los sentidos

město prožitků



Budapest

WELL-INFORMED IN BUDAPEST



SAFETY ADVISORY FOR THE TOURIST SEASON, ISSUED BY THE BUDAPEST POLICE DEPARTMENT, CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION AND THE TOURISM OFFICE OF BUDAPEST

The projekt has been funded by the Tourism proposed guideline.

The incredible beauty of Budapest and its numerous and diverse attractions and sights guarantee a great time and unforgettable memories. Although, compared to many other European cities, the Hungarian capital does not belong to the category of the most dangerous locations in terms of public safety, we advise that you observe the practical suggestions and tips compiled by the Budapest Police and the Budapest Tourism Office listed below, in order to be able to fully enjoy the commotion of the streets, the panorama second to none and the night-time activities.

Arrival

Whether you take a first glimpse at its building from the windows of the plane or the train, this city of myriads of highlights is likely to enchant you immediately. Enjoy the spell, but please always keep an eye on your luggage. Busy railway and bus stations, airports are frequented by thieves of opportunity everywhere, and Budapest is no exception. Never leave your belongings unattended (especially not at the airport due to security considerations). If you travel in a group, one person should always be in charge of watching the luggage. If you cannot yet proceed to your selected accommodation, but would like to do some sight-seeing, baggage lockers are available at the airport and the railway and bus stations. Do not hesitate to take advantage of these services, for a few hundred Forints you can be sure that your belongings are secure.

Transportation

How do I get into the city from the airport?

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

A direct bus line operating from Terminals 1 and 2 – the BKV's airport bus, line 200 – transports passengers to the terminal station of the M3 metro line, Kőbánya-kispest. The price for a passenger ticket for a single journey is HUF 270, if purchased from the driver, it costs HUF 350; the duration of the journey: 12-25 minutes.

The "blue" metro that departs from this location (M3) reaches the centre of the city, Deák Ferenc tér, in 20 minutes. Tickets are available at the ticket office of the metro station, or from the vending machines.

Public transportation is free of charge with the Budapest Card; the card may be purchased at the airport tourist information counter!

BY TRAIN:

For HUF 300 there is a direct train connection from Terminal 1 to Budapest-Nyugati train station (Western Train Station), duration of the journey: 30 minutes. Passenger tickets may be purchased at the Tourinform office located in Terminal 1 from 9AM until 10PM; after working hours, they may be purchased on the trains, from the conductors. **Passengers possessing a Budapest Card receive a 20% discount!**

BY AIRPORT SHUTTLE BUS:

The shuttle buses with their 9-14 passenger capacity collect passengers who have lodged geographically close to each other and ferry them to and from the airport. Consequently a longer journey duration may be expected than with a taxi cab. The fee for the shuttle bus service within the city limits of Budapest is HUF 2490/person/journey (return ticket is HUF 4390/person).

BY TAXI:

In the event that you would like to get into the city via a taxi cab, order one by telephone, you may do so from abroad even, or take advantage of the taxi cabs waiting at the exit. Additional information is provided in the Taxi chapter.

TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE TWO TERMINALS:

By the airport BKV bus – a simple passenger ticket is required (HUF 270)
 Airport shuttle bus: HUF 700/person
 By taxi: HUF 1700/ taxi



Taxi cabs

If you are not familiar with the city, it is easiest to get around by a taxi cab. In Budapest these vehicles are equipped with yellow number plates and usually have a yellow "TAXI" sign on the roof. The make and colour of the cars vary; there are no restrictions in this regard. All cabs must be equipped with a meter. It should be on and should provide you with a receipt showing the exact fare upon arrival to your destination. The fare to be paid is the sum of the initial fare, a per kilometre charge and a fee charged for idle time, if applicable. Gratuity is not included, but should be more or less equal to 10% of the total fare, if you are satisfied with the service provided.

The list of fares is visibly displayed on the back door of the cabs, on the right hand side. It should also be shown on the dashboard. The fare to be paid is made up of three components:

1. Initial fare: a fixed amount regardless the distance to be covered (not more than HUF 300 during the day and HUF 420 at night)
2. Per unit charge for every kilometre of the trip (not more than HUF 240/km during the day and HUF 336/km at night)
3. Idle time charge: The meter automatically switches to idle if the cab is stopped or travels at 15 km/h or less. (HUF 60/min during the day and HUF 84/min at night).

Major cab companies offer their services much below the ceiling prices listed above. You should therefore take a note of their phone numbers. Also, pre-ordered cabs offer lower rates and are more trustworthy than those hailed. When ordering a taxi, ask for the assistance of your hotel reception and do not necessarily listen to the "advice" of the taxi driver when seeking a bar or club. We suggest that you first make inquiries in this regard at your hotel.

Budataxi	2-333-333	www.budataxi.hu
Budapest Taxi	4-333-333	www.budapesttaxi.hu
City Taxi	2-111-111	www.citytaxi.hu
Főtaxi	2-222-222	www.fotaxi.hu
Mobil Taxi	333-1757	www.mobiltaxi.hu
Rádió Taxi	3-777-777	www.radiotaxi.hu
Taxi 2000	2-000-000	www.taxi2000.hu
Taxi4	4-444-444	www.taxi4.hu
Tele5Taxi	5-555-555	www.tele5taxi.hu
Volán Taxi	4-33-33-22	www.volantaxi.hu
6x6 Taxi	2-666-666	www.6x6taxi.hu
Zóna Taxi	3-655-555	www.zonataxi.eu

Passengers arriving to Ferihegy airport should avoid cabbies offering their services in the terminals at rates considerably higher than the maximum tariff. If you decide to take a cab downtown, order one by telephone, this can be done, naturally, from abroad, or utilise the Zóna (Zone) taxis awaiting passengers at the taxi stand by the exit, which operate at a pre-fixed price between the airport and the four various zones of the capital. The zone tariffs range from HUF 4500 to HUF 4700 (21-22 EUR).



Public transportation

Budapest takes pride in its very well-developed public transportation network. Services are cheap, so you should consider riding a bus, a tram or the subway while getting around in the city. However, some precautions are warranted if you are travelling on a crowded vehicle, as these are often frequented by pickpockets. We suggest that you keep any articles of value and your purse in an inner pocket of your clothing. Never have a significant amount of cash on you. If it is absolutely necessary carrying large sums of cash, have it stored in different pockets. Make sure that your documents are kept in your pocket out of reach, and have your bags and purses zipped all the time.

In the city it is not necessary to carry your passport with you, you can leave that behind inside the hotel safe; it is enough to have a picture ID, your license for example. After a tiring day it can also come in handy to have jotted down the name and address of your hotel.

Feel free to use your credit or ATM cards. These are accepted by all major stores, and ATMs can be found all over downtown Budapest. Another safe method of payment is Travellers Cheque, also accepted by most of the hotels.



Ticket Control

You need a pre-purchased ticket or pass to travel on the vehicles of BKV (Budapest Transportation Services). When you get on the vehicle (or upon entering the subway station) you need to validate your ticket. Machines either punch the ticket or validate it by cutting the corner and stamping the date and time of travel on it.

To be able to get well acquainted with the city, we suggest that you opt for the so-called Budapest Card, available at the major subway ticket offices, tourist information centres, hotels and travel agencies. It is valid for unlimited travel on public transportation vehicles for 48 or 72 hours, and also offers free or discounted entrance to museums and other valuable savings on tourist attractions.

BKV (Budapest Public Transportation Services) also has a wide variety of tickets and passes (including transfer tickets, subway section tickets, discount coupon books and one day tickets) to make travelling even more economical. These may be purchased at subway stations, ticket vendor machines, newsstands and tobacco stores. The widest array is available at the subway stations. The price list posted there offers abundant information to help you select the most appropriate ticket or pass. When selecting the appropriate ticket, please take into consideration that when utilising any of the means of transportation a new ticket must be validated (for example when transferring to another metro line)! The use of the Budapest Card is recommended!

Tickets are often checked on the vehicles or at the subway exits by controllers wearing an arm-band and a photo-ID (Controllers usually work in pairs, but at subway exits groups of 4-5 controllers are also common). You should always keep your ticket till you exit the vehicle or leave the premises of the subway station. Besides those travelling without a ticket, a penalty must be paid by all those who present an invalid (expired, not validated or illegible) ticket or pass.

Currency exchange

Although many services and stores accept Euro or dollar bills, the official currency of the Hungarian Republic is still going to be the Hungarian Forint (HUF) for the next couple of years. So, if you need cash during your stay, you need to exchange your currency. Currency exchange is strictly regulated in Hungary and only service providers holding the appropriate licenses may engage in this activity. Exchange offices located near most of the major attractions, banks, the reception desks of certain hotels and Exchange Machines are all there to serve you. Their exchange rates may slightly differ, but hardly ever by more than a percent or two. Before carrying out a transaction, always inquire about commission rates or other applicable surcharges, and also ask if the rates displayed are valid regardless the amount to be exchanged.

Occasionally, swindlers appear in the crowd or close to railway station, offering better exchange rates than those of the official establishments. Their activities are not only illegal, but may also inflict a loss on you. The stack of banknotes given by them in exchange for the currency often contains useless pieces of newspaper – a fact that is hardly ever noticed by the tourist on the spot.

We suggest that you keep most of your cash in the safe of the hotel and have only a small amount on you, only as much as you deem necessary to be able to spend the day comfortably.



Restaurants and Bars

Every tourist seeks to sample the special flavours of the country and remember the best moments of a hectic day relaxing in a restaurant with a charming atmosphere. The wide array of flavours specific to Hungarian cuisine are well-known and acknowledged world-wide, so why would you miss tasting the renowned Goulash, Fish Soup, Paprika Chicken, Somló Sponge Cake, or miss savouring the famous wines of Tokaj?

In most of the restaurants guests are served by waiters speaking several languages and multi-lingual menu cards are available. To avoid any misunderstanding it is worth studying carefully the price list that hangs by law on a sign by the entrance, and the menu inside, including any postscript printed in smaller letters before settling for a restaurant. The bill you receive must contain a detailed list of everything you had consumed. Should there be any discrepancies, do not hesitate to discuss it with the waiter.

You should also note that gratuities are usually not included in the bill; however, a 10% extra is most often expected. If the service charge is already included in the bill, you will be informed about it on the menu.

Be leery of ordering anything at the invitation of attractive young ladies on the street, in bars or restaurants, as venues that they recommend frequently apply misleading pricing and damage their guests with enormous bills.

