

# Directory

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## ACCOMMODATION

Except during the peak summer season (ie July and most of August) in Budapest, most of Lake Balaton, the Danube Bend and the Mátra Hills, you should have no problem finding accommodation to fit your budget in Hungary. Camp sites are plentiful, university and college dormitories open their doors to guests during summer and other holiday periods, former trade-union holiday homes have been converted into hostels and cheap hotels, and family-run *pensions* have sprung up everywhere. Paying-guest services (p367) are available everywhere, too.

In this book budget accommodation – camp sites, hostels, *pensions* and cheap hotels – is anything under 7500Ft (€30) a night in the provinces and under 12,000Ft (€49) in Budapest; midrange (usually *pen-*

*sions* and hotels) is between 8000Ft and 15,500Ft (€31 and €63) in the counties and 12,500Ft to 25,000Ft (€50 to €102) in the capital; and top end is anything over 16,000Ft (€64) outside Budapest and over 25,500Ft (€104) in the city.

The price quoted should be the price you pay, but it's not as cut and dried. Tourist offices and travel agencies usually charge a small fee for booking a private room or other accommodation, and there's usually a surcharge on the first night if you stay for less than three nights. Most cities and towns now levy a local tourist tax of 160Ft to 300Ft per person per night (3% in Budapest for those aged 18 to 70), though sometimes only after the first night or two. People under 18 and over 70 years of age are usually exempt. Some top-end hotels in Budapest do not include the 15% Value Added Tax (VAT) in their rack rates; make sure you read the fine print. In the past, all hotels and *pensions* included breakfast in their rates, but this is not always true today.

Inflation is running at about 7% at the time of writing, so prices will almost certainly be higher than those quoted in this book, although they shouldn't change much when quoted in euros, and the relative differences between various establishments in forint should stay the same. The room rate usually increases in April for the summer season – sometimes by as much as 30%. High-season prices have been listed throughout this book.

## Camping

The handy *Hungary Camping Map* published by the Hungarian National Tourist Office (HNTO; p376) lists some 425 camp sites of various sizes across the country, and these are the cheapest places to stay. Small, private camp sites accommodating as few as a dozen tents are usually preferable to the large and very noisy 'official' sites. Prices for two adults plus tent vary from as low as 1800Ft off the beaten track in Western Transdanubia to five times that amount on Lake Balaton in the height of summer.

Most camp sites open from April or May to September or October, and also rent

## PRACTICALITIES

- Budapest counts three English-language weekly newspapers: the long-established tabloid *Budapest Sun* (www.budapestsun.com; 399Ft), appearing on Thursday, with a useful classified section and *Style* arts and entertainment supplement; the *Budapest Business Journal* (www.bbj.hu; 575Ft), an almost archival publication of financial news and business, appearing on Monday; and the *Budapest Times* (www.budapesttimes.hu; 420Ft), the new kid on the block, with good reviews and opinion pieces, including 'The Weekly Stink' by local gadfly Erik D'Amato, also appearing on Monday.
- Radio broadcasts are available with Hungarian Radio/Radio Budapest (www.english.radio.hu) in English daily from 1pm to 1.30pm on 9590 kHz, from 2.30am to 3am on 9795 kHz, and from 7pm to 7.30pm on 3975 kHz and 6025 kHz. On Sunday it broadcasts from 1am to 1.30am on 9560 kHz, and from 3 to 3.30pm on 6025 kHz and 9655 kHz.
- Plug your hairdryer or travel kettle into a standard European adaptor with two round pins before connecting to electricity supply (220V, 50Hz AC).
- Hungary uses the metric system for weights and measures (see the conversion table under Quick Reference on the inside front cover).

*üdölőházak* or *faházak* (small bungalows) from 1000/2000Ft per person without/with shower. In midsummer the bungalows may all be booked, so it pays to check with the local Tourinform office before making the trip. A Camping Card International will sometimes get you a discount of up to 10%. Camping 'wild' is prohibited in Hungary.

For more information, contact the **Hungarian Camping and Caravanning Club** (MCCC; Map p84; ☎ 1-267 5255; mccc@mccc.hu; VIII Mária utca 34, 2nd fl) in Budapest. A useful website is www.camping.hu.

## Farmhouses

'Village tourism', which means staying at a farmhouse, can be even cheaper than a private room in a town or city, but most of the places are truly remote and you'll usually need your own transport. For information contact Tourinform, the **National Federation of Rural & Agrotourism** (FATOSZ; Map p84; ☎ /fax 1-352 9804; www.fatosz.hu; VII Király utca 93) or the **Centre of Rural Tourism** (Map pp80-1; ☎ 1-321 2426; www.falutur.hu; VII Dohány utca 86) in Budapest.

## Hostels

Despite all the places listed in the handbook of the Budapest-based **Hungarian Youth Hostel Association** (MISZSZ; Map p86; ☎ 1-411 2392; www.youthhostels.hu; V Molnár utca 3), a Hostelling International (HI) card (or equivalent) doesn't get you very far in Hungary. With the exception of those in Budapest, most of

the *ifjúsági szállók* (youth hostels) are in places well off the beaten track. Generally, the only official year-round hostels are in Budapest. A useful website is www.youthhostels.hu.

Dormitory beds in a hostel cost 2000Ft to 5000Ft per person and doubles 6000Ft to 12,000Ft in Budapest; the prices drop considerably in the countryside. An HI card is not required, although holders will sometimes get 10% off the price or not be required to pay the tourist tax. There's no age limit at hostels, which usually remain open all day. The hostels almost always have cooking and laundry facilities, as well as free or very cheap Internet access.

## Hotels

Hotels, called *szállók* or *szállodák*, run the gamut from luxurious five-star palaces to the run-down old socialist-era hovels that still survive in some towns. Breakfast is usually included.

A cheap hotel will often be more expensive than a private room, but it may be the answer if you're only staying one night or if you arrive too late to get a private room through an agency. Two-star hotels usually have rooms with a private bathroom; it's always down the hall in a one-star place. Three- and four-star hotels – many of which are new or newly renovated old villas – can be excellent value compared with those in other European countries.

For the big splurge, or if you're romantically inclined, check out Hungary's network of *kastély szállók* (castle hotels) or *kúria szállók* (mansion hotels).

## Pensions

Privately run *panziók* (*pensions*), which have formed the biggest growth area in the Hungarian hospitality trade over the past decade, are really just little hotels of up to a dozen or so rooms, charging from an average 8500Ft for a double with shower. They are usually new and very clean, and often have an attached restaurant. As they are often outside the centre, *pensions* are usually best for those travelling under their own steam, and visitors from Austria and Germany seem to favour them. A useful website (in Hungarian only) is www.panzio.lap.hu.

## Private Rooms

Hungary's *fizetővendég szolgálat* ('paying-guest service') offers a great deal and is still relatively cheap, but with the advent of *pensions* it's not as widespread as it once was. For a single/double expect to pay from 2000Ft to 4200Ft (from 4500Ft to 6500Ft in Budapest) depending on the class and location of the room. Private rooms at Lake Balaton are always more expensive, even in the shoulder seasons. Single rooms are often hard to come by, and you'll usually have to pay a 30% supplement on the first night if you stay less than three or four days.

Private rooms are usually assigned by travel agencies. There are often several agencies offering rooms, so ask around if the price seems higher than usual or the location inconvenient. In resort areas look for houses with signs reading '*szoba kiadó*' or '*Zimmer frei*', advertising private rooms in Hungarian or German.

If you decide to take a private room, you'll share a house or flat with a Hungarian widow, couple or family. The toilet facilities are usually communal, but otherwise you can close your door and enjoy as much privacy as you please. All 1st- and some 2nd- and 3rd-class rooms have shared kitchen facilities. In Budapest you may have to take a room far from the city centre. Some agencies also have entire flats or holiday homes for rent without the owner in residence. These can be a good deal if there are four or more of you travelling together.

## BOOK ACCOMMODATION ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

## University Accommodation

From 1 July to 20 August (or later) and sometimes during the Easter holidays Hungary's cheapest rooms are available at vacant student dormitories, known as a *kollégium* or *diák szálló*, where beds in double, triple and quadruple rooms start as low as 1200Ft per person. There's no need to show a student or hostel card, and it usually won't get you a discount anyway. Facilities are usually – but not always – shared.

## ACTIVITIES

Hungary offers an extensive range of activities, from cycling and canoeing to bird-watching and 'taking the waters' at one of the nation's many thermal spas. For details, see p48.

## BUSINESS HOURS

With rare exceptions, the opening hours, or *nyitvatartás*, of any concern are posted on the front door; *nyitva* means 'open' and *zárva* 'closed'.

Grocery stores and supermarkets open from about 7am to 6pm or 7pm on Monday to Friday, and department stores generally from 10am to 6pm. Most shops stay open until 8pm on Thursday, but on Saturday they usually close at 1pm. That's changing, however, and some food shops even open for several hours now on Sunday. Many private retail shops close early on Friday and throughout most of August.

Restaurant opening hours vary tremendously across the country but are essentially from 10am or 11am to 11pm or midnight daily. Bars are equally variable but are usually open from 11am to midnight Sunday to Thursday and until 1am or 2am on Friday and Saturday. Nightclubs usually open from 4pm to 2am Sunday to Thursday and until 4am on Friday and Saturday.

Banking hours change from institution to location but banks usually operate from 7.45am to 5pm or 6pm Monday, 7.45am to 4pm or 5pm Tuesday to Thursday and from 7.45am to 4pm on Friday. The main post office in any town or city opens from 8am to 6pm weekdays, and until noon on Saturday. Branch offices close much earlier – usually at 4pm – and are almost never open on weekends.

Almost all towns and cities have at least one 'nonstop' – a convenience store, open round-the-clock (or very early/late), and selling basic food items, drinks and tobacco. Most of the hyper-supermarkets outside the big cities, such as Tesco, open on Sunday.

## CHILDREN

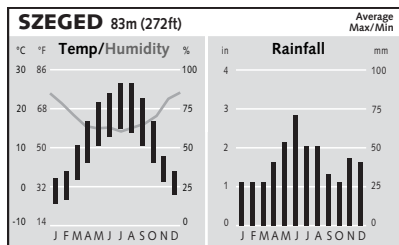
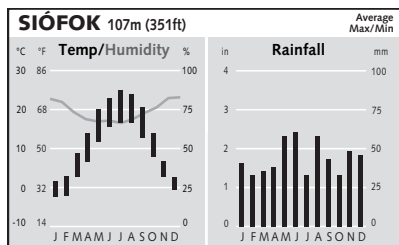
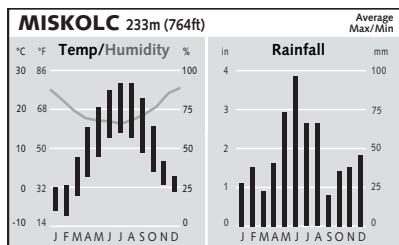
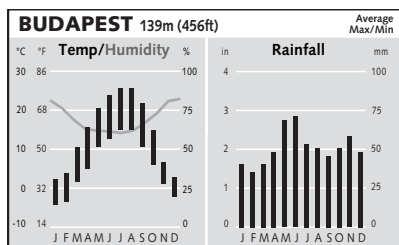
Successful travel with young children requires planning and effort. Don't try to overdo things; even for adults, packing too much into the time available can cause problems. And make sure the activities include the kids as well – balance that morning at Budapest's Museum of Fine Arts, with an afternoon at the nearby Municipal Great Circus, a performance at the Budapest Puppet Theatre or even a stroll through the West End City Centre mall, which has lots of things to distract children. Include children in the trip planning; if they've helped to work out where you will be going, they'll be much more interested when they get there. Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* is a good source of information.

All car-rental firms in Hungary have children's safety seats for hire for about €20 per rental; make sure you book them in advance. The same goes for highchairs and cots (cribs).

## CLIMATE CHARTS

In general, winters in Hungary are cold, cloudy and damp or windy, and summers are warm – sometimes very hot (see Getting Started for more information, p12). July and August are the hottest months (average temperature 26°C) and January the coldest (-4°C). The number of hours of sunshine averages between 1900 and 2500 a year – among the highest in Europe. The average annual precipitation is about 650mm.

The climate charts in this chapter show you what to expect and when to expect it. For information on specific weather conditions



nationwide, contact the **national weather forecast service** (☎ 1-346 4600, 06 90 504 001; www.met.hu in Hungarian).

## COURSES Language

The granddaddy of all Hungarian language schools is the **Debrecen Summer University** (Debreceni Nyári Egyetem; ☎ 52-532 594; www.nyariegyetem.hu; Egyetem tér 1) in Debrecen. It organises intensive two- and four-week courses in July

and August, 80-hour, two-week intensive courses in January and a super-intensive two-week course in May/June. The two-/four-week (60-/120-hour) summer courses cost €390/760; board and lodging in a triple room costs €90/180 (singles and doubles are available at extra cost). There's also now a Budapest branch (p101).

For details on reliable schools teaching Hungarian to foreigners in Budapest, see p101.

## CUSTOMS

Duty-free shopping within the EU was abolished in 1999 and Hungary, as an EU member, now adheres to the rules. You cannot, for example, buy tax-free goods in, say, Poland or France and take them to Hungary. However, you can still enter an EU country with duty-free items from countries outside the EU.

The usual allowances apply to duty-free goods purchased at airports or on ferries originating outside the EU: 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 250g of loose tobacco; 2L of still wine and 1L of spirits; 100mL of perfume; 250cc of eau de toilette. You must declare the import/export of any amount of cash, cheques, securities etc exceeding the sum of 1,000,000Ft.

When leaving the country, you are not supposed to take out valuable antiques without a 'museum certificate', which should be available from the place of purchase.

## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

As a traveller, you are most vulnerable to pickpockets, dishonest waiters, car thieves and the scams of the capital's so-called *konzumlányok*, attractive 'consume girls' in collusion with rip-off bars and clubs who will see you relieved of a serious chunk of money (p69).

Pick pocketing is most common at popular tourist sights, near major hotels, in flea markets and on certain forms of public transport in Budapest (p69). The usual method on the street is for someone to distract you by running into you and then apologetically profusely – as an accomplice takes off with the goods.

It is not unknown for waiters to try to rip you off once they see/hear that you are a foreigner. They may try to bring you an unordered dish or make a 'mistake' when

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Ambulance ☎ 104
- Central emergency number (English spoken) ☎ 112
- English-language crime hotline ☎ 1-438 8080 (8am-8pm), 06 80 660 044 (8pm-8am)
- Fire ☎ 105
- Police ☎ 107
- 24-hour car assistance ☎ 188

tallying the bill. If you think there's a discrepancy, ask for the menu and check the bill carefully. If you've been taken for more than 15% or 20% of the bill, call for the manager. Otherwise just don't leave a tip (p374).

Most Hungarian car thieves are not after fancy Western models because of the difficulty in getting rid of them. But Volkswagens, Audis and the like are very popular, and are easy to dismantle and ship abroad. Don't leave anything of value, including luggage, inside the car.

For important telephone numbers to know in an emergency anywhere in Hungary, see boxed text above.

## DISABLED TRAVELLERS

Hungary has made great strides in recent years in making public areas and facilities more accessible to the disabled. Wheelchair ramps, toilets fitted for the disabled and inward opening doors, though not as common as they are in Western Europe, do exist and audible traffic signals for the blind are becoming commonplace in the cities.

For more information, contact the **Hungarian Federation of Disabled Persons' Associations** (MEOSZ; Map pp78-9; ☎ 1-250 9013, 388 2387; www.meoszinfo.hu; III San Marco utca 76) in Budapest.

## DISCOUNT CARDS Hostel Cards

The Hungarian Youth Hostel Association (p366) and branches of the Express travel agency chain issue HYHA cards valid for a year to Hungarian citizens and residents for 2300Ft, which includes a 300Ft NeoPhone phonecard.

## Hungary Card

Those planning on travelling extensively in the country might consider buying a **Hungary Card** (☎ 1-266 3741, 267-0896; www.hungarycard.hu), which gives free admission to many museums nationwide; 50% discounts on a half-dozen return train fares and some bus and boat travel, as well as other museums and attractions; up to 20% off selected accommodation; and 50% off the price of the Budapest Card (p67). The card, available at Tourinform offices nationwide, costs 8395Ft and is valid for 13 months.

## Student, Youth & Teacher Cards

The **International Student Identity Card** (ISIC; www.isic.org), a plastic ID-style card with your photograph, provides bona fide students many discounts on certain forms of transport, and cheap admission to museums and other sights. If you're aged under 26 but not a student, you can apply for ISIC's International Youth Travel Card (IYTC; 1300Ft) or the Euro<26 card (1600Ft valid for summer break, 2200Ft for year) issued by the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), both of which offer the same discounts as the student card. Teachers can apply for the International Teacher Identity Card (ITIC; 1300Ft).

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

### Hungarian Embassies & Consulates

Hungarian embassies (and consulates as indicated) around the world include the following. For further information (and a longer list), see www.mfa.gov.hu.

**Australia** Canberra (☎ 02-6282 2555; hungcbr@ozemail.com.au; 17 Beale Cres, Deakin, ACT 2600); Sydney (☎ 02-9328 7859; info@hunconsydney.com; Ste 405, Edgecliff Centre, 203-233 New South Head Rd, Edgecliff, NSW 2027)

**Austria** (☎ 01-537 80 300; kom@huembvie.at;

1 Bankgasse 4-6, A-1010 Vienna)

**Canada** Ottawa (☎ 613-230 9614; sysadmin@huembott.org; 299 Waverley St, Ottawa, ON K2P 0V9); Toronto

(☎ 416-923 8981; hungarian.consulate@bellnet.ca;

Ste 1115, 121 Bloor St East, Toronto, ON M4W 3M5)

**Croatia** (☎ 01-489 0900; secretary@hungemb.hr;

Pantovčak 255-257, 10000 Zagreb)

**France** (☎ 01-56 36 07 54; webmaster@amb-hongrie.fr; 7-9 square Vergennes, 75015 Paris)

**Germany** Berlin (☎ 030-203 100; info@ungarische-

botschaft.de; Unter den Linden 76, D-10117 Berlin);

Munich (☎ 089-911 032; huconmuc@t-online.de;

Vollmannstrasse 2, 81927 Munich)

**Ireland** (☎ 01-661 2902; hungarian.embassy@eircom.net; 2 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2)

**Netherlands** (☎ 070-350 04 04; info@hungarianembassy.nl; Hoogeweg 14, 2585 JD The Hague)

**Romania** (☎ 01-311 0062; hunembro@ines.ro; Strada Dr Prof Dimitrie Gerota 63-65, Bucharest 70202)

**Serbia & Montenegro** (☎ 011-244 0472; hunemblg@eunet.yu; ul Krunska 72, Belgrade 11000)

**Slovakia** (☎ 02-59 20 52 00; pozsony@embhung.sk; ul Sedlárska 3, 81425 Bratislava)

**Slovenia** (☎ 01-512 1882; huemblju@siol.net; Konrada Babnika ulica 5, 1210 Ljubljana-Sentvid)

**South Africa** (☎ 012-430 3030; huembpr@mweb.co.za; 959 Arcadia St, Hatfield, 0083 Pretoria)

**UK** London embassy (☎ 020-7235 5218; office@huemblon.org.uk; 35 Eaton Place, London SW1X 8BY); London

consulate (☎ 020-7235 2664; consulate@huemblon.org.uk; 35/b Eaton Place, London SW1X 8BY)

**Ukraine** (☎ 044-230 8000; hungary@kiev.farlep.net; ul Rejtarskaja 33, Kyiv 01034)

**USA** Washington (☎ 202-362 6730; office@huembwas.org; 3910 Shoemaker St NW, Washington, DC 20008); New York

(☎ 212-752 0669; huncons@humisny.org; 223 East 52nd St, New York, NY 10022); Los Angeles (☎ 310-473 9344;

huconlos@mpowercom.net; Ste 410, 11766 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025)

## Embassies & Consulates in Hungary

Selected countries with representation in Budapest (where the telephone code is ☎ 1) are listed here. The opening hours indicate when consular or chancellery services are available to the public. The Roman numerals preceding the street name indicate the *kerület* (district) in the capital.

**Australia** (☎ 457 9777; XII Királyhágó tér 8-9, 4th fl; ☎ 9-11am Mon-Fri)

**Austria** (☎ 413 0240; VI Benczúr utca 16; ☎ 8-10am Mon-Fri)

**Canada** (☎ 392 3360; II Ganz utca 12-14; ☎ 8.30-11am & 2-3.30pm Mon-Thu)

**Croatia** (☎ 269 5657; VI Munkácsy Mihály utca 15; ☎ 1-3pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri)

**France** (☎ 374 1100; VI Lendvay utca 27; ☎ 9am-noon Mon-Fri)

**Germany** (☎ 488 3505; I Úri utca 64-66; ☎ 9am-noon Mon-Fri)

**Ireland** (☎ 301 4960; Bank Center, Granite Tower, 7th fl, V Szabadság tér 7; ☎ 9.30am-12.30pm & 2.30-4.30pm Mon-Fri)

**Netherlands** (☎ 336-6300; II Füge utca 5-7; ☎ 10am-noon Mon-Fri)

**Romania** (☎ 384 0271; XIV Thököly út 72; ☎ 8.30am-noon Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri) Enter from Izsó utca.

**Serbia & Montenegro** (☎ 322 1436; VI Dózsa György út 92/b; ☎ 10am-1pm Mon-Fri)

**Slovakia** (☎ 273 3500; XIV Gervay utca 44; ☎ 8.30am-noon Mon-Fri)

**Slovenia** (☎ 438 5600; II Csátárka köz 9; ☎ 9am-noon Mon-Fri)

**South Africa** (☎ 392 0999; II Gárdonyi Géza út 17; ☎ 9am-12.30pm Mon-Fri)

**UK** (☎ 266 2888; V Harmincad utca 6; ☎ 9.30am-12.30pm & 2.30-4.30pm Mon-Fri)

**Ukraine** (☎ 422 2122; XIV Stefánia út 77; ☎ 9am-12pm Mon-Wed & Fri by appointment only)

**USA** (☎ 475 4164; V Szabadság tér 12; ☎ 1-4.30pm Mon-Thu, 9am-noon & 1-4pm Fri)

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Hungary's most outstanding annual events include the following. For more detailed coverage, pick up a copy of the HNTO's annual *Events Calendar* available from Tourinform offices.

### FEBRUARY/MARCH

**Busójárás** (www.mohacs.hu) Pre-Lenten carnival involving anthropomorphic costumes, held in Mohács on the weekend before Ash Wednesday.

### MARCH

**Budapest Spring Festival** (www.festivalcity.hu)

Hungary's largest cultural festival, with some 200 events staged at 60 venues throughout the capital.

### MARCH/APRIL

**Hollókó Easter Festival** (www.holloko.hu) Traditional costumes and folk traditions welcome in spring at this World Heritage listed village.

### MAY

**Balaton Festival** (info@goldmarkmk.hu) Pop and classical music and street theatre to usher in the summer season at Keszthely.

### JUNE

**Hungarian Dance Festival** (www.nemzetitanacszinah.hu/english/festivals.php) The nation's most prestigious festival of dance held biannually in Győr.

**Sopron Festival Weeks** (www.prokultura.hu) Theatre, quiet music, folk dancing and a handicraft fair, held in Sopron.

### JULY

**International Danube Folklore Festival**

(dunafest@freemail.hu) Authentic folk music and dance, with performers from around Hungary and Europe, held in Kalocsa, Baja and Szekszárd.

**Martonvásár Days** (www.filharmonikusok.hu) The National Philharmonic performs Beethoven at Brunswick Mansion in Martonvásár, where Ludwig van himself once slept.

**Szeged Open-Air Festival** (www.szeged.hu) The most celebrated open-air festival in Hungary, with opera, ballet, classical music and folk dancing, held in Szeged.

**Winged Dragon Week International Street Theatre Festival** (www.szarnyas-sarkany.hu) Some 50 music and puppet performances held in and around historical buildings in Nyírbátor in the Northeast.

### AUGUST

**Debrecen Flower Carnival** (www.debrecen.hu) Week-long spectacular in Debrecen kicked off by parade of flower floats on St Stephen's Day (20 August).

**Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix** (www.hungaroring.hu) Hungary's prime sporting event held in Magyarórod, 24km northeast of Budapest.

**Haydn Festival** (www.artsfestivals.hu) A week of classical music performance at the Esterházy Palace in Fertőd.

**Hortobágy Bridge Fair** (phhort@externet.hu) This 100-year-old fair in Hortobágy has dance, street theatre, folklore performances, and the occasional horse and pony.

**Jászberény Summer** (www.extra.hu/dmkh) Some 10 days of folk music and dancing, including the celebrated Csángó Festival, held in Jászberény.

**Sziget Music Festival** (www.sziget.hu) Now one of the biggest and most popular music festivals in Europe, held on Budapest's Hajógyár Island.

**Zemplén Art Days** Classical music festival launched by the Ferenc Liszt Chamber Orchestra and held in venues around the region, especially Sárospatak.

### SEPTEMBER

**Debrecen Jazz Days** (titkarsag@fonixcsarnok.hu) Held in Debrecen, this is the oldest jazz festival in the country and attracts performers from all over the world.

**Vintage and grape harvest festivals** These bacchanalias are held in wine-growing areas throughout Hungary. The **Sopron Harvest Days** (www.prokultura.hu), held in that Transdanubian city, are just one example.

### NOVEMBER

**Miskolc Autumn Cultural Days** (www.miskolc.hu) Jazz, pop and rock music, literary and theatrical performances, and exhibitions of photography and of industrial art take place throughout Miskolc for a week.

## FOOD

Hungary has a varied, world-class cuisine and a wine-making tradition that goes back to the time of the Romans. For details, see p53.

## GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

There's not much gay life beyond Budapest (p116) unless you take it along with you, but the Budapest-biased freebie pamphlet **Na Végre!** lists a handful of venues in the *vidék* (countryside); check out **At Last!** (navegre@hotmail.com). Pick it up at gay venues in Budapest or contact them directly. Other useful websites, though primarily focused on Budapest, include: [www.budapestgayvisitor.hu](http://www.budapestgayvisitor.hu) and <http://budapest.gayguide.net>.

The **Háttér Gay & Lesbian Association** (☎ 1-329 3380, 06 40 200 358; [www.hatter.hu](http://www.hatter.hu); ☎ 6-11pm) has an advice and helpline operating daily. **Budapest gayguide.net** (☎ 06 30 932 3334; [budapestgayguide.net](http://budapestgayguide.net); ☎ 4-8pm Mon-Fri Apr-Oct) can offer advice and/or provide information via email or, seasonally, by telephone. A lesbian website is [www.labrisz.hu](http://www.labrisz.hu), but it's in Hungarian only.

## HOLIDAYS

### Public Holidays

Hungary celebrates 10 *ünnepek* (public holidays) each year:

**New Year's Day** 1 January

**1848 Revolution/National Day** 15 March

**Easter Monday** March/April

**International Labour Day** 1 May

**Whit Monday** May/June

**St Stephen's/Constitution Day** 20 August

**1956 Remembrance Day/Republic Day** 23 October

**All Saints' Day** 1 November

**Christmas holidays** 25-26 December

### School Holidays

Hungarian school holidays fall during autumn (first week of November), over the Christmas and New Year period (12 days from around 22 December to 2 January), over Easter (one week in March/April) and, of course, in summer (11 weeks from 15 June to 31 August).

## INSURANCE

A travel insurance policy to cover theft, loss and medical problems is a good idea. There is a wide variety of policies available, so check the small print.

You may prefer a policy that pays doctors or hospitals directly rather than you having to pay on the spot and claim later. If you have to claim later, make sure you keep all documentation. Some policies ask you to call back (reverse charges) to a centre in your home country where an immediate

assessment of your problem can be made. For information on vehicle insurance, see p385, and for health insurance, p391.

Worldwide cover to travellers for over 44 countries is available online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services).

## INTERNET ACCESS

The Internet has arrived in a big way in Hungary, and the blue signs announcing '*eMagyarország Pont*' are telling you that you can log on somewhere in the vicinity – be it via a free access terminal, at a commercial Internet café or at a wifi hotspot. Many libraries in Hungary have free terminals; at hotels you usually have to pay to use the service. It's hit or miss with hostels, but most now have at least one terminal available to guests either for free or for a nominal sum. Commercial Internet cafés, where rates cost 200Ft to 700Ft per hour, abound in Budapest. Their numbers are more limited elsewhere in Hungary, but you'll almost always find one. Check the Information section of cities and towns throughout this book.

If you're travelling with your own notebook or hand-held computer, remember that the power-supply voltage in Hungary may vary from that at home, risking damage to your equipment. The best investment is a universal AC adaptor for your appliance, which will enable you to plug it in anywhere. You'll also need a plug adaptor for European outlets; it's often easiest to buy these before you leave home.

For the best sites to check out before arriving in Hungary, see p15.

## LEGAL MATTERS

Those violating Hungarian laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested and/or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use or trafficking in illegal drugs in Hungary are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

Another law that is taken very seriously here is the 100% ban on alcohol when driving. Do not think you will get away with even a few glasses of wine at lunch; police conduct routine roadside checks with breathalysers and if you are found to have even 0.001% of alcohol in your blood, you will be fined up to 30,000Ft on the spot. If the level is high, you will be arrested and your licence almost certainly taken away.

## COMING OF AGE

The legal age for voting, driving an automobile and drinking alcohol is 18. In 2004 the age of consent for gays and lesbians was lowered to 14 to come into line with that of heterosexual couples.

In the event of an accident, the drinking party is automatically regarded as guilty.

## MAPS

Hungary's largest map-making company, **Cartographia** ([www.cartographia.hu](http://www.cartographia.hu)), publishes a useful 1:450,000-scale sheet map (570Ft) of the country, and its *Magyarország autó-atlasza* (Road Atlas of Hungary) is indispensable if you plan to do a lot of travelling in the countryside by car. It comes in two sizes and scales – 1:360,000 (2100Ft) and 1:250,000 (2600Ft). The former has thumbnail plans of virtually every community in the land, while the larger-scale atlas has 23 city maps. Bookshops in Hungary generally stock a wide variety of maps, or you could go directly to the **Cartographia** (☎ 312 6001; [www.cartographia.hu](http://www.cartographia.hu); VI Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 37; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; ☑ M3 Arany János utca) outlet in Budapest.

Cartographia also produces national, regional and hiking maps (average scales 1: 40,000 or 1:60,000), as well as city plans (1: 10,000 to 1:20 000; around 590Ft each). Smaller companies such as Topográf, Magyar Térképész and Nyír-Karta also publish excellent city and specialised maps.

Since 1989 many streets, parks and squares have been renamed. For more details, see the boxed text on p65.

## MONEY

The Hungarian currency is the forint (Ft) and today there are coins of 1Ft, 2Ft, 5Ft, 10Ft, 20Ft, 50Ft and 100Ft. Notes come in seven denominations: 200Ft, 500Ft, 1000Ft, 2000Ft, 5000Ft, 10,000Ft and 20,000Ft.

The green 200Ft note features the 14th-century king Charles Robert and his castle at Diósgyőr near Miskolc. The hero of the independence wars, Ferenc Rákóczi II, and Sárospatak Castle are on the burgundy-coloured 500Ft note.

The 1000Ft note is blue and bears a portrait of King Matthias Corvinus, with Hercules Well at Visegrád Castle on the verso. The

17th-century prince of Transylvania Gábor Bethlen is on his own on one side of the 2000Ft bill and meeting with his advisers on the other.

The 'greatest Hungarian', Count István Széchenyi, and his family home at Nagycenk are on the purple 5000Ft note. The 10,000Ft bears a likeness of King Stephen, with a scene in Esztergom appearing on the other side. The 20,000Ft note, currently the highest denomination, has Ferenc Deák, the architect of the 1867 Compromise, on the recto and the erstwhile House of Commons in Pest (now the Italian Institute of Culture on VIII Bródy Sándor utca) on the verso.

## ATMs

ATMs accepting most credit and cash cards are everywhere in Hungary, even in small villages, and all the banks listed in the Information sections in this guide have them. The best ones to use are the Euronet ATMs as they dispense sums in units of 5000Ft. Many of the ATMs at branches of Országos Takarékpénztár (OTP), the national savings bank, give out 20,000Ft notes, which are difficult to break.

## Cash

Nothing beats cash for convenience – or risk. It's always prudent to carry a little foreign cash, though, preferably euros or US dollars, in case you can't find an ATM nearby or there's no bank or travel agency open to cash your travellers cheques. You can always change cash at a hotel.

## Credit Cards

Credit cards, especially Visa, MasterCard and American Express, are widely accepted in Hungary, and you'll be able to use them at many restaurants, shops, hotels, car-rental firms, travel agencies and petrol stations. They are not usually accepted at museums, supermarkets, or train and bus stations.

Many banks, including K&H and Posta-Bank (represented at post offices nationwide), give cash advances on major credit cards.

## International Transfers

Having money wired to Hungary through an agent of **Western Union Money Transfer** (☎ 1-235 8484; [www.intercash.hu](http://www.intercash.hu)) is fast and fairly

### A HEALTHY MIX OF MONIES

Although Hungary is now part of the EU, it will retain its own currency until at least 2010. Prices in shops and restaurants are uniformly quoted in forint, but many hotels and guesthouses and even MÁV, the national rail company, give their rates in euros. In such cases, we have followed suit and you can usually pay in either euros or forint.

straightforward, and the procedure generally takes less than 30 minutes. You should know the sender's full name, the exact amount and the reference number when you're picking up the cash. The sender pays the service fee (about US\$40 for US\$500 sent, US\$60 for US\$1000).

### Moneychangers

It is easy to change money at banks, post offices, tourist offices, travel agencies and private exchange offices. Look for the words *valuta* (foreign currency) and *váltó* (exchange) to guide you to the correct place or window.

There's no black market in Hungary to speak of but exchange rates can vary substantially, so it pays to keep your eyes open. And while the forint is a totally convertible currency, you should avoid changing too much as it will be difficult exchanging it beyond the borders of Hungary and its immediate neighbours.

### Taxes & Refunds

ÁFA, a value-added tax of between 5% and 25%, covers the purchase of all new goods in Hungary. It's usually included in the price but not always, so it pays to check. Visitors are not exempt, but non-EU residents can claim refunds for total purchases of at least 50,000Ft on one receipt, as long as they take the goods out of the country (and the EU) within 90 days. The ÁFA receipts (available from where you made the purchases) should be stamped by customs at the border, and the claim has to be made within 183 days of exporting the goods. You can then collect your refund – minus commission – from the **Global Refund** ([www.globalrefund.com](http://www.globalrefund.com)) desk in the departures halls of Terminal 2A and 2B at Ferihegy International Airport in Budapest, or branches of the Ibusz chain of

travel agencies at some 16 border crossings. You can also have it sent by bank cheque or deposited into your credit-card account.

### Tipping

Hungary is a very tip-conscious society, and virtually everyone routinely tips waiters, hairdressers and taxi drivers. Doctors and dentists accept 'gratitude money', and even petrol station attendants who pump your petrol and thermal spa attendants who walk you to your changing cabin expect something. If you were less than impressed with the service at the restaurant, the joyride in the taxi or the way your hair was cut, leave next to nothing or nothing at all. He or she will get the message – loud and clear.

The way you tip in restaurants is unusual. You never leave the money on the table – this is considered both rude and stupid in Hungary – but tell the waiter how much you're paying in total. If the bill is, say, 2700Ft, you're paying with a 5000Ft note and you think the waiter deserves a gratuity of around 10%, first ask if service is included (some restaurants in Budapest and other big cities add it to the bill automatically, which makes tipping unnecessary). If it isn't, say you're paying 3000Ft or that you want 2000Ft back.

### Travellers Cheques

You can change travellers cheques – American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Thomas Cook are the most recognisable brands – at most banks and post offices. Banks and bureaux de change generally don't take a commission, but exchange rates can vary; private agencies are always the most expensive. OTP has branches everywhere and offer among the best rates; Ibusz is also a good bet. Travel agents usually take a commission of 1% to 2%. Shops never accept travellers cheques as payment in Hungary.

### POST

The **Hungarian Postal Service** (Magyar Posta; [www.posta.hu](http://www.posta.hu)), whose logo is a jaunty, stylised version of St Stephen's Crown, has improved greatly in recent years, but the post offices themselves are usually fairly crowded and service can be slow. To beat the crowds, ask at kiosks, newsagents or stationery shops if they sell *bélyeg* (stamps).

### Postal Rates

A letter of up to 30g sent within Hungary costs 52Ft (90Ft for priority mail) while for the rest of Europe it's 170Ft (190Ft priority). *Légitposta* (airmail letters) of up to 20/50g are 185/270Ft within Europe and 210/350Ft for the rest of the world. Postcards cost 52Ft to send within Hungary, 110Ft within the rest of Europe and 140Ft to the rest of the world.

To send a parcel, look for the sign '*Csomagfeladás*' or '*Csomagfelvétel*'. Packages sent within Hungary generally cost 690Ft for up to 5kg. Packages going abroad must not weigh more than 2kg or you'll face a Kafkaesque parade of forms and queues to fill; try to send small ones. You can send up to 2kg in one box for 3470Ft surface mail to Europe and 4390Ft to the rest of the world. Airmail rates are much higher and depend on which of five zones the destination is located. For example, a 2kg package sent by airmail to the UK/USA/Australia costs 6550/9400/11,800Ft.

### Sending & Receiving Mail

To get in and out of the post office with a minimum of fuss, look for the window marked with the symbol of an envelope. Make sure the destination of your letter is written clearly, and simply hand it over to the clerk, who will apply the stamps for you, postmark it and send it on its way.

Hungarian addresses start with the name of the recipient, followed on the next line by the postal code and city or town, and then the street name and number. The postal code consists of four digits. The first one indicates the city, town or region (eg '1' is Budapest, '6' is Szeged), the second and third are the district, and the last is the neighbourhood.

Mail addressed to *poste restante* in any town or city will go to the *főposta* (main post office), which is generally listed under Information in the relevant section in this book. When collecting *poste restante* mail, look for the sign '*postán maradó küldemények*' and be sure to have identification on you. Since the family name always comes first in Hungarian usage (see boxed text, p35), have the sender underline your last name, as letters are very often misfiled under foreigners' first names.

### SHOPPING

Hungarian shops are well stocked with generally high-quality products. Books and folk-music tapes and CDs are affordable, and there is an excellent selection, especially of the much-loved classical music. Traditional products include folk-art embroidery and ceramics, pottery, painted wooden toys and boxes, dolls, basketry and porcelain (especially that from Herend and Zsolnay). Feather or goose-down pillows and duvets (comforters), ranked second only to the Siberian variety, are of exceptionally high quality and very good value.

Some of Hungary's new 'boutique' wines (p55) make good, relatively inexpensive gifts; a bottle of dessert Tokaj always goes down well. *Pálinka* (fruit-flavoured brandies) are a stronger option.

Foodstuffs that are expensive or difficult to buy elsewhere – potted goose liver, saffron, dried forest mushrooms, jam (especially the apricot variety), prepared meats like Pick salami, the many types of paprika – make wonderful gifts (if you are allowed to take them home). Be aware that in supermarkets and outdoor markets, fresh food is sold by weight or by *darab* (piece). When ordering by weight, you specify by kilos or *deka* (decagrams – 50dg is equal to 0.5kg or a little more than 1lb).

### TELEPHONE

You can make domestic and international calls from public telephones, which are usually in good working order. They work with both coins and phonocards, though the latter are now far more common. Telephone boxes with a black-and-white arrow and red target on the door and the word '*Visszahívható*' display a telephone number, so you can be phoned back.

### Local & International Calls

All localities in Hungary have a two-digit telephone area code, except for Budapest, which has just a '1'. Local codes appear in small point type under the heading name of each city and town in this book.

To make a local call, pick up the receiver and listen for the neutral and continuous dial tone, then dial the phone number (seven digits in Budapest, six elsewhere). For an intercity landline call within Hungary and whenever ringing a mobile telephone,

dial ☎ 06 and wait for the second, more melodious, tone. Then dial the area code and phone number. Cheaper or toll-free blue and green numbers start with ☎ 06 40 and 06 80 respectively.

The procedure for making an international call is the same as for a local call, except that you dial ☎ 00, wait for the second dial tone, then dial the country code, the area code and the number. The country code for Hungary is ☎ 36.

### Mobile Phones

Hungary uses GSM 900, which is compatible with the rest of Europe and Australia, but not with the North American GSM 1900 or the totally different system in Japan (though some North Americans have GSM 1900/900 phones that do work here). In Hungary you must always dial ☎ 06 when ringing mobile telephones, which have specific area codes depending on the telecom company: **Pannon GSM** (☎ 06 20; www.pgs.m.hu), **T-Mobile** (☎ 06 30; www.t-mobile.hu) and **Vodafone** (☎ 06 70; www.vodafone.hu).

If you have a GSM phone, check with your service provider about using it in Hungary, and beware of calls being routed internationally (very expensive for a 'local' call). If you're going to spend more than just a few days here and expect to use your phone quite a bit, consider buying a rechargeable SIM chip, which will reduce the cost of making local calls (between 19Ft and 27Ft a minute) to a fraction of what you'd pay on your own mobile. Vodafone, with outlets throughout the country, including Budapest (p68), has prepaid vouchers available for 1000/2500Ft with 500/1500Ft worth of credit. Top-up cards valid for three/six/12 months cost 3000/7000/12,000Ft.

### Phonecards

Phonecards, which are available from post offices, newsagents, hotels and petrol stations, come in message units of 50/120 and cost 800/1800Ft, but these are by far the most expensive way to go. As everywhere else these days, there is a plethora of phonecards on offer. Among the most widely available are T-Com's **Barangoló** (☎ 06 80 501 255; www.t-com.hu), which comes in denominations of 400Ft, 1000Ft, 2000Ft and 5000Ft, and **NeoPhone** (☎ 06 80 188 202; www.neophone.hu), with cards valued at 300Ft, 1000Ft, 2000Ft

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Domestic operator/enquiries (in English) ☎ 198
- Information Plus (any enquiry; in English) ☎ 197
- International enquiries/operator (in English) ☎ 199
- Time/speaking clock (in Hungarian) ☎ 180
- Wake-up service (in Hungarian) ☎ 193

and 5000Ft. Sample per-minute costs with these cards are 25Ft to most European countries, 29Ft to Australia and New Zealand, and 50Ft to South Africa.

### TIME

Hungary lies in the Central European time zone. Winter time is GMT plus one hour, while in summer it's GMT plus two hours. Clocks are advanced at 2am on the last Sunday in March and set back at the same time on the last Sunday in October.

Without taking daylight-saving times into account, when it's noon in Budapest it's 3am in San Francisco, 6am in New York, 11am in London, noon in Paris, 1pm in Bucharest, 2pm in Moscow, 8pm in Tokyo, 9pm in Sydney and 11pm in Auckland. For information about other time zones and their relation to Hungary, see the World Times Zones map (pp422-3).

An important note on the complicated way Hungarians tell time: like a few other European languages, Magyar tells the time by making reference to the next hour – not the previous one as we do in English. Thus 7.30 is *fél nyolc óra* ('half eight'; sometimes written f8) and the 24-hour system is often used in giving the times of movies, concerts and so on. So a film at 7.30pm could appear on a listing as 'f8', 'f20', '½8' or '½20'. A quarter to the hour has a ¾ in front (thus ¾8' means 7.45), while quarter past is ¼ of the next hour (eg ¼9' means 8.15).

### TOURIST INFORMATION

The **Hungarian National Tourist Office** (HNTO; www.hungarytourism.hu or www.hungary.com) has a chain of almost 140 tourist information bureaux called **Tourinform** (☎ within Hungary 06 80

630 800, from abroad +36 30 30 30 600; www.tourinform.hu) across the country. They are usually the best places to ask general questions and pick up brochures – and can sometimes provide more comprehensive assistance. The main **Tourinform office** (Map p86; ☎ 1-438 8080; hungary@tourinform.hu; V Sütö utca 2; ☎ 8am-8pm) is in Budapest.

If your query is about private accommodation, flights or international train travel or you need to change money, you could turn to a commercial travel agency, such as Ibusz, arguably the best for private accommodation, or Express, which issues student, youth, teacher and hostel cards, and sells discounted Billet International de Jeunesse (BIJ) train and cheap air tickets. See the Information section under the various cities and towns in this book for details.

The HNTO has offices in more than 20 countries worldwide.

**Austria** (☎ 01-585 20 1213; www.ungarn-tourismus.at; Operring 5, 2nd fl, A-1010 Vienna)

**Czech Republic** (☎ 283 870 742; www.madarsko.cz; M Horáková 81, 17006 Prague 7)

**France** (☎ 01 53 70 67 17; www.hongrietourisme.com; 140 Ave Victor Hugo, 75116 Paris)

**Germany** (☎ 030-243 1460; www.ungarn-tourismus.de; Neue Promenade 5, D-10178 Berlin)

**Ireland** (☎ 01-661 2879; www.visithungary.ie; 2 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2)

**Netherlands** (☎ 070-320 9092; hong@euronet.nl; Laan van Nieuw Oost Indie 271, 2593 BS The Hague)

**UK** (☎ 020-7823 1032; www.gotohungary.co.uk; 46 Eaton Place, London SW1X 8AL)

**USA** (☎ 212-355 0240; www.gotohungary.com; 150 East 58th St, 33rd fl, New York, NY 10155-3398)

### VISAS

Citizens of virtually all European countries as well as Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the USA do not require visas to visit Hungary for stays of up to 90 days. Nationals of South Africa (among others) still require visas. Check current visa requirements at a consulate, any HNTO or Malév Hungarian Airlines office or on the website of the **Hungarian Foreign Ministry** (www.mfa.gov.hu), as requirements often change without notice.

Visas are issued at Hungarian consulates or missions, Ferihegy International Airport

and the International Ferry Pier in Budapest. They are rarely issued on international buses and never on trains. Be sure to retain the separate entry and exit forms issued with the visa that is stamped in your passport.

Single-entry tourist visas are issued at Hungarian consulates or missions in the applicants' country of residence upon receipt of US\$40 (or equivalent) and three photos (US\$65 at a mission outside the country of residence or at the border). A double-entry tourist visa costs US\$75/100, and you must have five photos. A multiple-entry visa is US\$180/200. Single and double-entry visas are valid for six months prior to use. Multiple-entry visas are good for a year. (Prices quoted are for applicants' country of residence/mission outside country of residence or at the border.)

Be sure to get a tourist rather than a transit visa; the latter – available for single (US\$38/50), double (US\$65/90) and multiple (US\$150/180) entries – is only good for a stay of 48 hours, you must enter and leave through different border crossings, and already hold a visa (if required) for the next country you visit.

Tourist visas are only extended in emergencies (eg medical ones; 3000Ft) and this must be done at the *rendőrkapitányság* (central police station) of any city or town 15 days before the original one expires.

You are supposed to register with the local police if staying in one place for more than 30 days; staff at your hotel, hostel, camp site or private room booked through an agency will do this for you. In other situations – if you're staying with friends or relatives, for example – you or the head of the household will have to take care of this within 72 hours of moving in. Address registration forms for foreigners (*lakcímbejelentő lap külföldiek részére*) are usually available at post offices.

### WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Women should not encounter any particular problems while travelling in Hungary. If you do need assistance and/or information, ring the **Women's Line** (Nővonal; ☎ 06 80 505 101; ☎ 6-10pm Thu-Tue) or **Women for Women Against Violence** (NANE; ☎ 1-267 4900; info@nane.hu).

# Transport

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## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### ENTERING HUNGARY

Border formalities with Hungary's three EU neighbours – Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia – are virtually nonexistent. However, as a member state that forms part of the EU's external frontier, Hungary must implement the strict Schengen border rules so expect a somewhat closer inspection of your documents when travelling to/from Croatia, Romania, Ukraine and Serbia.

### Passport

Everyone needs a valid passport or, for citizens of the EU (but *not* Denmark, Ireland, Latvia, Sweden or the UK), a national identification card to enter Hungary. It's a good idea (though not a requirement) to carry your passport or other identification at all times.

Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services).

### AIR

#### Airports & Airlines

**Malév Hungarian Airlines** (MA; ☎ Hungary 06 40 21 21 21, abroad 1 235 3888; [www.malev.hu](http://www.malev.hu)), the national

carrier, flies nonstop or via Prague, Madrid and Amsterdam to Budapest's **Ferihegy International Airport** (☎ 1-296 7000; [www.bud.hu](http://www.bud.hu)) from North America, the Middle East and almost 60 cities in Continental Europe and the British Isles. It also flies to Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou in China.

Malév flights and, for the most part, those of its 18 or so code-share partners arrive and depart from Ferihegy's Terminal 2A. Malév has a **ticketing desk** (☎ 1-296 7211; ☎ 5am-11pm) at Terminal 2A and another one at **Terminal 2B** (☎ 1-296 5767; ☎ 6am-8.30pm); at the latter you'll also find a **left-luggage office** (1/2/3/6hr 350/700/1050/1400Ft, 12/24hr 1880/2200Ft, week 6500Ft; ☎ 24hr).

Most other international airlines use Terminal 2B, which is next door to 2A and within easy walking distance. The super-discount European carriers (opposite) use Terminal 1, about 5km to the west.

Other major carriers with offices in Budapest:

**Aeroflot** (SU; ☎ 1-318 5955; [www.aeroflot.com](http://www.aeroflot.com); hub Moscow)

**Air Canada** (AC; ☎ 1-266 8435; [www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com); hub Toronto)

**Air France** (AF; ☎ 1-483 8800; [www.airfrance.com](http://www.airfrance.com); hub Paris)

**Alitalia** (AZ; ☎ 1-483 2170; [www.alitalia.it](http://www.alitalia.it); hub Rome)

**Austrian Airlines** (OS; ☎ 1-327 9080; [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com); hub Vienna)

**British Airways** (BA; ☎ 1-411 5555; [www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com); hub London)

**CSA Czech Airlines** (OK; ☎ 1-318 3045; [www.czech-airlines.com](http://www.czech-airlines.com); hub Prague)

**El Al** (LY; ☎ 1-266 2970; [www.elal.com](http://www.elal.com); hub Tel Aviv)

### THINGS CHANGE

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

**EgyptAir** (MS; ☎ 1-266 4300; [www.egyptair.com](http://www.egyptair.com); hub Cairo)

**Finnair** (AY; ☎ 1-317 4022; [www.finnair.com](http://www.finnair.com); hub Helsinki)

**KLM Royal Dutch Airlines** (KL; ☎ 1-373 7737; [www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com); hub Amsterdam)

**LOT Polish Airlines** (LO; ☎ 1-317 2444; [www.lot.com](http://www.lot.com); hub Warsaw)

**Lufthansa** (LH; ☎ 1-266 4511; [www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com); hub Frankfurt)

**SAS** (SK; ☎ 1-266 2633; [www.scandinavian.net](http://www.scandinavian.net); hub Copenhagen)

**Tarom Romanian Airlines** (RO; ☎ 1-235 0809; [www.tarom.ro](http://www.tarom.ro); hub Bucharest)

**Turkish Airlines** (TK; ☎ 1-266 4291; [www.turkishairlines.com](http://www.turkishairlines.com); hub Istanbul)

### Africa & the Middle East

Malév flies daily to/from Tel Aviv while El Al flies there up to four times a week, depending on the season. Return flights start from around US\$290. There is a Malév service to Cairo up to four times a week and EgyptAir has several direct flights each week. Return fares cost from US\$245. Malév also flies nonstop to Beirut (\$270; two to four times a week return) and to Damascus (US\$290; three to four times a week).

### Asia

Return flights from Hong Kong (with KLM via Amsterdam, Lufthansa via Frankfurt or Finnair via Helsinki) range from US\$576/782 for a ticket valid for 14/21 days to US\$833/1000 for one good for two/three months. These days the best place in Asia to buy discount tickets for Eastern and Central Europe is Bangkok because of the surfeit of Eastern European flag-carriers passing through Bangkok airport.

A discounted return Budapest–Bangkok ticket should cost from 169,000Ft. Expect to pay 285,000Ft from Budapest to Hong Kong via London on British Airways.

### Australia & New Zealand

Although there are no direct flights to Budapest, there are a number of options from Australia. Qantas has direct flights from Sydney or Melbourne to London's Heathrow airport, connecting with a Malév or British Airways flight to Budapest. Another option is to fly from Sydney to Frankfurt or another European capital and then with Malév to Budapest. A standard return flight

to Sydney from Budapest costs 280,000Ft and to Melbourne 265,000Ft; return low season fares from Sydney are around A\$1865 to A\$2300 and from Melbourne A\$2100 to A\$2400. Look out for official discounts and special deals, which are available direct from the airline from time to time.

There are a number of flights from New Zealand to European cities, with connecting flights to Budapest. Air New Zealand flies daily from Auckland to Heathrow and connects with a nonstop Malév flight to Budapest. Return fares in the low season are from around NZ\$1800 to NZ\$2150.

### Continental Europe & the UK

Malév flies nonstop to Budapest from many European cities, including the following: Amsterdam, Athens, Berlin, Brussels, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hamburg, Helsinki, Istanbul, Kyiv, Larnaca, Lisbon, London, Ljubljana, Madrid, Manchester, Milan, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Prague, Rome, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Stockholm, Stuttgart, Thessaloniki, Tirana, Vienna, Warsaw, Zagreb and Zürich.

From Budapest, most destinations in Europe on Malév cost either 19,900Ft (eg Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam) or 29,900Ft, though Moscow and a few other destinations are 39,900Ft. Special deals, regularly available, will see these fares halved. Of course flexibility – such as an open return ticket and the ability to change – will bump the average fare up to around 80,000Ft.

What Hungarians call the *fapados* (wooden bench) airlines, the super discount carriers such as **Air Berlin** ([www.airberlin.com](http://www.airberlin.com)), **EasyJet** ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)), **SkyEurope** ([www.skyeurope.com](http://www.skyeurope.com)) and **Wizzair** ([www.wizzair.com](http://www.wizzair.com)), have made flying between Budapest and dozens of European cities very affordable. Depending on the destination, availability and the time of the flight, fares can be as low as 15,000Ft, but count on anything from 20,000Ft upward for most flights.

### USA & Canada

Malév runs a daily nonstop flight to/from New York's JFK International Airport (return fare around US\$500). Another option is to fly with KLM or Northwest Airlines to Amsterdam, and then board a Malév flight to Budapest. Malév also has a nonstop service to/from Toronto four times a week



(return fare just over C\$800). For Montreal fly Air Canada and Malév via Paris (CDG).

From Budapest, travelling with Malév, a return fare to New York starts at 99,900Ft but can go as low as 69,900Ft.

## LAND

Hungary is well connected with all seven of its neighbours by road, rail and even ferry, though most transport begins or ends its journey in Budapest.

As elsewhere in Europe, timetables for both domestic and international trains and buses use the 24-hour system. Also, Hungarian names are sometimes used for cities and towns in neighbouring countries on bus and train schedules (p404).

## Border Crossings

Of the 65 or so border road crossings Hungary maintains with its neighbours, about a third (mostly in the north and northeast) are restricted to local citizens on both sides of the border (or, in the case of Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia, EU citizens).

## Bus

Most international buses are run by **Eurolines** (☎ 1-219 8021; www.eurolines.com) or its Hungarian associate, **Volánbusz** (☎ 1-382 0888; www.volanbusz.hu). In Budapest, all international buses arrive at and depart from the **Népliget bus station** (Map pp88-9; ☎ 1-219 8080; IX Üllői út 131; metro Népliget) in Pest. The **ticket office** (🕒 6am-6pm Mon-Fri Sep-May, 6-8pm Mon-Fri Jun-Aug, 6am-4pm Sat & Sun year-round) is upstairs.

## BUS PASSES

Eurolines has passes valid for 15/30/40 days that allow unlimited travel between 35 European cities, including Budapest. You are not allowed to travel on the same routing more than twice. Adults pay €230/320/350 in the low season (mid-September to late June) and €325/435/490 in the high season. Passes for those under 26 cost €195/260/299 or €275/355/420.

## WESTERN EUROPE

From Népliget station there's a long-distance bus that runs throughout the time to Amsterdam via Frankfurt and Düsseldorf (20½ hours, 1435km, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday). The bus continues on to Rotterdam (21½ hours, 1510km) on

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Tickets cost 23,900/40,900Ft one way/return (to both destinations), with a 10% discount for those under 26, students and seniors over 60. From early June to late September, there's an extra departure on Friday evening.

In Amsterdam tickets are sold by **Euro-lines Nederland** (☎ 020-560 87 88; Rokin 10) and at **Amstel bus station** (☎ 020-560 87 88; Julianaplein 5). In Budapest you can buy them at the Népliget bus station.

Buses to London via Brussels and Lille (25¼ hours, 1755km) depart on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and cost 29,900/42,900Ft one way/return. There are additional services over the summer on Tuesday (April to late October), Thursday (late June to August) and Saturday (early July to early September). In London contact **Eurolines UK** (☎ 0870 514 3219; 52 Grosvenor Gardens SW1).

Other Eurolines services between Budapest and Western European cities, with high-season (mid-June to mid-September) one-way/return fares quoted, include the following:

**Athens** (via Thessaloniki, 22,900/35,900Ft, 24½ hours, 1570km, Saturday) Even if you only go as far as Thessaloniki, the ticket price is the same.

**Berlin** (via Prague and Dresden, 16,900/28,900Ft, 14½ hours, 910km, four to six days a week) If you continue on to Hamburg, the cost goes up to 21,900/36,900Ft. Buses depart Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday year-round, as well as on Thursday and Sunday from late June to mid-August.

**Paris** (via Vienna, Strasbourg and Reims, 23,900/41,900Ft, 21½ hours, 1460km, three days a week) Buses run Monday, Wednesday and Friday year-round. To go only as far as Strasbourg costs 20,900/38,900Ft.

**Rome** (via Bologna and Florence, 23,900/37,900Ft, 20½ hours, 1250km, up to seven times a week) The ticket to Bologna is 16,900/27,900Ft and to Florence 18,900/30,900Ft. Buses run Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday April to mid-September, with extra departures on Tuesday and Wednesday and one on Sunday from mid-September to December.

**Venice** (13,900/22,900Ft, 11¼ hours, 770km, up to seven times a week) Buses keep the same schedule as the Rome ones.

**Vienna** (via Győr, 5490/7990Ft, 3¼ hours, 254km, four buses a day)

## CROATIA AND SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

From late June to September a bus leaves Népliget station for Pula (return 16,900Ft, 9¼ hours, 775km) every Friday, travelling

via Rijeka (return 14,900Ft, 8¾ hours, 830km) and then carrying on to Porec (return 16,900Ft, 11½ hours, 910km). There's a daily service year-round to Belgrade (one way/return 4100/6800Ft, nine hours, 422km) and two buses a day to Subotica (in Hungarian, Szabadka; one way/return 3700/5500Ft, 5¼ hours, 224km).

## SLOVAKIA & CZECH REPUBLIC

From Népliget station there are buses to Bratislava (in Hungarian, Pozsony; one way/return 3400/5400Ft, four hours, 213km) daily and to Prague (9900/16,900Ft, 8¼ hours, 640km) year-round on Tuesday to Sunday. Extra overnight buses to Prague run on Thursday and Sunday from late June to mid-August.

## UKRAINE

There are buses on Monday and Friday to Kyiv (one way/return 14,900/25,900Ft, 18 hours, 1155km, twice a week) via Lviv (one way/return 12,900/20,900Ft, 11 hours, 850km).

## Train

**Magyar Államvasutak** (www.mav.hu), which translates as Hungarian State Railways and is universally known as MÁV, links up with the European rail network in all directions. Its trains run as far as London (via Munich and Paris), Stockholm (via Hamburg and Copenhagen), Moscow, Rome and Istanbul (via Belgrade).

The international trains listed here are expresses and many – if not all – require seat reservations. On long hauls, sleepers are almost always available in both 1st and 2nd class, and couchettes are available in 2nd class. Not all expresses trains have dining or even buffet cars; make sure you bring along snacks and drinks as vendors can be few and far between. Most Hungarian trains are hardly what you could call luxurious but they are generally clean and punctual.

In Budapest, almost all international trains arrive and depart from **Keleti station** (Map pp80-1; Eastern train station; ☎ 1-313 6835; VIII Kerepesi út 2-6); however, some trains to certain destinations in the east (eg Romania) leave from **Nyugati station** (Map p84; Western train station; ☎ 1-349 0115; VI Teréz körút 55-57), while **Déli station** (Map p83; Southern train station; ☎ 1-375 6293; I Krisztina körút 37) handles trains to some

destinations in the south (eg Osijek in Croatia and Sarajevo in Bosnia). These are not hard and fast rules, so always make sure you check which station the train leaves from when you buy a ticket. For 24-hour information on international train services call nationwide ☎ 06 40 49 49 49 or in Budapest ☎ 1-461 5500.

To reduce confusion when requesting information or buying a ticket, specify your train by the name listed in the following sections or on the posted schedule. You can buy tickets at the three international train stations in Budapest, but it's easier at the **MÁV international information and ticket centre** (Map p84; ☎ 1-461 5500, 3522 2800; www.mav.hu; VI Andrássy út 35; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Fri Apr-Sep, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Oct-Mar). It accepts credit cards. For fares, check www.elvira.hu.

## TICKETS & FARES

There are big nationwide discounts for return (only) fares from Hungary to neighbouring countries: 50% to Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Poland; 60% to Serbia and Montenegro and the Baltic countries; 50% to Belarus, Russia and Ukraine; and up to 60% to Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Also, there's a 40% concession on return fares from Budapest to six selected cities: Prague and Brno in the Czech Republic, and Warsaw, Kraków, Katowice and Gdynia in Poland. Some 2nd-class return fares are: Prague 17,799Ft, Moscow 35,292Ft and Warsaw 24,276Ft.

For tickets to Western Europe you'll pay the same as elsewhere, unless you're under 26 and qualify for the 30% to 60% Billet International de Jeunesse (BIJ) discounts. For that, ask at MÁV, Express or **Wasteels** (Map pp80-1; ☎ 1-210 2802; 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 🕒 8am-6pm Sat) in Keleti train station.

The following are sample full-price return 2nd-class fares from Budapest: Amsterdam 52,940Ft, Berlin (via Prague) 40,800Ft and (via Vienna) 45,645Ft, London 96,696Ft, Munich 25,143Ft, Rome (via Ljubljana) 61,098Ft and Vienna 11,578Ft. There's a 30% discounted return fare to Vienna/and Graz of 8823Ft and 10,710Ft respectively if you return to Budapest within four days. The 1st-class seats are around 50% more expensive than 2nd class.

InterCity (IC) and EuroCity (EC) trains charge supplements of between 200Ft and

480Ft. International seat reservation costs vary according to the destination and fines are levied on those without tickets (2000Ft, plus full single fare) or seat reservations (2000Ft, plus reservation fee of 200Ft to 350Ft) on trains where they are compulsory.

Sleeper prices depend on the destination, but a two-berth 2nd-class sleeper to Berlin/Prague/Venice/Moscow costs 5585/3570/6630/5360Ft per person per night. A 2nd-class couchette in a compartment for six people costs between 2400Ft and 3417Ft on the Transbalkan to Romania and Greece, and 4973Ft on the Kálmán Imre to Munich. Tickets are valid for 60 days from purchase and stopovers are permitted.

### RAIL PASSES

Covering from one to eight 'zones', **Inter Rail** ([www.interrailnet.com](http://www.interrailnet.com)) passes can be purchased by nationals of European countries (or residents of at least six months) from MÁV. There are three price groups for the passes: adult, ages 12 to 26 (referred to here as 'youth') and child (four to 11). The price for any one zone is €229/156/115 per adult/youth/child for 16 days and €317/220/159 for 22 days in two zones. Hungary is in Zone D along with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. A Global pass, covering all eight zones, costs €437/308/219.

It's almost impossible for a standard **Eurail pass** ([www.eurailnet.com](http://www.eurailnet.com)) to pay for itself in Hungary. If you are a non-European resident, you may consider one of its combination tickets allowing you to travel over a fixed period for a set price. These include the **Hungary N' Slovenia/Croatia pass** and the **Romania N' Hungary pass**, offering five/10 days of travel on those countries' rail networks for adults US\$200/300, youths US\$140/210 and children aged five to 11 US\$100/150. Buy the pass before you leave home.

For information on Eurail's **Hungary pass**, see p390.

### WESTERN EUROPE

Seven trains daily link Vienna with Budapest (three hours, 273km) via Hegyeshalom and Győr. Most depart from Vienna's Westbahnhof, including the EuroCity Bartók Béla and the EuroNight Kálmán Imre, both coming from Munich (7½ hours, 742km) via Salzburg (six hours, 589km). Other

trains departing from the Westbahnhof include the EC 25/24 from Cologne (11 hours, 1247km) and Frankfurt (10 hours, 1026km), the EN Wiener Walzer (11½ hours, 808km) from Zürich, the Dacia to Bucharest (13½ hours, 874km) and the IC Avala to Belgrade (10 hours, 647km). The early morning EC Lehár Ferenc departs from Vienna's Südbahnhof. None of these trains requires a reservation, though it's highly recommended in summer.

Up to four trains leave Vienna's Südbahnhof every day for Sopron (75 minutes, 76km) via Ebenfurth. As many as a dozen a day also serve Sopron from Wiener Neustadt, which is easily accessible from Vienna. Three daily milk trains make the 2½-hour, 136km-long trip from Graz to Szombathely.

The EC 171/170 travels from Berlin (Zoo and Ostbahnhof stations) to Budapest (12½ hours, 1002km) via Dresden, Prague and Bratislava. The express Spree-Donau Kurier arrives from Berlin via Nuremberg and Vienna (14 hours).

### CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA & POLAND

In addition to the EC 171/170, Budapest can be reached from Prague (seven hours, 611km) on the EC 175/174, the express Jaroslav Hašek, and the Pannónia Express, which then carries on to Bucharest. The Amicus runs directly from Bratislava (three hours, 235km) every day.

The EC Polonia and the express Báthory leave Warsaw daily for Budapest (13 hours, 901km) passing through Bratislava or Štúrovo and Katowice. The Cracovia runs from Kraków to Budapest (10½ hours, 590km) via Košice. Another train, the Rákóczi, links Budapest with Košice.

Three daily trains cover the 90km from Košice to Miskolc (two hours). The 2km hop from Sátoraljaújhely to Slovenské Nové Mesto is only a four-minute ride on the train, which runs just once a day at 8.40am.

### BULGARIA AND SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

The Transbalkan, which originates in Thessaloniki in northern Greece and travels via Bucharest, links Sofia with Budapest (25 hours, 1366km). Trains between Budapest and Belgrade (seven hours, 374km) via Subotica are the Beograd and the IC Avala.

Two daily trains make the 1¾-hour, 45km-long journey daily between Subotica and Szeged.

### CROATIA, SLOVENIA AND BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA

You can get to Budapest from Zagreb (seven hours, 395km) on two trains that pass through Siófok on Lake Balaton's southern shore: the Maestral, which originates in Split, and the EC Goldoni, which goes from Venice to Budapest via Ljubljana (10 hours, 504km). Two other trains from Ljubljana are the IC Citadella and the EN Venezia, which also comes from Venice. The IC 817/816 linking Sarajevo with Budapest (14 hours, 616km) goes via Pécs.

### UKRAINE & RUSSIA

From Moscow to Budapest (42 hours, 2106km), there's only the Tisza Express, which travels via Kyiv and Lvov in Ukraine. Most nationalities require a transit visa to travel through Ukraine.

### ROMANIA

From Bucharest to Budapest (14 hours, 874km) you can choose from four trains: the Dacia, the EN Ister, the Transbalkan and the Pannónia. All go via Arad (5½ hours, 253km) and some require seat reservations.

There are two daily connections from Cluj-Napoca to Budapest (eight hours, 402km) via Oradea: the Ady Endre and the Corona. The EC Traianus links Budapest with Timișoara (six hours, 310km).

### RIVER

A hydrofoil service on the Danube River between Budapest and Vienna (5½ to 6½ hours, 282km) operates daily from early April to October; passengers can disembark at Bratislava with advance notice. Adult one-way/return fares for Vienna are €79/99 and for Bratislava €69/89. Students with ISIC cards pay €67/84 to Vienna and €59/76 to Bratislava, and children under six go free. Taking a bicycle costs €18 each way.

In Budapest, ferries arrive and depart from the International Ferry Pier (Nemzetközi hajóállomás) on V Belgrád rakpart, between the Elizabeth (Erzsébet híd) and Independence (Szabadság híd)

bridges on the Pest side. In Vienna, the boat docks at the Reichsbrücke pier near Mexikoplatz.

In April and from mid-September to October there is a daily sailing at 9am from both Budapest and Vienna. From May to mid-September the boats leave both cities at 8am.

For information and tickets contact **Mahart PassNave** (Map p86; ☎ 1-484 4013; [www.mahartpassnave.hu](http://www.mahartpassnave.hu); V Belgrád rakpart; 8am-6pm) in Budapest and **Mahart PassNave Wien** (☎ 01-72 161/2; Handelskai 265) in Vienna.

## GETTING AROUND

Hungary's domestic transport system is efficient, comprehensive and inexpensive. In general, almost everything runs to schedule, and the majority of Hungary's towns and cities are easily negotiated on foot.

### AIR

There are no scheduled flights within Hungary. The cost of domestic air taxis is prohibitive (eg from at least 150,000Ft for up to three people from Budapest to Szeged and back), and the trips can take almost as long as the train, when you add the time it takes to get to and from the airports.

Two air taxi companies are **Farnair Hungary** (☎ 1-347 6040; [www.farnair.com](http://www.farnair.com)), which flies to/from the airstrip next to Ferihegy Terminal 1, and **Jetstream** (☎ 06 20 399 6782; [www.jetstream.hu](http://www.jetstream.hu) in Hungarian), based at Tököl airport on Csepel Island opposite Százhalombatta, about 30km southwest of central Budapest.

### BICYCLE

Hungary offers endless opportunities for cyclists: challenging slopes in the north, much gentler terrain in Transdanubia and flat though windy (and hot in summer) cycling on the Great Plain. The problem is bicycle rentals. They can be very hard to come by and your best bets are camping grounds, resort hotels and – very occasionally – bicycle repair shops. See Activities under the various cities and towns for guidance.

Remember when planning your itinerary that bicycles are banned from all motorways and national highways with a single digit, and bikes must be equipped with

lights and reflectors. Bicycles can be taken on many trains but not on buses.

For more information, see p50.

## BOAT

From April to late October the Budapest-based shipping company Mahart PassNave (p383) runs excursion boats on the Danube from Budapest to Szentendre, Vác, Visegrád and Esztergom; and hydrofoils from Budapest to Visegrád, Nagymaros and Esztergom between late May and early September. For details, see p132.

Mahart also schedules three to five excursions in summer from Budapest to places like Kalocsa and Solt on the Great Plain. Its services on certain sections of the Tisza River between April and mid-October – Sárospatak to Tokaj (2¼ hours, 36km), for example, and Szeged to Csongrád (4¼ hours, 72km) – are only available to groups of at least 40 people and cost between 19,000Ft and 29,000Ft per hour.

Other passenger ferry services are the Budapest transport company **BKV** (Budapest Transport Company; ☎ 369 1359; www.bkv.hu), which operates on the Danube in Budapest, and the **Balaton Shipping Co** (Balatoni Hajózási Rt; ☎ 84-310 050; www.balatonihajozas.hu; Krúdy sétány 2, Siófok), on Lake Balaton.

## BUS

Hungary's **Volánbusz** (www.volanbusz.hu) network is a good – and sometimes necessary – alternative to the trains. In Southern Transdanubia and many parts of the Great Plain, buses are essential unless you are prepared to make several time-consuming changes on the train. For short trips around the Danube Bend or Lake Balaton areas, buses are preferable to trains.

In most cities and large towns it is usually possible to catch at least one direct bus a day to fairly far-flung areas of the country – for example, Pécs to Sopron (5½ hours, 285km) or Eger to Szeged (five hours, 240km).

National buses arrive and depart from Budapest's *távolságiautóbusz pályaudvar* (long-distance bus stations), not the local stations, which are called *helyiautóbusz pályaudvar*. Outside the capital the stations are often found side by side or in the same building. Arrive early to confirm the correct departure bay or *kocsiállás* (stand), and be sure to check the individual schedule

posted at the stop itself; the times shown can be different from those shown on the *tábla* (main board).

Tickets are usually purchased directly from the driver, who gives change and will hand you a receipt as a ticket. There are sometimes queues for intercity buses (especially on Friday afternoon), so it's wise to arrive early. Smoking is not allowed on buses in Hungary, though a 10- or 20-minute rest stop is made about every two or three hours. Seats on Volánbusz are spaced far enough apart for you to be able to fit your pack or bag between your knees.

Posted bus timetables can be horribly confusing if you don't speak Hungarian. The things to remember when reading a timetable are that *indulás* means 'departures' and *érkezés* means 'arrivals'. Some timetable symbols are shown in the table, p384.

Numbers one to seven in a circle refer to the days of the week, beginning with Monday. Written footnotes you might see include: *naponta* (daily), *hétköznap* (weekdays), *munkanap* (workdays), *szabadszabónap* (Saturday), *munkaszünetes nap* (Sunday

### BUS TIMETABLE SYMBOLS

×	Monday to Saturday (except public holidays)
⊗	Monday to Friday (except public holidays)
⊗	Monday to Thursday (except public holidays)
□	first working day of the week (usually Monday)
↑	last working day of the week (usually Friday)
⊙	Saturday & public holidays
⊕	Saturday, Sunday & public holidays
+	Sunday & public holidays
⊞	day before the first working day of the week (usually Sunday but Monday when Sunday is a public holiday)
▼	school days
▽	working days during school holidays (mid-June to August; first week of November; Christmas & New Year; one week in March/April)

and holidays), *szabad és munkaszünetes nap* (Saturday, Sunday and holidays), *szabadszabónap kivételével naponta* (daily except Saturday), *munkaszünetes nap kivételével naponta* (daily except holidays) and *iskolai nap* (school days).

In general bus services to/from most inland destinations, but especially north and north-central Hungary, are served by **Népliget bus station** (Map pp88-9; ☎ 1-219 8080; IX Üllői út 131; M3 Népliget; ☎ ticket office 6am-6pm Mon-Fri Sep-May, 6-8pm Mon-Fri Jun-Aug, 6am-4pm Sat & Sun). Generally the **Stadionok bus station** (Map pp80-1; ☎ 1-251 0125, 252 2995; XIV Hungária körút 48-52; M2 Stadionok; ☎ ticket office 6am-6pm Mon-Fri, 6am-4pm Sat & Sun) serves cities and towns to the east of the capital while buses to south-west Hungary use **Etele tér bus station** (Map pp88-9; ☎ 1-382 4900; XI Etele tér; red bus No 7; ☎ 6am-6pm) in Buda.

The **Árpád Bridge bus station** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 1-329 1450; XIII Róbert Károly körút; M3 Árpád híd; ☎ ticket office 6am-8pm) on the Pest side of Árpád Bridge is the place to catch buses for the Danube Bend and some towns in the Northern Uplands (eg Balassagyarmat, Szécsény and Salgótarján). The small **Széna tér bus station** (Map pp80-1; ☎ 1-201 3688; I Széna tér 1/a; ☎ ticket office 6.30am-4.30pm; M3 Moszkva tér) in Buda handles some traffic to and from the Pilis Hills and towns northwest of the capital, with a half-dozen departures to Esztergom (from bay No 5) as an alternative to the Árpád.

A few of the larger bus stations have left-rooms, but they generally close early (around 6pm). Check your bag at the train station, which is almost always nearby; the left-luggage offices there keep much longer hours.

## Costs

Bus fares are between 20% and 30% more expensive than comparable 2nd-class train fares. At the time of writing Volánbusz charged:

fare	distance
97Ft	for up to 5km
133Ft	for 10km
605Ft	for 50km
1210Ft	for 100km
2410Ft	for 200km
3630Ft	for 300km

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE Automobile Associations

In the event of a breakdown, the so-called **Yellow Angels** (Sárga Angyal; ☎ nationwide 24hr 188, Budapest 1-345 1755) of the **Hungarian Automobile Club** (Map pp80-1; Magyar Autóklub; ☎ 1-212 2821, 24hr helpline ☎ 1-345 1755; II Rómer Flóris 4/a) do basic car repairs free of charge if you belong to an affiliated organisation such as AAA in the USA, AA or RAC in the UK. Towing, however, is still very expensive even with these reciprocal memberships. The number to ring in an emergency is ☎ 188.

For 24-hour information on traffic and public road conditions around Hungary, contact **Útinform** (☎ 1-336 2400, 322 2238; www.kozut.hu). In the capital ring **Főinform** (☎ 1-317 1173).

## Driving Licence

Foreign driving licences are valid for one year after entering Hungary. If you don't hold a European driving licence and plan to drive here, obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) from your local automobile association before you leave – you'll need a passport photo and a valid local licence. It is usually inexpensive and valid for one year. Be aware that an IDP is not valid unless accompanied by your original driver's licence.

Third-party liability insurance is compulsory in Hungary. If your car is registered in the EU, it is assumed you have it. Other motorists must show a Green Card or they will have to buy insurance at the border.

## Fuel

*Ólommentes benzin* (unleaded petrol 95/98 octane) is available everywhere. Most stations also have *gázolaj* (diesel).

## Hire

In general, you must be at least 21 years old and have had your licence for a year to rent a car. Drivers under 25 sometimes have to pay a surcharge. All the big international firms have offices in Budapest, and there are scores of local companies throughout the country, but don't expect many bargains. For details, see p122.

## Insurance

All accidents should be reported to the police (☎ 107) immediately. Several insurance



Program Centrum (p102) offer excursions and special-interest guided tours (horse riding, cycling, bird-watching, Jewish culture etc) to every corner of Hungary.

By way of example, Cityrama has a 4½-hour tour by boat and bus to Szentendre or Gödöllő by bus (11,000Ft; children under 12 free or half-price); and an 8½-hour tour of the Danube Bend by coach and boat, with stops at Visegrád and Esztergom (14,000Ft). Cityrama also offers day trips to Lake Balaton (Balatonfüred and Tihany) and Herend (16,000Ft, nine to 10 hours), as well as to Lajosmizse on the Southern Plain (18,000Ft, eight hours). Hungary Program Centrum offers similar tours at almost the same prices, as well as an eight-hour trip to Bugac in Kiskunság National Park (19,000Ft) and a nine-hour tour of the Eger wine region (22,000Ft). Vista has a six-day tour of the country that takes in parts of the Northern Uplands, Great Plain, Southern Transdanubia and Lake Balaton region. The tour includes accommodation and half-board and costs €599/499 per person single/double-sharing.

## TRAIN

**MÁV** ([www.mav.hu](http://www.mav.hu)) operates reliable and relatively comfortable train services on just under 8000km of track, exactly a third of which is electrified. All the main railway lines converge on Budapest, though many secondary lines link provincial cities and towns. There are three main stations in Budapest. In general, Keleti station serves destinations in the Northern Uplands and the Northeast; Nyugati station the Great Plain and the Danube Bend; and Déli station Transdanubia and Lake Balaton. But these are not hard and fast rules; confirm the departure station when you buy your ticket. The 24-hour number for domestic train information is ☎ 06 40 49 49 49 nationwide or 1-461 5400 in Budapest.

Tickets for *egy útra* (one way) and *oda-vissza* (return) journeys in 1st and 2nd class are available at stations, the **MÁV central ticket office** (☎ 1-461 5400, 322 8082; VI Andrásy út 35; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri Apr-Sep, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Oct-Mar) in Budapest and certain travel agencies.

There are several types of train. Express (Ex on the timetable) trains usually require a seat reservation. The InterCity (IC) trains, the fastest and most comfortable in

Hungary, and EuroCity (EC) ones levy a supplement, which generally includes a seat. *Gyorsvonat* (fast trains), indicated on the timetable by boldface type, a thicker route line and/or an 'S', often require a seat reservation. *Személyvonat* (passenger trains) are the real milk runs and stop at every city, town, village and hamlet along the way.

Depending on the station, departures and arrivals are announced by loudspeaker/Tannoy or on an electronic board and are always on a printed timetable – yellow for *indul* (departures) and white for *érkezik* (arrivals). On these, fast trains are marked in red and local trains in black. The number (or sometimes letter) next to the word *vágány* indicates the 'platform' from which the train departs or arrives; for symbols and abbreviations used, see the table on p384.

If you plan to do a lot of travelling by train, get yourself a copy of MÁV's official timetable (*Menetrend*; 850/1550Ft in small/large format), which is available at most large stations and the MÁV office on Andrásy út in Budapest. It also has explanatory notes in several languages, including English.

All train stations have left-luggage offices, some of which stay open 24 hours. You sometimes have to pay the fee (300/600Ft per normal/large bag per day) at another office or window nearby, which is usually marked *pénztár* (cashier).

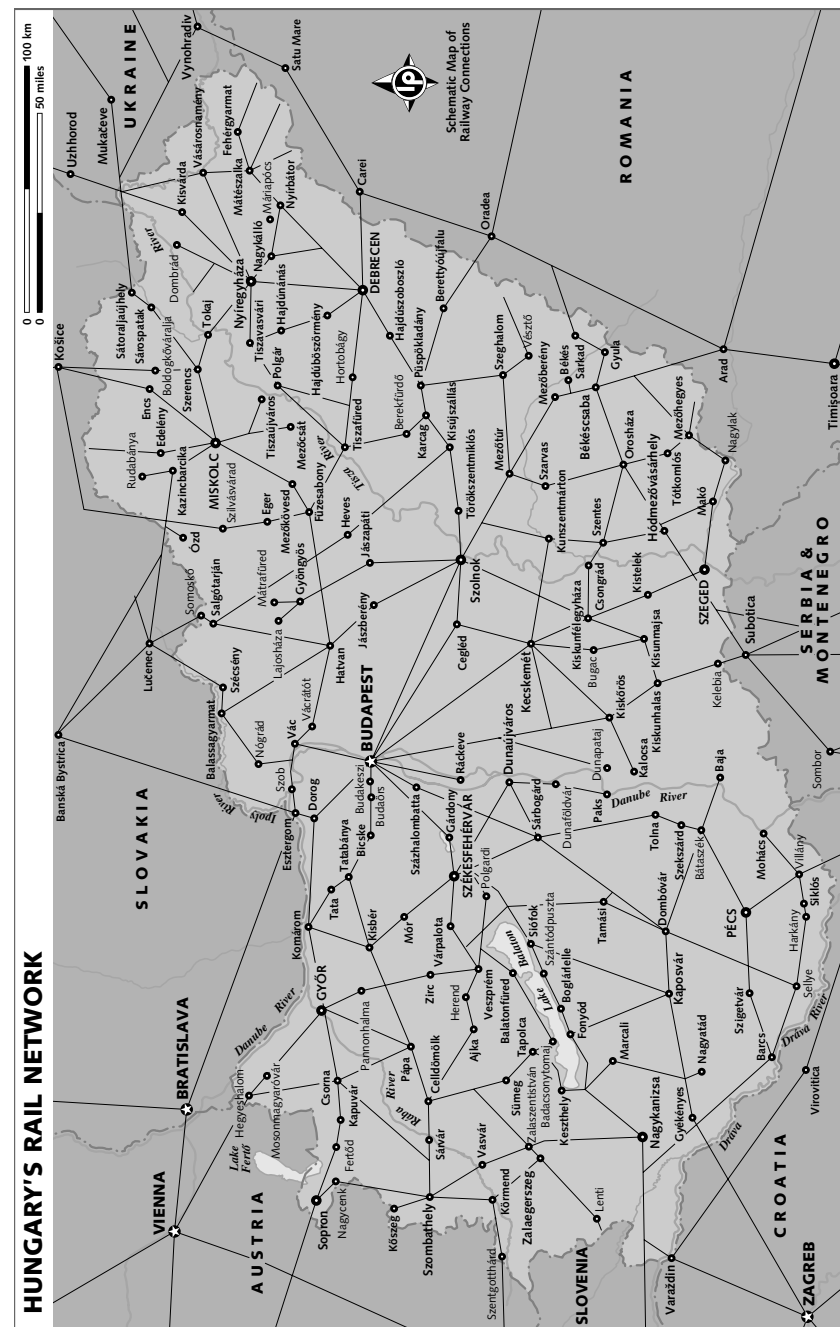
Some trains have a carriage especially for bicycles; on other trains, bicycles must be placed in the first or last cars. You are able to freight a bicycle for 25% of a full 2nd-class fare.

## Tickets & Fares

Domestic 2nd-class train fares are 946/1926/2676/3100/3524Ft for 100/200/300/400/500km. To travel 1st class costs 50% more.

Passengers holding a ticket of insufficient value must pay the difference plus a fine of 2000Ft. If you buy your ticket on the train rather than at the station, there's a 500Ft surcharge. You can be fined 500Ft for travelling on a domestic IC train without having paid the supplement and the same amount for not having a seat reservation when it is compulsory.

On Hungarian domestic trains, seat reservations may be compulsory (indicated on



the timetable by an 'R' in a box), mandatory only on trains departing from Budapest (an 'R' in a circle) or simply available (just a plain 'R').

Express trains usually require a seat reservation costing 130Ft, while the IC ones levy a surcharge of between 200Ft and 480Ft, which includes the reservation.

### Special Trains

Some 16 *keskenynyomközű vonat* (narrow-gauge trains) for the most part run by Állami Erdei Vasutak (ÁEV; State Forest Railways) on 220km of track can be found in many wooded and hilly areas of the country. They are usually taken as a return excursion by holiday-makers, but in some cases can be useful for getting from A to B (eg Miskolc to Lillafüred and the Bükk Hills).

An independent branch of MÁV runs vintage *nosztalgiavonat* (steam trains) in summer, generally along the northern shore of Lake Balaton (eg from Keszthely to Tapolca

via Badacsonytomaj) and along the Danube Bend from Budapest to Szob or Esztergom. For information contact **MÁV Nostalgia** (☎ 1-238 0558; www.mavnosztalgia.hu) in Keleti train station.

The only other train line in Hungary is called GySEV and links Győr and Sopron with Ebenfurth in Austria.

### Train Passes

The Hungary pass from Eurail, available to non-European residents only, costs US\$52/82 for five/10 days of 2nd-class travel in a 15-day period and US\$79/124 for 1st class. Children five to 11 pay half-price.

Euro Domino Hungary is a pass that allows European residents to travel on Hungary's entire rail network for between three and eight days of travel over a one-month period. A three-day pass costs €92/60 per adult in 1st/2nd class and €47 for those aged 12 to 25. Eight-day passes cost €203/136/100.

# Health

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Good travel health depends on your pre-departure preparations, your daily health care while travelling and the way you handle any medical problem that develops while you are on the road. Although the potential dangers might seem frightening, in reality few travellers experience anything more than an upset stomach.

## BEFORE YOU GO

A little planning before departure, particularly for pre-existing illnesses or conditions, will save trouble later. See your dentist before a long trip, carry a spare pair of contact lenses or glasses, and take your optical prescription with you. Bring medications in their original, clearly labelled containers. A signed and dated letter from your physician describing your medical conditions and medications, including their generic names, is also a good idea. If carrying syringes or needles, be sure to have a physician's letter documenting their medical necessity.

### INSURANCE

If you're an EU citizen, a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), available from health centres or, in the UK, post offices, covers you for most medical care. It will not cover you for nonemergencies or emergency repatriation. Citizens from other countries

should find out if there is a reciprocal arrangement for free medical care between their country and Hungary.

In Hungary, foreigners are entitled to first-aid and ambulance services only when they have suffered an accident and require immediate medical attention; follow-up treatment and medicine must be paid for.

If you do need health insurance while travelling (p372), consider a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an ambulance or an emergency flight home. Find out in advance if your insurance plan will make payments directly to providers or reimburse you later for overseas health expenditures. The former option is generally preferable, as it doesn't require you to pay out of pocket in a foreign country.

### RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

Hungary doesn't require any vaccination of international travellers, but the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends travellers be covered for diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio, regardless of their destination. Since most vaccines don't produce immunity until at least two weeks after they're given, visit a physician or clinic at least six weeks before departure.

### INTERNET RESOURCES

The WHO's online publication *International Travel and Health* is revised annually and is available at [www.who.int/ith](http://www.who.int/ith). Other useful websites:

**[www.ageconcern.org.uk](http://www.ageconcern.org.uk)** Advice on travel for the elderly.

**[www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk)** General travel advice for the lay person.

**[www.maristopes.org.uk](http://www.maristopes.org.uk)** Information on women's health and contraception.

**[www.mdtravelhealth.com](http://www.mdtravelhealth.com)** Travel-health recommendations for every country; updated daily.

It's usually a good idea to consult your government's travel health website before departure, if one is available:

**Australia** ([www.dfat.gov.au/travel/](http://www.dfat.gov.au/travel/))

**Canada** ([www.travelhealth.gc.ca](http://www.travelhealth.gc.ca))

**UK** ([www.dh.gov.uk/home/fs/en](http://www.dh.gov.uk/home/fs/en))

**USA** ([www.cdc.gov/travel/](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/))

## IN TRANSIT

### DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

Blood clots may form in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) during plane flights, chiefly because of prolonged immobility. The longer the flight, the greater the risk. The chief symptom of DVT is swelling or pain in the foot, ankle or calf – usually but not always – on just one side. When a blood clot travels to the lungs, it may cause chest pain and breathing difficulties. Travellers with any of these symptoms should seek medical attention immediately.

To prevent the development of DVT on long-haul flights, you should walk about the cabin, contract the leg muscles while sitting, drink plenty of fluids and avoid alcohol.

### JET LAG & MOTION SICKNESS

To avoid jet lag, which is common when crossing more than five time zones, you should drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids and eat light meals. Upon arrival, get exposure to natural sunlight and readjust your schedule (for meals, sleep and so on) as soon as possible.

Antihistamines such as dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) and meclizine (Antivert, Bonine) are usually the first choice for treating motion sickness. A herbal alternative is ginger.

## IN HUNGARY

### AVAILABILITY & COST OF HEALTH CARE

Medical care in Hungary is generally adequate and good for routine problems but not complicated conditions. Treatment at a *rendelő intézet* (public outpatient clinic) costs little, but doctors working privately will charge much more. Very roughly, a consultation in an *orvosi rendelő* (doctor's surgery) costs from 5000Ft while a home visit is from 10,000Ft.

Most large towns and all of Budapest's 23 districts have a *gyógyszertár* or *patika* (rotating 24-hour pharmacy). A sign on the door of any pharmacy will help you locate the closest one.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Tickborne encephalitis** is spread by *kullancs* (ticks), which burrow under the skin; in recent years, it has become a common problem in parts of Central and Eastern Europe, especially eastern Austria, Germany, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Encephalitis is a serious infection of the brain, and vaccination is advised for campers and hikers, particularly in Transdanubia and the Northern Uplands between May and September. For up-to-date information log on to [www.masta.org/tickalert](http://www.masta.org/tickalert).

**Lyme disease** is another tick-transmitted infection not unknown in Central and Eastern Europe. The illness usually begins with a spreading rash at the site of the tick bite and is accompanied by fever, headaches, extreme fatigue, aching joints and muscles and mild neck stiffness. If untreated, these symptoms usually resolve over several weeks, but over subsequent weeks or months disorders of the nervous system, heart and joints might develop.

**Poliomyelitis** is spread through contaminated food and water. It's one of the vaccines given in childhood and should be boosted every 10 years, either orally or by injection.

**Typhoid and hepatitis A** are spread through contaminated food (particularly shellfish) and water. Typhoid can cause septicaemia; hepatitis A causes liver inflammation and jaundice. Neither is usually fatal, but recovery can be prolonged. Typhoid vaccine (typhim Vi, typherix) will give protection for three years. In some countries, the oral vaccine Vivotif is also available. Hepatitis A vaccine (Avaxim, VAQTA, Havrix) is given as an injection; a single dose will give protection for up to a year, a booster after a year gives 10 years' protection. Hepatitis A and typhoid vaccines can also be given as a single dose vaccine, hepatrix or viatim.

**Rabies** is spread through bites or licks on broken skin from an infected animal and is always fatal unless treated. Three injections are needed over a month. If you have not been vaccinated, you will need a course of five injections starting 24 hours or as soon as possible after the injury.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

#### Insect Bites & Stings

Mosquitoes are a real scourge around Hungary's lakes and rivers in summer; the blood-

thirsty beasts might not carry malaria but can still cause irritation and infection. Just make sure you're armed with a DEET-based insect repellent, or *rovairító*, and wear long-sleeved shirts and long trousers around sundown.

Bees and wasps cause real problems only to those with a severe allergy (anaphylaxis). They should carry an 'epipen' or similar adrenaline injection.

#### Water

The WHO reports that arsenic in Hungary's drinking water has been detected at concentrations higher than the guideline level of 0.01 mg/L. Avoid drinking tap water in favour of the bottle stuff, which is available everywhere.

#### WOMEN'S HEALTH

If using oral contraceptives, remember that some antibiotics, diarrhoea and vomiting can stop the pill from working and lead to the risk of pregnancy. Time zones, gastro-

intestinal upsets and antibiotics do not affect injectable contraception.

Travelling during pregnancy is usually possible but always consult your doctor before planning your trip. The riskiest times for travel are during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and after 30 weeks.

#### SEXUAL HEALTH

The numbers of registered AIDS cases in Hungary and those who are HIV-positive are relatively low (just over 1100), though Hungarian epidemiologists estimate the actual number of those infected with HIV to be around 3000 or more. That number could multiply substantially as Budapest claims its less-than-distinctive title of 'sex industry capital of Eastern and Central Europe'. Two AIDS lines to contact in Budapest are the **Anonymous AIDS Association** (☎ 1-466-9283; ☎ 5-8pm Mon, Wed & Thu, 9am-noon Tue & Fri) and the **AIDS helpline** (☎ 1-338 2419, 266 0465; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri), with some English spoken.



# Language

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Hungarian (*Magyar*) is a member of the Ugric group of the Uralic family of languages that is related very, very distantly to Finnish (with five million speakers), Estonian (one million) and about a dozen other minority languages in Russia and western Siberia (with far fewer speakers). It's not an Indo-European language, meaning that English is actually closer to French, Russian or Hindi in vocabulary and structure than it is to Hungarian. As a result you'll come across very few recognisable words – with the exception of borrowings like *diszko*, *szex* or *hello*, which is the slangy way young Hungarians say 'goodbye'.

There are also a fair number of misleading homophones (words with the same sound but different meanings) in Hungarian: *test* is not a quiz but 'body'; *fog* is 'tooth'; *comb* is 'thigh'; and *part* is 'shore'. *Ifjúság*, pronounced (very roughly) 'if you shag', means 'youth'; *sajt* (pronounced 'shite'), as in every visiting Briton's favourite *sajtburger*, means 'cheese'.

For more Hungarian words and phrases than there is space for here, get a copy of Lonely Planet's *Hungarian Phrasebook*.

## PRONUNCIATION

Hungarian may seem daunting with its long words and strange-looking accents, but it's surprisingly easy to pronounce. Like

English, Hungarian isn't always written the way it's pronounced, but if you stick to the phonetic guides that accompany each phrase or word you can't go wrong.

The Hungarian alphabet has 44 letters and is based on the Latin alphabet. It includes accented letters and consonant combinations. The stroke over a vowel in the pronunciation guides (eg *ā*) means you say it as a long vowel sound.

The letters *ő* and *ó*, and *ü* and *ű*, are listed as separate pairs of letters in dictionaries (following *o*, *ó* and *u*, *ú* respectively). The consonant combinations *cs*, *dz*, *dzs*, *gy*, *ly*, *ny*, *sz*, *ty* and *zs* also have separate entries.

### Letter Pronunciation Guide

<b>a</b>	o	as in 'hot'
<b>á</b>	aa	as in 'father'
<b>e</b>	e	as in 'bet'
<b>é</b>	ay	as the 'ai' in 'air'
<b>i</b>	i	as in 'hit'
<b>í</b>	ee	as in 'meet'
<b>o</b>	aw	as in 'law' but short
<b>ó</b>	āw	as in 'awl'
<b>ö</b>	eu	as the 'u' in 'curt' but short
<b>ő</b>	ēu	as the 'er' in 'her' (British)
<b>u</b>	u	as in 'pull'
<b>ú</b>	ū	as in 'rule'
<b>ü</b>	ew	like <b>i</b> but with rounded lips (like <b>u</b> in French <i>tu</i> )
<b>ű</b>	ēw	as in strewn' <b>ü</b>

Remember, always pronounce **y** as in 'yes', but without a vowel sound. We've used an apostrophe (as in **n'**, **d'**, **t'**) to show this **y** sound when it falls at the end of a syllable. You'll also see double consonants like **bb**, **dd** or **tt** – draw them out a little longer than you would in English.

### Letter Pronunciation Guide

<b>c</b>	ts	as in 'rats'
<b>cs</b>	ch	as in 'cheese'
<b>dz</b>	dz	as in 'adze'
<b>dzs</b>	j	as in 'joke'
<b>gy</b>	dy/d'	as the 'du' in 'dune' (British)
<b>j/ly</b>	y	as in 'yes'
<b>ny</b>	n'	as the 'ny' in 'canyon'
<b>r</b>	r	as in 'run' (but rolled)

<b>s</b>	sh	as in 'ship'
<b>sz</b>	s	as in 'sit'
<b>ty</b>	ty/t'	as the 'tu' in 'tube' (British)
<b>zs</b>	zh	as the 's' in 'pleasure'

## Syllables & Word Stress

In this language guide, the syllables in the pronunciation guides are separated by a dot (eg *kawn-tsert*) so you'll have no problem isolating each unit of sound. Accents don't influence word stress which always falls on the first syllable of the word. We've used italics to show stress, which should make things even easier.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Where's a ...?

<i>Hol van egy ...?</i>	hawl von ed' ...
<b>camping ground</b>	
<i>kemping</i>	kem-ping
<b>guesthouse</b>	
<i>panzió</i>	pan-zi-āw
<b>hotel</b>	
<i>szálloda</i>	saal-law-do
<b>room in a private home</b>	
<i>fizető vendégszoba</i>	fi-ze-tēū ven-dayg saw-bo
<b>youth hostel</b>	
<i>ifjúsági szálló</i>	if-yū-shaa-gi saal-lāw

### What's the address?

*Mi a cím?* mi o tseem

### May I see it?

*Megnézhetem?* meg-nayz-he-tem

### I'll take it.

*Kiveszem.* ki-ve-sem

### I'd like to book a ... room, please.

*Szeretnék egy ... szobát foglalni.*

*se-ret-nayk ed' ... saw-baat fawg-lol-ni*

### single

*egyágyas* ed'aa-dyosh

### double

*francia ágyas/* fran-tsi-o aa-dyosh/  
*duplágyas* dup-lo-aa-dyosh

### twin

*kétágyas* kayt-aa-dyosh

### How much is it per ...?

*Mennyibe kerül egy ...?* men'-nyi-be ke-rewl ed' ...

### night

*éjszakára* ay-so-kaa-ro

### person

*főre* fēū-re

## CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

### Be Polite!

As in many other Western languages, verbs in Hungarian have polite and informal forms in the singular and plural. The polite address (marked as 'pol' in this section) is used with strangers, older people, officials and service staff. The informal address (marked as 'inf' in this language guide) is reserved for friends, children and sometimes foreigners, but is used much more frequently and sooner than its equivalent in, say, French. Almost all young people use it among themselves – even with strangers. In the following phrases, the polite 'you' (*Ön* and *Önök*) is given except for situations where you might wish to establish a more personal relationship.

Note that when you want to say 'Hello', 'Hi', or 'Bye', the word will change depending on whether you are speaking to one person or more than one. Look for the symbols 'sg' (singular) or 'pl' (plural) to determine which word to use.

### Hello.

*Szervusz.* (sg) ser-vus  
*Szervusztok.* (pl) ser-vus-tawk

### Hi.

*Szia/Sziasztok.* (sg/pl) si-o/si-os-tawk

### Good ...

*Jó ... kívánok.* yāw ... kee-vaa-nawk

### morning

*reggelt* reg-gelt

### afternoon/day

*napot* no-pawt

### evening

*estét* esh-tayt

### Goodbye.

*Viszontlátásra.* (pol) vi-sawnt-laa-taash-ro  
*Szia.* (inf sg) si-o  
*Sziasztok.* (inf pl) si-os-tawk

### Good night.

*Jó éjszakát.* yāw ay-y-so-kaat

### Yes.

*Igen.* i-gen

### No.

*Nem.* nem

### Please.

*Kérem.* (pol) kay-rem  
*Kérlek.* (inf) kayr-lek

**Thank you (very much).**

(Nagyon) Köszönöm. (no-dyawn) keu-seu-neum

**You're welcome.**

Szívesen. see-ve-shen

**Excuse me.** (to get attention)

Elnézést kérek. el-nay-zaysht kay-rek

**Excuse me.** (to get past)

Bocsánat. baw-chaa-not

**Sorry.**

Sajnálom. shoy-naa-lawm

**How are you?**

Hogy van? (pol) hawd' von

Hogy vagy? (inf) hawd' vod'

**Fine. And you?**

Jól. És Ön/te? (pol/inf) yāwl aysh eun-te

**What's your name?**

Mi a neve? (pol) mi o ne-ve

Mi a neved? (inf) mi o ne-ved

**My name is ...**

A nevem ... o ne-ve-m ...

**I'm pleased to meet you.**

Örvendek. eur-ven-dek

**Where are you from?**

Őn honnan jön? (pol) eun hawn-non yeun

Te honnan jössz? (inf) te hawn-non yeuss

**I'm from ...**

Én ... jövök. ayn ... yeu-veuk

**Local Lingo****Great!**

Nagyszerű! nod'se-rēw

**Maybe.**

Talán. to-laan

**Just a minute.**

Egy pillanat. ed' pil-lo-not

**No problem.**

Nem probléma. nem prawb-lay-mo

**Clear.** (as in 'understood')

Világos. vi-laa-gawsh

**DIRECTIONS****Where's (the market)?**

Hol van (a piac)? hawl von (o pi-ots)

**What's the address?**

Mi a cím? mi o tseem

**How do I get there?**

Hogyan jutok oda? haw-dyon yu-tawk aw-do

**How far is it?**

Milyen messze van? mi-yen mes-se von

**Can you show me (on the map)?**

Meg tudja mutatni nekem (a térképen)? meg tud-yo mu-tot-ni ne-kem (o tayr-kay-pen)

**It's straight ahead.**

egyenesen előttünk van. e-dye-ne-shen e-lēüt-tewnk von

**SIGNS**

Bejárat	Entrance
Kijárat	Exit
Nyitva	Open
Zárva	Closed
Foglalt	Reserved/Occupied
Felvilágosítás/Információ	Information
Belépni Tilos	No Entry
Tilos	Prohibited
Tilos a Dohányzás	No Smoking
Toalet/WC	Toilets
Férfiak	Men
Nők	Women

**Turn ...**

Forduljon ... fawr-dul-yawn ...

**at the corner**

a saroknál o sho-rawk-naal

**at the traffic lights**

a közlekedési o keuz-le-ke-day-shi

lámpánál laam-paa-naal

**left/right**

balra/jobbra bol-ro/yawwb-ro

north	észak	ay-sok
south	dél	dayl
east	kelet	ke-let
west	nyugat	nyu-got

**HEALTH****Where's the nearest ...?**

Hol a legközelebbi ...? hawl o leg-keu-ze-leb-bi ...

**dentist**

fogorvos fawg-awr-vawsh

**doctor**

orvos awr-vawsh

**hospital**

kórház káwr-haaz

**medical centre**

orvosi rendelő awr-vaw-shi ren-de-lēū

**(night) pharmacist**

(éjszaka nyitvatartó) (ay-so-ko nyit-vo-tor-tāw)

gyógyszertár dyāwd'ser-taar

**I have a headache.**

Fáj a fejem. faa-y o fe-yem

**I have a sore throat.**

Fáj a torkom. faa-y o tawr-kawm

**I have (a) ...**

... van. ... von

asthma Asztmám ost-maam

diarrhoea Hasmenésem hosh-me-nay-shem

fever Lázam laa-zom

nausea Hányingerem haan'in-ge-rem

**EMERGENCIES****Help!**

Segítséget! she-geet-shayg

**Could you please help?**

Tudna segíteni? tud-no she-gee-te-ni

**Can I use your phone?**

Használhatom a hos-naal-ho-tawm o

telefonját? te-le-fawn-yaat

**Call the police!**

Hívja a rendőrséget! heev-yo o rend-ēür-shay-get

**I'm sick.**

Rosszul vagyok. raws-sul vo-dyawk

**Call a doctor!**

Hívjon orvost! heev-yawn awr-vawsh

**Where's the police station?**

Hol a rendőrség? hawl o rend-ēür-shayg

**Where are the toilets?**

Hol a véce? hawl o vay-tse

**I'm lost.**

Eltévedtem. el-tay-ved-tem

**Go away!**

Menjen el! men-yen el

**I'm allergic to ...**

Allergiás vagyok ... ol-ler-gi-aash vo-dyawk ...

**antibiotics**

az antibiotikumokra oz on-ti-bi-aw-ti-ku-mawk-ro

**penicillin**

a penicillinre o pe-ni-tsil-lin-re

**antiseptic**

fertőzésgátló fer-tēū-zaysh-gaat-lāw

**contraceptives**

fogamzásgátló fawg-gom-zaash-gaat-lāw

**painkillers**

fájdalomcsillapító faa-y-do-lawm-chil-lo-pee-tāw

**LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES****Do you speak (English)?**

Beszél (angolul)? (pol) be-sayl (on-gaw-lul)

Beszélsz (angolul)? (inf) be-sayls (on-gaw-lul)

**Does anyone speak (English)?**

Beszél valaki (angolul)? be-sayl vo-lo-ki (on-gaw-lul)

**I (don't) understand.**

(Nem) Értem. (nem) ayr-tem

**What does ... mean?**

Mit jelent az, hogy ...? mit ye-lent oz hawd' ...

**Could you please write it down?**

Leírná, kérem. le-eer-naa kay-rem

**NUMBERS**

0 nulla nul-lo

1 egy ed'

2	kettő/két	ket-tēū/kayt
3	három	haa-rawm
4	négy	nayd'
5	öt	eut
6	hat	hot
7	hét	hayt
8	nyolc	nyawlts
9	kilenc	ki-lents
10	tíz	teez
11	tizenegy	tí-zen-ed'
12	tizenkettő	tí-zen-ket-tēū
13	tizenhárom	tí-zen-haa-rawm
14	tizennégy	tí-zen-nayd'
15	tizenöt	tí-zen-eut
16	tizenhat	tí-zen-hot
17	tizenhét	tí-zen-hayt
18	tizennyolc	tí-zen'-yawlts
19	tizenkilenc	tí-zen-ki-lents
20	húsz	hūs
21	huszonegy	hu-sawm-ed'
22	huszonkettő	hu-sawm-ket-tēū
30	harminc	hor-mints
31	harmincegy	hor-mints-ed'
32	harminckettő	hor-mints-ket-tēū
40	negyven	ned'-ven
41	negyvenegy	ned'-ven-ed'
42	negyvenkettő	ned'-ven-ket-tēū
50	ötven	eut-ven
60	hatvan	hot-von
70	hetven	het-ven
80	nyolcvan	nyawlts-von
90	kilencven	ki-lents-ven
100	száz	saaz
200	kétszáz	kayt-saaz
1000	ezer	e-zer

**How much?**

Mennyi?

men'-yi

**How many?**

Hány?

haan'

**SHOPPING & SERVICES****Where is ...?**

Hol van ...? hawl von ...

**an ATM**

egy bankautomata ed' bonk-o-u-taw-mo-to

**a foreign exchange office**

egy valutaváltó ed' vo-lu-to-vaal-tāw

ügynökség ewd'-neuk-shayg

**the market**

a piac o pi-ots

**a shopping centre**

egy bevásárlóközpont ed' be-vaa-shaar-lāw-keuz-pawnt

**a supermarket**

egy élelmiszeráruház ed' ay-lel-mi-ser-aa-ru-haaz

**I'd like to ...**

Szeretnék ... se-ret-nayk ...

**change a travellers cheque**

beváltani egy utazási csekket be-vaal-to-ni ed' u-to-zaa-shi chek-ket

**change money**

pénzt váltani paynzt vaal-to-ni

**Do you accept ...?**

Elfogadnak ...? el-faw-god-nok ...

**credit cards**

hitelkártyát hi-tel-kaar-tyaat

**travellers cheques**

utazási csekket u-to-zaa-shi chek-ket

**Where can I buy ...?**

Hol tudok venni ...? hawl tu-dawk ven-ni ...

**I'd like to buy ...**

Szeretnék venni ... se-ret-nayk ven-ni ...

**I'm just looking.**

Csak nézegetek. chok nay-ze-ge-tek

**How much is this?**

Mennyibe kerül ez? men'-yi-be ke-rewl ez

**Could you write down the price?**

Le tudná írni az árát? le tud-naa eer-ni oz aa-raat

**What time does it open/close?**

Mikor nyit/zár? mi-kawr nyit/zaar

**Where's the nearest public phone?**

Hol a legközelebbi nyilvános telefon? hawl o leg-keu-ze-leb-bi nyil-vaa-nawsh te-le-fawn

**I want to buy a phonecard.**

Szeretnék telefonkártyát venni. se-ret-nayk te-le-fawn-kaar-tyaat ven-ni

**Where's the local Internet café?**

Hol van a legközelebbi internet kávézó? hawl von o leg-keu-ze-leb-bi in-ter-net kaa-vay-zaw

**I'd like to ...**

Szeretném ... se-ret-naym ...

**check my email**

megnézni az e-mailjeimet meg-nayz-ni oz ee-mayl-ye-i-met

**get Internet access**

rámenni az internetre raa-men-ni oz in-ter-net-re

**TIME & DATE****What time is it?**

Hány óra? haan' aw-ra

**It's (one/ten) o'clock.**

(Egy/Tíz) óra van. (ed'/teez) aw-ra von

**Five past (ten).**

Öt percel múlt (tíz). eut perts-tsel múlt (teez)

**Quarter past (ten).**

Negyed (tizenegy). ne-dyed (ti-zen-ed')

**Half past (ten).**

Fél (tizenegy). fayl (ti-zen-ed')

**now**

most mawsh

**today**

ma mo

**tonight**

ma este mo esh-te

**yesterday**

tegnap teg-nop

**tomorrow**

holnap hawl-nop

**afternoon**

délután dayl-u-taan

**evening**

este esh-te

**morning**

reggel reg-gel

**night**

éjszaka ay-so-ko

**Monday**

hétfő hayt-fēū

**Tuesday**

kedd kedd

**Wednesday**

szerda ser-do

**Thursday**

csütörtök chew-teur-teuk

**Friday**

péntek payn-tek

**Saturday**

szombat sawm-bot

**Sunday**

vasárnap vo-shaar-nop

**January**

január ya-nu-aa

**February**

február feb-ru-aa

**March**

március maar-tsi-ush

**April**

április aap-ri-lish

**May**

május maa-yush

**June**

június yū-ni-ush

**July**

július yū-li-ush

**August**

augusztus o-u-gus-tush

**September**

szeptember sep-tem-ber

**October**

október awk-taw-ber

**November**

november naw-vem-ber

**December**

december de-tsem-ber

**TRANSPORT****Public Transport****Where's the ticket office?**

Hol a jegypénztár? hawl o yed'-paynzt-taar

**What time does it leave?**

Mikor indul? mi-kawr in-dul

**What time does it get to (Eger)?**

Mikor ér (Egerbe)? mi-kawr ayr (e-ger-be)

**How long does the trip take?**

Mennyi ideig tart az út? men'-yi i-de-ig tort oz út

**How long will it be delayed?**

Mennyit késik? men'-yit kay-shik

**Please stop here.**

Kérem, álljon meg itt. kay-rem aall-yawn meg itt

**How much is it?**

Mennyibe kerül? men'-yi-be ke-rewl

**local bus station**

helyi buszállomás he-yi bus-aal-law-maash

**long-distance bus station**

távolsági autóbuszállomás taa-vawl-shaa-gi o-u-taw-bus-aal-law-maash

**Which ... goes (to Budapest/the Parliament)?**

Melyik ... megy (Budapestre/a Parlamenthez)? me-yik ... med' (bu-do-pesh-tre/o por-lo-ment-hez)

**bus**

busz bus

**train**

vonat vaw-not

**tram**

villamos vil-lo-mawsh

**trolleybus**

trolibusz traw-li-bus

**metro line**

metró met-raw

**When's the ...?**

Mikor megy ...? mi-kawr med' ...

**first**

az első oz el-shēū

**last**

az utolsó oz u-tawl-shāw

**next**

a következő o keu-vet-ke-zēū

**A ... ticket to (Eger).**

Egy ... jegy (Eger)be. ed' ... yej (e-ger)-be

**one-way**

csak oda chok aw-do

**return**

oda-vissza aw-do-vis-so

**Is this taxi available?**

Szabad ez a taxi? so-bod ez o tok-si

**Please put the meter on.**

Kérem, kapcsolja be az órát. kay-rem kop-chawl-yo be oz aw-raat

**How much is it to ...?**

Mennyibe kerül ... ba? men'-yi-be ke-rewl ... bo

**Please take me to (this address).**

Kérem, vigyen el (erre a címre). kay-rem vi-dyen el (er-re o tseem-re)

**How much is it?**

Mennyit fizetek? men'-nyit fi-ze-tek

**Private Transport****I'd like to hire a/an ...**

Szeretnék egy ... bérelni. se-ret-nayk ed' ... bay-rel-ni

**car**

autót o-u-tawt

**motorbike**

motort maw-tawrt

**ROAD SIGNS****Autópálya Kijárat**

Exit Freeway

**Behajtani Tilos**

No Entry

**Bejárat**

Entrance

**Egyirányú**

One Way

**Elsőbbségadás Kötelező**

Give Way

**Megállni Tilos**

No Standing

**Terelőút**

Detour

**Útépítés**

Road Work Ahead

**Várakozni Tilos**

No Parking

**Is this the road to (Sopron)?**

Ez az út vezet (Sopronba)? ez oz út ve-zet (shawp-rawn-bo)

**Where's a petrol station?**

Hol van egy benzinkút? hawl von ed' ben-zin-küt

**Please fill it up.**

Kérem, töltsse tele. kay-rem teult-she te-le

**I'd like ... litres.**

... litert kérek. ... li-tert kay-rek

**petrol/gas**

benzin ben-zin

**diesel**

dízjel/gázolaj dee-zel/gaa-zo-lay

**loaded**

ólmozott awl-maw-zawtt

**LPG**

folyékony autógáz faw-yay-kawn' o-u-taw-gaaz

**regular**

normál nawr-maal

**premium unleaded**

ólommentes szuper aw-lawm-men-tesh su-per

**unleaded**

ólommentes aw-lawm-men-tesh

**(How long) Can I park here?**

(Meddig) Parkolhatok itt?

(med-dig) por-kawl-ho-tawk itt

**I need a mechanic.**

Szükségem van egy autószerelőre.

sewk-shay-gem von ed' o-u-taw-se-re-le-üre

**The car/motorbike has broken down (at Sopron).**

Az autó/A motor elromlott (Sopronnál).

oz o-u-taw/o maw-tawr el-rawm-lawtt (shawp-rawn-naal)

**The car/motorbike won't start.**

Az autó/A motor nem indul.

oz o-u-taw/o maw-tawr nem in-dul

**I have a flat tyre.**

Defektem van.

de-fek-tem von

**TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN****Is there a ...?***Van ...?*

von ...

**I need a/an ...***Szükségem van egy ...**sewk-shay-gem von ed' ...***baby change room***babapelenkázó szobára**ba-bo-pe-len-kaa-zäw saw-baa-ro***baby seat***babaiülésre**ba-bo-ew-laysh-re***(English-speaking) babysitter***(angolul beszélő) bébiszitterre**(on-gaw-lul be-say-lëü) bay-bi-sit-ter-re***booster seat***gyerekülésre**dye-rek-ew-laysh-re***disposable nappies/diapers***eldobható pelenkára**el-dawb-ho-täw pe-len-kaa-ro***highchair***etetőszékre**e-te-tëü-sayk-re***potty***bilire**bi-li-re***stroller***ülő gyerekocsira**ew-lëü dye-rek-kaw-chi-ro***Are children allowed?***Beengedik a gyerekeket?**be-en-ge-dik o dye-re-ke-ke-t***Do you mind if I breastfeed here?***Megengedi, hogy itt szoptassak?**meg-en-ge-di hawd' itt sawp-tosh-shok*

Also available from Lonely Planet:  
Hungarian Phrasebook

# Glossary

Can't find the word you're looking for here? Try the Language chapter (p394) or the glossary in the Food & Drink chapter (p60).

**ÁÉV** – Állami Erdei Vasutak (State Forest Railways)

**ÁFA** – value-added tax (VAT)

**Alföld** – same as *Nagyalföld* and *puszta*

**aluljáró** – underpass

**Ausgleich** – German for 'reconciliation'; the Compromise of 1867

**autóbusz** – bus

**autóbuszállomás** – bus station

**Avars** – a people of the Caucasus who invaded Europe in the 6th century

**ÁVO** – Rákosi's hated secret police in the early years of communism; later renamed ÁVH

**bal** – left

**bejárat** – entrance

**bélyeg** – stamp

**benzin** – petrol

**BKV** – Budapest Közlekedési Vállalat (Budapest Transport Company)

**bokor tanyák** – bush farms

**bolhapiac** – flea market

**borozó** – wine bar; any place serving wine

**Bp** – commonly used abbreviation for Budapest

**búcsú** – farewell; also, a church patronal festival

**büfé** – snack bar

**centrum** – town or city centre

**čevapčići** – spicy Balkan meatballs

**Compromise of 1867** – agreement that created the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary

**Copf** – a transitional architectural style between late baroque and neoclassicism (*Zopf* in German)

**csárda** – a Hungarian-style inn or restaurant

**csatorna** – canal

**csikós** – 'cowboy' from the *puszta*

**csomagmegőrző** – left-luggage office

**cukrászda** – cake shop or patisserie

**D** – map/compass abbreviation for *dél* (south)

**Dacia** – Latin name for Romania and lands east of the Tisza River

**db** or **drb** – piece (measurement used in markets)

**de** – in the morning, 'am'

**dél** – south

**du** – in the afternoon/evening, 'pm'

**É** – map/compass abbreviation for *észak* (north)

**Eclectic** – an art and architectural style popular in Hungary in the Romantic period, drawing from sources both indigenous and foreign

**élelmiszer** – grocery shop or convenience store

**előszoba** – vestibule or anteroom; one of three rooms in a traditional Hungarian cottage

**em** – abbreviation for *emelet* (floor or storey)

**emelet** – floor or storey

**erdő** – forest

**érkezés** – arrivals

**észak** – north

**eszpresszó** – coffee shop, often also selling alcoholic drinks and snacks; strong, black coffee; same as *presszó*

**étkeзде** – canteen that serves simple dishes

**étterem** – restaurant

**falu** – village

**fasor** – boulevard, avenue

**felvilágosítás** – information

**fogas** – pike-perch like fish indigenous to Lake Balaton

**földszint** – ground floor

**folyó** – river

**forint** – Hungary's monetary unit

**főkapitányság** – main police station

**főváros** – main city or capital

**főzelék** – a traditional way of preparing vegetables, where they're fried or boiled and then mixed into a roux with milk

**fsz** – abbreviation for *földszint* (ground floor)

**Ft** – forint; see also *HUF*

**gázolaj** – diesel fuel

**gulyás** or **gulyásleves** – a thick beef soup cooked with onions and potatoes and usually eaten as a main course

**gyógyfürdő** – bath or spa

**gyógyszertár** – pharmacy

**gyógyvíz** – medicinal drinking water

**gyorsvonat** – fast trains

**gyűjtemény** – collection

**gyula** – chief military commander of the early Magyar

**hajdúk** – Hungarian for *Heyducks*

**hajó** – boat

**hajóállomás** – ferry pier or landing

**ház** – house

**hegy** – hill, mountain

**hegyalja** – hill country

**helyi autóbusz pályaudvar** – local bus station

**HÉV** – Helyiérdekű Vasút (suburban commuter train in Budapest)

**Heyducks** – drovers and outlaws from the *puszta* who fought as mercenaries against the Habsburgs

**híd** – bridge

**HNTO** – Hungarian National Tourism Office

**hőforrás** – thermal spring

**honfoglalás** – conquest of the Carpathian Basin by the Magyars in the late 9th century

**HUF** – international currency code for the Hungarian forint

**Huns** – a Mongol tribe that swept across Europe under Attila in the 5th century AD

**Ibusz** – Hungarian national network of travel agencies

**ifjúsági szálló** – youth hostel

**illeték** – duty or tax

**indulás** – departures

**jobb** – right (as opposed to left)

**K** – abbreviation for *kelet* (east)

**kamra** – workshop or shed; one of three rooms in a traditional Hungarian cottage

**kastély** – manor house or mansion (see *vár*)

**kb** – abbreviation for *körülbelül* (approximately)

**kekfestő** – cotton fabric dyed a rich indigo blue

**kelet** – east

**kemping** – camping ground

**képtár** – picture gallery

**kerület** – city district

**khas** – towns of the Ottoman period under direct rule of the sultan

**kijárat** – exit

**kinctár** – treasury

**kirándulás** – outing

**Kiskörút** – ‘Little Ring road’ in Budapest

**kocsmá** – pub or saloon

**kolostor** – monastery or cloister

**komp** – ferry

**könyvesbolt** – bookshop

**könyvtár** – library

**konzumlányok** – ‘consume girls’: attractive young women who work in collusion with bars and clubs to rip off unsuspecting male tourists

**kórház** – hospital

**körülbelül** – approximately (abbreviation *kb*)

**körút** – ring road

**korzó** – embankment or promenade

**köz** – alley, mews, lane

**központ** – centre

**krt** – abbreviation for *körút* (ring road)

**kúria** – mansion or manor

**kuruc** – Hungarian mercenaries, partisans or insurrectionists who resisted the expansion of Habsburg rule in Hungary after the withdrawal of the Turks (late 17th/early 18th centuries)

**lángos** – deep-fried dough with toppings

**lekvár** – fruit jam

**lépcső** – stairs, steps

**liget** – park

**Magyarország autóatlása** – road atlas of Hungary

**Mahart** – Hungarian passenger ferry company

**Malév** – Hungary’s national airline

**MÁV** – Magyar Államvasutak (Hungarian State Railways)

**megye** – county

**menetrend** – timetable

**mihrab** – Muslim prayer niche facing Mecca

**MNB** – Magyar Nemzeti Bank (National Bank of Hungary)

**Moorish Romantic** – an art style popular in the decoration of 19th-century Hungarian synagogues

**mozi** – cinema

**műemlék** – memorial, monument

**munkavállalási engedély** – work permit

**Nagyalföld** – the Great Plain (same as the *Alföld* and *puszta*)

**Nagykörút** – ‘Big Ring road’ in Budapest

**népművészeti bolt** – folk-art shop

**Nonius** – Hungarian breed of horse

**nosztalgiavonat** – vintage steam train

**Ny** – abbreviation for *nyugat* (west)

**nyitva** – open

**nyugat** – west

**ó** – abbreviation for *óra*

**önkiszolgáló** – self-service

**óra** – hour, ‘o’clock

**orvosi rendelő** – doctor’s surgery

**osztály** – department

**OTP** – Országos Takarékpénztár (National Savings Bank)

**Ottoman Empire** – the Turkish empire that took over from the Byzantine Empire when it captured Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1453, and expanded into southeastern Europe

**pálinka** – fruit brandy

**palota** – palace

**pályaudvar** – train or railway station

**Pannonia** – Roman name for the lands south and west of the Danube River

**panzió** – *penzion*, guesthouse

**part** – embankment

**patika** – pharmacy

**patyolat** – laundry

**pénztár** – cashier

**pénzváltó** – exchange office

**piac** – market

**pince** – wine cellar

**plébánia** – rectory, parish house

**polgármester** – mayor

**pörkölt** – stew

**porta** – type of farmhouse in Transdanubia

**presszó** – same as *eszpresszó* (coffee shop; strong, black coffee)

**pu** – abbreviation for *pályaudvar* (train station)

**puli** – Hungarian breed of sheepdog with shaggy coat

**puszta** – literally ‘deserted’; other name for the Great Plain (see *Alföld* and *Nagyalföld*)

**puttony** – the number of ‘butts’ of sweet *aszú* essence added to other base wines in making Tokaj wine

**racka** – sheep on the Great Plain with distinctive corkscrew horns

**rakpart** – quay, embankment

**rendőrkapitányság** – police station

**repülőtér** – airport

**Romany** – the language and culture of the Roma (Gypsy) people

**sebesvonat** – swift trains

**Secessionism** – art and architectural style similar to Art Nouveau

**sedile** (pl *sedilia*) – medieval stone niche with seats

**sétány** – walkway, promenade

**shahóof** – distinctive sweep-pole well found only on the Great Plain (Hungarian: *gémeskút*)

**skanzen** – open-air museum displaying village architecture

**söröző** – beer bar or pub

**spahi** – name given to a member of the Turkish irregular cavalry. The officers of the *spahis* were granted fiefs by the Sultan, and were entitled to all income from the fief in return for military service to the Sultan.

**stb** – abbreviation of ‘*s a többi*’ (and so on) equivalent to English ‘etc’

**strand** – grassy ‘beach’ near a river or lake

**sugárút** – avenue

**szálló** or **szálloda** – hotel

**székesegyház** – cathedral

**személyvonat** – passenger trains that stop at every city, town, village and hamlet along the way

**sziget** – island

**színház** – theatre

**szoba kiadó** – room for rent

**szűr** – long embroidered felt cloak or cape traditionally worn by Hungarian shepherds

**Tanácsköztársaság** – the 1919 Communist ‘Republic of Councils’ under Béla Kun

**táncház** – folk music and dance workshop

**tanya** – homestead or ranch; station

**tartózkodási engedély** – residence permit

**távolsági autóbusz pályaudvar** – long-distance bus station

**templom** – church

**tér** – town or market square

**tere** – genitive form of *tér* as in Hősök tere (Square of the Heroes)

**tilos** – prohibited, forbidden

**tiszta szoba** – parlour; one of three rooms in a traditional Hungarian cottage

**tó** – lake

**toalett** – toilet

**Trianon Treaty** – 1920 treaty imposed on Hungary by the victorious Allies, which reduced the country to one-third of its former size

**Triple Alliance** – 1882–1914 alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy – not to be confused with the WWI Allies (members of the *Triple Entente* and their supporters)

**Triple Entente** – agreement among Britain, France and Russia, intended as a counterbalance to the *Triple Alliance*, lasting until the Russian Revolution of 1917

**turul** – eagle-like totem of the ancient Magyars and now a national symbol

**u** – abbreviation for *utca* (street)

**udvar** – court

**ünnep** – public holiday

**úszoda** – swimming pool

**út** – road

**utca** – street

**utcája** – genitive form of *utca* as in Ferencsek utcája (Street of the Franciscans)

**útja** – genitive form of *út* as in Mártírok útja (Street of the Martyrs)

**üzlet** – shop

**vá** – abbreviation for *vasútmegálló* (train station)

**vágány** – platform

**vár** – castle

**város** – city

**városház** or **városháza** – town hall

**vasútállomás** – train or railway station

**vendéglő** – a type of restaurant

**vm** – abbreviation for *vasútállomás* (train station)

**Volán** – Hungarian bus company

**vonat** – train

**WC** – toilet (see *toalett*)

**zárva** – closed

**Zimmer frei** – German for ‘room for rent’

**Zopf** – German and more commonly used word for *Copf*

# Alternative Place Names

On a lot of bus and train timetables, Hungarian-language names are used for cities and towns in neighbouring countries. Many of these are in what once was Hungarian territory, and the names are used by the Hungarian-speaking minorities who live there. You should at least be familiar with the more important ones (eg Pozsony for Bratislava, Kolozsvár for Cluj-Napoca, Bécs for Vienna).

## ABBREVIATIONS

(C) Croatian, (E) English, (G) German, (H) Hungarian, (R) Romanian, (S) Serbian, (Slk) Slovak, (Slo) Slovene, (U) Ukrainian

**Alba Iulia** (R) – Gyula Fehérvár (H), Karlsburg/Weissenburg (G)

**Baia Mare** (R) – Nagybánya (H)

**Balaton** (H) – Plattensee (G)

**Banská Bystrica** (Slk) – Besztercebánya (H)

**Belgrade** (E) – Beograd (S), Nándorfehérvár (H)

**Beregovo** (U) – Beregszász (H)

**Braşov** (R) – Brassó (H), Kronstadt (G)

**Bratislava** (Slk) – Pozsony (H), Pressburg (G)

**Carei** (R) – Nagykároly (H)

**Cluj-Napoca** (R) – Kolozsvár (H), Klausenburg (G)

**Danube** (E) – Duna (H), Donau (G)

**Danube Bend** (E) – Dunakanyar (H), Donauknie (G)

**Debrecen** (H) – Debresin (G)

**Eger** (H) – Erlau (G)

**Eisenstadt** (G) – Kismárton (H)

**Esztergom** (H) – Gran (G)

**Great Plain** (E) – Nagyalföld, Alföld, Puszta (H)

**Győr** (H) – Raab (G)

**Hungary** (E) – Magyarország (H), Ungarn (G)

**Kisalföld** (H) – Little Plain (E)

**Komárom** (H) – Komárno (Slk)

**Košice** (Slk) – Kassa (H), Kaschau (G)

**Kőszeg** (H) – Güns (G)

**Lendava** (Slo) – Lendva (H)

**Lučenec** (Slk) – Losonc (H)

**Mattersburg** (G) – Nagymárton (H)

**Mukačevo** (U) – Munkács (H)

**Murska Sobota** (Slo) – Muraszombat (H)

**Northern Uplands** (E) – Északi Felföld (H)

**Oradea** (R) – Nagyvárad (H), Grosswardein (G)

**Osijek** (C) – Eszék (H)

**Pécs** (H) – Fünfkirchen (G)

**Rožnava** (Slk) – Rozsnyó (H)

**Satu Mare** (R) – Szatmárnémeti (H)

**Senta** (S) – Zenta (H)

**Sibiu** (R) – Nagyszeben (H), Hermannstadt (G)

**Sic** (R) – Szék (H)

**Sighişoara** (R) – Szegesvár (H), Schässburg (G)

**Sopron** (H) – Ödenburg (G)

**Štúrovo** (Slk) – Párkány (H)

**Subotica** (S) – Szabadka (H)

**Szeged** (H) – Segedin (G)

**Székesfehérvár** (H) – Stuhlweissenburg (G)

**Szombathely** (H) – Steinamanger (G)

**Tata** (H) – Totis (G)

**Timişoara** (R) – Temesvár (H)

**Tirgu Mureş** (R) – Marosvásárhely (H)

**Transdanubia** (E) – Dunántúl (H)

**Transylvania** (R) – Erdély (H), Siebenbürgen (G)

**Trnava** (Slk) – Nagyszombat (H)

**Uzhhorod** (U) – Ungvár (H)

**Vác** (H) – Wartzen (G)

**Vienna** (E) – Wien (G), Bécs (H)

**Villány** (H) – Wieland (G)

**Villánykövesd** (H) – Growisch (G)

**Wiener Neustadt** (G) – Bécsújhely (H)

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