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## TRANSPORT

### AIR

Budapest can be reached directly from destinations around the world, including the USA, but its most important gateways are in Continental Europe, especially now that 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 arrived, bringing the cost of flying between Budapest and dozens of European cities to a level that fits most travellers' budget. Fares vary greatly depending on the destination, availability and the time of the flight.

Note that there are no scheduled flights within Hungary.

### Airlines

National carrier, **Malév Hungarian Airlines** (MA; % in Hungary 06-40 212 121, from abroad 36-1 235 3888; [www.malev.hu](http://www.malev.hu)), flies nonstop or to Budapest via Prague, Madrid or Amsterdam from North America, the Middle East and almost 60 cities in continental Europe and the UK. It also flies to/from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou in China.

The main **Malév Customer Service Centre** (Map pp218–19; % 235 3222; [www.malev.hu](http://www.malev.hu); XIII Váci út 26; h 8.30am–7pm Mon–Fri, 10am–6pm Sat & Sun; r M3 Nyugati pályaudvar) is just northwest of Nyugati train station. Malév also has ticket-issuing desks at Ferihegy airport (right).

Other major carriers serving Budapest:

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

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

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

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

**Austrian Airlines** (OS; % 327 9080; [www.aua.com](http://www.aua.com); hub Vienna)

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

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

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

**EgyptAir** (MS; % 266 4300; [www.egyptair.com.eg](http://www.egyptair.com.eg); hub Cairo)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Airports

Budapest's **Ferihegy International Airport** (% 296 7000; [www.bud.hu](http://www.bud.hu)), 24km southeast of the city centre, has two modern terminals side by side and an older one about 5km to the west.

Malév flights and, for the most part, those of its 18 or so code-share partners arrive and depart from Terminal 2A. Most other

international airlines use Terminal 2B, which is next door and within easy walking distance. Malév has a ticketing desk at **Terminal 2A** (% 296 7211; h 5am–11pm) and another one at **Terminal 2B** (% 296 5767; h 6am–8.30pm); at the latter you'll also find a **left-luggage office** (per item per 1/3/6hr 350/1050/1400Ft, per day/week 2200/6500Ft; h 24hr). The super-discount European carriers, recent arrivals to Budapest, now use the refurbished Terminal 1.

The **Airport Minibus Service** (% 296 8555; [mini-bus@bud.hu](mailto:mini-bus@bud.hu); one way/return 2300/3900Ft) ferries passengers in eight-seater vans from all three of the airport's terminals directly to their hotel, hostel or residence. Tickets are available at a clearly marked desk in the arrival halls. You need to book your journey to the airport 24 hours in advance but remember that, with up to seven pick-ups en route, this can be a nerve-wracking way to go if you're running late.

If you want to take a taxi, call one of the companies listed on p185 with a mobile or from a public phone at arrivals (dispatchers understand English) and expect to pay about 5000Ft. If you book in advance, **Tele 5** (% 355 5555) charges 3490Ft between the airport and Pest and 3990Ft for Buda. Its taxis are just down the road, awaiting your call.

The cheapest – but most time-consuming – way to get into town from Ferihegy is to take the airport bus (look for the stop marked 'BKV Plusz Reptér Busz' on the pavement between terminals 2A and 2B), which terminates at the Kőbánya-Kispest metro station. From there take the M3 metro into the centre. The total cost is 320Ft.

### BICYCLE

More and more cyclists are seen on the streets and avenues of Budapest these days, taking advantage of the growing network of bike paths. The main roads in the city might be a bit too busy and nerve-wracking to make for enjoyable cycling but the side streets are fine, and there are some areas (City Park, Margaret Island etc) where cycling is positively ideal. See p138 for ideas on where to cycle, and information on where to rent bikes.

Cyclists may have problems crossing Hungarian border stations connected to main roads since bicycles are banned on motorways and national highways with single-digit route numbers. In general, border crossings

### BOOKINGS ONLINE

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

that allow pedestrian crossings also allow cyclists through.

### BOAT Local

Between May and mid-September passenger ferries run by **BKV** (% 369 1359; [www.bkv.hu](http://www.bkv.hu)) depart from IX Boráros tér (Map pp228–9) beside Petőfi Bridge between six and eight times daily and head for III Rómaifürdő and Csillaghegy in Óbuda, a two-hour trip with 10 stops along the way. Tickets (adult/child 600/300Ft from end to end or between 500/250Ft and 200/150Ft for intermediate stops) are sold on board. The ferry stop closest to the Castle District is I Batthyány tér, and V Petőfi tér is not far from Vörösmarty tér. Transporting a bicycle costs 500Ft.

### International

A hydrofoil service on the Danube between Budapest and Vienna (5½ to 6½ hours, 282km) operates daily from early April to October and allows passengers to disembark at Bratislava with advance notice. One-way/return adult 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 along a bicycle costs €18 each way.

In Budapest, ferries arrive and depart from the **International Ferry Pier** (Nemzetközi hajóállomás; Map p224; V Belgrád rakpart), which is between Elizabeth and Independence 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 of these cities at 8am.

For information, tickets and reservations contact **Mahart PassNave** (Map p224; % 484 4013; [www.mahartpassnave.hu](http://www.mahartpassnave.hu); V Belgrád rakpart; h 8am–6pm).

### WARNING

The information in this section is particularly vulnerable to change: prices for international travel are volatile, routes are introduced and cancelled, schedules change, special deals come and go, and rules and visa requirements are amended. In addition, the travel industry is highly competitive and there are many lurks and perks.

Get opinions, quotes and advice from as many airlines and travel agents as possible before you part with your hard-earned cash, and double-check you understand how a fare (and any ticket you may buy) works. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research into the current situation.

## GETTING AROUND TOWN

Budapest has an ageing but safe, efficient and inexpensive public transport system that will never have you waiting more than five or 10 minutes for any conveyance. There are five types of vehicles in general use: metro trains on three city lines; green HÉV trains on four suburban lines; blue buses; yellow trams and red trolleybuses. All are run by BKV (Budapest Transport Company; ☎ 342 2335, 06-80 406 688; www.bkv.hu).

Anyone planning to travel extensively by public transport in Budapest should buy a copy of the invaluable *Budapesti Közlekedési Hálózat Terképe* (Budapest Transport Network Map; 380Ft) available at most metro ticket booths.

Daytime public transport in Budapest runs from about 4am to between 9pm and 11.30pm, depending on the line. From 11.30pm to 4am some 30 night buses (always with three digits and beginning with '9') operate every 10 to 60 minutes, again depending on the line.

### Fares & Travel Passes

To ride the metro, trams, trolleybuses, buses and the HÉV (as far as the city limits, which is the Békásmegyér stop north of Óbuda) you must have a valid ticket, which you can buy at kiosks, newsstands or metro entrances. Children up to the age of six travel free when accompanied by an adult. Bicycles can only be transported on the HÉV, all Mahart boats and on the Cog and Children's Railways.

The basic fare for all forms of transport is 185Ft (1665/3145Ft for a block of 10/20 tickets), allowing you to travel as far as you like on the same metro, bus, trolleybus or tram line without changing. A ticket allowing unlimited stations with one change within 1½ hours costs 320Ft.

On the metro exclusively, the base fare drops to 130Ft if you are just going three stops within 30 minutes. For 200Ft you can travel five stops and transfer at Deák Ferenc tér to one of the other two metro lines within one hour. Unlimited stations travelled with one change within one hour costs 300Ft.

You must always travel in one continuous direction on any ticket; return trips are not allowed. Tickets have to be validated in machines at metro entrances and aboard other vehicles – inspectors will fine you for not validating your ticket.

Life will most likely be much simpler if you buy a travel pass. Passes are valid on all trams, buses, trolleybuses, HÉV (within the city limits) and metro lines, and you don't have to worry about validating your ticket each time you get on. The most central places to buy them are ticket offices at the Deák Ferenc tér metro station (Map p224), the Nyugati pályaudvar metro station (Map p222) and the Déli pályaudvar metro station (Map p220), all of which are open from 6am to 8pm daily.

A one-day pass is poor value at 1150Ft, but the three-day pass (*touristajegy*, or tourist ticket) for 2500Ft and seven-day pass (*hetijegy*, or one week) for 3400Ft are worthwhile for most people. You'll need a photo for the fortnightly/monthly passes (4500/6900Ft). All but the monthly travel passes are valid from midnight to midnight, so buy them in advance and specify the date(s) you want.

Travelling 'black' (ie without a valid ticket or pass) is risky; with increased surveillance (especially in the metro), there's an excellent chance you'll get caught. (NB: Tickets are *always* checked by a conductor on the HÉV.) The on-the-spot fine is 2500Ft, which rises to 7000Ft if you pay at the BKV office (Map p222; ☎ 461 6800; VII Akáca utca 22; 6am–8pm Mon–Fri, 8am–1.45pm Sat; 11.30am–1.45pm Sun) up to 30 days later and 14,000Ft after that.

## BUS Local

An extensive system of almost 200 buses serves greater Budapest. On certain bus lines the same number bus may have a black or a red number. In such cases, the red-numbered one is an express, which makes limited stops and is, of course, faster.

Some buses (always shown with a blue line on a Budapest map or atlas) that you might find useful include the following:

**4** – Runs from northern Pest via VI Hősök tere to V Deák Ferenc tér (the red 4 follows the same route but crosses over Chain Bridge into central Buda).

**7** – Cuts across a large swathe of central Pest from XIV Bosnyák tér and down VII Rákóczi út before crossing Elizabeth Bridge to Kelenföld train station in southern Buda (the red-numbered 7 follows the same route with limited stops).

**86** – Runs the length of Buda from XI Kosztolányi Dezső tér to Óbuda.

**105** – Goes from V Deák Ferenc tér to XII Apor Vilmos tér in central Buda.

**Night bus 906** – Follows tram 6's route along the Big Ring Road.

**Night bus 907** – Traces an enormously long route from the M2 Őrs vezér tere metro stop in Pest to Kelenföld train station in Buda.

## Long-Distance & International

All international buses and some domestic ones (especially to/from north and north-central Hungary) arrive at and depart from Pest's **Népliget bus station** (Map pp228–9; ☎ 219 8000; IX Üllői út 131; M3 Népliget). The **international ticket office** (6am–6pm Mon–Fri Sep–May, 6pm–8pm Mon–Fri Jun–Aug, 6am–4pm Sat & Sun) is upstairs. **Eurolines** (☎ 219 8021; www.eurolines.com), an association of more than 30 European bus companies that link Budapest with points abroad as close as Bratislava and as far as London, is represented here as its Hungarian associate, **Volánbusz** (☎ 382 0888; www.volanbusz.hu). There's a **left-luggage office** (per piece per day 190Ft; 6am–9pm) downstairs.

**Stadionok bus station** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 251 0125; XIV Hungária körút 48–52; M3 Stadionok) serves cities and towns to the east of Budapest. The **ticket office** (6am–6pm Mon–Fri, 6am–4pm Sat & Sun) as well as the **left-luggage office** (per piece 200Ft; 6am–7pm) are on the ground floor. Buses to southwest Hungary use **Etele tér bus station** (Map pp228–9; ☎ 382 4900; XI Etele tér; 6am–6pm; ☎ red-numbered 7) in Buda.

The **Árpád Bridge bus station** (Map pp226–7; ☎ 329 1450; XIII Róbert Károly körút; 6am–8pm; M3 Árpád hid) on the Pest side of Árpád Bridge, is the place to catch buses for the Danube Bend and parts of northern Hungary. The small **Széna tér bus station** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 201 3688; I Széna tér 1/a; 6am–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 as an alternative to the Árpád Bridge bus station.

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Driving in Budapest, especially during the daytime, can be a nightmare: ongoing road works reduce traffic to a snail's pace, there are more serious accidents than fender-benders, and parking spots are difficult to find. The public-transport system is good and cheap. Try to use it.

Foreign driving licences are valid for one year after entering Hungary but if you don't hold a European driving licence, obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) from your local automobile association before

you leave. It is usually inexpensive and valid for one year only. Remember 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.

## Hire

In general, you must be at least 21 years old and have had your licence for at least a year to rent a car. Drivers under 25 sometimes have to pay a surcharge.

All the international car-rental firms have offices in Budapest but don't expect many bargains. An Opel Corsa from **Avis** (Map p224; ☎ 318 4158; www.avis.hu in Hungarian; V Szervita tér 8; 9am–6pm Mon–Fri, 9am–3pm Sat; M 1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér), for example, costs €33/198 per day/week plus €0.33 per kilometre and €23 CDW and theft protection insurance. The same car with unlimited kilometres and insurance costs from €99 per day or €88 per weekend. The 25% AFA (value-added tax) doesn't apply to nonresidents paying with foreign currency or by credit card.

One of the cheapest, most reliable outfits for car hire is **Anselport** (☎ 362 6080, 06-20 945 0279; www.anselport.hu; XXII V utca 22; 9am–6pm; ☎ 14 or 114) in south Buda. A Suzuki Swift is €19 to €43 per day, including unlimited kilometres and insurance, depending on the length of rental (one day to three weeks). Another good bet is **Fox Autorent** (☎ 382 9000; www.fox-autorent.com; XXII Nagytétényi út 48–50; 8am–8pm; ☎ 3, 14 or 114), which charges from €46/230 per day/week for a Fiat Seicento, €55/320 for a Smart car and €59/349 for a Fiat Punto, kilometres and insurance included.

## Parking

Parking on the street in Budapest currently costs between 120Ft and 400Ft between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and noon Saturday. There are 24-hour covered car parks charging up to 500/5000Ft per hour/day at V Váci utca 25 (below the Millennium shopping centre; Map p224); V Szervita tér 8 (Map p224); V Aranykéz utca 4–6 (Map p224) in the Inner Town; and at VII Nyár utca 20 (Map p222).

Illegally parked cars are not normally towed in Budapest these days but 'booted'. If you are trying to trace a vehicle you believe has been towed, ring % 383 0700 or % 383 0770. To have a boot removed, which is going to cost you 15,000Ft, ring the telephone number on the sticker placed on the windscreen or % 313 0810.

## Road Rules

You must drive on the right. Speed limits for cars and motorcycles are consistent across the country and strictly enforced: 50km/h in built-up areas (from the town sign as you enter to the same sign with a red line through it as you leave); 90km/h on secondary and tertiary roads; 110km/h on most highways/dual carriageways; and 130km/h on motorways. Exceeding the limit will earn a fine of between 5000Ft and 30,000Ft, to be paid by postal cheque or at post offices.

The use of seat belts in the front (and in the back – if fitted – outside built-up areas) is compulsory in Hungary, but this rule is often ignored. Motorcyclists must wear helmets, a law strictly enforced. Another law taken very seriously indeed is the one requiring all drivers to use their headlights throughout the day outside built-up areas. Motorcycles must illuminate headlights at all times everywhere. Using a mobile phone while driving is prohibited in Hungary but this law is universally ignored.

There is virtually a 100% ban on alcohol when driving – this is very strictly enforced. It's not much fun while on holiday, but you'll have to follow the lead of Hungarians and take turns with a companion in abstaining at meals and other times. If you are found to have even 0.001% of alcohol in the blood, you'll 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. In the event of an accident, the drinking party is automatically regarded as guilty.

Assistance and/or advice for motorists is available from the **Hungarian Automobile Club** (Magyar Autóklub; Map pp218–19; % 212 2821, 24hr helpline % 345 1755; II Rómer Flóris utca 4/a; j 4 or 6) off Margit körút near Margaret Bridge. Motorists anywhere in Hungary can call the automobile club on % 188 for assistance.

For information on traffic and public road conditions in the capital ring **Főinform** (% 317 1173).

## METRO & HÉV

Budapest has three underground metro lines that converge (only) at V Deák Ferenc tér: the little yellow (or Millennium) line designated M1 that runs from Vörösmarty tér to Mexikói út in Pest; the red M2 line from Déli train station in Buda to Örs vezér tere in Pest; and the blue M3 line from Újpest-Központ to Kőbánya-Kispest in Pest. A possible source of confusion on the M1 is that one station is called Vörösmarty tér and another, five stops later, is Vörösmarty utca.

The HÉV suburban train line, which runs on four lines (north from Batthyány tér in Buda via Óbuda and Aquincum to Szentendre, south to both Csepel and Ráckeve and east to Gödöllő), is almost like an additional above-ground metro line.

The metro is the fastest – but obviously the least scenic – way to go. All three lines run from 4.30am and begin their last journey at 11.10pm. See the boxed text on page p182 for fares and passes.

## TAXI

Taxis in Budapest are not expensive compared to other European countries, but with such an excellent public transport network available, you don't really have to use them very often. We've heard from many readers who were grossly overcharged and even threatened by taxi drivers in Budapest, so taking a taxi in this city should be approached with a certain amount of caution. However, the reputable firms listed here have caught on to the concept of customer service, and they take complaints very seriously nowadays.

Avoid taxis with no name on the door and only a removable taxi light-box on the roof; these are just guys with cars and the ones most likely to rip you off. Never get into a cab that does not have a yellow licence plate and an identification badge displayed on the dashboard (as required by law), the logo of one of the reputable taxi firms listed here on the side doors, and a table of fares posted prominently.

Not all taxi meters are set at the same rates, and some are much more expensive than others, but there are price ceilings under which cab companies are free to manoeuvre. From 6am to 10pm the highest flag-fall fee that can be legally charged is

300Ft, the per-kilometre charge 240Ft and the waiting fee 60Ft. From 10pm to 6am the equivalent fees are 420/330/80Ft.

Budapest residents – local or foreign – rarely flag down taxis in the street. They almost always ring for them, and fares are actually cheaper if you book over the phone. Make sure you know the number of the landline phone you're calling from as that's how they establish your address (though you can, of course, call from a mobile phone, too).

The following are the telephone numbers of reliable taxi firms.

<b>Buda</b>	% 233 3333
<b>City</b>	% 211 1111
<b>Fő</b>	% 222 2222
<b>Rádió</b>	% 377 7777
<b>Tele 5</b>	% 355 5555

## TRAIN

**Magyar Államvasutak** (Hungarian State Railways; www.mav.hu in Hungarian), or MÁV, links up with the European rail network in all directions, running trains as far as London (via Munich and Paris), Paris (via Munich), Stockholm (via Hamburg and Copenhagen), Moscow, Rome and Istanbul (via Belgrade).

Budapest has three main train stations. Most international trains arrive and depart from **Keleti train station** (Eastern train station; Map pp218–19; % 313 6835; VIII Kerepesi út 2-6; M3 Keleti pályaudvar); trains to certain destinations in the east (eg Romania) leave from **Nyugati train station** (Western train station; Map p222; % 349 0115; VI Teréz körút 55-57; M3 Nyugati pályaudvar), while **Déli train station** (Southern train station; Map p220; % 375 6293, 355 8657; I Krisztina körút 37; M2 Déli pályaudvar) 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.

The handful of secondary train stations are of little importance to long-distance travellers. Occasionally, though, a through train will stop at **Kelenföld train station** (Map pp228–9; % 203 1687; XI Etele tér 5-7; j 19 or 49) in Buda. For 24-hour information on international train services call % 461 5500 or % 06-40 494 949.

Budapest's train stations are generally pretty dismal places, with some unsavoury-looking characters hanging about day and night, but all have some amenities. The **left-luggage offices** (normal/large piece per 6hr 150/300Ft, per day 300/600Ft) at **Keleti station** (H 24hr) is next to platform 6. At **Nyugati station** (H 4am-midnight) and at the **Déli station** (H 3.30am-11.30pm) they are beside the information and ticketing hall. You'll also find post offices and grocery stores that are open late or even round the clock in the stations.

The three main stations are on metro lines, and night buses serve them when the metro is closed. If you need to take a taxi, avoid the sharks hovering around the stations. At Déli, cross over to I Alkotás utca and hail one there. At Keleti station, get into one of the legal cabs at the rank on VIII Kerepesi út, just south of the terminal. Nyugati tér is a major intersection, so you'll have no problem finding a legitimate taxi there.

You can buy tickets at the three international train stations in Budapest, but the queues are often long, passengers are in a hurry, and sales staff at the stations are not the most patient in the city. It's easier at the **MÁV international information & ticket centre** (Map p222; % 461 5500, 352 2800; VI Andrássy út 35; H 9am-6pm Mon-Fri Apr-Sep, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Oct-Mar; M1 Opera). For fares, check www.elvira.hu.

## TRAM

Trams are often faster than buses in Budapest and usually more pleasant for sightseeing. The most important tram lines (always marked with red lines on a Budapest map or atlas) are the following:

**2 & 2/a** – Scenic trams that travel along the Pest side of the Danube as far as V Jászai Mari tér

**4 & 6** – Extremely useful trams that start at XI Fehérvári út and XI Móricz Zsigmond körút in south Buda respectively and follow the entire length of the Big Ring Road in Pest before terminating at II Moszkva tér in Buda

**18** – Runs from southern Buda along XI Bartók Béla út through the Tabán to II Moszkva tér

**19** – Covers part of the same route as 18, but then runs along the Buda side of the Danube to I Batthyány tér

**47 & 49** – Link V Deák Ferenc tér in Pest with points in southern Buda via the Little Ring Road

**61** – Connects XI Móricz Zsigmond körút with Déli train station and II Moszkva tér in Buda

## TROLLEYBUS

Trolleybuses go along cross streets in central Pest and, in general, are of little use to most visitors, with the sole exception of the ones to and around City Park (70, 72 and 74) and Népliget Park (75 and 77). A broken red line on a map or atlas signifies a trolleybus.

## PRACTICALITIES ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation options in this guide are listed alphabetically by area for midrange and top-end hotels, followed by a separate 'cheap sleeps' section. When budgeting for your trip, remember that hotel rates rise in April and stay at that level till at least September. There are often some bargains to be had during the late autumn and winter months.

Useful accommodation-booking websites include [www.hotelshungary.com](http://www.hotelshungary.com), [www.holidayhungary.com](http://www.holidayhungary.com) and [www.szallasinfo.hu](http://www.szallasinfo.hu) for hotels, and [www.youthhostels.hu](http://www.youthhostels.hu) for hostel accommodation. Both [www.ingatlan.com](http://www.ingatlan.com) and [www.alfapartments.com](http://www.alfapartments.com) are useful for short-term flat rentals.

For details on accommodation costs and types in Budapest see p152.

## BUSINESS HOURS

With rare exceptions, the opening hours (*nyitvatartás*) of any concern are posted on the front door. *Nyitva* means 'open' while *zárva* is 'closed'.

Very generally speaking, retail shops (including grocery stores) and department stores are open from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 1pm on Saturday. In summer, some private retail shops close early on Friday and at least part of August.

Most neighbourhoods have a 'nonstop' – a convenience store open round-the-clock (or very late/early) that sells basic food items, bottled drinks and cigarettes. Many of the hyper-supermarkets around Budapest open on Sunday.

Banking hours change from institution to location but are usually 7.45am to 5pm or 6pm Monday, 7.45am to 4pm or 5pm Tuesday to Thursday and 7.45am to 4pm on Friday. The main post office in any Budapest district is open 8am to 7pm or 8pm week-

days and till noon or even 2pm on Saturday. Branch offices close much earlier – usually at 4pm – and are never open at the weekend.

For restaurant opening hours see p92.

## CHILDREN

Successful travel with young children requires planning and effort. Don't try to overdo things; packing too much into the time available can cause problems. Make sure the activities include the kids as well – balance that morning at the Museum of Fine Arts with an afternoon at the nearby Municipal Great Circus or a ride on the Budapest Eye (p73). If children are allowed to help 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 resource.

Most car-rental firms in Budapest have children's safety seats for hire at a nominal cost, but it is essential that you book them in advance. The same goes for highchairs and cots (cribs); they're standard in many restaurants and hotels but numbers are limited.

## CLIMATE

Budapest has a temperate, transitional climate – somewhere between the mild, rainy weather of Transdanubia protected by the Alps to the west and the harsh, variable climate of the flat and open Great Plain to the east.

Spring arrives in early April in Budapest and is usually quite wet. Summer can be very hot and humid. It rains for most of November and doesn't usually get cold until mid-December. Winter is relatively short, often cloudy and damp but sometimes brilliantly sunny. What little snow the city gets usually disappears after a few days.

January is the coldest month (with the temperature averaging -4°C) and July and

August the hottest (average temperature 26°C during each). The number of hours of sunshine a year averages between 1900 and 2500 – among the highest in Europe. From late April to the end of September, you can expect the sun to shine for about 10 hours a day. The mean annual precipitation in the capital is 650mm.

The climate chart on this page shows you what to expect and when to expect it. For information on specific weather conditions in Budapest, contact the **national weather forecast service** (% 346 4600, 06-90 504 001; [www.met.hu](http://www.met.hu) in Hungarian only).

## COURSES Language

Schools teaching Hungarian to foreigners have proliferated in Budapest recently, but they vary greatly in quality, approach and success rates. You should establish whether your teacher has a degree in the Hungarian language and whether they have ever taught foreigners. You should be following a text or at least a comprehensive series of photocopies produced by your teacher. Remember also that you'll never get anywhere by simply sitting in class and not studying at home or practising with native speakers. Expect to pay 850Ft to 1000Ft per hour in a classroom with six to 12 students and 3500Ft to 4200Ft for a private lesson.

The granddaddy of all Hungarian language schools is the **Debrecen Summer University** (Debreceni Nyári Egyetem; % 52-532 594; [www.nyariegyetem.hu](http://www.nyariegyetem.hu); Egyetem tér 1) in Debrecen, eastern Hungary. It organises intensive two- and four-week courses in July and August and 80-hour, two-week intensive courses in January and a superintensive two-week course in May/June. The emphasis is not just on language but the whole Magyar picture: art, history, culture, literature. The two-/four-week (60-/120-hour) summer courses cost €390/760; board and lodging in a triple room cost €90/180 (singles and doubles available at extra cost). The **Budapest branch** (Map p222; % 320 5751; Jászai Mari tér 6, 2nd fl) has intensive courses lasting three weeks (60 hours) for €282 and regular evening classes of 72/96 hours for €236/322.

Some other recommended Hungarian language schools:

**Hungarian Language School** (Map p224; % 266 2617; [www.hls.hu](http://www.hls.hu); VIII Brody Sándor utca 4, 1st fl)

**InterClub Hungarian Language School** (Map pp228–9; % 279 0831; [www.interclub.hu](http://www.interclub.hu); XI Bertalan Lajos utca 17)

**International House Language School** (Map pp218–19; % 212 4010; [www.ih.hu](http://www.ih.hu); II Bimbó út 7)

## CUSTOMS

Duty-free shopping within the EU was abolished in 1999 and Hungary, as an EU member since 2004, now adheres to the rules.

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 special permit, which should be available from the place of purchase. For details see p146.

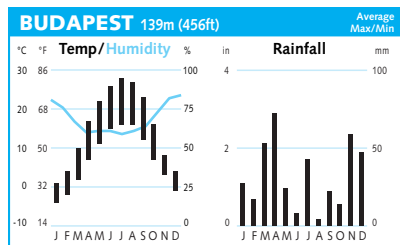
## DISABLED TRAVELLERS

Budapest 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 pp226–7; % 250 9013, 388 2387; [www.meoszinfo.hu](http://www.meoszinfo.hu); III San Marco utca 76). Its website includes a list of hotels with rooms adapted for the disabled as well as accessible restaurants and tourist sights.

## DISCOUNT CARDS

A hostel card is not particularly useful in Budapest as no hostel here requires you to be a Hostelling International (or associated) member. Having said that, a hostel card will sometimes get you a 10% discount on quoted rates. The **Hungarian Youth Hostel Association** (MISZSZ; Map p224; % 411 2392; [www.youthhostels.hu](http://www.youthhostels.hu); V Molnár utca 3) and the **Express travel agency** (p195) issue HYHA cards valid for a year to Hungarian citizens and residents for 2300Ft, which includes a 300Ft NeoPhone phonecard.



Many attractions offer reduced-price admission for retired people (currently 58 and 62 for women and men respectively, but being increased), but this is usually just for Hungarian *nyugdíjasok* (pensioners) holding national ID cards. Of course, it never hurts to try.

Useful discount cards:

**Budapest Card** (€ 266 0479; www.budapestinfo.hu; 48/72hr 5200/6500Ft) The Budapest Card offers free or reduced admission to 60 museums and other sights, unlimited travel on all forms of public transport and discounts on organised tours, car rental, at thermal baths and at selected shops and restaurants. It is sold at Tourinform offices, travel agencies, hotels and main metro stations.

**Hungary Card** (€ 266 3741, 267-0896; www.hungarycard.hu; 1yr 5520Ft) The national equivalent of the Budapest Card, this 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. It is available at the tourist offices.

**International Student Identity Card** (ISIC; www.isic.org; 1 yr 1300Ft) This plastic ID-style card with a photo, provides bona fide students with discounts on some 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; 1 yr 1300Ft) or the **Euro<26 card** (valid for summer break 1600Ft, 1 yr 2200Ft) 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; 1 yr 1300Ft).

## ELECTRICITY

The electric current in Budapest is 220V, 50Hz AC. Plugs are the European type with two round pins.

## EMBASSIES

Selected countries with representation in Budapest are listed here. The opening hours indicate when consular or chancellery services are available.

**Australia** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 457 9777; XII Királyhágó tér 8–9, 4th fl; ᠒ 9–11am Mon–Fri)

**Austria** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 413 0240; VI Benczúr utca 16; ᠒ 8–10am Mon–Fri)

**Canada** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 392 3360; II Ganz utca 12–14; ᠒ 8.30–11am & 2–3.30pm Mon–Thu)

**Croatia** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 269 5657; VI Munkácsy Mihály utca 15; ᠒ 1–3pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri)

**France** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 374 1100; VI Lendvay utca 27; ᠒ 9am–noon Mon–Fri)

**Germany** (Map p220; ☎ 488 3505; I Úri utca 64–66; ᠒ 9am–noon Mon–Fri)

**Ireland** (Map p222; ☎ 301 4960; Bank Center, Granite Tower, 7th fl, V Szabadság tér 7; ᠒ 9.30am–12.30pm & 2.30–4.30pm Mon–Fri)

**Netherlands** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 336–6300; II Füge utca 5–7; ᠒ 10am–noon Mon–Fri)

**Romania** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 384 0271; XIV Thököly út 72, enter from Izsó utca; ᠒ 8.30am–noon Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri)

**Serbia & Montenegro** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 322 1436; VI Dózsa György út 92/b; ᠒ 10am–1pm Mon–Fri)

**Slovakia** (Map p216; ☎ 273 3500; XIV Gervay utca 44; ᠒ 8.30am–noon Mon–Fri)

**Slovenia** (Map p216; ☎ 438 5600; II Csátárka köz 9; ᠒ 9am–noon Mon–Fri)

**South Africa** (Map p216; ☎ 392 0999; II Gárdonyi Géza út 17; ᠒ 9am–12.30pm Mon–Fri)

**UK** (Map p224; ☎ 266 2888; V Harmincad utca 6; ᠒ 9.30am–12.30pm & 2.30–4.30pm Mon–Fri)

**Ukraine** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 422 2122; XIV Stefánia út 77; ᠒ 9am–noon Mon–Wed & Fri by appointment only)

**USA** (Map p222; ☎ 475 4164; V Szabadság tér 12; ᠒ 1–4.30pm Mon–Thu, 9am–noon & 1–4pm Fri)

## EMERGENCY

Any crime must be reported at the police station of the district you're in. In central Pest that would be the Belváros-Lipótváros Police Station (Map p222; ☎ 373 1000; V Szalay utca 11–13; ᠒ 15). If possible, bring along a Hungarian speaker.

<b>Ambulance</b>	☎ 104
<b>Central emergency number</b> (English spoken)	☎ 112
<b>English-language crime hotline</b> (8am–8pm)	☎ 438–8080
	☎ 06–80 660 044 (8pm–8am)
<b>Fire</b>	☎ 105, 321 6216
<b>Police</b>	☎ 107
<b>24-hour car assistance</b>	☎ 188, 345 1755

## GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

For up-to-date information on venues, events, parties etc, pick up the freebie pamphlet *Na Végre!* (At Last!; navegre@hotmail.com) at gay venues or contact them directly. Useful websites include www.budapestgayvisitor.hu and http://budapest.gayguide.net. A lesbian

website is www.labriz.hu but it's in Hungarian only. In 2004, the age of consent for gays and lesbians was lowered to 14 to come into line with that of heterosexual couples.

In this book gay and lesbian bars, clubs and other entertainment venues are listed in the boxed text, p130, and under gay-owned and gay-friendly accommodation, p161.

The **Háttér Gay & Lesbian Association** (☎ 329 3380, 06–40 200 358; www.hatter.hu; ᠒ 6pm–11pm) has an advice and help line operating daily. **Budapest Gayguide.net** (☎ 06 30 932 3334; http://budapestgayguide.net; ᠒ 4pm–8pm Mon–Fri Apr–Oct) can offer advice and/or provide information via email or, seasonally, by telephone.

Two AIDS lines to contact are the **Anonymous AIDS Association** (☎ 466–9283; ᠒ 5–8pm Mon, Wed & Thu, 9am–noon Tue & Fri) and the **AIDS Help Line** (☎ 338 2419, 266 0465; ᠒ 8am–3pm Mon–Thur, 8am–1pm Fri).

## HOLIDAYS

Hungary currently celebrates 10 public holidays (*ünnep*) every 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/Republic Day** 23 October

**All Saints' Day** 1 November

**Christmas holidays** 25–26 December

## 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 wi-fi hotspot. Many libraries 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.

## Internet Service Providers

Well-trafficked ISPs in Budapest include **T-Online Magyarország** (☎ 371 3400; www.t-online.hu in Hungarian), **GTS-Datanet** (☎ 814

4444; www.datanet.hu in Hungarian) and **Inter.net** (☎ 465 7800; www.hu.inter.net).

## Internet Cafés

Budapest has dozens of Internet cafés, but the smaller ones can get crowded in the early evening. Many of the year-round hostels and almost all hotels in Budapest now offer Internet access. If the place you're staying at doesn't have it or you just feel like checking your mail on the trot, the following 10 are among the more central Internet cafés.

**Ami Internet Coffee** (Map p224; ☎ 267 1644; www.amicoffee.hu in Hungarian; V Váci utca 40; per 15/30/60min 200/400/700Ft, 5/10hr 3250/6400Ft; ᠒ 9am–2am; ᠒᠒ M3 Ferenciek tere) This Internet café in the university area of Pest has 40 terminals.

**CEU NetPoint** (Map p224; ☎ 328 3506; www.ceunet.ceu.hu; V Október 6 utca 14; per 30/60min 250/400Ft; ᠒ 11am–10pm; ᠒ 15) Just up from the Central European University.

**Chatman Internet** (Map p222; ☎ 266 0856; http://chatman.us.to/; VII Kazinczy utca 3; per 1/3hr 200/500Ft; ᠒ 8am–midnight Mon–Fri, 10am–midnight Sat & Sun; trolleybus 74) This small and very friendly café in Pest offers a free hour online after your first.

**Cybercafé Zone** (Map pp218–19; ☎ 315 2259, 34 2057; II Lövház utca 12; per 30/60min 175/350Ft, 10hr 3130Ft; ᠒ 8am–3am Mon–Sat, 10am–midnight Sun; ᠒᠒ M2 Moszkva tér) A very flash place behind the gigantic Mammut shopping mall in Buda.

**Electric Café** (Map p222; ☎ 413 1803; www.electriccafe.hu; VII Dohány utca 37; per 30/60min 100/200Ft; ᠒ 9am–midnight; ᠒᠒ M2 Blaha Lujza tér) Popular with travellers.

**Mystery Bar** (Map p222; ☎ 312 1436; www.mysterybar.hu; V Nagysándor József utca 3; per 30/60min 300/500Ft; ᠒ 4pm–4am Mon–Fri, 6pm–4am Sat & Sun; ᠒᠒ M3 Arany János) This Internet café is also a neighbourhood gay bar (p124).

**Nagy Palacsintázója** (Granny's Palacsinta Place; Map p224; ☎ 418 0721; V Petőfi Sándor tér 17–19; per 30/60min 300/600Ft; ᠒ 24hr; ᠒᠒ M1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér) This popular *palacsinta* eating spot (p98) also offers Internet access round the clock.

**Narancs** (Map p222; ☎ 413 6071; VII Akácfa utca 5; per 30/60min 100/200Ft; ᠒ 10am–midnight; ᠒᠒ M2 Blaha Lujza tér) Small but charming French-run 'neighbourhood' Internet café.

**Parknet** (Map p224; ☎ 270 2249; V Váci utca 23; per 15/30/60min 170/270/500Ft, 5/10hr 1800/3000Ft; ᠒ 9am–8pm Mon–Sat, 10am–8pm Sun; ᠒᠒ M3 Ferenciek tere) About as central as you'll find in Pest.

here 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.

## NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

There are two English-language, general-interest weekly newspapers available in the city: the long-established tabloid *Budapest Sun* (www.budapestsun.com; 399Ft), which appears on Thursday, with a useful classified section and the Style arts and entertainment supplement; and the *Budapest Times* (www.budapesttimes.hu; 420Ft; Mondays), a new kid on the block with good reviews and opinion pieces, including 'The Weekly Stink' by local gadfly Erik D'Amato. The erudite *Hungarian Quarterly* (www.hungarianquarterly.com; 1500Ft), which looks at issues in great depth, is a valuable source of current Hungarian thinking in translation. For Hungarian-language press, see p13.

The best place in Budapest for foreign-language newspapers and magazines is *Világ-sajtó Háza* (World Press House; Map p224; % 317 1311; V Városház utca 3-5; h 7am-7pm Mon-Fri, 7am-2pm Sat, 8am-noon Sun; r M3 Ferenciek tere). Almost as good is *Immedio* (Map p224; % 318 5604; V Váci utca 10; h 8am-8pm).

## PHARMACIES

Each of Budapest's 23 districts has a rotating all-night pharmacy; a sign on the door of any pharmacy will help you locate the closest 24-hour one. Pharmacies with extended hours:

**Csillag Gyógyszertár** (Map p222; % 314 3695; VIII Rákóczi út 39; h 7.30am-9pm Mon-Fri, 7.30am-2pm Sat; r M2 Blaha Lujza tér)

**Déli Gyógyszertár** (Map pp218-19; % 355 4691; XII Alkotás utca 1/b; h 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat; r M2 Déli pályaudvar)

**Teréz Patika** (Map p222; % 311 4439; VI Teréz körút 41; h 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat; r M3 Nyugati pályaudvar)

## PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Major brands of film are readily available and one-hour processing places are common in Budapest and larger Hungarian cities and towns.

## Clinics

Consultations and treatment are much more expensive in Western-style clinics. Dental work is usually of a high standard and cheap by Western European standards.

**FirstMed Centers** (Map pp218-19; % 224 9090; www.firstmedcenters.com; I Hattyú utca 14, 5th fl; h appointments 8am-7pm Mon-Thu, 8am-6pm Fri, 24hr emergency care; r M2 Moszkva tér) This is a modern private medical clinic with round-the-clock emergency services, but it's hardly cheap: a basic consultation costs 12,600/25,200Ft for up to 10/20 minutes.

**SOS Dental Services** (Map p224; % 267 9602, 269 6010; V Király utca 14; h 24hr; r M1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér) This dental surgery charges 2000Ft for a consultation, 5000Ft to 6000Ft for extractions and 6000Ft to 10,000Ft for fillings.

## MONEY

Hungary's currency is the forint (Ft). 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.

There are automated teller machines (ATMs) everywhere in Budapest, including in the train and bus stations, and quite a few foreign-currency exchange machines. If you need to change cash or travellers cheques, avoid moneychangers (especially those on V Váci utca) in favour of the banks. Among those offering the best rates and service are **OTP** (National Savings Bank; Map p224; V Deák Ferenc utca 7-9; h 7.45am-6pm Mon, 7.45am-5pm Tue-Fri; r M1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér) and **K&H** (Map p224; V Váci utca 40; h 8am-5pm Mon, 8am-4pm Tue-Thu, 8am-3pm Fri; r M3 Ferenciek tere). Be sure to arrive about an hour before closing to ensure the *bureau de change* counter is still open, though.

Credit cards, especially Visa, MasterCard and American Express, are widely accepted

## A HEALTHY MIX OF MONIES

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

Wing F; h 9am-9pm Tue-Fri, 10am-8pm Sat) This library allows members (annual adult/student 6000/3000Ft, daily 500/300Ft) to do research, peruse the general stacks and read the large collection of foreign newspapers and magazines.

## MAPS

Lonely Planet's *Budapest City Map* covers the more popular parts of town in detail.

The best folding maps of the city are Cartographia's 1:22,000 (690Ft) and 1:28,000 (570Ft) ones. If you plan to explore the city thoroughly, the *Budapest Atlas*, also from Cartographia, is a must. It comes in two sizes of the same scale (1:20,000): a smaller format (1950Ft) and a larger one (2600Ft). There is also a 1:25,000 pocket atlas of just the Inner Town available for 1210Ft.

Many bookshops, including **Libri Könyvpalota** (p149), stock a wide variety of maps. **Cartographia** (Map p222; % 312 6001; www.cartographia.hu; VI Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 37; h 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; r M3 Arany János utca) has its own outlet in Budapest, but it's not self-service, which can be annoying. A better bet is the nearby **Térkép- király** (Map King; Map p222; % 472 0505; VI Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 23; h 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; r M3 Arany János utca) or even the tiny **Párisi Udvar Könyvesbolt** (Párisi Udvar Bookshop; Map p224; % 235 0379; V Petőfi Sándor utca 2; h 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat; r M3 Ferenciek tere) in the Párisi Udvar.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical care in Budapest is generally adequate and good for routine problems but not complicated conditions. 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.

Treatment at a public outpatient clinic (*rendelő intézet*) costs little, but doctors working privately will charge much more. Very roughly, a consultation in a Hungarian doctor's surgery (*orvosi rendelő*) costs from 5000Ft while a home visit is from 10,000Ft.

If you do need health insurance while travelling, consider a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an emergency flight home.

**Private Link** (Map pp218-19; % 334 2057; www.private-link.hu; VIII József körút 52; per 1/5/10hr 690/2000/3500Ft; h 24hr; r M3 Ferenc körút) Budapest's largest and most comfortable Internet café, and the only one open round the clock.

## LAUNDRY

Most hostels have some sort of laundry facilities; expect to pay from 1000Ft to 1500Ft per load. *Patyolat* (commercial laundries) are fairly common in Budapest. You can elect to have your laundry done in six hours or one, two or three days – and pay accordingly. About the only self-service laundrettes in town are **Irisz Szalon** (Map p224; % 317 2092; V Városház utca 3-5; 7kg wash/dry 1700/1500Ft; h 7am-7pm Mon-Fri; r M3 Ferenciek tere) and **Liliom Szalon** (Map pp228-9; % 215 6782; IX Liliom utca 7-9; 8kg wash 1590Ft; h 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat; r M3 Ferenc körút).

The **Top Clean** (% 227 1500, pickup % 227 5648) chain does a reliable and affordable job on both laundry and dry cleaning and has some 30 locations around Budapest, usually combined with Mister Minit key cutters, including a **Northern Inner Town branch** (Map p222; V Arany János utca 34; h 7am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat; r M3 Arany János utca) and a **Terézváros branch** (Map p222; Skála Metro department store, VI Nyugati tér 1-2; h 7am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat; r Nyugati pályaudvar).

## LIBRARIES

Libraries in Budapest with foreign-language books and periodicals include the following:

**Ervin Szabó Central Library** (Fővárosi Szabó Ervin Könyvtár; Map p222; % 411 5000; www.fszek.hu in Hungarian; VIII Reviczky utca 3; h 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat; r M3 Kálvin tér) This stunning place, completed in 1894, is the main repository of Budapest's central library system with access to 800,000 books, 1000 periodicals and 40,000 audiovisual and digital items. You'll need an ID with a Hungarian address and pay a subscription of 2800Ft a year if you want to take items away.

**National Foreign Language Library** (Országos Idegennyelvű Könyvtár; Map p224; % 318 3688; www.oik.hu in Hungarian; V Molnár utca 11; h 10am-8pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, noon-8pm Wed; r M3 Ferenciek tere) You can join this library for adult/student 2000/1000Ft a year, but you'll need to be introduced by a Hungarian citizen.

**National Széchenyi Library** (Országos Széchenyi Könyvtár; Map p220; % 224 3700; www.oszk.hu; Royal Palace,

Film prices vary but generally 24 exposures of 100 ISO Kodachrome II, Agfa or Fujifilm cost 999Ft, and 36 exposures are 1290Ft. Ektachrome 100 costs 1790Ft for 36 exposures. Developing print film is 1099Ft a roll; for the prints themselves, you choose the size and pay accordingly (eg 10cm x 15cm prints cost 89Ft each). Developing a 40-exposure roll of Kodak 200/400 APS film costs from 1999/2800Ft; slide film costs only 1099Ft to process. Video tape such as TDK EHG 30/45 minutes costs 990/1310Ft.

## POST

The Hungarian Postal Service (Magyar Posta; www.posta.hu) has improved greatly in recent years; perhaps its jaunty logo of a stylised St Stephen's Crown has helped kick-start it into the 21st century. But post offices in Budapest are usually still crowded, service is slow and staff generally speak Hungarian only.

## Postal Rates

Sending letters within Hungary costs 52Ft (90Ft for priority mail), while for the rest of Europe it's 170Ft (190Ft priority). Airmail (*légiposta*) 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, 120Ft within the rest of Europe and 140Ft to the rest of the world.

## Sending & Receiving Mail

To beat the crowds at the post office, ask at kiosks, newsagents or stationery shops if they sell stamps (*bélyeg*). If you must deal with the post office, you'll be relieved to learn that most people are there to pay electric, gas and telephone bills or parking fines. To get in and out 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.

To send a parcel, look for the sign 'Csomagfeladás' or 'Csomagfelvétel'. Standard packages sent domestically cost 690Ft for up to 20kg. Packages going abroad must not weigh more than 2kg or else you'll face

a Kafkaesque nightmare of permits and queues; try to send smaller ones. You can send up to 2kg in one box for 3470Ft 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.

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 Hungarian postal code consists of four digits. The first indicates the city or town ('1' is Budapest), the second and third the *kerület* (district) and the last the neighbourhood.

The **main post office** (Map p224; V Petőfi Sándor utca 13-15; h 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat; r 1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér) is a few minutes' walk from Deák Ferenc tér and the Tourinform office. This is where you buy stamps, mail letters, send packages and faxes and pick up poste restante. For the last, go around the corner to the **main post office annexe** (Map p224; V Városház utca 18), which keeps the same hours. Since the family name always comes first in Hungarian usage, have the sender underline your last name, as letters are often misfiled under foreigners' first names.

Two other convenient post offices with extended hours are the **Nyugati train station post office** (Map p222; VI Teréz körút 51-53; h 7am-9pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun; r M3 Nyugati pályaudvar) and the **Keleti train station post office** (Map pp218-19; VIII Kerepesi út 2-6; h 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat; r M2 Keleti pályaudvar).

## SAFETY

No parts of Budapest are 'off-limits' to visitors, although some locals now avoid Margaret Island after dark off-season, and both residents and visitors give the dodgier parts of the 8th and 9th districts (areas of prostitution) a wide berth.

As elsewhere while travelling, you are most vulnerable to car thieves, pickpockets, taxi louts and scammers. To avoid having your car ripped off, follow the usual security procedures: don't park it in a darkened street, make sure the burglar alarm is armed, have a steering-wheel lock in place and leave nothing of value inside.

Pickpocketing is most common in markets, the Castle District, Váci utca and

Hősök tere, near major hotels and on certain popular buses (eg 7) and trams (2, 2/a, 4, 6, 47 and 49).

Taking a taxi in Budapest can be an expensive and even unpleasant experience. Never hail a cab on the street; instead, call one from a phone – private, mobile or public – and give the number (almost always posted somewhere in the phone box) to the dispatcher. For more information see p184.

Scams that involve attractive young women, gullible guys, expensive drinks in nightclubs and a frog-marching to the nearest ATM by gorillas-in-residence have been all the rage in Budapest for a decade now, and we get letters from male readers complaining they've been ripped off. Guys, please, do us ALL a favour. If it seems too good to be true, it is. Trust us and the mirror; such vanity has cost some would-be Lotharios hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

If you've left something on any form of public transport in Budapest contact the **BKV lost & found office** (Map p222; % 267 5299; VII Akácfa utca 18; h 8am-5pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 8am-6pm Wed; r M2 Blaha Lujza tér).

## TAXES & REFUNDS

ÁFA, a value-added tax of between 5% and 20% (down from 25% in January 2006), covers the purchase of all new goods in Hungary. It's usually included in the quoted 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 the shops where you make 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) desk in the departures halls of Terminal 2A and 2B at Ferihegy airport in Budapest or at 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.

Like municipalities throughout the land, Budapest levies a tourist tax on most forms of accommodation (p153).

## 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 'Viszshívható' 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'. 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 you are calling 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 the digits % 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 then the number. The country code for Hungary is % 36.

## Phonocards

Phonocards, which are available from post offices, newsagents, hotels and petrol stations, come in message units of 50/120 and

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The following are useful numbers to know when using the phone in Budapest. For emergency numbers, see p188 and inside the front cover.

<b>Information Plus</b> (any inquiry; English spoken)	% 197
<b>Domestic operator/inquiries</b> (English spoken)	% 198
<b>International inquiries/operator</b> (English spoken)	% 199
<b>Time/speaking clock</b> (in Hungarian)	% 180
<b>Wake-up service</b> (in Hungarian)	% 193



cost 800/1800Ft. But these are by far the most expensive way to go. As everywhere else these days, there is a plethora of phone-cards on offer. Among the most widely available are T-Com's **Barangoló** (% 06-80 501 255; www.magyartelekom.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 and 5000Ft. Sample per-minute costs with these cards are 25Ft to most European countries and the USA, 29Ft to Australia and New Zealand, and 50Ft to South Africa.

## Mobile Phones

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.pgsm.hu/index\_en.php), T-Mobile (% 06 30; www.magyartelekom.hu) and Vodafone (% 06 70; www.vodafone.hu).

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 foreign mobile. For example, **Vodafone** (Map p222; % 238 7281, 238 7588; Shop 46, 4th fl, West End City Centre, VI Váci út 3; h 10am-9pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun; r r Nyugati pályaudvar) has prepaid vouchers available for 1000/2500Ft with 500/1500Ft worth of credit. Top-up cards cost 3000/7000/12,000Ft and are valid for three/six/12 months.

## TIME

Budapest lies in the Central European time zone. Winter time is GMT plus one hour and 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: 11pm in Auckland, 1pm in Bucharest, 11am in London, 2pm in Moscow, 6am in New York, noon in Paris, 3am in San Francisco, 9pm in Sydney and 8pm in Tokyo. For information about other time zones and their relation to Hungary, see the World Times Zones map (p214).

Like some other European languages, Magyar tells the time by making reference to the next hour – not the one before as we do in English. Thus 7.30 is 'half eight' (*fél nyolc óra*) and the 24-hour system is often used in giving the bus and train departures as well as the times of movies, concerts and so on. So a film at 7.30pm could appear on a listing as 'f8', 'f20', '1/28' or '1/220'. A quarter to the hour has a 3/4 in front (thus '3/48' means 7.45) while quarter past is 1/4 of the next hour (eg '1/49' means 8.15). Got it?

## TIPPING

Hungary is a very tip-conscious society and nearly everyone in Budapest will routinely tip waiters, hairdressers and taxi drivers. Doctors and dentists accept 'gratitude money', and even petrol-station and thermal-spa attendants expect something. If you aren't impressed with the service at a restaurant, the joyride in a taxi or the way someone cut your hair, leave little or nothing at all. He or she will get the message loud and clear.

To learn more about the unusual way to tip a waiter see p92.

## TOURIST INFORMATION Tourist Offices

Many of the travel agencies listed in the next section also provide information, brochures and maps.

**Budapest Tourist Office** (BTO; % 266 0479; www.budapestinfo.hu) Budapest Tourist has three equally convenient and far less frantic outlets than Tourinform for information and advice, including a **Castle Hill branch** (Map p220; % 488 0475; I Szentháromság tér; h 9am-8pm May-Sept, 10am-7pm Oct-Apr; ☒ 16 or Várbusz); an **Oktogon branch** (Map p222; % 322 4098; VI Liszt Ferenc tér 11; h 9am-7pm Apr-Oct, 10am-6pm Nov-Mar; r r M1 Oktogon); and a **Nyugati train station branch** (Map p222; % 302 8580; Nyugati pályaudvar, platform 10; h 9am-7pm Apr-Oct, 9am-6pm Nov-Mar; r r M3 Nyugati pályaudvar). It also maintains offices at Ferihegy airport's Terminals 1, 2A (arrivals) and 2B (departures).

**Tourinform** (Map p224; % 438 8080, % 24hr information hotline 06-80 630 800; www.tourinform.hu; V Sütő utca 2; h 8am-8pm; r r M1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér). This is usually the single best source of information about Budapest but it can get hopelessly crowded in summer, and the staff are no longer very patient or even helpful.

**Visitors' Guide Budapest** (www.visitorsguide.hu) This is the *Budapest Surfer's* site.

## Travel Agencies

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 (p153), or Express, which issues student, youth, teacher and hostel cards (p187) and sells discounted Billet International de Jeunesse (BIJ) train and cheap air tickets.

**Express** (Map p224; % 327 7290, 266 3277; www.express-travel.hu; V Semmelweis utca 4; h 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat; r r M2 Astoria) The main office of this youth- and student-orientated agency can book accommodation, particularly hostels and colleges, and sell transport tickets.

**Ibusz** (Map p224; % 485 2700; www.ibusz.hu; V Ferenciek tere 10; h 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat; r r M3 Ferenciek tere) The main office of this travel agency giant supplies travel brochures, changes money, books all types of accommodation and accepts credit-card payments.

**Mellow Mood** (Map p224; % 411 2390; www.youthhostels.hu, www.mellowmood.hu; V Molnár utca 3; h 9am-6pm Mon-Fri; r r M3 Ferenciek tere) This new kid on the block run by the hostel group of the same name can organise accommodation in private rooms and hostels, book tours, sell you discounted air tickets etc.

**Vista** (Map p224; % 429 9751; www.vista.hu; VI Paulay Ede utca 2; h 9am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2.30pm Sat; r r M1/2/3 Deák Ferenc tér) Vista is an excellent one-stop shop for all your travel needs, both outbound (air tickets, package tours etc) and incoming (room bookings, organised tours, study and ecological tours in Hungary etc).

**Wasteels** (% 343 3492; VIII Kerepesi út 2-6; h 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat; r r M2 Keleti pályaudvar) This agency at the top of platform 9 at Keleti train station (Map pp218-19) sells BIJ tickets but you must have a student or youth card (p188) to get the discounted fares.

## 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 Hungarian 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, most international highway border crossings, Ferihegy 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 applicants' country of residence upon receipt of \$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 ones are good for a year.

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 (such as medical; 3000Ft) and this must be done at the main police station (*rendőrkapitányság*) of the *kerület* in which you are staying five days before the original one expires.

You are supposed to register with the police if staying in one place for more than 30 days, and your hotel, hostel 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 household has to take care of this yourself within 72 hours of moving in. Address registration forms for foreigners (*lakcímbjelentő lap külföldiek részére*) are usually available at post offices.

## WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Hungarian men can be sexist in their thinking, but women in Budapest do not suffer any particular form of harassment (though domestic violence and rape get relatively little media coverage here). Most men – even drunks – are effusively polite with women. Women may not be made to feel especially welcome when eating or drinking alone, but it's really no different from most other countries in Europe.

If you do need assistance and/or information ring the **Women's Line** (Nővonal; % 06-80 505 101; h 6-10pm Thu-Tue) or **Women for**

**Women against Violence** (NANE; % 267 4900; info@nane.hu).

## WORK

Travellers on tourist visas in Budapest are not supposed to accept employment, but many end up teaching, doing a little writing for the English-language press or even working for foreign firms without permits. Check the English-language telephone book or advertisements for English-language schools in the *Budapest Sun*, which also has job listings, though pay is generally pretty low. You can do much better teaching privately (up to 4000Ft per 45-minute 'hour', depending on your experience).

For the most part, EU nationals can come and work freely in Hungary, though they do require a residency permit, which can only be obtained in Budapest (1500Ft). For non-EU nationals, however, obtaining a work permit (*munkavállalási engedély*) involves a considerable paper chase. You'll need a letter of support from your prospective employer, copies of your birth certificate, your academic record and results of a recent medical examination (including a test for exposure to HIV) costing about 20,000Ft. The employer then submits these to the local labour centre (*munkaügyi központ*), and you must return to your country of residence and apply for the work permit (US\$50 or equivalent) at the Hungarian embassy or consulate there.

When you return to Hungary, you have 15 days to gather all the documents required to apply for a one-year renewable residence permit (*tartózkodási engedély*; 5000Ft) through the Residency Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Immigration office at XI Budafoki út 60 in Budapest or through the main police station (*főkapitányság*) in your district or city.

## Doing Business

The main source of information in English for businesspeople in Budapest is the *Budapest Business Journal* (BBJ; www.bbj

.hu; 575Ft), which is an almost archival publication of financial news and business stories that has been around for nearly 15 years and appears on Monday. Another useful publication for businesspeople is the feature-oriented *Business Hungary* (900Ft), compiled monthly by the American Chamber of Commerce.

Following are some important addresses and/or useful sources of information:

**American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary** (Map p224; % 266 9880; www.amcham.hu; V Deák Ferenc utca 10, 5th fl; ☐☐ M1 Vörösmarty tér)

**British Chamber of Commerce in Hungary** (Map p222; % 302 5200, www.bcch.com; V Bank utca 6, 2nd fl; ☐☐ M3 Arany János utca)

**Budapest Chamber of Commerce & Industry** (Budapesti Kereskedelmi és Iparkamra; Map p220; % 214 1826; www.bkik.hu in Hungarian; I Krisztina körút 99; j 18)

**Economy & Transport Ministry** (Gazdasági és Közlekedési Minisztérium; Map p222; % 374 2700; www.gkm.hu; V Honvéd utca 13-15; ☐☐ M2 Kossuth Lajos tér)

**Finance Ministry** (Pénzügy Minisztérium; Map p224; % 318 2066; www.meh.hu in Hungarian; V József nádor tér 2-4; ☐☐ M1 Vörösmarty tér)

**Hungarian Chamber of Commerce & Industry** (Magyar Kereskedelmi és Iparkamra; Map p222; % 474 5100; www.mkik.hu in Hungarian; V Kossuth Lajos tér 6-8, 5th fl; ☐☐ M2 Kossuth Lajos tér)

For photocopying, digital printing and computer services like scanning, visit any of the eight outlets of **Copy General** (www.copygeneral.hu in Hungarian), including its **district V branch** (Map p222; % 302 3206; V Kálmán Imre utca 22; ☐ 24hr; ☐☐ M3 Nyugati pályaudvar). A similar – and aptly named – place nearby is **CopyCat** (Map p222; % 312 7636; www.copycat.hu; V Alkotmány utca 18; ☐ 7am-10pm Mon-Fri, 10am-8pm Sat & Sun; ☐☐ M3 Nyugati pályaudvar).

All the major courier companies are represented here, including **DHL** (% 06-40 454 545; www.dhl.hu), **FedEx Hungary** (% 06-40 980 980; www.fedex.com), **TNT Express** (% 431 3131; www.tnt.hu) and **UPS** (% 06-40 262 000; www.ups.com).

# Language ■

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# Language

It's true – anyone can speak another language. Don't worry if you haven't studied languages before or that you studied a language at school for years and can't remember any of it. It doesn't even matter if you failed English grammar. After all, that's never affected your ability to speak English! And this is the key to picking up a language in another country. You just need to start speaking.



Learn a few key phrases before you go. Write them on pieces of paper and stick them on the fridge, by the bed or even on the computer – anywhere that you'll see them often.

You'll find that locals appreciate travellers trying their language, no matter how muddled you may think you sound. So don't just stand there, say something! If you want to learn more Hungarian than we've included here, pick up a copy of Lonely Planet's user-friendly *Hungarian Phrasebook*.

## PRONUNCIATION

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

## Vowels

a	as in 'hot'
á	as in 'father'
e	as in 'bet'
é	as in 'air'
i	as in 'hit'
í	as in 'meet'
o	as in 'law' but short
ó	as in 'awl'
ö	as in 'curt' but short (with no 'r' sound)
ø	as in 'her' (with no 'r' sound)
u	as in 'pull'
ú	as in 'rule'
ü	like <b>i</b> but with rounded lips (like 'u' in French <i>tu</i> )
ű	as in 'strewn'

## Consonants

c	as the 'ts' in 'rats'
cs	as the 'ch' in 'cheese'
dz	as in 'adze'
dzs	as the 'j' in 'joke'
gy	as the 'du' in 'dune' (British)
j/ly	as in 'yes'
ny	as the 'ny' in 'canyon'
r	as in 'run' (but rolled)
s	as the 'sh' in 'ship'

sz	as the 's' in 'sit'
ty	as the 'tu' in 'tube' (British)
zs	as the 's' in 'pleasure'

## SOCIAL

### Meeting People

In the following phrases, the polite form of '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.	<b>Szervusz.</b> (sg) <b>Szervusztok.</b> (pl)
Hi.	<b>Szia/Sziasztok.</b> (sg/pl)
Good ...	<b>Jó ... kívánok.</b>
morning	<b>reggelt</b>
afternoon/day	<b>napot</b>
evening	<b>estét</b>
Goodbye.	<b>Viszlát.</b> (pol) <b>Szia.</b> (inf sg) <b>Sziasztok.</b> (inf sg/pl)
Good night.	<b>Jó éjszakát.</b>
Yes.	<b>Igen.</b>
No.	<b>Nem.</b>
Please.	<b>Kérem.</b> (pol) <b>Kérlek</b> (inf)
Thank you (very much).	<b>(Nagyon) Köszönöm.</b>

You're welcome.	<b>Szívesen.</b>
Excuse me. (to get attention)	<b>Elnézést kérek.</b>
Excuse me. (to get past)	<b>Bocsánat.</b>
Sorry.	<b>Sajnálom.</b>
How are you?	<b>Hogy van?</b> (pol) <b>Hogy vagy?</b> (inf)
Fine. And you?	<b>Jól. És Ön/te?</b>
What's your name?	<b>Mi a neve?</b> (pol) <b>Mi a neved?</b> (inf)
My name is ...	<b>A nevem ...</b>
I'm pleased to meet you.	<b>Örvendek.</b>

Where are you from?	<b>Ön honnan jön?</b>
I'm from ...	<b>Én ... jövök.</b>
Do you speak English?	<b>Beszél angolul?</b>
I (don't) understand.	<b>(Nem) Értem.</b>
What does ... mean?	<b>Mit jelent az, hogy ...?</b>
Could you please write it down?	<b>Leírná, kérem.</b>

## Going Out

What's on ...?	
<b>Mi a program ...?</b>	<b>helyben</b>
locally	<b>ezen a hétvégén</b>
this weekend	<b>ma</b>
today	<b>ma este</b>
tonight	
Where can I find ...?	
<b>Hol találok ...?</b>	<b>klubokat</b>
clubs	<b>meleg szórakozó-</b>
gay venues	<b>helyeket</b>
places to eat	<b>egy helyet, ahol enni lehet</b>
pubs	<b>pubokat</b>

Is there a local entertainment guide?  
**Van itt helyi programkalauz?**

## PRACTICAL

### Directions

Where's (the market)?	<b>Hol van (a piac)?</b>
What's the address?	<b>Mi a cím?</b>
How do I get there?	<b>Hogyan jutok oda?</b>

How far is it?  
**Milyen messze van?**  
Can you show me (on the map)?  
**Meg tudja mutatni nekem (a térképen)?**  
It's straight ahead.  
**Egyenesen előttünk van.**

Turn ...		
<b>Forduljon ...</b>		
at the corner	<b>a saroknál</b>	
at the traffic lights	<b>a közlekedési lámpánál</b>	
left/right	<b>balra/jobbra</b>	

## Signs

<b>Bejárat</b>	Entrance
<b>Kijárat</b>	Exit
<b>Nyitva</b>	Open
<b>Zárva</b>	Closed
<b>Foglalt</b>	Reserved/Occupied
<b>Belépni Tilos</b>	No Entry
<b>Tilos</b>	Prohibited
<b>Tilos a Dohányzás</b>	No Smoking
<b>Toalett/WC</b>	Toilets
<b>Férfiak</b>	Men
<b>Nők</b>	Women

## Question Words

How many?	<b>Hány?</b>
How much?	<b>Mennyi?</b>
What?	<b>Mi?</b>
What kind?	<b>Milyen?</b>
Where?	<b>Hol?</b>
When?	<b>Mikor?</b>
Which?	<b>Melyik?</b>
Who?	<b>Ki?</b>
Why?	<b>Miért?</b>

## Numbers & Amounts

The word **kettő** is used when expressing the number two on its own, while **két** is used when it is followed by the counted noun.

0	<b>nulla</b>
1	<b>egy</b>
2	<b>kettő/két</b>
3	<b>három</b>
4	<b>négy</b>
5	<b>öt</b>
6	<b>hat</b>
7	<b>hét</b>
8	<b>nyolc</b>
9	<b>kilenc</b>
10	<b>tíz</b>
11	<b>tizenegy</b>

12	tizenkettő
13	tizenhárom
14	tizennégy
15	tizenöt
16	tizenhat
17	tizenhét
18	tizennyolc
19	tizenkilenc
20	húsz
21	huszonegy
22	huszonkettő
30	harminc
31	harmincegy
32	harminckettő
40	negyven
41	negyvenegy
42	negyvenkettő
50	ötven
60	hatvan
70	hetven
80	nyolcvan
90	kilencven
100	száz
200	kétszáz
1000	ezer

## Days

Monday	hétfő
Tuesday	kedd
Wednesday	szerda
Thursday	csütörtök
Friday	péntek
Saturday	szombat
Sunday	vasárnap

## Banking

I'd like to ...	Szeretnék ...
change a travellers cheque	bevéltani egy utazási csekket
change money	pénzt váltani

Do you accept ...?	Elfogadnak ...?
credit cards	hitelkártyát
travellers cheques	utazási csekket

Where is ...?	Hol van ...?
an ATM	egy bankautomata
a foreign exchange office	egy valutaváltó ügynökség

## Post

Where's the post office?  
Hol van a postahivatal?

I want to send a ...	... szeretnék küldeni.
letter	Levelet
parcel	Csomagot
postcard	Képeslapot

I want to buy a/an...	... szeretnék venni.
airmail envelope	Légipostai borítékot
ordinary envelope	Sima borítékot
stamp	Bélyeget

## Phones & Mobiles

Where's the nearest public phone?  
Hol a legközelebbi nyilvános telefon?  
I want to make a collect/reverse-charge call.  
'R' beszélgetést szeretnék kérni.

I want to ...	Szeretnék ...
buy a phonecard	telefonkártyát venni
call (Singapore)	(Szingapúr)ba telefonálni
make a (local) call	(helyi) telefonbeszélgetést folytatni

I'd like a ...	Szeretnék egy ...
charger for my phone	töltőt a telefonomhoz
mobile phone/cellphone for hire	mobiltelefon bérelni
(prepaid) SIM card	(előre kifizetett) SIM-kártyát

## Internet

Where's the local Internet café?  
Hol van a legközelebbi internet kávézó?

I'd like to ...	Szeretném ...
check my email	megnézni az e-mailjeimet
get Internet access	rámenni az internetre

## Transport

Which ... goes to (the Parliament)?	Melyik ... megy (a Parlamenthez)?
bus	busz
train	vonat
tram	villamos
trolleybus	trolibusz
metro line	metró

When's the ...?	Mikor megy ...?
first	az első
last	az utolsó
next	a következő

Is this taxi available?  
Szabad ez a taxi?  
Please put the meter on.  
Kérem, kapcsolja be az órát.  
How much is it to ...?  
Mennyibe kerül ... ba?  
Please take me to (this address).  
Kérem, vigyen el (erre a címre).  
What time does it leave?  
Mikor indul?

## FOOD

breakfast	reggeli
lunch	ebéd
dinner	vacsora
snack	snack

Can you recommend a ... ?	Tud/Tudsz ajánlani egy ... ?
bar/pub	bárt/pubot
beer bar	sörözőt
restaurant	éttermet
self-service restaurant	önkiszolgálót

Is service included in the bill?  
A kiszolgálás díja benne van a számlában?

For more detailed information on food and dining out, see p25 and p91.

## EMERGENCIES

Help!	Segítség!
Could you please help?	Tudna segíteni?
Call the police!	Hívja a rendőrséget!
Call a doctor!	Hívjon orvost!
Where's the police station?	Hol a rendőrség?
Go away!	Menjen el!

## HEALTH

Where's the nearest ...?	Hol a legközelebbi ...?
dentist	fogorvos
doctor	orvos
hospital	kórház
medical centre	orvosi rendelő
(night) pharmacist	(éjszaka nyitvatartó) gyógyszerész

I'm allergic to ...	Allergiás vagyok ...
antibiotics	az antibiotikumokra
penicillin	a penicillinre

## Symptoms

I have a headache.	Fáj a fejem.
I have a sore throat.	Fáj a torkom.

I have (a) ...	... van.
asthma	Asztmám
diarrhoea	Hasmenésem
fever	Lázam
nausea	Hányingerem

## GLOSSARY

ÁFA – value-added tax (VAT)  
 ÁVO – Rákosi's hated secret police in the early years of communism; later renamed ÁVH  
 BKV – Budapest Közlekedési Vállalat (Budapest Transport Company)  
 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  
 cukrászda – cake shop or patisserie  
 Eclectic – an art and architectural style that was popular in Hungary in the Romantic period, drawing from sources both indigenous and foreign

eszpresszó – coffee shop, often also selling alcoholic drinks and snacks; strong, black coffee; same as *presszó*  
 étkezde – canteen that serves simple dishes  
 étterem – restaurant  
 fasor – boulevard, avenue  
 forint (Ft) – Hungary's monetary unit  
 főkapitányság – main police station  
 gyógyfürdő – bath or spa  
 gyógyszerész – pharmacist  
 hajó – boat  
 hajóállomás – ferry pier or landing  
 ház – house  
 hegy – hill, mountain  
 HÉV – Helyiérdekű Vasút (suburban commuter train in Budapest)  
 híd – bridge

**HNTO** – Hungarian National Tourism Office  
**ifjúsági szálló** – youth hostel  
**kastély** – manor house or mansion (see *vár*)  
**kerület** – city district  
**kinctár** – treasury  
**Kiskörút** – ‘Little Ring Road’ in Budapest  
**könyvesbolt** – bookshop  
**könyvtár** – library  
**kórház** – hospital  
**körút** – ring road  
**korzó** – embankment or promenade  
**köz** – alley, mews, lane  
**központ** – centre  
**krt** – abbreviation for *körút* (ring road)  
**lekvár** – fruit jam  
**lépcső** – stairs, steps  
**liget** – park  
**Mahart** – Hungarian passenger ferry company  
**Malév** – Hungary’s national airline  
**MÁV** – Magyar Államvasutak (Hungarian State Railways)  
**megye** – county  
**Nagykörút** – ‘Big Ring Road’ in Budapest  
**nyitva** – open  
**önkiszolgáló** – self-service  
**pálinka** – fruit brandy  
**palota** – palace  
**pályaudvar** – train or railway station  
**panzió** – *pension*, guesthouse  
**patika** – pharmacy  
**pénztár** – cashier  
**piac** – market  
**pince** – wine cellar  
**porta** – type of farmhouse in Transdanubia  
**presszó** – same as *eszpresszó* (coffee shop; strong, black coffee)  
**pu** – abbreviation for *pályaudvar* (train station)  
**puttony** – the number of ‘butts’ of sweet *aszú* essence added to other base wines in making Tokaj wine

**rakpart** – quay, embankment  
**rendőrkapitányság** – police station  
**Secessionism** – art and architectural style similar to Art Nouveau  
**sedile** (pl *sedilia*) – medieval stone niche with seats  
**sétány** – walkway, promenade  
**söröző** – beer bar or pub  
**strand** – grassy ‘beach’ near a river or lake  
**szálló** or **szálloda** – hotel  
**székesegyház** – cathedral  
**személyvonat** – passenger trains that stop at every city, town, village and hamlet along the way  
**sziget** – island  
**táncház** – folk music and dance workshop  
**templom** – church  
**tér** – town or market square  
**tere** – genitive form of *tér* as in Hősök tere (Square of the Heroes)  
**tó** – lake  
**turul** – eagle-like totem of the ancient Magyars and now a national symbol  
**u** – abbreviation for *utca* (street)  
**udvar** – court  
**úszoda** – swimming pool  
**út** – road  
**utca** – street  
**utcája** – genitive form of *utca* as in Ferencesek utcája (Street of the Franciscans)  
**útja** – genitive form of *út* as in Mártírok útja (Street of the Martyrs)  
**vágány** – platform  
**vár** – castle  
**város** – city  
**városház** or **városháza** – town hall  
**vendéglő** – a type of restaurant  
**Volán** – Hungarian bus company  
**zárva** – closed

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