

Budapest Guide





Üdvözlünk Budapesten!

We're pleased to welcome you in Budapest for the 5th European Transgender Council. The Council will take place at the Rubin Wellness & Conference Hotel, 1- 4 May 2014.

Our Budapest Travel Guide will help you plan your stay. We wish you a wonderful time in Budapest and would like to give you all the information to have a safe and pleasant time as our guests at the Pearl of Danube.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Transvanilla Transgender Association team

Coming to Hungary

Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is situated in the Pannonian Basin and is bordered by Slovakia to the north, Ukraine and Romania to the east, Serbia and Croatia to the south, Slovenia to the southwest and Austria to the west. The country's capital and its largest city is Budapest. Hungary is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Area.

There are no border controls between the countries that have signed and implemented the Schengen Agreement, which is comprised from 26 countries -- most of the European Union (except from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom), Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Likewise, a visa granted for any Schengen member country is valid in all other countries that have signed and implemented the treaty.

To ensure that your journey is smooth we encourage you to bring the following documents when travelling:

- **Valid Passport (if required) or ID**
- **Visa (if required)**
- **Photocopies of travel documents (return tickets, accommodation information, travel/medical insurance, etc.)**

There are restrictions about what you can bring into Hungary. Please review here: <http://www.iatatravelcentre.com/HU-Hungary-customs-currency-airport-tax-regulations-details.htm>

In order to assist you at your travel Transvanilla volunteers will welcome you at the Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport at Terminal A.

If you encounter any difficulties, you are advised to contact our event Line on +36 30 597 5292.

Getting to Hotel Rubin

Arriving by plane

Public Transport

Bus 200E runs every 8-15 minutes between the airport and Kőbánya-Kispest metro station. From Kőbánya-Kispest you need to take metro line number 3 and for that you need another ticket. You need to change to line number 4 at Kálvin Tér going towards Kelenföld Vasútállomás. No need for a new ticket when switching between metro lines. Once you get off at Kelenföld vasútállomás you should leave the station at Exit D. Then follow our signs towards Budaörsi út which is the large road with overpasses. Turn right and the hotel is at the second overpass on the other side of the road. Length of journey: approx. 90-100 minutes

We strongly recommend you to take a taxi or to contact us (so we can help you to come to the hotel) in case you are arriving during the night (between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.).

Single tickets (cost of 350 HUF/ 1,15 EUR) and ten-trip coupon books (3000 HUF/ 10 EUR) are available at the Relay newsstands located at the arrivals level at Terminal 2A and 2B (open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.). You can also buy tickets on the bus for 450 HUF/ 1,5 EUR.

**Note: If you have any mobility impairment you may wish to take a taxi from the airport to the hotel as there is no easily accessible public transport. TGEU has a small access budget and can reimburse the cost of taxis used because of sensory or mobility impairment, so please request a receipt.*

Taxi

A ride to the hotel should typically cost around 6,500 HUF / EUR 22 depending on traffic conditions. The officially appointed taxi company serving the airport is Főtaxi (<http://www.fotaxi.hu/>). There is a booth outside the airport at which you can book an official taxi.

Taxi drivers speaking at least one foreign language are in service in cars with a large, category 'A' sign. All these cars are equipped with a POS terminal, therefore credit cards are also accepted. Please be aware that you put yourself at risk by using non-regulated taxi service providers who might approach you at the terminal.

Shuttle

Not suggested to take. A ride to the hotel costs HUF 6,900 HUF which is more expensive than a taxi.

Arriving by train

Please note that if your train stops at Kelenföld vasútállomás station, you should not go further to any of the main railway stations to access the hotel.

Public Transport

Kelenföld vasútállomás to Hotel Rubin

Once you get off at Kelenföld Vasútállomás go to the underpass and leave the station at Exit D. Then follow our signs towards Budaörsi út which is the large road with overpasses. Turn right at Budaörsi út and the hotel is at the second overpass on the other side of the road. The walk from the station to the hotel takes 10 minutes.

Keleti Pályaudvar to Hotel Rubin

From Keleti Pályaudvar take Metro number 4 to Kelenföld vasútállomás and leave the station via Exit D. Then follow our signs towards Budaörsi út which is the large road with overpasses. Turn right at Budaörsi út and the hotel is at the second overpass on the other side of the road. Journey will take about 25 minutes.

Single tickets (350 HUF/ 1,15 EUR) and ten-trip coupon books (3000 HUF/ 10EUR) are available at the metro station.

*If you have any mobility difficulties we strongly recommend you to take a taxi. TGEU has a small access budget and can reimburse the cost of taxis used because of sensory or mobility impairment, so please request a receipt.

Arriving by bus

International buses arrive to the Népliget Bus Station. At Népliget take Metro line 3 towards Újpest-Központ. At Kálvin tér station change to Metro line 4 towards Kelenföld vasútállomás and leave the station via Exit D. Then follow our signs towards Budaörsi út, which is the large road with overpasses. Turn right at Budaörsi út and the hotel is at the second overpass on the other side of the road. Length of journey is approx. 50-60 minutes

Single tickets (350 HUF/ 1,15 EUR) and ten-trip coupon books (3000 HUF/ 10 EUR) are available at the metro station. No need for a new ticket when switching between metro lines.

*If you have any mobility difficulties we strongly recommend you to take a taxi. TGEU has a small access budget and can reimburse the cost of taxis used because of sensory or mobility impairment, so please request a receipt.

City Center to Hotel Rubín

If you are coming from another location in the City Centre, please use this application to find the best route to the hotel:

<http://utazastervezzo.bkv.hu/tervezzo/index.php?lng=eng>

Hotel Rubín



Rubín Wellness & Conference Hotel is located in the green-belt area at the Buda side of Budapest. It offers an excellent accommodation for those who would like to stay in a quiet and peaceful environment. The hotel harmoniously combines the comfort of nature and various wellness services.

All hotel rooms are equipped with an LCD TV, radio, telephone and a security safe. Most of the rooms have a terrace or a balcony with a garden view.

The hotel has a unique garden full of shady trees, promenades, benches and a fountain. We believe it provides an excellent atmosphere for our conference.

Start your day with a tasty buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant. Enjoy the fitness, wellness & spa facilities (bowling alley, squash, aerobic).

Access requirements

There is a ramped entrance into the hotel and a number of wheelchair accessible rooms on the ground floor. The hotel is very large and some of the rooms

are a long way from the lobby, so if you have a mobility impairment you may wish to ask for a room closer to the reception.

There is one disabled toilet on the ground floor of the hotel, to the right of the lobby. There is lift access throughout the hotel.



If you have any access requirements which you have not informed us of, please contact nathan@tgeu.org.

Wellness & Spa

The 2400 m2 Wellness and Sport center offers a wide variety of facilities, including a salt cabin, jacuzzi, Finnish and bio sauna cabins, infra sauna, steam bath, aroma cabin, dipping pool. The experience pool and jacuzzi ensure complete relaxation. The fitness room equipped with Nautilus and Technogym cardio machines will be available for our guests. Basic services of the center can be used for free by those accommodated in the hotel.

Opening hours: 07:00 - 22:00

Bowling

The Wellness and Sport Centre has four bowling alleys on two levels. In addition the Bowling Bar offers drinks and beverages.

We are happy to inform you that participants are offered 2 hours of bowling use in the evenings. If you wish to play more, the hotel staff is going to assist you.

Internet access

In the hotel WiFi connection is provided and is available for participants free of charge.

Registration

Registration will take place in the hotel lobby on Thursday, May 1st between 5 and 7 p.m. and on Friday, May 2nd between 9 and 10 a.m.

Delegates who registered for accommodation and will be hosted in the hotel should check in at the hotel reception before registration.



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- Hotel Rubin
- ATM/Cash machine
- Pharmacy
- Grocery
- Tobacco Shop
- M
4
 Metro
- Train station

Grocery, Tobacco shop and Pharmacy are 10 minutes' walk from the Hotel.

Opening hours of the grocery and tobacco shops:

Th-F: 7-22, Sat: 7-17; Sun: 8-17

Opening hours of the pharmacy: Th-F: 8-20; Sat: 8-13; Closed on Sunday

ATM

There is no ATM in the hotel. The closest one is located 700 meters from the hotel at Budaörsi út 49-53. Another one is at Kelenföld bus station, about 1000 meters from the hotel.

If you need to contact a member of Transvanilla during the event, call our Event Line on +36 30 597 5292.

Budapest

Budapest is the capital city of Hungary. It is considered to be one of the most vibrant and wonderful cities in Europe where the charm of old times is blended with the characteristics of cosmopolitan living. The broad river Danube runs through the middle of this two-million metropolis, cutting across the diverse landscapes of hilly Buda and low-lying Pest.

Interesting facts about Budapest

Budapest is LGB friendly

The annual Budapest Pride Festival has been organized annually since 1993 which was the first such event among the ex-communist bloc countries. Budapest hosted Mr. Gay Europe in 2007 and the 2012 EuroGames.

Budapest is hot!

Literally, Budapest has more thermal springs than any other capital city in the world. An amazing amount of 70 million liters of thermal waters rises daily to the surface. These hot springs have given birth to dozens of medicinal baths and to a wide-spread bathing culture dating back to Roman times. <http://www.spasbudapest.com/>

Budapest is home to the third largest Parliament building in the world

The Parliament Building covers an area of 18,000 sq meters (193,750 sq feet), it has 691 rooms, 20 kilometers (12,5 miles) of stairs and it is 96 meters (315 feet) high. There are 90 statues on the façade and 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of 23-carat gold was used to decorate the interior. Its construction begun in 1885 and the Neo-Gothic palace was completed in 1902.



Budapest has the oldest subway-line in mainland Europe



After London, Budapest has the oldest underground train system in Europe. The first line opened in 1896 in the year when Hungary celebrated its 1000th anniversary, hence the name Millennium Underground. It is still in use as subway M1 and it connects the city center with the City Park.

Budapest is big on arts and culture

There are more than 40 theaters and over 100 museums and galleries in the city. Many concerts, festivals and events are held year-round, not to mention performances at the famous Opera House, which is considered to be among the best opera houses in the world. http://www.budapest.com/city_guide/culture/museums.en.html

The Budapest Zoo is one of the oldest zoos in the world

The Budapest Zoo opened its doors in 1865 and it features a number of noteworthy Art Nouveau buildings like the Elephant House, the Palm House and the main entrance gate.

Budapest is home to one of the largest music festivals in the world

Around 400,000 people from all over the world flock to the Sziget Festival every August. This week-long celebration of music is named after the Shipyard Island (Hajógyári sziget) where the festival is takes place.

Getting around Budapest

Public Transport

Budapesti Közlekedési Központ (Centre for Budapest Transport): <http://www.bkk.hu/en>

Budapest has an excellent public transportation system with 4 metro lines and a vast system of streetcars and trolley buses. Streetcars 2, 4 and 6 as well as the four metro lines are good options to get to most places in the city from the hotel.

Tickets are valid for the metro, buses, streetcars, trolley buses, the cog-wheel railway and the suburban HÉV lines (only within the city limits), and are available at any subway station. To avoid cues, buy tickets from street stands and newsstands. The basic ticket is good for one trip; if you transfer, you will need to validate a new ticket. Be sure to validate your ticket using the orange or red ticket-punching machines as controllers may ask to see your ticket, and will fine you for having an invalid one. Many ticket-punching machines on buses and streetcars are manual. Be sure to insert your ticket into the top slot and pull the punching mechanism toward you.

Ticket vendors rarely speak any languages aside from Magyar, so a little provisional sign language may help. However, detailed information about tickets and transportation is usually available next to their booths in English, French and German, along with route maps.

Ticket prices

Single ticket (vonaljegy) - HUF 350 • One-day travel card (napijegy) - HUF 1,650

Three-day travel card - HUF 4,150 • Seven-day travel card - HUF 4,950

Ten-trip coupon book (gyűjtőjegy) - HUF 3,000

Citizens of European Union countries at and over the age of 65 can use all public transport lines for free in Budapest (they have to show a valid ID to verify their age and EU member nationality if asked by a ticket inspector).



Having a ticket does not entitle you to ride public transportation. You must validate your ticket at a ticket-punching machine when starting your trip. You are able to enter/use all public transport without validating your ticket, until a controller stops you. All forms of public transportation are frequented by controllers, so you are bound to run into one sooner or later, and they are not very pleasant to deal with sometimes.

Taxi

Taxis can be fast and cheap in the city, especially late at night when there is limited public transportation. Taxis can be hailed on the street, but it is cheaper to call ahead of time. Residents in Budapest rarely flag down taxis in the street and our advice is to always call one of the recommended companies.

Licensed taxi cabs in Budapest are yellow. Avoid getting in taxis with no name or logos, or ones queuing at hotels and railway stations. Always insist on the meter being turned on and paying in Hungarian Forints.

All licensed taxi drivers must adhere to a new fare structure and charge the same price.

Base fare: HUF 450 • Price per minute: HUF 70 • Price per kilometer: HUF 280

Restaurants/Pubs/Clubs

Traditional Hungarian restaurants

Gundel Restaurant

Early 1900's elegant interior, live music, traditional and reformed Hungarian dishes, wide range of wines, wine cellars, confectionary, shop, event service, garden, private rooms, awarded by GaultMillau, Michelin Guide, Budapest Business Journal and many others

Address: 14th district, Gundel Károly Street 4

Table reservation: +36-1-468-4040

Website: www.gundel.hu

Mátyás Pince Restaurant

Traditional Hungarian style interior, Hungarian and Transylvanian dishes, wide range of wines, live music, Hungarian folklore evenings

Address: 5th district, Március 15. Square 7

Table reservation: +36-1-266-80-08

Website: eng.matyaspince.eu

Alabárdos Restaurant

Medieval interior with comfortable exclusive furniture, traditional and reformed Hungarian dishes, soft guitar music, private services, awarded by



GaultMillau and Michelin Guide

Address: Buda Castle, Országház Street 2

Table reservation: +36-1-356-08-51

Website: www.alabardos.hu

Halászbástya Fine Dining Restaurant

Royal interior, spectacular panorama view, traditional and reformed Hungarian and international dishes, private rooms, terraces

Address: Fisherman's Bastion, North Tower, Buda Castle

Table reservation: +36-1-201-6935

Website: eng.halaszbastya.eu

Múzeum Café and Restaurant

Late 1800's style elegant interior, traditional and reformed Hungarian and international dishes, live piano music, awarded by GaultMillau, TimeOut, Best of Budapest

Address: 8th district, Múzeum Boulevard 12

Table reservation: +36-1-201-9992

Website: www.muzeumkavehaz.hu

Pubs and clubs

Budapest has a party quarter in the 7th district, which used to be the Jewish district before World War 2. It is frequently visited by both locals and international visitors; you can find clubs and bars - mainly ruin pubs - almost in every building.

Doboz

Doboz (box in Hungarian) is a four season ruin pub and club with an astonishing futuristic and artistic design. The

club has a grill bar, two dancing places with a wide range of drink offers and progressive music.

Dress code: sports wear (no over- or low-dressed visitors are allowed to enter)

Address: 1072 Budapest, Klauzál Street 10

Website: <http://doboz.pm/en/>

Instant

Instant is two houses turned into an enchanted forest, where you'll feel at home any part of the day, regardless of the weather. 23 rooms, 6 bars, 2 open gardens, 3 dance floors, exhibitions, constant music, and a huge, breathtaking, absorbing, surreal installation create an otherworldly unity in this Babylonian forest. Free events every day!

Address: 1065 Budapest, Nagymező Street 38

Website: <http://www.instant.co.hu/en>

Szimpla Dupla Café

A small ruin-pub-like café where you can find rare Budapest and Berlin craft beers on tap and in bottles.

Address: 1073 Budapest, Kertész Street 48

Website: <http://www.szimpla.hu/en/cafe-en>

Szimpla Kert Ruin Pub

Converting an old factory into a huge open-air cinema and pub, Szimpla has created a unique, surreal framework for hosting concerts, theatre shows and many different cultural events. Szimpla embraces genres and performers off the mainstream, presenting them in an informal atmosphere. Green sustainability is in its focus as well.



Address: 1075 Budapest, Kazinczy Street 7

Website: <http://www.szimpla.hu/en>

Ötkert Bar and Club

An international, colorful and vivid place near the Parliament, next to the St. Stephen Basilica with candle-lit tables, wide dance floors, concerts and sometimes artistic exhibitions. Although it is located in the middle of the city, it has an open-air garden.

Address: 5th district, Zrínyi Street 4

Website: <http://www.otkert.hu/en>

400 Pub and Gastro Bar

A cozy ruin pub in the middle of the party (former Jewish) quarter of Budapest. You can dance, drink and eat here. Try out Hungarian as well as other dishes from the region. It has a garden too.

Address: 1075 Budapest, Kazinczy Street 52/B

Website: <http://400bar.hu/>

Gay Bars/Clubs

Club 93 Restaurant and Café

A cozy place right next to the former Jewish quarter and the Hungarian Academy of Drama and Film. Besides Italian dishes, traditional Hungarian food is also served.

Open: Mo, Tu, Wed, Sun: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Thu, Fri, Sat: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Address: 8th district, Vas Street 2

Table reservation: +36 30 630 7093

Website: <http://www.club93.hu/>

Funny Carrot Drink Bar

Joyful and colorful bar in the historical city center with popular drinks. You can dance to retro pop music.

Open: Monday - Sunday from 7 p.m. to dawn

Address: 1053 Budapest, Szép Street 2

Website: <http://funnycarrot.hu/>

Habroló Café

Small, intimate, romantic café in the heart of Budapest. It is a great place to chat with your friends and strangers, to have a pleasant coffee or a drink. Smooth music in the background. Karaoke from 9 p.m. on Thursdays and Sundays.

Open: Monday - Sunday from 11 a.m. to dawn

Address: 1053 Budapest, Szép Street 1

Website: <http://habrolo.hu/>

SCORE Club

Newly opened gay club on the Buda side of the city. Huge dance floor, chill

out and VIP spaces, the latest lightning and sound techniques, international DJs and performers, occasionally men-only nights.

Open: Fridays and Saturdays from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Entrance fee: 1500 HUF before midnight, 2000 HUF after midnight

Address: 1027 Budapest Tölgyfa Street 1-3

Table reservation: +36 20 341 4577

Website: <http://www.scoreclub.hu/>

Why Not Café

An exclusive, colorful, friendly café on the spectacular riverside, where the old Hollywood glamour and traditional Japanese elements are mixed. Wide range of drinks and cocktails are served, as well as dishes such as salads, fried sausages, and hot sandwiches.

Address: 1056 Budapest, Belgrád rakpart 3-4

Open: Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 a.m.

Website: <http://whynotcafe.hu/>

AlterEGO Club

Modern "metrosexual style" interior with wide range of drinks and cocktails. Drag queen show at midnight, disco style music. More dance floors and chill out spaces.

Open: Fridays and Saturdays from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Entrance fee: 1500 HUF (you receive an 500 HUF worth drink coupon if you arrive before midnight)

Address: 1062 Budapest, Dessewffy Street 33

Website: <http://www.alteregoclub.hu/>

Visitor information

Safety

Hungary in general is a very safe country. As a visitor to any other big city having your pockets picked is the most common crime targeting tourists. The most important rules are that you never wear a backpack or purse on your back in public transportation or other places with a lot of people, and make sure that you have your wallet in one of your front pockets. Hungarian policemen rarely speak English. Tourists have no reason to be afraid of them unless breaking the law. Hungarians tend to be friendly with foreigners; racism or xenophobia against tourists is practically unknown. Violent crimes are rare.

Basic info about Budapest

Population: 1,7 million

Country code: 36

Budapest area code: 1

Time Zone: Central European Time (GMT+1, EST+6), Daylight Saving Time observed

Budapest has 23 districts (kerület or ker. in Hungarian). The districts are numbered, and many have official names. On Hungarian maps and street signs, districts are marked with Roman numerals. Districts can also be identified by the two middle numbers of the four digit postal codes in Hungary.

Rubin Hotel is in District 11 (XI) - Újbuda (Includes: Gazdagrét, Gellért-hegy, Kelenföld, Lágymányos)

When searching for a specific address it is always important to know the district number as a street of the same name can be located in several districts.

May 1st

May 1st or May Day marks Labor Day in Europe. In Hungary May 1st and 2nd are public holidays and most businesses will be closed.

Hungarian Currency

You will often find that Budapest is a bargain compared to other European cities, because although Hungary is part of the European Union, it does not use the Euro as its currency. The Hungarian currency is the Forint (Ft, HUF), which has the following denominations: notes - 500Ft, 1,000Ft, 2,000Ft, 5,000Ft, 10,000Ft and 20,000Ft; coins - 5Ft, 10Ft, 20Ft, 50Ft and 100Ft. Prices, such as hotel

rates, sightseeing tours are often given in Euros. Many businesses, including some select supermarkets accept Euros. Do not forget to check their exchange rates, as you might be better off exchanging your currency first and paying in Forints.

Currency exchange

It is better to obtain Hungarian Forints upon arrival to Hungary than to exchange it with a bank at home. ATMs dispense Hungarian currency at your bank's daily exchange rate; however, you may be charged a foreign fee on top of the service fees.

All around Budapest, there are various currency exchange offices which work with lower margin than banks, thus the cheapest option is to find one. It is important to note that all official currency exchange offices determine the exchange rate on their own accord. They must fully inform you about their own rates, but not the real or the best exchange rate available - they build their costs into their very own rate. The exchange rates must be visibly displayed at the place of exchange.

Changing money at Budapest hotels is not advisable, as their rates are at least 10% lower than what is generally available.

Under no circumstances you should change money illegally on the street: besides the possible legal consequences, it is highly probable that you will be cheated.

ATMs and credit and debit cards

In Hungary you will find a dense network of ATMs (cash machines) which will accept all major credit and debit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Plus, Maestro, Cirrus and others). The majority of shops and restaurants also accept cards. Cards accepted at a given shop or restaurant are usually displayed in the window of the premises. If you don't see your card's name there, ask before purchasing anything whether your card will be accepted.

Tipping

Tips aren't usually left by guests on the table. Should you wish to tip the staff, add around 10% onto the bill or round it up. It's up to you what sum you tell the waiter or waitress you wish to pay when he or she brings the bill. If you say nothing, you will receive the exact change. If you say "Thank you" when the waiter or waitress will understand that the remainder has been left as a tip.

Electricity

Hungary uses 220 volts AC and the European-style plug (two circular metal pins). If your appliance has a 120/240-volt switch, all you will need is a plug adapter – otherwise, a current converter is required.

Opening & Business Hours

Shops and stores

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays: shops close at 1 pm and remain closed on Sundays.

Shopping centers are open 7 days a week.

Grocery stores

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays: stores close at 2 p.m.

There are several smaller non-stop shops scattered around the city and shopping centers are also open 7 days a week.

Museums

Museums are closed on Mondays, except for the Jewish Museum, which is closed on Saturdays.

Office hours

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Banks

Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays: all banks are open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Post Offices

Most post offices are open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The two main post offices near the Nyugati (Western) and the Keleti (Eastern) Railway Stations are open longer, Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m, Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Useful phone numbers

In emergency the following numbers can be called free of charge (English, German and other foreign languages):

General Emergency: 112 • Police: 107 • Ambulance: 104 • Fire: 105

Official Tourism Information

Tourism Office of Budapest can be found under the following address: 1115 Budapest, Bartók Béla út 105-113., tel: +36 1 438-8080. You can get some very good and free brochures like a map of Budapest, a map of Hungary with all the youth hostels and prices, a complete brochure about the northern part of Hungary (available in many languages).

Tourism Info Center 1051 Budapest, Sütő utca 2. (Deák Ferenc tér)

Public Toilets

Relatively few public toilets exist in Budapest, locals and tourists use the rest-rooms in cafés and restaurants. Quite often a small fee of 80-100 HUF is paid to the attendant at the facilities.

National Tobacco Shops

Cigarettes could no longer be purchased at supermarkets, petrol stations or convenience stores in Hungary. National Tobacco Shops are now the only outlets that can sell tobacco products in the country. The shops all have a uniform external appearance, with clouded windows, obscuring the inside from the view of passersby, and a large sign displaying an 18 – the legal age to buy cigarettes.

Words and Phrases

Hungarian is said to be one of the most difficult languages to learn. While many people in Budapest speak some English, it's nice to know a little 'magyar'.

A list of helpful words

(easy pronunciation tip - enter any Hungarian word in Google translate and press the loudspeaker symbol to hear it - the intonation will not always be correct though - stress is always on the first syllable).

English - *angol*

Hungarian - *magyar*

Hungary - *Magyarország*

good - *jó*

bad - *rossz*

subway - *metró*

train - *vonat*

bus - *busz*

taxi / cab - *taxi*

airport - *repülőtér*

hotel / *szálloda*

room - *szoba*

left - *bal*

right - *jobb*

man - *férfi*

woman - *nő*

child - *gyerek*

cell phone - *mobil*

Greetings, basic communication:

Hi / hello / bye-bye / see you later
- *Szia*

yes - *igen*

no - *nem*

OK / good / fine - *oké / jó / rendben*

Thank you! - *Köszönöm.*

Thank you very much! - *Köszönöm szépen.*

You are welcome! - *Szívesen!*

Goodbye! - *Viszlát!* (Hungarians also understand bye-bye as an expression to say goodbye.)

please - *kérem*

Excuse me - *Elnézést*

Sorry - *Bocsánat*
I don't know - *Nem tudom*
I don't understand - *Nem értem*
How are you? - *Hogy vagy?*
I'm good. / I'm fine. - *Jól vagyok.*

Drinking and eating

Cheers! - *Egészségedre!* (literally means: to or for your health)
Bless you! - *Egészségedre!*
wine - *bor*
beer - *sör*
open - *nyitva*
closed - *zárva*
entrance - *bejárat*
exit - *kijárat*
toilet - *WC*
toilet / washroom - *mosdó*

Enjoy your meal - *Jó étvágyat!*
delicious - *finom*
small - *kicsi*
large / big - *nagy*

Questions

Do you speak English? - *Beszélsz angolul?*
How much does it cost? - *Mennyibe kerül?*
What's the time? - *Mennyi az idő?*
Where can I find the...? - *Hol találok a ...?*
Where can I buy tickets? - *Hol tudok jegyet venni?*
Is it far? - *Messze van?*
Is it free? - *Ez ingyenes?*
How many stops? - *Hány megálló?*

Embassies

Most foreign states have an embassy or a consulate in Budapest, Hungary. Those countries that don't mostly maintain representations in nearby Vienna or in Berlin.

Embassy of the Republic of Albania

Address: H-1062 Budapest, Andrássy út 132. 2/3.
Telephone/fax: 336-1098
E-mail: embassy.budapest@mfa.gov.al

Embassy of the Republic of Austria

Address: H-1068 Budapest, Benczúr u. 16.
Telephone: 479-7010, Fax: 352-8795
E-mail: budapest-ob@bmeia.gv.at
Website: <http://www.austrian-embassy.hu/>

Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium

Address: 1015 Budapest, Toldy Ferenc u. 13.
Telephone: +36-1-457-9960, Fax: +36-1-375-1566
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