



# IFISO Budapest 2015

City Guide

# Hello Tourist!

Start here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6g26StE8N60>

## About Hungary

Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is situated in the Carpathian Basin and it 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. Hungary is divided in two by its main river, the Danube (Duna); other large rivers include the Tisza and Dráva, while Transdanubia contains Lake Balaton, the largest lake in Central Europe.

## Brief history

The foundation of Hungary was laid in the late 9th century by the Hungarian ruler Árpád, whose great-grandson Saint Stephen I. was crowned with a crown sent from Rome by the pope in 1001 AD. The Kingdom of Hungary lasted for 946 years, and at various points was regarded as one of the cultural centers of the Western world. After about 150 years of partial Ottoman occupation (1541–1699), Hungary was integrated into the Habsburg Monarchy, and later constituted half of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy (1867–1918). A great power until the end of World War I, Hungary lost over 70% of its territory, along with one third of its population of Hungarian ethnicity, and all sea ports under the Treaty of Versailles, the terms of which have been considered excessively harsh by many in Hungary. The kingdom was succeeded by a Communist era (1947–1989) during which Hungary gained widespread international attention regarding the Revolution of 1956 and the seminal move of opening its border with Austria in 1989, thus accelerating the collapse of the Eastern Bloc. The present form of government is a parliamentary republic, which was established in 1989.



## Budapest in general

Budapest is the capital and the largest city of Hungary, the largest in East-Central Europe and the seventh largest in the European Union. It is the country's principal political, cultural, commercial, industrial, and transportation centre, sometimes described as the primate city of Hungary.

According to 2011 Census, Budapest had 1.74 million inhabitants, down from its 1989 peak of 2.1 million due to suburbanization. The Budapest Commuter Area is home to 3.3 million people. The city covers an area of 525 square kilometres (202.7 sq mi) within the city limits. Budapest became a single city occupying both banks of the river Danube with unification on 17 November 1873 of west-bank Buda and Óbuda with east-bank Pest.

### Is Budapest a safe city?

The answer is a definite YES with the footnote that Budapest with its two million people is a big city so make sure you have the precautions you would have in any big city: e.g. guard your wallet or purse, don't flash thick stacks of banknotes or expensive jewelry and of course don't leave your bag unguarded. General precaution does not harm: avoid suspicious groups and people, and walk in the light.

## Public transport

First of all... This is our metro system →



## Important tram and bus lines:

Tram 2: One of the most famous tramlines running or Danube, on this way you can see several sights which UNESCO World Heritage.

Tram 4 and 6: They both run along Pest's inner ring road (the so-called Nagykörút), providing access to all three metro lines.

Tram 47 and 49: From Deák Ferenc tér it goes to the Buda side through the Liberty Bridge and many huge squares

Bus 7, 7E, 173, 173E: they all connect Keleti railway station with Blaha Lujza square (junction with tram 4 and 6), Pest city center and many important spots in Buda

Bus 16, 16A, 116: go to Buda Castle from Széll Kálmán tér.

Bus 200E: it gives access to Ferihegy Airport from the terminus of Metro 3, Kőbánya-Kispest station

Night services: In the night you can take tram 6 or one of the many night buses which are easily recognizable by their triple-digit numbers, starting with '9'. Buses run every 15-60 minutes from around 11 pm until 5 am.

For further information look at the homepage: <http://bkk.hu/en/>

## Tickets

Single ticket: 350 HUF

Transfer ticket: 450 HUF

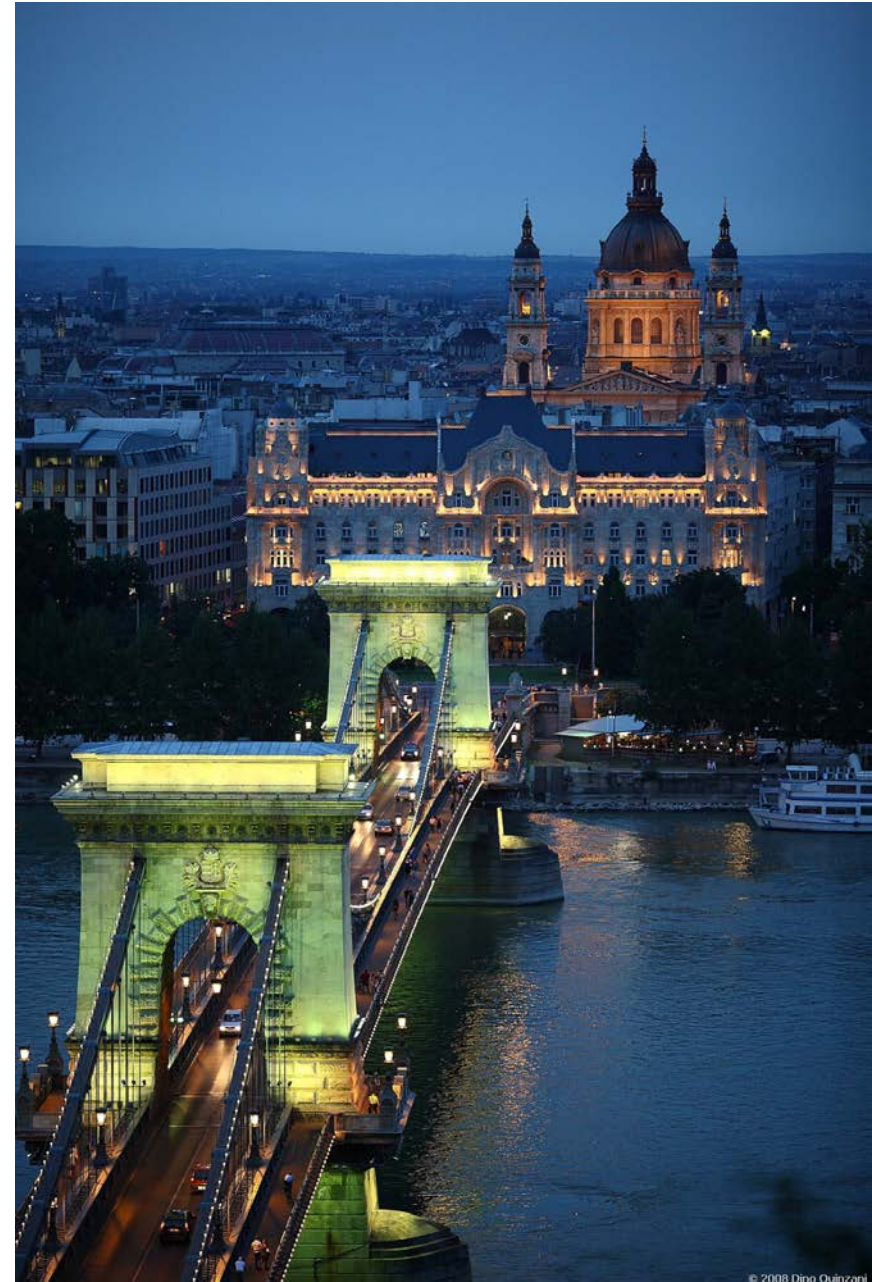
10-piece discount coupon book: 3 000 HUF

24-hour travel card: 1 650 HUF

24-hour group travel card: 3 300 HUF - can be used by maximum 5 passengers travelling together in the same vehicle (in case of trains in the same carriage)

74-hour travel card: 4 150 HUF

Monthly pass for students (ISIC card is needed!): 3 450 HUF



## What to see?

### Danube panorama and Castle district

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has listed the view of the Danube embankments and the Buda Castle District - which is one of the most beautiful and romantic parts of the city of Budapest - as a World Heritage site on the 11th of December, 1987. While nearly 800 years passed since it has been originally founded, its beauty still stands unparalleled, despite earthquakes, fires, sieges and world wars.

Both the Pest and Buda embankments of the Danube stretching from the Liberty Bridge all the way up to the Margaret Bridge, the area encompassed by the Chain Bridge and some of the buildings belonging to the Technical University, the Gellért Bath, the Gellért Hill with the Statue of Liberty and the Citadel, the Castle of Buda, the Baroque churches and Turkish baths of the so-called Water Town - these are all parts of the World Heritage today. On the Pest embankment of the Danube, the listed items are the Parliament building, Roosevelt Square, the Academy of Sciences and the Gresham Palace (which today gives home to the Four Seasons Hotel).

The oldest one of these bridges is the Chain Bridge, erected in 1849. The sleekest one is Erzsébet (Elizabeth) Bridge, which was one of the first suspension bridges in the world. The youngest one of them is Lágymányosi Bridge in the south, built to provide relief to the city nearly crippled by its newfound heavy vehicle traffic.



## House of Parliament

Kossuth tér stop of Metro 2 (red line)

Across the Danube, in Pest, stands the predominant House of Parliament, the Neo-Gothic star edifice by Imre Steindl master architect. Not far behind from it is the biggest church of Budapest, St. Stephen's Basilica, whose height is equal to that of the Parliament (96 metres). Not far from there, at the Pest bridgehead of the Chain Bridge stands the monumental Academy of Sciences. This part of the Pest side is crowned by the Secessionist building of the Gresham Palace, giving home to Budapest's most elegant hotel, the Gresham Four Seasons. The wonderful panorama is completed by the row of luxury hotels on the Danube embankment and the elegant buildings of the Redoute (Vigadó).



## Castle district

Bus 16 or 16a take off at Clark Ádám tér (from Széll Kálmán tér or from Deák Ferenc tér)

There is much, much more to the Castle District than just a royal palace or a castle. This is also where the historical old town district is situated, with countless venues from where the beautiful panorama of Budapest may be admired. The visitors get a distinct feeling that they have travelled back in time, to a different, totally tranquil world, where the doorways of the Baroque residential homes hide historical Roman stones and beautifully carved sediles from the times of knights.

The former Royal Palace and its supply buildings are an organic but separate part of the Castle District. Some of today's most important cultural institutions, such as the Budapest History Museum (Wing E, southern end of the building), as well as the Hungarian National Gallery (Wings A-B-C-D) and the Hungarian National Library, named after the founder Ferenc Széchenyi (Wing F) have moved to the Royal Palace. The formal residence of the Prime Minister, the Alexander Palace, is the President's Residence and home today.

The most visited site is Trinity Square (Szentáromság tér), dominated by one of Budapest's most characteristic buildings, the Mathias Church, which is over 700 years old. The church itself is almost of the same age as the Royal Palace, and gave home to many coronation ceremonies. The Gothic tower of the Mathias Church, with the Fishermen's Bastion in the background, is one of the most frequently photographed tourist sites in Hungary.



## Heroes Square

Hősök tere station of Metro 1 (yellow line)

Heroes' Square, where Andrassy Avenue concludes, is the biggest and most impressive square of Budapest. In the middle stands the Millennium Monument, with Archangel Gabriel on top, holding the double cross of Christianity and the Holy Hungarian Crown. It was constructed to mark the 1000th anniversary of the arrival of the Magyar tribes. The pedestal below is occupied by the ornate horseback statues of the seven Hungarian leaders who led the Hungarian nation into the Carpathian Basin in 896 AD. The middle of the square is dominated by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, wreathed by all heads of state when officially visiting Hungary. The left side of the square is bordered by the Museum of Fine Arts, which holds the world's second largest collection of Spanish Art, on the right side is the Art Hall, giving home to temporary exhibitions in Budapest.

Behind Heroes' Square, the City Park Lake is perfect for boating in the summer, and ice-skating in the wintertime (the ice is artificial and of good quality). The entertainment and cultural facilities of the City Park (Budapest Zoo, Funfair, Municipal Circus, Vajdahunyad Castle, the museum of Agriculture and Transport, the Petöfi Cultural Hall and the Széchenyi Thermal Bath) are among the most sought after tourist sights in Budapest.



## Citadel and Statue of Liberty

Bus 27 from Möriz Zsigmond körtér (final stop of tram 6)

The Gellért Hill is the capital's popular excursion place. The **Citadel** can also be found here. It used to be a fortress, which was erected in 1854 by the Habsburg emperors after overcoming the Hungarian army in the revolution of 1848-49. A unique Budapest panorama, which is part of the world heritage, can be also enjoyed here. Other sights on the hill: the sculpture of the bishop St. Gellért (Gerard), the St. Gellért Cliff Church and the Liberty Statue.

The Szabadság Szobor or **Statue of Liberty** in Budapest, Hungary, was first erected in 1947 in remembrance of the Soviet liberation of Hungary from Nazi forces during World War II. Its location upon Gellért Hill makes it a prominent feature of Budapest's cityscape. The 14 metre tall bronze statue stands atop a 26 metre pedestal and holds a palm leaf. Several smaller statues are also present around the base, but the original monument consisted of several more originally that have since been removed from the site and relocated to Statue Park. The monument was originally designed by Zsigmond Kisfaludi Stróbl.



## Széchenyi Bath and Spa Budapest

Metro 1 (yellow line) to Széchenyi station

Address: H-1146 Budapest, Állatkerti krt. 11.

Daily ticket with cabin: 5 000 Ft (on weekdays), 5 200 Ft (on weekends)

Daily ticket with locker: 4 500 Ft (on weekdays), 4 700 Ft (on weekends)

<http://www.szechenyibath.com/>

Budapest can rightly be called the city of spas, and the Szechenyi Bath and Spa was its first thermal baths on the Pest side. At the time, back in 1881, it was called "Artesian Bath", and was only a temporary establishment. In 1913, it was converted into a permanent bath, and received its present name and most parts of its pretty yellow building complex. In 1927, beach sites, as well as public bathing departments for gentlemen and ladies were added. In 1960, another expansion added a group thermal section (for use in bathing suites), and a daytime outpatient hospital. The year of 1999 saw a complete reconstruction of the swimming pools. Water filtering and circulation devices were added, and the fancy bath received high standard equipment and modern elements. The renovation and reconstruction work continues, partially closing down different sections each year. The bath receives its thermal water from the 2nd St. Stephan's Well.



## Gellért Bath

Tram 19, 41, 47 or 49 to Szent Gellért tér (e.g. from Deák Ferenc tér)

Address: H-1118 Budapest, Kelenhegyi út 4.

Daily ticket with cabin: 5 300 Ft (on weekdays), 5 500 Ft (on weekends)

Daily ticket with locker: 4 900 Ft (on weekdays), 5 100 Ft (on weekends)

The Gellert Bath and Hotel itself was built in the preceding decades, and opened its doors in 1918. Outdoor pools were added later on, and today it combines modern technical developments with rich historical heritage. The pools in Gellert Bath total 13 units, the following in specific: two effervescent bath sections, three outdoor pools, eight thermal bath departments, where the water temperature varies from 26C to 38C. Some of the thermal bath departments are solely for the use of men or women, some are for joint use.



## What to try?

If you get hungry or thirsty, you should definitely try one of the Hungarian specialities!



### Túró Rudi

Túró Rudi is the name of a chocolate bar popular in Hungary since 1968. The bar is composed of a thin outer coating of chocolate and an inner filling of túró (curd). Túró Rudi can be made in different flavours and sizes. There are also popular differently-flavoured varieties of the bar, like apricot or peanut butter. You can buy it in every supermarket. But don't forget that it must be kept refrigerated around 4 degrees Celsius!



### Gulyás – Goulash soup

A famous Hungarian soup which tourists coming to Hungary should taste. It is made of beef shank or chuck, onion, paprika powder, garlic, caraway seed and black pepper, salt, bay leaf, carrot, Hungarian green pepper, tomatoes, celery leaf, parsley, parsnip and potatoes. The best way of this dish when it is made outdoor in three legged hanging stew-pot, over fire. Many Hungarians like it with hot chili pepper (dried or sauce). You can order it at almost every restaurant.

Chicken paprikash is a dish of Hungarian origin, one of the most famous Hungarian stews. Cooked paprikas are common in Hungarian cuisine, and dishes cooked in a creamy, red paprika stew have been referred to as a Hungarian staple. The meat is cooked with a paprika roux. The dish is traditionally served with "dumpling-like boiled egg noodles" (nokedli), a broad noodle similar to the German spätzle. You can try it at almost every Hungarian restaurant

### Paprikás csirke - Chicken paprikash



### Lángos

Lángos is a Hungarian food speciality, a deep fried flat bread made of a dough with flour, yeast, salt and water. It is eaten fresh and warm, topped with sour cream and grated cheese, or Liptauer, ham, or sausages, rubbed with garlic or garlic butter, or doused with garlic water. Other ingredients and accompaniments can be mushroom, quark cheese, eggplant, cabbage, kefir, omelet, a confectioners' sugar, or jam. You can buy it e.g. at the Market Hall.

### Kürtőskalács

Kürtőskalács is a Hungarian pastry also known as chimney cake or stove cake. It consists of a thin yeast pastry ribbon wound around a wooden cylinder, heavily sprinkled with sugar, thus becoming a helix-shaped pastry which may taper very slightly towards the end. The pastry is baked on a hand-turned, tapered, wooden spit, rolled slowly on the wooden cylinder above an open fire. The dough is yeast-raised, flavored with sweet spices, the most common being cinnamon, topped with walnuts or almonds, and sugar. It is famous as Hungary's oldest pastry which is sold in bakeries and pastry shops, and even street vendors sell them on street corners during carnivals and fairs. You can buy it for example on the Váci Street!

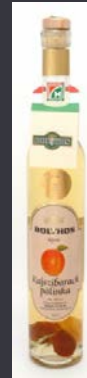


## What to drink?

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### Pálinka

Pálinka is a traditional fruit brandy. Under the 2008 "Hungarian Pálinka Law", only distilled beverages made using special methods and technology, from fruits produced in Hungary, mashed, distilled, matured and bottled locally can be called pálinka. Its alcohol content is between 37.5% and 86% ABV. You can find many brands in the supermarkets, but many Hungarian families make their own home-made pálinka.



### Wine

Hungarian wine has a history dating back to at least Roman times. Outside of Hungary, the best-known wines are the white dessert wine Tokaji and the red wine Bull's Blood of Eger (Egri Bikavér).

### Unicum

Unicum is a herbal bitters, drunk as a digestif and aperitif and regarded as one of the national drinks of Hungary. The liqueur is today produced by Zwack according to a secret formula of more than forty herbs, and the drink is aged in oak casks. During the Socialist regime in Hungary, the Zwack family lived in exile in New York and Chicago, and during this time, Unicum in Hungary was produced using a different formula. After the fall of communism, Péter Zwack returned to Hungary and resumed production of the original Unicum. The production facility offers tours which include a tasting session of the three different varieties (Unicum, Unicum Next, and Millenicum).



## Price range, Useful Hungarian phrases

### Price range

The currency in Hungary is Hungarian Forint (HUF or Ft). The Hungarian Forint has no change, Euro is accepted at several places though (e.g. Spar supermarket), but your safe bet would be to find an Exchange Bureau and change some of your currency into Hungarian Forints. Even better, you can safely rely on your credit card as most major credit cards are accepted anywhere (from stores to restaurants), like Visa, MasterCard, American Express etc. However, you usually have to pay in cash if you go to a pub or club. One Euro is about 300-310 Forints.

Approximate prices:

Small bottle of mineral water (in supermarket)  
 90 – 150 Ft 0,30-0,50 Eur  
 Half liter of Coke 270 Ft 1 Eur  
 Cup of coffee 200 – 400 Ft 1-1,50 Eur  
 Large beer (in a bar) 300 - 500 Ft 1-2 Eur  
 Pizza 1000 - 1400 Ft 4-6 Eur  
 Loaf of bread 200 – 300 Ft 1 Eur  
 Metro ticket 350 Ft 1,20 Eur  
 Cinema 1000 – 1500 Ft 4-6 Eur

### Useful hungarian phrases

The knowledge of English is not the most significant characteristic of Hungarians, but young people are generally able to communicate in English. Nevertheless, a little knowledge of Hungarian phrases might be useful.

Hungarian	Magyar	Ma-dyar
Hello	Szia	See-yaw
Goodbye	Viszontlátásra	VE-sont-LAAH-taashro
Thank you	Köszönöm	KEHR-ser-nerm
Yes	Igen	EE-ghen
No	Nem	NEM
How much?	Mennyi?	MEh-nyi
Do you speak English?	Beszél angolul?	BEH-sayl 'ON-gohlool?
I don't understand	Nem értem	NEM ayr-tem
I'd like a beer / wine / pálinka.	Kérek egy sört/bort/pálinkát!	Keh-rack a-j cher-t / bore-t / pah-lin-cart
Cheers	Egészségedre	Ag-esh-sheg-ad-reh
Where is the bathroom?	Hol van a mosdó?	HOLE von o MOSHdoh
You're pretty	Csinos vagy!	Chee-nosh vah-j
Kiss me!	Csókolj meg!	Choc-ohly mag!
I love you	Szeretlek!	Ser-at-lack

## More information

Should you need further information about Hungary , just click here!!!

More information about the IFISO Meeting: <http://ifiso2015.weebly.com/>

If you have any question, send us an e-mail: [Ifisobudapest2015@gmail.com](mailto:Ifisobudapest2015@gmail.com)

And finally click here and watch a video about some great Hungarian inventors and get engaged to Hungary ;)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPAXnFX64-s>

