

Country Information

HUNGARY

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About the country

General

Name of the country: Hungary

Area: 93,030 sq km

Population: 10 million

Capital: Budapest, the capital, is a fantastic city split in two by the Danube. Buda is older, hillier, and more graceful, while Pest is the commercial centre dotted by gorgeous art nouveau buildings.
Population: 1.7 million

Government: Republic; member since 2004.

Geography: Hungary is situated in Central Europe, sharing borders to the north with the Slovak Republic, to the northeast with Ukraine, to the east with Romania, to the south with Croatia and Serbia and to the west with Austria and Slovenia. Lake Balaton is the largest unbroken stretch of inland water in Central Europe.

Language: Hungarian (Magyar) is the official language. German and English are widely spoken

Time: GMT + 1 (GMT + 2 from last Sunday in March to last Sunday in October)

Religion: 52% Roman Catholic, 16% Calvinist, 3% Lutheran. Christian, Eastern Orthodox and Jewish minorities.

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50Hz. European-style two-pin plugs are used.

Money

Currency: Hungarian Forint (HUF; symbol Ft) = 100 fillér

Exchange rates:

Date:	March 09
£1.00=	Ft 324.651
\$1.00=	Ft 234.936
€1.00=	Ft 300.177

Credit cards: American Express, Cirrus, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted

Banking hours: Mon-Thurs 8:00 - 15:00; Fri 8:00 - 13:00

Tipping: 10 to 15% is for all services.

International travel

Air: The national airline is Malév Hungarian Airlines (MA) (website: www.malev.hu)

International airport: Budapest Ferihegy (BUD) (website: www.bud.hu) is 16km from the city. To/from the airport: Regular coach and bus services are available to the city. The airport minibus (tel: (1) 296 8555) runs to and from any address in the city by prior arrangement. The 93 and 200 buses offer an express service between the underground terminus at Kobánya-Kispest and the Ferihegy terminals. Taxis are available at all times (journey time - 45 minutes).

Passport/Visas:

Hungary joined the Schengen Agreement on 21 December 2007 for overland entry points and seaports, and on 29 March 2008 for airports. The borderless region known as the Schengen area includes the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. All these countries issue a standard Schengen visa that has a multiple entry option that allows the holder to travel freely within the borders of all. All visitors other than EEA members must have the equivalent in hard currency of 1,000 Ft per day, or a major credit card, a letter of invitation or proof of accommodation. A document authorizing the visitor to withdraw cash from a bank in Hungary, return or onward tickets (or sufficient funds to buy one) and all necessary documents for next destination are also required.

Countries	Passport Required	Visa Required
British	Yes	No 2
Australian	Yes	No 3
Canadian	Yes	No 3
USA	Yes	No 3
Other EU	1	No 2

Passports

Valid passport required by all nationals referred to in the chart above except:

(a) 1. EU nationals holding a valid national ID card.

Visas

Not required by all nationals referred to in the chart above for stays of up to 90 days.

2. EU nationals staying longer than 90 days will need to register with the immigration department.
3. Nationals of Australia, Canada and the USA staying longer than 90 days will need to apply for a long-stay visa.

Note: Nationals not referred to in the chart above are advised to contact the embassy to check visa requirements

Types of Visa and Cost

All types: £58.

Venue: PLEASE SEE THE CONVENTION CENTRE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

Hotel Booking Form

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the event.

Health & Safety

Health Care: The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) entitles European travelers to free or reduced cost medical care, at state-run facilities, in the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. It does not cover ongoing illnesses of a non-urgent nature, so comprehensive travel insurance is advised.

Hospitals & pharmacies: [Health, Hospitals and Pharmacies in Budapest](#)

Water: Tap water is safe to drink.

Customs & Traditions

In general Hungary has embraced modern living, although the older generation still preserves their traditions and culture, particularly in small villages. When meeting a Hungarian, handshaking is customary and both their Christian name and surname should be used. Normal courtesies should be observed. At a meal, toasts are usually made and should be returned.

Climate

The weather in March and the first half of April is a bit unpredictable, often windy, but the days become more and more warmer. The average daily temperature is around 6-12°C, but could rise up to 15-18°C.

Communication and Internet access

Telephone:

Hungary's country coded: + 36

Budapest's city code: 1

Hungary Emergency Numbers: 112

Ambulance: 104

Useful links

- Hungarian Tourist Office:
www.hungarytourism.hu
- Hungarian Embassies
<http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/Hungary/Hungary2.html>
- World Travel
<http://pro.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Hungary>