

## Your perfect trip to Budapest

This short guide contains basic information to help you get around **Budapest** easily and make your trip a pleasant experience.



Read more about these and many other Budapest locations on [www.budapestindex.com](http://www.budapestindex.com)

## Getting from Airport to Budapest

### Taxi

It will cost you **about €25** to get to the Budapest downtown. Use Zóna Taxi Service with fixed rates, the official partner of Budapest airport. Zóna Taxi stands are located outside the arrival halls in both terminals.

### Train



Train will take you to the Nyugati (Western) Railway Station in Budapest downtown in about half an hour.

You can purchase your ticket costing **about €6** in the Terminal 1 from 09:00 to 22:00.

### Airport Minibus

Shuttle service will take you from the airport to any point in Budapest. One-way ticket costs **about €10/person**. Tickets are available from the offices located in the terminals.

You can also preorder your trip back to the airport; two-way ticket is about €17/person.

### Public Transport

From terminals 1 and 2 you can use Bus 200E that will take you to Kőbánya-Kispest **metro station** (blue line).

From Terminal 1 to Kőbánya-Kispest metro station runs bus 93 (the last bus leaves to the city at 21.30).

Public transport ticket costs **about €1**; tickets are available from newsstands, metro stations, vending machines. When changing the type of transport you should validate another ticket. In the metro you may change lines without validating new ticket.

## Money and Prices



Hungarian **currency is Forint** (abbreviated as Ft. or HUF). Banknotes come in denominations of 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000, 20000 HUF, coins in circulation are 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100.

There are plenty of **exchange offices** in the downtown, but the rates in those located on central tourist streets are usually low.

Major **credit cards** are accepted by most restaurants, shops and supermarkets, but not by tobacconists or small grocery shops.

The **average prices** of products and services in Budapest:

- Meal in a fastfood per person: €3-5
- Dinner without drinks per person in a café/restaurant: €6-20
- Pack of cigarettes: €2
- Bottle of water in a shop: €0.4
- Museum admission fee: €2-4/person
- Thermal bath admission fee: €6.5-10/person

## Transportation

### Public Transport



Budapest has **extensive and reliable public transport** network of metro, trams, buses, trolleybuses and night buses (their numbers start with 9). Public transport **tickets are available** from ticket windows in metro, newspaper stands, tobacconists and vending

machines (with English language).

If you plan to use public transport often you may purchase a **one-day ticket (€5)** or three-day ticket (€13), another option is discount 10-ticket book (€9). The conditions of using the particular ticket are written on its reverse side in English and German.

## Taxi

In Budapest ordering a taxi **by phone is cheaper** and safer than hailing one in the street. Switchboard operators usually speak English. The taxi normally arrives within 5-15 minutes. In a restaurant or hotel you may ask staff to get taxi for you.

### Taxi Companies:

- Főtaxi: +36 1 222-2222
- City Taxi: +36 1 211-1111
- Rádiótaxi: +36 1 377-7777

## Rent a Bike

Bicycle is a **very convenient transport** for sightseeing in Budapest and you can rent one from the below companies with English speaking staff:



### Bikebase

Bike rental: €8-9 for 24 hrs.

**Address:** VI. Podmaniczky utca 19

**Tel:** +36 70 625 8501

### Yellow Zebra

Bike tours in several languages and bike rentals. Full day rent is about €10.

**Address:** V. Sütő utca 2

**Tel:** +36 1 266 8777

## Sightseeing

### Popular Areas and Streets

**Váci utca:** Major **tourist artery** of Budapest, pedestrian street with shops of major international brands, souvenir and antique shops, cafes and restaurants.

**Andrássy út:** Boulevard famous for its palaces and houses with richly decorated façades. It is a home to **many boutiques** from Louis Vuitton to Burberry, and expensive trendy restaurants.

**Liszt Ferenc tér:** Square with **many cafes and restaurants** featuring various cuisines. Especially crowded from April to October

when summer terraces are open. Prices in majority of restaurants are slightly above average.

**Ráday utca:** Semi-pedestrian street with many bars, restaurants and **cafés from budget to expensive** ones. Also location for many cultural events from book fairs to opera performances to concerts.

**Castle District:** Historic district of Budapest with royal **palace, museums, galleries**, monuments and churches. Located on the hill it offers great view of the city, the Danube and Budapest bridges.



### Major Tourist Attractions

**Parliament:** The seat of the National Assembly of Hungary, largest building in Hungary and the second **largest Parliament** in Europe. Built in Gothic Revival style in 1896 with the main façade facing the River Danube.

**Address:** V. Lajos Kossuth tér

**St. Stephen's Basilica:** Ecclesiastic basilica named in honour of the first king of Hungary and completed in 1905 after 54 years of construction. Its dome (accessed by elevators or 364 stairs) offers a **good view of Budapest**.

**Address:** V. Szent István tér

**Chain Bridge:** The first permanent bridge across the Danube connecting Buda and Pest **opened in 1849**. On the Buda side of the bridge there is a historic funicular that takes you to the Castle District.

**Address:** V. Roosevelt tér in Pest and Adam Clark tér in Buda



**Central Market:** The largest indoor market in Budapest built in 1897. Famous for its **colourful roof tiling** and elegant metal structures.

**Address:** IX. Vámház körút, 1-3

**Gellért Hill:** 235 m high hill overlooking the Danube and

Budapest. The Citadel Fortress on top of the hill was built in 1851 **by Habsburg Monarchy**. At the foot of the hill are the famous Gellért Baths.

**Address:** XI. Gellért tér

### Off the Beaten Paths

**Gül Baba Tomb:** The tomb of the Turkish dervish Gül Baba on the Roses Hill. Gül Baba Street leading to the shrine is **one of the oldest streets in Budapest**. The houses of this cobbled street have distinctive features of Ottoman era architecture. There is a magnificent rose garden by the shrine and its terrace offers good view of the city.

**Address:** II. Mecset utca 14, Gül Baba utca



**Kerepesi Cemetery:** The most famous cemetery in Budapest established in 1847. Many famous Hungarians are buried on its **56 hectares**, and this cemetery is also a park with rich flora and a history museum where the tombs, mausoleums and statues give you the idea of

architecture of various epochs.

**Address:** VIII. Fiumei út 16

**Cogwheel - Children's Railway – Chairlift:** The route starts from Moszkva tér where you take the cogwheel railway (the world's third hill railway) and go up the Buda hills to the Children's Railway, a **narrow-gauge forest railway** operated by children. Once up the highest hill in Budapest called János hegy you may go the lookout tower to have bird's eye view of Budapest. Then you can take a chairlift to relax and chill during **15-minute ride downhill**.

**Directions:** Walk from Moszkva tér to cogwheel (XII. Szilágyi Erzsébet fasor 16)





**Pál-völgyi Cave:** The second longest cave in Hungary discovered in 1904 during quarrying works. Today **more than 19 kilometers** of the cave have been revealed. The temperature of the cave is 11°C all the year round. Cave open Tue-Sun 10:00-16:00, 50-minute guided tours in Hungarian and partially English start at 15 minutes past every hour.

**Address:** II. Szépvölgyi út 162

**Directions:** Take bus no. 65 from Kolosy tér (III district) to the stop called Pál-völgyi-cseppkőbarlang.

**Statue Park:** Park with Soviet-era statues and monuments removed from Budapest streets after the fall of the **Communist regime** in Hungary in 1989.

**Address:** Corner of Balatoni út and Szabadkai utca (XXII district)

**Directions:** Direct transfer from Deák tér in downtown daily at 11:00 (also at 15:00 in July and August).

## Thermal Baths

**Gellért Bath:** Opened in 1918 Gellért is one of the most famous and **richly decorated** thermal baths in the city. There are separate indoor thermal pools for men and women, saunas and few outdoor pools, one of them with artificial waves.

**Address:** XI. Budapest, Kelenhegyi út 4 (by Szabadság Bridge on Buda side)

**Széchenyi Bath:** Largest bathing complex in Budapest with **15 pools**. Water composition and temperature



varies from pool to pool. Frequented by both locals and tourists.

**Address:** XIV. Állatkerti krt. 11 (Városliget Park; metro station Széchenyi Fürdő on yellow line).

**Lukács Bath:** 3 thermal pools of different water temperatures, good steam-room. Usually peaceful and quiet, but may get crowded on weekends. Visited **mostly by locals**.

**Address:** II. Frankel Leó u. 25-29 (Trams 4, 6 to Margit Bridge Buda Side).

## Shopping

### Shopping Streets

V. Váci utca

V. Deák Ferenc utca

VI. Andrassy út



### Shopping Malls

**Arena Plaza:** Both budget and prestige brands.

**Address:** Across Keleti railway station, M2 metro, red line

**WestEnd City Center:** The biggest shopping mall in Budapest.

**Address:** VI. Váci út 1-3, Metro M3 to Nyugati pu.

### Hungarian Designers

**Bolt:** Clothing and accessories for men and women.

**Address:** VII. Kertész utca 42-44

**Eclectick:** Design clothes and accessories created by Hungarian designers.

**Address:** V. Irányi utca 20



### Flea Markets and Secondhand

**Esceri:** The biggest flea market in Budapest.

**Address:** XIX. Nagykőrösi út 156 (Bus № 54 from Boráros tér to Fiume utca)

**Bolhapiac Petőfi Csarnok:** Both antiques and rubbish, many old cameras.

**Address:** XIV. Zichy M. út 14 (Városliget Park)

**Iguana:** Second-hand and old collections store where you can find unique, one of a kind clothing and accessories.

**Address:** XI. Tompa utca 1

## Eating and Drinking

### Restaurants and Cafes

**Alföldi Vendéglő:** Classic and traditional Hungarian cuisine in the folk-style interior. € € €

**Address:** V. Kecskeméti utca 4

**Café Kör:** Very popular bistro-style restaurant in the downtown Budapest with European cuisine. Cash only. Table reservation recommended. € € €

**Address:** V. Sas utca 17



**Gerlőczy Kávéház:** Hungarian and European cuisine in classic interior of a Viennese coffee-house. Nice summer terrace. € € €

**Address:** V. Gerlőczy utca 1

**Első Pesti Rétesház Kávéház:**

The First Strudel House of Pest specializes in strudels, but also serves dishes of Hungarian cuisine and various desserts.

Non-smoking café and restaurant. € €

**Address:** V. Október 6 utca 22

**Castro Bisztro:** Popular laid-back hangout place always crowded with locals and savvy travelers. Decent Serbian food, reasonably priced beer. € €

**Address:** VII. Madách tér, 3

**Kőleves Vendéglő:** Little arty cafe in the Jewish district. Mostly Jewish specialties with Hungarian bits, inexpensive daily menu. € €

**Address:** VII. Kazinczy utca 35



**Frici Papa Kifőzdéje:** Cheap old-style eatery in the downtown frequented by locals. Daily menus. €

**Address:** VII. Király utca, 55

**Hummus Bar:** Falafels, pita, hummus, soups, baklavas in

vegan fast food cafe. €

**Address:** V. Alkotmány út 20

**Wikinger:** Canteen with homemade-style Hungarian dishes and all kinds of big and truly delicious burgers. €

**Address:** XI. Móricz Zsigmond krt. 4



## Bars

**Negro Cocktail Bar:** Lounge-type and modern style cocktail bar with good view of St. Stephen's Cathedral square. € € €

**Address:** V. Szent István tér 11

**Instant:** Classic Budapest "ruin bar" with arty crowd that occupies three floors and courtyard of the old building. € €

**Address:** VI. Nagymező utca 38

**Bambi Eszpresszó:** One of the oldest watering holes in Budapest that didn't change much since socialistic times. €

**Address:** II. Frankel Leó út, 2



## Night Life

**A38:** Night club, restaurant, summer terrace and concert venue in the former stone barge.

**Address:** Buda side of the Danube, 150 m south of Petőfi Bridge.

**Alcatraz:** Restaurant and club with prison interior and waiters wearing striped overalls. Jazz and Prohibition style parties.

**Address:** VII. Nyár utca 1

**B7:** Disco for grownups with R'n'B, house and funky music. Entrance fee depends on the program.

**Address:** VI. Nagymező utca 46-48

**Corvintető:** Club atop department store, famous for its spacious rooftop bar with great view of the city. Popular among local students and art types.

**Address:** VIII. Blaha Lujza tér 1-2 (Corvin Department Store)

**Fat Mo's Music Pub:** Speak easy music club. Jazz, blues, funky, soul concerts. Usually crowded with foreigners and tourists.

**Address:** V. Nyáry Pál utca 11



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