

When planning a trip abroad it is good to be aware of any requirements that the country you are visiting has in place, such as driving regulations and what type of passport or visas you might need in order to enter. On these pages you will find useful information about travelling to Hungary to help you prepare for your trip.

CULTURE

The Hungarian language belongs to the Finno-Ugric family and is so completely different from its neighbours that almost no shared words exist. Some of the most common Hungarian phrases you may find useful to know when visiting are:

- jó napot – Good day
- reggelt – Good morning
- estét – Good evening
- éjszakát – Good night
- viszontlátásra – Goodbye
- Szia – Hi, Hello, Bye (like 'ciao' in Italy)
- Igen (hard G like in gate) - Yes
- Nem – No
- Kérek (in the sense of 'a coffee, please') – Please
- Legyen szíves (in the sense of 'be so kind as') – Please
- Köszönöm – Thank you
- Beszélsz angolul? – Do you speak English?
- Kemping – Campsite
- Férfiak/ Nők – Gents/ Ladies
- Nyitva/ Zárva – Open/ Closed

Hungarians are generally very helpful if you need directions or assistance. Language can be the biggest difficulty – in Budapest, many people will speak English, especially the younger generations, but elsewhere, speaking German is more likely to help though attempting basic greetings in the local language will be considered as polite and appreciated. We therefore recommend investing in a phrase book to help you during your stay.

CURRENCY

The currency of Hungary is the Forint, divided into 100 fillér. The official abbreviation of the forint is HUF but within the country the old abbreviation Ft. is still used.

Banking Hours

Monday to Friday 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs and sometimes Saturday 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs.

Hours may vary slightly from bank to bank. Branches located in shopping centres may open until 1800 hrs.

Credit Cards & ATM

The major credit cards (Visa, Eurocard, American Express, etc.) are accepted by hotels, restaurants, car hire companies and travel agencies. Shops and travel agencies display a picture of the cards accepted in their windows.

Cash machines (ATMs) operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Only Hungarian forints can be withdrawn using a credit card.

It is possible to get cash at post offices with a debit or a credit card.

Travellers' cheques can be cashed in some banks, for example branches of the OTP (National Savings Bank) which deal with bank drafts and securities.

Don't use street money changers. Take care when receiving bank notes that are no longer valid, but which are still in circulation. There have been a small number of reports of taxi drivers deliberately passing these notes to tourists, as well as notes from neighbouring countries that are not valid in Hungary.

DRIVING IN HUNGARY

Driving regulations in Hungary are different from those in the UK. Always remember that the normal rule is to give way to the right each time you reach an uncontrolled intersection.

Using mobile phones when driving is forbidden. However, use of a completely hands-free unit is acceptable.

Emergency corridors are compulsory on Hungarian motorways and dual carriageways. All drivers are required to create a precautionary emergency corridor on those roads whenever congestion occurs - road users on the left-hand lane must move as far over to the left as possible, and the rest of vehicles must move over to the right.

Speeding can result in heavy, on the spot fines, and your vehicle and licence could be confiscated. The maximum speed on motorways is 130kph (80mph) for private vehicle without a trailer and 80kph (49 mph) when towing.

It is illegal to drive any type of motor vehicle after having consumed alcoholic drinks - 0%.

You must use headlights on roads outside towns even in daytime.

In winter, you must equip your car for severe conditions.

Many drivers underestimate distances and journey times in Hungary. Plan your journey carefully, taking into account unknown roads, weather conditions and fatigue. Make sure you take regular breaks.

To drive in Hungary you must be at least 17 years old and have a valid UK driving licence, insurance and vehicle documents. If you don't own the vehicle you're driving, for instance if you have a leased vehicle, you should get written permission from the registered owner.

You are required to carry certain items in your vehicle such as a warning triangle and reflective jacket. The regulations on what must be carried do change from time to time, so it is advisable to check the most up to date information before you travel. For compulsory and recommended equipment and rules of the road including blood alcohol limit, [click here](#).

It is recommended to keep vehicle doors locked in slow moving traffic and secure your vehicle when it is left unattended. In-car radar detectors and satellite navigation systems warning of the presence of speed cameras or radars are illegal whether in use or not.

Some sections of motorway are toll free, but for most you'll have to buy an 'e-vignette'. This applies to any passenger vehicles including motorhomes, regardless of the weight. You can purchase the vignettes online [here](#). Road use authorization must be always paid for before you enter the toll section; purchased e-vignettes do not constitute authorized road use retroactively

Low Emission Zones (LEZs) are proliferating throughout Europe. While the number and variety of schemes may seem baffling, in fact many apply only to city centres and so will not affect the majority of campers. If you do wish to visit cities while camping, either choose a city centre site and use the link below to check for any access regulations, or camp outside the city's LEZ and use public transport to access the centre. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Please visit our [Travel Planning](#) pages for information on weight limits and more.

HEALTH / SAFETY

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office may make specific travel related recommendations for visitors to Hungary. For the most up to date information [visit their website](#).

HEALTH

The Department of Health does not make any specific health recommendations for visitors to Hungary; however you may like to check with your doctor before departure.

You should get a free [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state-provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as nationals of the country you are visiting. If you don't have your EHIC with you or you've lost it, you can call the Department of Health Overseas Healthcare Team (+44 191 218 1999) to get a Provisional Replacement Certificate. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation.

Remember to bring your own medication if you need a specific product.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 112 for an English speaking emergency service and ask for an ambulance. If you are referred to a medical facility for treatment you should contact your insurance/medical assistance company immediately.

SAFETY

As with anywhere in the world, it is good practise to be vigilant about your property, both in terms of your camping unit and personal belongings, take sensible precautions to protect yourself from petty crime. Don't leave your handbag or luggage unattended. Leave copies of important documents with family and friends in the UK. Carry a photocopy of your passport for ID.

PASSPORTS / VISAS

PASSPORTS

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you don't need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this.

Should you wish to take a pet on your journey, please see our [Guide to European Camping](#) for further information. If you intend to travel on one of our Escorted Tours, please check our [Tour Pages](#) to find out whether pets are permitted.

VISAS

If your passport describes you as a British Citizen you won't need a visa to enter Hungary. If you have another type of British nationality, you should check the current entry requirements on the website of the [Hungarian Foreign Ministry](#) and if necessary confirm with the Hungarian Embassy.

For stays of longer than 90 days you must register with the nearest regional Immigration Office. For further information, contact the Consular Section of the Hungarian Embassy, London.

SHOPPING

Most shops are generally open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, with opening times as follows:

Monday to Friday 1000hrs - 1800hrs.

Saturday 0900hrs - 1300hrs.

Some shops and stores open until 2000hrs one day a week, usually Thursdays.

Supermarkets are open:

Monday to Friday 0700hrs - 1900hrs

Saturday 0700hrs - 1300hrs

Since March 2015, shops in Hungary are banned from opening on Sundays, with a few exceptions (incl. pharmacies, family-owned businesses, shops located in hospitals, gas stations or transport hubs). Shops in tourist areas may be open on Sundays. Newsstands, bakeries and flower shops are allowed to open on Sundays until 1200hrs.

TIPPING

Restaurants: it is customary leave at least 10% of the bill, more if the service was especially good.

Taxis: the driver should be tipped 10% of the fare.

It is also customary to leave a small tip to the guardian in toilets.

TIME ZONES

GMT + 1 hour, with Summer time (from the end of March to the end of October) being GMT + 2 hours, so that throughout the year the country is always one hour ahead of the UK.

TOURING IN HUNGARY

We run an Escorted Tour to Hungary where you can experience all the wonders of this fascinating country in the comfort of your own unit - Find out more about our Escorted Tour of the Balkans [here](#).

