

BUDAPEST RESOURCES

planning your travel

discounted airline travel with Lufthansa Group

As our Preferred Airline for our travel program, Lufthansa Group is providing special prices and conditions to those attending the program. The discounts are a minimum of 5-10% off Base Fares, depending on the booking class. The website link below provides an airfare search engine that you can use to select airfares on any of the Lufthansa Group partners, including code-share flights on United Airlines.

booking your flights

Go to: <https://www.lufthansa.com/de/en/meetings-and-events-delegates> and enter **code USAUEKX** in the "Event Code" box. (Make sure you do not copy or type any leading or trailing spaces to this code.) If special promotional fares are available, these will also be shown automatically.

NOTE: Please allow pop-ups in your web browser for this page permanently, otherwise the booking platform window will not open.

Valid travel period: May 19 - June 9, 2024

Valid destination airport: Budapest, Hungary (airport code = BUD)

Austrian 

 **Lufthansa**

 **SWISS**

 **brussels airlines**

 **Eurowings**



Sunday, May 26 – Sunday, June 2, 2024

Program begins with dinner on Sunday evening and ends with breakfast the following Sunday.

Budapest, Hungary
Radisson Blu Béke Hotel

Teréz krt. 43, H-1067 Budapest
Tel: : +36 1 889 3900

Email: sales.budapest@radissonblu.com

<https://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-budapest>

Getting from the Budapest Airport to the Radisson Blu Beke Hotel

The easiest and fastest way to get from the airport to the hotel is by taxi. We can recommend Főtaxi (<https://fotaxi.hu/en/>) as they are the official taxi service for the airport. There is a Főtaxi kiosk located directly outside the Arrivals level of airport terminals 2A & 2B. At the kiosk, the dispatcher will ask you where you are going and then give you a ticket with the fare amount printed on it before you head to the line of waiting taxis. To reach the hotel, expect to pay about 13,000 Hungarian forints (USD \$36).

There is also an Airport Shuttle provided by MiniBUD <https://minibud.hu/> This is a door-to-door shared vehicle transfer service. The to the city center is 8.990 Hungarian forints each way (USD \$25) for one person and 10990 Hungarian forints one-way for two people (USD \$30). The travel time of the shuttle bus depends on the number of passengers and the destination. For more than two people, it makes more sense to get a taxi from the airport to the hotel.

planning your travel

passport validity

Make sure that your passport is valid through December 2024

If it is not, you should renew your passport before you travel to Hungary. Many countries require that your passport be valid at least six (6) months beyond the dates of your trip. Some airlines will not allow you to board if this requirement is not met.

It is strongly recommended that you make two photocopies of your passport and other important travel documents. Leave one copy at home with family or friends, and keep another with you, but separate from the actual documents. You can also scan, email and archive a copy of your passport to your email inbox. This can help expedite the process of replacing your passport should it be lost or stolen while you are traveling.

If you are an American citizen and lose your passport while in Hungary, contact the **U.S. Embassy in Budapest**, located at Szabadság tér 12, H-1054 Budapest, Hungary. Phone: (+36-1) 475-4400.



Booking Extra Nights at the Radisson Blu Beke Hotel

We have arranged with the hotel for our group rates to be available for up to 3 nights before and 3 nights after the workshop week. The rate for extra nights in a Superior category room is EUR 175 for single occupancy and EUR 190 for double occupancy, including breakfast and all taxes. You can book your extra nights by emailing the hotel at sales.budapest@radissonblu.com. Make sure to mention that you are part of the Scherzo Cultural Journeys/NYRO travel program starting on 26th May.



travel and medical insurance

We strongly recommend that you purchase insurance to cover the possibility of your unexpected cancellation.

We have negotiated preferred rates with Travel Insured for travel and medical insurance.

Travel Insured offers comprehensive coverage and a variety of optional coverages including Cancel for Any Reason, Interrupt for Any Reason, and coverage of Pre-Existing Medical Conditions. We strongly recommend that you read the Explanation of Benefits carefully prior to purchasing any insurance policies.

To get an online instant quote using our Preferred Rates:

Go to: <http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=54121>

Be sure to use the full URL with the agency number in order to receive the discount.

"BUDAPEST INFO" PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE has more information and links to educational brochures to help you become more informed about purchasing insurance coverage:

WHAT IF I HAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE COVERAGE VIA MY CREDIT CARD

Some travel rewards credit cards and regular credit cards offer trip protection as a cardholder benefit for airline tickets and other travel that is purchased using the card. Check with your bank to determine if your credit card travel insurance package includes lost baggage protection, trip cancellation coverage and other basics. In many cases, you'll need to buy extended coverage to make sure you're fully protected for the entire trip. Do keep in mind that your program fee is paid by check and thus is not covered by credit card trip protection benefits. **Most credit cards do not cover pre-existing medical conditions or cancellation due to a pre-existing medical condition.** A travel insurance plan can provide you with more coverage.

MEDICAL INSURANCE - ARE YOU COVERED ABROAD?

Most health care plans in the United States do not cover you when you travel abroad. Should an emergency occur, you could incur medical bills that you need to pay for out of your own pocket. Before you travel, ask your current medical insurance provider whether your policy provides coverage when traveling abroad. Even if your current policy offers some coverage, it might be wise to seek out supplemental travel insurance that covers a wider array of services, including coverage of pre-existing conditions and emergency services which might require evacuation by helicopter or airplane. Remember to carry your insurance policy identity card or other proof of such insurance and a claim form.

WHAT ABOUT MEDICARE?

You are NOT covered by Medicare abroad. The Social Security Medicare program does not provide coverage for hospital or medical costs outside of the United States. Medicare supplement insurance (Medigap) and some Medicare Advantage (private Medicare) plans may provide coverage when you travel outside the U.S. Check with your individual provider for coverage details.

The Fisherman's Bastion was built between 1895 and 1902 as part of the series of developments that were to celebrate the 1000th birthday of the Hungarian state.

It was inspired by the architectural style of the early medieval times (Neo-Romanesque) approx. the year 1000, when the first Hungarian king started his rule.



foreign currency and bankcards



local currency

While Hungary is a member of the European Union, the country has not yet adopted the Euro and continues to use its own national currency, the **Hungarian Forint (Ft. or HUF)**. While you may occasionally see prices quoted in Euros, local merchants and restaurants will accept only Forints as payment.

\$US 1.00 = 365 Ft

1 U.S. Dollar = 365 Hungarian Forints

Thus, you can divide prices in Forints by 365 to calculate the equivalent U.S. Dollar value.

getting cash locally

ATMs are one of the easiest ways to get local currency and often have the best exchange rates. They are easily found in Budapest and most offer an English language option.

We can also recommend a local currency exchange office to change cash to Forints. On prior trips to Budapest, we obtained favorable rates and very good service. The address will be included in your arrival packet, available when you check in at the hotel.

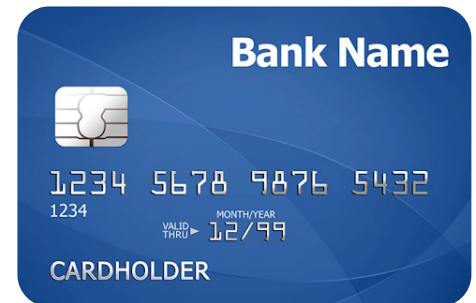
Here are some tips to reduce the potential for problems with your bankcard in Europe:

IMPORTANT: YOUR PIN CODE

European cash machines do not accept PIN numbers longer than 4 digits; if your PIN is longer than 4 digits, get a new PIN before you travel. Most ATM keypads in Europe have numbers only; if your PIN contains letters, make note of the numeric equivalents prior to leaving home.

1) Make sure your ATM card is linked to a checking account ONLY.

ATMs outside of the United States generally cannot verify balances in savings or money market accounts and thus do not allow withdrawals from those types of accounts. If your ATM card is linked to a savings or money market account, ask your bank to issue you an extra ATM card that is linked only to your checking account.



2) Make sure you know the daily withdrawal limits for each card you are carrying on your trip.

3) Watch out for weekends.

Some European banks don't update their databases over the weekend. That means that if you've withdrawn the maximum amount on Friday, you may not be able to get more money on that card until Monday morning.

4) Contact your bank before you leave to notify them of your travel dates and the countries to which you will be traveling.

Do this for each ATM, debit and/or credit card you plan to carry on your trip. It's also a good idea to request a direct-dial number for customer service from your bank, as it can be troublesome to dial an 800- or toll-free number from abroad.



Art nouveau interior of the Liszt Academy

general (and useful!) information

tipping

RESTAURANTS

At sit-down eateries in Hungary, it is standard to tip about 10% of the total for decent service, or up to 15% for an outstandingly helpful server. Nowadays many restaurants include a 12.5% “service charge” (“szervízdíj” in Hungarian) in the total, so make sure to check for this either on the bill itself or on the menu; there is no need to leave any extra tip in addition to this amount. At more casual eateries, a tip jar will often be next to the cash register, or guests can round up to the next highest forint-bill denomination when paying the server. **However, no matter what type of restaurant it is, tips should never be left on the table when you leave – all tips should be given directly to the server or into the tip jar.**

Bars and Cafes: Typically in cafes, you round the bill up by 10% to the nearest round number. For example, if the bill is 1800 forints, say “2000” as you pay, even across a bar counter.

HOUSE BANDS IN TRADITIONAL HUNGARIAN RESTAURANTS

Some traditional Hungarian restaurants hire a house band to play live Gypsy music and the musicians may begin traveling from table to table to entertain individual dining parties. When the band is at your table, if you request a particular song and they can play it, you will be expected to provide a tip for the musicians; a 1000-forint bill should suffice. However, if you do not request a song, there is no need to tip the musicians, even though you may experience mild pressure to do so.

HOTELS

If a bellman brings luggage from the front desk to a guest room (or back from the room to the lobby), it is typical to give him a 500-forint bill for this service. Housekeepers do not expect tips, but when checking out it is greatly appreciated if you leave them approximately 500 forints for each day of your total stay. If utilizing a hotel’s concierge services, tips are also not expected, but at the end of your stay concierges will happily accept 2000-5000 forints as a bonus for all assistance offered during the course of your visit, particularly if guests present them with considerable logistical challenges.

TAXIS

It is customary to tip approximately 10% of the total fare or to round up the charge by about 100-200 forints for a ride of ten minutes or less. Airport-shuttle drivers will gladly accept a tip of 200-500 forints, especially if they assist with loading and unloading your luggage. If hiring a limousine or other specialty vehicle, drivers will expect a tip of about 5-10% of the total charge.

time zone

Hungary is on Central European Time (CET). This makes it 6 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time and 9 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time. **EST + 6 and PST + 9 hours**

internet access

The Radisson Blu Beke Hotel provides wireless Internet access free of charge for all guests in accommodation rooms and common areas throughout the hotel.



electricity

The electrical current in Hungary is 230 volts, 50 cycles (230V/50Hz) alternating current (AC). Wall outlets generally take plugs with the standard European “Type F” with two round pins. The vast majority of consumer electronics (including laptops, cameras, tablets, smartphones, and e-readers) come with universal power adapters that can operate within the 100-240 volt range. If your gadget’s power adapter says something like “Input: 100-240VAC,” all you’ll need is the appropriate power plug adapter to recharge your electronics. You won’t need a converter.

dining in Budapest

Over the past decade, Budapest's restaurant scene has become incredibly hip and exciting. The city is forward thinking in its approach to art and design and much of that creativity appears to have carried over into its food. The dining options in Budapest run the gamut from traditional to trendy, from classic to contemporary, from casual to Michelin-starred. Aside from traditional Hungarian food, you'll also find plenty of modern restaurants offering international favorites like Italian cuisine, American burgers, and Middle Eastern mezze plates.

Types of Eating Establishments

Budapest offers a variety of places to eat and a range of prices to suit most budgets. The differences between the types of establishments can be subtle, but they break down roughly into the following types:

Étterem is the most common Hungarian word for restaurant and is applied to everything from cafeteria-style eateries to first-class restaurants. A **vendéglo**, or guest house, is a smaller, more intimate restaurant (literally an "inn"), often with a Hungarian folk motif; and a **kisvendéglo** (literally a "small inn") is similar to a cozy pub. Cafés range from a **kávéhaz** (coffeehouse) to a **cukrászda** (pâtisserie), where lingering over a beverage or pastry has developed into an art form.

Traditional Hungarian Cuisine

Ordering a Hungarian meal may not be as simple as it first seems. Lunch is the main meal of the day and usually begins with a soup. There are many different varieties of Hungarian soups, some of which are a meal in themselves. **Bogrács**, which is often served in a kettle, and bean soups are the heartiest soups and are usually followed by a light, hot pudding or pancakes. Hungarian fish soup is a particular specialty and owes its red color to paprika. This should be followed by delicate homemade noodles served with a cheese and cream sauce. There are also many light soups, or small portions of the more substantial soups, which can be eaten as a starter, thus leaving room for the main course.

The classic Hungarian main dish is **goulash** and there are several versions of the basic thick meat stew. In addition, spicy sausages, liberally seasoned with paprika and garlic, are served grilled or boiled. Grilled chicken and various smoked meats are also widely available. Excellent wild-game dishes come from the forested regions of northern Hungary. For fish-lovers, there is **fogas Balaton**, a delicious and light pike-perch fish from Lake Balaton.

Hungarian pastries are absolutely delicious and cost a fraction of what they do in Vienna, so indulge! The light, flaky **rétes** are filled with fruit or cheese. **Csoki torta** is a decadent chocolate layer cake, and a **Dobos torta** is topped with a shiny caramel crust.



about Hungarian wine

Hungary is one of Europe's most intriguing historic wine-producing countries, but it remains a blank spot in the world's wine map for many wine-lovers. Partly because of its location and recent history, and partly because of the language barrier (so many diacritical marks and accents!) and the unfamiliar varieties and regions, Hungarian wine can be seen as a bit too obscure. It doesn't help that it's hard to find a bottle from Hungary in most wine shops around the world, save for perhaps a few dusty bottles in a corner of the "other Europe" section.



Hungarian wine: recent history

The country is in the unique position of being one of the oldest winemaking countries, yet it is still re-introducing itself to the world—a process that began in the early 1990s after Communism ended and the modern Hungarian wine industry was born. After the end of Communism, the Hungarian wine scene burst alive with new energy. Winemakers began to rediscover their wine regions, grape varieties and traditions, as hundreds of old and new wineries sprung up all over the country. They were ambitious pioneers, but they had a lot of catching up to do.

Much of the past 30 years has been spent rebuilding wineries, replanting grapes and bringing Hungarian winemaking up to date with today's standards. The first truly good wines already appeared in the mid-90s, especially in the Villány region. But the biggest steps forward have only happened in the past couple of years, as a new generation of young winemakers has grown up. Many of these winemakers have traveled the world and studied at some of the best wineries worldwide, and have come back to Hungary with an open mindset, willing to experiment and try new techniques, combining modern technology with thousand-year-old traditions. They are paying attention to local traditions, grape varieties and wine styles even more than their parents, and many of them are moving towards natural and organic techniques. This generation is slowly taking the helm at many small Hungarian wineries, and they have already produced some stunning wines in recent years, putting Hungarian wine back on track to regain the popularity it once had.

Hungarian wine: the basics

The country's best white wines are those from the Lake Balaton and the Sopron regions (near the Austrian border). Among the red wines, the dry Kékfrankos, Cabernet and Pinot Noir are popular, as is the medium-dry Merlot that is produced in Tihány and Villány. Another wine-growing district is Eger, which is famous for its fruity, robust red Egeri Leányka and the dry red Egeri Bikavér, or "Bull's Blood", which is produced from a combination of three grape varieties.

Tokaj wines - *száraz* (dry) or *édes* (sweet) - are popular as aperitifs and dessert wines. Particularly worth sampling is the golden Aszú, which is made with the addition of over-ripe grapes harvested after the first frost. Although cheap varieties of Tokaji do exist, they do not share the quality of the genuine article.



more information about budapest

APPS for smartphones and tablets



BKK Futár

Wondering how to get from point A to point B or when the next tram, subway or bus leaves? BKK

Futár provides real-time information, displaying stations around your current location along with the preferred route and schedule. A journey planner comes in handy when navigating the city. However, the program doesn't work in an offline mode, so if data roaming is a concern, you might

want to opt for **Smart City Budapest**, where a vector-based map and a timetable serve you well, in case Wi-Fi is unavailable.



Pocket Guide Budapest

From standard sightseeing to discovering insider secrets to learning about history, Pocket Guide

walks you directly to all of the must-see and must-do spots in Budapest. This digital guide offers audio recordings that allow you to fully immerse in every attraction that you pass by.



Budapest Design Map

While this probably won't be the most crucial tool during your time in Budapest, it's certainly

an app that is good to have. Featuring information about some 150 Budapest design hotspots, including maps and directions, photos, and descriptions, this is a must-download for every device owned by trend-seekers. Whether you're looking for the latest in fashion, an avant-garde art gallery, or specialty design sweets, this program maps some of the coolest locales in the Hungarian capital.



Google Translate

Google's free service instantly translates words, phrases, and web pages between English and over 100 other languages. It's like having a personal interpreter in your pocket. You can easily translate text, speech, handwriting, and photos -- yes photos! Google's Word Lens feature allows you to translate text in real time just by pointing your phone's camera at it.

BEST OVERALL INFO

We Love Budapest

Budapest Tourism Bureau

Find everything you need to plan your trip, from top attractions and museums to restaurants and shopping.

<https://welovebudapest.com/en>



7 great Hungarian discoveries

BALLPOINT PEN The ballpoint pen was invented by Hungarian editor László Bíró, frustrated by wasting time on filling fountain pens and cleaning smudges.

DIGITAL COMPUTING Hungarian mathematician John von Neumann designed the von Neumann architecture machine, the basis for most modern computers, thus making him their conceptual inventor.

HOLOGRAPHY Hungarian electrical engineer and physicist Gábor Dénes invented holography, the process of creating 3D images, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1971.

MICROSOFT WORD Used by hundreds of millions around the world, the first version of Word was developed by Károly Simonyi, a former Xerox programmer hired by Bill Gates in 1981. He was also the chief architect of Excel.

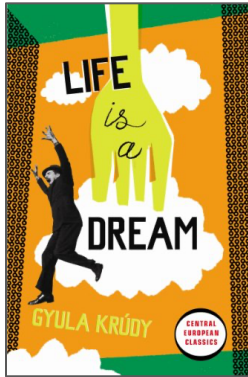
PULITZER PRIZE Newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, born József Pulitzer in the Hungarian town of Makó, established the most prestigious prize in journalism, literature and musical composition in 1917.

RUBIK'S CUBE One of the biggest selling toys of all time, the puzzle that still keeps the world perplexed was invented by architect and sculptor Ernő Rubik in 1974. Fun fact: it can be solved in 20 turns!

VITAMIN C Biochemist Albert Szent-Györgyi is credited with being the first person to isolate vitamin C, earning a Nobel Prize in 1937. He is also credited with discovering the components and reactions of the citric acid cycle.

Suggestions for Reading - Budapest

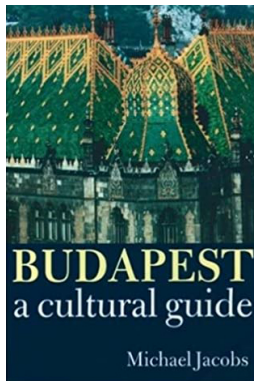
Click on the titles to link to Amazon.com listing



[Life Is A Dream](#)

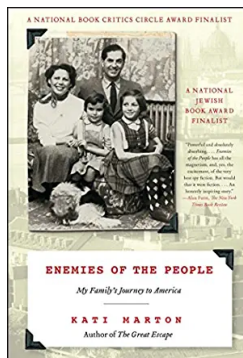
Life is a Dream consists of ten short stories, written by Gyula Krúdy, giving a glimpse into life in early 20th century Hungary. This witty collection takes a deeper look into the human condition, focusing on topics such as love, food, sex and death. The stories are described as romantic, erotic, comedic and wistful.

One of the most prominent Hungarian exponents of Modernism in the early 20th century, Gyula Krúdy is slowly gaining greater recognition as more of his works are translated. He has been compared to both Proust and James Joyce in his stylistic and thematic focus, and his works are now considered part of the canon of Hungarian literature. His initial success came with *Sinbad's Youth*, a quixotic depiction of the life of Krúdy's alter ego, who would return again and again in his fiction. His novels *Sunflower*, *Life is a Dream* and *Ladies Day* have also been highly acclaimed for their depiction of life in early 20th century Budapest. His works were largely forgotten until they were resurrected by Sándor Márai, who published *Sinbad Comes Home*, a fictionalized account of Krúdy's last day, which brought him renewed acclaim with the Hungarian public.



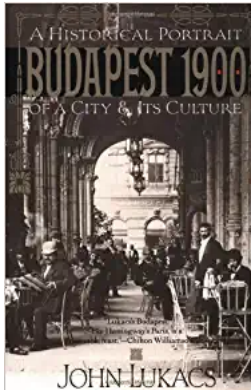
[Budapest: A Cultural Guide by Michael Jacobs](#)

Budapest, dramatically situated on the Danube, is a city that makes an immediate impression on a visitor. It exhibits all the scale, grandeur and excitement of a major capital, yet it is a city absorbed by nostalgia, and openly scarred by its history. A traveler's enjoyment of the city will no doubt benefit from a fuller understanding of Budapest's rich and idiosyncratic culture. The guide begins with lively essays, interwoven with some of the author's own experiences, dealing with key aspects of the city's life, history, and culture. Jacobs also includes a series of six walks arranged by district, enabling visitors to experience the city's evolution for themselves. With beautiful photos and detailed maps.



[Enemies of the People](#)

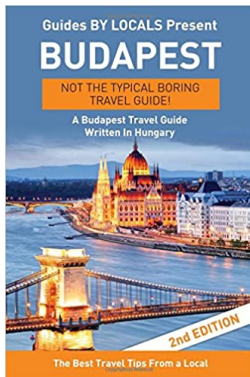
This exceptional book by Kati Marton exposes the truth about life and surveillance under the Soviet eye. She elaborates on the many issues her parents faced, including secret police observation and betrayal by both family and friends during the Communist era. This book also tells the story of Marton's journey as she puts together the puzzle about her family's and her own past.



Budapest 1900: A Historical Portrait of a City and Its Culture

If you're a history buff, you'll probably want to know a little more about Budapest's back story – and this is the best book to cure your curiosity. In the early 1900's, Budapest was a city of great writers and intellectuals and their creative output helped shaped the city you see today.

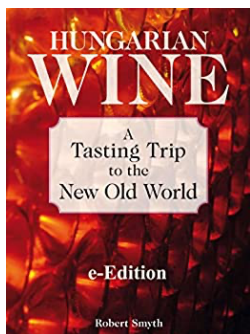
Through expert analysis, you'll learn all about this period in Hungarian history and come away with a little context you can apply when touring the city.



Budapest By Locals

Let's face it, the best way to see a city is with a local. But, just in case you don't know any, this book is the next best thing – a guide written by actual locals for the aspiring ones.

The book takes Budapest piece by piece, telling you about its layout, historical sights, music, food and natural wonders. It's a little heavier compared to the other guidebooks – but a must have for anyone that really wants to get to know the city.



Hungarian Wine: A Tasting Trip to the New Old World

Hungarian wine has never quite got the attention it's deserved, particularly considering it hits the same quality as some of the best French and Italian varieties on the market.

Luckily, Hungary is embracing wine tourism, and in turn, introducing tens of thousands of people a year to this delightful tipple. Robert Smyth's book guides the reader around Hungary's various wine regions giving you a taste of what to expect.