



IAESTE App: Country Information

General information:

- Country: Hungary
- Capital: Budapest
- Population: ~9,8M
- National language(s): Hungarian
- Currency: HUF (Hungarian Forint)
- Time zone: CET (or CEST-Central European Summer Time)
- Voltage: 230V
- Phone country code: +36
- Cities with IAESTE LCs: Budapest, Győr
- Climate: *(What's the average weather like during each season?)*
 - Spring
 - temperature: between 5-20 °C
 - spring is mainly sunny with some rains but sometimes we also have some snow in March too
 - Summer
 - temperature: between 20-35 °C
 - summer is hot and dry
 - rain comes with thunderstorm and/or hailstorm
 - Autumn
 - temperature: 5-20 °C
 - the weather is still good, but as we go further in the calendar it gets colder
 - second part of September, beginning of October is the so called "Indian Summer"
 - Winter
 - temperature: between (-10) – 5 °C
 - Christmas is normally cold, but without snow
 - the weather is cold, roads are slippery

Travel tips:

- Fun facts about the country:
 - Hungary or Ungarn or Hungría or Węgry: we actually call it Magyarország. “Magyar” is Hungarian and “ország” is country. Hungarian-country.
 - Over a thousand years and counting: Hungary is one of the oldest countries in Europe. It was founded in A.D. 896, before France, Germany, or England.
 - The “Hungarian Sea”, **Lake Balaton** is the second largest lake in Europe and the largest in Central Europe. It is 77 [km] kilometres long, 3 to 14 [km] kilometres wide, and covers an area of 600 [km²] square kilometres.
 - Letters everywhere: the Hungarian alphabet has 44 letters. Our longest word, “eltöredezettségmentesítőtlenítetethetlenségtelenítőtlenkedhetnétek” consist of 67 letters.
 - The Hungarian language is part of the Finno-Ugrian language family and thought to be one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn. It is said that English has more in common with Russian.
 - Thanks to an abundance of natural hot springs, Hungary can boast around 450 public spas and bathhouses
 - Hungary is the home to the world’s first official wine region, **Tokaj Region** where wine has been produced since the 5th century.
 - **Pálinka** is considered the cure of all ills. As the saying goes: “Palinka in small amounts is a medicine, in large amounts a remedy”.
 - A beer in one of Budapest’s ruin pubs is a must when visiting the city. The pubs or *kerts* quite literally sit inside the many bombed out and bullet marked “ruins” of buildings, and as well as being an interesting place for a Palinka, many hold farmers’ markets and community gatherings too.
 - **Judit Polgár** acquired the title of Grandmaster in chess at the tender age of 15 in 1991 (record). The game is played everywhere in Hungary - including on floating boards in its thermal baths
 - Budapest has continental Europe’s oldest metro. Beginning operations in 1896, it is also the second oldest electrically operated underground railway in the world, predated only by the London Underground.
- Cities/towns that you recommend visiting: *(short description for each, pointing out the most important landmarks people should visit):*
 - **Debrecen**: is Hungary's second largest city after Budapest. It is the regional center of the Northern Great Plain region and the seat of Hajdú-Bihar county. It was the largest Hungarian city in the 18th century and it is one of the Hungarian people's most important cultural centers.
 - University of Debrecen
 - Debrecen Flower Carnival
 - Reformed Great Church
 - City Park
 - Hortobágy National Park
 - **Győr**: is the most important city of northwest Hungary, the capital of Győr-Moson-Sopron County and Western Transdanubia region, and—halfway between Budapest and Vienna – situated on one of the important roads of Central Europe. The city is the sixth-largest in Hungary, and one of the seven main regional centers of the country.
 - Káptalan Hill at the confluence of three rivers: the Danube, Rába, and Rábca
 - Town Hall
 - Benedictine church of St. Ignatius of Loyola
 - Carmelite church

- Museum of Roman Archaeology
- The Pannonhalma Archabbey is located some 20 km (12 miles) outside the city.
- **Pécs:** is the fifth largest city of Hungary, located on the slopes of the Mecsek mountains in the south-west of the country, close to its border with Croatia. It is the administrative and economic center of Baranya County. Pécs is also the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pécs. In 2010, Pécs was selected to be the European Capital of Culture alongside Essen and Istanbul.
 - Mecsek Mountain
 - Mosque of Pasha Qasim
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - County Hall
 - Széchenyi Square
- Other places you recommend visiting: *(short description for each. This can include national parks, historical landmarks, beaches, mountains, museums or anything else):*
 - **Lake Balaton:** the biggest lake of Central Europe and the most well-known tourist attraction of Hungary
 - **River Danube:** the Danube Europe's second-longest river, after the Volga. It is located in Central and Eastern Europe.
 - **Hortobágy National Park:** is an 800 km² national park in eastern Hungary, rich with folklore and cultural history. The park, a part of the Alföld (Great Plain), was designated as a national park in 1973 (the first in Hungary), and elected among the World Heritage sites in 1999. The Hortobágy is Hungary's largest protected area, and the largest semi-natural grassland in Europe.[3]
 - **Spas:** A passion for spa culture and Hungarian history have been connected from the very beginning. Hungarian spas feature Roman, Greek, Turkish, and northern country architectural elements
 - **Budapest University of Technology and Economics,** it is the oldest Institute of technology in the world, founded in 1782. It also the home of IAESTE Hungary
 - **Kékes** is Hungary's highest mountain, at 1,014 meters above sea level. It lies 12 kilometers northeast of Gyöngyös in the Mátra range of Heves county. It is Hungary's third most popular tourist attraction, after Lake Balaton and the Danube, and has a number of hotels and skiing pistes. The Kékestető TV Tower stands at the summit.

Airports with budget airlines *(Wizz Air, Ryanair, EasyJet, Transavia, Norwegian):*

- Liszt Ferenc International Airport, Budapest (BUD)
- Debrecen International Airport (DEB)

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country *(train, bus, public transportation, ridesharing):*

- train: <http://elvira.mav-start.hu/>
- bus: <https://www.volanbusz.hu/en>
- public transportation in Budapest: <https://bkk.hu/en/news/>

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying: *(short description for each)*

Hungarian or Magyar cuisine is the cuisine characteristic of the nation of Hungary and its primary ethnic group, the Magyars. Traditional Hungarian dishes are primarily based on meats, seasonal vegetables, fruits, fresh bread, dairy products and cheeses.

- **Paprika**, a quintessential spice and pepper is often associated with Hungary and is used prominently in a handful of dishes.
- **Pörkölt** is a Hungarian stew with boneless meat, paprika, and some vegetables.
- **Goulash** (Hungarian: gulyás) is a stew of meat and vegetables usually seasoned with paprika and other spices. Originating in medieval Hungary, goulash is a common meal predominantly eaten in Central Europe but also in other parts of Europe. It is one of the national dishes of Hungary and a symbol of the country.
- **Hortobágyi palacsinta** is a savoury Hungarian Crêpe, filled with meat (usually veal). The meat is prepared as a stew; minced meat is fried with onions and spices like the pörkölt or the paprikás dish, using veal, veal with mushrooms, chicken, or Hungarian sausage. The crêpes are filled with the minced meat, tucking in the ends, and are baked in the oven with a paprika and tejföl (sour cream) sauce, then topped with fresh parsley.
- Two remarkable elements of Hungarian cuisine that are hardly noticed by locals, but usually elicit much enthusiasm from foreigners, are the different forms of vegetable stews called **főzelék** as well as cold fruit soups, such as cold sour cherry soup.
- The pickled (fermented) vegetable products are often used in the Hungarian cuisine. The main product is the **savanyú káposzta** (lit: sour-cabbage, sauerkraut) and soured peppers, gherkins, but also common the mix of cauliflower, green tomatoes, baby water melon, and some other vegetables, too. These traditionally consumed at winter and often were the main source of vitamin-C throughout the cold months of winter. Some seasonal hearty dish such as **Töltött káposzta**, **Húsos káposzta** or **Korhely leves** based on savanyú káposzta. Classic Hungarian restaurants often offer some variations as side dish, a refreshing complement to heavy dishes.
- **Fisherman's soup** or **halászlé** is a hot, spicy paprika-based river fish soup, originating as a dish of Hungarian cuisine, a bright-red hot soup prepared with generous amounts of hot paprika and carp or mixed river fish, characteristic for the cuisines of the Pannonian Plain, particularly prepared in the Danube and Tisza river regions. With its generous use of hot paprika, halászlé is arguably one of the hottest (spicy hot) dishes native to the European continent.
- **Dobos torte** or Dobosh is a Hungarian sponge cake layered with chocolate buttercream and topped with caramel. The layered pastry is named after its inventor, Hungarian chef József C. Dobos, a delicatessen owner in Budapest
- Hungarian wine has a history dating back to the Kingdom of Hungary. Outside Hungary, the best-known wines are the white dessert wine **Tokaji aszú** (particularly in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia) and the red wine **Bull's Blood of Eger** (Egri Bikavér). Hungary has 22 wine regions, which are usually grouped into five to seven larger regions.

Tipping in the restaurants: *(is it common or unusual, how much should you leave?)*

If they don't include the service fee in the price, we normally give ~10% of the whole amount.

Discounts for transportation *(do you know about any way of getting discounts for transportation? - e.g. in Belgium is cheap train Go Pass ticket if you are under 26, but you have to ask for it):*

Student can ask for student discount if they have valid student ID and/or valid Certificate of Enrollment.

In Budapest student discount is available for EU-citizens.

What is the common greeting in your country *(do you only shake hands, or you kiss on both cheeks...?)*:

During introduction we normally we shake hands. If we have friendly relationship we might kiss on both cheeks.

Emergencies - numbers:

Police: 107

Ambulance: 104

Fire brigade: 105

Any other interesting or useful information: if you are in trouble call 112 and they will contact you to the right authority

Please also attach ~10 pictures with the most beautiful places from your country and any nice group pictures from your summer reception. Make sure the authors of the pictures agree with you sharing them. If you search for images on Google, first go to 'Advanced search' and set the usage rights to 'free to use or share'. You can also try www.pixabay.com for images that are free to be used.