

# Budapest

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# Budapest: introducing the city



Hot springs in Budapest, Hungary.

The name Budapest consists of the names of the cities which united to form the Hungarian capital. In 1873, Buda and Pest officially merged with Óbuda (literally Old Buda), creating the new metropolis of Budapest.

Budapest is called the Queen of the Danube. The European city proudly wears this name. Some argue that Vienna deserves the title, but Budapest beats it in the category The Greatest Variety of Styles. When you visit Budapest, you'll have the chance to explore a city with a rich history, a unique food scene, and multiple sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Another nickname for Budapest is The City of Spas. Roman legionnaires were the first to recognize the city's healing thermal springs over 2,000 years ago. Today, you can choose from five medicinal baths featuring a total of 47 pools. They vary in terms of

size and architecture. So, no surprise that our best Budapest travel tip for you is to bring a swimsuit. (Hippos at the zoo love to splash in thermal waters as well.)

From reliable internet and low cost of living to networking opportunities and exciting activities to enjoy during your free time, there are many reasons Budapest is excellent for digital nomads.

# Hungary: quick facts about the country

Hungary, a landlocked country in central Europe, is known for its spa towns and hot springs.

- OFFICIAL NAME: Hungary
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Parliamentary republic
- CAPITAL: Budapest
- POPULATION: 9,825,704
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: Hungarian
- MONEY: Forint
- AREA: 35,919 square miles (93,030 square kilometers)
- Part of the European Union
- ELECTRIC OUTLET: In Hungary the power plug sockets are of types C and F. Hungary operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.
- PHONE PREFIX: +36
- MAIN PHONE OPERATORS: Magyar Telekom, Yettel Hungary (formerly Telenor Hungary/Magyarország), Vodafone Hungary (Vodafone Magyarország).

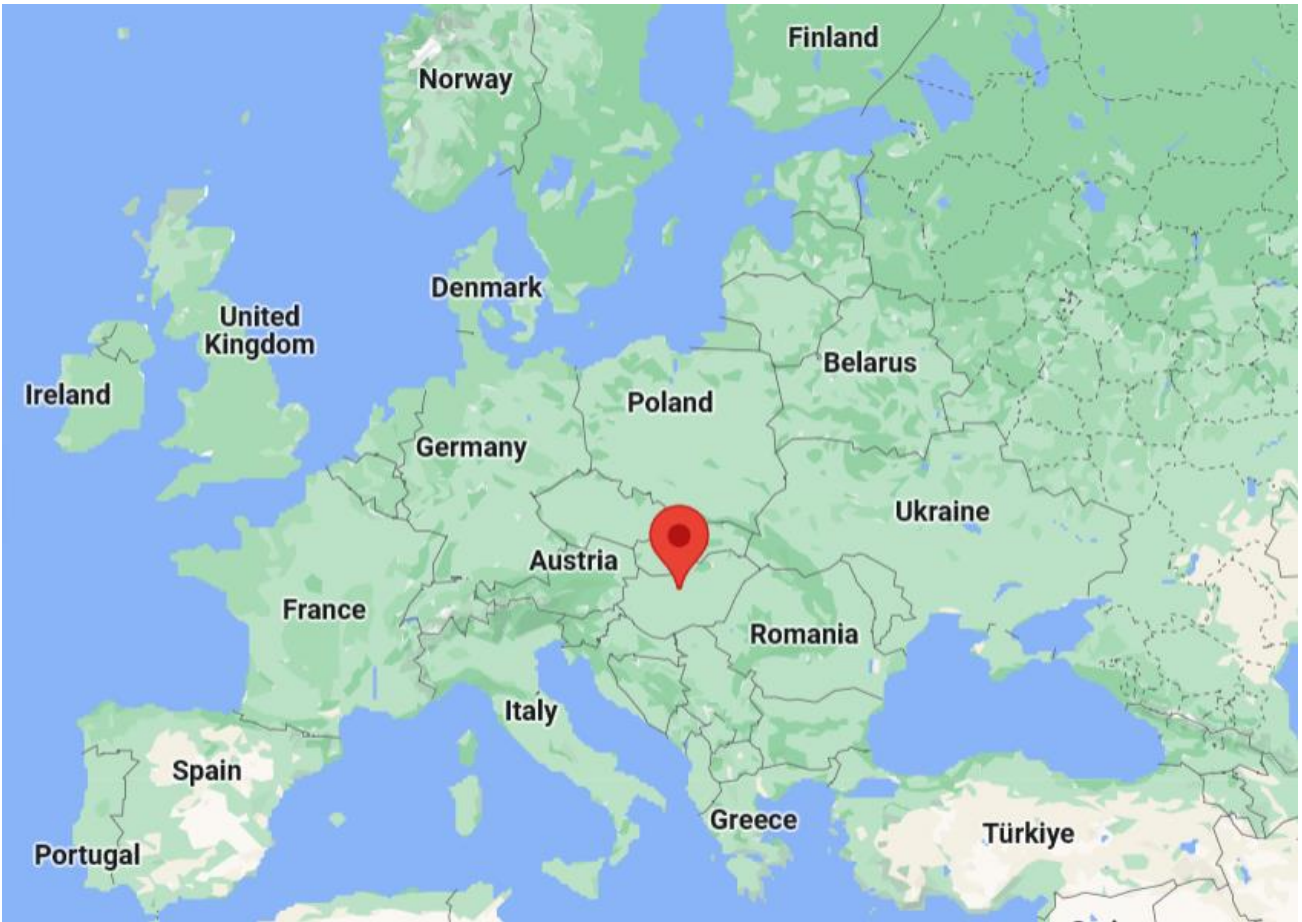
Hungary is a landlocked country in central Europe bordered by Slovakia and Austria to the north, Ukraine and Romania to the east, Slovenia to the west, and Croatia and Serbia to the south. Hungary is mostly flat, with a vast lowland area known as the Great Hungarian Plain, a productive agricultural region.

Budapest is the political, administrative, industrial, and commercial centre of Hungary. The site has been continuously settled since prehistoric times and is now the home of about one-fifth of the country's population.

## **Character of the city**

Once called the “Queen of the Danube,” Budapest has long been the focal point of the nation and a lively cultural centre. The city straddles the Danube (Hungarian: Duna) River in the magnificent natural setting where the hills of western Hungary meet the plains stretching to the east and south. It consists of two parts, Buda and Pest, which are situated on opposite sides of the river and connected by a series of bridges. Although the city’s roots date to Roman times and even earlier, modern Budapest is essentially an outgrowth of the 19th-century empire of Austria-Hungary, when Hungary was three times larger than the present country. Hungary’s reduction in size following World War I did not prevent Budapest from becoming, after Berlin, the second largest city in central Europe. One out of five Hungarians now lives in the capital, which, as the seat of government and the centre of Hungarian transport and industry, dominates all aspects of national life. Tens of thousands of commuters converge on Budapest daily, more than half the country’s university students attend school in the city, and about half the country’s income from foreign tourism is earned there.

Budapest stood apart from the relatively drab capitals of the other Soviet-bloc countries; it maintained an impression of plenty, with smart shops, good restaurants, and other amenities. The dissolution of the Soviet bloc and Hungary’s transition away from socialism brought Budapest new opportunities for prosperity and an influx of Western tourists—along with the stresses of transition to a more Western-style economy. The city, including the banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter, and Andrásy Avenue, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.



# The country's economy

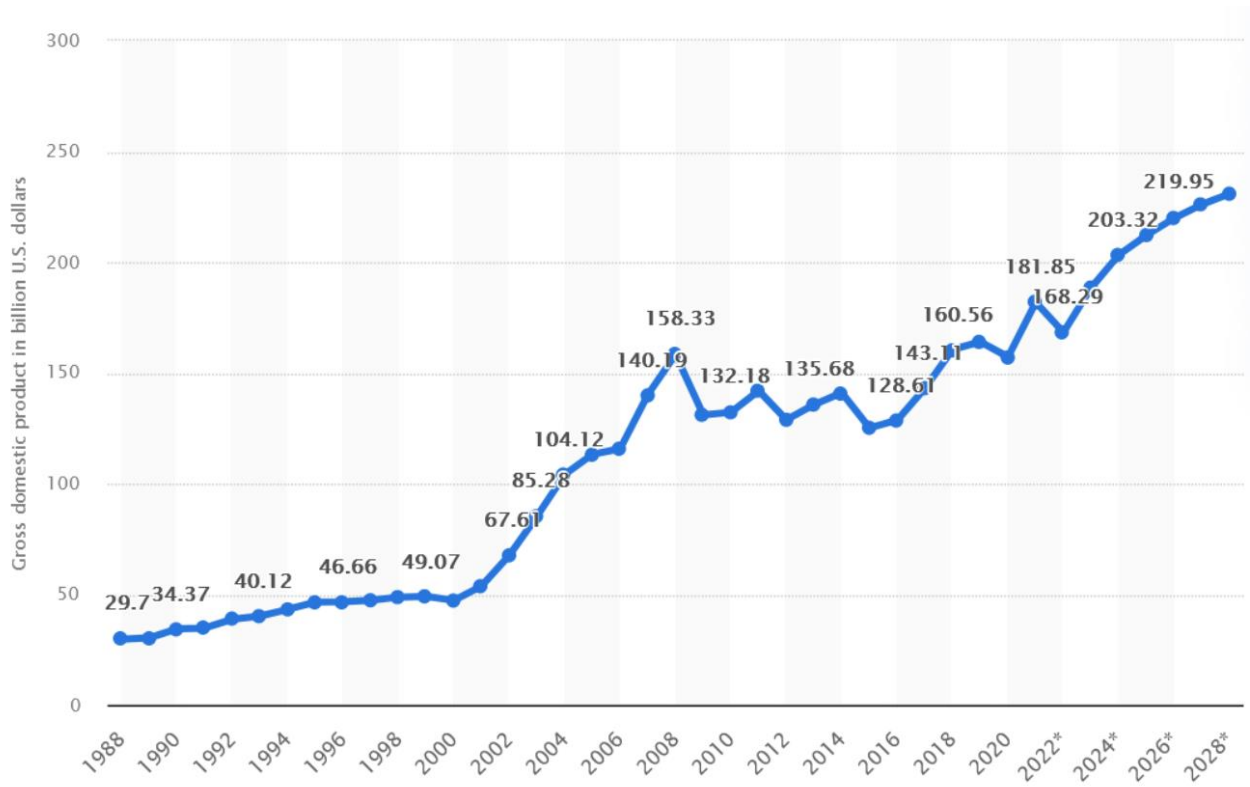
Hungary has a mixed economy that is transitioning from a socialist system to a market economy. According to the [World Bank](#), Hungary's GDP was \$157.9 billion in 2019, with a growth rate of 4.9%. Its main industries are manufacturing, construction, and services, with an emphasis on automotive and electronics industries.

In the past, Hungary's economy faced challenges due to its socialist system, which led to inefficiency and poor economic performance. However, since transitioning to a market economy in the 1990s, Hungary has experienced significant growth and has become a leading economy in Central and Eastern Europe.

[In recent years, Hungary's economy has continued to grow](#), with a focus on innovation and technology. The government has implemented policies to attract foreign investment and promote entrepreneurship. However, there have been concerns about the country's high levels of public debt and the impact of political instability on the economy.

Overall, Hungary plays an important role in the global economy. It is a member of the European Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and has strong trade relationships with other countries in the region.

[The gross domestic product in current prices in Hungary was forecast to continuously increase between 2023 and 2028 by in total 42.4 billion U.S. dollars \(+22.49 percent\).](#) The GDP is estimated to amount to 230.88 billion U.S. dollars in 2028.



Source: Statista

# Culture

Hungary has a rich and diverse culture that is influenced by its history and geography. Hungarian culture includes traditional folk music, dance, and art. It is also famous for its cuisine, such as Goulash and Chimney Cake. Hungary has a strong literary and intellectual tradition, with many famous writers, poets, and thinkers. The country is also known for its architecture, including the famous thermal baths in Budapest, and its impressive castles and palaces. Overall, Hungarian culture is a unique blend of influences from its surrounding regions, resulting in a vibrant and distinct identity.

Music is an important part of Hungarian culture, especially traditional folk music. Based on the experiences of peasants in the countryside, the music has themes such as joy, sadness, the weather, and even farming. Hungary also has a rich classical music history. Béla Bartók and Franz Liszt are two of the country's greatest composers.

Hungarians love their public spas and have been soaking for centuries. The soaking traditions came from the country's hundreds of natural hot springs, which Hungarians still bathe in today.

Hungary is also the birthplace of many famous people. Erno Rubik, a sculptor and professor, invented the Rubik's Cube in 1974. Hungary boasts 13 Nobel Prize winners, and magician Harry Houdini was also born in the country's capital, Budapest.

Other notable inventions from Hungary include The ballpoint pen, holography, thermographic camera, digital computing and the first functional helicopter.

The economic hypertrophy of Budapest is compounded by its dominating position in Hungarian culture. Radio and television broadcasting and the film industry are the preserve of the capital, and publishing and the press are nearly so. Writers and poets, traditionally said to be excessively preoccupied with rural life and the peasantry, have nevertheless been drawn to Budapest, as have Hungary's composers: Ferenc Erkel, Ernst von Dohnányi, Béla Bartók, and Zoltán Kodály all lived in the capital. The leading grammar schools are concentrated in Budapest, and its universities and colleges attract most of the country's best students. Furthermore, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the great majority of its research institutes are in Budapest.

The city also claims the best libraries, museums, art galleries, orchestras, sports facilities, and theatres in Hungary.

**Fact: There are cowboys (csikos) in Hungary**

Hungarians rode into Europe on horseback, and still today, you can see the cowboys in the plains of Puszta.

**Hungarians love (and are very good at) sports: They've won more than 465 Olympic medals**

Did you know that Hungary has won the second most gold medals in the Olympic summer games of all countries per capita? They've won gold medals in every Olympics they've competed in.

And what makes it an even more interesting is the fact that Hungary was banned from the Olympic games 1920 and joined the Soviet-led boycott of the summer Olympics 1984.

# Lifestyle

Budapest has a vibrant lifestyle with a mix of historic and modern elements. People in Budapest enjoy a diverse range of activities, including visiting thermal baths, exploring museums and galleries, dining out in traditional Hungarian restaurants, and enjoying the city's nightlife scene. The cost of living in Budapest is relatively affordable, and many locals live in apartments in the city center. Overall, Budapest is a lively and welcoming city with plenty to offer.

The city has a tradition of good public services, at least in the centre (gas was introduced there for private consumers in 1856 and electricity in 1893), as evidenced by the improvements in public transport and the renovation of the telephone system undertaken in the 1970s. Hospital care and other social services are adequate—particularly in the city centre. Suicide figures, however, are alarmingly high in Budapest.

## **Is Budapest Safe?**

It doesn't matter if you're planning on a long stay or have just a short [itinerary for Budapest](#), safety is of utmost importance. Though affordable countries usually have a bad reputation in terms of safety, Budapest is very safe for travelers and digital nomads alike.

Crime is very rare, especially towards tourists. Most neighborhoods are safe in Budapest, and there's no reason to pass through the ones that aren't.

However, one thing you should be aware of is pickpockets, especially in crowded places such as bars and landmarks.

Nightlife is very vibrant in Budapest, and sometimes tourists are victims of theft and pickpocketing. Keep an eye on your belongings and don't get too under the influence, and you should be fine.

# LGBTQ+ Rights

People in Hungary face legal and social challenges not experienced by non-LGBT residents. Homosexuality is legal in Hungary for both men and women. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and sex is banned in the country. However, households headed by same-sex couples are not eligible for all of the same legal rights available to heterosexual married couples.

Registered partnership for same-sex couples was legalised in 2009, but same-sex marriage remains banned. The Hungarian government has passed legislation that restricts the civil rights of LGBT Hungarians – such as ending legal recognition of transgender Hungarians and banning LGBT content and displays for minors. This trend continues under the Fidesz government of Viktor Orbán. In June 2021, Hungary passed an anti-LGBT law on banning "homosexual and transexual propaganda" effective since July 1. The law has been condemned by seventeen EU countries so far. Also, in July 2021, the EU Commission has started legal action against Hungary and Poland for violations of fundamental rights of LGBTQI people: "Europe will never allow parts of our society to be stigmatized." Russia had similar laws implemented in 2013.

## **Be aware of the recent LGBTIQ+ laws**

Hungary is earning a bad reputation with LGBTIQ+ travelers because of recently enacted laws, such as one making it impossible for trans people to legally change their gender. Another, the so-called "Anti-Pedophile Bill," draws lamentable parallels between pedophilia and homosexuality and bans LGBTIQ+ representation in media available to people under 18.

The good news is that Budapest is more liberal, especially if you stay around downtown. A vibrant population of progressive activists keeps up the fight for LGBTIQ+ rights in Hungary, and Pride gets bigger every year, with thousands joining in solidarity. You'll find many places welcoming LGBTIQ+ visitors; Budapest Pride maintains a helpful directory of LGBTIQ+ safe and friendly venues.

# Nature

Roughly the size of the state of Indiana, Hungary is a landlocked country in central Europe bordered by Slovakia and Austria to the north, Ukraine and Romania to the east, Slovenia to the west, and Croatia and Serbia to the south.

Hungary is mostly flat, with a vast lowland area known as the Great Hungarian Plain, a productive agricultural region. The Danube River runs through the middle of the country and is Hungary's largest river. It flows for nearly 1,800 miles (2,900 kilometers), passing through 10 nations on its way to the Black Sea. No other river in the world passes through as many countries.

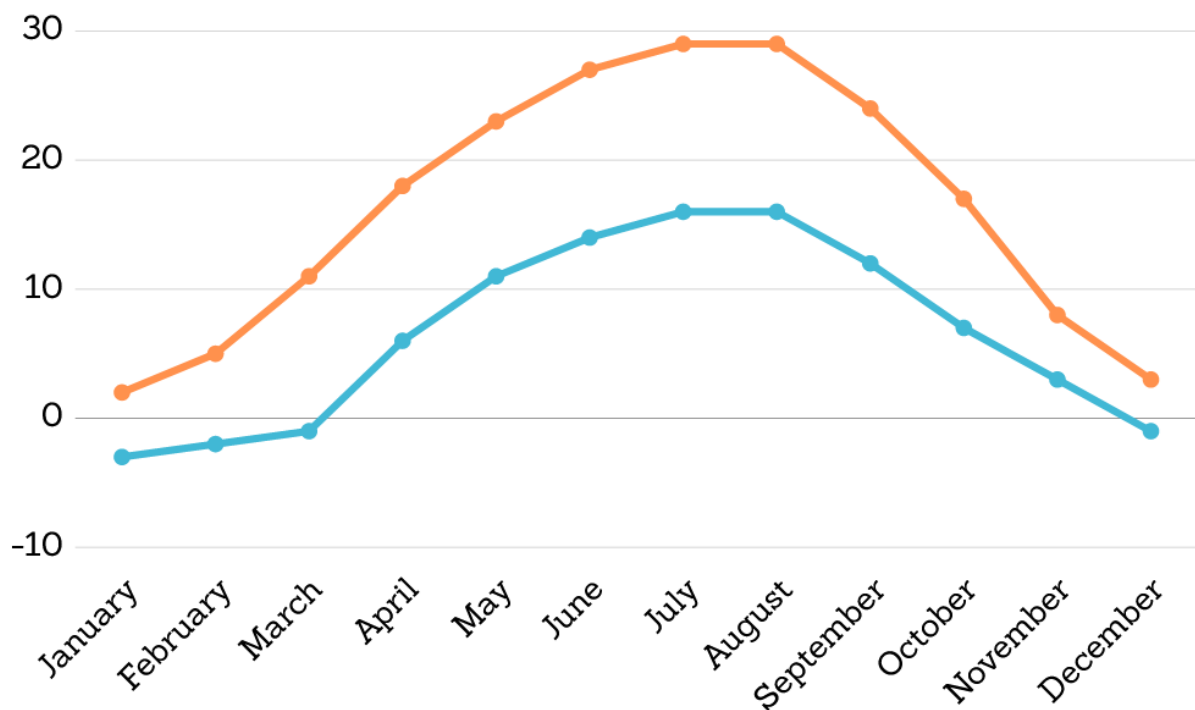
Hungary also contains three major freshwater lakes, including Lake Balaton, the largest lake in central Europe; it's about nine miles across at its widest point. Lake Hévíz is important too, as one of the largest thermals, or warm water, lakes in the world.

Hungary has three major ecological regions. The Great Hungarian Plains are grasslands that cover the central and eastern part of the country. North of the plains is a mountain range called the Northern Hills. The hilly region west of the Danube River is known as the Transdanube. Several species inhabit the Great Hungarian Plains, such as roe deer, wild boars, red foxes, mouflon sheep, and birds like the imperial eagle and great bustard. The largest of Hungary's 10 national parks, Hortobágy National Park, was created to protect these species and their habitat.

The United Nations designated Hortobágy a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Many threatened and endangered species, like sturgeon and the Danube salmon, swim in the Danube River.

# Weather

The climate of Budapest is transitional between the extreme conditions of the Great Alföld and the more temperate climate of Transdanubia, with its abundant rainfall. Mean annual temperature is in the low 50s F (about 11 °C), ranging from a July average in the low 70s F (about 22 °C) to the low 30s F (about -1 °C) in January. Mean annual precipitation is 24 inches (600 mm). Winter snowfalls can be heavy, and the temperature may fall below 5 °F (-15 °C), but, on the other hand, heat waves combined with humidity in the summer can make the air oppressive.



Average temperature chart

# Best time to visit

["With scorching hot summers and sub-zero temperatures in winter, Budapest shows a different face with each changing season."](#)

-Lonely Planet

Budapest is a city that offers something to do all year round. High season is May to September and December, with warm weather and many festivals. March, April, and October are the best months to get outdoors, while November, January, and February are quieter and offer hotel deals. April is perfect for culture lovers, while May celebrates Jewish culture. Budapest's museums stay open late on the solstice in June, July can be crowded, and August is the busiest month. September offers pleasant weather and many events. October's fall colors are stunning, and December is packed with Christmas festivities.

# History

## **Hungary is one of the oldest countries in Europe**

Hungary was founded back in 895, which means it's older than countries like France and Germany.

## **A Quick overview of the history of Budapest:**

The Magyars, as Hungarians are also known, first settled in modern Hungary in the ninth century. They built a thriving society that was almost toppled in 1241 when warriors from East Asia called Mongols invaded and devastated the region. The Magyars forced the Mongols out but were once again invaded by the warriors in 1285.

After beating the Mongols a second time, the Hungarians began a centuries-long feud with the Ottoman Empire. First formed in 1299, the Ottoman Empire ruled a large portion of Eastern Europe and the Middle East for over 600 years. (The empire fell apart in 1923 and became the country of Turkey.)

The Ottoman Turks conquered Hungary in 1541 and controlled the country until 1699, when neighboring Austria kicked out the Turks and ruled the country for many years. Hungary eventually joined the Austro-Hungarian Empire as an equal partner in 1867 but the empire dissolved in 1918, after World War I.

Hungary fought alongside the Axis powers—Germany, Italy, and Japan—in World War II, from 1940 to 1945. The former Soviet Union, now Russia, occupied Hungary during the final year of the war. As a result, communists governed Hungary until 1990, when it held its first democratic elections.

## **The Origins of Budapest**

The history of Budapest begins with the oldest city, Obuda, occupied by Celtic tribes until the conquest of the Romans in the 1st century BC.

Obuda, which the Romans called "Aquincum", was founded in the year 89 on an ancient Celtic settlement. For four centuries it was the capital of the Roman region of Pannonia. Aquincum comes from the word "aqua" (with water), in honor of the numerous thermal springs that Budapest is so famous for.

Buda was born as a Roman colony and its foundation was established around 14 BC.

## **Middle Ages**

In 896, seven Magyars tribes came together and defeated the Romans. They conquered the area and settled in Aquincum. Centuries later, in the thirteenth century, the settlement was called Óbuda and two separate cities began to develop on either side of the Danube River.

Hungary was established in 1000 AD as a Catholic Apostolic Kingdom with the coronation of the country's first King, Stephen I of Hungary. In 1222, King Andrew II of Hungary issued the Golden Bull of 1222, the country's first constitution.

In 1241, the Mongols invaded the area and both cities were completely destroyed. King Bélv IV of Hungary commissioned both towns to be rebuilt and during this period, Buda was founded opposite Óbuda.

Buda became the capital of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1361 and between the fourteenth and fifteenth century, the city developed greatly, decreasing after the reign of Matthias Corvinus, King of Hungary and Croatia.

Pest was conquered by the Ottoman Empire in 1526, followed years later by the siege of Buda in 1541. Buda was made capital of the Budin province during the Ottoman rule, while Pest declined and was practically abandoned. The Turks remained in power until 1686, year in which they were defeated by the Habsburg and Buda became part of the Habsburg dominion.

During the Habsburg rule, both cities began to develop again and many churches and landmarks were built during this period. In 1784, Joseph II established the Institutum Geometricum as part of the Faculty of Liberal Arts at the University of Buda. Count Széchenyi led a movement of progress in both cities and in 1849, the first permanent bridge was constructed connecting Buda and Pest. It is known as the Chain Bridge.

As a consequence of the Enlightenment which dominated Europe's ideas during the eighteenth century, several revolutions took place in the Austrian Empire including the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. The Hungarian population revolted against the Austrians but were quickly defeated and the Habsburgs regained control over Hungary.

In 1867, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was established after the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 was signed. Hungary, in general, and Buda and Pest benefited

greatly from this union and enjoyed rapid growth and progress. Pest became the political, economic, and trade hub in the area, and in time, it became the most populated area.

## **Unification of Óbuda, Buda and Pest**

Óbuda, Buda and Pest were unified into one single city in 1873, naming the city Budapest. After Vienna, it became the second main city in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

After World War I, the Allies and the Republic of German-Austria signed the treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye. The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy renounced its rights over Hungary and the two countries were separated, creating an independent Hungarian state.

The Treaty of Trianon was signed in 1920. This peace agreement was imposed on Hungary by the Allied powers after the fall of Bela Kum. The country lost control over Slovakia, Ruthenia, Transylvania, Croatia and Banat of Temeswar. In total, Hungary lost over two thirds of its territory and Budapest became a capital which was too large for its small state.

During World War II, Budapest was bombed by the Allied Forces and greatly damaged. Between 1944 and 1945, the Soviets occupied Hungary and made sure the country was governed by the Communist Party before handing the power back to the Hungarians. Nevertheless, the Soviet forces remained in Hungary.

In October 1956, the Hungarians revolted against the Government and the Soviet influence but were crushed by the Soviet troops.

After decades of oppression, the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989, which meant for Hungary the end of Communism and a transition to democracy and its independence.

Hungary was the first communist-bloc country to open its borders with Western Europe

Hungary opposed the Soviet regime during the cold war, for example, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. However, it remained a communist country until 1989 when it finally re-opened its border with Western Europe.

**In 2004, Hungary became a member of the European Union.**

# Language

Hungarian is a Uralic language spoken by around 13 million people, primarily in Hungary. It is an agglutinative language, which means it adds suffixes to words to indicate different grammatical functions. For a foreigner, Hungarian can be difficult to learn because of its complex grammar structure, extensive use of cases, and a large number of vowels and consonants that may be unfamiliar. Additionally, Hungarian is not closely related to any other major European language, which can make it challenging to find resources for learning. Some common difficulties for learners include mastering vowel harmony, understanding the use of definite and indefinite articles, and learning the various forms of verb conjugation.

# Best things to do

## Sightseeing

The area of what is now Budapest was part of the Roman Empire's province of Pannonia in the 1st century. In the nearly two thousand years that have elapsed since then, the Hungarian capital has become the guardian of hundreds of sights and many more secrets. It is virtually impossible for visitors to take in everything that the city has to offer in sights, experiences and sensations. The Danube, which divides the historical downtown into two, bestows a unique atmosphere on the EU's ninth biggest city. A stroll across the Chain Bridge, taking in a museum in the Buda Castle or the view from Gellért Hill of Pest lit up at night - these are moments that steal one's heart forever. The unique atmosphere of Budapest's inner districts is assured by its Romantic and Secessionist buildings, interspersed with boulevards and the easily accessible layout of the city, all against a backdrop of the Buda Hills, which offer a variety of hiking and walking trails. Budapest is not only a city of bridges and spas, but also has unique modes of transport, such as the funicular and the cogwheel train, besides being the capital for nearby hiking trails. Stay with us for some useful tips about these unusual hikes.

### **TOP Sights**

Budapest is truly a city of a thousand faces. There is no point in trying to cover the city over a short weekend! Besides needing a few days to see all the sights and their delights, the city is spread out over a large area and it is worth taking the time to experience its geographical diversity, from the Buda hills, the banks of the Danube and Margaret Island to the bustling downtown Pest area. The first unique aspect that catches the eye of visitors is how the city is divided in two - Buda and Pest, connected by bridges - and that each side offers a distinct experience and glimpse into history.

### **HEROES' SQUARE**

Marking the end of Andrassy Avenue and the gateway to City Park, it is an urban masterpiece from any angle. Approaching from the avenue, you can see its 36-metre-high column with Archangel Gabriel on top from afar.

## **CHAIN BRIDGE**

With the Buda Castle in the background, the Hungarian capital's first bridge, now a monument, is a fascinating spectacle that has attracted many tourists to Budapest.

## **PARLIAMENT**

The Hungarian Parliament building, the "House of the Country", located on the Danube bank, is an iconic building of Budapest's World Heritage and is the home of legislature and the guardian of the Hungarian Holy Crown.

## **ANDRÁSSY AVENUE**

Andrássy Avenue is a 2,310-metre boulevard lined with buildings in varied architecture, constantly widening from the city center towards the City Park.

## **ST. STEPHEN'S BASILICA**

From any angle, it is an architecturally stunning building. When approached from the bank of the Danube, the building slowly appears, metre by metre, yet without dominating its surroundings.

## **GELLÉRT HILL AND THE CITADEL**

The Gellért Hill is the capital's popular excursion place. The Citadel can also be found here.

## **THE CASTLE AND ITS VICINITY**

Once inhabited by the Celts and Romans, it was after the Mongol invasion in 1242 that King Béla IV brought the Hungarian royal seat from Esztergom to the strategically well-situated Buda Castle Hill.

## **MATTHIAS CHURCH**

One of the city's most famous landmarks. Founded in the 13th century, and officially known as the Buda Castle Church of Our Lady, it was used by the Turks as a mosque and was later almost completely rebuilt in the Baroque period.

## **MARGARET ISLAND**

The island is one of the most important and beautiful recreational sites in Budapest. It is named after Princess Margaret of the House of Árpád, daughter of King Béla IV, who, with her life and miracles, occupies a special place in Hungarian history. Until

1901, the island was accessible only by ship or boat, until the construction of the wing of Margaret Bridge leading to the island.

### **BUDA CASTLE FUNICULAR**

BKV Zrt welcomes passengers on its two funicular carriages called Margit and Gellért, offering a panoramic view of the Danube. It takes a few minutes to get from Adam Clark Square to Buda Castle and/or back. The Buda Castle Funicular has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987.

### **HUNGARIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM**

Hungary's first museum was founded by Count Ferenc Széchenyi, who donated his private collection for the benefit of the country in 1802. In 1847 the collection, consisting of over 15,000 items, was moved to its permanent home in the museum's neoclassical building, whose interior and exterior were decorated by the best artists of the time.

### **THE SPAS OF BUDAPEST**

The city officially won the title of a spa city in 1930, but people could already enjoy the treasures of natural hot springs in the Roman times.

It's inconceivable, in this city of spas, that you'd leave without taking to the waters, as the natives have done since Roman times. Take a dip inside the majestically appointed art nouveau Gellért Baths (Kelenhegyi út 4, open daily 6am-8pm) – complete with majolica tiles and Roman columns; partake in a game of chess in the water at the enormous, palace-like Széchenyi Baths (Állatkerti körút 9-11, open daily, times vary); or go further back in time with a soak in the atmospheric, 16th-century Király Baths (Fő utca 84, open daily 9am-9pm) arguably the Turks' finest contribution to the city.

A more unorthodox way to enjoy this quintessential Budapest experience is to pop along to one of the increasingly popular night-time bath parties, if you're into laser discos, that is.

### **UNDERGROUND CAVES**

**Budapest is the only capital in the world that hides caves underneath its streets.** In fact, a whole city exists beneath Castle Hill. The subterranean world consists of a maze of 200+ caverns. They are the result of the great number of geothermal springs in the area. You can visit many of the caves on a guided spelunking tour.

## Visit the largest synagogue in Europe

**The largest synagogue in Europe is located in Budapest.** Finished in 1859, the *Great Synagogue* is the second-largest in the world, after the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem. The [Dohány Street Synagogue](#) carries the Moorish Revival style and is inspired by the Alhambra Palace in Spain. The second-largest European synagogue is in [Sofia, Bulgaria](#).

## Eat Empress Elisabeth's favorite candies

**You can sample Empress Elisabeth's favorite candies.** When Sisi, the Empress of Austria and the Queen of Hungary, lived with her husband Emperor Franz Joseph I in the Buda Castle, she had an incessant craving for spearmint candies and iced coffee. Her favorite sweets were crafted at the *Ruszwurm* – Budapest's oldest confectionery. Today, the owners continue to produce their decadent, century-old cakes and mouthwatering pastries. You can find them at *Szentháromság Street 7*.

## Join a pub crawl guided tour

**The city is dotted with *ruin bars*.** From ghettos to lively pubs and restaurants, Budapest's young people decided to renovate abandoned houses and turn them into ruin pubs. In a *romkocsmá*, you can find yourself at the epicenter of parties, wild nightlife, and festivals. Food and drinks are good and inexpensive. For the best experience, join a pub crawl guided tour.

## [Things to do in Budapest: The New York Times Itinerary](#)

36 Hours in Budapest: A blend of old and new attractions.

Pest is the hub for modern bars, Michelin-starred restaurants, and indie boutiques.

Buda Castle and Turkish-era thermal baths in hilly Buda offer a historic experience.

New galleries, like Art + Text, and cool wine bars, like Tasting Table, are perfect for a Friday evening.

Good Spirit Bar is the new place for cocktails with over 700 spirits and creative, non-alcoholic drinks.

You can visit newly renovated parks, indulging in cheap ethnic eats at the Jewish Quarter, shopping for handmade souvenirs, checking out local fashion, enjoying craft

beer, and visiting the Rudas Baths. The itinerary also includes dining at Michelin-starred Costes Downtown, which serves Hungarian cuisine with a modern twist.



Budapest chain bridge over the Danube

# Shopping

Budapest is a great city for shopping, offering a wide variety of options for both luxury and low-budget shoppers. For luxury shopping, head to Andrásy Avenue and Fashion Street, where you'll find high-end designer brands. For more affordable options, visit Váci Street and WestEnd City Center.

If you're looking for a unique shopping experience, check out the city's markets and flea markets. The Central Market Hall offers a variety of traditional Hungarian products, while the Ecseri Flea Market is the perfect place to find vintage treasures.

For thrifting, head to Retrock or Humana Vintage, where you can find secondhand clothing and accessories at affordable prices. Overall, Budapest offers a great shopping experience for all budgets and tastes.

# City awards

## [One of the best cultural destination in the world by Tripadvisor](#)

Budapest ranked 7th on the Best Places for Culture in the World at the Traveler's Choice Award by Tripadvisor. Budapest has history, art, music, cuisine plus iconic sights and experiences you can't find anywhere else. The "Queen of the Danube" is steeped in history, culture and natural beauty.

## [Budapest is among the 50 best places in the world](#)

Budapest is having its 150th birthday this year and has been named one of TIME magazine's top 50 places in the world. The editors highlighted that the renovation of the Chain Bridge will be completed in 2023, and the jubilee year will be celebrated with more than 100 events around the city, some also extending into 2024. Many new museums have opened recently, the St Stephen's Hall in Buda Castle has been revived, and plenty of new and elegant hotels opened in the Hungarian capital.

## [Europe's best thermal spas](#)

According to the Mirror, a UK magazine, Budapest's Szechenyi Bath is one of the best thermal spas in Europe.



Szechenyi bath in Budapest

**Fact: Budapest has the highest number of thermal springs in the world**

There are more than 1500 spas in Hungary, but the capital takes the prize when it comes to the number of thermal springs. No wonder that people have come here to enjoy the healing waters for thousands of years!

Each day, 70 million liters of thermal water rise to the surface of Budapest.

**[Top Pleasantly Surprising Tourist City](#)**

Radical Storage ranked Budapest as the number 1 city that exceeded expectations and tourists found themselves surprised at their enjoyment. Budapest was the city that exceeded tourists' expectations the most, reversing the Paris syndrome effect, with 96.17% of the city's reviews containing phrases of praise and pleasant surprise.

Budapest's top things to do primarily focus on exploring the city's stunning architecture and meandering river.

## Europe's Leading New Travel Attraction

The House of Music, Hungary designed by Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto has received several prestigious awards. The most recent Europe's Leading New Travel Attraction at the 29th World Travel Awards is considered the Oscar of the global travel and tourism sector.

The House of Music has won the Architecture Photography of the Year 2022 award by Loop Design Awards with a photo of the building by György Palkó. At the Architecture MasterPrize the building won grand prize: The Architectural Design of the Year.

## Buda Castle - One of the Most Instagrammed Castles in Europe

The Thinking Traveller compiled a list of Europe's top 15 castles to help their readers prioritize when planning their trip. They combed through Instagram's hashtag data to put together a list of the most popular castles in Europe. Buda Castle is the 8th most instagrammed castle in Europe.

Buda Castle houses the Hungarian National Gallery, The Budapest History Museum and the National Library. There is a Christmas market and a wine festival during the year. The Castle can be reached by the historic funicular. Katy Perry filmed parts of her Fireworks music video in the castle's courtyard that reached 1,4 billion views.



Buda Castle

# Working in Budapest

## Internet speed

As a digital nomad in Budapest, you'll have little trouble setting yourself up for an efficient work day. Internet speeds are good here and service is reliable, ranking 12th globally in Speedtest's Global Broadband Speed Survey, conducted in December 2019. And, when you consider that it ranked just below the USA, which came in 11th, you can rest assured that you'll be well connected throughout your stay in the city.

The average fixed broadband speed in Hungary is 128mbps for downloads and 65mbps for uploads, with mobile speeds coming in at 42 mbps and 16 mbps respectively.

## Internet connection speeds in Hungary in 2023

Data published by [Ookla](#) indicate that internet users in Hungary could have expected the following internet connection speeds at the start of 2023:

- Median mobile internet connection speed via cellular networks: **41.11 Mbps**.
- Median fixed internet connection speed: **123.17 Mbps**.

Ookla's data reveals that the median mobile internet connection speed in Hungary **increased** by **3.81 Mbps** (+10.2 percent) in the twelve months to the start of 2023.

Meanwhile, Ookla's data shows that fixed internet connection speeds in Hungary **increased** by **26.69 Mbps** (+27.7 percent) during the same period.

Establishments with free WiFi are abundant. Whether you're in a cafe, library, or restaurant, you'll have no problem getting some good WiFi. This makes remote working as a digital nomad in Budapest very easy and convenient.

## Working culture

Working in Hungary as an expat can be exciting but also challenging. Some of the challenges that expats may encounter include the language barrier, cultural differences, and navigating the bureaucracy. The working culture in Hungary tends to be more hierarchical and formal, with a strong emphasis on punctuality and respect for authority.

As for the best sectors to find a job as an expat, some of the most promising industries include IT, finance, and engineering. These fields tend to offer competitive salaries and opportunities for professional growth. However, expats should be aware that the job market in Hungary can be competitive, so it may take some time and effort to find the right job.

Generally, Hungarians are known to be hardworking and efficient in the office. They value punctuality, professionalism, and direct communication.

# What do the expats think?

## [Expats' point of views](#)

Budapest is home to an ever-expanding digital nomad community, which although isn't as large as those found in more traditional hotspots such as Barcelona and Lisbon, is equally as appealing. Nomads here are in search of something a little different, and that is exactly what they get. Nonetheless, you will still find a vibrant social and networking scene and plenty of opportunities to meet and connect with other remote workers living in the area.

### **Community and networking**

[Meetup](#), as in most digital nomad cities, is very present here, and its website and local Facebook group are great ways to keep abreast of all of the nearby gatherings, social get togethers and networking events that are happening in the city. Similarly, the Digital Nomads Hungary and Budapest Digital Nomads groups on Facebook are also worth checking out – we met some great people through these and both are updated regularly with posts and information you may find helpful during your time here, such as job listings, room and board, and upcoming events.

According to the website for expats [Goats on the road](#), it is also possible for most digital nomads in Budapest to find their accommodation via Facebook Groups. There are many groups on FB geared towards expats, and many landlords post their listings there.

Some of the recommended Facebook groups are:

1. [Budapest flats and apartments for rent](#)
2. [Flats for Erasmus in Budapest](#)
3. [Flats for rent, Budapest Apartments](#)

## Expatriate Experiences

*"Dive right in! Take a basic Hungarian language course right away. Go to as many expat and mixed gatherings as possible to meet as many people as possible during your first six months. Remember – it's not your country, so you have to adjust to their rules and customs. Walk the city to learn where everything is. Talk to people. Inhale your new life every day and savour the experience. Budapest is still one of the most fun, exciting and vibrant cities in Europe, so take advantage of your time here."* Read more about American expat Gary's [experiences in Budapest](#).

### - CON: Language gap

Hungarian is a difficult language to learn, and most of the city's signboards are printed in Hungarian. Though there's a high English proficiency in Budapest, communication may prove to be a challenge in other parts of the country. Foreigners are encouraged to try and become familiar with at least some of the common phrases in Hungarian that will assist day-to-day interaction with locals.

Read other expat living in Hungary interviews [here](#)

# The local people

Although several ethnic groups live in Hungary, the vast majority of the population is Hungarian, or Magyar. Both Hungarians and minority groups shape the culture.

Always a city of marked social divisions, Budapest once revealed the deep-rooted contrast in lifestyle between the aristocrats, who built palaces in the town centre, and those who lived in the slum districts and sprawling temporary barrack settlements on the city's perimeter. During the Stalinist period after World War II, these contrasts largely disappeared, but an acute housing shortage has persisted. The majority of the inhabitants continue to live in relatively small flats. Economic reforms since the late 1960s created new wealth, which in turn sharpened the differences between the more ostentatious lifestyle of the new middle classes—whose privileged members are able to build second homes in the Buda Hills and on Lake Balaton—and that of the workers who populate the gigantic faceless housing estates of the drab outlying residential districts.

The capital, apart from its large number of foreign visitors, is entirely Hungarian-speaking; in the past it never was. The remarkably diverse ethnic background of Budapest's population has been one of the city's greatest strengths.

Hungarians are often perceived as friendly and welcoming to expats, with a rich culture and history. However, some expats may find the language difficult to learn and the bureaucracy challenging to navigate. Overall, many expats enjoy living in Hungary and appreciate the country's unique charm and beauty.

## **It is considered rude to clink your beer glasses**

According to the legend, when the 1848 Hungarian revolution against the Habsburgs was defeated, 13 Hungarian generals were executed, with the Austrians clinking their beer glasses after each execution.

After this, Hungarians vowed to not cheer with the beer for 150 years. That time has passed, but it's still a custom.

## **Don't smile too much (Hungarians don't)**

Hungarians are not the smiliest people, and smiling at strangers or while out and about is much less prevalent in Hungarian culture than it is in, say, the United States.

Walking around with a big smile on your face at all times will probably make it clear to locals that you're *not* one of them. There's no harm in smiling – but you might just attract a tout trying to sell you a bus tour.

# Cost of living











## Cost of Living in Budapest

If you're thinking about becoming a Budapest digital nomad, then cost of living is a major consideration. Luckily, [Budapest is relatively cheap](#), especially compared to the quality of life you'll be getting.

According to the Expat Arrivals, the cost of living in Budapest is one [of the most affordable in Europe](#), and expats will find that they will be able to live a high quality life in the city. That said, salaries in Hungary are notoriously low, so expats used to higher wages will need to budget carefully and the most expensive thing on their monthly budget will likely be accommodation.

The average cost of living in Budapest for a single person is around 500-600 euros per month, including rent, utilities, transportation, food, and entertainment. However, this can vary depending on factors such as lifestyle and location. Here are some sources to help you estimate your own cost of living in Budapest:

- [Numbeo](#)
- [Expatistan](#)
- [Nomad List](#)

	Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	\$8.10
	Domestic Beer (1 pint draught)	\$2.03
	Cappuccino (regular)	\$1.81
	Loaf of Fresh White Bread (1 lb)	\$1.33
	Water (1.5 liter bottle)	\$0.39
	One-way Ticket (Local Transport)	\$0.89
	Basic Utilities (Monthly)	\$152.06
	Internet	\$13.11
	Fitness Club (Monthly)	\$43.58
	Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	\$487.54

## Cost of rent

When it comes to apartment rentals, it's not difficult to find a one-room apartment around 120k HUF (about \$380 USD) per month. This usually includes all utilities such as electricity, water and internet. If those aren't included, expect to pay around 15k HUF (about \$50 USD) a month for it.

## Cost of daily expenses and groceries

Another main cost to consider is food. Dining out in Budapest is somewhat expensive compared to other low-cost countries. A good meal at an average restaurant with a drink will cost you around 3000 to 4000 HUF, or about \$10-12.5 USD.

However, you can save a lot of money as a digital nomad in Budapest by cooking your own food. Groceries are very affordable compared to dining out. You can get an oven pizza at the supermarket for about 600 HUF, less than \$2 USD. A week of groceries will only set you behind around 7000 to 10,000 HUF, or \$22-32 USD.

The discrepancy between eating out and cooking your own food is enormous. If you want to lower your cost of living in Budapest, you must cook most of your meals.

## Cost of transportation

Getting around Budapest is also very economical. A single-ride ticket on its public transportation system costs 350 HUF (\$1 USD). Riders can save 500 HUF by buying them in bulks of 10, which isn't much but every little bit counts if you want to save money.

The ticket works on all modes of public transportation in Budapest such as the tram, trolley bus, bus, metro, and more.

Although public transportation is affordable in Budapest, you might not even need to take it because of how walkable (and bikeable) the city is. Most of its attractions are concentrated in the centre, which takes no more than 30 to 45 minutes to walk around. The city is also very bike-friendly and has bike lanes on most roads.

The cost of a monthly subscription for public transportation in Budapest is approximately 9,500 HUF (Hungarian Forint), which is approximately 28 USD or 24 EUR. However, prices may vary depending on the type of transportation and the age of the passenger.

## Cost of co-working spaces

The cost of co-working spaces in Budapest varies depending on the location, amenities, and services provided. However, on average, a hot desk in a shared workspace can cost between 60,000 to 120,000 HUF (170 to 330 EUR). Dedicated desks and private offices are typically more expensive.

## Cost of data and internet

The cost of data and internet in Budapest varies depending on the provider and plan. However, on average, mobile internet plans range from 2000 HUF (\$6.62 USD) to 8000 HUF (\$26.46 USD) per month, while fixed internet plans range from 5000 HUF (\$16.54 USD) to 15000 HUF (\$49.63 USD) per month. As for the cost of 1GB of data in Budapest, it typically ranges from 100 HUF (\$0.33 USD) to 1000 HUF (\$3.31 USD) depending on the provider and plan.

## Buying a SIM card

While Hungary is a relatively affordable travel destination in Europe, international roaming is not.

In fact, international roaming can be expensive.

That is why I always recommend [getting a local SIM card](#), like a Hungarian one, so that you can enjoy local rates. Fortunately, SIM cards in Hungary are quite cheap.

You can get a Hungarian SIM card for 490 HUF (1.45 USD) from Yettel (formerly Telenor), 990 HUF (2.90 USD) from Magyar Telekom & 1500 HUF (4.40 USD) from Vodafone in their stores and from resellers, like kiosks. Yettel also has a data-only SIM card for 990 HUF. SIM cards are not sold at Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport (BUD) anymore.

# Accommodation

Choosing which side of Budapest to live on is a matter of preference: bustling, urban, and exotic Pest, or stately, comfortable, and considerably quieter Buda. In general, accommodation in Budapest is easy for expats to find and is considerably cheaper than housing in high-profile expat destinations. While housing in Budapest is largely affordable, utilities will set expats back a fair bit, especially during the cold winter months.

## How to find an accommodation in Budapest

Unlike many European cities, where finding suitable accommodation can be both stressful and expensive, in Budapest, you'll likely find yourself the perfect set-up for your budget with relative ease.

There are numerous options to consider across the city, and a plethora of beautiful and affordable flats and apartments ever-available on Airbnb. If you prefer to live communally and are looking for more of a social scene, then there are plenty of hotels to choose from, too – none of which will come anywhere close to breaking the bank.

Once you've chosen your preferred district, check out some of the following to get you started with your search – it shouldn't take you long to secure your perfect place.

**Airbnb:** Cute and aesthetically pleasing rooms can be found here with a discount for longer stays.

**Hostelworld:** A one-stop shop for locating the best hostels in the city for very affordable prices, and featuring a range of private and communal dorm room options.

**Roommates Budapest:** Great for short-term shared accommodation and a social style of living

The *LiveMyHome* and *Budapest Rentals* Facebook groups can also be helpful when it comes to locating an available room at short notice.

## Cheap Places to Stay in Budapest

Because most landlords will want you to sign a contract for a minimum of six months, digital nomads planning to stay for a shorter amount of time should consider Airbnbs.

Even then, you can negotiate with your host for a longer stay at a better price, if you want.

### **Co-living spaces:**

- [Loft Coliving Budapest](#)

### **Hostels:**

- [Wombats The City Hostel Budapest](#)
- [Maverick City Lodge](#)
- [Vitae Hostel](#)

### **Long-term lets:**

- [Tower Budapest](#)
- [Apartments of Budapest](#)
- 

## Best neighborhoods to live in Budapest

- [Belváros-Lipótváros](#)
- [Erzsébetváros](#)
- [Újlipót](#)
- [Várkerület](#)

Budapest is a diverse city, comprising 23 districts each with their own unique landscape and vibe and a mixed residential makeup. Where you choose to live or base yourself during your time in the city comes very much down to personal taste and preference, but central areas are always a good choice for easy accessibility to co-working spaces, cafes and local amenities, as well as digital nomad and expat meet-ups, and other social events.

For somewhere in the thick of the action, be prepared to check out some of the districts in lively Pest. District five is located downtown, but is very touristy and can be quite noisy as a result.

Buda, meanwhile, offers a quieter and calmer living experience, and some spectacular cultural and historical sites.

You can expect to pay between 370 – 660 Euros for a private apartment, depending on your requirements. The former will get you a small studio in the city centre, while the latter will afford you a fully-equipped two bed if you're keen to share with a fellow traveller.

Here are some great places to start looking when you arrive in the city:

### **Belváros-Lipótváros**

Otherwise known as District V, Belváros-Lipótváros runs along the River Danube, from Margaret Bridge in the north down to Liberty Bridge in the south. Largely considered to be the downtown area of Budapest, it's home to many of the city's main attractions, such as St. Stephen's Basilica, the Hungarian parliament building and the Shoes on the Danube memorial.

If you enjoy living in the thick of the action, then this is the district for you. Markets, festivals and events can often be found taking place in Liberty Square, while Váci utca and Deák Ferenc – the fashion street of the city – is a great place to stock up on some of the latest Hungarian highstreet brands.

Well connected and easy to explore on foot, this neighbourhood is a great choice for digital nomads and expats in Budapest who are looking for a prime position from which to enjoy the local culture and engage in the city's social scene to the fullest. Due to its convenient location, it's a little pricier than many of the districts further from the centre, but you can still find some reasonably priced accommodation if you know where to look.

### **Erzsébetváros**

Budapest is known for having a great party scene – not least thanks to its edgy 'ruin bars' – and District VII is the perfect place to base yourself if good nightlife is your vibe. A sprawling neighbourhood and the most hip and bohemian in all of Budapest, this area was once part of the Jewish ghetto, which means you'll still find a smattering of kosher shops and a synagogue here, which are a nod to its former heritage. With a plethora of hipster cafes, vintage shops, food trucks and of course, those all-important

ruin bars scattered throughout, it's a fun and lively place to base yourself during your time in Budapest.

Although it's a busy area with tourists, this also means that it is well-connected via public transport, and easily walkable, too.

### **Újlipót**

A chilled and trendy area located just north of the city centre, Újlipótváros makes up the inner section of district 13 and is home to row upon row of pretty, modern homes which make for an attractive and interesting contrast to the 19th-century revival buildings that are present across most of the city.

A popular neighbourhood amongst young families, this neighbourhood features numerous cafes, art galleries and book shops, mainly centred around Pozsonyi Road. Szent István Park, with its pretty flower displays, is surrounded by some of the most beautiful houses in the area.

A quiet and civilised neighbourhood with a suburban feel, it's a great choice if you prefer to base yourself away from the main throng but without compromising on amenities.

### **Várkerület**

Also known as the Castle District, or District I, Várkerület is the hilly and historical part of Buda and includes Castle Hill, Tabán, Krisztinaváros and parts of Gellért Hill.

Once a neighbourhood reserved only for the noble, it became more inclusive after World War Two and these days, is one of the most popular areas of Budapest amongst tourists. It's easy to see why, as with its prime picturesque waterfront location, it is steeped in rich history and is often the location of choice for some of the city's main cultural events.

Should you decide to base yourself here while living in Budapest, then be prepared for a buzzing atmosphere during the day and elevated rental prices. Visitors tend to flock to the area to see notable sights such as the Buda Castle Palace and Fisherman's Bastion – but things calm down after dark, when they head elsewhere in the city to enjoy the evening.

Two tramlines pass through the district, as well as multiple bus lines. There is also a funicular which will take you up to Castle Hill if you can't quite face the walk.

## Best Airbnbs in Budapest

[Spacious Home in City Center with Danube Views](#), 4.96 stars on Airbnb

Spacious apartment in the city center with stunning third-floor Danube river views in walking distance of many famous sights, restaurants, bars and shopping possibilities.

[Supreme Location★Chic Boutique Apt★Marvelous View★](#), 4.93 stars on Airbnb

Peaceful getaway in a stylish home with fantastic views.

Beautiful, recently renovated 57 m2 apartment in the absolute center of Budapest. Close to amazing restaurants, bars, historic buildings, museums, shopping places. This location is guaranteed to make your stay unforgettable.

[FloMorTa Apartment - In The Center of Budapest](#), 5.0 on Airbnb

Completely renovated 3rd floor Apartment based on individual plans in the 7th district next to the Corinthia Hotel.

The Apartment has 3 bedroom and 2 bathroom. 45sqm living room with American kitchen and panoramic views of the Grand Boulevard. The kitchen is fully equipped: dishwasher, fridge, oven, hob, microwave...

Nespresso coffee machine with free capsules. All rooms and the living room are air conditioned. The Apartment is centrally located, most attractions within walking distance.


## [Best Hostels in Budapest](#)

### [Hostel One Basilica](#)

Stay and Dine at Hostel Basilica<sup>[SEP]</sup> Spend less on dining out and more on the things that matter most – like beer! Enjoy a free, home-cooked dinner every night at Hostel Basilica. This modern and stylish hostel was designed by travelers, for travelers, and is perfect for those who love to party. At night, the friendly staff turn into professional party people and are happy to suggest the best nightclubs and drinking games. If you like to keep the party going until the wee hours of the morning, Hostel Basilica is the perfect place for you.

### Hostel highlights:

- Free dinner every night
- Pub crawl every night
- Communal kitchen

 **Address:** Budapest, Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 3, 1065 Hungary

 **Neighbourhood:** District VI

 **Nearest station:** Bajcsy-Zsilinszky / Deák Ferenc Square

### [Big Fish Budapest Hostel](#)

Big Fish Budapest Hostel: Where Comfort Meets Community. From the moment you step inside, you'll feel right at home in this cozy hostel. Big Fish Budapest Hostel boasts stunning dorms and common rooms, complemented by a friendly and inviting atmosphere created by our amazing staff. Don't just take our word for it, hear from one of our satisfied customers: "I can't say enough about this perfect hostel in the perfect city. The staff is amazing and the atmosphere is extremely welcoming. If you're a solo traveler looking to meet new people, Big Fish is definitely the place for you."

### Hostel highlights

- Daytime activities
- Great artwork
- Video games and movies

 **Address:** Erzsebet krt. 33, 1st floor/door 1

 **Neighbourhood:** District VII

 **Nearest station:** Oktogon and Blaha Lujza tér


### [The Lazy Muggle](#)

Central Backpack King: The Perfect Hostel for Solo Travelers and Backpackers. If you're a backpacker or a solo traveler, Central Backpack King is the perfect place to stay and meet new people while exploring the city. This hostel is known for its lively social atmosphere and emphasis on experiences, harking back to the golden age of

backpacking. The hostel offers way more than just a bed – it also organizes daily pub crawls and other exciting activities throughout the week to encourage guests to explore the city together. Say goodbye to boring nights in and hello to unforgettable memories at Central Backpack King!

Hostel highlights:

- Homely atmosphere
- Pub crawl every night
- Board games and books

 **Address:** Budapest, Október 6. u. 15, 1051 Hungary

 **Neighbourhood:** District V

 **Nearest station:** Arany János utca

### [Hostel One Budapest](#)

A Revolutionary Approach to Hostel Services<sup>[1]</sup> Given the staggered schedules of guests at party hostels, one hostel chain has devised a clever solution: offering a complimentary family-style dinner instead of breakfast in all their European locations. The outcome? Hostel One Budapest now features a lively nightly dinner, complete with lively conversations, wild drinking games, and a pub crawl that heads straight to Budapest's top ruin bars and clubs. This ensures that all guests feel at home, forge new friendships, and remain close to the city's premier attractions.

Hostel highlights

- Free dinner every night
- Free pub crawl every night
- Own bar

 **Address:** Rumbach Sebestyén utca 6

 **Neighbourhood:** District VII

 **Nearest station:** Astoria and Deák Ferenc tér

Best Hotels in Budapest

## Best accommodations [According to The Guardian](#)


### **Aria**

If you're looking for a wow factor, albeit at a price, you'll find it at Aria, a new luxury boutique hotel. Elegance pervades the place, from the distinguished, musically themed rooms (with marble tables and chairs, multimedia entertainment systems, iPads, and free bottled water and chocolates), to the Harmony Spa and beautiful glass-covered Music Garden. On top of all this designer splendour, complimentary wine and nibbles are served each afternoon.

*Doubles from £200 B&B, Hercegprímás utca 5, +36 1 445 4055, [ariahotelbudapest.com](http://ariahotelbudapest.com)*

### **Brody House**

The erstwhile residence of the Hungarian prime minister, this handsome villa is something special, accommodating 11 idiosyncratic rooms, each one named after the artist whose work is featured within – and which, in some cases, used to be their studio – and features chunky wooden bedsteads, recycled furniture, roll-top baths and the like. The honesty bar is fab, and there is more fun to be had in the Brody Members' Club and bar, to which guests receive free access.

*Doubles from £50, Vörösmarty utca 38, +36 1 266 1211, [brodyhouse.com](http://brodyhouse.com) Gerlóczy *

### **Gerlóczy**

Away on a sunny little square, Gerlóczy has a vaguely Parisian ambience, its 19 rooms ranged over four colour-themed floors, namely red, blue, grey and yellow-green. Each room is beautifully fitted, with parquet flooring, big windows and lofty ceilings and – perhaps best of all – the mini-bar is free. The buzzing terrace cafe below is a favourite haunt of Budapesters.

*Doubles from £68 (breakfast £9), V Gerlóczy u 1, +36 1 501 400, [gerloczy.hu](http://gerloczy.hu)*

### **Home-Made Hostel**

Reassuringly warm and welcoming, Home-Made couldn't be further removed from your average hostel. The spacious dorms (no bunks) are furnished with second-hand bits and pieces garnered from Budapest homes, such as radios, typewriters and trunks, while two beautifully conceived double rooms – one with a loft space – offer a touch

more intimacy. In the evenings, guests congregate in (and have the run of) the sweet little kitchen, where staff members occasionally rustle up a free meal.

*Dorm beds from £8, double room from £23 (cash payments only), Teréz krt 22 1/7 (Oktogon), +36 1 302 213, [homemadehostel.com](http://homemadehostel.com)*

# Healthcare

Hungary's healthcare system is a mix of public and private providers, with the majority of the population relying on the public system. The quality of care is generally good, with well-trained healthcare professionals and modern facilities.

For expats from the European Union, healthcare is covered by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which allows access to the same care as Hungarian citizens. However, it's important to note that some services may require a co-payment.

For expats from non-EU countries, it's recommended to have private health insurance as access to public healthcare can be limited without it. Private healthcare is widely available and usually of a high standard, but can be expensive.

In Hungary, public healthcare is funded by compulsory health insurance contributions and taxes.

If you're interested in purchasing private health insurance in Hungary, there are a number of options available. Some of the most popular private health insurance providers include Generali, Allianz, and Groupama. These companies offer a range of policies with varying levels of coverage and prices. It's important to carefully evaluate your needs and budget before deciding which policy is right for you.

# Childcare and education

In Hungary, the system of early childhood education and care (ECEC) comprises two stages and is bi-sectoral (social care and education). The first stage is the provision of non-compulsory institutional care for children aged 0–3 years, either with full fees being charged or subsidised by the state (nursery; outside the scope of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)). The second stage is mandatory for all children – with the possibility of exemption - from the age of 3 years until school age, and it is free of charge (kindergarten; ISCED level 020). The institutional system of the two stages are overseen by two ministries: Nurseries are supervised by the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, whereas kindergartens, as part of the public education system, fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior.

## **Nursery care (care for children under the age of 3 years)**

Daycare for children under the age of 3 years must be provided within the framework of nursery care. All forms of formal care for children under the age of 3 years are considered nursery care. Since 1 January 2017, daycare for children has been provided in two forms:

centre-based provision (nurseries and mini-nurseries) and non-centre-based types of service provision (family nurseries and workplace nurseries).

The aim of [nursery education](#) is for young children to acquire the skills and abilities that will help them to behave effectively and in a balanced way in their own cultural environment, and to successfully adapt to changes. Nursery education achieves this through approaches and methods that respect the primacy of family care.

A further aim of nursery care is to carry out prevention activities for all young children and their families, in line with a broad interpretation of the approach to early childhood intervention. Institutions providing nursery care, as family-friendly institutions and services, contribute to improving the quality of life of families and increasing the employability of parents. Different types of settings offer nursery care.

### *Nurseries*

Nurseries are the most common providers of childcare for children under the age of 3 years. In the system of nursery care, 'nursery' refers to the traditional institution of

a nursery, which provides daycare in accordance with the [national core programme of nursery education and care](#).

In addition to basic care, nurseries can support families by providing special advisory services, temporary childcare, a residential service and other childcare services.

Nurseries may provide a **residential service**, providing up to 24 hours of continuous care for a child whose parents are temporarily unable to take care of them. The service can also be provided during weekends and holidays, but its duration may not exceed 10 days of care per child within a school year.

Another institutional service is the **playgroup**. In playgroups, children and parents can play together – with the help of the person providing nursery services.

#### *Mini-nurseries*

[Mini-nurseries](#) are institutions providing professional nursery care and education in smaller groups than in nurseries, and under simpler rules governing personnel, materials and operation. Local governments can now establish this type of institution if there is a need to care for a maximum of seven young children (or eight children, if all are over the age of 2 years) in a settlement.

#### *Workplace nurseries*

A workplace nursery is a daycare service maintained by an employer primarily for the children of persons engaged in occupational activities for the employer. A service-type nursery, which does not operate within an institutional framework, may operate primarily on the premises where the work is performed, at a property owned by the employer or at a property rented for this purpose by the employer. A workplace nursery group can care for a maximum of seven children.

#### **Kindergarten care**

A kindergarten is an institution that cares for a child from the age of 3 years until the beginning of compulsory school education.

Kindergartens gradually prepare the child for school education, especially in the final kindergarten year. **As specified by the [national core programme of kindergarten education](#), the aim of kindergarten education** is to promote the multifaceted, harmonious development of children, to promote the development of children's personalities and to mitigate disadvantages, considering the ages, individual

characteristics and different developmental stages of children (including children with special educational needs).

Participation in kindergarten care is obligatory for children aged 3 years for at least 4 hours per weekday. According to the [Public Education Act](#) (§8(2)), children must attend kindergarten from 1 September of the year in which they reach the age of 3 years until 31 August of the following year. At the request of the child's parent, the body designated by Government Decree may exempt the child from compulsory participation until the age of 4 years, or, in cases of special consideration, upon a further request until 31 August of the year in which the child reaches the age of 5 years, if the family circumstances or the special situation of the child justify it.

# The public transport system

According to [National Geographic's list](#), Budapest's number 2 tram line surpasses its famous counterparts in Lisbon, Berlin and Amsterdam and deserves the title of "best public transport route" in Europe.

## **Budapest's #2 Tram, Hungary**

Trams are still very much part of everyday life in Budapest, which has a total of 96 miles (155 kilometers) of tram routes. On the Pest side of the city, the #2 tram follows the curve of the Danube River. This is the best way to see the Parliament building up close and the panorama of Buda Castle across the river. Sit on the side nearest the river for the best views.

Transportation has been the key to Budapest's rapid expansion. A famous crossing point on the Danube where highways have always converged, it has become the hub of the country's trunk roads and main railway lines, all of which radiate from the capital. It has also developed Hungary's largest bus terminal as well as its largest commercial airport, Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport. Csepel Free Port, downstream from the city centre on Csepel Island, handles international freight cargo on the Danube and is equipped to handle container traffic.

Budapest offers a variety of transportation options including buses, trams, metro lines, trolleybuses, and taxis. The metro lines are the fastest way to get around the city, while the buses and trams offer a more scenic route. The public transportation system is affordable and efficient, with tickets available for purchase at metro stations and kiosks throughout the city. Taxis are also readily available but can be more expensive. Additionally, biking and walking are great options for exploring the city's sights and attractions.

**Fact: Budapest has the second-oldest subway system in Europe and the third-oldest in the world.** Only the Tube in London and the underground of Chicago are older than the Budapest subway system. It has been operating since 1896, making it the oldest in continental Europe. In 2002, *UNESCO* added the M1 Line of the subway to its World Heritage Sites because of the innovative elements of the railway.

## Connection with the airport

There are several options available for traveling from Budapest airport to the city center. The most convenient and fastest option is the taxi, which takes around 25-30 minutes and costs approximately 26-30 euros. Other options include the airport shuttle bus, which costs around 9 euros and takes 35-40 minutes, or the public transportation system (bus and metro), which costs around 2 euros and takes approximately 50-60 minutes. There are also private transfer services available, with prices ranging from 25-50 euros depending on the type of vehicle and number of passengers.

# Co-working spaces

Budapest has a thriving co-working spaces scene (check out [Surfoffice](#)) with a variety of options for freelancers, entrepreneurs, and remote workers. Some popular co-working spaces in the city include KAPTÁR, Impact Hub Budapest, and Loffice. These spaces offer a range of amenities such as high-speed internet, meeting rooms, and community events. Additionally, many co-working spaces in Budapest are located in vibrant neighborhoods with easy access to public transportation and local amenities.

- Loffice

*Rating 9.8/10 | [Budapest, Salétrom u. 4, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

+ Loffice is a well-organized co-working space, perfectly situated in close proximity to public transport and plenty of excellent coffee shops and restaurants.

+ The staff here are friendly, helpful and truly professional in their dedication to making sure member's needs are met.

+ The facility is nicely furnished and clean thanks to regular tidying and disinfection.

+ Additional amenities include access to a fixed desk, 24/7 facility access and use of a variety of community spaces and support services.

- Muse Coworking

*Rating 9.6/10 | [Budapest, Szent István krt. 15, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

+ Muse Co-Working provides remote workers with an inspiring environment that is ideal for networking and creative work.

+ The community is predominantly creative freelancers, making it a great resource to bounce ideas, connect and seek advice from fellow creatives.

+ The owner is friendly, reliable and always willing to help with any support requests.

+ Additional benefits include access to a meeting room and event venue and an awesome balcony view that is ideal for those midday work breaks.

- KAPTAR Coworking

*Rating 9.4/10 | [Budapest, Révay köz 4, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

- + KAPTÁR coworking offers remote workers with a comfortable and spacious workspace with a pleasant ambience for both focussed and collaborative work.
- + The staff are super friendly and accommodating and the internet is fast and reliable.
- + The space hosts a number of events that are excellent for networking and learning amongst a community of young, passionate freelancers and entrepreneurs.
- + The prices are quite reasonable and in return remote workers have access to a wide range of top quality equipment and coffee to stay fueled throughout the workday.
- Parking is not always available so keep this in mind if you're commuting by car.
  - Impact Hub Budapest

*Rating 9.3/10 | [Budapest, Ferenciek tere 2, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

- + Impact Hub Budapest is situated in an excellent area of Budapest, easily accessible through a wide range of transport making it a great place for both working and hosting events.
- + The pricing plans are highly flexible which allows workers to customize their membership to meet their own unique needs.
- + Additional amenities include unlimited coffee and tea, 24/7 facility access, comfortable furniture, and use of a communal kitchen area.
- + The space itself has a great atmosphere for working and socializing and the staff do an excellent job of making sure that everyone is well-accommodated.
- The space can be tricky to locate within the building so make sure to leave clear instructions for guests when planning an event here.
  - HUB 55

*Rating 8.2/10 | [Budapest, Üllői út 55, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

- + HUB55 is an excellent coworking choice if you're looking to guarantee a productive workday.
- + The facility is spacious and well-designed with plenty of natural light that makes for a pleasant work experience.

+ The facility is pet-friendly and offers 24/7 access including weekends, providing flexibility to remote workers looking to set hours outside of the traditional nine to five.

+ There is plenty of free coffee, tea, fruit and snacks available and an excellent bar on site for those looking to indulge in an afterwork cocktail. Members even get a 20% discount on food and drinks from the café and bar!

- Collabor8
- Urban Lobby

*Rating 8.0/10 | [Budapest, Paulay Ede u. 3, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

+ Urban Lobby is located in the heart of Budapest and is centrally situated near a ton of local attractions, food vendors and sightseeing areas.

+ The space's interior is well-designed and equipped with a range of amenities including a good selection of coffee and tea, showers and fast and reliable wi-fi.

+ The prices are reasonable, especially given the space's prime location.

+ The staff are super friendly and always willing to help with any requests from help with equipment to storing luggage for those workers passing through the city.

- Kubik

*Rating 8.3/10 | [Budapest, Jászai Mari tér 5-6, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

+ Kubik Coworking Budapest is an ideal coworking space for smaller entrepreneurs looking to work away from home without renting an entire office.

+ The atmosphere is cheerful and cozy and the space hosts a variety of regular workshops, professional events and social gatherings that offer an excellent opportunity for networking.

+ The location is central and easily-accessed through a range of public transport and the prices are competitive to other co-working spaces that offer similar services.

+ Additional benefits include 24/7 facility access, lockers for storing laptops, books and other equipment and the support of a friendly, helpful staff team who are there to answer any questions.

– Some of the events are not offered in English making it more challenging for expats to take advantage of these networking opportunities.

- FROffice Coworking

*Rating 9.0/10 | [Budapest, Lehel u. 14, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

+ FROffice Coworking is located in a safe and accessible area of Budapest and is home to a quiet, spacious and welcoming work environment.

+ The facility is well connected by public transport and is dog-friendly for remote workers that are looking to bring their pets along on their workday.

+ Membership is reasonably priced and the staff are professional and very welcoming which makes booking super easy.

+ Additional amenities include secure, fast wi-fi, a range of flexible workspaces to meet different needs and access to a well-equipped communal kitchen.

- Ecooffice

*Rating 8.8/10 | [Budapest, Izabella u. 68/b, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

+ Ecooffice is a comfortable and friendly coworking space with a great management team and some of the best prices in Budapest.

+ Work options range from part-day passes to 24/7 facility access.

+ There is plenty of coffee and tea available throughout the workday including access to an excellent, self-serve espresso machine.

+ The facility itself is clean, quiet and pleasant to work in, equipped with modern furniture, a variety of meeting rooms ideal for calls and in-person chats and a stable, fast internet connection.

– The space is not huge so it can feel a little crowded during peak hours.

- Baobab Coworking Oasis

*Rating 8.6/10 | [Budapest, Kemenes u. 14, Hungary](#) | [Website](#)*

+ A peaceful coworking space that's perfect if you need to concentrate on your work.

+ The office space is very pleasant, a relaxing oasis amidst the bustling city centre.

+ During the summer, members like to work outside under the shade of the large leafy trees.

- + Amenities include meeting rooms, a bar area, a community kitchen, showers and more.
- + The coworkers are very respectful of one another and remain quiet and focused.
- + Members are allowed to bring their dogs to the office.

# Food in Budapest

Budapest's food scene is a delicious mix of traditional Hungarian dishes and international cuisine. The Eastern European country's cuisine primarily consists of meat dishes. *Gulyás*, a thick beef soup cooked with onions and potatoes, is popular throughout the country, as is *halászlé*, a rich fish soup. Some of the main traditional dishes you should try include goulash, stuffed cabbage, and chimney cake. Local favorites also include langos, a deep-fried dough topped with cheese and sour cream, and Hungarian sausages like kolbász and hurka. There are also plenty of trendy restaurants and street food vendors offering innovative and tasty dishes. Whether you're looking for a hearty meal or a quick snack, Budapest has something for everyone.



Chimney cake

## **Hungary is home to the world's first official wine region**

France, Spain, and Italy might be more famous for their wines in general, but in Tokaj, there is something special. Tokaji Aszu is also known as the King of wines. Here you can visit the world's first official wine region.

Louis XIV of France said the following about Tokaji Aszu- "Wine of Kings, the King of Wine"

## **Love homemade food? Visit an *étkezde*.**

Budapest is teeming with dining and drinking options. But if you want to dip yourself into the unknown and feel the truly local side of the city, you should go to an *étkezde*. These lunch-only restaurants sport fewer than a dozen tables that serve grandma's recipes at wallet-friendly prices. Expect a simple décor, a limited number of dishes on the menu, and sharing your table with a stranger.

### **Great Market Hall**

Built in 1897, the splendid, wrought-iron Great Market Hall (Nagycsarnok) is the place to go for foodie treats. Aside from the usual fruit and veg stalls, there are counters piled high with meats, cheeses and baked goodies, as well as more exotic fare like foie gras, truffles and tokaj wine, though it is a little more expensive than elsewhere. Locals tend to head upstairs for a no-frills, canteen-style lunch at [Fakanál](#), or just make for one of the many stalls selling *lángos*, a delicious, doughy, deep-fried flatbread topped with sour cream and cheese.

*Vámház krt 1-3, open 6am-6pm (3pm Saturday), closed Sunday*



## Nice restaurants in Budapest

### **Borkonyha**

Budapest has four Michelin-starred restaurants, and this one is the most convivial and reasonably priced. Diners can sample dishes such as red tuna with strawberry sour (£8.60) and mangalica pork belly with buttered vegetables (£7.20), washed down with a glass of crisp, dry furmint white, one of more than 200 (mostly Hungarian) bottles to choose from here.

*Sas utca 3, +36 1 266 0835, [borkonyha.hu](http://borkonyha.hu)*

### **Borbiróság**

Just a stone's throw from Great Market Hall – from where it sources many of its ingredients – the refreshingly low-key “Wine Court” is one of the more satisfying places to sample modern, affordable Hungarian cuisine. A good choice is the veal with foie gras served with pepper sauce and dumplings (£10.50) and a salty caramel and

pear crumble (£2.80) accompanied by a glass of delicious dessert wine tokaj aszú to round off the evening .

*Csarnok tér 5, +36 1 219 0902, [borbirosaq.com](http://borbirosaq.com)*

## **Menza**

Few restaurants on touristy Liszt tér warrant serious consideration, but Menza bucks the trend. Designed to recreate the atmosphere of the socialist-era canteens of the 1960s and 70s, the cool retro fixtures and fittings are a delight. The food is anything but canteen-like, with dishes such as catfish stew with Hungarian cottage cheese gnocchi (£7.40), and a duck burger with gorgonzola cheese and blackberry mayonnaise (£6.90), maintaining a happy stream of punters.

*Liszt Ferenc tér 2, +36 1 413 1482, [menzaetterem.hu](http://menzaetterem.hu)*

## Best Coffee shops in Budapest

Budapest, the capital city of Hungary, is known for its rich history, stunning architecture and vibrant culture. Among the city's many attractions are its cozy and welcoming coffee shops, which offer a unique experience for locals and tourists alike. With a variety of styles, from traditional Hungarian cafes to modern and trendy spots, Budapest's coffee shops are the perfect place to relax, catch up with friends or simply enjoy a good cup of coffee.

### **Tamp & Pull**

Coffee – increasingly of the artisanal variety – is now big business in Budapest, and few places do it quite like [Tamp & Pull](http://tamppull.hu), one of the new breed of espresso bars. It's a tiny space but run through with charm, and the coffee is exquisite, lovingly crafted by champion baristas using beans from around the globe, details of which are displayed across the walls. It would also be remiss not to try one of their delectable pastries.

*Czuczor utca 3, [tamppull.hu](http://tamppull.hu)*

## Best places for coffee and work in Budapest

- **Konyha**

Located centrally in District VII, Konyha – meaning ‘kitchen’ – is perhaps unsurprisingly popular because of its high-quality food. The dishes change often, but the daily menu of three courses is a fantastic bargain and provides welcome sustenance for those needing to crank out some work.

- **Madal Café**

With a number of locations throughout the city, Madal has made a name for itself as the place to go to get great coffee when working. The original outfit at Hollán Ernő street near Margaret Bridge is particularly worth the visit, thanks to its quiet, brightly lit downstairs where it’s even possible to watch baristas-in-training take their classes.

- **Massolit Books & Café**

There’s something calming about being surrounded by shelves of books, which is what makes this bookshop-meets-cafe such a fantastic place to work for a few hours. There’s a selection of pastries for a breakfast or mid-afternoon snack and, in the summer, a handful of tables outside – just don’t expect the Wi-Fi to reach that far.

- **Csendes Etterem**

Meaning ‘quiet’ in English, Csendes is anything but in the evenings when it turns into a rather bustling bar. During the day, however, it lives up to its name, with a wide selection of food on offer for those planning on settling in for the long haul.

- **Kelet Café**

The majority of the remote working places in Budapest sit on the Pest side, the central location being a more popular place to live for the young workers that typify digital nomads. For those on the Buda side, however, Kelet is the right choice. There’s a good selection of coffees beyond the typical flat whites, with its Asian-inspired food and bookshelf-lined walls creating an identity to the cafe that few offer.

## Best Wi-Fi Cafes in Budapest

There are plenty of well-connected Wi-Fi cafes in Budapest that will make for the perfect base, each offering up great coffee, good food and the chance to get chatting to locals and other nomads alike.

- Fabrik: A trendy and compact and cafe offering a free workshop room and serving up some of the best pastries, juices and coffees in the city.
- Flow Speciality Coffee Bar & Bistro: If good coffee is a must for you, then so is this spot. The hot drinks are to die for, and there is a varied vegan menu of mouth-watering dishes to choose from to keep you fuelled up throughout the day.

## **Libraries**

In search of somewhere a little quieter where you can work for free? Budapest just so happens to be home to some of the world's most beautiful libraries. Check out the National Library of Foreign Literature or the National Széchenyi Library, where you can work in elaborate, high-ceilinged rooms in a tranquil and peaceful environment.

# Nightlife

## Ruin bars



Occupying formerly dilapidated buildings and courtyards, these paragons of cool are now a firmly established fixture on the Pest party scene. Big-hitters such as [Instant](#) (Nagymezo utca 38), comprising more than 20 themed rooms, and [Szimlakert](#)

**When in Budapest, visit [Szimpla Kert](#).** It's the city's Number 1 ruin bar and one of the best bars in the world. You'll be greeted with an eclectic mixture of live music, underground spirit, and peculiarly-designed rooms.

Located at Kazinczy utca 14, this ruin bar has an assortment of agreeably ramshackle, heavily graffitied spaces, draw huge crowds for their broad mix of music, dance and film.

“The ruins left over from the communist era have now turned into ruin bars, which are some of the city's most famous attractions. The sense of dread and pessimism that used to persist in the city has now been replaced by a wave of energy.”

[Sean Lau](#)

## Café Bobek

(Kazinczy utca 53), which was named after a communist rabbit no less, and whose relatively genteel decor and tree-filled garden is geared towards more contemplative drinking.

## **Doblo**

Hungarian wine may not be as famous as some, but it has fantastic pedigree. Among the rash of wine bars that have sprung up throughout the city, the brick-vaulted Doblo, in the atmospheric Jewish quarter, is the most relaxing. It has more than 200 varieties from Hungary's 22 wine-growing regions, many available by the glass, perhaps paired with a ham and cheese platter. For oenophiles, there are dedicated tasting sessions (£22).

*Dob utca 20, +36 20 398 8863, [budapestwine.com](http://budapestwine.com)*

## **Centrál Kávéház**

Around the time of the first world war, writers and intellectuals would gather to while away the hours in this magnificent coffee house. Its grandeur impressively intact, Centrál remains the city's most appealing cafe, doing great espresso with a slice of *rétes* (strudel) or *dobos torta* (layered sponge cake). It's also not nearly as expensive as the more touristy places close by.

*Károlyi Mihály utca 9, [centralkavehaz.hu](http://centralkavehaz.hu)*

# Visa requirements

Non-EU citizens planning to visit Hungary must obtain a visa before arrival. The visa types include short-term visas, long-term visas, and residence permits. EU citizens, on the other hand, do not require a visa to enter Hungary.

For non-EU citizens, a short-term visa allows for a stay of up to 90 days within a 180-day period, while a long-term visa allows for a stay of over 90 days. A residence permit is required for those planning to stay in Hungary for an extended period.

The Digital nomad visa

## [Hungary Digital Nomad Visa: What You Need To Know](#)

For those who want to work remotely as digital nomads, Hungary offers a top-ranked fast internet connection. Known for its famous thermal spas, wine, and traditional goulash dish, Hungary has a lot to offer to its visitors.

### **Does Hungary Have a Digital Nomad Visa?**

Hungary has a digital nomad visa, also known as the White Card. The Hungary digital nomad visa allows you to work remotely in Hungary for any foreign employer registered outside Hungary.

### **Hungary Digital Nomad Visa Eligibility Criteria**

To qualify for a Hungary digital nomad visa, you must fulfill the requirements below:

- You are not a citizen of an EU or EEA country.
- You work for an employer registered outside Malta.
- You will work by using telecommunications technology.
- You are a partner/shareholder in a company that is registered in a foreign country.
- You have a minimum of €2,000 monthly income.

### **Required documents for the Hungary Digital Nomad Visa**

You need to prepare the following documents to apply for a Hungary digital nomad visa.

- **Valid passport.** Your passport must be valid for at least six months after your visa expires.
- **A visa application form.**
- **Two [passport-sized photos following Schengen guidelines](#).**
- **Proof that you will work remotely.** You must prove that you will work remotely as a digital nomad for a company registered outside Hungary.
- **Proof of sufficient financial means.** You must meet the minimum income requirement by proving that you have at least a €2,000 monthly salary.
- **Proof of health insurance.** You must get health insurance that is valid for your entire stay in Hungary and covers your medical costs during that time.
- **Proof of accommodation.** [You must prove that you have a place to stay while working in Hungary](#). You can show a rental agreement or a booking.

### **How Much Does the Hungary Digital Nomad Visa Cost?**

The fees for the Hungary digital nomad visa are as below.

- The fee for the White Card application in your home country is around €110.
- The fee for the White Card application in Hungary is around €123.
- The fee for the White Card application through NDGAP's online portal is €76.
- The fee for extending your visa at NDGAP is €110.
- The fee for extending your visa at NDGAP's online portal is €73.

### **Validity of the Hungary Digital Nomad Visa**

The Hungarian digital nomad visa is valid for one year. However, you can extend it for another year if you are still eligible to apply.

### **Can I Bring My Family Members?**

Unlike other digital nomad visas, the Hungarian digital nomad visa does not allow you to bring your family members to Hungary.

# The startup ecosystem

Source: Startup Blink ecosystem report 2022

## As Budapest continues declining, Hungary lost its position in the top 50.




After decreasing in the Index for the 2nd year in a row, Hungary has dropped out of the top 50 startup ecosystems globally after regressing 2 spots to 51st. Hungary is ranked 13th in Eastern Europe.

All Hungarian startup cities have decreased in the rankings, signaling the deceleration of the development of local ecosystems.

The highest ranking city in Hungary, Budapest, is out of the global top 150 after falling 33 spots to 167th, continuing its negative trend from last year and falling far from its position at 87th just two years ago. However, it still ranks 10th in Eastern Europe. Budapest's strong industries are Edtech, Transportation, Fintech, and Foodtech, all ranked in the Top 100.

There is still a significant gap between the capital city of Budapest and other Hungarian cities, indicating a centralized startup economy; while Budapest ranked in the top 200, all others ranked under 600th.

While the majority of startups are centered in Budapest, smaller-scale startup scenes have emerged in other parts of the country, such as Debrecen and Szeged. Ranked 2nd in Hungary, Debrecen dropped 137 spots to 616th globally.

	National Rank and Change	City	Global Rank and Change	Total Score	Overperforming Industry	
1	-	Budapest	167 <sup>-33</sup>	<b>4.809</b>	Edtech	
2	-	Debrecen	616 <sup>-137</sup>	<b>0.478</b>		
3	-	Szeged	763 <sup>-108</sup>	<b>0.307</b>		
4	-	Pecs	921 <sup>-140</sup>	<b>0.191</b>		
5	-	Székesfehérvár	981 <sup>-22</sup>	<b>0.166</b>		

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## Startup Ecosystem Overview

Hungary has many mature tech companies, such as well-known scale-ups Prezi, Ustream, and LogMeIn. However, in recent years, the ecosystem has not been able to keep up with its previous progress toward creating a critical mass of high quality global startups. This is mainly the result of a challenging political climate and a lack of local IT talent caused by brain drain.

This will hopefully change soon, as we have seen an increase of international VC investments, as well as multiple exits including Tresorit, Makery, and Starschema. Talent-hubs and startup networks are also having an increasing impact.

Hungary's startup ecosystem has a number of advantages, including a low cost of business related overhead, a low cost of living, and easy access to the European market. Furthermore, Budapest is a popular digital nomad hub in Europe, with innovative coworking spaces and strong startup networks that attract skilled foreign entrepreneurs. However,

more should be done to incentivize the integration of foreign entrepreneurs into the Budapest ecosystem, including local startup registration.

There are different organizations in both the private and public sectors that actively support the growth of the Hungarian startup ecosystems, including government-backed agency [Design Terminal](#), the [INPUT program](#), the [National Research Development and Innovation Office NKFIH](#), [Startup Safari](#), and the [ICT Association](#).

Government implemented support initiatives include [Hiventures](#), a government-backed VC firm which became an important player in the local VC scene. There are also several government-backed incubators and [JEREMIE](#) (Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises) funds.

Source: Startup Blink

# Sum it up: pros and cons of living in Budapest

## Pros of Living in Budapest:

- Affordable cost of living compared to other European cities
- Rich cultural heritage and vibrant nightlife
- Central location in Europe, making travel to other destinations easy
- Beautiful architecture and scenic views along the Danube River
- A growing tech industry with job opportunities for young professionals

## Cons of Living in Budapest:

- Crowded public transportation during peak hours
- Air pollution can be a problem in certain areas of the city
- Language barrier for non-Hungarian speakers
- High levels of bureaucracy in government and business transactions
- Limited job opportunities outside of the tech industry