

PRACTICAL ISSUES

The weather of Budapest

Like most Central and Western European cities, the weather of Budapest in winter (December to February) is accompanied with heavy snow and very cold temperatures. The city is blanketed with snow across several weeks each year. Summer months (June to August) can bring about mild to high temperatures of around 27°C (80°F); however, it is not all that uncommon for summer days to edge over 30°C (86°F). Budapest, the capital of Hungary, experiences a temperate and transitional climate.

Summer

During summer, from April until August, Budapest remains hot. The average maximums climb to 20 °C (68°F) while the low stands at mid-teens. July with more than 27 °C and 276 hours of sunshine is considered as the hottest and sunniest month of the year. June, on the other hand, is the wettest month when Budapest receives more than 70mm of precipitation. Although temperature seems somewhat unpleasant, it is one of the best seasons to visit Budapest.

Insurance

The Organizers of the Summer Academy do not provide insurance and do not take responsibility for any loss, accident or illness that might occur during the Summer Academy or in the course of travel to or from the meeting site. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the participants to check their coverage with their insurance provider.

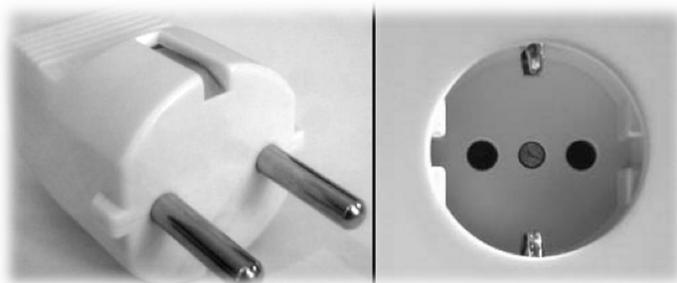
Bank, Currency, Credit Cards

The unit of currency is the Hungarian Forint (HUF), denoted as "Ft" by the Hungarians. International credit cards (EC/MC, Visa) are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops. AMEX is rarely accepted by retailers. ATMs are available at the Airport and all over the city. (1 EUR is equivalent to approx. 310 HUF). Banking hours are usually from 9:00 until 17:00 from Monday to Thursday, on Fridays banks tend to close earlier, usually 15:00 or 16:00.



Voltage

The electricity supply in Hungary is 230 V AC (50 Hz). Type F plug is used in Hungary.



Security

Budapest is one of the safest capitals for tourists. However, in some areas (especially close to railway stations) you should pay attention to your values.



Tap water quality

The drinking water quality in Hungary is excellent and safe to drink.

First aid, emergency and insurance

As with other EU member states, all emergency services can be reached by dialling 112. Hungary also maintains its internal numbers:

- Police (Rendőrség) - 107
- Ambulance (Mentők) - 104 (In Budapest, dial +36-1-311-1666 for English speaking service)
- Fire service (Tűzoltóság) - 105

To obtain the international operator (for placing collect calls etc.), dial 199. The Hungarian operator is available on 197.

Public transport

Public transportation in Budapest is provided by the Centre for Budapest Transport (BKK), one of the largest transportation authorities in Europe. BKK operates 4 metro lines – including the historic Line 1, the oldest underground railway in continental Europe –, 5 suburban railway lines, 33 tram lines, 15 trolleybus lines, 264 bus lines (including 40 night routes), 4 boat services and BuBi, a smart bicycle sharing network. On an average weekday, BKK lines transports 3.9 million riders.



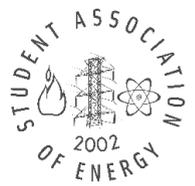
Taxi

Taxis in Budapest are marked with the word "Taxi", often accompanied by a company name/logo such as "City Taxi". All taxi vehicles must be painted to yellow. All taximeters are equipped with a receipt-printing function, displaying the fares charged and the identification of the driver.

Prices

The fare is composed of 3 parts:

- Basic fee (450 HUF)
- Per kilometre charge (280 HUF/km)
- Waiting fee (70 HUF/min.)



It is customary to tip the driver about 10% of the full fare if you were satisfied with the service.

Make sure that you travel only by a yellow taxi that has a taxi sign fixed to the roof of the cab, and on the side door of which you can see the name or logo of a reliable Budapest taxi company as well as the prices.

Avoid unmarked cars with only a taxi sign on the roof! Look inside for the table of fares posted usually on the dashboard.

City Taxi is a reliable company with English speaking operators: +36/1/2 111-111