



Hungary

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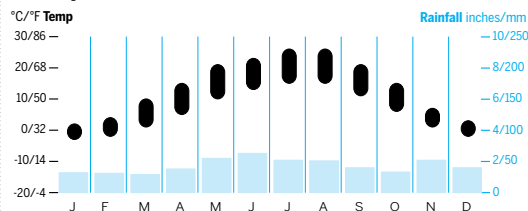
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Why Go?

Hungary is just the place to kick off the 'Eastern' part of your European adventure. A short hop from Vienna, this land of Franz Liszt and Béla Bartók, paprika-lashed dishes and the romantic Danube River continues to enchant visitors. The allure of Budapest, once an imperial city, is obvious at first sight and it also boasts the hottest nightlife in the region. Other cities, too, such as Pécs, the warm heart of the south, and Eger, the wine capital of the north, have much to offer travellers, as does the sprawling countryside, particularly the Great Plain, where cowboys ride and cattle roam. In Hungary you'll find all the excitement, glamour and fun of western Europe – at half the cost.

When to Go

Budapest



Best Places to Eat

- » Múzeum (p562)
- » Margareta (p567)
- » Áfium (p570)
- » Boci Tejvó (p571)

Best Places to Stay

- » KM Saga Guest Residence (p561)
- » Hotel Yacht Club (p568)
- » Nap Hostel (p569)
- » Wieden Panzió (p567)

May Spring is in full swing, which means reliable weather and cool temperatures.

Jul & Aug Sunny but very hot, so decamp to the hills or Lake Balaton.

Sep & Oct Sunshine, mild temperatures and grape-harvest festivals.

Connections

Hungary's landlocked status ensures plenty of possibilities for onward travel overland. There are direct train connections from Budapest to major cities in all of Hungary's neighbours. International buses head in all directions and in the warmer months you can take a ferry along the Danube to reach Bratislava in Slovakia or Vienna in Austria.

ITINERARIES

One Week

Spend three days in Budapest, checking out the sights, baths, cafes and *romkertek* (outdoor clubs). On your fourth day take a day trip to a Danube Bend town: see the open-air museum in Szentendre or the cathedral at Esztergom. Day five can be spent getting a morning train to Pécs to see the lovely Turkish remains and many museums. On day six try some local wine in Eger, a baroque town set in wine country.

Two Weeks

In summer make sure you spend time at Lake Balaton. Keszthely is an old town with a great palace as well as a beach and Hévíz has a thermal lake. Try to see something of the Great Plain too: Szeged is a splendid university town and Kecskemét a centre of art nouveau. Finish your trip in Tokaj, home to Hungary's favourite wine.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Gulyás** (goulash) Hungary's signature dish, though here it's more like a soup than a stew and made with beef, onions and tomatoes.
- » **Pörkölt** Paprika-infused stew; closer to what we would call goulash.
- » **Halászlé** Highly recommended fish soup made from poached freshwater fish, tomatoes, green peppers and paprika.
- » **Savanyúság** Literally 'sourness'; anything from mildly sour-sweet cucumbers to almost acidic sauerkraut, eaten with a main course.
- » **Wine** Two Hungarian wines are known internationally: the sweet dessert wine Tokaji Aszú and Egri Bikavér (Eger Bull's Blood), a full-bodied red.
- » **Pálinka** A strong brandy distilled from all kinds of fruit but especially plums and apricots.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Forint (Ft)
- » **Language** Hungarian
- » **Money** ATMs abound
- » **Visas** None for citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 93,030 sq km
- » **Capital** Budapest
- » **Country code** 36
- » **Emergency** 112

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	248Ft
Canada	C\$1	234Ft
Euro Zone	€1	303Ft
Japan	¥100	252Ft
New Zealand	NZ\$1	199Ft
UK	UK£1	359Ft
USA	US\$1	238Ft

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 9000Ft (15,000Ft in Budapest)
- » **Two-course meal** 3500Ft (4500Ft in Budapest)
- » **Museum entrance** 900Ft
- » **Beer** 500Ft
- » **City transport ticket** 320Ft

Resources

- » **Hungarian National Tourist Office** (www.gotohungary.com)
- » **Budapest Sun** (www.budapestsun.com)
- » **Hungary Museums** (www.museum.hu)