WELCOME TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Budapest is the not only the capital and most populous city of Hungary, but it is one of the largest cities in the European Union. Budapest is cited as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Known as "Paris of the East" and "The Pearl of the Danube," Budapest offers a wonderful blend of European and Asian cultures that is reflected in everything from music to food to architecture. Budapest is an Alpha-global city with strengths in arts, commerce, design, education, entertainment, fashion, finance, healthcare, media, services, research, and tourism.

Contents

- Climate and Geography ......................................................... 02
- Cost of Living and Transportation ........................................... 03
- Visa, Passport, Language, and Currency Information .................. 04
- Lifestyle, Sports, and Attractions ............................................. 05
- Culture, Shopping, and Dining ................................................ 06
- Schools and Education .......................................................... 07
CLIMATE

Budapest has a humid continental climate that closely borders a cold semi-arid climate, with relatively cold winters and warm summers. Winter (November until early March) can be cold and the city receives little sunshine. Snowfall is fairly frequent in most years, and nighttime temperatures of 14°F (−10°C) are not uncommon between mid-December and mid-February. The spring months (March and April) see variable conditions, with a rapid increase in the average temperature. The weather in late March and April is often very agreeable during the day and fresh at night. Budapest’s long summer – lasting from May until mid-September – is warm or very warm. Budapest has as much summer sunshine as many Mediterranean resorts.

GEOGRAPHY

Budapest, strategically placed at the center of the Carpathian Basin, lies on an ancient route linking the hills of Transdanubia with the Great Plain. Budapest lies in Central Hungary, surrounded by settlements of the agglomeration in Pest county. The Danube enters the city from the north and separates the two parts of the city. Pest lies on the flat terrain of the Great Plain while Buda is rather hilly.
COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Budapest is significantly less than many other major European cities, including Moscow, London, Paris, Munich, and Vienna in neighboring Austria. In many cases prices, including real estate, are forty to sixty percent less in Budapest than in other major cities in Europe. Budapest has been ranked as the most livable Central and Eastern European city on EIU’s quality of life index, ranked as "the world's second best city" by Condé Nast Traveler, and "Europe's 7th most idyllic place to live" by Forbes.

Key Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Approx. USD*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Home Price</td>
<td>11,300,000 HUF</td>
<td>$65,386 USD*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Monthly Rent (3 BDRs)</td>
<td>255,200 HUF</td>
<td>$866 USD*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on exchange rate at the time of publishing

TRANSPORTATION

Airport
Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport (BUD)

Public Transportation
Public transit in Budapest is provided by the Centre for Budapest Transport (BKK). BKK operates 4 metro lines, 5 suburban railway lines, 33 tram lines, 15 trolleybus lines, 264 bus lines, 4 boat services, and BuBi, a smart bicycle sharing network.

Other
Special vehicles in Budapest, besides metros, include suburban rails, trams and boats. There are a couple of less common vehicles in Budapest, like the trolleybus on several lines in Pest, the Castle Hill Funicular between the Chain Bridge and Buda Castle, the cyclecar for rent in Margaret Island, the chairlift, the Budapest Cog-wheel Railway, and children’s railway.
**VISA AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Permitted Activities**
Business visitors must generally limit their activities to meetings, negotiations, seminars, and conferences

**Type of Business Visas**
The Schengen “C” visa is the typical visa issued to business travelers. Note that many nationalities benefit from a visa waiver arrangement with the Schengen area and are permitted to enter visa free for business visits of up to 90 days in a 180 day period.

**Basic Requirements**
1. Intention of a genuine visit for business and not for paid employment; 2. Proof of medical coverage of at least EUR 30,000; 3. Evidence that there are no restrictions on his or her traveling to Hungary; 4. No intention to permanently reside in Hungary; 5. A ticket for onward travel from Hungary; 6. Proof of funds.

**EMPLOYMENT PERMITS**

**Basic Requirements**
The principal visa category for temporary employment in Hungary is the combined Work and Residence Permit. This is a category for employers to sponsor approved skilled workers to work in Hungary for periods of between 3 months and 2 years.

**Process Overview**
The process for obtaining the Work and Residence Permits is as follows:
1. Work Force Demand – a Labor Market Search must be conducted to prove that there are no suitable EU resident candidates to fill the position. 2. Combined Work and Residence Permit Application for D Visa Pickup – submitted at the Hungarian Consulate General in the employee’s home country as soon as possible after the Work Force Demand approval. 3. Collection of “D” Visa – at Hungarian Consulate General in employee’s country of residence. The Visa will be issued valid for a single entry for work purposes. 4. Residence Permit and Address Registration – must be filed within 30 days of the employee arriving in Hungary. Personal appearance by applicant is required.

**Estimated Processing Time** – 90 days after complete application submission

**Validity periods** – Visas are generally valid for up to twenty-four months. Renewal is possible.

**Family Members** – Accompanying Non-EU dependents holding a Family Union Permit are not granted permission to work in Hungary.

*This summary is intended for informational purposes only and is not an authorized guide on how to obtain work authorization

**BUDAPEST TENYEK (BUDAPEST FACTS)**

**Language**
The official language of Budapest is Hungarian, or, as the locals call it, "Magyar." Over 99% of the country speak Hungarian and consider it to be their first language. There are those who speak English and German, as well as other languages from neighboring countries.

**Currency**
The currency in use in Budapest is the Forint. Cash machines (ATMs) are widely available. Most hotels, shops, restaurants and some bars accept all major credit cards and Euros. If you plan on visiting a pub it is advisable to bring some cash. You will also need cash for taxis and most public transport. The exchange rate (at time of publishing) is $1 USD = €0.93 Euro = HUF 225 Forint.
LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

Budapest is an important center for music, film, theatre, dance, and visual art. Budapest is home to a fashion week twice a year, where the city's fashion designers and houses present their collections and provide a meeting place for the fashion industry representatives. Several annual festivals take place in Budapest, such as Sziget Festival, one of the largest outdoor music festivals in Europe. The Budapest Autumn Festival brings free music, dance, art, and other cultural events to the streets of the city.

OUTDOORS & ADVENTURE

SPOTS

Pro Teams
Budapest Honved FC (Soccer)
Budapesti TC (Soccer)
Csepel SC (Soccer)
Ferencvarosi TC (Soccer)
MTK Budapest FC (Soccer)
Ujpest FC (Soccer)
Vasa SC (Soccer)

Major Venues
Bozsik Stadium
Csepel Stadium
Hidegkuti Nandon Stadium
Illovsky Rudolf Stadium
Szony Uti Stadium
Szusza-Ferenc Stadium

Discover More
budapest.com
budapestbylocals.com
gotohungary.com
visit-hungary.com
visitbudapest.travel
SHOPPING & DINING

Hungary is a soup-eating nation. Popular are the world-famous goulash, Jókai bean soup, or Fisherman’s soup. Traditional main courses may include Pörkölt and paprika, which are the most popular meat dishes. Pörkölt is a ragout made from pork, beef or mutton, or chicken with onions and Hungarian paprika powder as the main spice. Paprikás is made in the same way as pörkölt, the only difference is that sour cream is mixed in the red paprika and onion sauce to add a nice creamy texture to the meal.

Old-World Markets and Modern Malls

Budapest is a shopper’s delight. Major luxury fashion brands such as Roberto Cavalli, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, Versace, Ferragamo, Moschino, Prada, and Hugo Boss, can be found among the city’s most prestigious shopping streets, the Fashion Street, Váci Street and Andrássy Avenue in Budapest’s main upscale fashion district. Budapest’s newest mall, the il Bacio di Stile, houses most major fashion houses and brands from around the world including Bottega Veneta, Giorgio Armani, Saint Laurent, Lanvin, Valentino, Oscar de la Renta.

ART & CULTURE

Budapest has some wonderful, historic theaters, as well as modern performing arts centers, that attract top acts from around the world. Many concerts are played in the old churches that are landmark buildings in Budapest. There are also many museums and art galleries in Budapest that will engage the minds of visitors of all ages.

**Museums & Galleries**
- Aquincum Museum
- Ethnographic Museum
- Geoligical Museum
- Hall of Art
- Holocaust Memorial Center
- House of Terror Museum
- Hungarian National Gallery
- Hungarian National Museum
- Hungarian Natural History Museum
- Museum of Applied Art
- Museum of Fine Art
- Museum of Hungarian Agriculture

**Theaters**
- Budapest Folklore Performing Arts Theater
- Budapest Operetta
- Castle Theater
- Erkel Színhaz Performing Arts Theater
- Hungarian Heritage House
- Hungarian State Opera
- National Theater
- Palace of Arts
- Pest Hungarian Theater
- Rocktogon Theater
- Serbian Theatre in Hungary
- Vigado Concert Hall
EDUCATION IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Education in Hungary is predominantly public, run by the Ministry of Human Resources.

Preschool and kindergarten education is compulsory and provided for all children between three and six years old, after which school attendance is also compulsory until age of sixteen.

Primary education usually lasts for eight years.

Secondary education includes three traditional types of schools focused on different academic levels: the Gymnasium enrolls the most gifted children and prepares students for university studies; the secondary vocational schools for intermediate students lasts four years and the technical school prepares pupils for vocational education and the world of work. The system is partly flexible and bridges exist, graduates from a vocational school can achieve a two years program to have access to vocational higher education for instance. The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) rated 13–14-year-old pupils in Hungary among the best in the world for math and science.

Notable Colleges & Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budapest University of Technology and Economics</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central European University</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corvinus University of Budapest</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eotvos Lorand University</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semmelweis University</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Szent Istvan University</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONNECT WITH GMS

Founded in 1987, Global Mobility Solution (GMS) is a global corporate relocation services company that specializes in workforce mobility. The company’s corporate relocation services include global assignment management, domestic relocation management, and a range of pre-decision solutions. GMS is a perennial winner of the HRO Today “Baker’s Dozen” customer satisfaction surveys, being named a top relocation provider in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

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