

Tour
Information



Budapest Hungarian Secession





Travel

Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Hungary.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Hungary: 35 Eaton Place, London SW1X 8BY.
Tel: 020 7201 3440
E-mail: mission.lon@mfa.gov.hu



Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at a cost from £3.99 per seat.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit; www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 20kg plus **one** cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25 cm. Please note that personal bags (such as handbag or computer case) must be stored within you single piece of hand luggage and that on some busy flights you bag may have to go into the hold, at no extra cost. If you bring **one** piece of cabin baggage no bigger than 50 x 40 x 20 cm, it is guaranteed to always travel with you in the cabin, in the overhead lockers or under the seat in front of you.

Please contact the airline for further information

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

Transfers

On arrival in Budapest, transfer by coach to the city centre before going on to the hotel for check-in for a three-night stay.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

Danubius Hotel Gellert, Budapest

A tourist attraction in its own right, the stunning four-star Gellert has a marvellous Art Nouveau spa and beautiful, elaborately-decorated public areas also in Secession style. The location on the Danube is ideal for the exploration of the city. Hotel facilities include a world famous spa, restaurant, bar and free wi-fi. Room facilities include private bathroom with shower or bath, TV, telephone, minibar and hairdryer.

For more information visit their website:

<http://www.danubiushotels.com/our-hotels-budapest/danubius-hotel-gellert>



Food

Hungarian food is best known for its generous use of paprika, but its influences come from far and wide. In additions to paprika, sour cream and garlic also feature widely in Hungarian cuisine. The most popular meat is generally pork, with chicken a close second. As Hungary is landlocked, fish doesn't play a large part in the Hungarian diet although freshwater species such as carp are quite commonly found.

Many of Hungary's most famous dishes rely on a generous dash of red paprika, although Hungarian goulash tends to be quite different from that served under the same name in Western Europe. Specialities include: *halaszle* (a spicy soup made with freshwater fish and paprika), *gulyas* (Hungarian goulash is a hearty beef, capsicum and paprika soup), *paprika scirke* (paprika chicken), kolbasz (sausage spiced with paprika), *tyukhusleves* (chicken soup with vegetables and pasta), *gundel palacsinta* (pancake served with walnuts, raisins, lemon rind, chocolate sauce and rum).

There is a large choice of places to eat in Hungary that range from inexpensive *snackbar* or *bufe* (self-service) to fine dining eateries. *Cukraszda* (patisseries), serving cakes and pastries and *kavéhaz* (coffee shops) are also popular. Elegant

Vienna-style coffee houses serving coffee and pastries are common in Budapest.

Gerbeaud, a refined but busy Art Nouveau institution, is Budapest's most famous coffee house.



Drink

Wine is taken seriously in Hungary, and the country's many vineyards produce a wide range of distinctive wines that range from full-bodied reds made from the native Kékfrancos grape to rich, sweet whites such as Tokaj.

There are no fixed licensing hours. Most bars in Budapest will offer table service. *Egészségedre!* Is the Hungarian equivalent of cheers!

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner is included on two nights at the hotel.



Destination

Hungary's historic capital, often described as the "Little Paris of Middle Europe" Budapest has a fascinating history reflected today in a variety of monuments reflecting both its own 1000-year-old culture and that of others that settled here - from the Romans through to the Turks and Austrians. It has a wealth of artistic treasures and a rich Art Nouveau legacy, too, all explored on this lovely new tour. Your host is Prof Anne Anderson, whose knowledge and enthusiasm are both infectious. They will be assisted on some days by local guide and museum curator Peter Csillag, grandson of Pal Molnar-C, one of Hungary's preeminent 20th century artists, over whose museum Peter presides.

Budapest

Enjoying a stunning natural setting with a rich architectural and historical heritage, offering an unmatched combination of culture, fine cuisine and thermal baths, Budapest is a city on either side of the majestic Danube: Buda, with its romantic streets and alleyways, and Pest, an effervescent cultural centre.

Divided in two by the Danube, the city is made up of Buda on one side: with Ottoman-era thermal baths at the foot of the spectacular Gellért Hill, the royal palace and Matthias Church, it radiates calm and peace. On the other side lies Pest, vibrant and lively, with its slew of museums rich in cultural and historical treasures, extraordinary Secessionist architecture, its majestic Parliament building considered as one of the most magnificent in the world, Saint Stephen's Basilica surrounded by pedestrian streets, and its entirely renovated Jewish Quarter and Palace District.

Heroes Square

Situated at the end of Andrassy Avenue and at the gateway of the City Park - a masterpiece of city planning from every perspective. When approached from the avenue, the 36-metre column topped by the Archangel Gabriel can be seen from afar. The column and the group of statues placed near its base constitute a unified visual image with the monuments arranged in two semicircles. Under their arcades stand effigies of the great figures of Hungarian history, created by sculptor György Zala. The square, designed by Albert Schikedanz, sits between the buildings of the two museums. Seen facing Heroes' Square, the Hall of Art is on the right,

and the Museum of Fine Arts, internationally known for its permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, is on the left. Its collection includes works by Raphael, Leonardo, Dürer, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Rembrandt, El Greco, Goya, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, Gustave Courbet, Claude Monet, Édouard Manet and Auguste Rodin, and these are complemented by its world-class temporary shows to make it a real treat for art aficionados. Together with Heroes' Square and Andrassy Avenue, it is considered a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Geological Institute

In the late 19th century, the Hungarian Geological Society decided that they required a new building to house their activities. However, in that age of nationalism, not just any building would do; to fulfill their needs, they engaged an architect who had set out to create a wholly unique Hungarian style of architecture.

The Institute's building is one of the most striking examples of the Szecesszió movement, most notable at first glance for its turquoise and blue tiled roof (materials for which came from the renowned and innovative Hungarian ceramics manufacturer Zsolnay). The colour and shape of the roof is meant to represent the ancient Tethys Ocean, and other details of the building similarly merge architectural and geological themes, such as cave-like mosaics on the flooring at the entrance and details of fossils decorating the exterior. Engraved windows throughout the museum bear typical Hungarian flower motifs, and the entire building is crowned with a statue of human figures holding up a globe.

National Art Gallery

The Hungarian National Gallery, was established in 1957 as the national art museum. It is located in Buda Castle. The collection, which can be found in the A, B, C and D buildings of Buda Castle, includes nearly a hundred thousand artefacts dating from the early medieval times until the present day. The Hungarian National Gallery is the largest collection of Hungarian arts with one hundred thousand artefacts, from the settlement of the Magyars until the present day.

For more information:

<http://mng.hu/en>

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. At the end of the 19th century, a decision was made to change it radically. In keeping with the approach of the times, architect Frigyes Schulek removed everything which was not mediaeval from it and then proceeded to build the neo-Gothic church as it stands today. Its two ornamented towers are of different sizes. Characteristic elements of the church's exterior are the Zsolnay glazed roof tiles, as well as the winding spiral staircase within the taller tower (the Matthias tower), allowing visitors to climb all the way up to the top.

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. The church was built on a small hill on which several hundred people sought refuge during the great flood of 1838, from whence they were rescued by boat. Construction began with funds from donations, and was finally completed in 1906. The first plans for the neo-Renaissance structure were drafted by József Hild, which was then taken over by Miklós Ybl, while the ornamental elements and interior were designed by József Kausser. The basilica is named after Saint Stephen, the Hungarian king who founded the Hungarian state. The relic of his right hand is preserved in one of the chapels. Built on a Greek cross ground plan, the interior is covered with mosaics, frescoes, statues and stained glass, and can seat up to 8,000 for services. The height of the basilica is, like that of the Parliament, 96 metres, commemorating the founding of Hungary in 896. The circular observation area surrounding the cupola is accessible to visitors, offering a view of both the inner structure supporting the cupola and an outstanding panorama of the surrounding area.

Andrassy 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. The area was long occupied by small cottages and gardens, but in the second half of the 19th century, Prime Minister Count Gyula Andrassy decided to have a new boulevard built here. After the 1848-

1849 revolution, the statesman fled to Paris, where he was dubbed "le beau pendu" (the handsome hanged man) by the ladies. He received amnesty upon his return to Hungary and continued his important political career. He brought new ideas and examples, primarily from Paris, but all the architects were either Hungarian or based in Hungary. Over a few years, out of virtually nothing, an opulent boulevard was built, becoming the symbol of the country's strength and also of the era known as the "happy peacetime". Originally, the surface of the street was paved with wooden cubes and was shared by carriages, pedestrians and riders on horseback. It was bordered with elegant shops, glamorous palaces and ornamental gardens, which is still the case today. The most important building on the avenue is the State Opera House, designed by Miklós Ybl, but we can also find the secessionist-style Párizsi Nagy Áruház, the House of Terror museum, the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, the Ferenc Liszt Memorial Museum, and the Ferenc Hopp Museum of Asiatic Arts. The boulevard can be divided into three parts, delimited by the eight-sided Oktogon, and by the circular Kodály körönd.

The House of Hungarian Art Nouveau

The House of Hungarian Art Nouveau (A Magyar Szecesszió Háza) is a museum dedicated entirely to the Hungarian Art Nouveau style. Everything from the building itself to the jewelry sold in the gift shop recalls the beginning of the 20th century, the time when Art Nouveau flourished in Hungary. The museum holds a unique collection of furniture, décor, paintings and other objects related to the Art Nouveau movement. Commissioned by the Bedő family the house was built by architect Emil Vidor in 1903. Inspired by the famous Belgian architect Horta, Vidor combined Belgian Art Nouveau elements with traditional Hungarian design. The decorative elements used on the façade are from the Zsolnay factory.

Pal Molnar C Studio Museum

Pal Molnar C., also internationally known as Paul Miller C., was retained by the history of Hungarian art as one of the most significant religious and decorative painters of the 20th century. The Pal Molnar C. Studio Museum was set up by his family and circle of friends who appreciated both the quality of his work and its bewildering prolificacy. The permanent exhibition consists of a collection of some of the most prized works of Pal Molnar.

The Museum of Applied Arts

The palace housing the Museum of Applied Arts, a masterpiece of Hungarian Art Nouveau was built between 1893 and 1896 on the plans of Ödön Lechner and Gyula Pártos. The inner and outer ceramic cover of the building as well as the roofing are from the world famous Zsolnay porcelain Manufacture, Pécs. Classics of European applied arts give the core of the museum's collection from the Middle Ages until the present day. The first museum in Hungary which explicitly collects contemporary artefacts.

Gellert Baths

There are records about the "miraculous" springs spurting up on the territory of the Bath from as early a date as the 15th century. These springs were later favoured by the Turks as well, as they were larger and hotter than the Buda baths of the period. In the 17th century, the site was named Sárosfürdő (Mud bath) because of the fine spring silt that was pushed up together with the spring water and settled at the bottom of the pools. The Gellért Thermal Bath and Hotel, known world-wide, was built in a secession style, it opened its gates in 1918 and was expanded in 1927 by the wave-bath and in 1934 by the effervescent bath. In the course of the modernisation accomplished in our days, the sitting-pool in the swimming complex, the outdoor sitting pool and the children's pool were renovated; they were equipped with a state-of-the art water filtering and circulation device. At present, nearly all healing facilities may be used in the Gellért Thermal Bath. The Bath includes a department offering complex thermal bath facilities (daytime/outpatient hospital), it also has an inhalatorium.

The Parliament

The Parliament, built in Neo-Gothic style and located on the bank of the Danube, serves as the permanent seat of the National Assembly. The building complex, the biggest of its kind in Hungary, was erected between 1884 and 1904 on the plans of Imre Steindl. The building has 691 rooms, and it is 268 metres long and the dome 96 metres high. Since 2000, the Hungarian coronation symbols —St. Stephen's crown, the sceptre, the orb and the Renaissance sword— have been on display in the Parliament.

Your lecturer / guide

These tours will be led by Prof. Anne Anderson

Dr Anne Anderson. Anne, an author, broadcaster, international NADFAS lecturer and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, was a senior lecturer at Southampton Solent University for 14 years, specialising in the Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau and Modernism; she is currently Honorary Research Fellow at Exeter University. Anne's career as an international speaker has taken her all over the world and her TV credits include the BBC's Flog It! Anne has received a rapturous response from our customers at the many Travel Editions' tours she has hosted and is excited at the prospect of continuing to share her knowledge with our clients further afield.

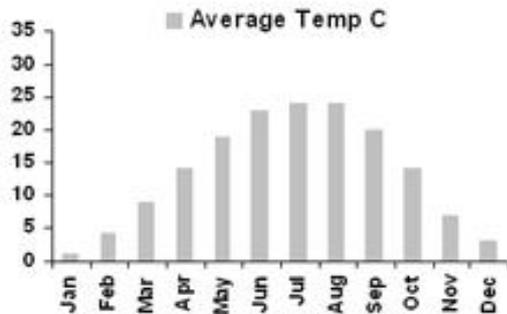
There will be two evening lectures during your trip:

"Magyar Szecesszio"

"Zsolnay: architectural ceramics"

The Basics

Climate – The weather in Budapest at this time of year is likely to be similar to the UK. It can get chilly and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Hungarian.

Religion – mostly Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Anniversary of 1848 uprising (15 Mar); Easter Monday (17 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Whit Monday (05 Jun); St Stephen's Day (20 Aug); National Day (23 Oct); All Saints Day (01 Nov); Christmas Eve (24 Dec); Christmas Day (25 Dec); Boxing Day (26 Dec).

Currency – Hungarian Forint 1HUF; symbol Ft). Notes are in denominations of 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 2,000, 1,000 and 500Ft. Coins are in denominations of 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 Ft. £1 = approx. 350 Ft.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable

form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Shops generally open Mon-Fri 1000-1800, Sat 10.00 – 13.00 although longer hours may be kept in Budapest. Supermarkets and food shops in large towns and cities are open from 0700 and stay open until late. Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

Clothes & shoes – You may like to bring medium weight clothing and a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Hungary, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Embassy Prague

Harmincad utca 6

1051 Budapest

Hungary

Tel: +36 1 266 2888

Fax: +36 1 266 0907

Email: consular.budapest@fco.gov.uk

Open (Embassy) Mon-Thu 1000-1600. Fri 0930 - 1230. (Consulate) Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 0930 - 1230

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