

## Travelling in Hungary

### General Info

**Population:** 9.9m

**Area:** 93,000 sq. km

**Currency:** Forint – HUF

**Top 10 popular attractions:** Buda Castle  
Lake Balaton  
Andrassy Avenue  
Old Village of Holloko  
Hortobagy National Park  
Fisherman's Bastion  
St. Stephen's Basilica  
Parliament Building  
Caves of the Aggtelek  
Shoes on the Danube Promenade

### Essentials

#### Driving licence:

National driving licences conforming to the model in Annex 9 of the 1949 Convention, in Annex 6 of the 1968 Convention or with the European Communities' model are accepted. You must be 18 or over to drive a private vehicle.

Motorists must always carry their driving licence with them while driving.

Pink format or photocard UK licence accepted but International Driving Permit required if green licence held.

#### Important documents:

When driving in Hungary the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence\* (with paper counterpart)
- Proof of insurance/green card (third party or above)
- Proof of ID (passport)
- Proof of ownership (V5C certificate)
- International Driving Permit (See driving licence section)

While driving in Hungary you are required by law to carry the following items. Hefty on-the-spot fines can be issued for failing to carry specific items:

- Headlamp beam deflectors: depending on your vehicle, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually
- Lights: In daylight, outside built-up areas, passing lights must be used at all times, even when travelling on motorways
- Warning triangle: compulsory on board all motor vehicles
- Reflective jacket: a reflective jacket must be worn in the event of a breakdown or emergency on a motorway. It is also compulsory for motorcyclists
- First aid kit: compulsory on board private vehicle
- Motorcyclists: riders and all passengers of motorcycles must wear crash helmets

#### Are you covered?

Don't forget to buy your RAC European Breakdown cover & Travel Insurance before you leave. Call RAC European Breakdown Sales on: 0800 015 6000. Call RAC Travel Insurance on: 0870 333 2784

#### Useful Numbers:

Emergency Services: 112 (SMS 114)  
RAC Breakdown Europe: 00 33 472 43 52 44

#### Useful Links:

- <http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>
- <http://www.rac.co.uk/insurance/travel-insurance/>
- <http://www.racshop.co.uk>

## Rules of the road & regulations

### Rules of the road:

- **Overtaking & passing**

On where tram rails are placed in the middle of a road, a moving tram or vehicle signalling its intention to turn left must be overtaken on the right.

On motorways and semi-motorways with two lanes in each direction, it is prohibited for lorries and combinations of vehicles over 7.5t, to overtake between the hours of 06:00 and 22:00.

Only motorcycles and private cars may travel permanently in the left lane of roads with two or more lanes.

- **Priority**

Rules follow the provisions of the Conventions on Road Traffic.

- **Warning of approach**

The use of the horn is prohibited in built-up areas, except in case of danger. It is permitted outside built-up areas when necessary.

### Towing:

It is advisable, although not compulsory, to draw up an inventory of the contents of a trailer or caravan.

The maximum dimensions are as follows:

**Height:** 3m for caravans and trailers towed by a car

4m for other vehicles

**Width:** 2.55m

**Length:**

Rigid vehicle: 12m

Articulated vehicle: 16.50m

### Seat belts:

It is compulsory for the driver and all passengers to wear seat belts when travelling on public roads.

### Travelling with children:

Children measuring less than 1.50m must use a child restraint appropriate for their weight.

Children less than three years old are allowed to travel only in a child restraint system. They cannot be transported in the car otherwise. Children less than three years old are allowed to travel on the front seat if the child restraint system is rear-facing and there is no airbag or it is deactivated. A child aged three or more, measuring 1.35m or more, can travel on the rear seat of a car using a seat belt.

### Snow chains:

Snow chains may only be used on snow-covered roads. The use of snow chains or their presence in a car can be made compulsory on some roads when weather conditions require. The maximum speed for vehicles fitted with chains is 50 km/h.

### Speed limits:

	Inside built-up areas	motorways	Semi Motorway	Road
<b>Motorcycle</b>	50 km/h	130 km/h	110 km/h	90 km/h
<b>Car</b>	50 km/h	130 km/h	110 km/h	90 km/h
<b>Car with caravan or trailer</b>	50 km/h	80 km/h	70 km/h	70 km/h

### Penalties

- **On-the-spot fines**

On-the-spot fines can be collected by the police in case of violation of traffic regulations.

Since 1st January 2011, there is stricter enforcement of four main regulations and fines of 15,000 to 300,000 HUF can be imposed on-the-spot for the following offences:

- Failure to use a seat belt
- Driving under the influence of alcohol
- Speeding
- Failure to stop at a red traffic light

- **Confiscation of vehicle**

**Vehicles registered abroad**, can be retained by the police until the fine is paid. Foreign drivers will be informed of this in writing (available in Hungarian, English, German or Russian). The vehicles registration documents must be handed over to the Hungarian authorities, who will issue a receipt. If the driver fails to pay the fine and pick up the vehicle on time, the documents will be sent to the issuing authority in the driver's country of residence.

## Parking

- **Parking regulations**

Stopping is prohibited:

- If indicated by road signs
- On the left-hand side of a two-way street
- At any place where the vehicle would obstruct other traffic or obscure a road sign or traffic lights
- Within 5m of an intersection
- On a pedestrian crossing, and 5m before such a crossing for a car, motorcycle or bicycle, or 15m before such a crossing for any other vehicle
- In a bus lane or at a bus stop
- On the pavement if the axle weight of the vehicle is over one tonne (a continuous white line on the pavement indicates that a vehicle under one tonne axle weight is allowed to stop on the pavement but forbidden to stop on the road)
- Where zig-zag lines are painted on the carriageway (bus stops, etc.)

- **Enforcement of parking regulations**

Wheel clamps are used in Budapest on vehicles which exceed the time allowed by parking tickets by at least 30mins.

The police may tow a vehicle away if:

- It is parked in a place listed above
- It is parked in a marked loading area without permission
- It is parked in a space reserved for a handicapped person's vehicle
- It is parked in a cycle lane

## Traffic lights:

- **Traffic lights**

The international 3-colour traffic light system is used.

## Drink/drug driving

- **Legal limit**

In Hungary, it is absolutely forbidden to drive any type of motor vehicle after having consumed alcoholic drinks.

If the amount of alcohol in a motorists' blood is less than 0.08%, he/she will be fined; if the amount is over 0.08%, he/she will be subject to legal proceedings.

It is equally illegal for a person to drive who is under the influence of drugs.

- **Alcohol**

The police can ask a driver to undergo a breath-test if there is a suspicion that the driver is under the influence of alcohol.

If the police suspects that a driver, a cyclist, a pedestrian or any other person is under the influence of drugs, they have the right to take that person to a medical centre for blood and urine tests.

## Availability of fuel

Fuel is available throughout the country.

Most petrol stations are open from 06:00 until 20:00. Along motorways and in large towns petrol stations are open 24hrs a day.

- **Price of fuel (April 2014)**

<b>Unleaded petrol, 95 octane</b>	410 HUF per litre
<b>Diesel</b>	417 HUF per litre
<b>LPG</b>	279 HUF per litre

- **Means of payment**

Some petrol stations accept Eurocard, Visa, Mastercard and Maestro, but cash is the most common means of payment.

## What RAC can do for you

RAC offers great value, flexible RAC European breakdown (<http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>) cover tailored to meet your needs. We also offer comprehensive travel insurance (<http://www.rac.co.uk/insurance/travel-insurance/>), including cover for medical expenses, baggage, personal money and belongings \*. Whilst away, use our Route Planner (<http://www.rac.co.uk/route-planner>) for all your driving directions.

## RAC can cover you against vehicle break down in Europe, with options available to suit your travelling requirements.

RAC European breakdown cover Basic and Comprehensive cover provides you with a wide range of benefits.

\* Basic, Standard and Executive RAC Travel Insurance policies are sold, administered and underwritten by ACE European Group Limited. RAC Financial Services Ltd is an Agent of ACE European Group Ltd (ACE). RAC Travel Insurance Driving cover is sold and administered by RAC Financial Services Ltd. RAC Financial Services Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, registered in England No. 5171817. Registered Office: RAC House, Brockhurst Crescent, Walsall, WS5 4AW. RAC Travel Insurance Driving cover is underwritten by ACE European Group Limited (ACE). ACE is authorised by the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulatory Authority reference number FRN 202803. Full details can be found online at the FCA websites or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768.