

Touring Tips

HUNGARY (Central Europe)



This information should be read in conjunction with [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Drinking and driving: Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood; amounts of less than 0.08 per cent incur a fine, more than 0.08 per cent legal proceedings.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK driving licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 17. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Hungary. This includes the older all-green style UK licences (in Northern Ireland older paper style with photographic counterpart) although the EC appreciates that these may be more difficult to understand and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Alternatively, older licences may be [accompanied by an International Driving Permit \(IDP\)](#).

Fines: On-the-spot, only payable in HUF. Credit cards are not accepted. On the spot fines can be paid by post within 30 days. The police must give a receipt for cash payments. Wheel clamps are in use.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 octane), diesel (Dizel or Gazolaj) and LPG available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in a can permitted, maximum 40 litres. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Hungary before travel. Cash is the most usual form of payment.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights compulsory at all times outside built-up areas. At night the use of full beam, in built up areas, is prohibited.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights compulsory at all times. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor Insurance: Third-party compulsory. Should a visitor cause an accident with a Hungarian citizen they must report it to the Association of Hungarian Insurance Companies.

Passengers/Children in cars: A child under 3 years of age may only travel in a vehicle if using a suitable child restraint system appropriate for their weight, they are permitted to travel in the front of the vehicle using this restraint if it is rear facing and there is no airbag or it has been deactivated. Children under 1.5m and over 3 years of age must use a suitable child restraint system and be seated in the rear of the vehicle.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seatbelts, where fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) or 68 mph (110 km/h) on semi-motorways and 80 mph (130 km/h) on motorways. Vehicles with snow chains must not exceed 31mph (50km/h). In city centres, areas with an 18 mph (30 km/h) speed limit are increasingly common.

Compulsory equipment:

- **First-aid kit**
- **Warning triangle**
- **Reflective Jacket** - All pedestrians walking on a road, or road shoulder outside a built up area must wear a reflective jacket at night and in case of bad visibility. Any person exiting a vehicle outside a built up area in a breakdown situation becomes a pedestrian and therefore must wear a reflective jacket.
- **Snow chains** - The use of or their presence in a car can be made compulsory on some roads when weather conditions require.

Other rules/regulations:

Spare bulb kit recommended as its carriage is compulsory for Hungarian registered vehicles.

Recommended that the driver of a conspicuously damaged vehicle entering Hungary obtain a police report confirming the damage at the time of entry, otherwise lengthy delays may be encountered at the frontier when leaving Hungary. This report should be obtained from the police of the country where the car was damaged.

Motorway tax payable for use of:

M1 (Budapest – Hegyeshalom),
M3 (Budapest -Gorbehaza – Nyiregyhaza)),
M5 (Budapest – Kiskunfelegyhaza – Szeged - Roszke/border with Serbia),
M6 (M0- Erd - Dunaujvaros)
M7 (Budapest - Lake Balaton – Letenye, border with Croatia)
M30 (Emod - Miskolc)
M35 (Gorbehaza-Debrecen)

The electronic vignette and any toll charges must be paid in forints. Credit cards accepted: Visa, Eurocard/Mastercard, DKV and UTA. The vignette can be purchased in person, online, or by telephone (land line or mobile). When a motorist has purchased an e-vignette, a confirmation message will be sent or a coupon issued.

This document must be kept for one year after the expiry of validity. The motorway authorities check all vehicles electronically, and verify the registration number, the category of toll paid and the validity of the e-vignette. Further information: www.motorway.hu – available for 4 days (vehicles up to 3.5t only), 10 days, one month or one year. Fines imposed for non-display.

Motorists should be wary of contrived incidents, particularly on the Vienna – Budapest motorway, designed to stop motorists and expose them to robbery.

A new directive by the Hungarian authorities means that traffic will be restricted from entering Budapest when the dust in the air exceeds a fixed level on two consecutive days. The restriction depends upon the number which a registration plate ends, licence plates ending in odd numbers will be permitted to enter Budapest on odd numbered days, even number on even days.

The restriction also applies to UK registered vehicles, however as UK registration plates tend to end in a letter rather than a number we are waiting for confirmation as to how the restriction will apply. The restriction will be applicable from 0600 to 2200 with a fine imposed for non compliance.

Spiked tyres prohibited.

The use of the horn is prohibited in built-up areas, except in the case of danger.

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