

# Hungary (Central Europe)

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Read our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#) too.

## Driving licence

- You must be at least 17 years old to drive a temporarily imported car.
- Driving requirements and restrictions for motorcycles are the same as the UK.
- All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Hungary including the older, all-green UK paper licence and the older Northern Ireland paper licence with photographic counterpart.
- The older (all green) paper licences may be more difficult to understand so you may wish to update your licence to a Photocard style licence before travelling or obtain an [International Driving Permit \(IDP\)](#)

## Motor insurance

- You must have a minimum of third-party cover.
- If you're involved in an accident with a Hungarian citizen you must report it to the Association of Hungarian Insurance Companies. The police will issue a statement which you must show when leaving Hungary.

## Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (95 octane), diesel (Dizel or Gazolaj) and LPG are available.
- Leaded petrol is not available.
- You may carry up to 10 litres of spare petrol in a can.
- Credit cards are accepted at some filling stations but check with your card issuer for usage in Hungary before travel.
- Cash is the most usual form of payment.

## Speed limits

(Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers)

- Built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h)
- Semi-motorways 68 mph (110 km/h)
- Motorways 80 mph (130 km/h)

Lower speed limits may apply on the approach to level crossings.

If you fit snow chains, you mustn't drive faster than 31mph (50km/h).

18 mph (30 km/h) zones are increasingly common in cities.

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## Seat belts

Front and rear seat occupants must wear seatbelts where fitted.

## Passengers/children in cars

- A child under 3 years of age must use a suitable child restraint.
- You can only carry a child under 3 years old in the front seat if they are in a rear-facing restraint and there is no airbag or you have deactivated it.
- A child aged 3 or more, measuring 1.35m or more can travel on the rear seat of a car using a seat belt, a child measuring less than 1.35m must use a suitable child restraint.

## Lights

- You must use dipped headlights at all times outside built-up areas.
- You must not use full-beam headlights at night in built-up areas.

## Motorcycles

- You must use dipped headlights at all times.
- Riders must wear a crash helmet.

## Drinking and driving

- The legal limit is zero.
- If you're caught with less than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood you will be fined. If 80 milligrams or more, you will face legal proceedings.
- It's also illegal to allow a person to drive who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- If the police suspect that a driver, cyclist or pedestrian is under the influence of drugs, they can take them to a medical centre for blood and urine tests.

## Fines

- On-the-spot fines can be issued and can be paid on-the-spot and a receipt given, although the police should offer to give you a payment order to transfer the amount of the fine within 30 days.
- Cash is the usual form of payment, though credit cards are accepted in some circumstances. The police can retain your vehicle until the fine is paid.
- Wheel clamps are used.

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It's compulsory to carry:

- **First-aid kit**
- **Warning triangle**
- **Reflective Jacket** - All pedestrians (including anyone who gets out of your vehicle in a breakdown situation) 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
- **Snow chains** – carrying or using snow chains can be made compulsory on some roads when weather conditions require.
- **Motorway sticker/vignette** (see below)

## E-Vignettes

Some sections of motorway are toll free, but for most you'll have to buy an 'e-vignette' valid for 1 week (10 consecutive days), one month or 13 months.

You can find more information [here](#) in English.

You should be given a leaflet at the border explaining about the e-vignette which can be purchased in person, online or via a smart phone app.

The Hungarian Motoring Association, recommend that foreign drivers intending to buy a vignette at the border have cash in Hungarian Forints. Vignettes should only be purchased from outlets where the prices are clearly displayed at the set rate.

You can use a credit card (Visa, Eurocard/Mastercard, DKV and UTA) for online purchases.

When you purchase an e-vignette, a confirmation message will be sent or a coupon issued. This must be kept for one year after the e-vignette's expiry date.

The motorway authorities check all vehicles electronically, and verify the registration number, the category of toll paid and the validity of the e-vignette.

## Other rules/regulations in Hungary

Carrying a tow rope and fire extinguisher is recommended.

If your vehicle is conspicuously damaged at the time you enter Hungary you should obtain a police report (from the police in the country where the car was damaged) confirming the damage at the time of entry. If you don't you could face lengthy delays at the border when you leave Hungary.

If you're towing, it's advisable to draw up an inventory of the contents of your trailer or caravan.

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Be wary of contrived incidents, particularly on the Vienna-Budapest motorway, which may be designed to stop you and expose you to robbery.

Traffic can be restricted from entering Budapest when the dust in the air exceeds a fixed level on two consecutive days. If this happens, vehicles with licence plates ending in an even number may only be used on even days of the month and vehicles with odd numbers may only be used on odd days. Restrictions apply between 6am and 10pm and you can be fined for non-compliance.

You must not use spiked tyres.

It's forbidden to use radar detectors.

You must not use your horn in built-up areas, except in the case of danger.

## **Emergency corridors**

Where congestion occurs on motorways and dual carriageways, drivers must create a precautionary emergency corridor – drivers on the left must move as far over to the left as possible and drivers on the right must move as far over to the right as possible.

Where there are more than two lanes, vehicles using the far left lane move left and those in all other lanes move right.

The emergency corridor allows emergency services to reach the scene of an accident faster than using the hard shoulder.

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