



Hungary - Low



Hungary Country Map



POLITICAL



ARMED CONFLICT



TERRORISM



CRIME



CIVIL UNREST



MARITIME AND PIRACY



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL



TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 11 December 2025

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hungary, under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán since 2010, has become increasingly authoritarian, with a focus on nationalism and anti-immigrant policies, leading to

tensions with the EU and domestic polarisation. Despite this, the country remains politically stable.

Hungary faces low risks of armed conflict and terrorism. Crime is generally low, with petty theft being the most common issue, especially in Budapest. Violent crime is rare, though racial harassment can occur. Environmental risks are minimal, and the healthcare system is reliable, particularly in cities, though private care can be expensive.

As a landlocked country, Hungary has no maritime or piracy concerns. The transportation network is well-developed, with reliable public transport and good road infrastructure, although rural roads may be less maintained.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Cultural Tips

- Hungarian is the official language of Hungary, and more than 99% of the population speaks it as a first language. Approximately 16% of Hungary's population speaks English fluently.
- When invited into someone's home, it is considered polite to bring a small gift such as flowers or chocolates.
- In Hungarian names, the family name comes before the given name. This applies in all usages, including in casual conversation.
- Tipping is common in Hungary. It is customary to give a 10-15% tip to waiters and taxi drivers. When at a restaurant, the tip should be given directly to the waiter and not left on the table.
- When entering churches (whether for prayer or sightseeing), dress conservatively.
- LGBTQ travellers may face some discrimination or harassment, especially outside of large urban areas.

KEY FACTS

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL	Budapest

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE	1
COUNTRY PHONE CODE	36
CURRENCY	Hungarian Forint
ELECTRICITY	230 V, 50 Hz
GMT	+1
LANGUAGES	Hungarian
LEADERSHIP	President Tamás Sulyok; Prime Minister Viktor Orban
OFFICE WORK WEEK	Monday-Friday
OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	Hungary
PLUG STYLES	Types C,F
RELIGION	Catholic 30.1% (Roman Catholic 27.5%, Greek Catholic 1.7%, other Catholic 0.9%), Calvinist 9.8%, Lutheran 1.8%, other Christian (includes Orthodox) 1.6%, other 0.4%, none 16.1%
TIME ZONE OFFSET	UTC +2 (Daylight Saving Time observed)

KEY FACTS

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	Parliamentary Republic
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RISK SUMMARY

Political - Moderate

Hungary, a former communist country, is now a member of NATO and the European Union. It operates as a democratic republic with a multi-party system. The prime minister serves as the head of government, while the president holds a largely ceremonial role as head of state. Power resides primarily in the National Assembly, which is elected by proportional representation every four years.

The Fidesz party, under Orbán's leadership since 2010, has systematically centralised power, including over Hungary's judiciary. The government has targeted migrants, the LGBTQ community, and critical voices in the media and civil society. Orbán's administration has been criticised for eroding democratic norms, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic when emergency laws allowed him to rule by decree.

In February 2024, Hungary's political landscape was shaken by a major scandal involving President Katalin Novák and two senior Fidesz figures. The scandal erupted after President Novák pardoned a former official implicated in covering up child sexual abuse at a state-run children's home. This decision triggered widespread protests in Budapest, with tens of thousands of people taking to the streets, posing a significant challenge to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's rule. In response, Orbán proposed a 13th amendment to the Hungarian Constitution to ban future heads of state from granting clemency in cases involving child sexual abuse. The scandal eventually caused Novák to resign on 10 February, with her resignation address including an apology to the victims of the former official.

Following Novák's resignation, Tamás Sulyok was elected the president of Hungary by the National Assembly. He has tried to remain a neutral figure in

Hungarian politics, while standing up for the country's interests.

Armed Conflict - Low

As of 2025, Hungary remains a member of NATO and the European Union, both of which help mitigate the risk of inter-state conflict. However, the increasingly authoritarian stance of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's government and its right-wing policies have strained diplomatic relations with neighbouring countries, including Slovakia, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine. Despite these tensions, the issues are likely to be managed through diplomatic channels, and there are no immediate domestic or regional threats that would trigger armed conflict within Hungary.

The ongoing war in Ukraine, following Russia's invasion in February 2022, has had significant implications for Hungary. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees have entered Hungary since the conflict began. While Hungary accepted EU-led sanctions on Russia, it notably forbade the transport of weapons to Ukraine through its territory. This stance reflects Hungary's complex relationship with Russia, particularly given Prime Minister Orbán's long-standing ties with Moscow and President Vladimir Putin.

In October 2022, Hungary sought to maintain its energy ties with Russia, attempting to secure Russian oil supplies in anticipation of the European embargo on seaborne Russian oil, which took effect in December 2022. This move highlighted Hungary's reliance on Russian energy and its efforts to navigate the geopolitical challenges posed by the EU's sanctions.

The European Union's response to the Russian invasion has been a point of contention for Hungary. In December 2022, the Hungarian government conducted a month-long public consultation on EU sanctions against Russia. The results, released in January 2023, indicated that around 97% of respondents opposed various aspects of the EU's sanctions policy. However, the European Commission dismissed these results due to the low participation rate, reflecting the broader tension between Hungary and the EU over its stance on Russia.

Despite these complexities, Hungary has managed to avoid direct involvement in armed conflict, and the risk of such a conflict remains low.

Terrorism - Low

There are no known domestic terrorist organisations operating in Hungary. Also, Hungary offers few symbolic targets for attacks and is not particularly active in international conflicts - both factors reducing the threat posed by terrorism.

Moreover, Hungarian authorities continue to exercise countermeasures, led by the Counter-Terrorism Center, to prevent attacks from occurring in the country.

The heightened terrorism threat continues to be particularly motivated by individuals and groups influenced by the wars in the Middle East. While the risk of an attack remains low, travelers should maintain situational awareness when visiting Hungary.

Crime - Low

The primary concern for travellers in Hungary is petty criminality, particularly in Budapest. Thefts, such as bag snatching and pickpocketing, are common, especially at transportation hubs, street markets, and areas frequented by tourists. Hate crimes also pose a risk to travellers.

Additionally, scams at restaurants, nightclubs, and other nightspots, particularly in tourist-heavy areas like central Pest are likely. Overcharging scams often target intoxicated male travellers, with some establishments inflating prices for drinks. Taxi drivers are frequently complicit in these scams, receiving commissions for directing tourists to specific venues.

Organised crime remains a significant issue in Hungary, though it primarily affects those involved in specific industries rather than leisure visitors. Organised criminal groups in Hungary are involved in various illicit activities, including controlling prostitution rings, car thefts, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. While these criminal operations are deeply entrenched, they rarely pose a direct threat to tourists. However, they can present substantial compliance challenges for businesses, particularly in industries vulnerable to corruption or requiring interactions with these groups.

In recent years, there have been a few large-scale criminal operations and inci-

dents, although these have primarily involved law enforcement actions against organised crime rather than direct attacks on the public.

Civil Unrest - Moderate

As of April 2024, Hungary saw a significant wave of protests led by the newly formed opposition party, the New Democratic Alliance (NDA). These demonstrations focused on raising awareness about the erosion of democratic institutions under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's government. The protests were peaceful but marked a notable moment in Hungary's ongoing political discourse, reflecting growing discontent among segments of the population.

In October 2022, thousands of students and protesters rallied in Budapest to support teachers who had been dismissed for participating in strike action demanding higher wages. This demonstration highlighted the broader discontent over economic conditions, including high inflation and fears of a recession. These protests were peaceful but indicated potential for continued labour disputes and industrial action, given the ongoing economic challenges.

In July 2022, several thousand people protested in Budapest against a tax increase for small businesses. Despite the large turnout, the protest did not stop the government from implementing the tax hike, which affected many small business owners across the country. This event was one of several that signalled growing frustration with the government's economic policies.

Annually, extreme right-wing groups hold protests around the 14-15 March anniversary of the 1848 revolution against the Austrian Habsburg Empire. These events frequently result in clashes between nationalist groups and security forces and are considered high-risk.

Budapest is also known for hosting one of Central Europe's largest Pride events, attracting more than 10,000 participants each year. Although these events usually proceed without major incidents, there have been instances of counter-demonstrations that sometimes result in confrontations.

Overall, pro- and anti-government protests occur periodically in Hungary, typically drawing several thousand participants. While these protests are generally peaceful, they can cause disruptions to travel and business activities. Football hooligan-

ism also poses a limited security threat, particularly during high-risk matches like those between Hungary and Romania, where clashes between hooligans, police, and rival fans may occur.

Maritime and Piracy - Negligible

Hungary, being a landlocked country, has no maritime security threats.

The Danube River, however, is a significant waterway in Hungary and is popular for tourist cruises. While there have been no reports of serious incidents on the Danube, travellers should always adhere to safety measures and regulations when on these cruises. Additionally, caution is advised along the riverbanks and bridges, especially in areas where currents can be strong or where access may be less secure.

Health - Low

Healthcare is generally adequate across Hungary and is provided almost exclusively by the state medical system; private hospitals are very rare. Rural areas often lack advanced medical provision, but a transfer to a major city would allow suitable treatment of most conditions. Both doctors and hospitals may require up-front payment and it is strongly advised that travellers have robust medical insurance in place, particularly with provision for medical evacuation in the case of serious health issues.

Environmental - Low

Hungary's environment presents a few notable challenges, particularly related to seasonal weather patterns. Spring flooding along the Danube and Tisza rivers is common, often affecting low-lying areas and posing risks to communities near these rivers. These floods can disrupt transportation and damage infrastructure.

In winter, snowstorms can cause significant disruption, particularly in rural or mountainous regions. These storms can lead to road closures, power outages, and delays in public transportation.

Overall, while Hungary's environment is generally stable, these seasonal risks should be considered to ensure safety and preparedness.

Transportation - Low

Hungary's transportation infrastructure is generally reliable and well-maintained, particularly in urban areas. Roads are typically in good condition, but travellers should be cautious when driving in rural areas where roads can be narrow, poorly lit, and shared with livestock and tractors. This can make rural driving more challenging, particularly at night or in poor weather conditions.

Public transportation in Hungary is robust, particularly in Budapest, which boasts a comprehensive system including buses, trams, streetcars, subways, and inter-city trains. However, public transport outside of Budapest is less dependable, and tickets must be purchased in advance. Failure to do so can result in fines.

The Budapest Metro is the only metro system in Hungary, and while it is generally safe, petty theft has been reported, especially during busy times. In addition to the metro, independent trains operate during the summer, particularly along the northern shore and in tourist areas.

Taxis are widely available across Hungary, however, travellers should be cautious of fake taxis, particularly in Budapest. To avoid unlicensed drivers, it is recommended to pre-book travel and agree on a price before the journey to prevent overcharging.

Budapest's main airport, located about 20 km from the city centre, handles both European and international routes. The airport is often busy and can be overcrowded, with reports of petty theft occurring outside the airport and at taxi ranks. It is advisable to pre-book airport transfers to avoid potential issues. Smaller airports are also available in Debrecen and Heviz, where similar safety precautions should be taken.

EMERGENCY DETAILS

EMERGENCY DETAILS	
SOLACE GLOBAL:- +44 (0)1202 795801. GENERAL EMERGENCIES:- 112, POLICE:- 107, AMBULANCE:- 104. BRITISH EMBASSY BUDAPEST:- +36 1 266 2888. U.S EMBASSY BUDAPEST:- +36 1 475 4444.	
POLICE NUMBER	112
AMBULANCE NUMBER	112
FIRE NUMBER	112
EMERGENCY DETAILS	

TRAVEL

TRAVEL ADVICE

Although there are no legal restrictions on those who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, there have been reports of negative attention and discrimination against public displays members of this community. In December 2021, The Council of Europe's Venice Commission published an assessment on Hungary's legal changes that restrict access to content depicting LGBTQ+ identities for people under 18. The human rights institution concluded the ban violated international human rights standards. More recently in February 2025, the government moved to implement a new law that aims to ban the annual pride march by the LGBTQ+ community. This led to large demonstrations on the Elisabeth bridge, which is a known focal point for demonstrations in the city of Budapest.

Travellers entering the country with medication should ensure it has an accompanying doctor's note or prescription and it remains in its original packaging.

All travellers must ensure they have documentation available at all times in case it is requested by law enforcement.

Hungarian law requires that all government buildings be accessible to persons with disabilities. However, many buildings are still not up to standard. Most buses, trams, and metro stations do not have elevators for travellers with disabilities.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

DECEMBER 21, 2025

- **December Solstice:** Hungary - Seasonal

DECEMBER 24, 2025

- **Christmas Eve:** Hungary - Observance

DECEMBER 25, 2025

- **Christmas Day:** Hungary - National

DECEMBER 26, 2025

- **Second Day of Christmas:** Hungary - National

DECEMBER 31, 2025

- **New Year's Eve:** Hungary - Observance

JANUARY 01, 2026

- **New Year's Day:** Hungary - National

SIGNIFICANT DATES

MARCH 15, 2026

- **1848 Revolution Memorial Day:** Hungary - National

MARCH 20, 2026

- **March Equinox:** Hungary - Seasonal

APRIL 03, 2026

- **Good Friday:** Hungary - National

APRIL 05, 2026

- **Easter Sunday:** Hungary - National

APRIL 06, 2026

- **Easter Monday:** Hungary - National

MAY 01, 2026

- **Labor Day / May Day:** Hungary - National

MAY 24, 2026

- **Whit Sunday:** Hungary - Observance

SIGNIFICANT DATES

MAY 25, 2026

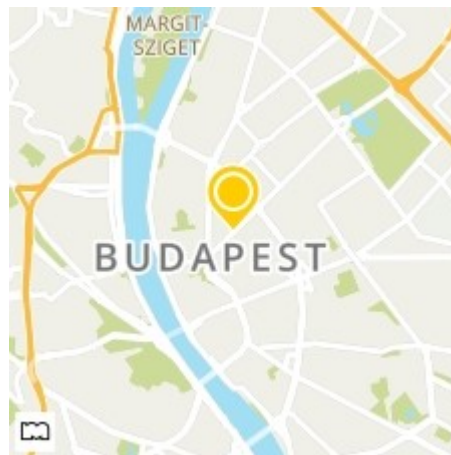
- **Whit Monday:** Hungary - National

JUNE 21, 2026

- **June Solstice:** Hungary - Seasonal

RECENT ALERTS

NATIONAL MARCH ONGOING IN BUDAPEST



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



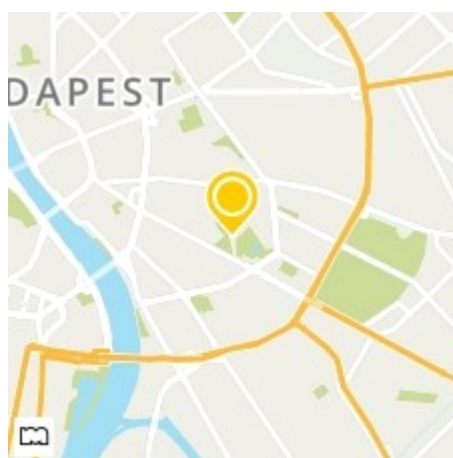
23-Oct-2025 13:45

Local media have reported that the National March is ongoing in Budapest, which began at 1300 at Deák Ferenc Square. Participants is proceeding along Andrassy Avenue past the Opera House, Oktogon, the House of Terror, Kodály

RECENT ALERTS

Circle, and the Russian Embassy, before arriving at Heroes' Square. A ceremonial commemoration will be held there, with a speech to be delivered by Péter Magyar.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS IN EFFECT ACROSS NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONS



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate

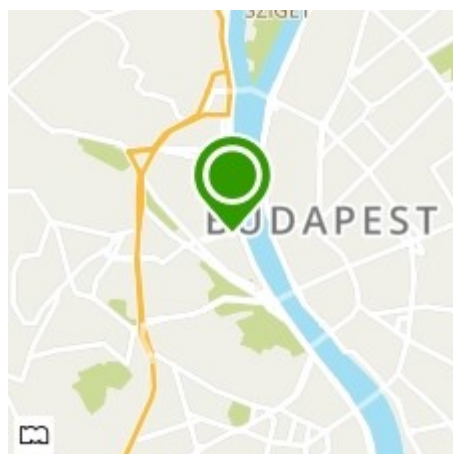


20-Aug-2025 06:19

The Hungarian Meteorological Service (HMS) has issued yellow thunderstorm warnings for northern and western Hungary, including Budapest, Pécs, Győr, and Szombathely. The alerts remain in effect through 21 August and highlight risks of lightning, heavy rainfall, hail, and strong winds, particularly in open and mountainous areas. No additional details are available at this time.

PRIDE MARCH PLANNED IN BUDAPEST ON 28 JUNE DESPITE BAN

RECENT ALERTS



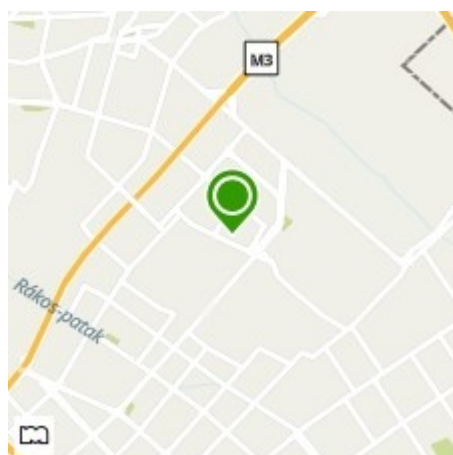
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



28-Jun-2025 05:34

Local media reports that the Pride march is set to go ahead in Budapest on 28 June despite a ban by the Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orban. Hungarian authorities have said that anyone participating could face a fine of up to €500. Other countries are holding protests around the world, including Norway, Mexico and Italy.

PLANNED PROTEST IN BUDAPEST ON 28 JUNE IN SOLIDARITY WITH LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



RECENT ALERTS

Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



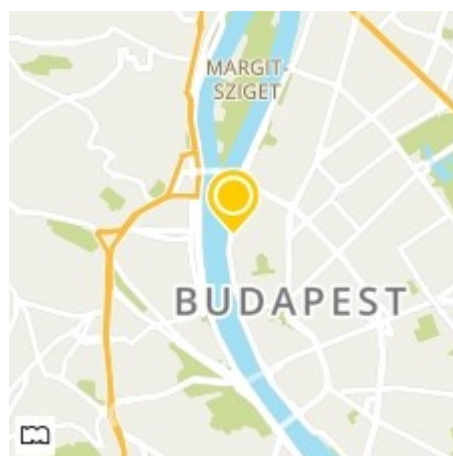
24-Jun-2025 02:09

Local media report a planned protest on 28 June in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, in defiance of a law passed on 18 March banning such gatherings.

Participants are expected to assemble at Madách Square at noon local time.

The duration of the protest remains unclear.

PLANNED PRO-EU PROTEST SCHEDULED FOR 10 JUNE IN FRONT OF THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



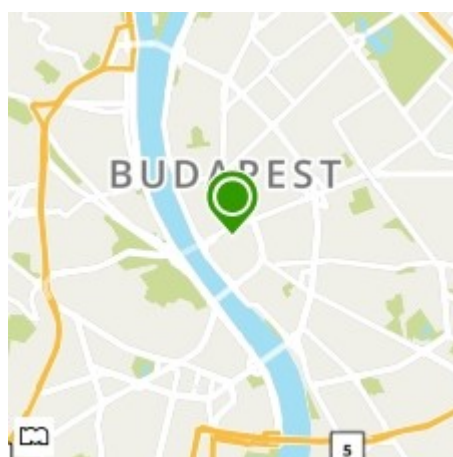
10-Jun-2025 08:14

Local media reports that a pro-European Union protest is scheduled for 10 June in front of the Hungarian Parliament on Kossuth Square in Budapest. This is in the context of the "On the Transparency of Public Life" Bill that was submitted to Parliament on 13 May listing foreign-funded organisations that they believe

RECENT ALERTS

threaten Hungary's sovereignty. The protest will begin at 1800 local time.

PLANNED PROTEST IN BUDAPEST ON 20 MAY OVER RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low

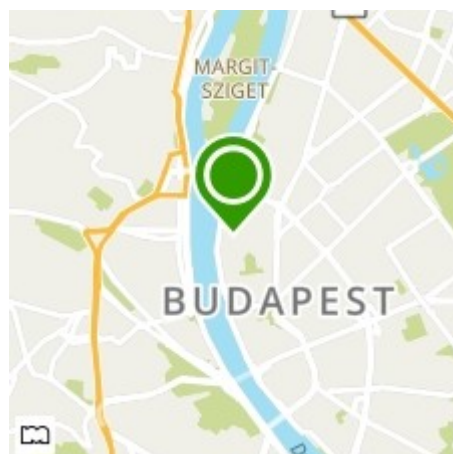


19-May-2025 21:19

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) has announced that a protest will take place in Budapest on 20 May, with approximately 500 protesters expected to gather at Ferenciek tere 5 in District V from 16:30 to 18:45 local time. The demonstration is in response to recent legislative changes, specifically the Assembly Law and the 'Clean-Up' Law, which introduce new restrictions on public gatherings and are reported to expand enforcement powers.

ANTI-TRANSPARENCY BILL PROTEST SCHEDULED IN BUDAPEST ON 18 MAY

RECENT ALERTS



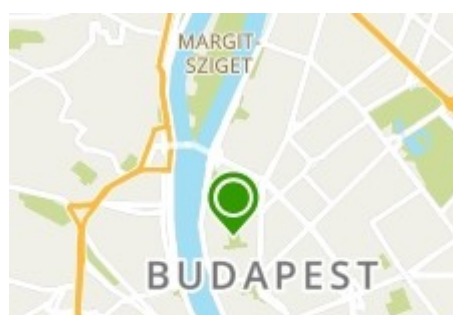
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low

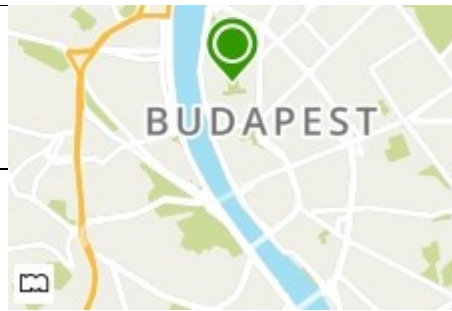


17-May-2025 13:53

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) has announced that a protest will take place in Budapest on 18 May. Protesters will gather at 17:30 on Kossuth Lajos tér in District V. The number of participants and the duration of the protest remain unknown at this time. Demonstrators are rallying against a proposed law known as the “transparency bill.” If enacted, the bill would give authorities the power to identify organisations they believe are influencing public opinion or political discourse in ways considered harmful to Hungary’s national interests.

MULTIPLE PROTESTS OVER LGBTQ RIGHTS TO TAKE PLACE IN BUDAPEST ON 17 MAY





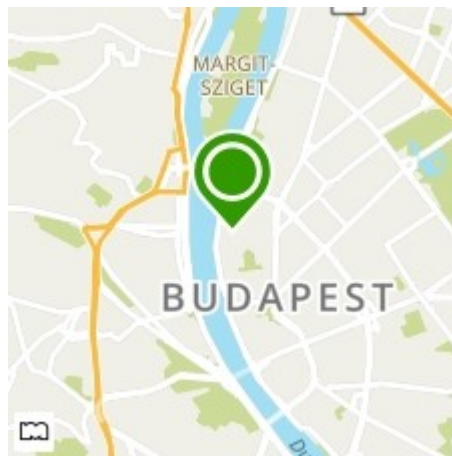
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



17-May-2025 07:47

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) advises that several demonstrations in support of LGBTQ rights are scheduled to take place in Budapest on 17 May. Approximately 100 participants are expected to gather at Szabadság tér in District V from 15:00 to 19:00 local time. A similar number of demonstrators is anticipated at Erzsébet tér – Andrássy út – Hősök tere, also in District V, from 16:00 to 19:00. Additionally, another group of similar size is expected to assemble in the area opposite the Piarist public area in District V from 17:30 to 19:00.

MULTIPLE DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FROM 01 TO 04 MAY IN BUDAPEST



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



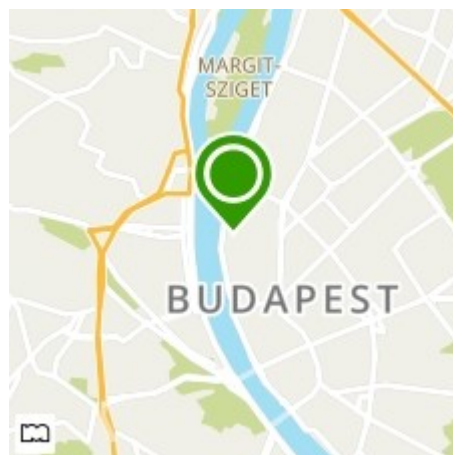
RECENT ALERTS

01-May-2025 07:03

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) reports that several demonstrations will occur in Budapest from 01 to 04 May. The biggest protest is expected on 01 May from 14:00 to 20:00, local time, in District V. Kossuth Lajos, where an estimated 5.000 people will gather to protest for the right to assembly. Similar protests for freedom of speech and women's rights will also occur during these days, however, the exact number of participants is not immediately clear.

Further information is currently limited.

MULTIPLE DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FROM 18 TO 21 APRIL IN BUDAPEST



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



17-Apr-2025 23:06

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) reports that several demonstrations will occur in Budapest from 18 April at 10:00 local time through 21 April at midnight. The protesters will gather at Kossuth Lajos tér in District V to express support for freedom of speech rights. The exact number of participants remains unclear at this time, and no further details are immediately available.

RECENT ALERTS

FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 13:58:15

Warnings and insurance

Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of the current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Hungary set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [Hungarian Embassy in the UK](#).

Passport validity requirements

Hungary follows [Schengen area rules](#). Your passport must:

- have a ‘date of issue’ less than 10 years before the date you arrive – if you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago
- have an ‘expiry date’ at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave the Schengen area (the expiry date does not need to be within 10 years of the date of issue)

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

Visa requirements

You can travel [without a visa to the Schengen area](#), which includes Hungary, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel:

- as a tourist
- to visit family or friends
- to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events
- for short-term studies or training

The [requirements for working in Hungary](#) are different.

If you're travelling to other Schengen countries as well, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day visa-free limit. Visits to Schengen countries in the 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days. If you overstay the 90-day visa-free limit, you may be banned from entering Schengen countries for up to 3 years.

Until the Entry-Exit System (EES) is fully rolled out, make sure you get your passport stamped on entry and exit (read 'New Schengen entry requirements').

If you're a visitor, border guards will look at your entry and exit stamps to check you have not overstayed the 90-day visa-free limit for the Schengen area.

If your passport is missing a stamp, show evidence of when and where you entered or left the Schengen area (for example, boarding passes or tickets) and ask the border guards to add the date and location in your passport.

At Hungarian border control, you may also need to:

- show a return or onward ticket
- prove you have enough money for your stay
- show proof of accommodation, for example, a hotel booking

Staying longer than 90 days in a 180-day period

To stay longer, check which type of visa or work permit you need with the [Hungarian Embassy in the UK](#).

For residence permits, see the [National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing](#).

If you're in Hungary with a residence permit or long-stay visa, this does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit.

Read about [entry processes if you live in Hungary](#).

New Schengen entry requirements

From 12 October 2025, the European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) will begin roll out.

This means that when you travel into the Schengen area for short stays, you may need to register your biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo. You do not need to take any action before you arrive at the border, and there is no cost for EES registration.

On your first visit into a Schengen country from 12 October onwards, you may be asked to register your details at a special booth before proceeding to the immigration desk. Follow directions from your travel operator or the staff at your port of entry. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. Children aged 11 or younger will not have their fingerprints scanned but can be required to have their photo taken.

EES may take each passenger a few extra minutes to complete so be prepared to wait longer than usual at the border.

EES will not be rolled out to all ports of entry at once, the numbers of passengers being registered at each port of entry will vary, and some destinations may take up to 6 months to fully roll out the new process.

Until EES is fully rolled out your passport will continue to be stamped, even if you've already been registered for EES. Once EES is fully rolled out, it will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the Schengen area for short stays and you will input biometric details every time you enter or exit.

If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel at Folkestone or Eurostar at St Pancras International and you are asked to register for EES, the information will be taken at the border before you leave the UK.

Read more [information on the EU Entry/Exit System and to understand which countries are in the Schengen area](#).

Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into and out of Hungary](#), including pets, hunting weapons, alcohol and tobacco products and some medicines. You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

Taking food and drink into Hungary

You cannot take [meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries](#). There are some exceptions such as powdered baby milk, baby food and special foods or pet feed required for medical reasons.

Taking money into Hungary

Declare cash or travellers cheques if the value is 10,000 euros or more. You will get a certified declaration to show you brought it in with you. If you do not, your money could be seized when you leave.

Safety and security

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

Terrorism in Hungary

Terrorist attacks in Hungary cannot be ruled out.

Political situation

Political demonstrations can be held in Budapest and across Hungary. Rallies often take place on important national holidays, such as 15 March (anniversary of 1848 Revolution) and 23 October (anniversary of 1956 anti-Soviet Uprising). Peaceful demonstrations have sometimes turned violent. Move away from large crowds and monitor local media to help you avoid organised demonstrations.

Crime

Protecting yourself and your belongings

Tourists can be targets for petty crime. Bag-snatching and pickpocketing are common, especially in Budapest and other cities.

Street crime is more likely:

- on busy public transport
- in train stations
- at markets
- in places with high numbers of tourists

When travelling by train keep a close watch on your baggage, especially as the train pulls into a station.

Leave your car or motorbike in a secure location if possible to reduce the risk of it being stolen. Theft from parked vehicles is common, so always put bags out of sight and do not store valuable items in your car.

Scams when paying bills

Some bars, clubs and restaurants might charge high amounts for food and drink. Tourists have been taken to cashpoints with demands for the money to pay the bill. Always ask to see the menu and price list before ordering food and check your bill carefully before paying. Be wary of establishments where menus do not properly display prices. Report any incidents to the police.

Some taxi drivers are part of these frauds. They may receive a commission to recommend certain bars, clubs and restaurants to passengers. If a taxi driver offers to take you to a bar or club, or you are approached on the street with an invitation, be cautious. Use taxis from a reputable local company.

Bank card fraud

Use official ATMs or banks. Do not change money on the street.

Fraudsters can steal your card details without you noticing. Use ATMs inside banks if possible, and check ATMs on the street for signs of tampering. Keep cards in sight when paying in shops and restaurants. Read more about [how to avoid bank card fraud](#).

Drink spiking

There have been reports of drinks being spiked, particularly in Budapest's bars. If your drink is spiked it can make you vulnerable – for example to assault or

robbery. Buy your own drinks and keep sight of them.

Laws and cultural differences

Personal ID

Always carry your passport. You must show ID if the police ask for it, and a copy is not acceptable.

Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs, including cannabis, carry severe penalties. You should expect a long jail sentence and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including when transiting through the airport.

Airports in Hungary have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.

LGBT+ travellers

Same-sex sexual activity is legal in Hungary. Budapest is generally tolerant and open. Outside of Budapest, showing affection in public may receive unwanted attention. Read more [advice for LGBT+ travellers](#).

Hungary has passed legislation allowing the banning of rallies and marches that depict or promote LGBT+ identities to minors. Participants could be identified by facial recognition technology and face fines of up to 200,000 Hungarian Forints. The Hungarian government classified Budapest Pride 2025 as illegal under this legislation.

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

Festivals

If you are going to a summer music festival in Hungary, see [FCDO's travel checklist for festivals in Europe](#).

Transport risks

Public transport

On the Metro, you must validate your ticket at the entrance to the station. On buses, trams or trolley buses, you must validate your ticket immediately after boarding. Remember to:

- keep your ticket until the end of your journey, as ticket inspectors can ask to see it at any time
- validate a new ticket each time you change lines or mode of transport
- get a special ticket for the night service network

You could get a fine if you do not follow the rules of the transport ticket system. See more information on ticket conditions from the [Budapest Transport Authority](#).

Road travel

If you are planning to drive in Hungary, see [information on driving abroad](#) and check the [rules of the road in the RAC's Hungary guide](#). The guide lists driving regulations and other legal requirements you need to be aware of.

You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in Hungary. If you still have a paper driving licence, you may need to [update it to a photocard licence](#) or get the [correct version of the international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) as well.

Check if you need a [UK sticker to drive your car outside the UK](#).

If you are visiting Hungary, you may be able to use your [Blue Badge](#) in some circumstances. Check local parking rules.

Check the [information about driving if you're resident in Hungary](#).

Driving regulations

Hungary has a no-alcohol driving policy. It is illegal to drink any alcohol and then drive in Hungary.

You must use dipped headlights on roads outside towns even in daytime.

Roads that require an e-vignette (toll)

If you want to use major highways in Hungary, you must [buy a motorway e-vignette](#) in advance of your journey. The vignette is a form of electronic toll. If you use the roads without buying an e-vignette, you will get a fine.

Transporting humanitarian or medical aid

If you are planning to transit through Hungary with consignments of humanitarian aid or medical aid, contact the [Hungarian Embassy in the UK](#) in advance to apply for a waiver of normal haulage fees.

Rail travel

Take care when travelling by train and keep your belongings in sight. Take extra care on night trains. Never leave bags unattended. Travel with companions where possible and lock your compartment from the inside.

Extreme weather and natural disasters

Find out what you can do to [prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

You can access [local forecasts and weather warnings](#) for Hungary. Follow the instructions of local authorities.

Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Emergency medical number

Dial 112 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for Hungary](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See what [health risks you'll face in Hungary](#).

Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

Healthcare in Hungary

[FCDO](#) has a list of [medical facilities in Hungary](#) where some staff will speak English.

Health insurance cards

To get medically necessary state healthcare in Hungary, you need a Global Health Insurance Card ([GHIC](#)) or a European Health Insurance Card ([EHIC](#)).

The NHS's [getting healthcare abroad webpage](#) has details about:

- how to apply for a [GHIC](#)
- how to get temporary cover if you lose your card or it does not arrive in time
- who qualifies for a new [EHIC](#) instead of a [GHIC](#)
- what treatment counts as medically necessary

A [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) is not an alternative to travel insurance. You may have costs your [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) does not cover, including:

- changes to travel and accommodation bookings
- additional standard costs for treatment
- medical repatriation to the UK
- treatment that is ruled non-urgent
- private healthcare

- private clinics

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Hungary](#).

Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([FCDO](#)) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

Emergency services in Hungary

Telephone: 112 (ambulance, fire, police)

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from [FCDO](#)

[FCDO](#) has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support

abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Hungary
- dealing with a [death in Hungary](#)
- being [arrested in Hungary](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting [FCDO](#)

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

Help in the UK

You can call [FCDO](#) in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow [FCDO](#):

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Hungary](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app

so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

THINK SAFE: Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself. You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email SGR@solaceglobal.com for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact support@solaceglobal.com.

Solace Global Risk, Twin Sails House, West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1JF, UK