



# Hungary

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HISTORY



Shaped by its position on the Great Hungarian Plain, those occupying the territory of present-day Hungary have historically practiced forms of nomadism.

With the arrival of invaders in the early years of the territory's establishment, Hungary has been influenced by various groups and has been under the rule of the Turkish Ottomans and Austrian empires. European Christian nation, Hungary has experienced a tiresome struggle for independence. After losing a large chunk of its land in World Wars I and II and battling a 45-year Soviet occupation, Hungary finally became a republic again with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.



MONEY



The national currency of Hungary is the forint. As part of the European Union, the Hungarian may replace the forint with the euro sometime in the future, but there does not seem to be a concrete transition plan at the moment.

## Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted credit cards at restaurants and museums, and some places will accept American Express, but Discover is unlikely to be a reliable option. Small shops may accept cash only or require a minimum purchase amount, so it is advisable to carry some cash at all times as a precaution.

## ATMs

ATMs are common in Hungary in any heavily trafficked area (airports, shopping centers, and banks, for example). Some larger banks offer fee-free withdrawals but always check before withdrawing cash.



HELPFUL INFO

## Climate

Hungary has a typical European climate with dry summers and chilly winters. The fall months can be damp and cold, and fog is frequent in the mountains.

## Electricity

In Hungary, the supply voltage is 230 V, and the frequency is 50 Hz. Travelers should expect to bring a converter and adapter for any appliances they wish to use.



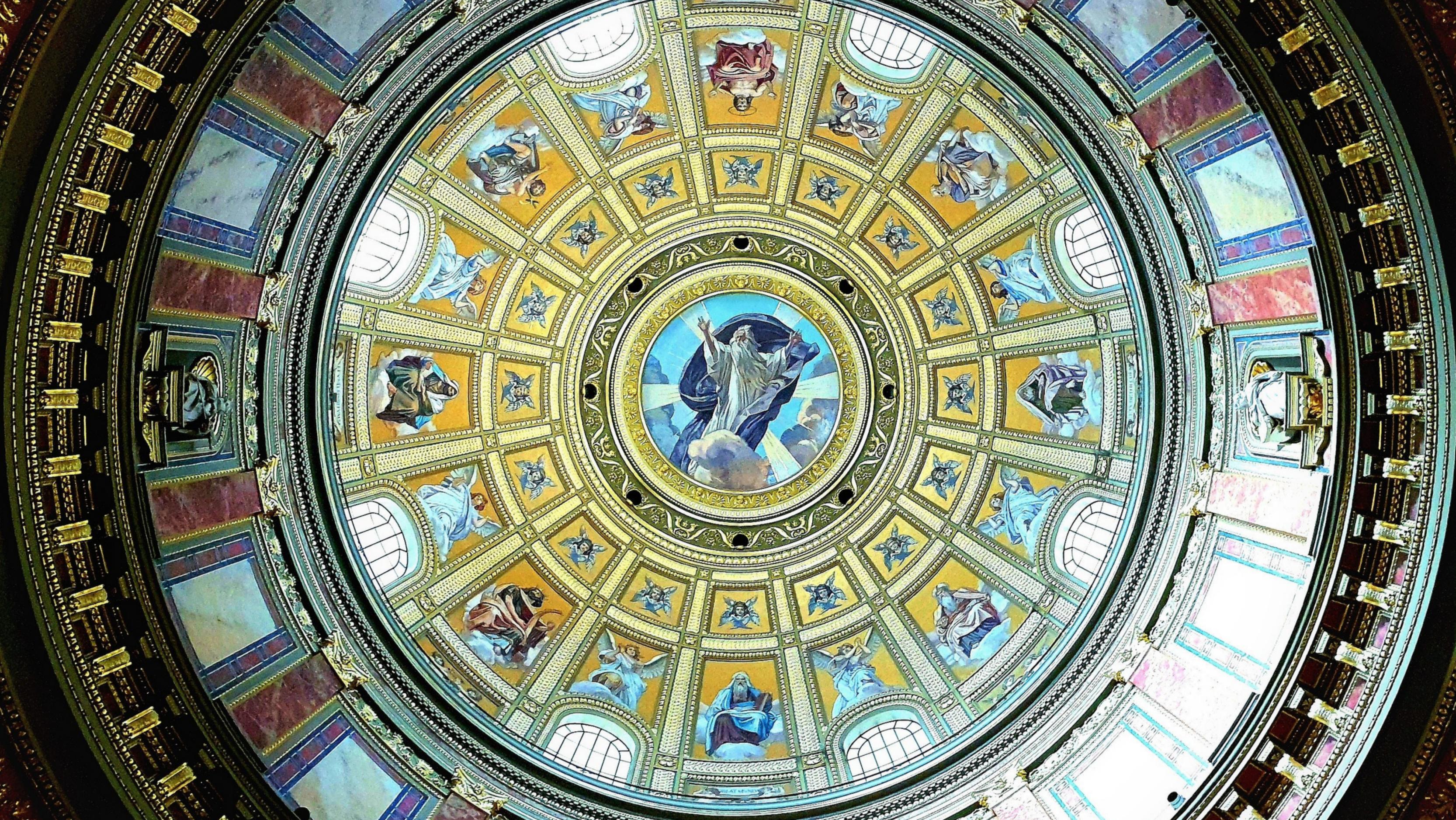
## Technology & Communication

Hungary has an extensive communications network, and most Hungarians own personal cell phones.

Travelers can either pre-pay for international cell phone usage, buy a Hungarian SIM card upon arrival, or simply connect to Wi-Fi when possible.

## Infrastructure & Transportation

Budapest is by far the most well-connected city in Hungary, with a metro, tram, and bus routes, all of which are relatively simple and cheap. From Budapest, trains are available to the rest of the country and beyond, but for out-of-the-way excursions, renting a car may be the best option.



## In Case Of An Emergency

112 is one of Europe and Hungary's emergency numbers. However, it is not Hungary's only emergency number. Dial 104 for ambulance and medical emergencies, 105 for the fire department, and 107 for the police.

## Language

Spoken by 98% of the population, Hungarian is the official language of Hungary.

A little over half of Hungarians can speak English.



## LGBT Travel

Same-sex marriage is not yet legal in Hungary, and in that regard, Hungarians tend to be less accepting of LGBT people than most of Western Europe. While not the most liberal city in Europe, common-law marriage does include same-sex couples. Budapest also has a respectable gay nightlife scene.

## Religion

Hungary is a mostly Christian nation, and around half of the country is Roman Catholic, although the country has no official religion. Most non-Catholic Hungarians are Protestant Christians.



## Getting There

Most flights will take you to Budapest Airport, from which you can reach central Budapest in a little over 30 minutes by bus, train, or private car. Budapest is also well-connected with Europe's rail network.

## Driving

Depending on where you want to go, renting a car may be unnecessary. Within Budapest or any other decent-sized city, public transportation should more than suffice. If you plan on exploring more rural areas, you can find rentals at many points around the country.

THE EXPERIENCE

## Culture

Hungary is a unique country and has a very distinctive culture rooted in folk traditions, such as art and music. Embroidery and pottery are just two of the forms this traditional art takes on. Hungarians run proud of their language and one-of-a-kind culture, and take Carnival and folk costumes to a whole new level.



## Bucket List

Take a dip in a thermal bath

Take a Hungarian cooking class

Spend time on one of the lakes

Visit a Hungarian folk cultural center

Gaze out at Budapest from the Fisherman's Bastion



# Family Travel Highlights

Thermal baths

Walking tour of Castle Hill

Lunch at the Great Market Hall

Ferris wheel ride – Erzsebet Square

Spend a day soaking up the sun at Lake Balaton



# Tourism Authority

Hungarian Tourism Board

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## Foods To Try

Gulyás (Goulash)

Lángos (fried dough)

Töltött Káposzta (stuffed cabbage)

Halászlé (Fisherman's soup)

Somlói Galyska (sponge cake dessert)



## Drinks To Try

Pálinka

Unicum

Bikavêr

Tokaji

Pezsgő

# Photography Hot Spots

Gellért Hill - Citadel

Hungarian Parliament

Chain Bridge

Ruin bar

Night boat tour



## Souvenirs To Buy

Traditional dolls/artwork

Tokaji wine

Painting of the Danube

Paprika

Thermal water soap

