

CEESA

PRE-
CONFERENCE
NEWSLETTER



Join us Saturday night on the elegant Europa cruise ship for a breathtaking voyage on Budapest's famed Danube River. Enjoy spectacular views of celebrated UNESCO World Heritage sights, including the Chain Bridge, Parliament, Gresham Palace, Buda Castle, and Gellért Hill. You'll be treated to dinner and drinks; you can dance the night away with our live band, or try your hand at Vegas-style games. Come and join the fun!

Üdvözljük Budapesten! Welcome to Budapest!

Every city has a story, and Budapest is no different. It is a city of many monikers: the Pearl of the Danube, the Paris of the East, the City of Spas. It's also a rich, bustling capital with much to offer. Between the hills of Buda and the wide, grand boulevards of Pest flows the legendary Danube River, a life line from Germany all the way to the Black Sea. With an intricate tapestry of cultures staking claim to the city since the First Century BC, you'll find everything from Roman ruins to Turkish baths to the biggest Tesco in the world here! Take some time to explore the historic district, enjoy an opera, visit the largest synagogue in Europe, or window shop in stores like Louis Vuitton and Gucci on Andrassy Avenue. Take in the story of Budapest in its architecture, in its people, in tiny courtyards and in swanky, modern wine bars.

Hungary is not only a country with a complex and interesting history, its inventors

and entrepreneurs have contributed much to the world. As any true Hungarian will tell you, we invented almost everything!

Did you know that the ball-point pen, nuclear engineering, the holograph, the Model T Ford, Microsoft Office, seat belts, binary code, BASIC and computer programming, the NASA Moon Rover, safety matches, Ex-Lax, color television, full-length motion pictures, jet propulsion, the carburetor, and the automatic gearbox all owe their existence to Hungarians?

So come, and be inspired! Welcome to our story!

What to look forward to:

- A conference packed with energizing and practical ideas
- Exploring Budapest on one of our Saturday afternoon city tours
- Relaxing at one of our famous thermal baths

- Gazing up at historical architecture reminiscent of the Golden Age of Europe
- Panoramic views overlooking the city from Fisherman's Bastion
- Shopping in funky little courtyards hidden along the side streets
- Dinner, dancing, prizes, and spectacular views from our cruise on the Danube

By the Numbers

Current USD rate	200 HUF
Current EUR rate	272 HUF
Population of Budapest	1.7M
Avg Temperature in March	6°C



American International
School of Budapest

YOUR BRIDGE TO THE WORLD

The American International School of Budapest is proud to be the host school for the 2011 CEESA Conference. We welcome you to the "Pearl of the Danube" and hope that your stay will be a memorable one. We invite you to visit our school as one of the options for the Saturday afternoon tours. Look for more information when you arrive!

Here's the Scoop

Transport

Taxi

Taxis have yellow license plates and have fare meters that can give a receipt. They are generally cheaper if you call ahead. A 10% tip is normal.

Metro

There are 3 underground lines that cover the city well. Buy your ticket before the journey, and stamp it at the entry. Keep your ticket until your entire trip is complete.

Above Ground

The transport system also includes bus, tram, and trolley. The same type of ticket covers all of these.

Money

Banking

Banks are generally open Mon-Thur from 8am-3pm, and Fri from 8-1. You can also exchange money at exchange offices and hotels, or simply use an ATM.

Credit Cards

Major credit cards (AmEx, Visa, MC, Diners, Cirrus) can be used at most shops, but travelers' checks cannot. They can be cashed at the bank.

Other Options

You can also use your bank or credit card to get cash at more than 3000 post offices throughout Hungary!

Basics

Time

Budapest uses Greenwich Mean Time +1 hour, or US Eastern Standard Time + 6 hours.

Phone Numbers

Central Emergency: 112
Police: 107
Ambulance: 104
International Operator: 199

Power Supply

The voltage is 220V/50 Hz. European style 2-pin plugs are used.

Airport Arrival

Getting through the Budapest Airport is generally a breeze, especially if you're coming from within the Schengen Zone. If you're coming from outside the Zone, you'll have one extra stop at passport control. After that, head to baggage claim and collect your luggage.

In the baggage claim area, there is a currency exchange in both terminals, and there is an ATM in the Non-Schengen terminal (2B). There are also currency exchanges just outside of baggage claim.

To get into town, you can use the airport shuttle, called ASM (Airport Shuttle Minibus), or take a taxi. There are other options with public transport, but they are slightly more complicated.

To use the airport shuttle, exit the baggage claim area and look to your right for the ASM desk. It is a shared ride service, so as soon as the Minibus fills up, they will take you directly to your destination. Find more information at www.airportshuttle.hu. Their phone number is +36 (1) 296-8555. The current rate is 2990 HUF (approx 15 USD) per person, one way.

To travel by taxi, you can use the airport's agreed upon taxi service, Fötäxi. There is a taxi rank just outside each of the terminals, and you can simply make your

reservation and get a voucher there when you arrive. It's generally very fast, as the taxis continuously wait for passengers.

The rate is charged according to the district you're traveling to. In the case of the Marriott Hotel downtown, it will cost 5100 HUF (approx 26 USD). The rate is per taxi, not per person. A 10% tip is common.

According to the website, the taxi meter will also run, and if your meter fare is less than the standard fare, you will pay the lower amount. You should also keep the voucher that you received in case you leave something in the taxi or need to file a complaint. More information at www.fotaxi.hu. Or +36 (1) 222-2222.

You can use a credit card to pay for the taxi or for the airport shuttle.

Other taxi companies are also available; just call one from the list below. While they are often cheaper, you may have to wait a little while for them to arrive - generally 10-20 minutes.

Other Taxi Companies

- City Taxi +36 (1) 211-1111
- Taxi Plus +36 (1) 788-8000
- Budapest Taxi +36 (1) 433-3333
- 6x6 Taxi +36 (1) 266-6666



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Need more information?

- Funzine Online - www.funzine.hu
- Budapest Airport - www.bud.hu/english
- Budapest Travel Guide - www.budapest.com
- Tami Canale, Conference Representative - tcanale@aisb.hu