

Survival Guide

BEST Summer Course

2016

Veszprém

1. General Information About Hungary

1.1 Data

Area: 93 030 square kilometers

Population: 10 million

Capital: Budapest (1 720 000 inhabitants)

Official language: Hungarian

Time zone: GMT +1 hour (CET)

Currency: Forint (**you can only pay with Forint in our country!**)

1.2 Brief History

Hungary has been founded in 25 December, 1000, by Saint Stephen (I. István). It has been an independent kingdom until the country's Turkish occupation in the 16th century. 200 years after, it became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire under Habsburg rein. Soon after WWI, the empire collapsed, and following the second war, it fell under communist rule. In 1956, a revolution and an announced withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact were met with a massive military intervention by Moscow. Under the leadership of Janos Kadar in 1968, Hungary began liberalizing its economy, introducing the so-called "Goulash Communism." Hungary held its first multiparty elections in 1990 and initiated a free market economy. It joined NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004.

You can find out more about the history of Hungary here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_hungary

1.3 Weather

Hungary has a temperate continental climate; there are substantial differences among the average temperatures of the four seasons. Usually January is the coldest, while the hottest months are July and August in Hungary. Spring starts in early April and is accompanied by lots of showers. The summers are dry and warm. Autumns are cool, foggy and rainy. Winters are relatively short, moderately cold and usually dry, but sometimes brilliant sunny. The little snow the city gets usually disappears after a few days.

Weather forecast in Hungary (just select the city you want to see below): www.met.hu/elorejelzesek/

1.4 Hungarian Language

Hungarian is a Uralic language, part of the Ugric group, related to Finnish, Estonian and a number of minority languages spoken in the Baltic states and northern European Russia eastward into central Siberia. Finno-Ugric languages are not related to the Indo-European languages that dominate Europe but have acquired loan words from them.

And here is a list of the most important phrases and expression you're going to need:

Szia! - Hello/Bye!

Viszont látásra! – Good bye!

Jó reggelt! - Good Morning!

Jó napot!- Good Afternoon!

Jó estét! – Good Evening!

Jó éjszakát! - Good Night!

Köszönöm! - Thank you!

Igen - Yes

Nem - No

Szép vagy. - You're a nice girl/guy.

Szeretlek! - I love you!

Egészségedre! - Cheers!

Egy sört kérek! - A beer, please!

Veszprémig kérek egy jegyet. - One ticket to Veszprém, please.

Mennyibe kerül? - How much is it?

Elnézést! - Excuse me!

Elnézést, nem beszélek magyarul. - Excuse me, I don't speak Hungarian.

Hogy vagy? - How are you?

Jól vagyok. – I feel fine.

Nem vagyok jól / Beteg vagyok. – I feel sick.

Eper vagyok, egyél meg! – I'm a strawberry, eat me!

1.5. Money & Prices

The official money is Hungarian Forint – HUF.

Exchange rates are nearly the following:

1 Euro = ~310 HUF (14th January 2016)

1 USA dollar = ~280 HUF (14th January 2016)

The official daily exchange rates can be found here: <https://www.otpbank.hu/portal/hu/Arfolyamok/OTP>

Please avoid changing money on the street. If you have any requests, ask us and we will help you.

To have an idea about the prices in Hungary, here are some samples:

Snacks

Chocolate bar (200 g) 300 HUF / 1 euro

Pizza 800 HUF / 3-5 euros

McDonald's hamburger 400 HUF / 1,5-2 euros

Lunch at restaurant 1000 – 3000 HUF / 3-10 euros

Drinks (from the shop)

Bottle of Coca-Cola (0.5 l) 300 HUF / 1 euro

Bottle of beer (0,5 l) 300 HUF / 1 euro

Bottle of vodka (0,5 l) 1800 HUF / 6 euros

Bottle of cheap wine (0,75 l) 600 HUF / 2 euros

Nightlife

Entrance fee (weekends) 500 HUF / 1,75-2 euros

Beer in bars (0,5 litre) 300 – 500 HUF / 1- 2 euros

Other drinks 600 – 800 HUF / 2 - 4 euros

Packet of cigarettes 1000 HUF / 3-4 euros

2. General information about Veszprém

Veszprém (Hungarian pronunciation: ['vespre:m]) is one of the oldest towns in Hungary, is now a city with county rights and lies approximately 15 km (9 mi) north of Lake Balaton. It is the capital city of the administrative county (comitatusor 'megye') of the same name.

Veszprém lies on both sides of the Séd creek, approximately 110 km (68 mi) from Budapest (via the M7 highway and Road 8). It can also be reached from Győr via Road 82 and from Székesfehérvár via Road 8.

2.1 History

According to local legend, Veszprém was founded on seven hills. The seven hills are Várhegy (Castle Hill), Benedek-hegy (St. Benedict Hill), Jeruzsálem-hegy (Jerusalem Hill), Temetőhegy (Cemetery Hill), Gulyadomb (Herd Hill), Kálvária-domb (Calvary Hill), and Cserhát.

Anonymus, the notary of King Béla III wrote that a castle already stood here when the Hungarians first occupied the area. The castle was probably a 9th century Frankish fortress. The castles of Veszprém, Esztergom and Székesfehérvár, were the earliest Hungarian stone castles, which had already been built during the reign of High Prince Géza, a time when motte castles were much more common.

The name of the city originates from the Slavic word Bezprym, which was originally a personal name. Ján Kollár derived its name from Ves Perunova - Perun's village and mentioned also a German derivation from Weiss-Brunn - white well. The city was named either after a chieftain, or the son of Princess Judith (elder sister of St. Stephen of Hungary), who settled here after her husband Boleslaus I of Poland expelled her and her son.

Veszprém had an important religious role during the fight to make Christianity the official religion of Hungary - Stephen I of Hungary defeated the armies of his chief opponent, Koppány, near Veszprém. The city became the first episcopal seat of Hungary in 1009 and an archiepiscopal seat in 1993. Comitatus Veszprém was one of the earliest historical counties of Hungary.

Veszprém was the favorite city of Queen Gisela, the wife of St. Stephen. For centuries, the queens of Hungary were crowned by the bishop of Veszprém. The city is still often called "the city of queens". In the year 1294 Queen Fenenna confirmed that, at that time, the former(!) Queen Elizabeth had the privilege to collect the donations of the church in the Veszprém County. Later the queens of Hungary were not crowned anymore, but were only present at the coronations of the kings. Veszprém changed hands between Austrians

and Ottomans until 1684 after the Battle of Mohács in 1526. It was known as "Pespirim" and was a sanjak centre in Budin Province during Ottoman rule.

During the Mongol invasion of Hungary, Veszprém was protected by its castle, which was later demolished on order of the Habsburgs in 1706.

Veszprém was among the first Hungarian cities to have a university - students studied law and arts here. The university was destroyed by fire in 1276. Veszprém became a university town again in the 20th century.

3. Arrival information - How to get to Veszprém?

We suppose that most of you will arrive first to Budapest. There are 2 main possibilities to get to Veszprém from Budapest: by train or by bus.

The trains depart from Southern Railway Station (in Hungarian: Déli pályaudvar), which can be reached on the red line (M2) of the underground. The buses depart from Bus Station "Népliget", which you can reach on the blue line (M3) of the underground.

3.1. Arrival by plane

The Budapest Airport called 'Ferihegy' (or Liszt Ferenc Airport). You will arrive to Ferihegy 2. At the airport take the airport bus (number 200). It will drop you off at "Kőbánya - Kispeszt", which is the final station of the blue (M3) line of the underground. Here you can choose:

From "Kőbánya - Kispeszt" to

- Southern Railway Station "Déli pályaudvar":

Take blue (M3) line of the underground direction "Újpest Központ" and change to red line (M2) at "Deák tér" to the metro that goes towards "Déli pályaudvar". You have to get off at "Déli pályaudvar" (it's the final station of this line).

- Bus Station "Népliget":

Take blue (M3) line of the underground which goes towards "Újpest Központ". You have to get off at "Népliget" stop.

NOTE: We advise you not to call a taxi! It can be very expensive.

Budapest Airport website: <http://www.bud.hu/english>

3.2. Arrival by train

If you take a train to Hungary you will probably arrive to the Eastern Railway Station (Keleti Pályaudvar) or to the Western Railway Station (Nyugati Pályaudvar).

3.2.1 From Eastern Railway Station "Keleti pályaudvar"

So if you arrive there you should go to

- **Southern Railway Station "Déli pályaudvar":**

Take the red metro line (M2) towards the direction of "Déli pályaudvar" and get off at Southern Railway Station ("Déli pályaudvar"). It's the final station of this line. Here you can take another train to Veszprém. That will be your destination. ;)

- **Bus Station "Népliget":**

Take the red metro line (M2) towards the direction of "Déli pályaudvar" and change to the blue line (M3) at "Deák tér" towards the direction of "Kőbánya Kispest". You have to get off at "Népliget".

3.2.2 From Western Railway Station "Nyugati pályaudvar"

- **Southern Railway Station "Déli pályaudvar":**

Take the blue metro line (M3) towards the direction of "Kőbánya-Kispest" and change to red line (M2) at "Deák tér", towards "Déli pályaudvar". You have to get off at "Déli pályaudvar" (it's the final station of this line).

- **"Népliget" Bus Station:**

Take the blue metro line (M3) towards the direction of "Kőbánya-Kispest". You have to get off at "Népliget".

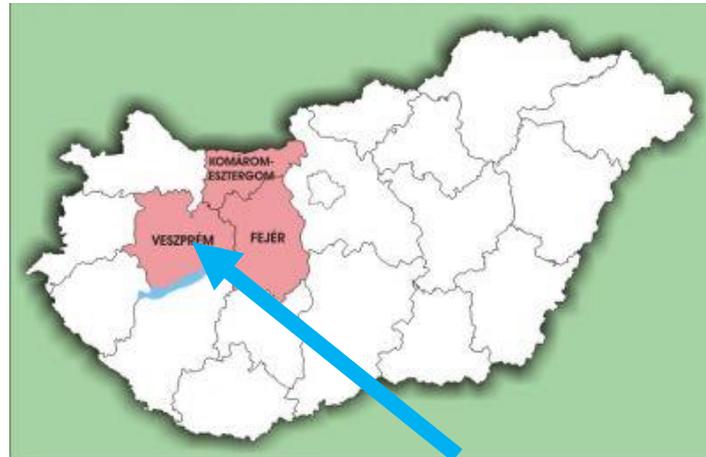
3.3. Arrival by bus

All international buses arrive to "Népliget" Bus Station. Here you can easily take a bus to Veszprém.

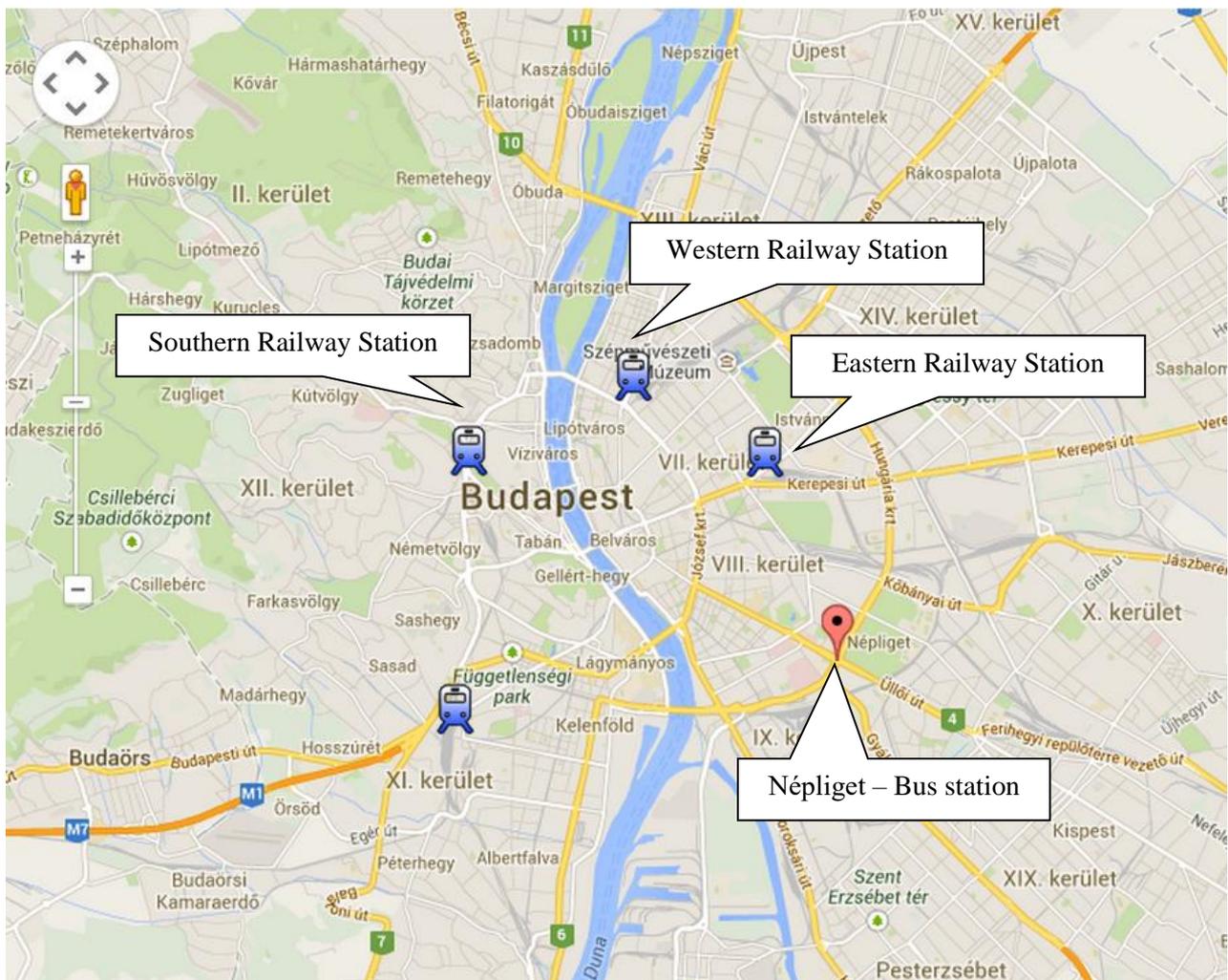
3.4. Arrival by car

If you plan to come by car, the first thing you need is a GPS ☺ If you haven't got one, borrow your friends'.

☺ If it still doesn't work, here is a map of the region, with the blue arrow indicating Veszprém.



3.5. Budapest map (with the mentioned stations)



3.6 Timetables & Costs

All the timetables can be found on the following websites:

- Train schedule: <http://elvira.mav-start.hu/elvira.dll/xslms/index?language=2>
- Bus schedule: <http://www.menetrendek.hu/cgi-bin/menetrend/html.cgi>

Unfortunately the bus timetable is available only in Hungarian, so here are some instructions:

Fields and buttons:

- o "Honnán" – From
- o "Hova" – To
- o "Keresztül" - Via
- o "Keresés" – Search

Specifications on the result page:

- o "Naponta" – daily (this bus runs every day of the week)
- o "Munkaszüneti napok kivételével naponta" – runs on every day of the week, except on Sundays and national holidays
- o "Munkaszüneti napokon" – runs only on Sundays or national holidays

About the costs of getting to Veszprém from Budapest:

For students there's 50% discount on bus and train tickets in Hungary. BUT ONLY if you have a valid student card (from your own university) AND you learn in one of the partner countries of European Union! So if your country is not in the EU, you can't get a discount :((but you can try it :P) With ISIC (International Student ID card) you won't get any discount when you are travelling by bus or train!

Ask for the discount at the ticket desk. This discount is only available for train and long-distance bus tickets. The train & bus ticket prices to Veszprém are the same: it's either 1200 or 2400 HUF from Budapest to Veszprém, depending on whether they accept your card or not.

Ticket prices for underground (Budapest)

Single line ticket: 350 HUF (in advance) or 450 HUF (on the bus)

NOTE: you don't have to validate the ticket again when you change metro lines, if you don't go upstairs through the exit. You must validate it only once, at the beginning of your trip. However, this rule only applies to the metro.

4. Tips & practical information

4.1. What to bring with you

- passport, ID card, student card
- visa (if needed)
- money (HUF)
- travel & health insurance papers and phone number of your insurance company
- rain coat and/or umbrella (the weather is changeable, you never know what is going to happen)
- some warm clothes (check the weather forecast before you trip)
- some national food and drinks of yours for international evening
- camera, so that you will always remember the unforgettable days & nights you'll spend here with – don't forget the camera cable so we can collect the photos on the spot
- Your BEST mood for working hard, partying hard...and staying awake!