



# canso Global ATM Safety Conference

6 -11 NOVEMBER 2016  
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

## CANSO PRACTICAL INFORMATION GUIDE

### Location

Budapest is the capital and the largest city of Hungary, it is the country's principal and one of the region's political, cultural, commercial, industrial, and transportation centres. Lying in the geographic centre of Europe and occupying both banks of the river Danube, Budapest Metropolitan Area is home to 3.3 million people, rendering it one of the largest cities in the European Union. Cited as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, World Heritage Sites include the banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter, Andrassy Avenue, Heroes' Square and the Millennium Underground Railway, the second-oldest metro line in the world. In addition, it has around 80 geothermal springs, the world's largest thermal water cave system, second largest synagogue, and third largest Parliament building.

### Time Zone

Central European Time (CET) is 1 hour ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). This time zone is used in most parts of the European Union.

### Currency

The local currency in Budapest is the Hungarian Forint (HUF, Ft). Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs, or exchanged at Foreign Exchange Bureaus and at banks. Avoid exchanging money at the airport as the exchange rate is poor and be aware that many Exchange Bureaus charge commission. All major international credit cards can be used in Hungary and Travellers Cheques are accepted at hotels, banks and some stores. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted for all transactions and purchases, including paying in hotels, taxis, public transport ticket automats, as well as in most restaurants, bars and shops. If your credit card is encoded with a PIN number you will be able to withdraw cash from automatic teller machines (ATMs) situated at banks, frequented intersections and shopping centres throughout the city. Euro is usually taken in major shops and restaurants, however, at a poorer exchange rate and change can be only given in Forint.

1 US Dollar (USD) = 276.47 Hungarian Forint (HUF)

1 Euro (EUR) = 309.26 Hungarian Forint (HUF)

1 UK Pound (GBP) = 362.31 Hungarian Forint (HUF)

Rates as of 29 August 2016

### Electricity

As in other countries of Europe, electricity is supplied throughout Hungary at 220/240 volts (50 hertz), although some hotels provide 110 volt AC sockets (rated at 20 watts) for electric razors only. Electrical sockets (outlets) in Hungary are one of the two European standard electrical socket types: adapter for "Type C" European CEE 7/16 Europlug or adapter for "Type E/F" European CEE 7/4 or CEE 7/5 Schuko. Please note that power outlets only accept the abovementioned European standard three or two-pin plugs (depending on whether an earth connection is fitted), therefore an adaptor is needed for UK/ North American/Asian/Australian plugs.

### Climate

During CANSO Global ATM Safety Conference 2016 we can expect late autumn – early winter temperature ranges of between 5 °C – 15 °C during the daytime, and slightly above zero overnight with a possibility of light rainfalls.

### Water

Hungarian cities and towns have excellent water supplies from abundant underground stratum water and artesian wells, therefore Budapest tap water is fresh and safe to drink. Thermal baths or spas in Budapest are popular tourist attractions as well as public comforts for the city's residents, awarding Budapest the title "City of Spas".

### Food

Budapest restaurants have a high international reputation and prestige, offering local and ethnic cuisine. Budapest houses 5 Michelin Star restaurants, caters for gourmands willing to try Hungarian meals, drinks and other specialities (for ideas and suggestions, refer to [here](#), or any other international cuisine. In addition to excellent food, Budapest restaurants offer world-famous Hungarian wines (such as Tokaji), accompanied with breath-taking views to the Danube promenade or the neo-classicist city streetscape.

### Tipping

At sit-down eateries in Hungary, it is standard to tip about 10% of the total for decent service, or up to 15% for an outstandingly helpful server. Nowadays many restaurants include a "service charge" ("szervízdíj" in Hungarian) in the total,



# canso Global ATM Safety Conference

6 -11 NOVEMBER 2016  
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

## CANSO PRACTICAL INFORMATION GUIDE

so make sure to check for this either on the bill itself or on the menu; there is no need to leave any extra tip in addition to this amount. At more casual eateries, a tip jar will often be next to the cash register, or guests can round up to the next highest forint-bill denomination when paying the server. However, no matter what type of restaurant it is, tips should never be left on the table when you leave – all tips should be given directly to the server. Tipping is common for taxi drivers, although it is not at all mandatory as the tariffs are relatively high.

### Visa

Hungary is a member of the Schengen Area, ensuring the freedom of movement between most countries of the European Union.

All visitors to Hungary must carry a travel document (passport, or in case of Schengen countries an ID card with a picture) that is valid for at least three months beyond the date you intend to leave the country.

Most visitors who intend to stay for less than three months do not require a visa. For the list of countries with which there is a visa waiver agreement, see [here](#). Visas are issued by the local Embassy/Consulate of Hungary, in the absence of representation another Schengen country issues visas on Hungary's behalf (see further information [here](#)). Visa application form is accessible online [here](#). In case of possessing a valid visa issued for a stay in any other Schengen country, no additional visa is required.

### Transportation

Budapest offers travellers a wide selection transport options, suiting all budgets and travelling preferences. Sofitel Budapest Chain Bridge is located in the city centre close to most sights and attractions. The city centre and the hotel is accessible from Budapest Airport by taxi (approx. 7000 HUF one way), airport minibuss (from 1990 HUF one way) or public transport (bus 200E and metro M3, 700 HUF). All Budapest taxis must be licenced, operate for the same tariffs (450 HUF + 280 HUF/km), bear yellow colour, be air conditioned, have a credit card terminal, give a receipt automatically and issue an invoice upon

request. It is advised order cabs by phone in Budapest, or to board them at official taxi stands or in front of major hotels as overcharging cab drivers are still common when hailing taxis on the street.

City Taxi: +36 1 211 1111  
Tele 5 Taxi: +36 1 555 5555  
Budapest Taxi: +36 1 777 7777  
miniBUD (minibus): +36 1 550 0000, or [here](#).

BKK (Centre for Budapest Transport) provides cheap, frequent and efficient public transport in the city with a dense metro, tram, bus, trolleybus and passenger boat network. Single ticket is 350 HUF, 24/72-hour/7 days travelcard is 1650/4150/4950 HUF respectively. Route network maps and real-time trip planner are available online [here](#).

### Religion

Hungary is a secular, democratic society, and freedom of religious beliefs is guaranteed by international conventions and the Basic Law. Hungary is historically a multi-religious country where all major Christian denominations are present, as well as Judaism and to a less extent Islam. However, it is one of the least religious countries in the European Union which is largely a result of the persecution of religion during Communist regime between 1945 and 1989. As of 2011, 39% of Hungarians were Catholics, 11.6% were Calvinists, 2.2% were Lutherans, and around 2% followed other religions (including the 6th biggest Jewish community by percentage to the overall population, and Sunni Islam). 16.7% were non-religious of which 1.5% were atheists and 27.2% declined to declare their religion. Places of worship for all major religions and denominations are accessible in Budapest.

### Emergency Contacts

Hungary Emergency Services: Ambulance, Fire Department and Police. Dial 112 or 911 from any public or private telephone or mobile phone in Hungary (English-speaking operators are available).

Police: 107  
Ambulance: 104  
Fire Department: 105