

Moving to Hungary: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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MOVER



Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code (36) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +1 Hour
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	230v 50 Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Not required to enter Hungary
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Mar 15, Apr 16,17, Jun 5, Aug 20, Nov 1 (All Saints day), Dec 25/26
OFFICE HOURS:	09.00-16.00 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	08.00-16.00 Monday – Friday Some banks are open on Saturdays
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	104 – Ambulance 105 – Fire 107 – Police 112 – 24hr English speaker
BRITISH EMBASSY:	Harmincad u.6, 1051, Budapest Tel: 01266 2888 Fax: 01266 0907 Email: info@britemb.hu Web: http://ukinhungary.fco.gov.uk
HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:	35 Eaton Place London SW1X 8BY Tel: 0207 235 5218 Fax: 0207 235 8630 Email: consulate.lon@mfa.gov.hu
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	National Tourist Information Centre (Tourinform) Budapest, H-1548 Tel: 0800 3600 0000 (free of charge from UK) Tel: 01438 8080 Email: info@hungarytourism.hu

Moving to Hungary from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide

Customs

Hungary is now part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required to import personal effects and household goods if originating from another EU country. Should you be from outside the EU the following applies:

Household Goods EU and Non EU Citizens

Documents Required:

- Copy of inventory list in English and translated to Hungarian. Both signed by the shipper. Original of the translated to Hungarian inventory required
- Copy of passport
- Power of attorney (authorisation to clear the shipment given by the client to the agent) – original required
- Declaration from the shipper on changing the residence and that he/she has possessed the HHG for more than six months – original required
- Value declaration from shipper stating the customs value of the imported items – original required
- Employment certificate – declaration from the employer at origin indicating shipper's name, job title, employment period with starting and termination dates and full residence address at origin - original required
- Documents which prove that shipper has lived outside of EU for more than 12 months before moving to Hungary (copy of residence permit from origin country, visa copy, copy of utility bills for the last 12 months of residence, copy of lease / purchasing contract)
- Copy of the Hungarian ID card/residence permit.
- Copy of the Hungarian address card/ address registration
- Copy of the Hungarian TAX card

Duty free, subject to re-exportation.

Customs clearance in Hungary is for indefinite period.

All documents must be in English, French German or Hungarian.

Number of shipments is not limited. But duty free clearance is possible only within 12 months of relocation (issue date of res permit/address card).

Important:

Send all necessary Customs documents prior to the arrival of shipment to Hungary.

Household Goods: Returning Hungarians

Documents Required

- Copy of inventory list in English and translated to Hungarian. Both signed by the shipper. Original of the translated to Hungarian inventory required
- Copy of passport

- Power of attorney (authorisation to clear the shipment given by the client to the agent) – original required
- Declaration from the shipper on changing the residence and that he/she has possessed the HHG for more than six months – original required
- Value declaration from shipper stating the customs value of the imported items – original required
- Employment certificate – declaration from the employer at origin indicating shipper's name, job title, employment period and full residence address at origin) – original required
- Documents which prove that shipper has lived outside of EU for more than 12 months before moving to Hungary (copy of residence permit from origin country, visa copy, copy of utility bills for the last 12 months of residence, copy of lease/purchasing contract)
- Copy of the Hungarian ID card
- Copy of the Hungarian address card
- Copy of the Hungarian TAX card

Imported items cannot be sold or leased. In case client wants to leave these items behind he has to pay duty on them.

Number of shipments is not limited.

In case the residence permit is valid less than one year, an additional bank guarantee (from a Hungarian Bank in HUF) is required for the amount of the duty and other costs on the shipment.

Important:

The original import customs form proving that import clearance has been performed has to be kept, presented for prolongation as well as at the time of export Customs clearance.

Send all necessary Customs documents prior to the arrival of shipment to Hungary.

For incoming shipments, original Customs documents (including transport documents) must be presented to the Customs Office one day prior to clearance.

The shipment could be imported duty and tax free if the shipper can prove that has been living outside of the European Union for a continuous period of at least 12 months and that has moved his residence to Hungary.

Diplomat's removal

Documents required:

- Copy of diplomat passport or Hungarian diplomatic card
- Duty free customs form issued by the receiving Embassy in Hungary with apostil from the Protocol department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Copy of inventory list in English and translated to Hungarian. Both signed by the shipper. Original of the translated to Hungarian inventory with apostil from the



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Protocol department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs required

- Power of attorney (authorisation to clear the shipment given by the client to the agent) – original required
- Value declaration from shipper stating the customs value of the imported items – original required

Duty free for all imported shipments.

Motor vehicles

Documents required:

- Original registration certificate of the vehicle
- Invoice or purchasing contract
- Original value declaration
- Power of attorney (authorisation given by the client to the customs agent) – original required
- Declaration from the shipper on changing the residence – original required

The shipper should own the car for at least six months.

Vehicles can be imported duty-free if equipped with a catalyser on a temporary basis as long as the Customer's Hungarian Residence Permit is valid.

Vehicles four years old or older can not be imported unless they pass an environmental examination (cost billed to customer).

U.S made cars may need technical modification.

After vehicle clears Customs the owner is issued a Hungarian Registration number and the car can be driven in all the states in Europe.

Cars with foreign registration plate can be used in Hungary for three months. After that time cars are cleared at customs office in temporary admission. After customs clearance the car has to be checked at "Technical Test Station". Only cars that meet the European standards can pass the technical test.

In case residence permit is valid for less than one year, a bank guarantee is required for the amount of duty, VAT and any additional fees (duty of 23 – 51% depending on the details of the car, customs handling charge of 2%, excise duty of 22% and a VAT of 25% on the value of the car).

Alcohol

Documents required:

- See Household goods

Maximum quantity allowed to be imported:

Wine: 1 litre

Beer: 5 litres

Spirit: 1 litre

Tobacco

Maximum quantity allowed to be imported:

500 cigarettes.

50 cigars or 500 gr. Tobacco.

Medicine

Can be imported duty-free with GP's written confirmation that the kind and quantity of the medicine is necessary to the treatment of the client.

Foodstuff

Maximum quantity allowed to be imported is 1kg of tea, coffee, cocoa, all kind of spices except paprika powder.

Plants and Vegetable products

Documents required:

- See Household goods plus: Phytosanitary certificate

Dogs, Cats and Birds

Documents required:

- See Household goods plus Veterinary certificate but no quarantine

Other goods

There may be specific customs regulations, so you should consult your destination agent in advance.

Prohibited:

- Weapons and explosives
- Drugs and narcotics
- Pornographic or obscene material
- Radio transmitters

General

In the past, many expatriates could visit Hungarian Embassies in countries neighboring Hungary to obtain their residence visas (work visas, family member visas, income generator visas). However, please be advised that this is no longer the case as these embassies are no longer willing to issue residence visas to foreigners not resident in their respective countries.

For some time now, many Non-EU expatriates (incl. U.S, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Africa) who entered Hungary on a 90 day tourist visa, but then wished to obtain an extended visa, could often apply for same at a Hungarian Embassy in Vienna, Prague, Bratislava or Zagreb. However, due to a tightening of procedure, foreigners can now only apply for an extended Hungarian visa at the Hungarian Embassy in either their native country, or a country in which they have official residency.

Exceptions will only be made in extreme circumstances, such as a medical condition that might prevent the applicant from travel.



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General Information on The Republic of Hungary

Background

Hungary became a Christian kingdom in A.D. 1000 and for many centuries served as a bulwark against Ottoman Turkish expansion in Europe. The kingdom eventually became part of the polyglot Austro-Hungarian Empire, which collapsed during World War I. The country fell under communist rule following World War II. In 1956, a revolt 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 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 five years later.

Geography

A landlocked country in central Europe, the Danube river flows north-south through central Hungary. To the east lies a great plain, with highlands in the north. To the west low mountains and Lake Balaton separate a small plain and southern uplands. It borders Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Yugoslavia, Croatia and Slovenia. Some minerals and energy resources are exploited, chiefly bauxite, coal and natural gas. Hungary has an Industrial Economy producing metals, machinery, transport equipment, chemicals and food products. The main trading partners are Germany and Austria.

Environmental Issues

The upgrading of Hungary’s standards in waste management, energy efficiency, air, soil and water pollution to meet EU requirements will require large investments.

International Disputes

Bilateral government, legal, technical and economic working group negotiations continue in 2006 with Slovakia over Hungary’s failure to complete its portion of the Gabčíkovo - Nagymaros hydroelectric dam project along the Danube. As a member state that forms part of the EU’s external border, Hungary must implement the strict Schengen border rules.

Climate

A temperate continental climate, depending on the location, winters can be cold, cloudy and damp or windy, the summers are warm and sometimes very hot. The rainiest months are May, June and November with more rain in the West and Southwest.

Population

The population of Hungary now estimated at 9,956,000 since 2000. 0.25% growth rate in 2007. Sixty per cent of the population live in urban areas and one fifth lives in the capital Budapest.

Currency

The unit of currency is the forint (For) divided into 100 fillers. Major Credit Cards are accepted at the major hotels and in many shops. Bank notes are all over Budapest and in the major provincial towns but not in the small villages. The import/export of local currency is limited to HUF 350 000 – (regulation Number: Dtv.66.§(2) bek.b) pont). Any amount of foreign currency, travellers cheque, letters of credit etc may be taken into the country.

Visitors are advised to declare all foreign currency and other valuables on entry, a certificate will be obtained from the Customs authorities and this should be retained for production on departure.

Economy

Hungary has made the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy, with a per capita income nearly two-thirds that of the EU-28 average.

In late 2008, Hungary’s impending inability to service its short-term debt - brought on by the global financial crisis - led Budapest to obtain an IMF/EU/World Bank-arranged financial assistance package worth over \$25 billion. The global economic downturn, declining exports, and low domestic consumption and investment, dampened by government austerity measures, resulted in a severe economic contraction in 2009. In 2010, the new government implemented a number of changes including cutting business and personal income taxes, but imposed “crisis taxes” on financial institutions, energy and telecom companies, and retailers. The IMF/EU bailout program lapsed at the end of 2010 and was replaced by Post Program Monitoring and Article IV Consultations on overall economic and fiscal processes. At the end of 2011 the government turned to the IMF and the EU to obtain a financial backstop to support its efforts to refinance foreign currency debt and bond obligations in 2012 and beyond, but Budapest’s rejection of EU and IMF economic policy recommendations led to a breakdown in talks with the lenders in late 2012. Global demand for high yield has since helped Hungary to obtain funds on international markets.

Hungary’s progress reducing its deficit to under 3% of GDP led the European Commission in 2013 to permit Hungary for the first time since joining the EU in 2004 to exit the Excessive Deficit Procedure. The government remains committed to keeping the budget deficit in check and lowering public debt by using sectoral taxes, while relying on state interventionist measures to lower utility prices and boost growth and employment.

Education

The children of expatriates would not be expected to attend Hungarian schools, although for pre-school children there are privately owned kindergartens where German, English or French is spoken.

For young children, there is a British Embassy School in Budapest. Tel: 118 2880.



International Schools

- Magyar-British International School:
1026 Budapest, Pasaréti u. 82-84
Tel/Fax: 200 7573
Email: mbis@pronet.hu
(from ages 3-16)
- American International School:
1121 Budapest, Kakukk u. 1-3
Tel: 395 2176
Email: tass.b@lower.aisb.hu
(from ages 4-18)

Language

The national language is Hungarian (Magyar), a Finno Ugrain language related to Finnish, Estonian and Lapp but totally unlike the other languages of Europe.

Many people, particularly of the older generation, speak German fluently. English is popular amongst the younger generation, although few speak it fluently.

Religion

Religions are Roman Catholic 67.5%. Calvinist 20%, Lutheran 5% atheist and other 7.5%.

Health

Hungary operates a comprehensive, but no frills, health service and whilst specialist treatment and intensive care are available for cases of serious illness, visitors will find that the standard of treatment for minor ailments is not always as high as that expected in the West. However, private medicine has none of the drawbacks of the public service and is much cheaper than in the West. Advanced techniques and equipment are in use.

Recently private clinics and hospitals opened up run by foreign management with staff speaking foreign languages.

Transport

Taxi: The cost for each ride per km should be indicated on a small label stuck to the rear-side window of the taxi. If this is not shown be prepared that you shall pay much more than the normal tariff. Taxi companies which can be trusted: City Taxi 2 111 111, Radio Taxi 3 777 777, az Ötösök 555 5555, etc but avoid getting into a taxi near any tourist spots or directly at railway-stations, airport in Budapest. From all arriving ports (railway, airport) and from most hotels there are mini-bus services at a reasonable price.

Eating Out

There are many good restaurants in Hungary, however in the last few years many tourists were cheated when paying the bills The “black list” of restaurants is made each year by the American Embassy and information can be received from them regarding “unreliable” places.

Telephones

The telephone system has improved a lot in the last few years, but cellular phones are still very popular, usage cost is reasonable.

Public phones can be frustrating though, some are operating with coins (not giving back any change) and many with cards.

Telephone cards can be bought at the news stands or at the post.

International calls via public phones can be made from most places.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.