



Information on Car Purchase and Ownership in Hungary

WHERE TO SEARCH

The main “autotrader” site in Hungary is called hasznaltauto.hu [literally “usedcar.hu”]. It’s not available in English but Google Chrome makes a reasonable job of translating the site: <https://www.hasznaltauto.hu/#szemelyauto>

Likewise, almost all the main dealer sites are only available in Hungarian but a browser translation should be possible. Just look up, for example, “Ford Hungary” and the appropriate website would come up. Whether the dealers have an English-speaking member of staff is another question.

Leaseplan is the largest leasing firm in Hungary and has a selection of cars available for sale, in English, via its website: <https://www.leaseplan.com/en-hu/carnext-used-cars/> For other second-hand car dealers like AAA (www.aaaauto.hu) again, the translation function of the browser does work quite well.

BASIC HUNGARIAN AUTOMOTIVE VOCABULARY

Make.....	Márka
Model.....	Modell
Model year.....	Évjárat
Price.....	Vételár
KM on the clock.....	Kilométeróra állása
Fuel.....	Üzemanyag
Condition.....	Állapot
Engine size in cm ³	Hengerűrtartalom
Number of doors.....	Ajtók száma
Used.....	Használt
New	Új
Automatic transmission.....	Automata sebességváltó
Manual transmission.....	Manuális sebességváltó

SALE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT TEMPLATE

This is a standard bi-lingual sale and purchase agreement that should be accepted in Hungary for the purchase of a second-hand car:

[English-Hungarian contract of sale.pdf](#)

HUNGARIAN VEHICLE TAX (GÉPJÁRMŰADÓ)

Hungary has a vehicle tax applicable to all cars. This tax is based on the size of the car’s engine and is payable in March and September each year. The letter is in Hungarian but has a yellow cheque accompanying it, which shows the amount payable and which can be paid at the post office.

[Vehicle tax example.pdf](#)

DRIVING LICENSE EXCHANGE

EU licence requirements - An EU citizen may drive in Hungary on their home country EU licence for one year from their first day of legal residence, after which time they must exchange the licence for a Hungarian one. The process of exchanging the licence is quite simple and can be handled at the local document office. It may however be challenging to complete the process without someone coming along who speaks Hungarian.

Non-EU licence requirements - A Non-EU citizen with an international driving licence may drive in Hungary for one year from their first day of legal residence, after which time they must exchange the licence for a Hungarian one.

If the country in which the current licence was issued is not a signatory of the United Nations Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, both a written and practical driving test may be necessary.

LEASING A VEHICLE

Leasing a car in Hungary is relatively simple and flexible. The best provider for such a service that we have found is LeasePlan, which offers an international service and its website is in English.

This page gives details of how leasing works:

<https://www.leaseplan.com/en-hu/my-lease-car/>

WINTER TYRES

There is no law specifying the need for winter tyres in Hungary but as we understand it, insurers might refuse to pay out on a claim there is an accident and the car has inappropriate tyres on at the time.

The rule of thumb for having winter tyres fitted is that if the average daytime temperature falls below +7 deg C then winter tyres should be fitted to a car. Likewise, in the spring when the average daytime temperature rises to +7 deg C and there are no more frosty nights, then summer tyres can be fitted.

This link will help you to understand the difference between winter and summer tyres: <https://www.uniroyal-tyres.com/car/tyre-guide/tyre-knowledge/difference-summer-and-winter-tyres>

There are many gumis [tyre fitters] in Budapest but English is rarely spoken. AKH is the largest such organisation in Budapest. The website is only in Hungarian [Google Chrome translates the site well] and they have a central ordering line for tyre changing appointments and English is spoken. This is a link to all their locations in Budapest: <http://akh.hu/tevekenysegek/auto-es-gumiszervizek>

CAR INSPECTIONS

The expiry date of a car's technical examination is stated in the green Hungarian car registration document. See the following example:

[Registration document example.pdf](#)

It is wise to set a reminder 1 month before the expiry of the technical exam to allow time for an inspection and to arrange any maintenance.

Any garage offering műszaki vizsga can handle the inspection. This is like a UK MOT testing station. It is unlikely that such a garage would have English speaking staff.

PARKING PERMITS

Each local district within Budapest has its own policy regarding parking permits and the application process is somewhat different. In simple terms though, if you own a Hungarian plated car and can prove you rent an apartment, you should be able to get a permit. The application is made via the document office in your district.

CHILD SEATS

The basic rule is that a child under 150 cm tall may only be transported if a child restraint system appropriate to their height and weight is used. An exception is that in the back seats, a booster can be avoided if the child is at least 135 cm tall.

A child can travel in the front seat if the above rule is followed and in the event that a backwards-facing car seat is used, there must either be no airbag, or the airbag in the passenger seat must be deactivated.

DRINK DRIVING

Hungary has a zero-tolerance policy to drink-driving. If you are in any doubt as to your blood-alcohol level, do not drive. It is possible to buy reliable alcohol testing devices for less than €15, so if you regularly have to drive the morning after drinking, it may be wise to make the investment.

Penalties - If the blood alcohol level in the body does not exceed 0.5 gram per litre of blood or 0.25 milligrams of alcohol per litre of breath, this is considered to be an offence. If the driver has an alcohol level exceeding that, it will be considered that a crime has been committed. Generally, even for the less serious offence, the court will enforce a fine and a ban from driving. The level of the fine and duration of the ban is based on the driver's prior record and how much they were over the limit.

MOTORWAY TOLLS

The road toll system in Hungary is quite complicated and it's a good idea to know when you need to pay a toll and when you do not. An E-Vignette must be purchased for any vehicle, whether on Hungarian or foreign plates to allow the car to legally use the motorway network. A list of the roads for which an E-Vignette are currently required, and a list of motorways that remain tollfree can be found here: www.toll-charge.hu/articles/article/road-network.

Required documents and equipment to drive in Hungary

- Driving licence
- Car documents [forgalmi engedély]
- Photo ID
- Residence card/permit
- Address card
- Warning triangle
- High visibility vest
- Valid first aid kit [first aid kits have an expiry date]

DRIVING TIPS

During daylight hours dipped headlights must always be used when driving outside of built up areas. Town and village name signs indicate the start of an area of limited speed - normally 50 kph, but watch out for lower limits within settlements, especially near schools. When turning right at traffic lights, pedestrians on marked crossings generally have priority.

IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

If you are unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident in Hungary, and let's assume now that no one is injured, you will need to complete some paperwork together with the driver of the other vehicle.

It is compulsory in Hungary to carry a European accident report form in the car and the other driver will most likely want to complete the form in Hungarian. You can get some help by printing out and carrying with you the below English language version of the form, so at least you can compare your version to the one being completed.

The challenge however is that you will most likely not understand what has been written and would not wish to sign something you don't understand, and which could place the blame for the accident, unfairly, on you. Our advice would in such an instance to call a Hungarian who can assist you over the telephone or in person.

[Road accident report form \(ENG\).pdf](#)

[Road accident report form \(HUN\).pdf](#)

PURCHASING A VEHICLE

To buy and then register a car in Hungary you will first need a registered address. That means an address registration card if you are an EU/EEA citizen or an accommodation reporting form if you are a non-EU/EEA citizen.

Assuming you have the appropriate proof of residence you can go ahead and buy a car in Hungary. Naturally the usual rule of Caveat Emptor (let the buyer beware) applies and even more strongly in a country, where as an expat you will likely not understand the local language and customs.

We would strongly recommend only buying a car if the seller speaks English or if you have the assistance of an interpreter and that you always arrange an independent technical inspection of any used car you wish to buy, before going ahead with the purchase.

SUPPORT FROM INTER RELOCATION

Inter Relocation is happy to provide interpreting and support services on an ad hoc basis. Please contact info@interrelo.com for more information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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