



IS IT SAFE?

Budapest

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

IS IT SAFE? BUDAPEST

OVERALL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

RATING ●●●●■

Generally safe. Standard awareness recommended.

Budapest is a safe and rewarding destination for solo travelers. The historic city center and tourist zones are well-policed, and locals are generally friendly and helpful. Petty theft and scams — particularly around ruin bars and tourist-heavy squares — are the primary concerns. The VIII district (Józsefváros) warrants extra awareness at night.

Stick to licensed taxis and ride apps — Budapest has a well-documented history of unofficial cab overcharging.

RATING SCALE

- = Very safe
- = Safe
- = Use caution
- = Avoid at night
- = Avoid

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

●●●●● Very safe ●●●● Safe ●●●● Use caution ●●●● Avoid at night ●●●● Avoid

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Castle District / I	●●●●●	Very safe. Tourist police present.
Belváros / V (city centre)	●●●●●	Busy. Watch bags on Váci utca.
Jewish Quarter / VII	●●●●●	Ruin bar zone. Rowdy late nights.
Józsefváros / VIII	●●●●●	Avoid at night, especially side streets.
Ferencváros / IX	●●●●●	Improving. Fine in daylight.
Óbuda / III	●●●●●	Residential, quiet, very safe.
Andrássy út / VI	●●●●●	Grand boulevard, well-lit, safe.

The ruin bars of the Jewish Quarter are iconic — enjoy them, but guard your belongings and watch your drinks.

GETTING AROUND SAFELY

MODE	RATING	NOTES
Metro (M1/2/3/4)	●●●●■	Safe. Watch bags at Deák Ferenc.
Trams (4, 6 etc.)	●●●●●	Reliable and safe.
BKK Buses	●●●●●	Safe. Validate ticket to avoid fines.
Bolt / Uber	●●●●●	Strongly recommended over street taxis.
Walking (central)	●●●●●	Excellent, well-lit central areas.
Night transport	●●●●■	Night buses run; plan routes in advance.

COMMON SCAMS & HOW TO AVOID THEM

Ruin bar 'friendly strangers':
Women lure solo male visitors to bars; bill arrives in hundreds of euros. Decline.

Street currency exchange:
Offered rates are fraud. Use ATMs or bank branches only.

Taxi overcharging:
Unlicensed cabs charge 10–20× the fare. Use Bolt or Uber exclusively.

Shell game near Váci utca:
Illegal street gambling. Never engage.

Massage parlor upselling:
Advertised prices bear no relation to the final bill.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

- Dial 112 for all emergencies — English-speaking operators available.
- Semmelweis University hospitals handle international patients well.
- Gyógyszertár (pharmacies) are common; pharmacists give reliable basic advice.
- Tap water is safe in Budapest.
- Travel insurance is strongly advised — EU EHIC does not apply post-Brexit for UK citizens.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Budapest is generally very safe for solo women travelers during the day and in tourist areas. The Jewish Quarter late at night is the exception — the ruin bar scene draws large, occasionally rowdy crowds. Women are advised to use Bolt/Uber rather than street taxis and to keep a low profile on the night bus. Central areas like Andrásy út and the Castle District remain safe well into the evening.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police (Rendőrség)	107
Ambulance (Mentők)	104
Fire (Tűzoltóság)	105
All Emergencies	112
US Embassy Budapest	+36 1 475 4400