

# Taking a Taxi in Budapest

## Basics

Cabs in Budapest are marked with the word „Taxi”, often accompanied by a company name / logo such as „City Taxi”. All taxi vehicles must have a yellow registration plate, as opposed to the white background on regular car plates. All taximeters are equipped with a receipt-printing function, displaying the fares charged and identification of the driver.



You must have heard that taxi drivers preying on tourists is one of the annoying things in Budapest. With a little caution you can easily manage not to fall victim to these “hyenas”.

## The main rules:

- Use a taxi from a big company
- Order a taxi on the phone if possible
- Make sure the taxi you ordered picks you up
- Don't take an offer from a taxi driver to visit strip bars etc.

## Prices

The fare is composed of 3 parts (1 Euro ~ 240 HUF):

- Basic fee (maximum 300 HUF in daytime, maximum 420 HUF at night)
- Per kilometre charge (maximum 240 HUF during the day and maximum 336 HUF at night)
- Waiting fee (maximum 60 HUF per minute during the day and maximum 84 HUF at night)

It is customary to tip the driver about 10% of the full fare, if you were satisfied with the service.

## Taxi Companies

Bigger taxi companies offer rates lower than the maximum listed above. Most of them have an English-speaking telephone operator, and you may ask them to send a driver that speaks at least basic English. It is worth noting down the telephone numbers of a few bigger taxi companies in Budapest, and then calling them, because a cab ordered by telephone is less expensive than one hailed on the street. Some drivers are known for notoriously overcharging tourists. It is better to ask your concierge to order a taxi for you from a reliable company, or try calling them yourself.

## List of telephone numbers (non-stop, 24/7)

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| - 6x6 Taxi: 2-666-666      | - Rádió Taxi: 3-777-777  |
| - Buda Taxi: 2-333-333     | - Taxi 2000: 2-000-000   |
| - Budapest Taxi: 4-333-333 | - Taxi4: 4-444-444       |
| - City Taxi: 2-111-111     | - Tele5Taxi: 5-555-555   |
| - Fôtaxi: 2-222-222        | - Volán Taxi: 4-33-33-22 |
| - Mobil Taxi: 333-1757     |                          |

## Airport Taxi

The Zóna taxi company is the official airport taxi and offers fix rates between the airport and various parts of Budapest. There are four Budapest zones, each of which has its own fixed fare for transport to/from the airport (in 2008 € 22.—into the center of the city, max. 4 persons). Don't take a “free” Taxi!