

# Eastern Europe for Solo Travelers: Budapest to Prague

Pre-departure information for your tour



## Passport, Visa & Entry Requirements

- This tour visits Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, and the Czech Republic, plus Poland on the extension. In order to enter these countries, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date extending at least six months beyond their date of reentry.
- We recommend having at least one blank passport page for entry stamps.
- Beginning in 2025, passport holders from visa-exempt countries like the U.S. and Canada will need to register for an [ETIAS](#) travel authorization to enter certain European countries. Even if you've previously traveled to any of these 30 countries without a visa, you'll need to get ETIAS authorization to visit them again. If you're traveling to multiple countries with this requirement, you'll only need to complete the form once. All Go Ahead travelers will be responsible for obtaining their own ETIAS authorization before departure. For more details, please visit our [Help Center](#).
- If you aren't a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.
- You can see the most up-to-date entry requirements for the destination(s) you'll visit on tour by going to [goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements](https://goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements) and searching the code EE6.

## Arrival & Departure Information

- Round-trip flights booked through Go Ahead Tours arrive in Budapest and depart from Prague (or Kraków on the tour extension).
- Transfers to and from the airport at your destination are included for travelers who purchase their flights through Go Ahead Tours. Travelers who purchase their own flights, and who'll arrive and depart from the same airports on the same travel days as their fellow group members, may request transfers with Go Ahead Tours for an additional cost.
- When you arrive in Budapest, a Go Ahead representative will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall with either a Go Ahead sign or one bearing your name. If you don't see them immediately, please be patient and

stay in the arrivals area. They may be assisting another traveler and will be back shortly.

## On-Tour Transportation

- Most transportation on this tour will be by private motor coach. To board it, you'll have to climb steps without access to a ramp or lift.

## Baggage Allowance & Expectations

- Please note that our travelers are limited to one checked bag and one personal item each due to storage limitations on motor coaches and other transfers.
- Some airlines may impose additional charges if you exceed baggage size and weight restrictions. Be advised that you're responsible for any baggage fees incurred.
- Contact your airline(s) for the baggage size and weight restrictions on your flights.
- Make sure you label your baggage and keep valuables, medication, and documents in your carry-on bag.
- Travelers must be able to manage their luggage throughout tour; porters aren't guaranteed at hotels or airports.

## Clothing & Packing Tips

- We recommend packing lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that can be easily layered to accommodate varying temperatures, as well as a light jacket or rainwear.
- A sturdy pair of walking shoes or sneakers is recommended for sightseeing.
- You may want to pack dressier attire if you plan to visit a high-end restaurant or attend a special performance.
- It's preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs or shoulders. Entrance may be denied on this basis.
- We recommend packing a reusable water bottle to cut down on single-use plastic waste.
- We recommend packing a universal adapter, as well as a voltage converter if you plan on using a hairdryer or other device without a built-in converter.
- In case of emergencies, we also recommend

packing your medical insurance card in your carry-on.

## Meals & Cuisine

- This tour includes three dinners: They may be set menus, buffets, or family-style meals, depending on the location. Dinners also include one glass of beer, wine, or a soft drink, as well as water, coffee, and tea.
- A hotel breakfast is included each morning, and is typically a buffet-style meal with hot and cold options.
- Hungary claims goulash as its national dish, but its cuisine also makes use of excellent salamis, cheeses, freshwater fish, and more.
- Slovakian dishes are centered on easy-to-preserve staples like wheat, potatoes, and pork—the product of a history where villages had to be self-sufficient.
- Austria is known for its savory Wiener schnitzel and excellent wild trout, carp, and crayfish. Save room for dessert—especially strudel and the world-famous Sachertorte.
- Czech food is hearty, and you'll enjoy large portions of veal, beef, and potatoes. Some of the world's finest beers are produced here, too. (The country invented the pilsner!)
- When in Poland on the tour extension, fill up on favorites like kielbasa and pierogi. Don't miss out on the bagels, either—they were born there.

## Tipping

- At the conclusion of your tour, it's customary to offer your Tour Director and driver a gratuity in local currency. Please keep current exchange rates in mind.
- We recommend tipping the equivalent of \$10-\$12USD per person, per day for your Tour Director and the equivalent of \$3USD per person, per day for your driver.
- If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD per local guide.
- Tips can only be paid in cash.
- If you're traveling with the same Tour Director to multiple countries with different currencies, ask them what currency they prefer for their tip.
- The cost of portage is included in your tour price; it isn't necessary to tip baggage handlers.

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## Currency

- You'll use the forint in Hungary, the euro in Slovakia and Austria, and the koruna in the Czech Republic (plus the Polish zloty on the tour extension).
- Better rates of exchange are usually available overseas, although it's worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive.
- We strongly advise that you take debit and credit cards, which can be used to withdraw cash at local banks as needed.
- You can use most cards at ATMs on the international networks Cirrus and Plus, but make sure to check with your home bank about withdrawal fees.
- International banks and businesses primarily accept debit and credit cards that work with the EMV chip system. If you don't already have at least one card with a chip in it, we strongly recommend requesting one from your bank prior to your tour.
- Plan ahead and bring cash to tip your Tour Director, local guides, and bus drivers. We also recommend keeping coins in the local currency on hand, as some public bathrooms may charge a fee for use.

## Responsible Travel

- When you travel with Go Ahead Tours, you'll make a positive impact on the places you visit and the people and animals you meet along the way. That's because our three core Responsible Travel commitments—protecting the environment, supporting local communities, and promoting animal welfare—are at the heart of every tour we offer.
- Travel, when done responsibly, can have an enormous socioeconomic impact on communities. To maximize your impact, eat at locally owned restaurants and shop at small businesses. Ask your Tour Director to point out restaurants they recommend.
- Prepare for your trip: Be aware of monetary norms such as tipping and negotiating in a market; learn about the destination's forms of etiquette; and take some time to learn a few words in the local language.
- When interacting with locals, make sure to ask people for permission before you take

their picture, and approach cultural differences with empathy and an open mind.

- Go Ahead Tours encourages travelers to limit their waste while on the road, especially single-use plastics. You can cut back on generating plastic waste by packing your own toiletries, using electronic documents, and bringing a reusable water bottle and shopping bag. If you need to use plastics or paper, please recycle.