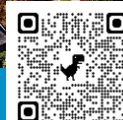
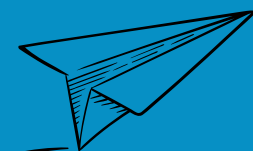


DEBRECEN UNPACKED



Settling into Debrecen and Hungary

Cost of living in Debrecen

Welcome to this week's issue of **Debrecen Unpacked**! In this edition, we're diving into the cost of living in Debrecen, offering a comprehensive guide for our incoming faculty. Whether you're curious about the price of dining out, ordering food, or stocking up on groceries, we've got you covered with a variety of websites and apps to help you plan your budget. We'll also take a close look at the summer lease market, sharing valuable insights and tips on renting in the city. Plus, we'll explore the costs of entertainment and sports activities, so you can make the most of your time in Debrecen. Stay tuned for a practical, money-savvy guide to settling in!

In this week's issue we will unpack:

COST OF LIVING
What to expect:

- rent, utilities
- groceries
- eating out, ordering food
- entertainment

RENTING IN DEBRECEN: Searching for your new home

Finding a rental in Debrecen can be an exciting step toward settling into your new home that HR will provide help with. To explore available options and get a sense of what different levels of comfort cost, websites like **ingatlan.com**, **ingatlan.jofogas.hu**, and **renthome.hu** are great resources. You can set the language of renthome.hu to English and you can use google translate to translate the other two websites. Using filters on these platforms allows you to narrow your search to the areas that interest you most. You can also refer to the neighborhood map from the **1st issue of Debrecen Unpacked** to compare apartment locations with some of the most popular and convenient areas.

For easy public transport access to ISD, consider areas like:

- **Belváros** (City Center),
- **Egyetemváros** (University District),
- **Nagyerdő**,
- **Nagyerdőalja**,
- **Újkert**, or
- **Sestakert**
- **Vénkert**.

If you prefer driving, neighborhoods like **Nyulas**, **Júliatelep**, and **Akadémiakert** are also worth exploring.



Tip:

When searching Hungarian ads keep in mind that Hungarians don't differentiate between bedrooms and the living room, so a "2-room" apartment usually means one bedroom plus a living room. If you need two bedrooms and a living room, search for "3-room" apartments.



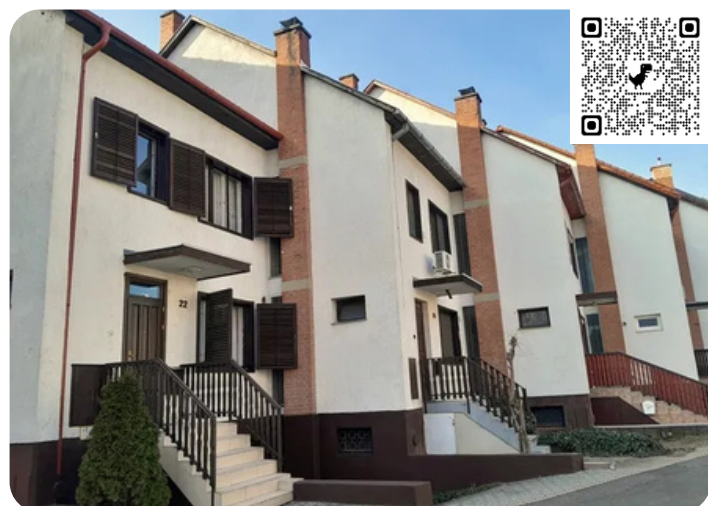
RENTING IN DEBRECEN: What You Need to Know

The Summer Rush: Navigating Debrecen's Rental Market

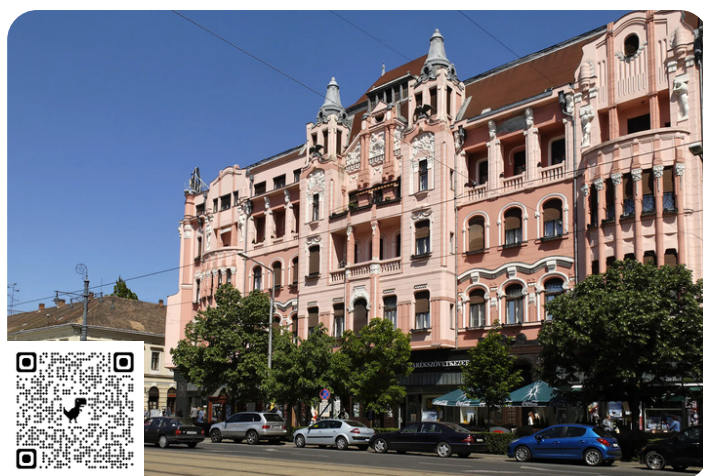
When it comes to renting an apartment in Debrecen, summer isn't just a season—it's *the season*. Why? Because university students flood the market, hunting for their next home-sweet-home. With most student leases expiring in June, the rental scene kicks into high gear as they scramble for new spots before the fall semester.

This summer frenzy is a double-edged sword. On the bright side, you'll find a wide selection of listings as leases turn over and new options hit the market. But here's the catch: so will everyone else. With demand sky-high, landlords hold all the cards—meaning there's little to no room for haggling on prices. In a market this hot, owners know they'll find someone willing to pay the asking price—fast. Speaking of fast, listings in summer come and go quicker than an ice cream melts on a sunny day. Apartments can be snapped up within days, or even hours, so if you find something you love, don't overthink it.

Exploring different listings and neighborhoods will help you find a place that suits your lifestyle and budget in Debrecen!



Rental prices listed cover only the rent; utilities are extra and depend on your usage, the building's heating system, and the monthly common fee (which covers shared expenses like lighting, trash collection, garden upkeep, and building maintenance).



Deposit

When renting an apartment in Debrecen, one thing you'll quickly notice is that two months' rent is the standard deposit. Yes, it's a hefty chunk upfront, but it's also your financial safety net—both for you and the landlord.

So, how does it work? Think of the deposit as a security fund. If you accidentally cause any damage to the property (like a broken window or a stained carpet), the landlord will cover the repair costs from your deposit. At the end of your lease, you'll get the remaining amount back.

The good news? If you return the apartment in the same condition as you received it—or if the only signs of wear are the typical scuffs and marks that come from living in a place for a year or two—you'll get your full deposit back. Normal wear and tear is expected and won't cost you a forint.

In short: Keep the place tidy, report issues promptly, and treat it like your own. Do that, and when it's time to move out, you'll walk away with your full deposit and a happy landlord.

RENTING IN DEBRECEN: What You Need to Know

Moving with pets

Finding an apartment to rent that allows pets can be incredibly challenging. Most rental ads don't even mention pets, and experience has taught me that if there's no clear statement allowing them, it's safe to assume they're prohibited. Many landlords are hesitant to accept pets due to concerns about potential damage or noise, which leaves pet owners scrambling to find suitable housing. The limited options often mean compromising on location, price, or amenities just to keep a beloved furry companion.



TV, Internet

Getting internet and TV set up in your new apartment is a straightforward process, but it does require a few steps. First, you'll need to **choose a provider**. You can ask the owner which provider the previous tenants used and if they were satisfied with the service. To sign up, you'll need a **signed, original copy of your lease agreement**. Some providers may also ask for an **address card**, which is a document that includes your name, address, and a QR code (for EU citizens it is the regular address card that Hungarians have). The most reliable and well-known providers in the area are Yettel, One (the result of the Vodafone and Digi merger), and Telekom. Once you have your documents ready, you can begin the process of contracting with the service provider of your choice.



How will apartment hunting look like IRL?

The apartment hunting process begins with deciding how much assistance you would like. You can either browse listings yourself and suggest properties you're interested in, or provide a list of requirements and let us filter through ads to send you a curated selection. Once you receive the list, you can rank the options based on your preferences. We will then contact the owners to confirm availability and arrange in-person viewings or video calls for up to 3 apartments. If you cannot attend, we can show them to you via video call or send video recordings. Once you choose a property, we will provide a draft lease agreement and assist in finalizing the contract with the owner. While the contracting can be done online, you will need to sign the lease agreement in person upon arrival to ensure both you and the owner have an original copy. At this stage, you will likely need to pay the security deposit. When you arrive, we will coordinate it with your landlord to get your keys. Throughout the process, we will help you assess whether the price is fair, if the location meets your needs, and provide insights into the landlord so you can make an informed decision.

GROCERY SHOPPING

Grocery shopping in Debrecen is fairly affordable, with prices varying depending on where you shop.

Popular supermarkets like Tesco, Auchan, Spar, Aldi, and Lidl offer a wide range of products at competitive prices. Be sure to catch their regular sales—especially on weekends or mid-month—for fantastic savings. Aldi and Lidl launch new deals every Thursday, which you can easily browse through on their websites, apps, or weekly sales leaflets.

For even more savings, take advantage of special promotions like Glamour and Joy days or sign up for loyalty programs offered by many stores. Don't forget to download their useful mobile apps to check prices, sales, and offers anytime, anywhere.

Craving fresh, local produce? Make sure to visit the vibrant NagyPiac next to FÓRUM or the Malompark market, where you'll find an array of fruits, vegetables, meats, and other locally sourced products at great prices—just like a traditional farmer's market.

ORDERING ONLINE

Getting your groceries delivered to your doorstep in Debrecen is simple, with several reliable options to choose from. Platforms like Foodora, Wolt, Tesco Home Delivery, and Dodo offer a wide selection of groceries—and much more—delivered straight to you. Just hop onto their websites or mobile apps, select your items, and schedule a delivery time that works best for you.

Why not give it a try? Download the **Foodora** or **Wolt** app, set your Debrecen address, and explore a variety of local restaurants and shops to see what's available and at what price.

Tip from Staff: *when using Tesco Home Delivery website make sure to stay on the Hungarian site when placing your order otherwise the order might not get through the system.*



**Vigyázzon,
a termék
kisebb lett!**

Attention, the product has become smaller!

Tip

At rePonts you can redeem all registered beverage containers except milk-based ones, between 0.1 and 3.0 litres, put to market.

Attention

If you see the sign "Vigyázzon, a termék kisebb lett!" pay attention! The expression translates to "Attention, the product has become smaller!" in English. It is typically displayed in stores to inform customers that the size or quantity of a product has been reduced, often without a corresponding reduction in price. This notice is meant to alert shoppers that the product they're buying may appear to be the same, but its content or size is now smaller than before.



Sign on redeemable beverage containers

**Useful
apps**



SPECIAL OFFERS CATALOGS OF SUPERMARKETS

We've gathered a selection of special offer catalogs from supermarkets, drugstores, and various furniture/home accessory stores for you. These catalogs have been uploaded to the shared Google Drive folder of the newsletter, so you can easily browse through them and get an idea of the prices. Since you'll likely need a few items for your new home, we've also included catalogs from **XXXLutz** and **JYSK**. If you're interested in exploring more options, you can also check out Hungarian websites like **Mömax** and **Möbelix**. For more budget-friendly home decor choices, stores like **Pepco**, **Tedi**, or **Kik** may have great deals. We understand that everyone has different views on what's considered affordable, so we wanted to give you the opportunity to decide for yourself.



You can find the catalogs with special offers in this issue's shared folder to browse through supermarket prices.

DINING OUT, ORDERING FOOD



ORDERING

You are craving some take out, but don't want to actually leave the house? It is fine, **Foodora** and **Wolt** are made just for this reason. Once you add your location, dozens of restaurants, bars and even shops will be presented to you. Several restaurants offer home delivery on their official website, so it is worth checking them out online if you don't wish to use a delivery app.

Useful tip: if you wish to order meals to ISD, the options will be rather slim and the delivery fee can be quite expensive compared to ordering food inside the city perimeters.

As Pallag is a few kms away from the city, it narrows down considerably which companies will or will not deliver food there. But worry not, school meals are provided by IKON, a popular fine-dining restaurant in Debrecen, or you can always use the Teachers' Lounge to heat up your meals from home.



DINING OUT

To provide a wide selection of dining options, we will include a list of restaurants featuring various cuisines—Hungarian, Italian, American, Asian, and more—along with their websites. This will allow you to explore menus, check prices, and find a place that suits your taste and budget.

We are sharing only the ones we have tried and loved or got recommended by friends. Check them out and make plans for your first time out for dinner!



Useful apps

Wolt

foodora

RESTAURANTS

Bonita Bistro



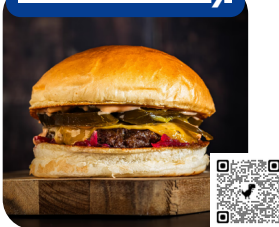
Buddha Original



SapoRita



Food Factory



Greek Gyros



Melange



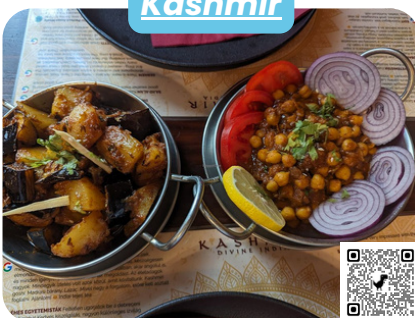
Wok to Box



Wasabi



Kashmir



Csokonai Restaurant



DG Italiano



Tip:

When dining out in Hungary, it's important to know that waiters receive a salary from their employers, so their income does not primarily rely on tips. While tipping is appreciated if you were satisfied with the service, it is not expected at the same level. The usual practice is to leave a small tip, generally around 10%, but it is not obligatory. Each restaurant has its own policy regarding tips—some have a system where tips are shared among staff, while in others, the waiter who served you keeps the tip. Additionally, some restaurants include a service fee in the prices listed on the menu, while others add it separately to the bill. It's always worth asking whether the service fee is already included to avoid any surprises when paying.

CONFECTIONERIES, CAFÉS AND BREAKFAST PLACES

FRIDA



Vintage World



Aranytölgy



Black Sheep



Volt Egyszer



Frai Café



The Box Donut



Mignon



Mandula



Szőke



Debrecen has far more to offer than the few spots highlighted in the newsletter. The city is full of charming cafés, cozy confectioneries, and inviting brunch places tucked into side streets and corners you might not expect. If you're craving something sweet, planning a relaxed coffee catch-up, or looking for a laid-back Sunday brunch, you'll find plenty of lovely options just by wandering a bit. Keep an eye out as you explore and don't hesitate to step inside any place that catches your eye — some of the best finds are the ones you stumble upon.

ENTERTAINMENT

cultural

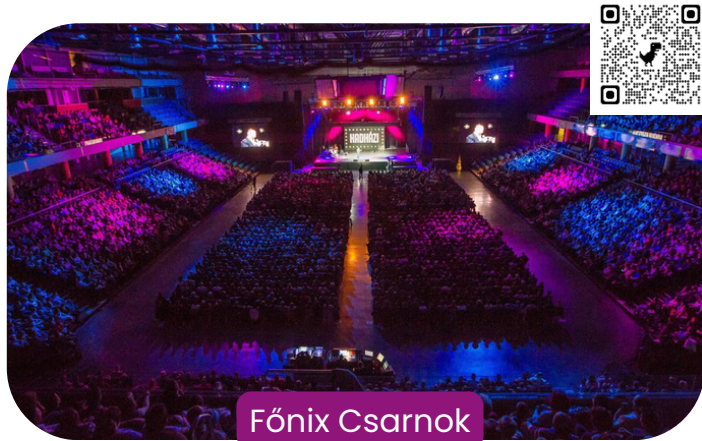
This vibrant city offers a mix of modern and traditional entertainment options that caters to all tastes and budgets.

Cultural Activities: Embrace Hungarian Heritage: For those interested in learning more about Hungary's rich culture, Debrecen offers a variety of museums, galleries, and historical sites.

Museum Entry:

Déri Múzeum: renowned for its extensive collection, including Mihály Munkácsy's "Christ Trilogy," the Déri Museum charges an entry fee of HUF 2,800 for adults.

MODEM: showcases contemporary art exhibitions. Entry fees start from HUF 1,500, with prices varying based on the exhibition.



Theatre Performances:

Csokonai National Theatre: Known for its diverse lineup of plays, musicals, and operas. The pricing system is described on the Theatre's [site](#). Restricted view tickets are HUF 1,500, while normal tickets begin at HUF 3,500. The Theatre usually offers a variety of spectacles in English or at least with English subtitles, which you may browse on the official website of the Theatre.

Csokonai Fórum has only recently opened its doors, yet there have been many audience favorite plays and musicals presented on its stage. Price range is usually between HUF 3,500–6,500.

Főnix Csarnok: Hosts a variety of events, including musicals, stand up shows, concerts, high school graduations or even sport events.

Kölcsey Centre: A major cultural venue offering theater and other performances.

ENTERTAINMENT

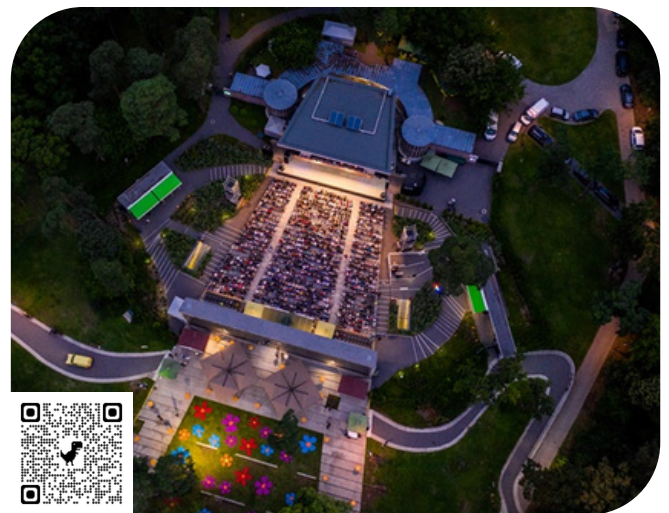
outdoors

The city is known for its beautiful parks, gardens, and surrounding nature, providing plenty of opportunities for outdoor fun at little to no cost. So get ready to explore all the programs and sights the Great Forest can offer! You can spend the day strolling, cycling, or relaxing in nature.

Parks and gardens: Entry to public parks like Nagyerdő (Great Forest) is free. However during the festival seasons entry to the events, organized frequently near Lake Békás or near the Football Stadium, is usually bound to purchasing a ticket. Campus Festival, Gourmet Festivals, Wine and Jazz days or Flower Festival spectacles are just few of the festivals organized in the Great Forest. An entry to the University's Botanical Garden costs 650 HUF.

The Great Forest Zoo and Amusement Park: while at the Great Forest one can enjoy a nice stroll in the combined Cultural Park, which offers ticket to both the Zoo and the rather vintage Amusement Park, entry fee for adults is around HUF 4,800.

Nagyerdei Outdoor Theatre is the perfect combination for those who love being in the heart of a forest and love a good play. Each year during summer, several plays can be experienced under the starry sky – depending of course on the weather conditions.



ENTERTAINMENT

spa, waterparks, cinemas

Aquaticum: A Wellness Retreat

Debrecen is home to one of Hungary's most beloved spa and wellness destinations, Aquaticum. It's the perfect place to relax and unwind, offering a combination of water parks, thermal baths, and wellness services.

Aquaticum Water Park: Entry for adults begins at HUF 5,350, while children, above 3 years old, pay HUF 4,500.

Aquaticum Thermal Baths: Entry for adults begins at HUF 3,900, while children pay HUF 3,300. As the amount of services included in the ticket increases so does the price.

Aquaticum Debrecen Strand: an outdoor swimming area, operates seasonally. The 2026 season's schedule and prices are usually announced in May.

The wellness center offers over 60 services, including massages and fitness programs. Additional amenities include indoor/outdoor pools, a fitness center, sauna, hot tubs, and a kids' club. For updated prices and details, visit the [Aquaticum website](#).



Aquaticum Water Park



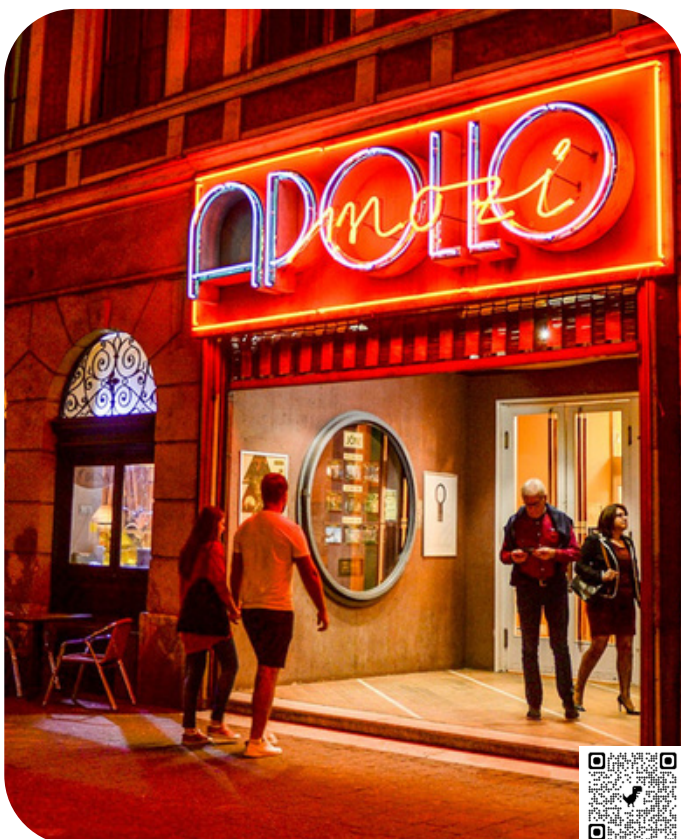
Aquaticum Debrecen Strand

Cinema Theatres:

Debrecen has a range of cinema theatres offering the latest international blockbusters, as well as Hungarian films. Whether you're looking for a modern multiplex experience or a more intimate atmosphere, there's something for every moviegoer.

Cinemacity Debrecen: This is the city's largest cinema complex located in Debrecen Plaza, showing the latest movies in multiple formats (including 3D and IMAX). A standard ticket costs start at 2,900 HUF. For 3D or IMAX films, you might pay a bit more, usually between 4,200-5,200 HUF.

Apolló Cinema: For a more intimate cinema experience, Apolló is a great choice. It's known for screening art films, independent movies, and local Hungarian films. Ticket prices here are around 2,400-2,500 HUF, making it an affordable choice for movie buffs.



SPORTS FACILITIES



Swimming: The [Debreceni Sportuszoda](#) is a great spot for swimming, whether you're a serious swimmer or just looking to unwind. It offers both indoor and outdoor pools, including a 50-meter competition pool, along with relaxing amenities like saunas and a jacuzzi. A perfect place to get some laps in or simply enjoy the water. Adult tickets cost HUF 2,950.

Running: Running tracks in the city are free to use, though availability may sometimes be limited due to championship games taking place on nearby pitches. You'll find tracks at almost every university campus, as well as around the Great Forest Stadium, which is a popular spot for runners.

Gyms: There are plenty of gyms across the city, so finding one that suits you shouldn't be a problem. Some well-known options include G4, Lion Fitness, Delta, Scitec, and Unifit, along with many others like Corpus Fitness Studio and New York Fitness. Prices vary, so it's best to check their websites, but monthly passes typically range from HUF 17,000 to HUF 22,000. Many gyms also offer group classes such as yoga, CrossFit, spinning, aerobics, and Zumba, so there's something for everyone!

If you or your children are interested in joining a **sports club**, Debrecen offers a wide variety of options for all ages and skill levels. From football and basketball to swimming and martial arts, there's something for everyone. Some well-known clubs include **DEAC**, **DVSC**, **Loki Focisuli**, **DSI**, and **Bestrong**, each providing professional training and a great community for sports enthusiasts. Whether you're looking for competitive play or just a fun way to stay active, you'll find plenty of opportunities here!

If you need help finding a sports club our PE teachers will be happy to assist you!



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NEXT TIME, WE WILL UNPACK...

Getting Around: Transportation in Detail for Newcomers

- getting your public transport ID
- buying monthly passes/single tickets
- public transport outside Debrecen
- buying a car
- parking in the city
- highway fees

SEE YOU NEXT TIME

Photo source:

