Timeless Journey to the Seaside – Retro Istria Express

As the autumn has arrived, the last Retro Istria Express trains of year 2026 have already arrived to their final stations. Thank you for choosing the Retro Istria Express for your journey and we hope you had a pleasant journey! There are no more direct trains running between Budapest and Rijeka or Koper/Capodistria in 2026. The information below was valid for the summer of 2026 and will soon be archived.

- Runs daily from 26th June to 30th August, 2026
- Major destinations from Hungary: Koper/Capodistria, Opatija-Matulji, Rijeka, Postojna, Ljubljana
- Accessible by transfer: Pula, Trieste, Izola/Isola, Portorož/Portorose, Piran/Pirano
- Tickets from 20 euros, seat reservation required
- Available accommodation types: seated car, couchette car, sleeping car
- Tickets available at international ticket offices or online at jegy.mav.hu [1]



Plan your vacation smart this year and avoid congested highways!

If the Croatian or Slovenian coast is your destination (from Hungary), you are welcome to choose a comfortable and budget-friendly solution. In addition to the popular Adria IC to Split, this summer we are also offering our Retro Istria Express night train, which evokes the atmosphere of the 80s. Although the train offers a more classic experience due to the older cars, in return we can reach the Adriatic Sea at an unbeatable price, starting from just 20 euros (on top of which seat reservation is compuslory). This route is the perfect alternative for all those for whom stress-free and cheap travel is the main consideration. From Budapest, there are direct conncetions to Koper, Opatija, Rijeka as well as transfer options to Pula and Trieste (Italy), and local bus services to the island of Krk are also available.

The Retro Istria Express train will operate between Budapest and Koper/Capodistria and Rijeka from June 26 to August 30, 2026.

Due to track engineering works in Slovenia, Retro Istria express trains may occasionally arrive at their destinations with a delay of approximately 2 hours.

Route and Destinations

The journey departs from Budapest-Keleti Station in the evening. The service is convenient not only for residents of the capital, as you can also board at stations in Transdanubia, including Székesfehérvár, Várpalota, Veszprém, Ajka or Zalaegerszeg. The Retro Istria Express arrives in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, in the early morning hours, then stops at the town of Postojna, known for its world-famous caves, before reaching the coast.

The main stop on the train **to Rijeka is Opatija-Matulji**, from where the city centre can be reached by bus or taxi. Several resorts – **Lovran, Krk** – can also be reached from Rijeka by bus or boat. **From Koper,** the buses depart from next to the train station, with frequents services to the **Slovenian seaside** resorts (Izola/Isola, Portorož/Portorose and Piran/Pirano) and as well as to nearby **Trieste** in Italy. **Pula** can be reached after a daytime stopover in Ljubljana or Postojna by taking the afternoon train and arriving late in the evening. Another option is to travel by train to Rijeka, from where a replacement bus leaves in the afternoon to Lupoglav, from where a train continues to Pula, arriving early in the evening. The bus leaves from the square directly in front of the train station.

The train runs daily from Budapest from 26th June to 29th August, 2026, and from Koper and Rijeka from 27th June to 30th August 2026.



[2]

The train schedule, according to the most important stops, is as follows:

The schedule is being finalized, minor changes may occur.

From Hungary to Croatia and Slovenia		
Main stations	1246 (Budapest-Koper)	1246/1281 (Budapest-Rijeka)
Budapest-Keleti	21:30 dep.	
Budapest-Kelenföld	21:52 dep.	
Székesfehérvár	22:57 dep.	

From Hungary to Croatia and Slovenia		
Várpalota	23:13 dep.	
Veszprém	23:35 dep.	
Ajka	0:06* dep.	
Zalaegerszeg	1:35* dep.	
Ljubljana	arr. 5:55	
Postojna	arr. 7:36	arr. 8:06
Divača	arr. 8:10		
Koper/Capodistria	arr. 8:59		
Opatija-Matulji		arr. 9:48
Rijeka		arr. 10:04

Please note that departure times after midnight marked with an * are evidently the same date as the day of arrival, not the date of the evening before the journey! When booking the train, please always make sure that you are booking for the right departure. Reservations are only valid for the given departurture and explicitely not for next day's train!

From Croatia and Slovenia to Hungary		
Main stations	1247 (Koper-Budapest)	480/1247 (Rijeka-Budapest)
Rijeka		19:07 dep.
Opatija-Matulji		19:24 dep.
Koper/Capodistria	18:50 dep.		
Divača	19:40 dep.		
Postojna	20:14 dep.	20:50 dep.
Ljubljana	23:00 dep.	
Zalaegerszeg	arr. 3:20	
Ajka	arr. 4:59	
Veszprém	arr. 5:31	
Várpalota	arr. 5:53	
Székesfehérvár	arr. 6:11	
Budapest-Kelenföld	arr. 6:55	
Budapest-Keleti	arr. 7:28	

The timetable data provided here is for informational purposes only and may vary due to traffic and operational

reasons.

Please check the times at jegy.mav.hu [1] before your travel. Service alterations are always published on the **MÁVINFORM** [3] page (in Hungarian language only).

Services on-board

The Retro Istria Express offers an ideal solution for all travel needs and budgets, so that you arrive in Rijeka or Koper in the morning, relaxed and ready for your holiday. Wake up to the proximity of the Adriatic, and we recommend the most suitable forms of travel as follows:

- **Seated coaches:** The most budget-friendly option for those who want to get to the Croatian or Slovenian coast at the lowest possible price.
- **Couchette coaches:** 4 or 6-berth cabins provide affordable yet comfortable sleeping arrangements for families and groups of friends.
- **Sleeping cars:** The 1 to 3-bed cabins offer maximum peace and privacy for couples or small families looking for undisturbed rest. Cabins can be booked for sole occupancy.

Our staff will also ensure a carefree journey for you. Would you get hungry or thirsty, you are welcome to choose simple meals and refreshing drinks from the attendants.

Sleeping car



- Cabins with **1, 2 or 3 beds** can be purchased together, but solo travelers can also book individual cabins, which are divided into separate rooms for men and women.
- We welcome sleeping car passengers with beds made up at departure.
- The cabins are equipped with **a washbasin** and vanity sets are provided.
- Passengers are offered mineral water in the evening and **a hot drink and a simple breakfast** in the morning (complimentary).
- **Lockable cabins** and our passenger attendant colleague ensure the comfort and safety of passengers.





Couchette car



- The car has **4 and 6-bed compartments**, which accommodate men and women mixed.
- **We provide bedding** (sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets) in the cabins, which passengers use to make their beds themselves.
- Passengers are welcomed with mineral water in the evening and with hot drinks and **simple meals** in the morning (complimentary).
- **Lockable cabins** and our passenger attendant colleague ensure the comfort and safety of passengers.





Seating car



- The seated cars have compartments for 6-8 people and also accommodate the bicycles in its vestibule.
- The compartment doors cannot be locked safely from inside, and no dedicated personnel is present.





The Retro Istria Express consists of carriages dating from the 1970s and 80s that have been preserved in almost original condition, making the journey itself a unique adventure. Break away from the everyday grind: unlike modern trains, these carriages do not have air conditioning or built-in power outlets, which is the perfect opportunity for a truly unplugged relaxation. The classic pull-down windows are essential parts of the authentic atmosphere, through which fresh air flows in, guaranteeing a nostalgic travel experience. Traditional curtains ensure peace and undisturbed rest at night in the couchette and sleeping car cabins.

There is no dining car on the train, however all passengers are welcome to enjoy the following buffet selection, available from the attendants at coaches no. 420, 421, 424 and 425:

Couchette coaches no. 421 and 424: https://www.mavcsoport.hu/sites/default/files/upload/travel-offer/document/public/bc4.pdf [4]

Sleeping coaches no. 420 and 425: https://www.mavcsoport.hu/sites/default/files/upload/travel-offer/document/public/wl4.pdf [5]

Offers and prices

Seat and berth reservations are mandatory. Tickets and passes without reservations are deemed insufficient as your seat/berth is not guaranteed. Therefore you will need both a Ticket and a Reservation for your travel. These are always issued in one single transaction when booking with us.

The prices are always the lowest when booked in advance.

Our full range of ticket options are available at international ticket offices and online at jegy.mav.hu [1]. Purchase for this train is not available in MÁV or MÁV+ apps, however, tickets purchased online will also appear in the apps (when using the same account).

Tickets

The best prices are so-called **START Europa** [6] tickets, which are available in limited quantity and at several price levels from most train stations in Hungary. The price is determined by the distance traveled, the time of purchase and the flexibility plan (refundable or not).

Please note that fares valid in international traffic are always quoted in euros as the base currency. However, payment in forints is widely possible at a fixed exchange rate, namely as follows:

- On the jegy.mav.hu [1] website with the most common bank card types, charged in HUF only;
- At MÁV international ticket offices, with the most common bank card types, charged in HUF, and with cash payments in HUF and EUR (except for small denomination coins);
- Onboard of the train – depending on the mobile network signal strength – with the most common bank card types, charged in HUF, and always, with cash payments in HUF and EUR (except for small denomination coins).

The fixed exchange rate currently used by MÁV as follows:
EUR 1 = HUF 370

From Budapest: One-way ticket prices between Budapest and the destinations highlighted below are available at several price levels and vary depending on availability. The most favorable ticket prices can be found in the table below.

	START Europa (non-refundable)	**START Europa Plus** (refundable)
Ljubljana	From €16	From €25
Koper/Capodistria	From €20	From €31
Pula*, Rijeka	From €25	From €32
Postojna	From €20	From €31

Children's fare has a fixed price of €5 per journey all the way, regardless of destination, when accompanied by a normal fare paying adult (maximum 3 children aged 6-15 per adult).

START Europa tickets are non-refundable, START Europa Plus tickets are refundable up to the day before departure. Would the above options have been sold out, the Europa Flex tickets offer maximum flexibility, as they are refundable even on the day of departure.

*Please not that there is no direct train connection from Hungary to Pula, but it is possible to buy tickets together for connecting trains and replacement buses. The train journey to Pula is possible with a stopover of about half a day in Rijeka, Postojna or Divača, which is a great opportunity for sightseeing or visiting the world famous stalactite caves. Rest assured that the ticket in your pocket or on your phone will also be valid for the onward journey in the afternoon.

Reservations

Reservations are mandatory for all passengers, at the following prices per person and per direction:

Seating car	**Couchette car**		**Sleeping car**		
6-8 person cabin	6 bed compartment	4 bed compartment	3 bed compartment (Triple)	2 bed compartment (Double)	1 bed compartment (Single)
€3	€14	€20	€27	€40	€70

Interrail/Eurail pass holders, as well as FIP coupon holders pay the prices above, also available at **jegy.mav.hu** [1].
Booking tickets online

- Applicable discounts must be set when adding passengers at the beginning of the purchase process.
- Enter the number of passengers and their dates of birth. Click the 'new discount' button to set the discounts for the passengers.
- Select the desired date and departure.

Carriage of bycicles and animals
Bicycles can be transported to both destinations in limited numbers (3 per train), with mandatory reservations **for €5**.

Pets (e.g. small cats, dogs, birds) can be transported **free of charge in a closed container** in seated carriages. Dogs can also be transported without a container (muzzled and on a leashGenerally, a, in which case a dog ticket must be purchased. Animals are not allowed to be transported in couchette and sleeping carriages.

ONLINE TICKET PURCHASE [7]



MÁV's other coastal night train service, the Adria InterCity [8] between Budapest and Split, will continue to operate this year with modern, air-conditioned coaches.

Forrás:https://www.mavcsoport.hu/node/162891

Hivatkozások
[1] https://jegy.mav.hu/ [2] https://www.mavcsoport.hu/sites/default/files/styles/width_1260/public/upload/retro_istria_expresszvonat_utvonala_0.jpg?itok=Jqfdlst7 [3] https://www.mavcsoport.hu/mavinform [4] https://www.mavcsoport.hu/sites/default/files/upload/travel-offer/document/public/bc4.pdf [5] https://www.mavcsoport.hu/sites/default/files/upload/travel-offer/document/public/wl4.pdf [6] https://www-mavcsoport-hu.translate.goog/mav-start/nemzetkozi-utazas/start-europa?_x_tr_sl=hu&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=hu&_x_tr_pto=wapp [7] http://jegy.mav.hu [8] https://www.mavcsoport.hu/en/mav-szemelyszallitas/international-travels/adriatic