



Timeless Journey to the Seaside – Retro Istria Express



This summer, the retro-style night train once again runs between Budapest and the popular seaside resorts of the Istrian Peninsula. Travelers can take a direct train from Budapest to Koper, Opatija, and Rijeka & reach Pula and Trieste with a single transfer. Additionally, the island of Krk is accessible via local bus services.

In addition to the [Adria InterCity](#) [1] to Split, the Retro Istria Express—evoking the spirit of the 1980s—also offers an excellent alternative for a holiday on the Croatian or Slovenian coast, especially if affordability and stress-free travel are key priorities when planning your trip. The Retro Istria Express runs between Budapest and Koper, as well as Rijeka (Fiume), from June 27 to August 31, 2025. Although it operates with older rolling stock and offers a lower level of comfort compared to other night trains, it provides a very budget-friendly way to reach the Adriatic—with ticket prices starting from just €23.

Route and Destinations

The train departs from Budapest-Keleti at 21:17 in the evening. In Hungary, passengers can also board the train at **Székesfehérvár**, along the northern shore of **Lake Balaton**, and at Zalaegerszeg-Ola station.

The Retro Istria Express arrives in the Slovenian capital, **Ljubljana**, in the early morning hours, and also stops in **Postojna**, a town famous for its stalactite cave system. The section of the train bound for **Rijeka** also serves **Opatija-Matulji**, from where the city center can be reached by bus or taxi. From Rijeka, several seaside resorts—such as **Lovran** and the island of **Krk**—can be accessed by bus or ferry. From **Koper**, frequent bus services depart from the station-adjacent bus terminal to various Slovenian coastal resorts (**Izola/Isola**, **Portorož/Portorose**, and **Piran/Pirano**), as well as to **Trieste**. **Pula** can be reached with a daytime stopover either in Ljubljana or Postojna, and catch the afternoon train connection to Pula, arriving in the late evening. Alternatively, there is an afternoon bus-train connection from Rijeka via Lupoglav, that takes you to Pula in the late afternoon. The bus leaves from right in front of Rijeka station building and railway tickets are valid.

The train runs daily from Budapest between June 27 and August 30, 2025, and from the seaside destinations between June 28 and August 31, 2025.



According to information from the Croatian and Slovenian railways, the schedule of the Retro Istria Express will change, and the train will arrive later at the Croatian and Slovenian coasts when coming from Budapest, based on the timetable excerpt below.

Please make sure to always check the valid schedule on the website jegy.mav.hu [2] before your journey.

The train schedule according to the main stops:

	1246 (Koper)	1246/1281 (Rijeka)
Budapest-Keleti	21:17	21:17
Budapest-Kelenföld	21:36	21:36
Székesfehérvár	22:16	22:16
Balatonfüred	23:46	23:46
Tapolca	0:35	0:35
Ljubljana*	6:45	6:45
Postojna*	7:50	7:50
Divača*	8:37	
Koper*	9:31	



	1246 (Koper)	1246/1281 (Rijeka)
Opatija-Matulji*		9:47
Rijeka*		10:03
	1247 (Koper)	1280/1247 (Rijeka)
Rijeka		18:15
Opatija-Matulji		18:32
Koper	18:52	
Divača	19:40	
Postojna	21:06	21:06
Ljubljana	22:20	22:20
Tapolca*	5:07	5:07
Balatonfüred*	6:36	6:36
Székesfehérvár*	7:58	7:58
Budapest-Kelenföld*	8:45	8:45
Budapest-Keleti	9:06	9:06

The times next to stations marked with an asterisk (*) indicate arrival times. The timetable information provided here is for informational purposes only and may be subject to change due to operational or traffic-related reasons. Please always check the valid timetable for the day of travel at jegy.mav.hu.

Please check the timetable in the jegy.mav.hu [3] before travelling. You can find information about possible extraordinary changes on MÁVINFORM.

Services on-board

Our trains offer a variety of services: in addition to the best-priced seating coaches we also offer couchette coaches and sleeping cars for both destinations. For families and groups of friends the **4 or 6 berth couchette carriages** offer affordable and comfortable sleeping accommodation. For couples and small families we recommend the **1-3 berth sleeper cabins** which offer private space. Simple snacks and drinks are available for purchase from the carriage attendants.

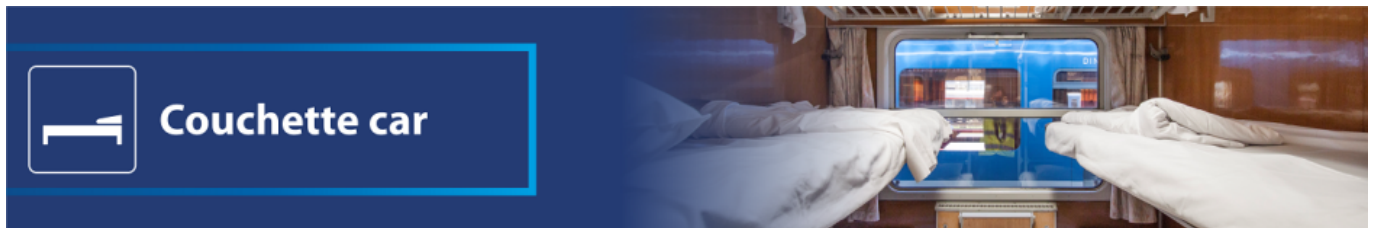
Sleeping car



- **Compartments with 1, 2 or 3 beds** can be booked entirely as a private cabin or booked individually, providing a mixed-sex accommodation.
- **Ready-made beds at departure** are provided.
- **Washbasins with hygiene kits** are provided.
- Mineral water in the evening and a **hot drink & simple breakfast in the morning** are served.
- Passenger comfort and safety is ensured by **lockable compartments** and a passenger attendant.



Couchette car



- The car has **4 and 6 berth compartments** offering mixed-sex accommodation.
- **Bed linen** (sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets) is provided for passengers to make their beds.
- Passengers are welcomed with mineral water in the evening and a hot drink and a **simple snack in the morning**.
- Passenger comfort and safety is ensured by **lockable compartments** and a passenger attendant.





Seating car



- The coaches have compartments for 6-8 people and can also accommodate bicycles.



Coaches of 'Istria Express' are from the 1970s and '80s, running in near-original condition. Air conditioning and power outlets are not available and the interior and the equipment are a reminiscent of the old days. An important element of train travels are the fully openable windows which provide a unique travelling experience.

Offers and prices

On the 'Retro Istria Express' train seat reservation is compulsory for all categories of travel! Tickets are available in several price categories, and we advice to buy cheapest tickets as early as possible due to limited availability. Tickets can be purchased at international ticket offices and online on the jegy.mav.hu [4] website. Booking in the [MÁV app](#) [5] is available only for seating cars!



Tickets

Passengers can travel at the best prices with [START Europa](#) [6] tickets which are available in limited numbers at several price levels from all Hungarian stations. Prices are determined by the distance travelled on the Hungarian section, the date of purchase and the flexibility of the ticket change/return

	START Europa	START Europa Plus
Ljubljana	From €16	From €25
Koper	From €20	From €31
Pula	From €25	From €32
Rijeka	From €25	From €32

Tickets for children can be purchased at a fixed price of **€5** per journey, regardless of destination (up to 3 children aged 6-15 years per adult travelling with a START Europa ticket). START Europa tickets are non-refundable, START Europa Plus tickets are refundable until the day before travel. If START Europa tickets are sold out, Europa Flex tickets are available, which are unlimited in number and entirely refundable.

Reservations

Buying a reservation on the train is obligatory at the following prices per passenger and per direction:

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

Passengers travelling with an Interrail pass or FIP coupon ticket can also purchase their ticket online via the jegy.mav.hu [2] interface.

Booking tickets online

- In the online booking system discounts must be selected at the beginning of the purchase process when adding passengers.
- Enter the number of passengers and their dates of birth. Click on the 'new discount' button to set the discounts for passengers.
- Select desired date and connection.

Carriage of bicycles and animals

A limited number of **bicycles** (3 in each seat car) can be carried to each destination, with a compulsory reservation for **€5**. Additional bicycle transport to Slovenia (Ljubljana, Koper) is provided by the Citadella InterCity (8 bicycles) which runs during the day.

Animals (e.g. cats, dogs, birds) can be transported **free of charge in a closed carrier in the seat car**. Dogs may be carried in a seating car without a carrier, in which case a dog ticket must be purchased. Animals are not allowed in



couchettes and sleeping carriages.

Attention! Dog and bike tickets can be purchased only at the ticket offices!

[ONLINE TICKET PURCHASE](#) [2]



MÁV's other seasonal night service, the [Adria InterCity](#) [1] between Budapest and Split, will continue to operate this year with air-conditioned and modern cars.

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

Hivatkozások

[1] <https://www.mavcsoport.hu/en/mav-szemelyszallitas/international-travels/adriatic> [2] <http://jegy.mav.hu> [3] <https://jegy.mav.hu/> [4] <http://jegy.mav.hu/> [5] <https://www.mavcsoport.hu/mav-szemelyszallitas/belfoldi-utazas/mav-applikacio> [6] <https://www.mavcsoport.hu/mav-szemelyszallitas/nemzetkozi-utazas/start-europa>