



Caring for
your world.

Your
relocation
guide to
Austria



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Memb No: A091



TELEPHONE:	Country code (43) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT + 1 hour
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v, AC 50Hz, 2 Pin
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No vaccinations or inoculations required of EU citizen
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 6, Apr 25, May 1, Jun 2, 23, Aug 15, Oct 26, Nov 1, Dec 8, 25, 26
OFFICE HOURS:	0800 – 1700 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	0800 – 1230 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 0800 – 1230, 1330 – 1730 Thursday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	122 – Fire 133 – Police 144 – Ambulance
BRITISH EMBASSY:	Jauresgasse 10, A-1030 Vienna Tel: 00 43 1 716 135 333 Fax: 00 43 1 716 135 900 Viennaconsularenquiries@fco.gov.uk Visa Section: 0043 720 880 010
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Local Tourist Offices Austrian National Tourist Office Margaretensrabe 1, 1040 Vienna Tel: 00 43 1 588 660 www.austria.info
AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:	18 Belgrave Mews West, London SW1X 8HU Tel: 02073 443 250 Fax: 02073 440 292 Visa Section: Tel: 0207 245 6689 Fax: 0207 344 0292

Customs

Austria is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required to import personal effects and household goods if originating from another EU country. However, should you be from outside the EU the following applies.

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Austria from outside the EU. It is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

Household Goods

Documents required:

- Copy of shippers passport
- Exit certificate or certificate of stay abroad for at least 12 months (confirmation from the local authority of the previous residence, confirmation by firm or other official proof)
- Copy of packing list
- Valid Residence Registration Form (primary residence)
- Power of Attorney (original)
- Austrian Customs Forms (original)

Only used goods, which have been owned and used for at least 6 months by the immigrants and are intended for use in the country. Removal goods can be imported into Austria duty free within 1 year from the change of residence. After customs clearance, the removal goods are blocked for 12 months, i.e. within this period the removal goods may neither be sold nor given away unless the customs duties are subsequently paid.

Customers who have lived in the European Union prior to the import may need a permit for duty-free importation of household goods.

("Grundlagenbescheid") to be obtained at customs office nearest to residence. Please contact your destination agent if this permit is necessary. This permit can be obtained by yourself or by your destination agent.

Diplomatic removals

Documents required:

- Copy of packing list
- Copy of shippers passport
- Austrian Customs Forms (original) for diplomatic goods, completed and signed by the Embassy / Organisation and attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

New goods can also be imported duty free.

Alcohol can be imported duty free.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective Embassies in the country.

Wedding trousseaux

Documents required:

- Original passport
- Marriage certificate (notice of banns alone is not enough)
- List in triplicate of the goods to be imported, with declaration by the applicant that the goods are dowry (they can also be new goods)
- Attestation from the Austrian partner to the marriage that they were resident in Austria for at least 6 month before the marriage
- Valid Residence Registration Form (primary residence)

New goods can also be imported duty free.

Inheritance

Documents required:

- Passport of the heir
- Inheritance certificate (attested by the courts or by a Notary)
- Inventory (attested by the courts or by a Notary)
- Valid Residence Registration Form (primary residence)

The inheritance goods must be used and may not be sold by the heir within 6 months.

New furniture domestic appliances, gifts, souvenirs

Documents required:

- Purchase invoice
- Certificate of circulation of goods and import permit where applicable

Subject to customs duty and tax.

Machinery and equipment

Free of duty as removal goods.

Object of art, antiques

Documents required:

- Invoice for goods in duplicate (if applicable, expert appraisal)

Antiques, if over 100 years of age are duty free but subject to VAT.

Objects of art are subject to customs duty and tax.

For antiques as a rule a certificate of appraisal from an Austrian expert is required.

Gifts

Documents required:

- Purchase invoice in duplicate
- Import permit where applicable
- Certificate of origin

Subject to customs duty and tax.

Passenger cars, motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds

Documents required:

- Same as household goods but in addition vehicle papers (type certificate, log book)
- Invoice or Purchase order
- Copy of registration or copy of title certificate

Free of duty only in connection with household goods.

Vehicles must be in use and possession of the emigrant for at least 6 months in country of departure.

A tax called “NOVA” (between 8 and 14% of the actual value) has to be paid at the time of registration. NOVA means “Normverbrauchsabgabe” (standard consumption tax) and is calculated on the average gas consumption of the individual model.

Owner of the vehicle must have been outside of the EC for at least twelve months.

The vehicle cannot be cleared together with removal goods. After customs clearance, the passenger cars, motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds are blocked for 12 months, i.e. within this period they may neither be sold nor given away unless the customs duties and VAT are subsequently paid. A separate customs clearance at the competent customs office is necessary (not every customs office is authorised for customs clearance). If the inward journey is made in own car, then application should be made to the Austrian frontier customs office for the issue of the T1 Form.

Caravans, trailers and motor boats

Documents required:

Same as passenger cars.

Free of duty.

The vehicle cannot be cleared together with removal goods. After customs clearance, the passenger cars, motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds are blocked for 12 months, i.e. within this period they may neither be sold nor given away unless the customs duties and VAT are subsequently paid. A separate customs clearance at the competent customs office is necessary (not every customs office is authorised for customs clearance.) If the inward journey is made in own car, then application should be made to the Austrian frontier customs office for the issue of the T1 Form.

Firearms

Documents required:

Same as household goods.

Special official permit necessary.

Import of pump guns forbidden.

Spirits, cigarettes, tobacco, perfumes

Documents required:

Same as household goods.

Only the permitted amounts for travellers are free of duty and tax.

Subject to import permit, heavy import duties, complicated customs clearance (you are advised against importing).

Plants and plant products

Documents required:

Same as household good, but additionally plant protection certificate.

Free of duty.

Domestic animals

Documents required:

- Veterinary certificate
- Inoculation certificate

Free of duty.

On request.

Drugs

Import forbidden.

Wood packaging regulations

The European member states have adopted the International Standard of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM). This regulation requires all wood packing materials to be treated for the transport of goods to the EU from other countries.

General Information on the Republic of Austria

Background

Once the center of power for the large Austro-Hungarian Empire, Austria was reduced to a small republic after its defeat in World War 1. Following annexation by Nazi Germany in 1938 and subsequent occupation by the victorious Allies in 1945, Austria's status remained unclear for a decade. A State Treaty signed in 1955 ended the occupation, recognized Austria's independence, and forbade unification with Germany. A constitutional law that same year declared the country's “perpetual neutrality” as a condition for Soviet military withdrawal. The Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 and Austria's entry into the European Union in 1995 have altered the meaning of this neutrality. A prosperous, democratic country, Austria entered the EU Economic Monetary Union in 1999.

Geography

Austria is situated in southern central Europe, covering a part of the eastern Alps and the Danube region; although it is landlocked, it borders on the Mediterranean area. The country has a wide variety of landscape, vegetation and climate and, situated as it is at the heart of the continent, it has always been a junction for communication links between the trade and cultural centers of Europe.

Austria is a federal state with a total area of 32,362 sq. miles (83,858sq.km) and consists of nine provinces – Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tirol, Upper Austria, Vienna and Vorarlberg.

Austria has common borders with fewer than eight other countries. Austria's border has an overall length of 1,682 miles. Of these 509 miles are shared with Germany, 291 miles with Czech Republic, 64 miles with Slovakia, 220 miles with Hungary, 205 miles with Slovenia, 267 miles with Italy, 104 miles with Switzerland and 22 miles with Liechtenstein.

Climate

Austria belongs to the central European transitional climate zone. In much of Austria the prevailing winds are westerly and north-westerly. In the west of the country temperature variations between day and night and between summer and winter are less pronounced than in the East.

Adequate precipitation figures are registered throughout most of the country, although their amount decreases continuously from west to east. Austria as a whole can be divided into three climatic regions.

The East has a Continental Pannonian climate (mean temperature for July usually above 19 degrees C, annual rainfall often less than 80mm). The central alpine regions has the characteristic features of the Alpine climate (high precipitation, short summers and long winters).

The remainder of the country belong to the transitional central European climate zone (wet temperature, mean temperature for July 14-19 degrees C, annual precipitation 700-2,000 mm depending on location, exposure and altitude).

Population

According to the latest national census in July 2007 Austria has a population of 8,199 783.

Austria's population is 98% German speaking. In the provinces of Carinthia and Burgenland there are two ethnic groups whose rights are guaranteed by the terms of article 7 of the Austrian State Treaty of Vienna of 1995. A Slovene ethnic group lives in southern Carinthia, a Croatian ethnic group in Burgenland towns and villages.

Currency

Is the Euro

- Notes: 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 euros
- Coins: 2 & 1 euros then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents

Economy

Austria, with its well-developed market economy, skilled labor force, and high standard of living, is closely tied to other EU economies, especially Germany's. Its economy features a large service sector, a sound industrial sector, and a small, but highly developed agricultural sector. Following several years of solid foreign demand for Austrian exports and record employment growth, the international financial crisis of 2008 and subsequent global economic downturn led to a sharp but brief recession. Austrian GDP contracted 3.9% in 2009 but saw positive growth of about 2% in 2010 and 3% in 2011. Unemployment did not rise as steeply in Austria as elsewhere in Europe, partly because the government subsidized reduced working hour schemes to allow companies to retain employees. Stabilisation measures, stimulus spending, and an income tax reform pushed the budget deficit to 4.7% in 2010 and 3.6% in 2011, from only about 1.3% in 2008. The international financial crisis of 2008 caused difficulties for Austria's largest banks whose extensive operations in central, eastern, and southeastern Europe faced large losses. The government provided bank support – including in some instances, nationalization – to support aggregate demand and stabilize the banking system. Austria's fiscal position compares favorably with other euro-zone countries, but it faces considerable external risks, such as Austrian banks' continued high exposure to central and eastern Europe as well as political and economic uncertainties caused by the European sovereign debt crisis. In 2011 the government attempted to pass a constitutional amendment limiting public debt to 60% of GDP by 2020, but it was unable to obtain sufficient support in parliament and instead passed the measure as a simple law. In March 2012, the Austrian parliament approved an austerity budget that will bring public finances into balance by 2016.

Health

Austria is well known for a generous social system. Although spending has been reduced in recent years you will still find very good health care and a strong social security system. There's an extensive network of hospitals and doctors covering even the remotest areas of Austria.

It is recommended you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The aim of the card is to simplify procedures for accessing healthcare systems in member states.

Austria operate with state health insurance where the majority of cost like medication are paid directly by your insurance company with you paying a nominal value with private

insurance you pay for the medication and send receipts to your insurer for reimbursement.

Education

Since 1975 all schools are coeducational, and education at state school is free of charge. Children must attend school from the age of six onwards, and compulsory schooling lasts for nine years. After four years of elementary school the ten year old pupil has a choice of two systems of schooling. The extended elementary school or secondary school. The course of study at the extended elementary school lasts for four years. Graduates from this school may then go on to attend either a one year polytechnic course followed by vocational training on-site in a vocational school ('dual education') or, given the requisite talent and inclination join the upper classes of secondary school (four years) or attends an intermediate or higher vocational school (the latter for five years).

The full course at secondary school lasts eight years. After completing the fourth class a pupil may, according to his/her gifts and inclination, switch to an intermediate or higher vocational school.

Pupils who complete their studies at secondary and at higher vocational schools acquire a graduation certificate which entitles them to attend university. Special matriculation requirements apply for arts colleges.

Leisure

Austria's 19,000 sports associations represents approximately three million active members. Many sports have acquired great popularity in Austria as leisure activities. These include most notably swimming, alpine and cross country skiing, cycling, tennis, football, running, riding and golf.

Modern facilities designed to blend with the surrounding landscape give sporting activities a special attractiveness in Austria. Tennis courts and public swimming pools are to be found not only in the major towns and cities but also in all tourist and spa resorts.

A nationwide programme for the provision of sporting facilities has ensured that the general public has adequate opportunities for pursuing sports as a source of recreation, enjoyment, health and competitive excitement.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date we cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.