



## IAESTE AP: Country Information

*This is a form containing general information about your country and your IAESTE national and local committees.*

### General information:

- Country: **Austria**
- Capital: **Vienna**
- Population: **~ 9.1 million**
- National language(s): **Austrian German**
- Currency: **Euro**
- Time zone: **UTC+1 (summer time: UTC+2)**
- Voltage: **230**
- Phone country code: **+43**
- SIM card provider: HoT, Drei, A1, Lidl
- Cities with IAESTE LCs: **Graz, Innsbruck, Leoben, Linz, Vienna (Here we have two LCs: BOKU and Vienna)**
- Climate: moderate continental climate (in general colder in the west (alps))
  - **Spring**: warm, low temperatures above 0°C, occasional typical strong warm winds (called Foehn).
  - **Summer**: pleasant warm, sometimes hot beyond 35°C especially in the east, mostly sunny with some short heavy rains
  - **Autumn**: moderate low temperatures above 0°C, sometimes windy
  - **Winter**: low temperatures, can (rarely) get very cold down to -20°C, regular snowfalls, especially in the west.
- Social media links:
  - Website: <https://www.iaeste.at/en/>
  - Facebook: IAESTE Austria → [https://www.facebook.com/iaesteaustralia/?locale=de\\_DE](https://www.facebook.com/iaesteaustralia/?locale=de_DE)

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/iaeste.austria>

*In this section please fill out the information about your country's culture*

### **Country information:**

- **Fun facts about the country:** *(around 5, a few sentences each):*
  - 1) There are no kangaroos in Austria! ;)
  - 2) Especially in the eastern part of Austria 'Oida' is a quite unique, traditional term that has plenty of meanings depending on the situation - you may want to check out [this video](#) to be able to communicate properly with locals.

- 3) Legends have it that the colors of the Austrian flag date back to the 11th century. The crusader Leopold V removed his sword belt after battle leaving a white stripe on his blood soaked tunic.
  - 4) Vienna, the capital of Austria, is home to almost one-quarter of the entire population of the country.
  - 5) Despite its relatively small area, Austria shares borders with eight other countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland.
  - 6) One of the oldest amusement parks in the world, the Wurstelprater is located in Vienna, Austria.
- **Cities/towns that you recommend visiting:** *(short description for each, pointing out the most important landmarks people should visit):*

#### **Vienna:**

The city of grand palaces and museums, the home of Opera and Beethoven, Vienna is a city steeped in culture and grandeur. A walk down the city's beautiful Ringstrasse Boulevard, lined with royal buildings like the Hofburg Imperial Palace and many beautiful parks, is a great way to let the magic of Vienna grow on you. The opulent Schonbrunn & Belvedere Palaces and the ornate St Stephen's Cathedral are architectural marvels and a must-visit for art and history enthusiasts. Don't forget to sip the famous Viennese coffee at one of many cozy coffee houses and gaze in wonder at the world famous Vienna Opera House.

#### **Salzburg:**

A charming city surrounded by rolling green meadows, majestic historical buildings and it is the birthplace of genius composer Mozart.

The old town with its stunning baroque buildings is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, while the imposing Hohensalzburg fortress boasts of being Europe's last preserved castle. The grand extravaganza of culture, music and the arts, the Salzburger Festspiele during summers is an experience to remember.

#### **Graz:**

Austria's second largest city with six universities and one of Europe's best preserved Old town areas, Graz has much to offer. There are numerous museums, impressive baroque & renaissance style buildings and a unique forested hill in the center of the city offering panoramic views as well.

#### **Innsbruck:**

The idyllic alpine town surrounded by high mountains has plenty of options. You could enjoy a leisurely walk through the old town and marvel at the glittering Goldenes Dachl adorned with more than 2500 shiny tiles or get a peek into the Tyrolean Folk Art Museum, one of the finest museums for regional heritage in Europe.

Innsbruck has world renowned ski resorts which can be enjoyed in the winter months. Adventure enthusiasts can go hiking up the gorgeous meadows, bungee jumping at Europa Bridge, or take the thrilling funicular ride up the Nordkette mountain range.

### **Bregenz:**

Located on the Eastern edge of Lake Constance, Bregenz offers sweeping views of the Swiss and German Alps. Stroll around the beautiful promenade by the lake or take a cable car up the Pfander Mountain for breathtaking vistas of Lake Constance.

The mountain top is also a great place to relish a lunch with spectacular views or meander along a hiking trail. Get bowled over by the opera and orchestras at the annual Bregenz festival (July-August) performed at the floating lakeside platform.

The architecture, history and art legacy of the city can be admired in museums and beautiful buildings across the town.

- **Other places you recommend visiting:** *(short description for each. This can include national parks, historical landmarks, beaches, mountains, museums or anything else):*

### **Wachau:**

Flanking the beautiful Danube River, this rich valley is one of the best South Austria tourist attractions. A UNESCO World heritage site for its cultural significance and unmatched natural splendor, Wachau valley is popular amongst wine connoisseurs for some of the best white wines in the world.

Studded with some magnificent monasteries (like the baroque Melk monastery) castles and fortresses, Wachau valley offers lots of history and architectural delights too, this spot worth a visit.

### **Hallstatt & Salzkammergut:**

This picturesque resort area near Salzburg offers the quintessential Austrian experience, with shimmering blue lakes (76 lakes in all!), stunning alpine ranges, charming villages, and luxurious spa towns. Situated by the Lake Hallstatt and included on UNESCO's world heritage sites list is the fairy tale village Hallstatt which happens to be heavily overcrowded by tourists (be aware!).

Undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places to see in Austria, Halstatt's stunning pastel colored houses, underground salt lake Salzwelten and Ice Cave on Dachstein Mountain will take your breath away. The spa town of Bad Ischl and the romantic St Wolfgang are other tourist favorites, yet expensive.

### **Wörthersee:**

Canoeing, spelunking, pretty churches and the hometown of Porsche are reason enough to spend a few days at Austria's favoured summer destination. The beautiful Wörthersee Lake offers ample opportunities for swimming, boating and canoeing in the summer months.

You can head to the colourful Griffen Stalactite cave for some thrill and exploration.

Admiring the 12th century ancient Cathedral of Gurk and a visit to Gmunden the birthplace of Porsche complete your list of must-do experiences.

### **Grossglockner High Alpine Road:**

If you are fond of road trips, then put Grossglockner High Alpine Road on your bucket list. The hairpin road passes through lush alpine meadows, snowfields, and daunting cliffs. The road is literally your gateway to escape into nature. You will find a number of vantage points along the road to admire the raw and breathtaking the beauty of Austria.

### **National Park Hohe Tauern:**

National Park Hohe Tauern is one of the oldest and largest national parks in Austria. You can find the country's largest mountains, glaciers, and forests in this national park. Spot beautiful and unique animal species. You could either explore the park on your own or join a tour guided by the park ranger.

### **The Alps:**

Dominating the western part of Austria's landscape, the alps are worth a visit for

nature lovers all year round. From hikes to alpine climbing various outdoor activities can be performed during spring and summer time. Not to forget every kind of skiing during winter.

### **Schrems:**

One of the hidden gems of Austria, this city offers a lot of extraordinary sights. Not only is the brewery of the world famous 'Schremser' beer as well as the manufacturing facilities of the unique 'Waldviertler' shoes located in the city center.

Nearby there is also a local art museum run by Greek immigrant Varlamis. The surrounding hiking paths providing marvellous views of the landscape and even lead through a moor, make this remote town more than worth the travel effort.

**Airports with budget airlines** (*Wizz Air, Ryanair, EasyJet, Transavia, Norwegian*):

- Vienna International Airport (VIA)
- Bratislava Airport (BTS) - reachable via regular train & bus connections from Vienna within 35 minutes
- Munich (MUN)
- Beside that we have in every bigger city (especially all our LCs city) an airport - some European airlines do offer flights to these locations

**Website(s) with travel connections inside the country** (*train, bus, public transportation, ridesharing*):

**Trains:**

- [www.oebb.at](http://www.oebb.at) - national railway system, owned by the republic of Austria. National and international trains between cities
- [www.westbahn.at](http://www.westbahn.at) - privat train company, providing train connections between some bigger cities, usually cheaper than OEGB
- <https://www.regiojet.de/> - private company, providing several international connections especially to Czech Republic
- <https://int.bahn.de/en> - national railway system Germany, owned by the German state. International trains and connections to Germany
- <https://www.sbb.ch/en> - national railway system Switzerland. International trains to/from Switzerland

**Public transport:**

[www.wienerlinien.at](http://www.wienerlinien.at) - public transport system in Vienna

<https://www.holding-graz.at/graz-linien/graz-linien.html> - public transport system in Graz

<https://www.linzag.at/portal/de/privatkunden/unterwegs> - public transport system in Linz

<https://salzburg-verkehr.at/en/> - public transport in Salzburg

<https://www.ivb.at/en/> - public transport in Innsbruck

**Bus:**

<https://www.postbus.at/> - national bus system

[www.flixbus.at](http://www.flixbus.at) - privat company providing connections between major cities and international connections

<https://www.regiojet.de/> - private company, providing several international connections especially to Czech Republic

In general for longer stays in Austria we recommend the [Klimaticket](#) which can be used in almost every public transport all over Austria. Even some destinations in the neighboring countries are included ( double check for more details on their website).

**Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying:** (*short description for each*):

**Food - main dishes:**

- **Wiener Schnitzel:** Viennese cutlet - Originally veal (but also pork or

chicken) meat breaded and fried, traditionally served with potato salad.

- **Schweinsbraten:** Pork roast, usually served with dumplings and sauerkraut.
- **Tafelspitz:** Boiled veal or beef in broth, traditionally served with a mix of minced apples and horseradish and hash browns.
- **Karpfen:** Carp - this fish is served in many variations throughout the country.
- **Kasnudln:** Carinthian Kasnudln, or cheese noodles, are filled with cream cheeses, herbs and potato based stuffing, served with liquid, hot clarified butter.

- **Käsespätzle:** Hot **spätzle** and grated **granular cheese** are layered alternately and are finally decorated with **fried onions**.
- **Backhendl:** Spiced portions of **chicken**, which are **breaded** and crispy deep fried.

#### Food - deserts:

- **Gezogener Apfelstrudel:** Drawn apple strudel, hand made paper thin drawn dough filled with apples, buttered breadcrumbs and rum soaked raisins.
- **Sachertorte:** Traditional chocolate cake with apricot jam and chocolate icing.
- **Topfengolatsche:** A square-shaped danish pastry with a curd cheese filling.
- **Linzer Torte:** It is considered to be the oldest cake in the world - dating back to the 16th century. Its base is a shortcrust pastry made with ground nuts, filled with red currant or plum jam and with a decorative dough lattice pattern on top.

#### Drinks:

- **Most:** Apple cider
- **Sturm:** Unfiltered 'young' wine (alcoholic fermentation just started).
- **Spritzer:** Mixture of white wine and sparkling water
- **Radler:** Mix of lemonade (usually lemon) and beer
- **Beer:** Various breweries (small local as well as bigger ones) can be found throughout Austria
- **Wine:** There are several regions especially in the east of Austria well known for producing several different kinds of wine.
- **Coffee:** Various kinds of coffee are served in Austrian cafes.
- **Almdudler:** A herbal lemonade.
- **Red Bull:** A famous energy drink you might have heard of already.
- **Gurkthaler:** Being the reasonable financial alternative to Jaegermeister, this liquor has become kind of the unofficial signature drink of IAESTE Austria
- **Stroh 80:** A typical regional rum, used for baking and of course the most famous 'Burning Mozart' tradition.

**Tipping in the restaurants:** Tipping is common, ~10%



**Discounts for transportation** *(do you know about any way of getting discounts for transportation? - e.g. in Belgium is cheap train Go Pass ticket if you are under 26, but you have to ask for it):*

Discounts for public transport are usually available for students.

For the national railway system a discount card ('[OEBB Vorteils card](#)') is available for 19€ (if you are < 27 years old) or 66€ ( > 27) with which you get up to 50% discount on train tickets. There are also group tickets (2-5 people) available called '[Einfach Raus Ticket](#)' for the national railway system which only work for regional trains, but not for international connections.

**What is the common greeting in your country** *(do you only shake hands, or you kiss on both cheeks...?):*

Handshakes are 'common'. Typical greetings are 'Grüß Gott', 'Guten Tag' or just 'Hallo'.

**Emergencies - numbers:**

Police: 133

Ambulance: 144

Fire brigade: 122

**Any other interesting or useful information:**









