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# Travel Information for Austria

## A. Transportation Information

**Vienna** Vienna International Airport (VIE) Web: [www.viennaairport.com](http://www.viennaairport.com). The airport is located about 30 minutes from central Vienna. It is a well-connected hub, and you can expect to find several flights to get you here. It is also well-connected to downtown Vienna.

### To and From the Airport

Vienna's public transport system is one of the most efficient in the world. The metro system (U-Bahn) is clean and very quick and trams and buses are punctual. A one-trip ticket, standard for all forms of public transport, is available from ticket booths (Vorverkauf) at U-Bahn stations and from tobacconists. If you're making more than two trips a day you should invest in a travel pass (Netzkarte), which allows you to travel on all forms of public transport within the city limits. You can buy a 24-hour ticket, a 72-hour ticket or a weekly pass.

**By commuter train:** The S-Bahn is the commuter rail that will provide the most convenient connection to the city center. Look for the S7 line, then hop on the train to Floridsdorf, get off at Wien Mitte-Landstraße; it will take about 25 minutes to reach the city center from the airport. Once you are in the city, take the U-Bahn to wherever you would like. The station for the commuter train is one level below arrivals. Make sure you purchase a Vienna Zone 100 ticket (for the inner Vienna area) and one VOR ('outside zone') ticket. Validate your ticket at the red ticket machines on the train platforms before boarding; conductors will charge you if you don't validate it! Train schedules can be found at [www.oebb.at](http://www.oebb.at).

**By City Airport Train:** (CAT) This non-stop train takes you to Wien Mitte-Landstraße in 16 minutes. It leaves on the :05 and :35 of each hour; if you are not there for those times or are headed to a different part of the city center, take the commuter train.

**By Shuttle Bus:** Buses go frequently between the airport and the city center, operated by Postbus. The tickets can be purchased with cash from the operator.

**By Taxi:** In Austria, cab fare needs to be negotiated prior to the ride. It should cost around €25-30 (status 2017) to get to the city center. You can also work with Airport Service Wien for a direct transfer. Details can be found at [www.airportservice.at](http://www.airportservice.at).

**Regional Bus:** There are regional buses available to take you to and from the airport from various locations in central Vienna. Schedules can be found on the airport website.

### Getting around in Vienna

**City Bus:** City buses are handy for getting to backstreets where there are few U- Bahn stations and tram routes. Despite having to deal with traffic they are surprisingly punctual and run from Mon-Sat.

**U-Bahn or Subway:** The U-Bahn is the fastest way of getting around the city and trains run from between 5am-1am (the times of first and last trains are posted up at individual stations).

**Tram:** The city has one of the largest tram systems in the world, with more than thirty routes. Trams are also quite fast and efficient, and run every five to ten minutes, depending on the time of day. Check the timetables posted at every stop for full details.

### **Major Train Stations:**

Vienna: Südbahnhof station  
Salzburg Hbf  
InnsbruckHbf

**Austrian Train System:** [www.oebb.at](http://www.oebb.at)

### **Types of trains:**

**S-Bahn/Schnellbahn:** Commuter trains offered in several regions and suburban areas.

**RSB Regio S-Bahn:** An express version of the S-Bahn making limited stops.

**R Regionalzug:** A regional train stops normally in all stations.

**REX Regionalexpress:** An express regional train, stops at more significant stations.

**ÖBB IC Inter-City:** Connects major towns and cities.

**EC Euro-City:** An international Inter-City train.

**ÖBB ICE Inter-City-Express:** A high-speed train.

**RJ RailJet:** Austria's home-grown high-speed train.

### **Which train should I take?**

Depending on your destination, you have many options. Typically, longer distances between major cities offer high speed trains that offer a first class department and include on-train food services. All stops are serviced by local trains, and you may take one of these to reach a smaller town. When researching your train travel online, click on the "all products" column for a complete description of the types of trains offered for your preferred route.

## **B. Language Tips**

Welcome to Austria: Willkommen in Österreich

**Vowels:** may be long (usually when doubled or followed by h) or short

- Short a - like 'a' in "hat", or 'u' in "hut"
- Long a - like 'ah' in "father" Short e - like 'e' in "let" or "bet" Long e - like 'a' in "state"
- Short i - like 'i' in "hit"
- Long i - like 'i' in "marine" or 'ee' in "see"
- Short o - like 'o' in "hot" Long o - like 'or' in "torn" Short u - like 'u' in "put"
- Long u - like 'o' in "who" or 'oo' in "pool"

### **Consonants**

- B - when followed by consonant, like 'p' in "tap"; otherwise like the 'b' in "boy"
- Ch - when followed by a, o, u, or au, like 'ch' in Scottish "loch"; otherwise like 'ish'.
- D - when final or followed by a consonant, like 't' in "cat"; otherwise like 'd' in "day"
- F - like 'f' in "friend"
- G - when final or followed by a consonant, like 'k'; otherwise like English
- H - as in English
- J - like the 'y' in "yes" l, m, n - as in English ng - like he 'ng' in "sing"
- p - as in English, even when followed by another consonant like 'k' + 'v'
- r - trilled as in Spanish
- s - when initial letter or before a vowel, like 's' in "rose"; when final word or before consonant, like 's' in "sea"; when initial letter before 'p' or 't', like 'sh' in "ship"
- t, th - as in English v - like 'f' in "fear" w - like 'v' in "vine" x - like 'x' in "tax"
- z - like 'ts' in "hurts"

## Diphthongs

- Ei, ai, ey, & ay - like 'i' in "mile" or "sigh"
- au - like 'ow' in "meow"
- eu & äu - like 'oi' in "boil" or 'oy' in "boy"

## Bicycling Specific Phrases

- Bicycle: Fahrrad (say far-rod)
- Flat tire: Loch im Rad (say Lohk im rod)
- Water: Wasser (say vahsir)
- I am on a bicycle tour: Ich mache eine Fahrradtour. (say: Eek mahkeh ine far-rod- tour.)
- ATMs are called a "Bankomat"

## C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers

The International Access Code (IAC) for the US and Canada is 011 and for Austria it's 00

The Country Code (CC) for Austria is 43 and for the US and Canada it's 1

Area Codes in Austria can be various digits in length

To call Austria from the US or Canada, dial IAC + CC + Local Number.

**Example:** The local telephone number for the Vienna Opera House in Austria is (0) 1 512 3457. The number could also be listed as +43 (0) 1 512 3457. In both cases, you would dial 011-43-1 512 3457.

To call the US or Canada from Austria, dial IAC + CC + Local Number.

**Example:** The local telephone number of the ExperiencePlus! headquarters in Colorado is 970-484-8489. You would dial 00-1-970-484-8489.

To call Austria from another European country, dial IAC + CC + Local Number.

**Example:** The local telephone number of the Vienna Opera House in Austria is (0) 1 512 3457. The number could also be listed as +43 (0) 1 512 3457. You would dial 00-43-1 512 3457.

To call Austria from within Austria, dial the Local Number

**Example:** The local telephone number of the Vienna Opera House in Austria is (0) 1 512 3457. You would dial 0 1 512 3457. Unlike the US there is no need to differentiate between local and long distance by dialing a 1 before the local number.

## D. Eating and Drinking

Breakfast (Frühstück) commonly consists of bread, toast, and/or bread rolls (the term for which varies a lot by region) with jam (Marmelade or Konfitüre) or honey, eggs, and strong coffee or tea (milk, cocoa or juice for children). Deli meats, such as ham, salted meats and salami, are also commonly eaten on bread in the morning, as are various cheeses. A variety of meat-based spreads such as Leberwurst (literally "liver-sausage") can be found during breakfast as well. Muesli (Müsli) and cereals such as cornflakes are also popular.

Traditionally, the main meal of the day has been lunch (Mittagessen), eaten around noon. Vegetables are often eaten in stews or vegetable soups, but can also be served as a side dish. Carrots, turnips, spinach, peas, beans, and many types of cabbage are very common. Noodles are usually thicker than Italian pasta and often contain egg yolk. The predominant variety of noodles is Spätzle which contain a very large amount of yolk. Besides noodles, potatoes and dumplings (Klöße or Knödel) are very common. Austria is unique in that Mehlspeisen, or sweet meals, are often served as main courses. This could be sweet omelets, soufflés, strudel with fruit fillings, or gnocchi or dumplings with poppy seed, nut or fruit filling, or sauces.

Dinner (Abendessen or Abendbrot) is usually a smaller meal, often consisting only of a variety of breads and meats, similar to breakfast, or possibly sandwiches. However, in Austria, as in other parts of Europe, dining habits have changed over the last 50 years. Today, many people eat only a small meal in the middle of the working day and enjoy a hot dinner in the evening at home with the whole family. Nevertheless, the traditional way is still rather common, especially in rural areas.

Most cafes and restaurants will offer daily specials, which commonly come with a side dish such as a salad or similar. If you are interested in something lighter, most bakeries (Bäckerei) and oftentimes butcher shops (Metzgerei) offer prepared sandwiches. Last but not least grocery stores are a good option; you can get bread, cheese and cured meats and prepare your own sandwiches. Groceries, butcher shops and bakeries are commonly open from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. Some smaller shops might take a break between noon and 3 p.m. Lunches are commonly served from 11.30 a.m. till 1 p.m. and dinners starting at about 6 p.m. as late as 9 p.m., depending on the type of restaurant and whether you are in a smaller town or village or a major city.

## E. Hotel Recommendations

### Vienna

[Novotel Wien City](http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-6154-novotel-wien-city/index.shtml) ([www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-6154-novotel-wien-city/index.shtml](http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-6154-novotel-wien-city/index.shtml))

Next to historic old town

Aspernbrueckengasse 1, 1020 Vienna

[Hotel Stefanie](http://www.schick-hotels.com/stefanie-hotel-wien-index.de.htm) ([www.schick-hotels.com/stefanie-hotel-wien-index.de.htm](http://www.schick-hotels.com/stefanie-hotel-wien-index.de.htm))

Next to historic old town

Taborstraße 12, 1020 Wien

[Hotel Beletage](http://www.hollmann-beletage.at/en) ([www.hollmann-beletage.at/en](http://www.hollmann-beletage.at/en))

Boutique hotel in city center

Kollnerhofgasse 6, A-1010 Vienna

[Hotel Capricorno](https://www.schick-hotels.com/en/hotel-capricorno/index.html) (<https://www.schick-hotels.com/en/hotel-capricorno/index.html>)

Perfect location right by Schwedenplatz for easy access with the airport bus

Schwedenplatz 3-4, A-1010 Vienna

[25hours Hotel](http://25hours-hotel-vienna.h-rzn.com/) at MuseumsQuartier (<http://25hours-hotel-vienna.h-rzn.com/>)

Lerchenfelder Strasse 1-3, Vienna, 1070

## F. Reading and Movie List

### Literature on Austria

- *A Nervous Splendor: Vienna 1888 – 1889* by Frederick Morton. An account of a 10 month period critical to Vienna's history covering the murder/suicide of the Crown Prince Rudolf (heir to the Habsburg empire) and his mistress Mary Vetsera.
- *Thunder at Twilight: Vienna 1913/1914* by Frederick Morton. Another account of Vienna focusing on the social, cultural and political atmosphere of Vienna before World War I.
- *Fin-De-Siecle Vienna: Politics and Culture* by Carl E. Schorske. An academic and detailed account of the changes in Vienna in the late 1800's. Reviewers either love it or hate it for his details.
- *Schubert's Vienna (Aston Magna Academy Book)* by Professor Raymond Erickson. An engaging read for anyone interested in composer Franz Schubert or Vienna during the early 19th century.
- *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria von Trapp. The story of the Trapp family.
- *Beethoven: the Music and the Life* by Lewis Lockwood. A historical look at Beethoven's life written in a way that helps readers gain an appreciation for his music.
- *Historic Coffeehouses: Vienna, Budapest, Prague* by Carol Dertich. A complete guide of the cities' historic coffee houses included photos, architectural design, hours of operation and descriptions.

### Movies About or Set in Austria

- *Amadeus* (1998). Academy Award winner for Best Picture based upon the lives of composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri.
- *The Great Waltz* (1938). The story of composer Johann Strauss Jr who in 1845 Vienna follows his passion and brings the waltz to the masses.

- *The Third Man* (1949). This film receives high praise for its cinematography and musical score. An American writer travels to Vienna post WWII to meet his friend only to find his friend has been accidentally run over by a car and killed-- was it really an accident?
- *The Emperor Waltz* (1948). In this musical Bing Crosby plays a travelling salesman that goes to Vienna to sell the American gramophone to Emperor Franz Joseph I, but stumbles upon a Countess (Joan Fontaine) and her dog. It is a story about love and social status differences (dogs and people).
- *Oh Rosalinda!!* (1955). Set in post WWII Vienna the plot involves an American officer, a British officer and his wife, a masked ball and a practical joke.
- *Mayerling* (1968). Omar Sharif and Catherine Deneuve star in this movie about the suicide of Habsburg heir Archduke Rudolf.
- *Before Winter Comes* (1969). Set in post WWII, a British officer is in charge of returning the displaced civilians of an Austrian refugee camp to either Russian or American zones. His friendship with a helpful refugee translator and a beautiful innkeeper becomes strained when romance and secret pasts come to be known. Starring David Niven, Topol, and Anna Karina.
- *The Red Violin*. The story reveals the 300 years of history of a beautiful instrument deep red in color known as a perfect violin. The violin's history is set in five different locations, Vienna being one of them.
- *The Sound of Music* (1965). Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical of the Trapp family starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. Many scenes were filmed on location in Salzburg, Austria.
- *The Illusionist* (2006). The story of master illusionist Eisenheim in 20th century Vienna.
- *Downhill Racer* (1969). A downhill ski racing movie starring Robert Redford and Gene Hackman. The Hahnenkamm and St. Anton, Austria are featured.
- *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977). Roger Moore plays secret agent 007 James Bond. At one point the movie depicts Bond in Austria narrowly escaping Soviet agents during a downhill skiing chase scene.
- *Before Sunrise* (1995). A young American traveler and young French student meet on a train from Budapest to Vienna, and grow fond of one another as they spend the day in Vienna. Stars Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy.
- *The Counterfeiters* (2007). Academy Award winning Best Foreign Language Film (Austrian-German) about a post WWII Nazi plan to crash the United Kingdom's economy by flooding England with counterfeit British currency. Those enjoying classic tango and opera from the 1930's and 1940's will be pleased with the soundtrack.
- *Quantum of Solace* (2008). As agent 007 James Bond (Daniel Craig) battles the Quantum organization and seeks revenge for his lover's death he attends an opera performance (*Tosca*) in Bregenz, Austria. In typical Bond fashion a battle ensues.
- *Seven Years in Tibet* (1997). Austrian mountaineers are captured in northern India and imprisoned by the British in 1939. Escaping into Tibet, one of the climbers (played by Brad Pitt) meets and becomes friends with the young Dalai Lama. The musical score features Yo-Yo Ma.
- *The Peacemaker* (1997). In this high action thriller starring George Clooney and Nicole Kidman, 10 nuclear warheads go missing when a Russian missile base is being decommissioned. Some scenes are shot in Vienna.
- *Woman in Gold* (2015). Based upon a true story, Helen Mirren stars as Maria Altmann, an elderly Jewish refugee living in Los Angeles. Maria and her attorney sue the Austrian government to reclaim museum quality paintings, one being an iconic painting of her aunt, that were stolen from her family home in Vienna by the Nazis at the start of World War II.

## G. Other Travel Resources

If you'd like to explore more transportation options, we find that <https://www.rome2rio.com/> is a helpful resource.