





Austria - Low



Austria Country Map

-  POLITICAL
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-  CRIME
-  CIVIL UNREST
-  MARITIME AND PIRACY
-  HEALTH
-  ENVIRONMENTAL
-  TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 15 December 2025

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Most visits to Austria are trouble-free and there are very few security threats to concern travellers. Austria enjoys a stable political system, a low rate of crime and

a risk of terrorism lower than the continental average. Travellers are advised to maintain sensible security precautions, such as a degree of situational awareness and limiting overt displays of wealth, to mitigate any risks.

Immigration controls may temporarily be in place at some road and rail border crossing points with Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia. Moreover, protests have previously disrupted travel across the borders with the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Adverse weather conditions during the winter months (December through March) may cause overland travel disruptions, with a risk of avalanches in mountainous regions. Travellers should be aware that it is illegal to wear any clothing or object that conceals the face and makes facial features unrecognisable.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Cultural Tips

- German is the official language of Austria. English is widely understood, as it is a required language in Austrian high schools.
- Austrians are accustomed to using formal titles when addressing others, and this should be observed in both verbal and written correspondence.
- Often, Austrians will list their degree or title before their name. In these cases, they should be referred to as "Herr" or "Frau" and then their title (such as Doktor or Magister, which means master).
- The practice of tipping is common in Austria; generally, the amounts involved are small. Taxi drivers generally receive a 10% tip; for shorter trips, round up to the nearest euro. At restaurants, a service charge of 10 to 15% of the check is usually included in the price of the meal; it is customary to either round up or leave an additional 5 to 10%. Servers should be given their tip directly in the form of cash.
- Homosexuality and same-sex marriage are legal in Austria.

KEY FACTS

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL	Vienna

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE	1
COUNTRY PHONE CODE	+43
CURRENCY	Euro
ELECTRICITY	230 V, 50 Hz
GMT	UTC+01:00 (Daylight Saving Time observed)
LANGUAGES	German
LEADERSHIP	Chief of State: President Alexander Van der Bellen; Head of Government: Chancellor Christian Stocker
OFFICE WORK WEEK	Monday - Friday
OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	Republic of Austria
PLUG STYLES	Type C, F
RELIGION	Roman Catholic 55.2%, Muslim 8.3%, Orthodox 4.9%, Evangelical Christian 3.8%, Jewish 0.1%, other 5.4%, none 22.4%
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	Federal semi-presidential republic

RISK SUMMARY

Political - Low

Austria is a federal semi-parliamentary democracy and a member of the European Union and the Eurozone, maintaining a foreign policy of consistent neutrality.

The President (Bundespräsident) serves as the head of state, while the Chancellor (Bundeskanzler) acts as head of government. Executive power is exercised at both federal and regional levels, while legislative authority is shared between the Federal Government and the two parliamentary chambers, the National Council (Nationalrat) and the Federal Council (Bundesrat).

In September 2024, the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) far-right party's attempt to form a government failed despite winning legislative elections. In March 2025, a new coalition government was formed between centrist parties Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) and The New Austria and Liberal Forum (NEOS), with Christian Stocker of the ÖVP appointed as Chancellor.

Political corruption is limited and does not threaten the stability of the Austrian political system.

Armed Conflict - Low

Austria exercises a foreign policy of perpetual neutrality and is surrounded by NATO and other partner states. As a result, the risk of armed conflict on Austrian soil is unlikely.

Terrorism - Low

Austria faces a lower risk of terrorism than many Western European nations, though the global threat of non-specific, indiscriminate attacks remains.

If an attack were to occur, it would likely involve a self-radicalised lone actor using low-tech methods such as knives or vehicles. Such attacks are notoriously difficult to predict and can occur with very little warning.

As a Schengen Zone member, Austria has seen increased migration from the Middle East and Africa. This has coincided with a rise in anti-terror arrests, though the country has remained free of large-scale Islamist attacks, likely due to its lack of direct involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts. However, home-grown Islamist extremism remains a concern, with an estimated 150 returning Islamic State (IS) fighters posing a growing concern.

The rise in immigration has also fuelled far-right extremism, with nationalist groups viewing migrants as a threat to the country. While these groups are not currently expected to launch large-scale attacks, the risk of low-capability violence from lone actors or small cells remains moderate.

Crime - Low

Crime levels are low, with violent crime a rarity. Petty crime and pickpocketing can occur on public transport and at airports, although at a much lower rate than in other European nations. Residential burglary, although not prevalent, is a recognised threat in more affluent neighbourhoods in Vienna and other urban cities.

Hotspots for crime usually include crowded areas, public transport stations, shopping centres and tourist attractions in major cities.

Austria has a higher rate of firearm ownership than most European states, principally as a result of a rural, hunting-oriented culture. Despite this, illegal use of firearms remains rare.

Civil Unrest - Low

Austria is an internally stable country and overall civil unrest risks are lower than in other European countries, including France and Germany. Protests are required to be licensed in Austria, and as a result, are often known in advance and adequately policed. Protests are likely to be focused around civic buildings or po-

tentially foreign embassies, depending on the nature of the protest.

The far-right FPÖ's surge in power during recent elections has resulted in several protests across major cities in Austria. Similarly, climate change protests have also taken place across the country. Protests against the Russo-Ukrainian war and Palestinian conflict are common. In Vienna, demonstrations often take place at major squares, such as Heldenplatz, Rathausplatz, Stephansplatz. Protests have also been organised in Graz's Hauptplatz and Hauptbahnhof, as well as near the Austrian Constitutional Court in Vienna.

While largely peaceful, authorities have used crowd control measures, such as tear gas, to disperse protestors. Localised disruptions to travel and business can be expected.

Maritime and Piracy - Negligible

Austria is a landlocked country and is therefore not subjected to maritime or piracy issues.

Health - Low

Medical facilities are of a high quality and staff are generally well-trained. Austrian healthcare operates on a state-supported insurance system. EU travellers are advised to carry their EHIC cards at all times and non-EU travellers should carry proof of insurance in order to facilitate rapid treatment.

It is advisable to take precautions when partaking in snow and mountain sports, and have adequate medical insurance in case of severe injury, as evacuation may not take place without proof of insurance.

Travellers should be aware that tick-borne encephalitis is a risk in forested areas, as are ticks, which are common from Spring to Autumn. Travellers should make sure their accommodation is insect proof and use insect repellent.

Environmental - Low

Austria experiences several severe weather occurrences such as avalanches, flooding, and mudslides.

Austria is a heavily mountainous nation, and the environment can turn hostile at short notice, particularly in winter. Vehicles should carry snow chains and suitable equipment to remain warm in case of a breakdown or accident in winter. Snow is present at high altitudes all year round and avalanches are frequent.

Austria is at risk of floods and landslides, particularly during the humid months of June and July. In the past, several towns and villages were inundated, leaving many without electricity.

Transportation - Low

Austria has many road safety laws to ensure safe driving, despite this, road deaths are higher than compared to other western countries. English language channels providing traffic information and road conditions can be found across local frequencies. Travellers should ensure that all travel tickets for public transport are validated prior to their journey to avoid high fines. Winter tyres are mandatory from 01 November to 15 April when driving in winter conditions. Travellers should carry snow chains if driving in mountainous areas. A vignette is required to drive on the motorways (autobahn).

Austria's public transport system is well-developed and inexpensive. Bus and tram services operate regularly and a few night buses are available. In rural areas, buses are popular for commuters and therefore can be overcrowded during peak morning and afternoon times. A non-stop service runs from Vienna to Vienna's international airport and is frequent. All of Austria's major cities have their own international airports, with low-cost airlines operating between cities.

Metro services do run in Vienna however not in any other towns. The metro is often busy and overcrowded, especially at commuter times. It is recommended that travellers pre-book seats for weekly travel.

Security checks at borders can often cause delays in travel. Travellers should ensure that they have all appropriate documentation ready for checks.

EMERGENCY DETAILS

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL 24/7 OPERATIONS CENTRE AT +44 (0)1202 795 801. LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN BE REACHED BY DIALLING 112 / 133 FOR POLICE, 144 FOR AN AMBULANCE AND 122 FOR FIRE SERVICE.

POLICE NUMBER	112 / 133
AMBULANCE NUMBER	144
FIRE NUMBER	122
EMERGENCY DETAILS	

TRAVEL

TRAVEL ADVICE

If in a public place or building it is illegal to cover your face with clothing or objects so you can't be recognised.

Same-sex sexual activity is legal in Austria and same-sex marriages became legal in 2019.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

DECEMBER 21, 2025

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **December Solstice:** Austria - Seasonal

DECEMBER 24, 2025

- **Christmas Eve:** Austria - Half day

DECEMBER 25, 2025

- **Christmas Day:** Austria - National

DECEMBER 26, 2025

- **St. Stephen's Day:** Austria - National

DECEMBER 31, 2025

- **New Year's Eve:** Austria - Observance

JANUARY 01, 2026

- **New Year's Day:** Austria - National

JANUARY 06, 2026

- **Epiphany:** Austria - National

MARCH 19, 2026

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **Saint Joseph's Day:** Austria - Carinthia, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg - Local holiday

MARCH 20, 2026

- **March Equinox:** Austria - Seasonal

MARCH 29, 2026

- **Daylight Saving Time starts:** Austria - Clock change
- **Palm Sunday:** Austria - Observance

APRIL 03, 2026

- **Good Friday:** Austria - Observance

APRIL 05, 2026

- **Easter Sunday:** Austria - Observance

APRIL 06, 2026

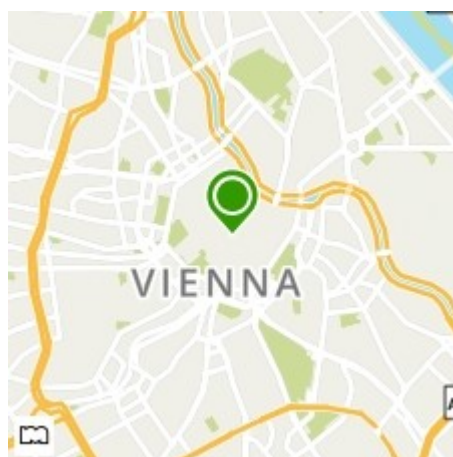
- **Easter Monday:** Austria - National

MAY 01, 2026

- **Labor Day / May Day:** Austria - National

RECENT ALERTS

PLANNED PROTEST IN VIENNA ON 14 DECEMBER



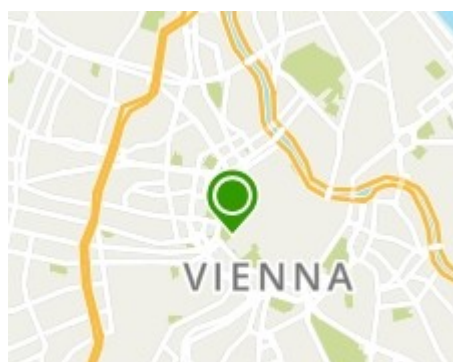
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low

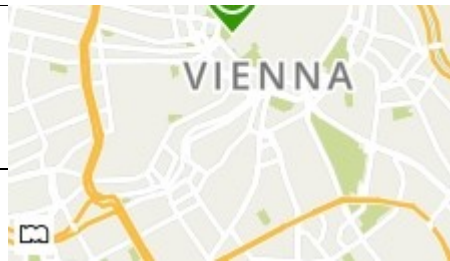


13-Dec-2025 21:38

According to local media sources, crowds will protest tomorrow in Vienna, calling for an end to the Russo-Ukrainian conflict. Participants will reportedly gather at Stock im Eisen Platz from 16:00 to 18:00 local time. The turnout for this event is not immediately clear. At this time, further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

PLANNED PROTEST IN VIENNA ON 29 NOVEMBER





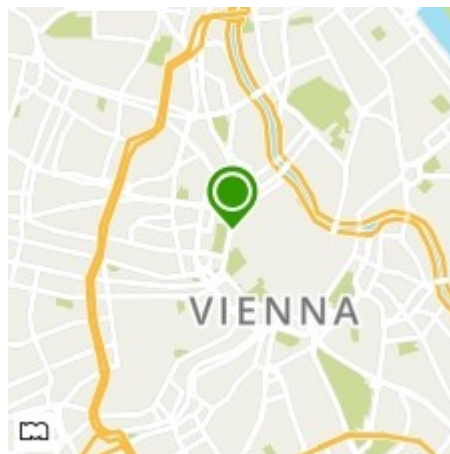
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



26-Nov-2025 12:17

According to local media sources, a demonstration organised by the Fairdenken organisation will take place in Vienna on 29 November. Fairdenken states that the rally focuses on expressing opposition to perceived pro-war policies and calling for Austrian neutrality in regards to the war in Ukraine. Participants will gather at Heldenplatz from 13:00 local time, with the duration unclear for the time being. The turnout for the event is not immediately known, and further information remains limited.

PLANNED PROTEST IN VIENNA ON 27 NOVEMBER



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



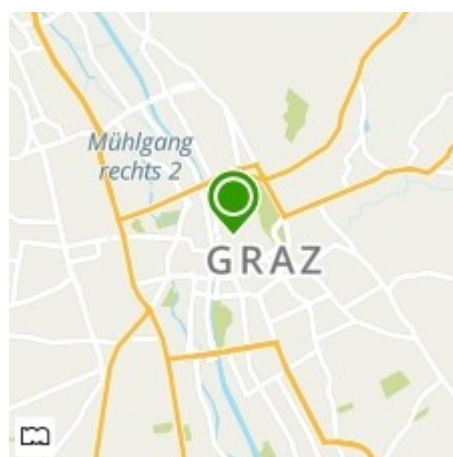
25-Nov-2025 09:00

RECENT ALERTS

According to local media sources, a protest will be taking place in Vienna on 27 November. Protestors will gather from 17:00 local time in Lowelstrasse, near the Café Landtmann, to call against video surveillance measures in the city centre.

The turnout for this event is not clear at this time, and further information remains limited.

GRAZ MAIN SQUARE EVACUATED DUE TO BOMB THREAT



Category: Caution - **Risk:** Low

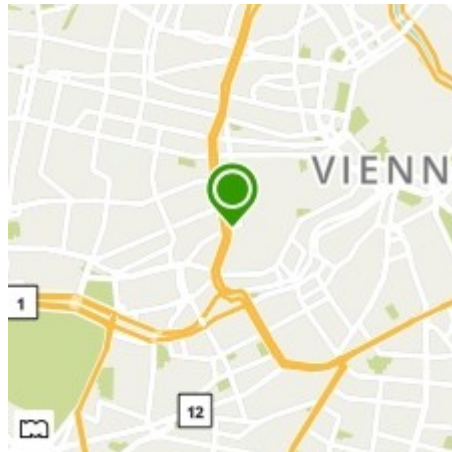


16-Nov-2025 12:21

According to local reporting, Hauptplatz, Graz's main square, has been evacuated by authorities due to an anonymous bomb threat. Authorities are currently on the scene investigating the threat. Currently, it is unclear when the square will reopen. Further information is limited currently.

PLANNED PROTEST IN VIENNA ON 25 OCTOBER

RECENT ALERTS



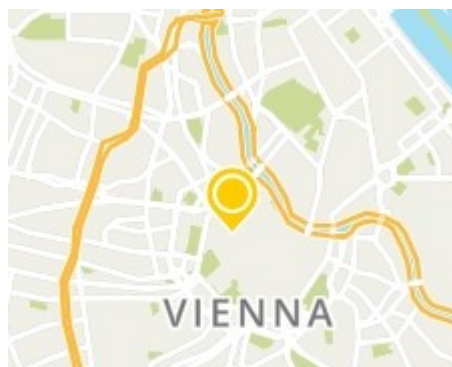
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low

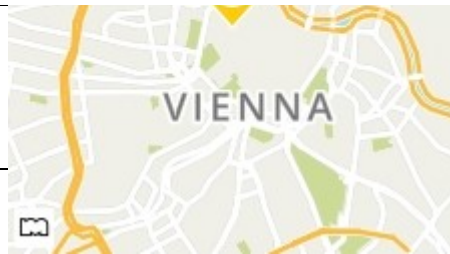


24-Oct-2025 10:35

According to local media sources, a demonstration advocating for the ban of fur farms will take place in Vienna on 25 October. Participants will gather at 13:00 local time at Christian-Broda-Platz and will march towards Stephansplatz, with the demonstration expected to last around three hours. Sources state there will be a large turnout; however, more precise numbers are not immediately available at this time. We will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

PRO-IMMIGRATION PROTEST ONGOING IN FREYUNG, VIENNA





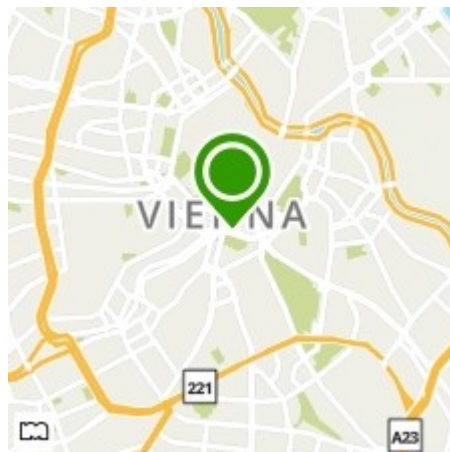
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



21-Oct-2025 17:14

According to local sources, pro-immigration protesters are gathering outside the Austrian Constitutional Court, Freyung, Vienna. Videos circulating on social media indicate the march is heading in the south-easterly direction. It is not currently clear where the protests' final destination is. The protest appears peaceful at this time, and there are no reports of any clashes or casualties. Further information is currently limited.

PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATIONS EXPECTED IN VIENNA ON 11 OCTOBER



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low

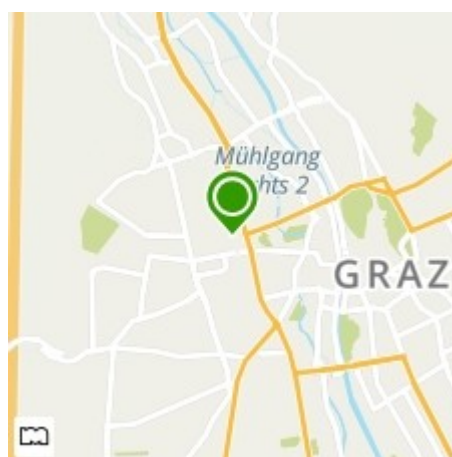


08-Oct-2025 20:48

RECENT ALERTS

Spokespersons for Austria's Palestinian Solidarity Movement have announced plans to hold demonstrations in Vienna on 11 October. The gatherings are scheduled to begin at 15:00 local time at Karlsplatz and conclude at 17:00 at Ballhausplatz. The demonstrations aim to denounce what organisers describe as the Austrian government's inaction regarding sanctions against Israel. The expected turnout remains unclear, and further information is limited.

PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTEST PLANNED IN GRAZ ON 11 OCTOBER



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



08-Oct-2025 20:40

According to local media sources, a pro-Palestinian protest is scheduled to take place in Graz on 11 October, with protestors calling for sanctions against Israel in the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Participants will gather at 14:00 local time at the Graz Main Station, with the duration of the event not being immediately known.

A large turnout is expected. Further information remains limited at this time.

RECENT ALERTS

PROTEST TO TAKE PLACE IN SCHWANENSTADT ON 18 SEPTEMBER



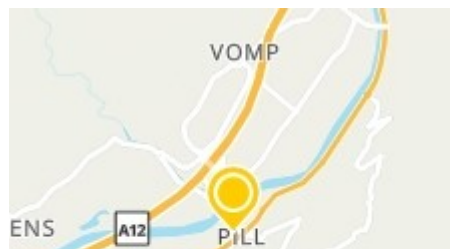
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low

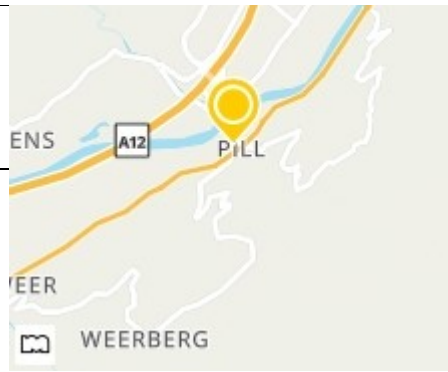


17-Sep-2025 02:51

According to local media sources, a protest against EU militarisation and weapons production will take place on 18 September in Schwanenstadt, Upper Austria. The event will involve an opening rally at 16:00 local time in the main square, followed by a march to the Rheinmetall plant in Kaufing. Organisers are opposing Austria's participation in EU arms production and calling for the end of foreign military involvement in the country. The number of attendees is not currently clear, and further information remains limited at this time.

FIRE REPORTED AT RECYCLING FACILITY IN PILL





Category: Caution - **Risk:** Moderate



22-Aug-2025 17:17

Local media sources report that a fire started earlier this afternoon at a recycling facility in Pill. The exact cause of the incident and the extent of structural damage are not immediately clear at this time. Heavy smoke has been reported in the area, and authorities have advised avoiding the scene. There have been no confirmed casualties so far.

FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 12:57:56

Warnings and insurance

Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of the current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Austria set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [Austrian Embassy in the UK](#).

Passport validity requirements

Austria follows [Schengen area rules](#). Your passport must:

- have a ‘date of issue’ less than 10 years before the date you arrive – if you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago
- have an ‘expiry date’ at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave the Schengen area (the expiry date does not need to be within 10 years of the date of issue)

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport if you need to](#).

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual Citizenship](#).

Visa requirements

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Austria, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel:

- as a tourist
- to visit family or friends
- to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events
- for short-term studies or training

The requirements for [working in Austria](#) are different.

If you are travelling to other Schengen countries as well, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day limit. Visits to Schengen countries within the 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days. If you overstay the 90-day visa-free limit, you may be banned from entering Schengen countries for up to 3 years.

Until the Entry-Exit System (EES) is fully rolled out, make sure you get your passport stamped on entry and exit (read 'New Schengen entry requirements').

If you're a visitor, border guards will look at your entry and exit stamps to check you have not overstayed the [90-day visa-free limit](#) for the Schengen area.

If your passport is missing a stamp, show evidence of when and where you entered or left the Schengen area (for example, boarding passes or tickets) and ask the border guards to add the date and location in your passport.

At Austrian border control, you may need to:

- show proof of your accommodation, for example, a hotel booking confirmation or proof of address for a second home
- show proof of your travel insurance
- show a return or onward ticket
- prove that you have enough money for your stay

Staying longer than 90 days in a 180-day period

To stay longer, you must meet the Austrian government's entry requirements. Check which type of visa or work permit you need with the [Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) or the [Austrian Embassy in the UK](#).

If you're in Austria with a residence permit or long-stay visa, this does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit.

Read about [entry processes if you live in Austria](#).

New Schengen entry requirements

From 12 October 2025, the European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) will begin roll out.

This means that when you travel into the Schengen area for short stays, you may need to register your biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo. You do not need to take any action before you arrive at the border, and there is no cost for EES registration.

On your first visit into a Schengen country from 12 October onwards, you may be asked to register your details at a special booth before proceeding to the immigration desk. Follow directions from your travel operator or the staff at your port of entry. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. Children aged 11 or younger will not have their fingerprints scanned but can be required to have their photo taken.

EES may take each passenger a few extra minutes to complete so be prepared to wait longer than usual at the border.

EES will not be rolled out to all ports of entry at once, the numbers of passengers being registered at each port of entry will vary, and some destinations may take up to 6 months to fully roll out the new process.

Until EES is fully rolled out your passport will continue to be stamped, even if you've already been registered for EES. Once EES is fully rolled out, it will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the Schengen area for short stays and you will input biometric details every time you enter or exit.

If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel at Folkestone or Eurostar at St Pancras International and you are asked to register for EES, the information will be taken at the border before you leave the UK.

Read more [information on the EU Entry/Exit System and to understand which countries are in the Schengen area](#).

Border controls at Germany's land borders

There are temporary border controls in place to travel into Germany. Check the [entry requirements for Germany](#).

Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods that can be brought into and taken out of](#)

Austria. You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

Taking food into Austria

You cannot take [meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries](#). There are some exceptions such as powdered baby milk, baby food and special foods or pet feed required for medical reasons.

Taking money into Austria

Declare cash or travellers cheques if the value is 10,000 euros or more. You will get a certified declaration to show you brought it in with you. If you do not, your money could be seized when you leave.

Safety and security

Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

Terrorism in Austria

Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Austria.

Terrorism attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by foreign nationals such as:

- public transport
- national and international transport hubs
- music, sporting and cultural events
- entertainment establishments and nightlife venues

- government buildings and international institutions
- places of worship and religious sites

You should be vigilant in public places and follow the advice of local authorities.

Recent examples include:

- on 15 February 2025, one person was killed and five injured in central Villach, Carinthia, southern Austria in a knife attack
- on 2 November 2020, four people were killed and 23 injured in a terrorism-related shooting in central Vienna

The Austrian authorities have successfully disrupted various attack plans, making a number of arrests in recent years. You can expect to see an increased police presence, and additional safety measures may be in place. Be aware of your surroundings and follow the advice of local authorities.

Political demonstrations

Demonstrations may happen with little or no warning in cities. Follow the advice of local authorities.

Crime

Crime levels are generally low. However, there are higher levels of petty crime, particularly pickpocketing, in the big city centres and city parks after dark. Thieves use a variety of methods to distract people.

Protecting your belongings

Take care on public transport and in crowded city centres, including main stations. Be particularly careful with your belongings on international trains and when you take your baggage from trains and coaches.

Drink spiking

Drinks served in bars overseas are often stronger than those in the UK. Be careful about taking drinks from strangers or leaving your drinks unattended. Criminals have robbed and assaulted people after spiking their drinks.

Laws and cultural differences

Personal ID

By law, you must always have easy access to your passport. If you do not carry your passport, you must be able to get it quickly. It can be helpful to carry a copy of the photo page. The Austrian authorities do not accept a UK driving licence as official ID.

Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs, including cannabis, carry severe penalties.

You should expect a long jail sentence and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including when transiting through the airport.

Airports in Austria have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.

Face-covering ban

It's generally illegal to wear any clothing or object in public that covers your face. You could get a fine of up to 150 euros. See [information on Austria's face-covering ban](#), including a list of exemptions.

Public transport

You must validate your ticket in a ticket machine before starting a journey on public transport. If you do not, you could get a 100 to 500 euro on-the-spot fine.

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

For outdoor activities and adventure sports, make sure:

- you use a well-established company
- your insurance covers your specific activity

For sports activities like skiing, potholing and mountaineering, and for sports classed as particularly dangerous (for example, off-piste skiing, mountain biking, climbing or paragliding), your insurance should include:

- mountain rescue services

- helicopter costs
- repatriation to your country of residence
- transfer to neighbouring countries for treatment

Check weather forecasts and conditions. Make sure you're properly equipped for the worst-case scenario with items such as a map, compass, GPS and telecommunications equipment.

Adventure sports and activities are riskier if you're alone. Consider hiring a guide for expert advice. Always leave details of your itinerary with someone.

Skiing

See [preparing for winter sports abroad](#).

Take advice on weather and avalanche conditions before you travel. Follow local skiing laws and regulations.

Off-piste skiing is very dangerous and can invalidate your travel insurance. Avalanches are a risk in some areas. Follow safety instructions carefully and go with a qualified guide. See [European Avalanche Warning Service](#) and the [Austrian Avalanche Warning Service](#) (in German).

Transport risks

Road travel

If you are planning to drive in Austria, see [information on driving abroad](#) and check the [rules of the road in the RAC's Austria guide](#). The guide lists driving regulations and other legal requirements you need to be aware of.

Driving laws in Austria can be complex, especially for caravan and motorhomes. For more information, see [EU road rules and safety](#) and [Austrian vehicle laws](#).

You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in Austria if you are aged 18 or over. If you still have a paper driving licence, you may need to [update it to a photocard licence](#).

If you are visiting Austria, you may be able to use your [Blue Badge](#) in some circumstances. Check local parking rules.

Hire car companies often have stricter requirements for their customers, such as a year of driving experience and a higher minimum age.

You must carry insurance and vehicle ownership documents.

There is also [guidance on driving if you're living in Austria](#).

Motorway tolls

All vehicles on motorways and expressways in Austria are subject to tolls. If you use Austrian motorways, you must [display a vignette \(sticker\)](#) inside your windscreen. You could get a fine if you do not.

Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Emergency medical number

Dial 112 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for Austria](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See [what health risks you'll face in Austria](#), including tick-borne diseases.

Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of Austria. Read more about [altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro](#).

Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

Healthcare in Austria

FCDO has a [list of medical providers in Austria](#) where some staff will speak English.

Health insurance cards

To get medically necessary state healthcare in Austria, you need a Global Health Insurance Card ([GHIC](#)) or a European Health Insurance Card ([EHIC](#)).

The NHS's [getting healthcare abroad webpage](#) has details about:

- how to apply for a [GHIC](#)
- how to get temporary cover if you lose your card or it does not arrive in time
- who qualifies for a new [EHIC](#) instead of a [GHIC](#)
- what treatment counts as medically necessary

A [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) is not an alternative to travel insurance. You may have costs your [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) does not cover, including:

- changes to travel and accommodation bookings
- additional standard costs for treatment
- medical repatriation to the UK
- treatment that is ruled non-urgent
- private healthcare
- private clinics

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Austria](#).

Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

Emergency services Austria

Ambulance or rescue: 144

Fire: 122

Police: 133

European emergency number: 112

You can also download the [112 Where Are U app](#), the European emergency number app.

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from [FCDO](#)

[FCDO](#) has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Austria
- dealing with a [death in Austria](#)
- being [arrested in Austria](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you are [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting [FCDO](#)

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

Help in the UK

You can call [FCDO](#) in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow [FCDO](#):

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Austria](#) on how to manage political, economic, and

business security-related risks.

PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they

slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

THINK SAFE: Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to

cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself. You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email SGR@solaceglobal.com for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact support@solaceglobal.com.

Solace Global Risk, Twin Sails House, West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1JF, UK