

Directory

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ACCOMMODATION

You'll find it all in Austria – from simple mountain huts to five-star hotels fit for kings. Tourist offices invariably keep lists and details, and some arrange bookings for a small fee, while others will help free of charge.

Most hotel rooms in Austria have their own shower, although some rock bottom digs do still have *Etagendousche* (corridor shower). It's wise to book ahead at all times (often a day or two is enough), but especially well in advance during the high seasons: July and August, at Christmas and Easter and between December and April in ski areas. Some places don't accept telephone reservations. Confirmed res-

ervations in writing are binding on either side and compensation may be claimed if you do not take a reserved room or if a reserved room is unavailable.

In mountain resorts, high-season prices can be up to double the prices charged in the low season (May and November, which fall between the summer and winter seasons). In other towns, the difference may be 10% or less.

In some resorts (not often in cities) a *Gästekarte* (guest card) is issued to guests. This card may offer discounts on things such as cable cars and admission, so check with a tourist office if you're not offered one at your resort accommodation.

The listings in the accommodation sections of this guidebook are arranged from budget to midrange to top-end options. The general price range split is anything below €60 per double for budget options, from €60 to €130 per double for midrange, and top-end is anything above €130. Vienna is an exception to the rule: budget ends at €70, midrange accommodation falls between €70 and €200, and top-end choices go over and above €200. Unless otherwise noted, we quote high-season rates throughout this book.

Prices are for rooms with bathroom and, unless noted otherwise, include breakfast. Before setting out, consider logging on to the following sites for more information:

www.austria.info Austrian National Tourist Office website, with links to accommodation sites.

www.austrian-hotelreservation.at Regional listings of hotels, alpine huts and chalets and online booking service; also in English.

www.campsite.at Comprehensive website listing around 70% of campsites in Austria; in a number of languages.

www.tiscover.at Hotels, rooms, last-minute deals and holiday packages, alongside general tourist information on Austria.

Alpine Huts

There are over 530 of these huts in the Austrian Alps maintained by the Österreichischer Alpenverein (ÖAV; Austrian Alpine Club; p83) and the German Alpine Club (DAV). Huts are found at altitudes between 900m and 2700m and may be used by the general public.

PRACTICALITIES

- The metric system is used in Austria; decimals are indicated with commas and thousands with points (full stops).
- International newspapers are widely available in the larger cities; local big sellers include *Kronen Zeitung*, *Kurier* and *Der Standard*.
- Independent broadcaster ÖRF (Österreichischer Rundfunk; Austrian Broadcasting Corporation; www.orf.at) runs a total of 13 radio stations and two TV channels, ÖRF1 and ÖRF2. Programmes are generally dubbed rather than subtitled. Radio station FM4 (103.8 FM) has news in English from 6pm to 7pm.
- You can get prints of digital photos and burn DVDs at many photo outlets.
- Wi-fi is widely available and often free to use.
- Electric sockets have the two small round holes common throughout Central Europe (220V AC, 50Hz). North American (110V) appliances will need a transformer.
- Videos in Austria use the PAL image-registration system (similar in the UK and Australia), and are not compatible with the NTSC system used in the USA, Canada and Japan.

Meals or cooking facilities are often available. Bed prices for nonmembers are around €24 to €30 in a dorm or €12 to €18 for a mattress on the floor. Members of the ÖAV or affiliated clubs pay half-price and have priority. Contact the ÖAV or a local tourist office for lists of huts and to make bookings.

Camping

Austria has over 490 camping grounds that offer users a range of facilities such as washing machines, electricity connections, onsite shops and, occasionally, cooking facilities. Camping gas canisters are widely available. Campsites are often scenically situated in an out-of-the-way place by a river or lake – fine if you're exploring the countryside but inconvenient if you want to sightsee in a town. For this reason, and because of the extra gear required, camping is more viable if you have your own transport. Prices can be as low as €3 per person or tent and as high as €8.

A majority of the campsites close in the winter. If demand is low in spring and autumn, some campsites shut, even though their literature says they are open, so telephone ahead to check during these periods. In high season, campsites may be full unless you reserve and higher prices may apply.

Free camping in camper vans is allowed in autobahn rest areas and alongside other roads, as long as you're not causing an obstruction. It's illegal to camp in tents in these areas. Note that 'wild camping' in cities or protected areas is also illegal.

While in the country, pick up camping guides from the **Österreichischer Camping Club** (Austrian Camping Club; ☎ 01-713 6151; www.camping.club.at, in German; Schuberting 1-3, A-1010 Vienna) and a *Camping Map Austria* from the Österreich Werbung (p391).

Private Rooms

Rooms in private houses are cheap (anything from €18 to €40 per double) and in most towns you will see *Privat Zimmer* (private room) or *Zimmer Frei* (room free) signs. Most hosts are friendly; the level of service though is lower than in hotels. On top of this, you will find *Bauernhof* (farmhouses) in rural areas, and even *Öko-Bauernhöfe* (organic farms). Regional tourist offices (p391) are good information sources for farm stays.

Hostels

Austria is dotted with *Jugendherberge* (youth hostels) or *Jugendgästehaus* (youth guesthouses). Facilities are often excellent: four- to six-bed dorms with shower/toilet are the norm in hostels, while many guesthouses have double rooms or family rooms; internet facilities and a restaurant or café are commonplace.

Austria has over 100 hostels affiliated with Hostelling International (HI), plus a smattering of privately owned hostels. HI hostels are run by two hostel organisations (either can provide information on all HI hostels): **Österreichischer Jugendherbergsverband** (ÖJHV; ☎ 533 53 53; www.oehv.or.at; Schottenring 28; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Thu, 9am-3pm Fri)

Österreichischer Jugendherbergswerk (ÖJHW;
☎ 533 18 33; www.oehw.at; Helferstorferstrasse 4;
🕒 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri).

Gästekarten are always required, except in a few private hostels. It's cheaper to become a member in your home country than to join when you get to Austria. Nonmembers pay a surcharge of €3.50 per night for a *Gästekarte*, but after six nights the guest card counts as a full membership card. Most hostels accept reservations by telephone or email and some are part of the worldwide computer reservations system. Dorm prices range from €14 to €19 per night.

Cheap dorm-style accommodation is sometimes available in ski resorts even if there is no hostel. Look for the signs *Touristenlager* or *Matratzenlager* (dorm); unfortunately, such accommodation might only be offered to pre-booked groups.

Hotels & Pensions

Pensions and hotels (often known as *Gästehäuser* or *Gasthöfe*) are rated from one to five stars depending on the facilities they offer. However, as the criteria are different you can't assume that a three-star pension is equivalent to a three-star hotel. Pensions tend to be smaller than hotels and usually provide a more personal service, less standardised fixtures and fittings and larger rooms. Hotels invariably offer more services, including bars, restaurants and garage parking.

With very few exceptions, rooms in hotels and pensions are clean and well-appointed; expect to pay an absolute minimum of around €35/45 for a single/double room. Internet booking, weekend or multiple-night deals, or simply asking, can often result in a cheaper room. Credit cards are rarely accepted by cheaper places. In theory, hotel prices are not negotiable; in practice, you can often haggle for a better rate in the low season or if you're staying more than a few days.

In low-budget accommodation, a room advertised as having a private shower may mean that it has a shower cubicle rather than a proper en suite bathroom.

Where there is a telephone in the room it's usually direct-dial, but this will still be more expensive than using a public telephone. TVs are almost invariably hooked up to satellite or cable. Better hotels will usually have the added bonus of a minibar.

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

Meals are usually available, either for guests only, or more often, in a public restaurant on site. A pension that supplies breakfast only is known as a *Frühstückspension*; the hotel equivalent is *Hotel-Garni*. Other hotels and pensions will offer the option of paying for half board (where breakfast and one main meal is provided) or even full board (where all meals are provided). In budget places, breakfast is basic, usually consisting of only a drink, bread rolls, butter, cheese spread and jam. As you pay more, breakfast gets better: in two-star places it's usually *Erweitert* ('extended' to include more choices) and in places with three stars or more it's usually buffet style. A typical buffet will include cereals, juices and a selection of cold meats and cheeses – maybe even (in top places) hot food such as scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon. In five-star hotels breakfast generally costs extra, but may be included in special, lower weekend rates.

Rental Accommodation

Ferienwohnungen (self-catering holiday apartments) are very common in Austrian mountain resorts, though it is often necessary to book these well in advance. The best idea is to contact a local tourist office for lists and prices.

University Accommodation

Studentenheime (student residences) are available to tourists over university summer breaks (from the beginning of July to around the end of September). During university terms the kitchen and dining room on each floor are open, but when they're used as seasonal hotels these useful facilities generally remain locked. Rooms are perfectly OK but nothing fancy; some have a private bathroom. Expect single beds (though beds may be placed together in double rooms), a work desk and a wardrobe. The widest selection is in Vienna, but look for them also in Graz, Salzburg and

Innsbruck. Prices per person are likely to range from €20 to €35 per night and sometimes include breakfast.

ACTIVITIES

See the Outdoor Activities chapter (p74) for details on walking, skiing, cycling and other outdoor pursuits in Austria.

BUSINESS HOURS

Offices and government departments generally open from 8am to 3.30pm, 4pm or 5pm Monday to Friday. There are no real restrictions on shop opening hours but most open between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday and until 1pm Saturday (until 5pm in larger cities).

Banking hours are from 8am or 9am until 3pm Monday to Friday, and there are extended hours to 5.30pm on Thursdays. Many of the smaller branches close from 12.30pm to 1.30pm for lunch. Most post offices open for business from 8am to noon and 2pm to 6pm Monday to Friday; some also open on Saturday from 8am to noon. Restaurants serve lunch between 11am and 3pm and dinner from 6pm to midnight, and often close in between. Hours for cafés vary considerably and are included in our listings. As a rule, however, a traditional café will open around 7.30am and shut at about 8pm; pubs and bars close anywhere between midnight and about 4am throughout the week.

CHILDREN

The infrastructure for travellers with kids is good and getting better, and children are welcome at tourist attractions, restaurants and hotels. Regional tourist offices have focused a lot on kids recently and now produce brochures aimed directly at families. Museums, parks and theatres often have programmes for children over the summer holiday periods and local councils occasionally put on special events and festivals for the little ones.

Log on to www.kinderhotels.at for information on child-friendly hotels throughout the country. For helpful travelling tips, pick up a copy of Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* by Cathy Lanigan.

Practicalities

Facilities are definitely improving throughout the country but not in all directions. Some restaurants do have children's menus

but may not have high chairs or nappy-changing facilities. In general, only mid-range to top-end hotels have cots and can arrange daycare.

In the bigger cities, breast-feeding in public won't cause eyelids to bat. Everything you need for babies, such as formula and disposable nappies, is widely available. Rental car companies can arrange safety seats. Newer public transport, such as trams and buses in Vienna, are easily accessible for buggies and prams, but the older models can prove a nightmare. Sundays, public holidays, and during the summer holidays, children under the age of 15 travel free on Vienna's transport system (with photo ID; children between six and 16 can travel half-price, and travel for kids up to the age of six is always free).

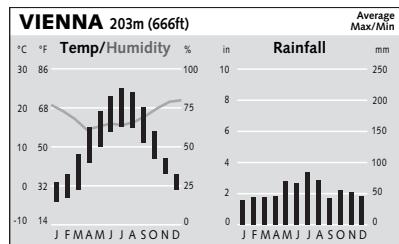
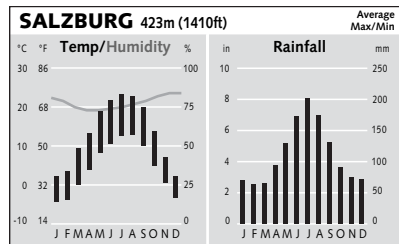
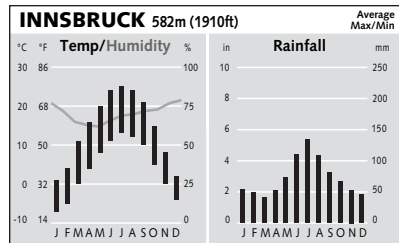
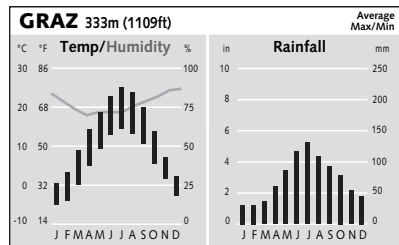
Sights & Activities

With its parks, playgrounds and great outdoors, Austria has plenty to keep the kids entertained. Vienna has two great kids' museums and loads of swimming locations; see p138) for more details. Outside the capital, Graz has the only museum directed at children, FriDa & FreD (p228). Its Schlossberg Cave Railway (p228) will also entertain the little tykes. Closer to the capital, shallow Neusiedler See (p193) is a perfect place to holiday with children. In Linz, Ars Electronica (p203) and the Pöstlingberg (p204) are fine attractions for the kids, as is the Minimundus miniature park (p292) in Klagenfurt. Once the kids are finished with Minimundus, the region's lakes are an enticing destination, as is Die Spur des Einhorn (p301) in Friesach. Austrians love their puppets; one of the best puppet places is the Marionettentheater (p280) in Salzburg.

Trips underground also keep the kids amused; the Erzberg mine (p242) in Styria and the salt mines (p249) of Salzkammergut are exciting places.

CLIMATE CHARTS

Austria lies within the Central European climatic zone, though the eastern part of the country has what is called a Continental Pannonian climate, characterised by hot summers and mild winters. To the west, the Alps tend to draw the clouds, though the alpine valleys often escape much of the downfall. The *Föhn*, a hot, dry wind that sweeps down from the mountains, mainly in early spring and autumn – can be rather uncomfortable



for some people and often has a bad reputation among Austrians.

The climate charts show average temperatures and rainfall in the larger cities, but these can vary wildly from year to year.

COURSES

Many places, including some of Austria's universities, offer German courses, and they can usually offer the option of accommodation for

the duration. Two of the better known course providers in Vienna are:

Berlitz (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 82 86; www.berlitz.at, in German; various locations; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12.30pm Sat) Offers private, intensive day and evening courses and has four offices in Vienna.

Inlingua Sprachschule (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 22 25; www.inlingua.at; Neuer Markt 1, Vienna; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) Courses run for a minimum of two weeks and can either be taken in the morning or some evenings. Classes are limited to six students and individual tuition is also available.

In Innsbruck, try the following:
Inlingua Innsbruck (☎ 562 031; www.inlingua-tirol.at; Südtirolerplatz 6) Year-round courses, usually in small groups.
Innsbruck University (☎ 587 233; www.uibk.ac.at/i/hd; Inrain 52) Intensive courses in July and August.

Check the *Gelbe Seiten* (yellow pages) under *Sprachschulen* for more listings in other towns and cities.

CUSTOMS

Theoretically there is no restriction on what you can bring into Austria from other EU states. However, to ensure these remain for personal use, guideline limits are 800 cigarettes, 200 cigars, 1kg of tobacco, 10L of spirits, 90L of wine, 110L of beer and 20L of other alcoholic beverages. The same quantity can be taken out of Austria, as long as you are travelling to another EU country.

For duty-free purchases outside the EU, you may bring into Austria 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco, plus 2L of wine and 1L of spirits. Items such as weapons, drugs (both legal and illegal), meat, certain plant materials and animal products are subject to stricter customs control.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Austria is one of the safest countries to travel in and crime rates are low by international standards, but you should always be security conscious. Be wary of leaving valuables in hotel rooms; management will look after expensive items if you ask them, even in hostels. Don't leave valuables in cars, especially overnight. In general, let common sense prevail and don't make it easy for thieves by loosely carrying cameras and jewellery around.

In the event of theft or loss, get a police report – this will be necessary for you to claim on your travel insurance. Your consulate

should be able to help replace documents if you're left in a desperate situation.

DISCOUNT CARDS

There are various discount cards available throughout Austria, covering either a region of a province or an entire province. Some are free and provide discounts at hotels and sights, while others must be purchased but may give you free entry to attractions and include public transport. Ask at your hotel or contact provincial tourist offices for details. Examples include the free Neusiedler See Card, and the Salzburg Card (from €23/11.50 adult/child) giving free entry to every sight in town and reduced entry to a further 27 attractions plus free public transport for the duration.

Senior Cards

In some cases senior travellers will be able to get discount admission to sights, but local proof is often required. It can't hurt to ask and show proof of age, though. The minimum qualifying age for Austrians is 65 for men and 60 for women.

Student & Youth Cards

International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) and Euro26 cards will get you discounts at most museums, galleries and theatres. You may even get a discount on air, bus and train tickets.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Austrian Embassies & Consulates

The Austrian Foreign Ministry website (www.bmaa.gv.at) has a complete list of embassies and consulates. It's in German only, but is quite easy to navigate.

Australia (☎ 02-6295 1533; www.austriaemb.org.au; 12 Talbot St, Forrest, Canberra, ACT 2603)

Canada (☎ 613-789 1444; www.austro.org; 445 Wilbrod St, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6M7)

Czech Republic (☎ 257 09 05 11; www.austria.cz; Viktora Huga 10, CZ-15115 Prague 5)

France (☎ 01-40 63 30 63; paris-ob@bmeia.gv.at; 6, Rue Fabert, F-75007 Paris)

Germany (☎ 030-202 87-0; www.oesterreichische-botschaft.de; Stauffenbergstrasse 1, D-10785 Berlin)

Hungary (☎ 01-479 70-10; www.austrian-embassy.hu; Benczurúta 16, 1068 Budapest)

Ireland (☎ 01-269 45 77; dublin-ob@bmeia.gv.at; 15, Ailesbury Court Apt, 93, Ailesbury Rd, Dublin 4)

Italy (☎ 06-844 01 41; www.austria.it; Via Pergolesi 3, I-00198 Rome)

The Netherlands (☎ 070-324 54 70; den-haag-ob@bmeia.gv.at; van Alkemadeaan 342, 2597 AS Den Haag)
New Zealand (consulate only; ☎ 04-499 6393; austria@ihug.co.nz; Level 2, Willbank House, 57 Willis St, Wellington)
Slovakia (☎ 02-59 30 15 00; www.embassyaustria.sk; Venturska 10, SK-81101 Bratislava)
Slovenia (☎ 01-479 07 00; www.aussenministerium.at/laibach; Presemova cesta 23, SI-1000 Ljubljana)
UK (☎ 020-7344 3250; www.austria.org.uk; 18 Belgrave Mews West, London SW1X 8HU)
USA (☎ 202-895 6700; washington-ob@bmeia.gv.at; 3524 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008)

Embassies & Consulates in Austria

All the embassies and consulates listed below are located in Vienna. For a complete listing of embassies and consulates, look in the Austrian telephone book under *Botschaften* (embassies) or *Konsulate* (consulates).

Australia (Map pp120-1; ☎ 506 74-0; www.australian-embassy.at; Mattiellistrasse 2-4)

Canada (Map pp120-1; ☎ 531 38-3000; www.kanada.at; Laurenzerberg 2)

Czech Republic (Map pp116-17; ☎ 899 581 11; www.mzv.cz/vienna; Penzingerstrasse 11-13)

France (Map pp120-1; ☎ 502 75 200; www.consulfrance-vienne.org; Wipplinger Strasse 24-26)

Germany (Map pp120-1; ☎ 711 54-0; www.wien.diplo.de/vertretung/wien; Metternichgasse 3)

Hungary (Map pp120-1; ☎ 537 80-300; kom@huem.bvie.at; Bankgasse 4-6)

Ireland (Map pp120-1; ☎ 715 42 46; vienna@dsa.ie; Rotenturmstrasse 16-18)

Italy (Map pp120-1; ☎ 713 56 71; www.ambvienna.esteri.it; Ungargasse 43)

The Netherlands (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01-589 39; www.mfa.nl/wen; 7th fl, Opernring 5)

New Zealand (consulate-general; Map pp120-1; ☎ 318 85 05; www.nzcat; Salesianergasse 15/3)

Slovakia (Map pp114-15; ☎ 318 90 55; www.vienna.mfa.sk; Armbrustergasse 24)

Slovenia (Map pp120-1; ☎ 585 22 40; vdu@gov.si; Nibelungengasse 13)

Switzerland (Map pp116-17; ☎ 795 05-0; www.eda.admin.ch/wien; Prinz Eugen Strasse 7)

UK (Map pp116-17; ☎ 716 13-0; www.britishembassy.at; Jaurès-gasse 12)

USA (Map pp120-1; ☎ 313 39-0; www.usembassy.at; Boltzmann-gasse 16)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Most festivals and cultural events are small-scale local affairs, so it's worth checking with local tourist offices or the Österreich Werbung (Austrian National Tourist Office;

ANTO; p391), which compiles a list of annual and one-off events taking place in Austria. The cycle of music festivals throughout the country is almost unceasing, and religious holidays provide an opportunity to stage colourful processions. **Corpus Christi** (the second Thursday after Whitsunday) brings carnivals, including some held on lakes in the Salzkammergut. **National Day** on 26 October inspires various events, often accompanied by much patriotic flag-waving.

More details of specific events are given in the text, but here's a selection of annual highlights throughout the country.

JANUARY

New Year concerts (1 January) The new year is welcomed throughout Austria with classical concerts. The Vienna Philharmonic's performance in the Staatsoper is the most celebrated.

Perchtenlaufen (5 to 6 January) Celebrated across much of western Austria, this festival promotes good fortune and a prosperous harvest for the forthcoming year. Locals dress as *Perchten* (spirits crowned with elaborate headdresses) and parade through the streets. Salzkammergut's equivalent is Glöcklerlaufen.

FEBRUARY

Fasching (Shrove-tide Carnival; 11 November to Shrove Tuesday) Austria's carnival season, which really only gets going at the end of January/beginning of February, when people parade around in fancy dress and party till the wee small hours. Look for *Fasching Krapfen* (a sweet bun filled with jam) during this time.

MARCH OR APRIL

Easter Easter is marked by a long-weekend or week-long holidays and family gatherings.

MAY

Maypole Day (1 May) Colourful, lively countrywide affairs accompanied by maypoles, plenty of alcohol and unabandoned merriment.

Wiener Festwochen (Vienna Festival Weeks; ☎ 589 22-22; www.festwochen.or.at) Wide-ranging programme of arts from around the world, from May to mid-June.

JUNE

Midsummer Night (21 June) A celebration of the summer solstice, with hilltop bonfires and partying through the night.

JULY & AUGUST

Music Festivals Classical, jazz and rock festivals take place throughout the country over summer.

OCTOBER

Cattle Roundup (early October) In the alpine areas the coming of autumn sees cattle herds coming down out of the mountains. The event is marked with various festivals. **Wine Harvest** (all October) Styria, Burgenland and Lower Austria mark the grape harvest with bottle after bottle of wine and folk music.

NOVEMBER

Allerheiligen (All Saints' Day; 1 November) Austrians flock to cemeteries throughout the country to pay their respects to the dead.

St Martin's Day (11 November) The day of St Martin of Tours is marked with feasts of goose and wine.

DECEMBER

St Nicholas Day (5 to 6 December) More for the kids, this day sees St Nicholas drift from house to house handing out presents to good children. He is often accompanied by the *Krampus* (devil), who punishes the bad children (which never happens). In many places, this day is also marked by **Krampuslaufen**: young men dress up as demons in heavy wooden masks and run through the streets, terrorising villagers along the way.

Weihnacht (Christmas; 25 December) A quiet family affair, aside from the *Christkindlmärkte* (Christmas markets), which take place throughout the country from early December till the 24th.

FOOD

A full rundown on local cuisine, drinks, and our top eating experiences appears in the Food & Drink chapter (p59). As ballpark figures, budget mains are anything below €10, midrange from €10 up to €20, and top end anything above that.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Vienna is reasonably tolerant towards gays and lesbians, more so than the rest of the country. Austria has received criticism in past years on its laws on homosexuality, but these days is close to European par. The age of consent for anyone – homosexual or heterosexual, man or woman – is 14, but if money's involved it's 18, and if one partner is 18 or older and the other between 14 and 16, additional youth-abuse laws swing into force. Police are not obliged to press charges if both partners are under 14, providing the age difference is less than two years.

The 'Gay & Lesbian Vienna' boxed text (p140) has specific listings of publications, organisations, hotels and bars for gays and lesbians. Online information (in German)

can be found at www.gayboy.at, www.rainbow.or.at, www.gay.at and www.gayguide.at. The *Spartacus International Gay Guide*, published by Bruno Gmünder (Berlin), is a good international directory of gay entertainment venues worldwide (mainly for men).

HOLIDAYS

Basically, everything shuts down on public holidays. The only establishments open are bars, cafés and restaurants and even some of these refuse to open their doors. Museums like to confuse things – some stay closed while others are open and offer free admission. The big school break is in July and August. This is a time when most families go on holiday so you'll find some places, like cities, a little quieter and others, such as popular holiday destinations, busier. Avoid ski breaks during much of February; school pupils have a week off during that time and invariably the ski slopes are full to overflowing with kids and parents.

The public holidays in Austria are:

New Year's Day (Neujahr) 1 January

Epiphany (Heilige Drei Könige) 6 January

Easter Monday (Ostermontag)

Labour Day (Tag der Arbeit) 1 May

Whit Monday (Pfingstmontag) 6th Monday after Easter

Ascension Day (Christi Himmelfahrt) 6th Thursday after Easter

Corpus Christi (Fronleichnam) 2nd Thursday after Whitsunday

Assumption (Maria Himmelfahrt) 15 August

National Day (Nationalfeiertag) 26 October

All Saints' Day (Allerheiligen) 1 November

Immaculate Conception (Mariä Empfängnis) 8 December

Christmas Day (Christfest) 25 December

St Stephen's Day (Stephanitag) 26 December

INSURANCE

Organising a travel insurance policy to cover theft, loss and medical problems is an essential part of planning for your trip. There is a wide variety of policies available, so check the fine print.

Some policies specifically exclude 'dangerous activities', which can include skiing, motorcycling, rock climbing, canoeing and even hiking. If you're planning on doing any of these activities, be sure to choose a policy that covers you.

You may prefer a policy that pays doctors or hospitals directly rather than having to

pay on the spot and claim later. If you have to claim later make sure you keep all documentation. Some policies ask you to call back (reverse charges) to a centre in your home country where an immediate assessment of your problem is made.

Check that the policy covers ambulances or an emergency flight home.

See p407 for more on health insurance. For information on car rental insurance, see p403.

INTERNET ACCESS

Wi-fi or network-cable access is available free or with charges in many hotels. All top hotels have plugs for connecting your laptop to the internet, but as yet it's not possible to organise an ISP in Austria for a short period (minimum contracts run for 12 months) so you'll have to arrange one from home. AOL's access number in Vienna is ☎ 071-891 50 52, Compuserve's ☎ 071-891 51 61 and Eunet's ☎ 899 330.

Public internet access is well covered across the country; for details of specific internet cafés see individual destination chapters. Prices are generally around €4 to €8 per hour. If there are no cafés in town, it's worth checking with the local library; some have computer terminals connected to the internet which are often free to use. Remember to take some form of ID with you.

LEGAL MATTERS

Austria offers the level of civil and legal rights you would expect of any industrialised Western nation. If you are arrested, the police must inform you of your rights in a language that you understand.

For information on the ages of sexual consent, see opposite.

In Austria, legal offences are divided into two categories: *Gerichtsdelikt* (criminal) and *Verwaltungsübertretung* (administrative). If you are suspected of having committed a criminal offence (such as assault or theft) you can be detained for a maximum of 48 hours before you are committed for trial. If you are arrested for a less serious, administrative offence, such as being drunk and disorderly or committing a breach of the peace, you will be released within 24 hours.

Drunken driving is an administrative matter, even if you have an accident. However, if someone is hurt in the accident it becomes a criminal offence. Possession of a controlled

drug is usually a criminal offence. Possession of a large amount of dope (around 300g) or dealing (especially to children) could result in a five-year prison term. Prostitution is legal provided prostitutes are registered and have obtained a permit.

If you are arrested, you have the right to make one phone call to 'a person in your confidence' within Austria, and another to inform legal counsel. If you can't afford legal representation, you can apply to the judge in writing for legal aid.

Free advice is given on legal matters in some towns, for example during special sessions at Vienna's *Bezirksgerichte* (district courts). As a foreigner, your best bet when encountering legal problems is to contact your national consulate (see p385).

MAPS

Freytag & Berndt of Vienna offers the most comprehensive coverage of the country. It publishes good town maps (1:10,000 to 1:25,000 scale) and has a *Wanderkarte* series for walkers, mostly on a 1:50,000 scale. Motorists should consider buying its *Österreich Touring* road atlas; this covers Austria (1:150,000) and 48 Austrian towns. If this is too detailed then their *Österreich road map* (1:500,000) will suffice. Extremely detailed walking maps are produced by the ÖAV at a scale of 1:25,000. Kompass also has a range of excellent walking maps. The most detailed maps, however, are produced by the Bundesamt für Eich-und Vermessungswesen (BEV; Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement); their country-wide and regional maps are available in good bookshops and map stores.

Bikeline maps are recommended for those travelling round the country by bicycle; eight maps (1:100,000 or 1:75,000) cover the most popular areas for cycling and two delve into mountain biking in Carinthia and the Hohe Tauern National Park.

For getting around cities, maps provided by tourist offices, in conjunction with the maps in this book, are generally adequate. These are usually free, but where there's a charge you can probably make do with the hotel map instead.

MONEY

Like other members of the European Monetary Union (EMU), Austria's currency is the euro, which is divided into 100 cents.

There are coins for one, two, five, 10, 20 and 50 cents and for €1 and €2. Notes come in denominations of €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500. The Quick Reference on the inside front cover lists exchange rates.

ATMs

In Austria ATMs are known as *Bankomaten*. They are extremely common and are accessible till midnight, some are 24 hours. Even villages have at least one machine; look for the sign with blue and green horizontal stripes. ATMs are linked up internationally, have English instructions and are usually limited to daily withdrawals of €400 with credit and debit cards.

Check with your home bank before travelling for charges for using a *Bankomat*; there's usually no commission to pay at the Austrian end.

Cash

With the number of ATMs, the practice of carrying large amounts of cash around has become obsolete. It is, however, worth keeping a small amount in a safe place for emergencies.

Credit Cards

Visa, EuroCard and MasterCard are accepted a little more widely than American Express (Amex) and Diners Club, although a surprising number of shops and restaurants refuse to accept any credit cards at all. Upmarket shops, hotels and restaurants will accept cards, though. Train tickets can be bought by credit card in main stations. Credit cards allow you to get cash advances at most banks.

For lost or stolen credit cards, call the following:

Amex ☎ 0800 900 940

Diners Club ☎ 01-501 35 14

MasterCard ☎ 01-717 01 4500

Visa ☎ 01-711 11 770

Moneychangers

Banks are the best places to exchange cash, but it pays to shop around as exchange rates and commission charges can vary a little between them. Normally there is a minimum commission charge of €2 to €3.50, so try to exchange your money in large amounts to save on multiple charges. Banks at train stations often have longer hours, and *Wechselstuben* (money-exchange offices) – usually found in the centre

of large cities or at train stations – even longer, but commissions are often high.

Taxes & Refunds

Mehrwertsteuer (MWST; value-added tax) in Austria is set at 20% for most goods. Prices are always displayed inclusive of all taxes.

All non-EU tourists are entitled to a refund of the MWST on single purchases over €75. To claim the tax, a U34 form or tax-free cheque and envelope must be completed by the shop at the time of purchase (show your passport), and then stamped by border officials when you leave the EU. To be eligible for a tax refund, goods must be taken out of the country within three months of the date of purchase. The airports at Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Linz and Graz have a counter for payment of instant refunds. There are also counters at major border crossings. The refund is best claimed as you leave the EU, otherwise you will have to track down an international refund office or claim by post from your home country.

Before making a purchase, ensure the shop has the required paperwork; some places display a 'Global Refund Tax Free Shopping' sticker. Also confirm the value of the refund; it's usually advertised as 13% (which is the refund of the 20% standard rate of value-added tax after various commissions have been taken), though it may vary for certain categories of goods.

Tipping

Tipping is a part of everyday life in Austria; in restaurants, bars and cafés and in taxis it's customary to give about 10%. Add the bill and the tip together and hand it over in one lump sum. It also doesn't hurt to tip hairdressers, hotel porters, cloak-room attendants, cleaning staff and tour guides one or two euros.

Travellers Cheques

All major travellers cheques are equally widely accepted, but you may want to use Amex, Visa or Thomas Cook because of their 'instant replacement' policies. A record of the cheque numbers and the initial purchase details is vital when it comes to replacing lost cheques. Without this, you may well find that 'instant' might take a very long time. You should also keep a record of which cheques you have cashed. Keep these details separate from the cheques.

American Express exchange services are run by Interchange Austria. A minimum commission of €5 is charged on Amex cheques in euros for amounts of €50 to €250, or 2% if the amount is above that. For non-Amex cheques it's €7/12 for €100/250. Amex cheques in US dollars are exchanged without charge. Banks typically charge €7 or more to exchange travellers cheques. Avoid changing a lot of low-value cheques as commission costs will be higher. Big hotels also change money, but rates are invariably poor. Look especially carefully at the commission rates charged by exchange booths; they can be quite reasonable or ridiculously high.

POST

Austria's postal service (www.post.at) is easy to use and reliable. *Postämter* (post offices) are commonplace, as are bright yellow post boxes. Stamps can also be bought at *Tabak* (tobacconist) shops. Sending a standard letter within Austria or Europe costs €0.55 and worldwide €1.25. The normal weight limit for *Briefsendung* (letter post) is 2kg; anything over this limit must be sent as a package. In Austria, mailing a 2kg package starts from €4.20. Sample prices for a 2kg package internationally are: Australia (€25), Canada & the USA (€18), and Germany & the UK (€14). Maximum weights range from 20 kg (including Italy, Canada) to 31.5 kg (including Austria, USA).

For post restante, address letters *Postlagernde Sendungen* rather than *Postlagernde Briefe* as the former is the preferred term in Austria. Mail can be sent care of any post office and is held for a month; a passport must be shown on collection.

SHOPPING

You could possibly base a whole trip around shopping – and leave broke. The items you'd be most likely to leave with are jewellery, glassware and crystalware, ceramics, pottery, woodcarvings, wrought-iron work and textiles. There are also many antique shops, especially in Vienna.

Designer fashion is on the move in Vienna, which, by a far cry, is Austria's best city for shopping. See the destination chapters for tips on shopping in large cities.

Don't overlook the many markets throughout the country; alongside local produce you may find some local folk-art gems.

For special reductions, look for *Aktion* (sales promotion) signs. Prices are fixed in shops, but it can't hurt to ask for 'a discount for cash' if you're making several purchases. Bargain hard in flea markets.

Top Viennese hotels have a free booklet entitled *Shopping in Vienna* that details all sorts of shopping outlets; there are similar booklets in other cities.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

There's no stigma attached to travelling solo in Austria. Most hostels, pensions and hotels have single rooms available and they're generally a little more than half the price of a double room.

Making contact with the locals is relatively easy in smaller towns and cities if you know a little German; without German, things are a little harder, but definitely not impossible. Many people speak good English, or at least enough to hold a conversation for an hour or two. In the bigger cities, pseudo-Irish and English pubs are havens for expats and Austrians keen on Guinness and a chat in English.

TELEPHONE

Austria's country code is ☎ 0043. **Telekom Austria** (☎ 0800-100 100; www.telekom.at, in German) is Austria's main telecommunications provider and maintains public telephones (particularly those inside or outside post offices) throughout the country. These take either

coins or phonecards and a minimum of 20 cents is required to make a local call. Every post office has a phone booth where both international and national calls can be made; rates are cheaper from 6pm to 8am Monday to Friday and on weekends. Another option is call centres, which have recently been introduced into the telecommunications arena. They offer competitive rates, especially for long-distance calls.

Free phone numbers start with ☎ 0800 or ☎ 0810 while numbers starting with ☎ 0900 are pay-per-minute. When calling Austria from overseas drop the zero in the area code; ie the number for Vienna's main tourist office is ☎ 0043 1 211 14-555. When calling a number from within the same town or city, dialling the town's code is not required; however, when placing a call to elsewhere in Austria (or from a mobile) the code needs to be used.

Directory assistance for numbers in Austria and the EU is available on ☎ 11 88 77.

International Calls

To direct-dial abroad, first telephone the overseas access code (00), then the appropriate country code, then the relevant area code (minus the initial 0 if there is one), and finally the subscriber number. International directory assistance is available on ☎ 0900 11 88 77.

Tariffs for making international calls depend on the zone. To reverse the charges (call collect), you have to call a free phone number to place the call. Some of the numbers are listed below (ask directory assistance for others):

Australia ☎ 0800-200 202

Ireland ☎ 0800-200 213

New Zealand ☎ 0800-200 222

South Africa ☎ 0800-200 230

UK ☎ 0800-200 209

USA (AT&T) ☎ 0800-200 288

USA (Sprint) ☎ 0800-200 236

Mobile Phones

Austria's *Handy* (mobile phone) network works on GSM 1800 and is compatible with GSM 900 phones but generally not with systems from the USA or Japan. *Handy* numbers start with 0699, 0676, 0664, 0660 and 0650. The major *Handy* networks – Drei, One, A-1 and T-Mobile – sell SIM cards with €10 worth of calls for €39. Telering, a smaller operator, has SIM cards for €30 with €30 worth of calls. Refill cards can be purchased from supermar-

kets and Trafik for €20 or €40. Before buying an Austrian SIM card, confirm that your phone is unlocked; check with your home network before leaving.

Reciprocal agreements with foreign providers do exist, but check with your own provider before leaving home for costs and availability. If your provider is European, www.roaming.gsmeurope.org will help you work out costs inside Austria.

You can rent mobile phones at **Tel-Rent** (☎ 01-700 733 340; rental incl phone & SIM card per day/week €18/90, additional weeks €54), located in the arrivals hall at Schwechat Airport in Vienna. Delivery or pick-up within Vienna is available for €26.

Phonecards & Internet Calls

There's a wide range of local and international *Telefon-Wertkarte* (phonecards), which can save you money and help you avoid messing around with change. They are available from post offices, *Tabak* and train stations. Large internet cafés (p387) have Skype software on their terminals and headphones for internet telephony, but you'll need to register and put money on your account in order to make calls to landlines or mobile phones.

TIME

See the World Time Zones (p446-7) for Austria's position.

Note that in German *halb* is used to indicate the half-hour before the hour, hence *halb acht* means 7.30, not 8.30.

TOURIST INFORMATION Local Tourist Offices

Any town or village that tourists are likely to visit will have a centrally situated tourist office and at least one of the staff will speak English. They go by various names – *Kurort*, *Fremdenverkehrsverband*, *Verkehrsamt*, *Kurverein*, *Tourismusbüro* or *Kurverwaltung* – but they can always be identified by a white 'i' on a green background.

Staff can answer inquiries, ranging from where and when to attend religious services for different denominations, to where to find vegetarian food. Most offices will have an accommodation-finding service, often free of charge. Maps are always available and usually free.

Some local tourist offices hold brochures on other localities, allowing you to stock up

on information in advance. If you're empty-handed and arrive somewhere too late in the day to get to the tourist office, try asking at the railway ticket office, as staff there often have hotel lists or city maps. The tourist office may have a rack of brochures hung outside the door, or there may be an accommodation board you can access even when the office is closed. Top hotels usually have a supply of useful brochures in the foyer.

In addition, each province has its own tourist board (see list below), though some of these are geared more to handling written or telephone inquiries than dealing with personal callers.

Burgenland Tourismus (☎ 02682-633 84-0; www.burgenland.info, in German; Schloss Esterházy, Eisenstadt; ☎ 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri) A regional tourist office set up more for telephone and email requests.

Kärnten Information (☎ 0463-3000; www.kaernten.at; Casinoplatz 1; A-9220 Velden; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri) Carinthia's regional tourist office, with information on the *Kärnten Card*.

Niederösterreich Werbung (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01-536 10 6200; www.niederoesterreich.at; ☎ 8.30am-5pm Mon-Thu, 8.30am-4pm Fri) The official information office for Lower Austria. Ask about the *Niederösterreich-Karte*, a card that entitles you to discounts throughout the province. At the time of research, the office was moving to a new address in St Pölten. See the website or contact the St Pölten tourist office for new details.

Oberösterreich Tourismus (☎ 070-22 10 22; www.oberoesterreich.at; Freistädter Strasse 119, A-4041 Linz) The information office for Upper Austria has a very large selection of brochures which can be requested by mail.

Österreich Werbung (ANTO; ☎ 0810-10 18 18; www.austria.info) Austria's national tourist office; phone and email inquiries only.

Salzburger Land Tourismus (☎ 0662-668 8-0; www.salzburgerland.com, in German; Wiener Bundesstrasse 23, A-5300 Hallwang bei Salzburg) Like other regions, Salzburger Land also offers a discount card, the *Salzburgerland Card*.

Steirische Tourismus (☎ 0316-400 30; www.steiermark.com; St Peter Hauptstrasse 243, A-8042 Graz) Staff at this Styria information office are happy to send you piles of useful information on the province.

Tirol Info (☎ 0512-72 720; www.tirol.at; Maria-Theresien-Strasse 55, A-6010 Innsbruck) Tyrol's regional tourist office.

Vorarlberg Tourismus (☎ 05574-425 25-0; www.vorarlberg-tourism.at; Bahnstrasse 14, Tourismshaus, A-6901 Bregenz) Information office for Austria's most westerly province.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS EXPLAINED

Telephone numbers for the same town may not always have the same number of digits: some telephone numbers have an individual line, others a party line, and sometimes numbers are listed with an extension that you can dial direct. This is relevant for reading phone numbers listed in the telephone book. If, for example, you see the number 123 45 67 ... -0, the 0 signifies that the number has extensions. Whether you dial the 0 at the end or not, you will (with a few exceptions) get through to that subscriber's main telephone reception. If you know the extension number of the person you want to speak to, simply dial that instead of the 0 and you'll get straight through to them.

Tourist Offices Abroad

The Austrian National Tourist Office has branches in many countries. In most European countries, there are no drop-by visitor services and inquiries are handled centrally by multilingual staff in Vienna. ANTO offices can be reached from inside these countries at the following:

Australia (☎ 02-9299 3621; info@antosyd.org.au; 1st fl, 36 Carrington St, Sydney, NSW 2000)

Canada (☎ 0416-96 33 81; anto-tor@sympatico.ca; 2 Bloor Street West, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3E2)

Czech Republic (☎ 800 180 800; info@rakousko.com)

France (☎ 0811 60 10 60; vacances@austria.info)

Germany (☎ 01802 10 18 18; urlaub@austria.info)

Hungary (☎ 06 800 12726; informacio@austria.info)

Ireland (☎ 189 093 01 18; holiday@austria.info)

Italy (☎ 02-46 75 191; vacanze@austria.info)

Japan (☎ 03-358 222 33; oewtyo@austria.info; Kokusai Shin-akasaka Bldg; West Tower 2F, 6-1-20 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052)

Spain (☎ 902 999 432; informacion@austria.info)

Switzerland (☎ 0842 10 18 18; ferien@austria.info or vacances@austria.info)

The Netherlands (☎ 0900 04 00 181; vakantie@austria.info)

UK (☎ 0845 101 18 18; holiday@austria.info)

USA (☎ 212 944-6880; travel@austria.info; 9th fl, 120 West 45th St, New York, NY 10036)

For other countries and representatives, contact the Austrian National Tourist Board for the complete list of addresses, or visit www.austria.info and use the country portal selector (top right).

TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

The situation in Austria for travellers with disabilities is improving but is still by no means plain sailing, especially outside Vienna. Ramps leading into buildings are common but aren't universal; most U-Bahn stations have wheelchair lifts but on buses and trams you'll usually be negotiating gaps and one or more steps.

For distance travel, ÖBB, the Austrian National Railways, has a section for people with disabilities on its website (www.oebb.at). Change to the English language option, then go to 'Personenverkehr' and submenu 'Barrier-free travelling'. You can also get information and arrange your trip by calling ☎ 5-1717 (051717 inside Austria) 7am to 9pm. Press 5 after the recorded message, and 5 again for 'notification of trips of wheelchair users

or persons with other handicaps'. You must book at least three days in advance. No special service is available at unstaffed stations.

The detailed pamphlet, *Vienna for Visitors with Disabilities*, from Tourist Info Wien (p123), is available in German or English. In other cities, contact the tourist office directly for more information.

Some of the more expensive (four star or above, usually) hotels have facilities tailored to travellers with disabilities; cheaper hotels invariably don't.

Organisations

There is no national disabled organisation in Austria, but the regional tourist offices or any of the following can be contacted for more information:

Behinderten Selbsthilfe Gruppe (☎ 03332-65 405; www.bsgh.at; Presslgasse 5, 8320 Hartberg, Styria)

Bizeps (Map p122; ☎ 523 89 21; www.bizeps.at, in German; Kaiserstrasse 55/3/4a, Vienna)

Upper Austria tourist office (www.oberoesterreich.at/nohandicap, in German) Information on contacts, guides and wheelchair hire.

VISAS

Visas for stays of up to three months are not required for citizens of the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA), much of Eastern Europe, Israel, USA, Canada, the majority of Central and South American nations, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia or New Zealand. All other nationalities require a visa; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at www.bmaa.gv.at has a list of Austrian embassies where you can apply for one.

If you wish to stay longer you should simply leave the country and re-enter. For those nationalities that require a visa, extensions cannot be organised within Austria; you'll need to leave and reapply. EU nationals can stay indefinitely but are required by law to register with the local *Magistratisches Bezirksamt* (magistrate's office) if the stay exceeds 60 days.

Austria is part of the Schengen Agreement which includes all EU states (minus Britain and Ireland) and Switzerland. In practical terms this means a visa issued by one Schengen country is good for all the other member countries and a passport is not required to move from one to the other (a national identity card is required, though). Things are a little different for the 10 new EU-member states which joined in 2004; a

passport is still required to move in and out of these countries, but check with your local embassy for more up-to-date information. Austrians are required to carry personal identification, and you too will need to be able to prove your identity.

Visa and passport requirements are subject to change, so always double-check before travelling. Lonely Planet's website, www.lonelyplanet.com has links to up-to-date visa information.

VOLUNTEERING

Voluntary work is a good way to meet people and do something for the country you're visiting. In Austria, maintaining hiking trails is popular, but other volunteer projects range from joining a performance group on social issues to repairing a school fence outside Vienna. Generally, there's something for everyone, young or senior, lasting anything from a week to 18 months or more.

The key to finding a volunteer position in Austria is to hook up with the networks in your home country and/or if you speak German, to approach an Austrian organisation directly. If you speak German, you can track down an organisation from the Austrian government website www.freiwilligenweb.at (in German).

Networks rely mostly on people using their websites to locate projects; go to Travel Tree (www.traveltree.co.uk), a portal for volunteers. International Voluntary Service Great Britain (IVS; www.ivs-gb.org.uk) uses this portal and is networked with the worldwide group Service Civil International. In Australia, International Volunteers for Peace (www.ivp.org.au) also uses this network. Volunteers for Peace (www.vfp.org) in the US is for US and Canadian citizens and has a difficult-to-find searchable Project Directory down the bottom of its website. The Canada-based Canadian Alliance for Development Initiatives and Projects (CADIP; www.cadip.org) is also open to US and Canadian citizens.

One European foundation with excellent programmes is the Bergwald Projekt, which offers volunteer work protecting and maintaining mountain forests in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Generally, the Austrian programmes last one week. The contact is the **Oesterreichischer Alpenverein** (fax 0512-57 55 28; www.bergwaldprojekt.at, in German; Wilhelm-Greil-Strasse 15, 6010 Innsbruck).

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

In cities, Austrian women enjoy the same status and opportunity as men, although 'Stone Age' gender customs have survived in some conservative, rural parts of the country.

Women travellers should experience no special problems. Fortunately, physical attacks and verbal harassment are less common than in many other countries. However, normal caution should be exercised when travelling alone or in unfamiliar situations. Some Austrian trains have a special section for women travelling alone and a growing number of underground car parks have a section near the staffed ticketing office designated as a women-only parking space.

Cities usually have a *Frauenzentrum* (women's centre) and/or telephone helplines. In Vienna, for example, there is the Frauenotruf (☎ 01-71 719), an emergency, 24-hour hotline for reporting rape and sexual violence.

WORK

EU nationals can work in Austria without a work permit or residency permit, though as intending residents they need to register with the police (or the magistrate's office if in Vienna).

Non-EU nationals need both a work permit and a residency permit and will find it pretty hard to get either. Inquire (in German) about job possibilities via local labour offices; look under *Arbeitsmarktservice* in the White Pages for the closest office. Your employer in Austria needs to apply for your work permit. Applications for residency permits must be applied for via the Austrian embassy in your home country. A good website for foreign residents is www.wif.wien.at.

Teaching is a favourite of expats in the bigger cities; look under *Sprachschulen* (language schools) in the *Gelben Seiten* (phone book) for a list of schools. Ski resorts are another good place to look for work; there are often vacancies in snow clearing, chalet cleaning, restaurants and ski-equipment shops. Language skills are particularly crucial for any type of work in service industries. Your best chance of finding work is to start writing or asking around early – in summer for winter work and in winter for summer work. Some people do, however, get lucky by arriving right at the beginning of the season and asking around; tourist offices and ski shops should be able to point you in the direction of current vacancies.

In October, grape-pickers are usually required in the wine-growing regions.

Useful books for those searching for work abroad include *Working in Ski Resorts – Europe & North America* by Victoria Pybus, *Work Your Way Around the World* by Susan Griffith, and *The Au Pair and Nanny's Guide to Working Abroad* by Susan Griffith and Sharon Legg. All these titles are published in the UK by Vacation Work (www.vacationwork.co.uk).

Online jobs are listed on a number of websites, including:

www.ams.or.at Austria's labour office; in German.

www.jobfinder.at Directed towards professionals; in German.

www.jobpilot.at Comprehensive site with loads of professional jobs; in German.

www.studentenjob.com Specialises in student jobs; in German.

www.virtualvienna.net Aimed at expats, with a variety of jobs, including UN listings.

Transport

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GETTING THERE & AWAY

Austria is well connected to the rest of the world. Vienna and four of the country's regional capitals are served by no-frills airlines (plus regular airline services). Europe's extensive bus and train networks crisscross the country and there are major highways from Germany and Italy. It's also possible to enter Austria by boat from Hungary, Slovakia and Germany.

ENTERING THE COUNTRY

A valid passport is required when entering Austria. The only exception to this rule occurs when entering from another Schengen country (all EU states minus Britain and Ireland); in this case, only a national identity

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

card is required. Procedures at border crossings from other EU countries are relatively lax compared with procedures at airports, and provincial capital airports are stricter than those in Vienna. See p392 for more information.

AIR

Vienna is the main transport hub for Austria, but Graz, Linz, Klagenfurt, Salzburg and Innsbruck all receive international flights. Flights to these cities are often a cheaper option than those to the capital, as are flights to Airport Letisko (Bratislava Airport) which is only 60km east of Vienna in Slovakia. Bregenz has no airport; your best bet is to fly into Friedrichshafen in Germany or Altenrhein in Switzerland. With advance booking, no-frills airlines can be very cheap.

Seriously consider booking early over the Christmas and New Year period; prices tend to soar at this time.

Airports & Airlines

Austrian Airlines (code OS; ☎ 05 17 89; www.aua.com; Hegelgasse 21) is the national carrier and has the most extensive services to Vienna. It is a member of Star Alliance (www.staralliance.com).

See the Getting There & Away sections of individual chapters for airlines flying to/from Austria's international airports:

Airport Letisko Bratislava (BTS; ☎ 421 2 3303 33 53; www.airportbratislava.sk) Serves Slovakia's capital

Bratislava and has good transport connections to Vienna.

Graz (GRZ; ☎ 0316-29 02-0; www.flughafen-graz.at, in German)

Innsbruck (INN; ☎ 0512-225 25-0; www.innsbruck-airport.com, in German)

Klagenfurt (KLU; ☎ 0463-41 500; www.klagenfurt-airport.com)

Linz (LNZ; ☎ 07221-600-0; www.flughafen-linz.at)

Salzburg (SZG; ☎ 0662-85800; www.salzburg-airport.com, in German)

Vienna (VIE; ☎ 01-7007 22233; www.vienna-airport.com)

Tickets

Except for the no-frills carriers, airlines themselves rarely offer the cheapest deals direct; it can pay, however, to explore their websites. A

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor travel generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow jetsetters to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: lonelyplanet.com.

good travel agent can give you advice as well as a cheap deal, though internet purchases will often be better than these.

You can book online directly with airlines or web-based companies selling flights; the following are good places to start:

Airbrokers (www.airbrokers.com) USA company specialising in cheap tickets.

Cheap Flights (www.cheapflights.com/www.cheapflights.co.uk) Very informative site with specials, airline information and flight searches, mainly from the USA and UK.

Expedia (www.expedia.com/www.expedia.co.uk) Online travel company listing major airlines; the earlier you book the better.

Flight Centre (www.flightcentre.co.uk) Respected operator handling direct flights, with sites for Australia, New Zealand, the UK, USA and Canada.

Hotwire (www.hotwire.com) Bookings from the USA only; some cheap last-minute deals.

Last Minute (www.lastminute.com) One of the better sites for last-minute deals, including hotels.

Orbitz (www.orbitz.com) Cheap deals when flying from the USA.

Price Line (www.priceline.com) Name-your-own-price USA site.

STA Travel (www.statravel.com) Popular for international student travel, but you don't necessarily have to be a student to take advantage of deals; website linked to worldwide STA sites.

Travel (www.travel.com.au/www.travel.co.nz) Reputable Australia and New Zealand online flight bookers.

Travelocity (www.travelocity.com) USA site that allows you to search fares to/from practically anywhere.

Australia & New Zealand

From this side of the globe, it's worth investigating round-the-world (RTW) tickets, as these may not be much more expensive than a straightforward return ticket. Check the travel agencies' advertisements in the Yellow Pages and the Saturday travel sections of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age* in Melbourne and the *New Zealand Herald*.

From Australia, Austrian Airlines/Lauda Air offers flights via Bangkok to Vienna (five times weekly from Melbourne and Sydney). As with flights coming from North America, there are plenty of connections via London and Frankfurt.

For the location of **STA Travel** branches call ☎ 1300 733 035 or visit www.statravel.com.au. **Flight Centre** (☎ 133 133; www.flightcentre.com.au) has offices throughout Australia. For online bookings, try www.travel.com.au. In New Zealand, both **Flight Centre** (☎ 0800 243 544; www.flightcentre.co.nz) and **STA Travel** (☎ 0508 782 872; www.statravel.co.nz) have branches throughout the country. The site www.travel.co.nz is recommended for online bookings.

AIRLINES FLYING TO AND FROM AUSTRIA

Aside from Austrian Airlines, the following airlines connect Austria to the rest of the world:

Air Berlin (AB; ☎ 0810-1025 73 800; www.airberlin.com; hub Köln Bonn Airport; Köln)

Air France (AF; ☎ 01-502 22-2400; www.airfrance.fr, in French; hub Roissy-Charles De Gaulle Airport, Paris)

Alitalia (AZ; ☎ 01-505 17 07; www.alitalia.com; hub Leonardo DaVinci International Airport, Rome)

British Airways (BA; ☎ 01-7956 7567; www.britishairways.com; hub Heathrow Airport, London)

Delta Air Lines (DL; ☎ 01-7956 7023; www.delta.com; hub Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, Atlanta)

German Wings (4U; ☎ 0820 240554; www.germanwings.com; hub Bonn Airport, Köln)

Flybe (BE; www.flybe.com; hub Exeter International Airport, Exeter)

InterSky (ISK; ☎ 05574-488 00; www.intersky.biz; hub Friedrichshafen Airport)

KLM (KL; ☎ 0900-359 556; www.klm.at; hub Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam)

Lauda Air (NG; ☎ 0820 320 321; www.laudair.com; hub Vienna International Airport)

Lufthansa (LH; ☎ 0810-1025 80 80; www.lufthansa.com; hub Frankfurt Airport)

Niki (HG; ☎ 0820 737 800; www.flyniki.com; Vienna International Airport)

Ryanair (FR; ☎ 0900-210 240; www.ryanair.com; hub Stansted Airport, London)

Sky Europe (5P; ☎ 01-998 555 55; www.skyeurope.com; hub Airport Letisko Bratislava, Bratislava)

Styrian Spirit (ZZ; ☎ 0508-051 212; www.styrianairways.com; hub Graz Airport)

Swiss International (LX; ☎ 0810-810 840; www.swiss.com; hub EuroAirport Schweiz, Basel)

Thomsonfly (BY; ☎ 019 289 598; www.thomsonfly.com; hub Luton Airport)

TuiFly (X3/HF; ☎ 01805 757510; www.tuifly.com; hub Hanover Airport)

Welcome Air (2W; ☎ 0512-295 296-300; www.welcomair.com; hub Innsbruck Airport)

Continental Europe

Like spokes on a wheel, flights go from Vienna to all parts of Europe. Routes to the east are as well covered as those to the west, with Austrian Airlines flying regularly to Bucharest, Kiev, Moscow, St Petersburg, Vilnius, Warsaw and Yekaterinburg (among other destinations).

Austria's other international airports have connections to Belgium, Croatia, Greece, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain and Turkey.

Recommended agencies include:

France Anyway (☎ 0892 893 892; www.anyway.fr); Lastminute (☎ 0892 705 000; www.lastminute.fr); Nouvelles Frontières (☎ 0825 000 747; www.nouvelles-frontieres.fr); OTU Voyages (www.otu.fr; specialises in student travel); Voyageurs du Monde (☎ 01 40 15 11 15; www.vdm.com)

Germany Expedia (www.expedia.de); Just Travel (☎ 089 747 3330; www.justtravel.de); Lastminute (☎ 01805 284 366; www.lastminute.de); STA Travel (☎ 01805 456 422; www.statravel.de; for travellers under the age of 26)

Italy CTS Viaggi (☎ 06 462 0431; www.cts.it, in Italian)

The Netherlands Airfair (☎ 020 620 5121; www.airfair.nl, in Dutch)

UK & Ireland

Discount air travel is big business in London. In addition to the travel sections of the major Sunday papers, check the travel classifieds in London's weekly *Time Out*, the *Evening*

Standard and in the free online magazine *TNT* (www.tntmagazine.com).

Flybe connects Salzburg with Exeter and Southampton. Ryanair flies from London-Stansted to Klagenfurt and Salzburg. Austrian Airlines flies via London from Dublin to Vienna; Aer Lingus flies there direct, and British Airways flies Vienna, Innsbruck and Salzburg to London, as well as Salzburg to Manchester.

Some of the more reliable agents in London include:

Flight Centre (☎ 0870 890 8099; www.flightcentre.co.uk)

Flightbookers (☎ 0870 814 4001; www.ebookers.com)

North-South Travel (☎ 01245 608 291; www.northsouthtravel.co.uk) North-South Travel donates part of their profits to projects in the developing world.

Quest Travel (☎ 0870 442 3542; www.questtravel.com)

STA Travel (☎ 0870 160 0599; www.statravel.co.uk) For travellers under the age of 26.

Trailfinders (☎ 020-7938 3939; www.trailfinders.co.uk)

Travelbag (☎ 0870 890 1456; www.travelbag.co.uk)

USA & Canada

The North Atlantic is the world's busiest long-haul air corridor, and various newspapers contain ads placed by consolidators (discount travel agencies). San Francisco is the ticket-consolidator capital of the US, although some

good deals can be found in Los Angeles, New York and other big cities.

All direct flights from the USA arrive in Vienna. Austrian Airlines has one daily scheduled flight from Washington DC and New York, and most days from Chicago. Passengers from other destinations in the USA fly with United Airlines or US Airways flights from gateway cities.

The following agencies are recommended for online bookings:

American Express travel site www.itn.net

Cheap Tickets www.cheaptickets.com

Expedia www.expedia.com

Lowest Fare www.lowestfare.com

Orbitz www.orbitz.com

STA Travel www.sta.com (for travellers under the age of 26)

Travelocity www.travelocity.com

In Canada, Austrian Airlines flies direct from Toronto daily; flights to or from elsewhere in Canada are with Air Canada. Austrian Airlines uses Lufthansa via Frankfurt am Main (Germany) for its daily Montreal connection. One recommended travel agent is **Travel CUTS** (☎ 800-667-2887; www.travelcuts.com), Canada's national student-travel agency.

LAND Bus

Travelling by bus is a cheap but less comfortable way to cross Europe. It's easiest to book with **Eurolines** (www.eurolines.com; Vienna Map p000-000; ☎ 798 29 00; www.eurolines.at; Erdbergstrasse 202; Graz ☎ 0316 67 11 55; Wiener Strasse 229), a consortium of coach companies with offices all over Europe.

While the bulk of Euroline buses pass through Vienna, its 14 stops in Austria include Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Klagenfurt and Innsbruck.

Eurolines runs buses to/from London (Victoria coach station) and Vienna (one way/return €84/156, 23 hours, five or seven days per week); anyone under 26 or over 60 gets a 10% discount on most fares and passes. For other destinations see www.eurolines.com.

Blaguss/Eurolines (see Columbus Reisen or Eurolines for contact details) has buses to Prague (one way/return €22/34, six hours, 8am and 5pm daily). **Columbus Reisen** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 11-123; Dr Karl Lueger Ring 8; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) handles advance bookings.

For quick trips around Europe, both Eurolines and **Busabout** (☎ 020-7950 1661; www.busabout.com), a London-based firm, have bus passes. The **Eurolines Pass** is priced according to season. A 15-day pass costs UK£135 to £225 for adults, or 30 days for UK£205 to £299 (less for those under 26). It covers 35 cities across Europe (including Vienna and Salzburg).

Busabout offers two passes for travel around 50 European cities. It splits them into three different 'loops' which you can combine. From May to September the **Northern Loop** starts from Paris and includes Vienna, Salzburg and St Johann in Tyrol, as well as Prague and several German cities (one/two/three loops UK£289/489/599). Its **Flexipass** (UK£239 six cities, UK£29 per extra city) is another option.

Car & Motorcycle

Getting to Austria by road is simple as there are fast and well-maintained motorways through all surrounding countries. The first thing to do is turn on your headlights – day or night – or you will face a €15 fine.

There are numerous entry points into Austria by road from Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy and Switzerland. Liechtenstein is so small that it has just one border crossing point, near Feldkirch in Austria. The presence of the Alps limits options for approaching Tyrol from the south (Switzerland and Italy). All main border-crossing points are open 24 hours; minor crossings are open from around 6am or 8am until 8pm or 10pm.

Proof of ownership of a private vehicle and a driver's licence should always be carried while driving. EU licences are accepted in Austria while all other nationalities require a German translation or an International Driving Permit (IDP). Third-party insurance is a minimum requirement in Europe and you'll need to carry proof of this in the form of a Green Card.

Carrying a warning triangle and first-aid kit in your vehicle is also compulsory in Austria. If you're a member of an automobile association, ask about free reciprocal benefits offered by affiliated organisations in Europe. For information on Austria's road rules and regulations, see p403.

Train

Austria benefits from its central location within Europe by having excellent rail connections to all important destinations. The *Thomas Cook European Timetable* gives all train schedules, supplements and reservations information. It is updated monthly and is available from Thomas Cook outlets. In the USA, call ☎ 800-367 7984.

Express trains can be identified by the symbols EC (EuroCity, serving international routes) or IC (InterCity, serving national routes). The French Train à Grande Vitesse (TGV) and the German InterCityExpress (ICE) trains are even faster. Extra charges can apply on fast trains and international trains,

and it is a good idea (sometimes obligatory) to make seat reservations for peak times and on certain lines.

Overnight trips usually offer a choice between a *Liegewagen* (couchette) or a more expensive *Schlafwagen* (sleeping car). Long-distance trains have a dining car or snacks available.

Vienna is one of the main rail hubs in Central Europe; for details of the main train stations and the routes they serve, see p158. Elsewhere in Austria, Salzburg has express-train connections in the direction of Munich (€27, 1½ to two hours), Linz towards Prague (€41, five hours) and Regensburg (€45, two to 3½ hours), Graz towards Budapest (€43,

EUROPEAN RAIL PASSES

If you plan to travel widely in Europe, the following special tickets and rail passes may be worth pursuing. Some of these may have different names in different countries. For information on a range of rail passes, visit www.raileurope.com, www.raileurope.co.uk and www.railpassdirect.co.uk.

Eurail Pass

Only available to non-European residents, Eurail passes are valid for unlimited 1st-class travel on national railways and some private lines in much of Western Europe (the UK is not included) as well as Hungary and Romania. Passes come in 15- or 21-day lots (for US\$656 or \$852) or one-, two- or three-month lots (for US\$1058, \$1494 or \$1843). The Eurail Flexi pass allows 10 or 15 days travel in two months and costs US\$776 or \$1020. Discounts on both are available for people travelling in groups and those under 26.

Eurail Select Pass

The Eurail Select Pass allows 1st-class travel for non-European residents in three, four or five bordering countries with a choice of five to 15 days over a two-month period. For Austria, that can include Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and Switzerland (from US\$417 to \$921), but not Slovakia. The Eurail Select Pass Saver offers a cheaper deal for two or more people travelling together.

InterRail Pass

Only available to anyone who has lived in Europe for at least six months, this pass gives travellers unlimited travel for up to one month on most of the state railways of Western and Central Europe (except in their own country). A global pass offers 1st- and 2nd-class travel for five days within a 10-day period (€249/329), 10 days within 22 (€359/489), 22 continuous days (€469/629) or one month (€599/809). Discounts apply for those under 26. A country pass for Austria for three to eight days in one month is also available (€109-229) for 2nd class.

Regional Passes

Various regional passes for non-European residents combine 1st-class travel in Austria with one to three countries. These include the Austria–Czech Republic Pass (US\$232), Austria–Croatia–Slovenia Pass (US\$254), Austria–Hungary Pass (US\$232) and the Austria–Switzerland Pass (US\$358), all for four days in two months; the Austria–Germany Pass offers 1st- or 2nd-class (from US\$312 to \$560 for five to 10 days) travel. For most you can buy additional days, and group or youth prices are also available.

6½ to 7½ hours) and Ljubljana (€31, three to 3½ hours), Klagenfurt towards Ljubljana (€21, 2½ hours) and Venice (€35, four hours); and Innsbruck north to Munich (€44, two hours), south to Verona (€45, 3½ to 4½ hours) and west to Zürich (€47, 3¾ hours). Most of the services listed above depart at least every two to three hours daily (these prices may vary slightly depending on the type of train service).

In the UK, buy tickets through **Rail Europe** (☎ 08705-848 848; www.raileurope.co.uk). Travel by train from London involves taking the Eurostar to Paris (UK£59 to £309 return) and connecting to Vienna. All up, it takes about 16 hours.

For a 2nd-class one-way fare to/from Vienna expect to pay €180 from Paris (12 hours), €169 from Amsterdam (14 hours) and €47 from Prague (4½ hours).

RIVER

The Danube (Donau) is a traffic-free access route for arrivals and departures from Austria. Since the early 1990s the Danube has been connected to the Rhine by the River Main tributary and the Main-Danube canal in southern Germany. The *MS River Queen* does 13-day cruises along this route, from Amsterdam to Vienna, between May and September from around £2000. It departs monthly in each direction.

In Britain bookings can be made through **Noble Caledonia** (☎ 020-7752 0000; www.noble-caledonia.co.uk); it also makes bookings for the *MS Amadeus*, which takes seven days to get from Passau to Budapest. In the USA, you can book through **Uniworld** (☎ 1-800-733-7820, 1-818-382-2700 outside the US; www.uniworld.com), which handles this and many other Danube tours. For information on connections to Passau in Germany, see p208.

Heading east, boats travel to Bratislava (hydrofoil one way/return €27/54, 1¼ hours) three times daily from April to late October, plus Friday and Saturday evening from May to October. These Twin City Liner ships dock at the DDSG quay between Marienbrücke and Schwedenbrücke in Vienna (tickets are also sold there in summer; note that a new quay on the Danube Canal is in planning). A hydrofoil to Budapest (one way/return €89/109, 5½ hours) runs daily from mid-April to late October from the Handelskai office of the

company operating both services: **DDSG Blue Danube** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 588 80; www.ddsg-blue-danube.at; Handelskai 265; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, also 10am-4pm Sat & Sun Apr-Oct). Alternatively, bookings can be made through all Österreichische Verkehrsbüro offices (see p124 & p123).

GETTING AROUND

Transport systems in Austria are highly developed and generally very efficient, and reliable information is usually available in English. Individual bus and train *Fahrplan* (timetables) are readily available, as are helpful annual timetables.

Austria's main rail provider is the **Österreichische Bundesbahn** (ÖBB; Austrian Federal Railways; www.oebb.at), which has an extensive country-wide rail network. This is supplemented by a handful of private railways. Wherever trains don't run, a **Postbus** (www.postbus.at) usually does. Timetables and prices for many train and bus connections can be found online at www.oebb.at.

Most provinces have an integrated transport system offering day passes covering regional zones for both bus and train travel.

AIR

Flying in a country the size of Austria is not really necessary. Those who for special reasons do need to fly, though, will find a couple of airlines serving longer routes.

Airlines in Austria

Austrian Airlines (p395), and its subsidiaries Tyrolean Airways and Austrian Arrow offer several flights daily between Vienna and Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz and Salzburg, and also flights between Graz and Linz, and Linz and Salzburg.

Welcome Air (p397) has flights from Innsbruck to Graz, along with a handful of international services.

BICYCLE

Cycling is a popular activity in Austria, and most regional tourist boards have brochures on cycling facilities and routes within their region. Separate bike tracks are common, not only in cities, but also in the country. The Danube cycling trail is something of a Holy Grail for cyclists, though there are many

other excellent bike routes in the country. Most are close to lakes or rivers, where there are fewer hills to contend with. For more information on popular cycle routes, see the Outdoor Activities chapter (p77).

It's possible to take bicycles on any train with a bicycle symbol at the top of its timetable; these trains are either regional or *Eilzüge* (medium-fast trains). A transferable bicycle ticket valid on trains costs €2.90 per day, €7.50 per week and €22.50 per month. Sending a bike by courier as a *Bahnkurierpaket* costs €29 within Austria, arranged directly at the counter in the station. On some EC and IC trains you can accompany your bike (€6.80 for a day ticket). An international ticket for a bike costs €12 per day.

Hire

All large cities have at least one bike shop that doubles as a rental centre. In places where cycling is a popular pastime, such as the Wachau in Lower Austria and the Neusiedler See in Burgenland, almost all small towns have a rental shop and train stations have rental facilities. Rates vary from town to town, but expect to pay around €10 per day; see the destination chapters for specific details on bike hire.

BOAT

The Danube serves as a thoroughfare between Vienna and Lower and Upper Austria. Services are generally slow, scenic excursions rather than functional means of transport. For more information on boat travel in Vienna, see p158; for Lower Austria see p164; and for Upper Austria p208. Some of the country's larger lakes, such as Bodensee and Wörthersee, have boat services.

BUS

The *Postbus* (Post Bus) network is best considered a backup to the rail service, more useful for reaching out-of-the-way places and local destinations than for long-distance travel. Rail routes are sometimes duplicated by bus services, but buses really come into their own in the more inaccessible mountainous regions. Buses are fairly reliable, and usually depart from outside train stations. For remote travel, plan a day or two ahead and go on a weekday; services are reduced on Saturday, often nonexistent on Sunday.

For nationwide bus information, call ☎ 01-711 01 between 7am and 8pm, or log on to the websites www.oebb.at or www.postbus.at. Local bus stations or tourist offices usually stock free timetables for specific bus routes.

Costs

Bus fares are comparable to train fares; however, you can't buy a long-distance ticket and make stop-offs en route as you can on a train. Prices are listed throughout the destination chapters; here are a few sample one-way fares:

Destination	Cost	Duration (hr)
Graz–Klagenfurt	€14.70	2½
Kitzbühel–Lienz	€13.20	2
Salzburg–Bad Ischl	€8.70	1½
Salzburg–Zell am See	€13.30	2
Vienna–Mariazell	€23.30	3½

Reservations

It's possible to buy tickets in advance on some routes, but on others you can only buy tickets from the drivers. More often than not, though, there is no need to make reservations as most Austrians and tourists use the railway system.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Driving in Austria is a pleasure; roads are well maintained, signs are everywhere and rules are usually adhered to. The use of *Personenkraftwagen* (PKW) or *Auto* (cars) is often discouraged in city centres though, and it is a good idea to ditch your trusty chariot and rely on public transport.

The fastest roads around the country are the autobahns, identified on maps by national 'A' numbers or pan-European 'E' numbers (both are usually given in this book). These are subject to a general motorway tax. Their course is often shadowed by *Bundesstrassen* (alternative routes), which are as direct as the terrain will allow, sometimes using tunnels to maintain their straight lines. In the mountains, you can opt instead for smaller, slower roads that wind over mountain passes. These can add to your journey but the scenery often makes up for the extra time and kilometres. Some minor passes are blocked by snow from November to May. Carrying snow chains in winter is highly recommended and may be compulsory in some areas.

Cars can be transported by *Autoreisezüge* (motorail trains). Vienna is linked by a daily

are a common feature in Austrian cities; take care if you've never driven among them before. Trams always have priority. Vehicles should wait behind while trams slow down and stop for passengers.

Urban Parking

Most town centres have a designated *Kurzparkzone* (short-term parking zone), where on-street parking is limited to a maximum of 1½ or three hours (depending upon the place) between certain specified times. *Parkschein* (parking vouchers) for such zones can be purchased from *Tabak* shops or pavement dispensers and then displayed on the windscreen. Outside the specified time, parking in the *Kurzparkzone* is free.

HITCHING

Hitching is never entirely safe anywhere in the world and we don't recommend it. Travellers who decide to hitch should understand that they are taking a potentially serious risk. Those who choose to hitch will be safer if they travel in pairs and let someone know where they are planning to go. An alternative is to check notice boards at universities for people looking for passengers to share a trip.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Austria's local transport infrastructure is excellent, inexpensive and safe. It runs from about 5am or 6am to midnight, though in smaller towns evening services may be patchy or finish for the night much earlier.

Tickets will generally cover all forms of public transport in a town or city. Passes and multi-trip tickets are available in advance from *Tabak* shops, pavement dispensers, and occasionally tourist offices. They usually need to be validated upon first use in the machine on buses or trams. In some towns drivers will sell single tickets, but rarely passes. Single tickets may be valid for one hour, 30 minutes, or a single journey, depending on the place, and cost about €1.70. If you're a senior, attending school in Austria, or travelling as a family, you may be eligible for reduced-price tickets in some towns.

You can usually buy excellent value one-day or 24-hour tickets which often only cost double the price of a single ticket. Weekly or three-day passes may be available too, as well as multi-trip tickets, which will work out cheaper than buying individual tickets for each journey.

Fines for travelling without a valid ticket easily outweigh the price it would have cost to buy one. Depending on the inspector, you could have real problems if you aren't carrying enough cash to pay the fine at the time you're caught.

Bus

Buses are the mainstay of local transport in Austria. Towns that require some form of public transport will at least have a local bus system; it will be well used, comprehensive and efficient.

Keep alert when you're about to get off a bus: if you haven't pressed the request button and there's nobody waiting at the bus stop, the driver will go right past it.

Metro

Vienna is the only city with a metro; see p160 for more details.

Taxi

On the whole, taxis are cheap, ubiquitous and safe. Stands are invariably located outside train stations and large hotels. Fares are metered and comprise two elements: a flat starting fee plus a charge per kilometre. A small tip is expected; add about 10% to the fare. Telephone numbers for taxi companies are given under Getting Around in the destination chapters.

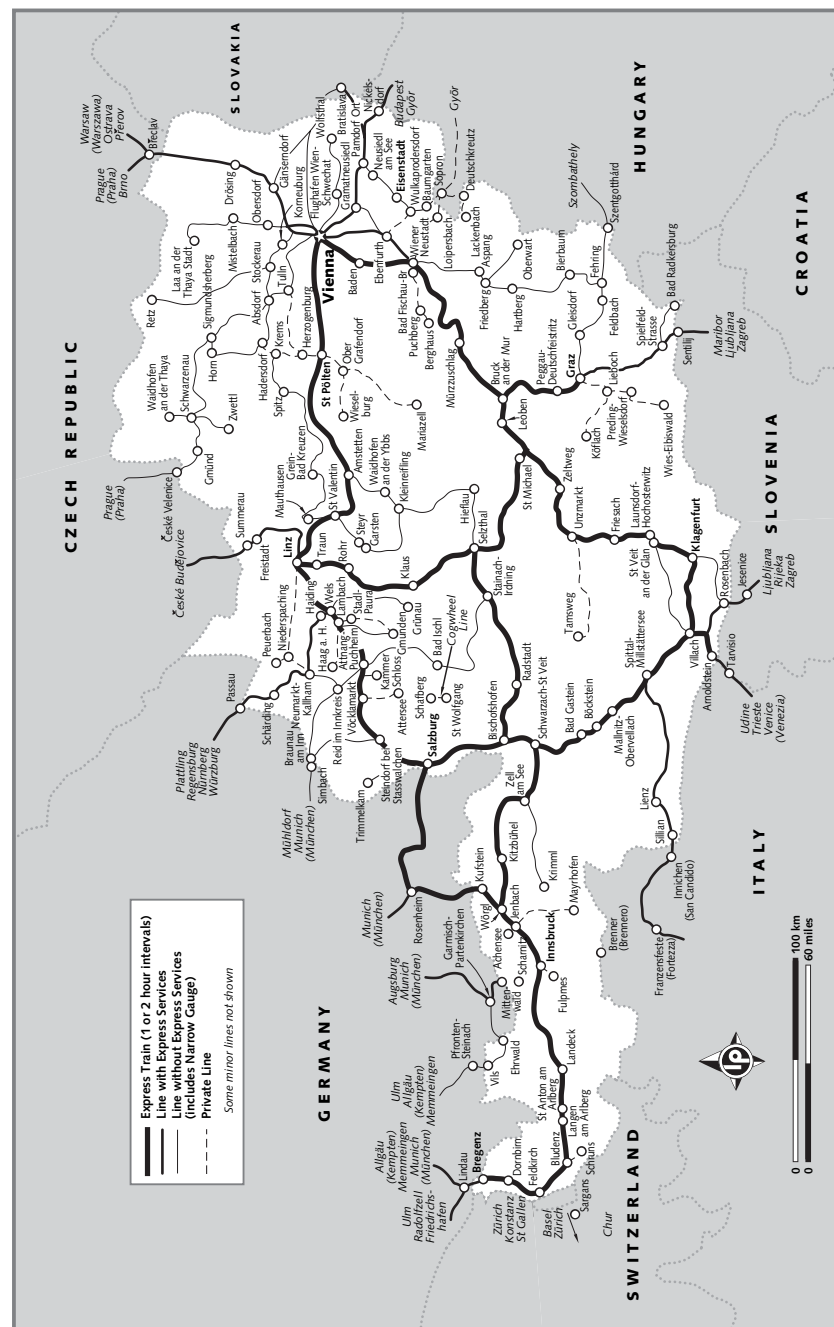
Tram

Many of Austria's larger cities, such as Graz, Linz and Vienna, supplement their bus systems with convenient and environmentally friendly trams. Most towns have an integrated transport system, meaning you can switch between bus and tram routes on the same ticket.

TRAIN

Like much of Europe, Austria's train network is a dense web reaching the country's far-flung corners. The system is fast, efficient, frequent and well used. **ÖBB** (24-hr information ☎ 05 17 17; www.oebb.at) is the main operator, and is supplemented with a handful of private lines.

The German for train station is *Bahnhof* (abbreviated as *Bf*); the main train station is the *Hauptbahnhof* (abbreviated as *Hbf*). Some small rural stations are unstaffed and tickets cannot be bought there; these stations are indicated on timetables by a rectangle with a diagonal line through the middle. All



reasonably sized stations have facilities for exchanging foreign currency or travellers cheques and make some provision for luggage storage, either at a staffed counter or in 24-hour luggage lockers. Many stations have information centres where the staff speak English, and display information on special tickets and deals.

Bahnsteig (platforms) at train stations are divided into zones (A, B and sometimes C) and may be used for more than one train. Note that trains occasionally split en route so be sure to sit in the correct carriage. Diagram boards on the platforms show the carriage order (1st or 2nd class, dining car etc) of IC and EC trains. Separate yellow posters in stations list *Ankunft* (arrivals) and *Abfahrt* (departures).

Classes

The type and speed of a train can be identified by its prefix. EuroCity (EC), InterCity (IC) and InterCityExpress (ICE) are all express trains, stopping only at major stations; they usually include a dining car. EuroNight (EN) is an international night train, with *Schlafwagen* (sleeping cars) and *Liegewagen* (couchettes). D (*Schnellzug*) are fast trains while E (*Eilzug*) are medium-fast trains that stop at some smaller stations. Slow, local trains have no letter prefix and stop at all stations. On small local trains serving relatively isolated routes, there may be a button to press to request the train to stop (as on buses). Trains have smoking and nonsmoking compartments, though Vienna's S-Bahn trains are nonsmoking only.

Long-distance express trains always provide the choice of travelling in 1st or 2nd class, while overnight trains have the option of a *Schlafwagen* or *Liegewagen*. Most local services have 2nd-class carriages only.

Costs

Austrian train fares are priced according to distance: €1.90 for 10km, €8.30 for 50km, €16.20 for 100km. These fares are for 2nd class; the equivalent rate in 1st class is €6.70, €16.80 and €27.80. Fares for children aged six to 15 are half-price; younger kids travel free if they don't take up a seat. Small pets (in suitable containers) travel free; larger pets travel at half-price.

Tickets can be purchased on most trains but they cost €3 extra (unless you board at an unstaffed station or the ticket machine is

out of order). Credit cards, Eurocheque cards and Eurocheques are accepted at all stations and in ticket machines.

One-way tickets for journeys of 100km or under are valid for only one day and the journey can't be broken. For trips of 101km or more, the ticket is valid for one month and you can alight en route, but you should tell the conductor so your ticket can be suitably endorsed if necessary. This is worth doing, as longer trips cost less per kilometre. Return tickets of up to 100km each way are also valid for one day; tickets for longer journeys are valid for one month, though the initial outward journey must still be completed within three days. A return fare is usually the equivalent price of two one-way tickets.

Reduced rail fares on both national and international routes are sometimes available for those aged under 26; show your passport and ask.

In this book, the fares quoted are always those for 2nd class.

Reservations

Reserving seats in 2nd class within Austria costs €3 for most express services; in 1st class, it's free. If you haven't done so, check (before you sit) whether your intended seat has already been reserved by someone else. Reservations are recommended for travel on weekends.

Train Passes

The *Vorteilscard* is an annual card available to all and sundry. It will probably not be worth the money for the average tourist, but for those sticking around for longer periods, it's a good deal. The *Vorteilscard* (photo required) entitles you to a 45% (50% at a ticket machine) reduction on the ÖBB network and most private lines, and costs €100. The *Vorteilscard* 26 (for people under the age of 26 or families) costs just €20 and the *Vorteilscard* Senior (men over 65, women over 60) costs €27; at these prices you can make savings even during a relatively short stay.

A 2nd-class three-day pass costs €109 and peaks at €147 for eight days. Outside continental Europe, US and British citizens can purchase a similar product, the Austrian Railpass. It provides three to eight days of unlimited travel over 15 days and costs from €135 to €258 for 2nd class and from €198 to €328 for 1st class.

Health

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Travel health depends on your pre-departure preparations, your health care while travelling and how you handle any medical problems that develop. Major health worries are minimal in Austria; the population is very health-conscious, facilities are excellent, restaurants are highly sanitised and there are no major infectious diseases.

BEFORE YOU GO

Prevention is the key to staying healthy while abroad. A little planning before departure, particularly for pre-existing illnesses, will save trouble later. See your dentist before a long trip, carry a spare pair of contact lenses and glasses, and take your optical prescription with you. Bring medications in their original, clearly labelled, containers. A signed and dated letter from your physician describing your medical conditions and medications, including generic names, is also a good idea. If carrying syringes or needles, be sure to have a physician's letter documenting their medical necessity.

INSURANCE

If you're an EU citizen, a European Health Insurance Card (formerly an E111 form), available from health centres, covers you for most medical care. The cards will not cover you for non-emergencies or emergency repatriation home. Citizens from non-EU countries should

It's usually a good idea to consult your government's travel health website before departure, if one is available:
Australia www.dfat.gov.au/travel/
Canada www.travelhealth.gc.ca
UK www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/
US www.cdc.gov/travel/

find out if there is a reciprocal arrangement for free medical care between their country and Austria. If you do need health insurance, make sure you get a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an emergency flight home. Find out in advance if your insurance plan will make payments directly to providers or reimburse you later for overseas health expenditures.

RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that all travellers should be covered for diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio, as well as hepatitis B, regardless of their destination. Since most vaccines don't produce immunity until at least two weeks after they're given, visit a physician at least six weeks before departure. See p410 for advice on tickborne encephalitis.

ONLINE RESOURCES

The WHO's publication **International Travel & Health** (www.who.int/ith) is revised annually and is available online. Other useful websites:
www.ageconcern.org.uk Advice on travel for the elderly.
www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk General travel advice for the layperson.
www.maristopes.org.uk Information on women's health and contraception.
www.mdtravelhealth.com Travel health recommendations for every country; updated daily.

FURTHER READING

Health Advice for Travellers (currently called the 'T6' leaflet) is an annually updated leaflet by the Department of Health in the UK and available free in British post offices. It contains some general information, legally required and recommended vaccines for

different countries, reciprocal health agreements and a European Health Insurance Card/E111 application form. Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* by Cathy Lanigan includes advice on travel health for younger children. Other recommended references include *Traveller's Health* by Dr Richard Dawood and *Traveller's Good Health Guide* by Ted Lankester.

IN TRANSIT

DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS (DVT)

Blood clots may form in the legs during plane flights, chiefly because of prolonged immobility. The longer the flight, the greater the risk. The chief symptom of DVT is swelling or pain of the foot, ankle or calf, usually but not always on just one side. When a blood clot travels to the lungs, it may cause chest pain and breathing difficulties. Travellers with any of these symptoms should immediately seek medical attention.

To prevent the development of DVT on long flights you should walk about the cabin, contract the leg muscles while sitting, drink plenty of fluids and avoid alcohol and tobacco.

JET LAG & MOTION SICKNESS

To avoid jet lag (common when crossing more than five time zones) try to drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids and eat light meals. Upon arrival, try to get exposure to natural sunlight and readjust your schedule (for meals, sleep and so on) as soon as possible.

Antihistamines such as dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) and meclizine (Antivert, Bonine) are usually the first choice for treating motion sickness. A herbal alternative is ginger.

IN AUSTRIA

AVAILABILITY & COST OF HEALTHCARE

Good healthcare is readily available and for minor self-limiting illnesses pharmacists can give valuable advice and sell over-the-counter medication. They can also advise when more specialised help is required and point you in the right direction. The standard of dental care is usually good; however, it is sensible to have a dental check-up before a long trip. A straightforward, non-urgent appointment with a doctor might cost anything from €40 to €75.

Drugs, with or without prescription, must be paid for. *Apotheke* (pharmacies) handle all drugs, including aspirin.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Altitude sickness

Lack of oxygen at high altitudes (over 2500m) affects most people to some extent. The effect may be mild or severe and occurs because less oxygen reaches the muscles and the brain at high altitude, requiring the heart and lungs to compensate by working harder. Symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) usually develop during the first 24 hours at altitude but may be delayed up to three weeks. Mild symptoms include headache, lethargy, dizziness, difficulty sleeping and loss of appetite. AMS may become more severe without warning and can be fatal. Severe symptoms include breathlessness, a dry, irritative cough (which may progress to the production of pink, frothy sputum), severe headaches, lack of coordination and balance, confusion, irrational behaviour, vomiting, drowsiness and unconsciousness. There is no hard and fast rule as to what is too high: AMS has been fatal at 3000m, although 3500m to 4500m is the usual range.

Treat mild symptoms by resting at the same altitude until recovery, usually a day or two. Paracetamol or aspirin can be taken for headaches. If symptoms persist or become worse, however, *immediate descent is necessary*; even 500m can help. Drug treatments should never be used in order to avoid descent or to enable further ascent.

Diamox (acetazolamide) reduces the headache of AMS and helps the body acclimatise to the lack of oxygen. It is only available on prescription and those who are allergic to the sulphamide antibiotics may also be allergic to Diamox.

Heatstroke

Heat exhaustion occurs following excessive fluid loss with inadequate replacement of fluids and salt. Symptoms include headache, dizziness and tiredness. Dehydration is already happening by the time you feel thirsty – aim to drink sufficient water to produce pale, diluted urine. To treat heat exhaustion, replace fluids with water and/or fruit juice, and cool the body with cold water and fans. Treat salt loss with salty fluids such as soup or Bovril, or add a little more table salt to foods than usual.

PREVENTING ACUTE MOUNTAIN SICKNESS

- Ascend slowly – have frequent rest days, spending two to three nights at each rise of 1000m. If you reach a high altitude by trekking, acclimatisation takes place gradually and you are less likely to be affected than if you fly directly to high altitude.
- It is always wise to sleep at a lower altitude than the greatest height reached during the day if possible. Also, once above 3000m, care should be taken not to increase the sleeping altitude by more than 300m per day.
- Drink extra fluids. The mountain air is dry and cold and moisture is lost as you breathe. Evaporation of sweat may occur unnoticed and result in dehydration. A practical way to monitor hydration is by ensuring that urine is clear and plentiful.
- Eat light, high-carbohydrate meals for more energy.
- Avoid alcohol as it may increase the risk of dehydration.
- Avoid sedatives.
- Avoid tobacco.

In the UK, fact sheets are available from the **British Mountaineering Council** (177-179 Burton Rd, Manchester, M20 2BB).

Heatstroke is much more serious, resulting in irrational and hyperactive behaviour and eventually loss of consciousness and death. Rapid cooling by spraying the body with water and fanning is ideal. Emergency fluid and electrolyte replacement by intravenous drip is recommended.

Hypothermia

Proper preparation will reduce the risks of getting hypothermia. Even on a hot day in the mountains, the weather can change rapidly; carry waterproof garments, warm layers and inform others of your route.

Acute hypothermia follows a sudden drop of temperature over a short time. Chronic hypothermia is caused by a gradual loss of temperature over hours.

Hypothermia starts with shivering, loss of judgment and clumsiness. Unless re-warming occurs, the sufferer deteriorates into apathy, confusion and coma. Prevent further heat loss by seeking shelter, warm dry clothing, hot sweet drinks and shared bodily warmth.

Frostbite is caused by freezing and subsequent damage to bodily extremities. Seriousness is determined by wind chill, temperature and length of exposure. Frostbite starts as frostnip (white numb areas of skin) from which complete recovery is expected with re-warming. As frostbite develops the skin blisters and then becomes black. The loss of damaged tissue eventually occurs. Adequate clothing, staying dry,

keeping well hydrated and ensuring adequate calorie intake best prevent frostbite. Treatment involves rapid re-warming, avoiding re-freezing and rubbing the affected areas.

Insect Bites & Stings

Ticks, which are usually found below 1200m in undergrowth at the forest edge or beside walking tracks, can carry encephalitis (see p410).

Lyme disease (known as *Borreliose*) is a bacterial infection borne by ticks that can affect muscles, the skeleton and organs. It is easy to recognise in the early stage (a rash or red infection around the bite), and is treated with antibiotics. There is no vaccination against it.

Mosquitoes are found in Austria – they may not carry malaria but can cause irritation and infected bites. Use a DEET-based insect repellent.

Bees and wasps only cause real problems to those with a severe allergy (anaphylaxis). If you have a severe allergy to bee or wasp stings carry an 'epipen' or similar adrenaline injection.

Bed bugs lead to very itchy lumpy bites. Spraying the mattress with crawling-insect killer after changing bedding will get rid of them.

Scabies are tiny mites that live in the skin, particularly between the fingers. They cause an intensely itchy rash. Scabies is easily treated with lotion from a pharmacy; other

members of the household also need treating to avoid spreading scabies between asymptomatic carriers.

Snake Bites

Austria is home to several types of snake, which are more prevalent in the mountains. A couple can deliver a nasty, although not fatal, bite. Avoid getting bitten by wearing boots, socks and long trousers while hiking and do not stick your hand into holes or cracks. Half of those bitten by venomous snakes are not actually injected with poison (envenomed). If bitten by a snake, do not panic. Immobilise the bitten limb with a splint (eg a stick) and apply a bandage over the site with firm pressure, similar to a bandage over a sprain. Do not apply a tourniquet, or cut or suck the bite. Get the victim to medical help as soon as possible so that antivenin can be given if necessary.

Tickborne Encephalitis

Tickborne encephalitis (called FSME in Austria) is spread by tick bites. It is a serious infection of the brain and vaccination is highly advised for those in risk areas who are unable to avoid tick bites (such as campers, forestry workers and hikers or rambblers). Two doses of vaccine will give a year's protection, three doses up to three years'. The infection rate in Austria is low and declining (less than 100 cases in most years); this is kept down by comprehensive vaccination, especially in high-risk areas.

Distribution of tickborne encephalitis is uneven; the website www.zecken.at (in German; go to FSME then Verbreitungsgebiete Österreich) has excellent region-by-region maps on distribution that are useful for hikers. Local pharmacists always know whether FSME is a danger in their region and can advise if you're bitten.

Wearing long trousers tucked into walking boots or socks and using a DEET-based insect repellent is the best prevention against tick bites. If a tick is found attached, press down around the tick's head with tweezers, grab the tick as close as possible to the head and rotate continuously in an anticlockwise direction, without pulling, until the tick releases itself. (Chemist shops sell plastic tweezers especially for this purpose.) Avoid pulling the rear of the body as this may squeeze the tick's gut contents through the attached mouth parts into the skin, increasing the risk of infection and disease. Smearing chemicals on the tick will not make it let go and is not recommended.

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

Anyone travelling with children should know how to treat minor ailments and when to seek medical treatment. Make sure the children are up to date with routine vaccinations, and discuss possible travel vaccines well before departure as some vaccines are not suitable for children under a year old.

In hot, moist climates, any wound or break in the skin is likely to let in infection. The area should be cleaned and kept dry.

Remember to avoid contaminated food and water. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, the lost fluid and salts must be replaced. It may be helpful to take rehydration powders for reconstituting with boiled water.

Children should be encouraged to avoid and mistrust any dogs or other mammals because of the risk of rabies and other diseases. Any bite, scratch or lick from a warm-blooded, furry animal should immediately be thoroughly cleaned. If there is any possibility that the animal is infected with rabies, immediate medical assistance should be sought.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Emotional stress, exhaustion and travelling through different time zones can all contribute to an upset in the menstrual pattern. If using oral contraceptives, remember some antibiotics, diarrhoea and vomiting can stop the pill from working and lead to the risk of pregnancy – remember to take condoms with you just in case. Time zones, gastrointestinal upsets and antibiotics do not affect injectable contraception.

Travelling during pregnancy is usually possible but always consult your doctor before planning your trip. The most risky times for travel are during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and after 30 weeks.

SEXUAL HEALTH

Emergency contraception is most effective if taken within 24 hours after unprotected sex. The **International Planned Parent Federation** (www.ippf.org) can advise about the availability of contraception in different countries. If emergency contraception is needed, head to the nearest healthcare centre or consult a doctor.

Condoms are readily available throughout Austria. When buying condoms, look for a European CE mark, which means it has been rigorously tested, and then keep them in a cool dry place or they may crack and perish.

Language

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The national language of Austria is German, though for a small country there are a surprising number of regional accents and dialects. This is due in part to the isolating influence of high mountain ranges, causing language to evolve differently in different communities. Austrians will probably tell you that even they have difficulty understanding the accents of compatriots from other regions; indeed, the dialect spoken in Vorarlberg is much closer to Swiss German (*Schwyzertütsch*) – a language all but incomprehensible to most non-Swiss – than it is to the standard High German (*Hochdeutsch*) dialect.

In some areas of the country, a significant minority may have a different first language to German. In Burgenland about 25,000 people speak Croatian, and in Carinthia about 20,000 people speak Slovene.

Fortunately for visitors, Austrians can switch from their dialect to High German whenever necessary, and many speak some English. Young people are usually quite fluent in English. As might be expected, English is more widely spoken in cities and tourist areas than in out-of-the-way rural districts. Staff at tourist and train information offices almost invariably speak English; hotel receptionists and restaurant waiters

usually do as well, especially in the more upmarket establishments. As with any countries you visit, any attempt to communicate with the people in their native tongue will be appreciated, so some knowledge of German will definitely be an asset.

AUSTRIAN GERMAN

Though the grammar is the same as standard High German, there are also many words and expressions that are used only by Austrians. Some words are used throughout the country, others are only used in particular regions, although they'll probably be understood elsewhere. Most of them would not automatically be understood by non-Austrian German speakers. On the other hand, the 'standard' German equivalents would be understood by all Austrians.

Most of the greetings and farewells that we've included in the list of useful phrases are common only to Austria. *Servus* is an informal greeting, and can also be used when taking your leave. The word has been adopted as a motto by the Austrian national tourist office. *Grüß dich* or *Griassdi* (literally 'greet you') is also a familiar, informal greeting. It's especially used by people who don't want to bring God into the conversation (rather than *Grüß Gott* – 'greet God'). For 'goodbye', *Auf Wiedersehen* is the standard phrase; *Baba*, *Pfiati* or *Ciao* are less formal alternatives.

There are a number of ways to describe your lack of sobriety. If you're tipsy you can say *Ich bin beschwipst* or *Ich habe einen Schwips*. If you're definitely the worse for wear, the Viennese dialect expression is *I'hob an dulliö*. If you're very drunk, you could say *Ich bin zu*, though everyone will probably have figured that out already.

Some useful Austrian words are: *Blunzen* (black pudding); *Erdäpfel* (potato); *Faschierter* (minced meat); *Gerstl* (money); *Karfiol* (cauliflower); *Maroni* (roasted chestnut); *Maut* (toll charge); *Müch* (milk); *Obers* (cream); *Paradeiser* (tomato); *Scherzl* (crust of bread); and *Stamperl* (glass for Schnapps). For more useful food-related words, see p65. To request the bill in a restaurant, simply say *Zahlen, bitte* (pay, please).

Words that are more specifically Viennese include:

Beisl	small tavern for food and drink
Bim	tram
Haberer	friend
Stiftl	glass (for wine)
Verdrahn	to sell

The words and phrases included in this language guide should help you through the most common travel situations. Those with the desire to delve further into the language should get a copy of Lonely Planet's *German Phrasebook*.

GRAMMAR

German grammar can be a nightmare for English speakers. Nouns come in three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter (m/f/n). The corresponding forms of the definite article ('the' in English) are *der*, *die* and *das*, with the universal plural form, *die*. Nouns and articles will alter according to complex grammatical rules relating to the noun's function within a phrase – known as 'case'. In German there are four cases: nominative, accusative, dative and genitive. We haven't allowed for all possible permutations of case in this language guide – it's simply too complex to cover here. However, bad German is better than no German at all, so even if you muddle your cases, you'll find that you'll still be understood – and your efforts will definitely be appreciated regardless.

If you've noticed that written German seems to be full of capital letters, the reason is that German nouns always begin with a capital letter.

PRONUNCIATION

It's not difficult to pronounce German because almost all sounds can be found in English. Follow the pronunciation guide and you'll have no trouble communicating.

Vowels

German Pronunciation Guide

a	a	as the 'u' in 'run'
	ah	as the 'a' in 'father'
ei	ai	as as in 'aisle'
ä	air	as in 'air', with no 'r' sound
oo	aw	as in 'saw'
e	ay	as in 'say'
	e	as in 'bed'

ie	ee	as in 'reef'
ö	er	as in 'her', with no 'r' sound
i	i	as in 'bit'
o	o	as in 'pot'
eu/äu	oy	as in 'toy'
u	oo	as in 'moon'
au	ow	as in 'how'
ü	ü	'ee' said with rounded lips
u	u	as in 'put'

Consonants

The only two tricky consonant sounds in German are **ch** and **r**. All other consonants are pronounced much the same as their English counterparts (except **sch**, which is always as the 'sh' in 'shoe').

The **ch** sound is generally like a hiss from the back of the throat, as in Scottish *loch*. When **ch** occurs after the vowels **e** and **i**'s more like a 'sh' sound, produced with the tongue more forward in the mouth. In this book we've simplified things by using the one symbol 'kh' for both sounds.

The **r** sound is different from English, and it isn't rolled like in Italian or Spanish. It's pronounced at the back of the throat, almost like saying a 'g' sound, but with some friction – a bit like gargling.

Word Stress

As a general rule, word stress in German falls mostly on the first syllable. In our pronunciation guides the stressed syllable is shown in italics.

ACCOMMODATION

Where's a ...?

<i>Wo ist ...?</i>	vaw ist ...
bed and breakfast	
<i>eine Pension</i>	ai-ne pahng-zyawn
camping ground	
<i>ein Campingplatz</i>	ain kem-ping-plats
guesthouse	
<i>eine Pension</i>	ai-ne pahng-zyawn
hotel	
<i>ein Hotel</i>	ain ho-tel
inn	
<i>ein Gasthof</i>	ain gast-hawf
room in a private home	
<i>ein Privatzimmer</i>	ain pri-vaht-tsi-mer
youth hostel	
<i>eine Jugendherberge</i>	ai-ne yoo-gent-her-ber-ge

MAKING A RESERVATION

(for phone and written requests)

To ...	An ...
From ...	Von ...
Date	Datum
I'd like to book ...	Ich möchte ... reservieren. (see the list under 'Accommodation' for bed and room options)
	auf den Namen ...
	Vom ... bis zum ...
in the name of ...	Kreditkarte
from ... to ... (date)	Nummer
credit card	gültig bis ... (valid until)
number	
expiry date	
Please confirm availability and price.	Bitte bestätigen Sie Verfügbarkeit und Preis.

What's the address?

Wie ist die Adresse?
vee ist dee a-dre-se

I'd like to book a room, please.

Ich möchte bitte ein Zimmer reservieren.
ikh merkh-te bi-te ain tsi-mer re-zer-vee-ren

For (three) nights/weeks.

Für (drei) Nächte/Wochen.
für (drai) nekh-te/vo-khen

Do you have a ... room?

<i>Haben Sie ein ...?</i>	hah-ben zee ain ...
single	
<i>Einzelzimmer</i>	ain-tsel-tsi-mer
double	
<i>Doppelzimmer mit einem Doppelbett</i>	do-pel-tsi-mer mit ai-nem do-pel-bet
twin	
<i>Doppelzimmer mit zwei Einzelbetten</i>	do-pel-tsi-mer mit tsvai ain-tsel-be-ten

How much is it per night/person?

Wie viel kostet es pro Nacht/Person?
vee feel kos-tet es praw nakht/per-zawn

May I see it?

Kann ich es sehen?
kan ikh es zay-en

Can I get another room?

Kann ich noch ein Zimmer bekommen?
kan ikh nokh ain tsi-mer be-ko-men

It's fine. I'll take it.

Es ist gut, ich nehme es.
es ist goot ikh nay-me es

I'm leaving now.

Ich reise jetzt ab.
ikh rai-ze yetst ap

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

You should be aware that German uses polite and informal forms for 'you' (*Sie* and *du* respectively). When addressing people you don't know well you should always use the polite form (though younger people will be less inclined to expect it). In this language guide we use the polite form unless indicated by 'inf' (for 'informal') in brackets.

If you need to ask for assistance from a stranger, remember to always introduce your request with a simple *Entschuldigung* (Excuse me, ...).

Good day.

Grüss Gott. (pol) grüs got

Hello.

Servus/Grüss Dich/Grüssdi. (inf) zer-vus/grüs dikh/gree-as-dee

Good ...	Guten ...	goo-ten ...
day	Tag	tahk
morning	Morgen	mor-gen
afternoon	Tag	tahk
evening	Abend	ah-bent

Goodbye.

Auf Wiedersehen.
owf vee-der-zay-en
Pfiati/Ciao. (inf) pfya-tee/chau

See you later.

Bis später.
bis shpay-ter

Bye.

Tschüss/Tschau.
chüs/chow

How are you?

Wie geht es Ihnen? (pol) vee gayt es ee-nen
Wie geht es dir? (inf) vee gayt es deer

Fine. And you?

Danke, gut.
dang-ke goot

... and you?

Und Ihnen? (pol) unt ee-nen
Und dir? (inf) unt deer

What's your name?

Wie ist Ihr Name? (pol) vee ist eer nah-me
Wie heisst du? (inf) vee haist doo

My name is ...

Mein Name ist .../Ich heiße ...
main nah-me ist .../ikh hai-se ...

Yes. Ja. yah

No. Nein. nain

Please. Bitte. bi-te

Thank you (very much). Danke./Vielen Dank. dang-ke/fee-len dangk

You're welcome. Bitte (sehr). bi-te (zair)

Sorry. Entschuldigung. ent-shul-di-gung
Excuse me, ... Entschuldigung. ent-shul-di-gung
 (before asking for help or directions)

DIRECTIONS

Could you help me, please?

Können Sie mir bitte helfen?
 ker-nen zee meer bi-te hel-fen

Where's (a bank)?

Wo ist (eine Bank)?
 vaw ist (ai-ne bangk)

I'm looking for (the cathedral).

Ich suche (den Dom).
 ikh zoo-khe (dayn dawm)

Which way's (a public toilet)?

In welcher Richtung ist (eine öffentliche toilette)?
 in vel-kher rikh-tung ist (ai-ne er-fent-li-khe to-a-le-te)

How can I get there?

Wie kann ich da hinkommen?
 vee kan ikh dah hin-ko-men

How far is it?

Wie weit ist es?
 vee vaít ist es

Can you show me (on the map)?

Können Sie es mir (auf der Karte) zeigen?
 ker-nen zee es meer (owf dair kar-te) tsai-gen

SIGNS

Polizei	Police
Polizeiwache	Police Station
Eingang	Entrance
Ausgang	Exit
Offen	Open
Geschlossen	Closed
Kein Zutritt	No Entry
Rauchen Verboten	No Smoking
Verboten	Prohibited
Toiletten (WC)	Toilets
Herren	Men
Damen	Women

near	<i>nah</i>	<i>nah-e</i>
far away	<i>weit weg</i>	<i>vait vek</i>
here	<i>hier</i>	<i>heer</i>
there	<i>dort</i>	<i>dort</i>
on the corner	<i>an der Ecke</i>	<i>an dair e-ke</i>
straight ahead	<i>geradeaus</i>	<i>ge-rah-de-ows</i>
opposite ...	<i>gegenüber ...</i>	<i>gay-gen-ü-ber ...</i>
next to ...	<i>neben ...</i>	<i>nay-ben ...</i>
behind ...	<i>hinten ...</i>	<i>hin-ter ...</i>
in front of ...	<i>vor ...</i>	<i>fawr ...</i>
north	<i>Norden</i>	<i>nor-den</i>
south	<i>Süden</i>	<i>zü-den</i>

east *Osten* *os-ten*
west *Westen* *ves-ten*

Turn ...

Biegen Sie ... ab. *bee-gen zee ... ap*
left/right
links/rechts *lingks/rekhts*
at the next corner
an der nächsten Ecke *an dair naykhs-ten e-ke*
at the traffic lights
bei der Ampel *bai dair am-pel*

EMERGENCIES

Help!

Hilfe! *hil-fe*

It's an emergency!

Es ist ein Notfall! *es ist ain nawt-fal*

Call the police!

Rufen Sie die Polizei! *roo-fen zee dee po-li-tsai*

Call a doctor!

Rufen Sie einen Arzt! *roo-fen zee ai-nen artst*

Call an ambulance!

Rufen Sie einen Krankenwagen! *krang-ken-vah-gen*

Leave me alone!

Lassen Sie mich in Ruhe! *la-sen zee mikh in roo-e*

Go away!

Gehen Sie weg! *gay-en zee vek*

I'm lost.

Ich habe mich verirrt. *ikh hah-be mikh fer-irt*

HEALTH

Where's the nearest ...?

Wo ist der/die/das nächste ...? (m/f/n)
vaw ist dair/die/das naykhs-te ...

chemist

Apotheke (f) *a-po-tay-ke*

dentist

Zahnarzt (m) *tsahn-artst*

doctor

Arzt (m) *artst*

hospital

Krankenhaus (n) *krang-ken-hows*

I need a doctor.

Ich brauche einen Arzt.

ikh brow-khe ai-nen artst

Is there a (night) chemist nearby?

Gibt es in der Nähe eine (Nacht) Apotheke?

gipt es in dair nay-e ai-ne (nakht)-a-po-tay-ke

I'm sick.

Ich bin krank.

ikh bin krangk

It hurts here.

Es tut hier weh.

es toot heer vay

I've been vomiting.

Ich habe mich übergeben.

ikh hah-be mikh ü-ber-gay-ben

I have diarrhoea/fever/headache.

Ich habe Durchfall/Fieber/Kopfschmerzen.

ikh hah-be durkh-fal/fee-ber/kopf-shmer-tsen

(I think) I'm pregnant.

(Ich glaube,) Ich bin schwanger.

(ikh glow-be) ikh bin shvang-er

I'm allergic to ...

Ich bin allergisch gegen ... *ikh bin a-lair-gish gay-gen ...*

antibiotics

Antibiotika *an-ti-bi-aw-ti-ka*

aspirin

Aspirin *as-pi-reen*

penicillin

Penizillin *pe-ni-tsi-leen*

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?

Sprechen Sie Englisch?

shpre-khen zee eng-lish

Does anyone here speak English?

Spricht hier jemand Englisch?

shprikt heer yay-mant eng-lish

Do you understand (me)?

Verstehen Sie (mich)?

fer-shtay-en zee (mikh)

I (don't) understand.

Ich verstehe (nicht).

ikh fer-shtay-e (nikht)

How do you say ... in German?

Wie sagt man ... auf Deutsch?

vee zagt man ... owf doytsh

Could you please ...?

Könnten Sie ...? *kern-ten zee ...*

speak more slowly

bitte langsamer sprechen *bi-te lang-za-mer shpre-khen*

repeat that

das bitte wiederholen *das bi-te vee-der-haw-len*

write it down

das bitte aufschreiben *das bi-te owf-shrai-ben*

NUMBERS

0	<i>null</i>	<i>nul</i>
1	<i>ains</i>	<i>aints</i>
2	<i>zwei</i>	<i>tsvai</i>
3	<i>drei</i>	<i>drai</i>
4	<i>vier</i>	<i>feer</i>
5	<i>fünf</i>	<i>fünf</i>

6	<i>sechs</i>	<i>zeks</i>
7	<i>sieben</i>	<i>zee-ben</i>
8	<i>acht</i>	<i>akht</i>
9	<i>neun</i>	<i>noyn</i>
10	<i>zehn</i>	<i>tsayn</i>
11	<i>elf</i>	<i>elf</i>
12	<i>zwölf</i>	<i>zverlf</i>
13	<i>dreizehn</i>	<i>drai-tsayn</i>
14	<i>vierzehn</i>	<i>feer-tsayn</i>
15	<i>fünfzehn</i>	<i>fünf-tsayn</i>
16	<i>sechzehn</i>	<i>zeks-tsayn</i>
17	<i>siebzehn</i>	<i>zeep-tsayn</i>
18	<i>achtzehn</i>	<i>akh-tsayn</i>
19	<i>neunzehn</i>	<i>noyn-tsayn</i>
20	<i>zwanzig</i>	<i>tsvan-tsikh</i>
21	<i>einundzwanzig</i>	<i>ain-unt-tsvan-tsikh</i>
22	<i>zweiundzwanzig</i>	<i>tsvai-unt-tsvan-tsikh</i>
30	<i>dreißig</i>	<i>drai-tsikh</i>
31	<i>einunddreißig</i>	<i>ain-und-drai-tsikh</i>
40	<i>vierzig</i>	<i>feer-tsikh</i>
50	<i>fünfzig</i>	<i>fünf-tsikh</i>
60	<i>sechzig</i>	<i>zekh-tsikh</i>
70	<i>siebzig</i>	<i>zeep-tsikh</i>
80	<i>achtzig</i>	<i>akh-tsikh</i>
90	<i>neunzig</i>	<i>noyn-tsikh</i>
100	<i>hundert</i>	<i>hun-dert</i>
1000	<i>tausend</i>	<i>tow-sent</i>
2000	<i>zwei tausend</i>	<i>tsvai tow-sent</i>

PAPERWORK

name	<i>Name</i>	<i>nah-me</i>
nationality	<i>Staatsan-</i> <i>gehörigkeit</i>	<i>shtahts-an-</i> <i>ge-her-rikh-kait</i>
date of birth	<i>Geburtsdatum</i>	<i>ge-burts-dah-tum</i>
place of birth	<i>Geburtsort</i>	<i>ge-burts-ort</i>
sex/gender	<i>Sex</i>	<i>seks</i>
passport	<i>(Reise)Pass</i>	<i>(rai-ze)-pahs</i>
visa	<i>Visum</i>	<i>vee-zum</i>

QUESTION WORDS

Who?	<i>Wer?</i>	<i>vair</i>
What?	<i>Was?</i>	<i>vas</i>
Where?	<i>Wo?</i>	<i>vo</i>
When?	<i>Wann?</i>	<i>van</i>
How?	<i>Wie?</i>	<i>vee</i>
Why?	<i>Warum?</i>	<i>va-rum</i>
Which?	<i>Welcher?</i>	<i>vel-kher</i>
How much?	<i>Wie viel?</i>	<i>vee feel</i>
How many?	<i>Wie viele?</i>	<i>vee fee-le</i>

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'm looking for ...

Ich suche ...
ikh zoo-khe ...

Where's the (nearest) ...?

Wo ist der/die/das (nächste) ...? (m/f/n)
 vaw ist dair/dee/das (naykhs-te) ...

What time does it open/close?

Wann macht er/sie/es auf/zu? (m/f/n)
 van makht air/zee/es owf/tsoo

Where can I buy ...?

Wo kann ich ... kaufen?
 vaw kan ikh ... kow-fen

an ATM	<i>ein Geldautomat</i>	ain gelt-ow-to-maht
an exchange office	<i>eine Geldwechselstube</i>	ai-ne gelt-vek-sel-shtoo-be
a bank	<i>eine Bank</i>	ai-ne bangk
the ... embassy	<i>die ... Botschaft</i>	dee bot-shaft
the hospital	<i>das Krankenhaus</i>	das krang-ken-hows
the market	<i>der Markt</i>	dair markt
the police	<i>die Polizei</i>	dee po-li-tsai
the post office	<i>das Postamt</i>	das post-amt
a public phone	<i>ein öffentliches Telefon</i>	ain er-fent-li-khes te-le-fawn
a public toilet	<i>eine öffentliche Toilette</i>	ain er-fent-li-khe to-a-le-te

I'd like to buy ...

Ich möchte ... kaufen.
 ikh merkh-te ... kow-fen

How much (is this)?

Wie viel (kostet das)?
 vee feel (kos-tet das)

That's too much/expensive.

Das ist zu viel/teuer.
 das ist tsoo feel/toy-er

Can you lower the price?

Können Sie mit dem Preis heruntergehen?
 ker-nen zee mit dem prais he-run-ter-gay-en

Do you have something cheaper?

Haben Sie etwas Billigeres?
 hah-ben zee et-vas bi-li-ge-res

I'm just looking.

Ich schaue mich nur um.
 ikh show-e mikh noor um

Can you write down the price?

Können Sie den Preis aufschreiben?
 ker-nen zee dayn prais owf-shrai-ben

Do you have any others?

Haben Sie noch andere?
 hah-ben zee nokh an-de-re

Can I look at (it)?

Können Sie (ihn/sie/es) mir zeigen? (m/f/n)
 ker-nen zee (een/zee/es) meer tsai-gen

more	<i>mehr</i>	mair
less	<i>weniger</i>	vay-ni-ger
smaller	<i>kleiner</i>	klai-ner-tee
bigger	<i>größer</i>	gro-ser

Do you accept ...?

Nehmen Sie ...? nay-men zee ...

credit cards

Kreditkarten kre-deet-kar-ten

travellers cheques

Reiseschecks rai-ze-sheks

I'd like to ...

Ich möchte ... ikh merkh-te ...

change money (cash)

Geld umtauschen gelt um-tow-shen

cash a cheque

einen Scheck einlösen ai-nen shek ain-ler-zen

change some travellers cheques

Reiseschecks einlösen rai-ze-sheks ain-ler-zen

I want to buy a phone card.

Ich möchte eine Telefonkarte kaufen.
 ikh merkh-te ai-ne te-le-fawn-kar-te kow-fen

Where's the local Internet cafe?

Wo ist hier ein Internet-Café?
 vaw ist heer ain in-ter-net-ka-fay

I'd like to ...

Ich möchte ... ikh merkh-te ...

get Internet access

Internetzugang haben in-ter-net-tsoo-gang hah-ben

check my email

meine E-Mails checken mai-ne ee-mayls che-ken

TIME & DATES**What time is it?**

Wie spät ist es? vee shpayt ist es

It's (one) o'clock.

Es ist (ein) Uhr. es ist (ain) oor

Twenty past one.

Zwanzig nach eins. tsvan-tsikh nahkh ains

Half past one.

Halb zwei. ('half two') halp tsvai

Quarter to one.

Viertel vor eins. fir-tel fawr ains

am

morgens/vormittags mor-gens/fawr-mi-tahks

pm

nachmittags/abends nahkh-mi-tahks/ah-bents

now	<i>jetzt</i>	yetst
today	<i>heute</i>	hoy-te
tonight	<i>heute Abend</i>	hoy-te ah-bent
tomorrow	<i>morgen</i>	mor-gen
yesterday	<i>gestern</i>	ges-tern
morning	<i>Morgen</i>	mor-gen
afternoon	<i>Nachmittag</i>	nahkh-mi-tahk
evening	<i>Abend</i>	ah-bent

Monday	<i>Montag</i>	mawn-tahk
Tuesday	<i>Dienstag</i>	deens-tahk
Wednesday	<i>Mittwoch</i>	mit-vokh
Thursday	<i>Donnerstag</i>	do-ners-tahk
Friday	<i>Freitag</i>	frei-tahk
Saturday	<i>Samstag</i>	zams-tahk
Sunday	<i>Sonntag</i>	zon-tahk

January	<i>Januar</i>	yan-u-ahr
February	<i>Februar</i>	fay-bru-ahr
March	<i>März</i>	merts
April	<i>April</i>	a-pril
May	<i>Mai</i>	mai
June	<i>Juni</i>	yoo-ni
July	<i>Juli</i>	yoo-li
August	<i>August</i>	ow-gust
September	<i>September</i>	zep-tem-ber
October	<i>Oktober</i>	ok-taw-ber
November	<i>November</i>	no-vern-ber
December	<i>Dezember</i>	de-tsem-ber

TRANSPORT**Public Transport****What time does the ... leave?**

Wann fährt ... ab?

van fairt ... ap

boat

das Boot das bawt

bus

der Bus dair bus

train

der Zug dair tsook

tram

die Strassenbahn dee shtrah-sen-bahn

What time's the ... bus?

Wann fährt der ... Bus?

van fairt dair ... bus

first

erste ers-te

last

letzte lets-te

next

nächste naykhs-te

Where's the nearest metro station?

Wo ist der nächste U-Bahnhof?

vaw ist dair naykhs-te oo-bahn-hawf

Which bus goes to ...?

Welcher Bus fährt ...?

vel-kher bus fairt ...

A ... ticket to (Innsbruck).

Einen ... nach (Innsbruck).

ai-nen ... nahkh (eens-brook)

one-way	<i>einfache Fahrkarte</i>	ain-fa-khe fahr-kar-te
return	<i>Rückfahrkarte</i>	rük-fahr-kar-te
1st-class	<i>Fahrkarte erster Klasse</i>	fahr-kar-te ers-ter kla-se
2nd-class	<i>Fahrkarte zweiter Klasse</i>	fahr-kar-te tsvai-ter kla-se

The ... is cancelled.

... ist gestrichen. ... ist ge-shtri-khen

The ... is delayed.

... hat Verspätung. ... hat fer-shpay-tung

Is this seat free?

Ist dieser Platz frei? ist dee-zer plats frei

Do I need to change trains?

Muss ich umsteigen? mus ikh um-shtai-gen

Are you free? (taxi)

Sind Sie frei? zint zee frei

How much is it to ...?

Was kostet es bis ...? vas kos-tet es bis ...

Please take me to (this address).

Bitte bringen Sie mich zu (dieser Adresse). bi-te bring-en zee mikh zu (dee-zer a-dre-se)

Private Transport**Where can I hire a ...?**

Wo kann ich ... mieten?

vaw kan ikh ... mee-ten

I'd like to hire a/an ...

Ich möchte ... mieten.

ikh merkh-te ... mee-ten

automatic

ein Fahrzeug mit Automatik ain fahr-tsoyk mit ow-to-mah-tik

bicycle

ein Fahrrad ain fahr-raht

car

ein Auto ain ow-to

4WD

ein Allradfahrzeug ain al-raht-fahr-tsoyk

manual

ein Fahrzeug mit Schaltung ain fahr-tsoyk mit shal-tung

motorbike

ein Motorrad ain maw-tor-raht

How much is it per day/week?

Wie viel kostet es pro Tag/Woche?

vee feel kos-tet es praw tahk/vo-khe

petrol (gas)	<i>Benzin</i>	ben-tseen
diesel	<i>Diesel</i>	dee-zel
leaded	<i>verbleites Benzin</i>	fer-blai-tes ben-tseen

ROAD SIGNS

Gefahr	Danger
Einfahrt Verboten	No Entry
Einbahnstrasse	One Way
Einfahrt	Entrance
Ausfahrt	Exit
Ausfahrt Freihalten	Keep Clear
Parkverbot	No Parking
Halteverbot	No Stopping
Mautstelle	Toll
Radweg	Cycle Path
Umleitung	Detour
Überholverbot	No Overtaking

LPG	<i>Autogas</i>	<i>ow-to-gahs</i>
regular	<i>Normalbenzin</i>	<i>nor-mahl-ben-tseen</i>
unleaded	<i>bleifreies Benzin</i>	<i>blai-frai-es ben-tseen</i>

Where's a petrol station?*Wo ist eine Tankstelle?*vaw ist *ai-ne tangk-shte-le***Does this road go to ...?***Führt diese Strasse nach ...?*führt *dee-ze shtrah-se nahkh ...***(How long) Can I park here?***(Wie lange) Kann ich hier parken?**(vee lang-e) kan ikh heer par-ken***Where do I pay?***Wo muss ich bezahlen?*vaw mus ikh *be-tsah-len***I need a mechanic.***Ich brauche einen Mechaniker.*ikh *brow-khe ai-nen me-khah-ni-ker***The car has broken down (at ...)***Ich habe (in ...) eine Panne mit meinem Auto.*ikh *hah-be (in ...) ai-ne pa-ne mit mai-nem ow-to***I had an accident.***Ich hatte einen Unfall.*ikh *ha-te ai-nen un-fal***The car/motorbike won't start.***Das Auto/Motorrad springt nicht an.*das *ow-to/maw-tor-raht shpringkt nihkt an***I have a flat tyre.***Ich habe eine Reifenpanne.*ikh *hah-be ai-ne rai-fen-pa-ne***I've run out of petrol.***Ich habe kein Benzin mehr.*ikh *hah-be kain ben-tseen mair***TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN****I need a/an ...***Ich brauche ...*ikh *brow-khe ...***Is there a/an ...?***Gibt es ...?*

gibt es ...

baby change room*einen Wickelraum**ai-nen vi-kel-rowm***baby seat***einen Babysitz**ai-nen bay-bi-zits***booster seat***einen Kindersitz**ai-nen kin-der-zits***child-minding service***einen Babysitter-Service**ai-nen bay-bi-si-ter-ser-vis***children's menu***eine Kinderkarte**ai-ne kin-der-kar-te***(English-speaking) babysitter***einen (englisch-**ai-nen (eng-lish-**sprachigen) Babysitter**shprah-khi-gen) bay-bi-si-ter***highchair***einen Kinderstuhl**ai-nen kin-der-shtool***potty***ein Kindertöpfchen**ain kin-der-terpf-khen***stroller***einen Kinderwagen**ai-nen kin-der-vah-gen***Do you mind if I breastfeed here?***Kann ich meinem Kind hier die Brust geben?*kan ikh *mai-nem kint heer dee brust gay-ben***Are children allowed?***Sind Kinder erlaubt?*zint *kin-der er-lowpt*

Also available from Lonely Planet:
German Phrasebook

Glossary

Abfahrt – departure (trains)
Altstadt – old city
Ankunft – arrival (trains)
ANTO – Austrian National Tourist Office
Apotheken – pharmacy
Auto – car
Autobahn – motorway

Bad – bath
Bahnhof – train station
Bahnsteig – train station platform
Bankomat – ATM; cash point
Bauernhof – farmhouse
Bauernmarkt – farmers market
Beisl – small tavern or restaurant
Benzin – unleaded petrol
Berg – hill or mountain
Bergbahn – cable car
Bezirk – district in a town or city
Bibliothek – library
Biedermeier period – 19th-century art movement in Germany and Austria
Botschaft – embassy
Brauerei – brewery
Briefmarken – stamps
Brunnen – fountain
Bundesbus – state bus; run by the railway (Bahnbus) or the post office (Postbus)
Burg – castle/fortress
Buschenschank (Buschenschenken) – wine tavern(s)

Café Konditorei(en) – café/cake shop(s)
Christkindlmärkt – Christmas market

DAV – German Alpine Club
Dirndl – women's traditional dress
Donau – Danube
Dorf – village

EC – EuroCity; express train
EEA – European Economic Area; comprises European Union states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
EN – EuroNight; international and domestic night train
EU – European Union

Fahrplan – timetable
Feiertag – public holiday
Ferienwohnung(en) – self-catering holiday apartment(s)
Festung – fortress

Fiaker – fiacre; small horse-drawn carriage
Flohmarkt – flea market
Flughafen – airport
Fluss – river
Föhn – hot, dry wind that sweeps down from the mountains, mainly in early spring and autumn
FPÖ – Freedom Party (politics)
Freizeitzentrum – sports and leisure centre
Friedhof – cemetery

Gästehaus – guesthouse; sometimes has a restaurant
Gästekarte – guest card; issued by hostels and resorts, used to obtain discounts
Gasthaus – inn or restaurant without accommodation
Gasthof – inn or restaurant; usually has accommodation
Gemeindeamt – local authority office

Hafen – harbour; port
Handy – mobile phone
Hauptbahnhof – main train station
Hauptpost – main post office
Hauptstadt – capital
Heuriger (Heurigen) – wine tavern(s)

IC – InterCity; express train

Jugendherberge/Jugendgästehaus – youth hostel

Kaffeehaus – coffee house
Kapelle – chapel
Kärnten – Carinthia (Austrian province)
Kino – cinema
Kirche – church
Klettern – rock climbing
Konsulat(e) – consulate(s)
Krankenhaus – hospital
Krügerl – glass holding 0.5L
Kunst – art
Kurzparkzone – short-term parking zone

Landesmuseum – provincial museum
Langlauf – cross-country skiing
Lieder – lyrical song
LKW – bus

Mahlzeit – Austrian salutation at the commencement of a meal
Markt – market
Maut – toll (or indicating a toll booth)
Mehrwertsteuer (MWST) – value-added tax

Melange – coffee

Mensa – university cafeteria

Mitfahrzentrale – hitching organisation

Münze – coins

ÖAMTC – national motoring organisation

ÖAV – Austrian Alpine Club

ÖBB – Austrian federal railway

Österreich – Austria

ÖVP – Austrian People's Party (politics)

Parkschein – parking voucher

Pension – B&B

Pfarrkirche – parish church

Pfiff – glass holding 0.125L

PKW – car

Platz – town or village square

Polizei – police

Postamt – post office

Postlagernde Briefe – poste restante

Privat Zimmer – private rooms (accommodation)

Rad – bicycle

radfahren – cycling

Radler – mixture of beer and lemonade

Rathaus – town hall

Reisebüro – travel agency

S-Bahn – suburban train system

SC – SuperCity; express train

Schloss – palace; castle

Secession movement – early 20th-century movement in Vienna seeking to establish a more functional style in architecture; led by Otto Wagner (1841–1918)

See – lake

sgraffito – mural or decoration in which the top layer is scratched off to reveal the original colour/medium underneath

Silvester – New Year's Eve

skifahren – skiing

Stadt – city

Stadtmuseum – city museum

Stadtpfarrkirche – see *Pfarrkirche*

Steiermark – Styria (Austrian province)

Stift – abbey

Stock – floor, in a multi-storied building

Strandbad – designated bathing area on a lake or river; usually has an entry fee

Studentenheime – student residences

surfen – wind surfing

Tabak – tobacconist

Tagesteller/Tagesmenü – the set dish or meal of the day in a restaurant; sometimes abbreviated as 'Menü'

Tal – valley

Telefon-Wertkarte – phonecard

Tirol – Tyrol

Tor – gate

Triebwagen – railcar

U-Bahn – urban underground rail system

Verein – club

Vienna Circle – group of philosophers centred on Vienna University in the 1920s and 1930s

Vienna Group – avant-garde art/literary movement formed in the 1950s

Wald – forest

wandern – walking/hiking

Wein – wine

Wien – Vienna

Wiener Gruppe – see *Vienna Group*

Wiener Kreis – see *Vienna Circle*

Würstel Stand – sausage stand

Zimmer frei – see *Privat Zimmer*

Zug – train

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