

**INNO  
VATION  
SALZ  
BURG**



*The guide with helpful  
hints and advice:*

# **Your new life in Salzburg**



# Hello There in Salzburg

Of all possible pathways in life this particular one has brought you to Salzburg. Good news for us! We have compiled this manual containing important and useful information so that you can start life successfully in your new homeland. You can look up absolutely essential facts and you'll also find helpful hints and advice: we tell you what you can do in the city and region of Salzburg, where you can meet people, what the position is regarding potential employers and where you can find support when you yourself want to found a company. Citizens of Salzburg also give you very personal hints on all these topics.

With this small present we'd like to give you a warm welcome and outline the image of Salzburg – city and region – that we see: an incredibly beautiful and multi-faceted place to live and a location for innovative enterprises, top class research and employees with excellent skills.

We are very pleased that you are now a part of this!



Dr. Wilfried Haslauer  
Governor of the Province of Salzburg



Dipl.-Ing. Harald Preuner  
Mayor of the City of Salzburg



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*Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

## **Moving to Austria? Of course!**

Arriving in Salzburg

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# Arriving in Salzburg

Hello there in Salzburg! But just a moment! Before we give you a guide for settling and living in this beautiful city, we'll first of all give you an insight into the country that will perhaps soon be your new home.

First things first – Austria as a country and its population are undoubtedly characterized by the Alpine surroundings. This is hardly surprising, as Alpine territory makes up over 60 per cent of the entire area of Austria! This has an influence not only on the way people think and act, but also on tourism and business. And also on how people spend their leisure time. There is hardly a single Austrian who did not already as a small child put on skis. Downhill skiing has always been the national sport par excellence. In the meantime ski tours and cross-country skiing have also become enormously popular (more about this from [page 79](#)).

Austrian history looks back on the time of the ruling Habsburg Monarchy and the dual monarchy of Austria and Hungary. After the First World War, the First Republic was created in Austria which was

## **/ Austria – the Facts**

**Population:** over 9.1 million people live in Austria  
(as of 1.2.2023)

**Area:** 83,882.56 km<sup>2</sup>

**Head of State:** Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen  
(as of 1.1.2023)

**Federal Chancellor:** Karl Nehammer (as of 1.1.2023)

**Language:** German

**Capital:** Vienna





*Hohensalzburg Fortress / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

transformed into an authoritarian corporative state in 1934. In 1938 Austria was annexed to the German Reich. After the Second World War and the fall of the Nazi regime the Second Republic was founded. Austria has been a Member State of the European Union since 1995.

### **Nine Federal Provinces**

Austria is made up of the federal provinces of Salzburg, Upper Austria, Tyrol, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Burgenland, Styria, Vorarlberg and Vienna. The latter is the federal capital and has the most inhabitants.

## Diverse Landscape

Austria has a diverse landscape consisting of the eastern Alps, the Alpine and Carpathian foreland, the Pannonian lowland, the granite and gneiss plateau which belongs to the Bohemian Mass and the Vienna Basin. The Alpine landscape influences the Austrian climate which has distinct seasons: summers can be very hot (30 ° Celsius and above are no longer a rarity, especially in the east) and the winters can be bitterly cold (temperatures sink to -8 ° and below). However, it is easy to escape the temperatures for a few hours because due to the diverse landscape there can be wide-ranging climatic differences over a very small area.

## Fantastic Fauna

Animals typical for many parts of Europe are to be found here: deer, stags, pheasants, squirrels, hares, badgers, weasels, foxes and mice populate Austria's forests. With a bit of luck on a hike one might even see marmots, chamois or eagles. Over the past few years wolves and



*Edelweiss flower / Photo: AdobeStock/Martin Erdniss*

## **/ Salzburg – the Facts**

*Population of the city of Salzburg:* 158,950 (as of 1.2.2023)

*Population of the province of Salzburg:* 568,468 (as of 1.1.2023)

*Area of the city of Salzburg:* 65.68 km<sup>2</sup>

*Area of the province of Salzburg:* 7,156 km<sup>2</sup>

**Infrastructure:** the city and province of Salzburg rely primarily on a well developed public bus service, and also have an inner-city rail service and suburban railways. Over 40 million people use the public transport service of the Salzburg AG annually. Many Salzburgers also rely on their bicycles. The city encourages this with a well-developed network of cycle paths and a coordinator for cycle traffic.

Salzburg is also ideally located to be able to reach Vienna, Munich or Innsbruck in a short space of time, and besides a major railway station that links Germany and Austria, also has an airport.

Citizens of the EU may participate in municipal and mayoral elections (held every five years).

bears have been sighted but it is rare to actually encounter one. The lakes and fauna in the lowlands are areas of retreat for various kinds of birds, including robins, herons, wild geese, swans and storks. Around the rivers and lakes there is a huge diversity of species: otters, beavers, crawfish, clams, fish such as carp, catfish, trout or perches are at home here.

## **Fabulous Flora**

Forests, mostly consisting of deciduous and mixed trees, characterize Austria's fauna. The higher one climbs, the more coniferous trees are to be found – larch, pine and fir are three of the most frequent species. As regards flora: a true Austrian legend is the edelweiss. You'll soon encounter the small plant with the soft white flowers, though probably not as a living plant. It is a popular motif for traditional pictures, pottery, textiles, and it is even the symbol of the Austrian Alpine Association. But be careful: the delicate little flower is protected by conservation law and it is illegal to pick it. Plants such as the gentian, arnica, Alpine rose or heather are not quite so rare but no less important. They are typical of the Alpine region and have healing properties.

## **Tourism**

Austria, the country of skiers! According to statistics for winter tourism the message has got around the entire world. You can ski in the province of Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Upper Austria, for



*Ski touring in Salzburg / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*



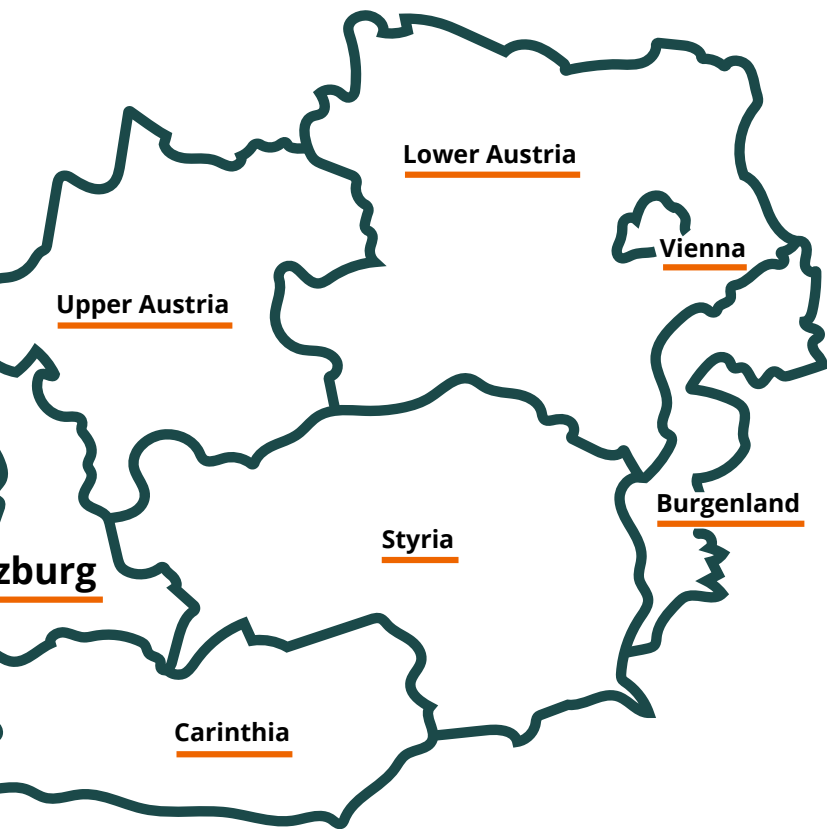
*Mozart's birthplace in the city of Salzburg / Photo: Salzburg Tourismus GmbH*

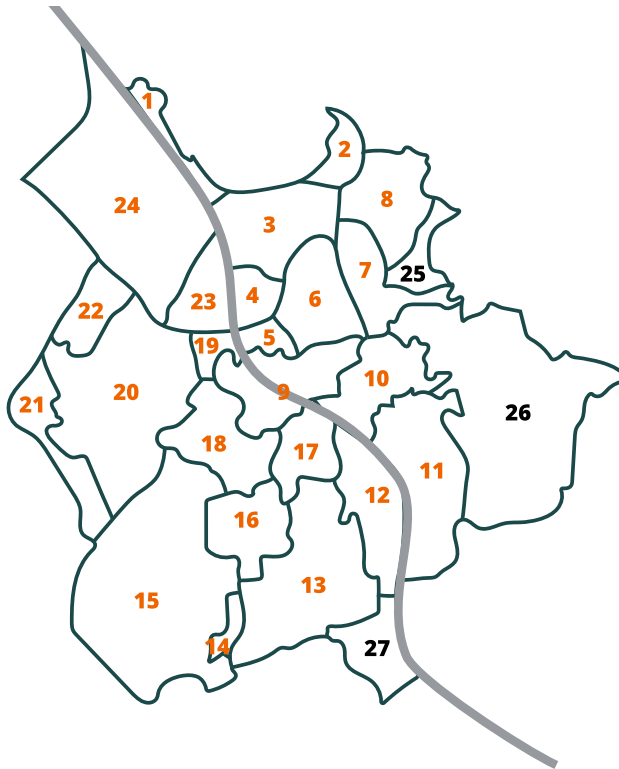
instance in the most renowned skiing resorts in Obertauern, Kitzbühel, Zillertal, Sölden or Schladming-Dachstein. Austria's highest mountain is the Grossglockner in the Hohe Tauern and has an altitude of 3,798 metres.

However, Austria is not only a mountainous country but has lakes and rivers. The province of Salzburg is well-known for its clean lakes such as the Wallersee, Lake Wolfgang or Lake Fuschl, which in the summer serve as popular nearby recreation and spa resorts. Austrians frequently spend their holidays in their own country.

# The State of Salzburg and Austria's States







### Salzburg's 24 districts

1 Itzling Nord	11 Aigen	21 Maxglan West
2 Kasern	12 Salzburg-Süd	22 Taxham
3 Itzling	13 Morzg	23 Lehen
4 Elisabeth-Vorstadt	14 Gneis Süd	24 Liefering
5 Neustadt	15 Leopoldskroner Moos	
6 Schallmoos	16 Gneis	<b>Landschaftsräume</b>
7 Gnigl	17 Nonntal	25 Heuberg
8 Langwied	18 Riedenburg	26 Gaisberg
9 Altstadt	19 Mülln	27 Hellbrunn
10 Parsch	20 Maxglan	



## Sport

Successful sportsmen and –women grow up here who are fascinated by the many kinds of outdoor sports possibilities, for instance Marcel Hirscher, world championship skier from Salzburg, professional tennis player Dominik Thiem, snowboard champion Anna Gasser and professional footballer David Alaba.

## Famous Names

Did you know? They all come from Austria:

- / **Falco**, internationally successful singer with a touch of Viennese arrogance
- / **Sigmund Freud**, world famous neurologist and founding father of psychoanalysis
- / **Peter Handke**, writer and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature
- / **Joseph Haydn**, Austrian composer in the Viennese Classical period
- / **Elfriede Jelinek**, writer and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature
- / **Udo Jürgens**, composer, singer and pianist from Klagenfurt
- / **Gustav Klimt**, painter and representative of Viennese Jugendstil
- / **Niki Lauda**, one of the most famous Formula 1 racing drivers
- / **Didi Mateschitz**, founder and CEO of Red Bull
- / **Wolfgang Amadé Mozart**, world famous musician and composer, born in Salzburg
- / **Romy Schneider**, actress, known mainly for her interpretation of the role of Sisi, Empress of Austria
- / **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, former governor of California and legendary action man
- / **Christoph Waltz**, actor and Hollywood star

## **From here to the rest of the world**

The energy drink Red Bull, the Salzburg Mozartkugeln (chocolates), the film The Sound of Music, the Salzburg Festival, works by the composer Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Austrian wines such as the Grüner Veltliner, Styrian pumpkin seed oil, Wiener Schnitzel, Bösendorfer pianos, pottery from Gmunden, Sachertorte (chocolate cake), the Vienna State Opera and the State Opera Ball, the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, the many Advent and Christmas Markets, Hallstatt, Salzburg and Vienna as popular tourist destinations are known throughout the world.

## **Major companies in Austria**

/ Alpla Werke Alwin Lehner	/ Porr
/ Borealis	/ Porsche Holding
/ Fischer Sports	/ REWE Austria
/ Henkel	/ Signa Retail
/ Magna Steyr	/ Spar-Gruppe
/ Manner	/ Strabag
/ Mondi	/ Swarovski
/ ÖBB	/ voestalpine
/ OMV	/ Zotter

## **Business in Salzburg**

Many people, when they think of Salzburg, primarily have Mozart and holidays in mind. Tourism is indeed one of the largest economic factors of the location. But Salzburg also has a strong service, arts and manufacturing sector. About 47,000 companies in Salzburg ensure jobs for over 200,000 employees. Companies such as Palfinger, Porsche or Red Bull operate from Salzburg throughout the world. The quality of the location is created by a good interaction between business,



*Red Bull Headquarters in Fuschl am See / Photo: AdobeStock/PixAchi*

education, science and research, as well as politics and administration. These factors all contribute to creating new training offers, specific research projects for the economy, a flourishing start-up programme and short distances for cooperation. Salzburg thereby has at its disposal a strong intermediate sector and many innovative companies as well as start-ups, which in the meantime have become spin-offs from the universities. Future fields such as life sciences, information and communication technologies, digitization, the use of intelligent materials, innovations in services and sustainability are given special attention by decision-makers. The IT service company conova, for instance, operates Austria's first data processing centre in Salzburg.

Salzburg as a province and city is distinctly characterized by the broad-ranging cultural offers as well as the beauty of the landscape framed by mountains, lakes and rivers. In 2019 the city of Salzburg was chosen by the renowned travel guide Lonely Planet as City Destination Number One for 2020 and was thus ahead of cities such as Washington DC, Cairo and Galway.

### **Important companies in Salzburg**

- / Atomic Austria
- / Benteler International
- / Biogena Naturprodukte
- / Hogast purchasing association for the hotel and catering industry
- / KTM
- / Palfinger
- / Pappas Holding
- / Porsche Holding
- / Quehenberger Logistics
- / Red Bull
- / Sony DADC Europe
- / Spar Group

### **Research**

A sophisticated research scene flourishes in Salzburg with internationally renowned researchers, who carry out their studies at institutions such as the Salzburg Research Company, the Paris-Lodron University of Salzburg or at the Paracelsus Medical Private University.

The principle research areas are for instance:

- / Neuro-cognitive research
- / Cancer research
- / Sports and activity research
- / Material research
- / Alpine architecture
- / Neuro-sciences

Specialized research institutions and transfer centres such as the Centre for Geo-Information Technology (Z\_GIS), the Christian Doppler Laboratory gEOHum, the Josef Ressel Centre for Dependable System-of-Systems Engineering or the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital Health and Prevention make a considerable contribution to an excellent quality of research in Salzburg.



Photo: Louis Reed on Unsplash





*Photo: AdobeStock/olyphotostories*

## Let's get on with it! What to expect

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# Registration (also known as the Residence Registration Form)

In Austria people are obliged to register. This means that all those who live here have to be officially registered. Therefore when you come to Salzburg, you are obliged to register within three days. Register yourself and your family at the relevant office in the Magistrat or the municipal office. This also applies to removals within Salzburg – the current place of residence must always be stated on the confirmation of registration. You can settle this official business online or by visiting the relevant authority in person. Independent of this the residence registration form always has to be completed and you always have to be in a position to present means of identification, i. e. passport, birth certificate or proof of nationality. The residence registration form must be signed by the landlord/landlady prior to registration. It is best to bring the form with you when you sign your rental agreement.

## **/ Residence Registration Form**

[www.stadt-salzburg.at/fileadmin/e-government/pdf-formulare/meldewesen\\_nur\\_meldezettel\\_aktiv\\_/meldezettel.pdf](http://www.stadt-salzburg.at/fileadmin/e-government/pdf-formulare/meldewesen_nur_meldezettel_aktiv_/meldezettel.pdf)

Further information about the process of registration

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/dokumente\\_und\\_recht/an\\_abmeldung\\_des\\_ohnsitzes.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/dokumente_und_recht/an_abmeldung_des_ohnsitzes.html)

[www.willkommen-in-salzburg.at/en](http://www.willkommen-in-salzburg.at/en)

Further information about the registration certificate:

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben\\_in\\_oesterreich/aufenthalt.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben_in_oesterreich/aufenthalt.html)



## Registration Certificate

In addition to the confirmation of registration (Meldezettel) you also need a registration certificate (Anmeldebescheinigung). The EU allows you to move freely as a citizen, to settle and work in any Member State. People from countries belonging to the European Economic Area or from Switzerland also have this right. However, in Austria they must apply for a registration certificate within the first four months after entering the country. This document is important for future visits to the authorities, employment relationships and for the Austrian social insurance system.

When expatriates who are neither from the EU nor from the EEA or Switzerland have the right of residence applicable in the EU, after five years of continuous residence they receive a permanent residence permit for the federal province of Salzburg. You can apply for the forms (e. g. the certificate of permanent residence) from the relevant district authority in the Gauern (districts) of the federal province of Salzburg as well as from the Magistrat (municipal authority) in the city of Salzburg. Further information is available on the following website:

[www.oesterreich.gv.at](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at)

## Third-Country Nationals

### Visa and Residence Permit

There are various kinds of visas and residence permits. For third-country nationals, in other words, those who do not come from a Member State of the EU or the EEA, the correct form of residence permit depends not only on the relevant country of origin but also on the duration and reason for residence in Austria.

Citizens from a third country have to apply for a visa even for a brief stay. There are exceptions for certain countries (such as, for example, Japan, the USA and Australia). Citizens from these countries can spend

a maximum period of 90 days in Austria without a visa. Visa D allows third-country nationals to stay in Austria for up to six months.

Exempted from this are persons who work seasonally in Austria, foreign unskilled workers for a specific period of time, holders of a “Job-Seeker” visa, and highly qualified foreign employees.

*“The country wants people who intend to stay and observe the valid laws here and the cultural understanding. Austria is a very organized country. Therefore it is all the more important to have all the documents ready when applying for a visa. Here this is a sign of respect and is highly appreciated by the authorities. When you have to make a visit to the authorities, it is also recommendable to wear suitable clothing.”*

*Alex Isnenghi, Advertising- and Communications-Expert from Brazil*

## There are three categories of visas

### **/ Visa A: Air transit visa**

For persons from certain countries a visa is necessary for entering an Austrian airport.

### **/ Visa C: travel visa/Schengen visa**

The classic tourist visa. It allows a stay in the Schengen states for up to three months.

### **/ Visa D: Stay for up to six months**

Qualified third-country nationals seeking employment in Austria can apply for a residence visa in category D. The visa is valid for six

months, in a few exceptional cases for up to twelve months. It is used primarily for the period up to obtaining the residence status applied for (Red-White-Red Card), which entitles the holder to a longer period of residence. A visa in this category can be allocated abroad only by an Austrian representative authority.

## **Residence permits**

If you come from a third country and intend to live and work in Austria, you have to apply for legal status, the so-called Red-White-Red Card (at the latest before the Visa D expires). Residence permits are oriented on the reason and duration of your stay.

Special residence permits are issued for artists, researchers and persons not engaged in employment (for instance senior citizens and those who are financially independent). The prerequisite for this are sufficient financial means for securing a living, a comprehensive health insurance that covers all risks, proof of a place to live and German language skills on A1 level.

### **/ Further information concerning the visa**

[www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration](http://www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration)

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben\\_in\\_oesterreich/visum\\_fuer\\_oesterreich.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben_in_oesterreich/visum_fuer_oesterreich.html)

[www.bmi.gv.at](http://www.bmi.gv.at)

Information for persons seeking employment on **page 37** and on the website

[www.ams.at/organisation/public-employment-service-austria](http://www.ams.at/organisation/public-employment-service-austria)

## **The Red-White-Red Card**

The most important residence permit is the Red-White-Red Card, which is issued mostly for two years. It serves to regulate the immigration of qualified third-country nationals and is based on a points model. A Red-White-Red Card is issued only after attaining a certain number of points. Points are awarded for criteria such as education, professional experience or knowledge of languages.

**/ Points calculator for a first estimate**

*[www.migration.gv.at/en/service-and-links/points-calculator](http://www.migration.gv.at/en/service-and-links/points-calculator)*

Particularly well qualified employees, skilled workers in understaffed professions, other key workers, graduates of Austrian universities and higher educational institutions, self-employed key workers and founders of start-up companies usually have the best chances of obtaining a Red-White-Red Card.

Before you apply for a Red-White-Red Card for an employment position, it is important to be able to present a relevant range of jobs. Whether you achieve residence status is ultimately decided by the relevant authority on the basis of the evaluation by the Labour Service (AMS). If you change your job, you have to apply for a new Red-White-Red Card.

### **Red-White-Red Card plus**

Whereas with the Red-White-Red Card you are tied to a certain job, with the Red-White-Red Card plus you are allowed to change your employer without having to apply for a new card. Family members of holders of a Red-White-Red Card or a Blue Card EU can themselves apply for a Red-White-Red Card plus.

## **/ More about skilled workers in shortage occupations**

[www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration/skilled-workers-in-shortage-occupations](http://www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration/skilled-workers-in-shortage-occupations)

and about the Red-White-Red Card plus under

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben\\_in\\_oesterreich/aufenthalt/3/2/Seite.120307.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben_in_oesterreich/aufenthalt/3/2/Seite.120307.html)

## **Permanent Residence Permit**

After five years of continuous residence and adherence to the integration regulations (advice is available from the Integration Fund on the website: [www.integrationsfonds.at/en/home](http://www.integrationsfonds.at/en/home)) a permanent residence permit can be issued. This allows you to stay and live for an unlimited period in Austria and you have unrestricted access to the Austrian job market. But beware! The application for permanent residence has to be made during the period of validity of the current residence status and definitively three months before this expires.

[www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration](http://www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration)

## **Blue Card EU**

Besides the Red-White-Red Card there is also the Blue Card EU. It is issued primarily to third-country nationals and highly qualified academics. You must also be able to present proof of a defined minimum income (one and a half times the current average Austrian gross annual income of full-time employees) and a university degree from a course of study lasting at least three years. The Blue Card EU is limited to two years and tied to a specific job. If an extension is made, holders can change the card to a Red-White-Red plus card. For the Blue Card EU there is no points system as there is for the Red-White-Red Card.

## **Residence permits for training: students**

Besides the general prerequisites for status as a resident, as a student you have, among others, to fulfil one or several of the following principles:

- / A full-time course of study at a university, polytechnic university, at an accredited private university or at a public or private teacher training college.
- / An exceptional course in the context of a university course, a course for further training or a course at a private university. The course of study must make up at least 40 credit points and is not allowed to serve merely language teaching.
- / An exceptional course of study, so as to complete a foreign degree according to Austrian academic guidelines.

The residence permit is issued to students from third countries, who take part in a programme of the EU or a multilateral programme with mobility measures (such as Erasmus plus or OeAD scholarships), or also those for whom an agreement between two or several university institutions is valid. The permit is issued mostly for two years. Otherwise it is valid for one year.

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/public.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/public.html)

## **Schoolchildren**

In principle the following prerequisites apply for residence permits:

- / Full-time schoolchildren at public schools or private schools with public status
- / Schoolchildren at statutory schools with public status
- / Schoolchildren from certified non-scholastic educational institutions

/ Extraordinary schoolchildren from public schools or private schools with public status, if it is a matter of the first issue of a residence permit.

[www.weiterbildungsdatenbank.at](http://www.weiterbildungsdatenbank.at)

[www.bmi.gv.at](http://www.bmi.gv.at)

## **Residence permit for family communities**

If you move to Austria with your family, it is absolutely essential to ensure beforehand that you are informed about the current regulations. For instance there are restrictions for practising certain professions. You can find out about the relevant regulations from the relevant authorities.

[www.berufsanerkennung.at/en](http://www.berufsanerkennung.at/en)

### **/ Family reunification and work permit**

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben\\_in\\_oesterreich/aufenthalt.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben_in_oesterreich/aufenthalt.html)

[www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration/family-reunification](http://www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration/family-reunification)

## **Support for Expatriates**

The Welcome Service of Innovation Salzburg offers assistance on all topics concerning immigration to Austria. Support ranges from

### **/ The Welcome Service of Innovation Salzburg**

[www.innovation-salzburg.at/workinsalzburg](http://www.innovation-salzburg.at/workinsalzburg)

[www.workinaustria.at](http://www.workinaustria.at)

providing help when making applications and visiting authorities, finding accommodation, child care and schools as well as information about registering dogs.

## EU-/EAA-Citizens

### Work in Austria

Are you a citizen of the EU or the EEA? Then you can take a relaxed view about finding work in Salzburg. In accordance with the European principle of free access to the labour market, persons from EU-/EEA-states as well as Swiss citizens and their family members can live and work in Austria. It is merely necessary to make an application for a registration certificate within the first four months after entering Austria.

## Employment

### Job Centre and EURES

If you are looking for a job, you can find out about current job possibilities from the Job Centre or EURES. In Austria there are also the job platforms such as [www.workinaustria.com/en](http://www.workinaustria.com/en), [www.karriere.at](http://www.karriere.at), [www.monster.at](http://www.monster.at) or [www.willhaben.at](http://www.willhaben.at), which publish current job announcements in various sectors. Occasionally there are also job fairs or events for people intending to start a job through which you can make valuable contacts. Job announcements are also to be found in local media and national newspapers such as Die Presse, Kurier, Der Standard, the Salzburger Nachrichten or the Kronen Zeitung.

The Job Centre (AMS) offers advice on all job-related questions and is the authority to refer to in case of redundancy or unemployment. You can receive free advice by making a personal appointment. You should take the following documents with you: your e-card or a confirmation



of the social security number, proof of identity (passport or identification card) and the forms U1 and U2 (forms to prove periods of employment in other countries of the EU). The AMS online portal also offers helpful advice when looking for a job and inter-active tests and training as regards making a job application or writing a CV.

[www.ams.at](http://www.ams.at)

EURES – the European portal for professional mobility – is a network for persons looking for a job in Europe and is financed by the European Commission, the EU-/EEA-states and Switzerland. It provides information about the development of the labour market in European countries and offers such as work experience, trainee positions or training courses for people throughout Europe.

[eures.europa.eu](http://eures.europa.eu)

## **Founding a company and self-employment in Austria**

You are an entrepreneur and intend to found your own company? Super! There is a splendid start-up scene in Salzburg. Nevertheless, it is probably different founding a company in Austria from in your home country. Find out in advance what you should be particularly aware of. Helpful advice and support in founding a company is offered for example by the founder service of the Chamber of Commerce or Startup Salzburg.

[www.gruenderservice.at](http://www.gruenderservice.at)

The business service of the city of Salzburg is an independent partner to approach for companies in all branches. The team offers advice in matters concerning locating a company, investor coaching, service and networking as well as knowledge transfer. The advice centre serves to help companies and authorities at home and abroad.

[www.stadt-salzburg.at/orte/md-magistratsdirektion/wirtschaftsfoerderung-und-bodenpolitik](http://www.stadt-salzburg.at/orte/md-magistratsdirektion/wirtschaftsfoerderung-und-bodenpolitik)

ABA – Invest in Austria is the prime contact office for foreign companies that aim to settle in Austria or found a subsidiary company. The ABA is a state agency and consultancy and services are free of charge and take place in various languages.

[www.investinaustria.at/en](http://www.investinaustria.at/en)

[www.workinaustria.com/en](http://www.workinaustria.com/en)

## **Start-ups**

Even though Austria is a rather small country on the world map, it has a vibrant scene for starting up companies! First and foremost in the spheres of information technology, media and life sciences as well as the creative industry. This was reported by the American business magazine Forbes and referred to Austria as one of seven start-up hot-spots in Europe. Possibly not least thanks to internationally renowned formats such as the Pioneers Festival in Vienna or the global format of the Fuckup Nights which also take place in Austria.



As Salzburg's incubator for innovative launches, Startup Salzburg acts as a partner for newly founded companies in every phase of their business development. Startup Salzburg is neutral and is not hampered by its own interests. The team supports innovative founders according to their needs with coaching and training sessions and personal consultancies. Start-ups are also linked to each other and with business experts. Several workshops and events take place every year. In addition the incubation programme FACTORY and preliminary founding programme SHAPE are offered. With support from the province of Salzburg, Startup Salzburg offers these services at four service centres: at the FH Start-up Centre of the Polytechnic University of Salzburg,



Jeremy Cabaret / Photo: private

*"My first piece of advice is to find an Austrian contact person because this partner can be very helpful in providing answers to questions about founding a company, because he or she speaks the language and knows which offices one has to approach. In principle I consider it important that anyone who intends to found a company in Austria must know and understand Austria.*

*A further piece of advice is to go to several start-up and networking events. There are lots of these events in Salzburg and in the whole of Austria and they are organized, for instance, by the Salzburg Chamber of Commerce, Startup Salzburg or Fuckup Nights. In addition in Salzburg there is a small but well connected community. My advice: make contact with this community! That's how I got to know two of my company partners."*

**Jeremy Cabaret, founder of Impetro Gear**

Innovation Salzburg, PLUS Career and Start-up Centre of the University of Salzburg and the Salzburg Chamber of Commerce.

[www.startup-salzburg.at/en](http://www.startup-salzburg.at/en)

## Institutions and their Functions

### Austria's Digital Office

You would prefer to settle bureaucratic business online? This is possible via the Digital Office. Using the app Digital Office you can apply for a proxy voting card, give notification of a change of address or arrange for a reminder to be sent about the expiry date of your passport. Non-Austrians who are registered in the Central Registration Office (i. e. expatriates who are or were registered as resident in Austria) have as a first step to activate a personal mobile signature and then they can use the Digital Office. There is a pathfinder to the offices in Austria under the following website:

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/public.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/public.html)

Here you can also receive information about how to obtain a proxy voting card, change your address and on topics such as pregnancy and childbirth. In addition you can find various application forms, crimi-

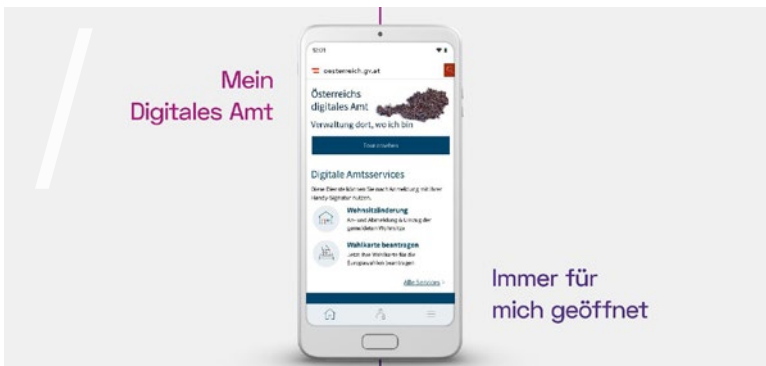


Photo: Screenshot federal data center

nal record certifications, current referenda, the commuter calculator, your registration confirmation and much more.

## **/ Authorities in Austria**

### **Job Centre (AMS)**

The Job Centre is an institution subject to public law for placing workers or conveying information about vacant jobs and unemployment benefit in the case of unemployment.

[www.ams.at](http://www.ams.at)

### **Magistrat Salzburg**

The Magistrat (municipal authorities) is the administrative authority of the city of Salzburg. It is divided into departments with specific areas of responsibility, such as for example the Control Office, the Traffic Office, the Registration Office and the Office for the Arts. Here you can also find many service institutions such as the Civic Office and the Business Service.

[www.stadt-salzburg.at](http://www.stadt-salzburg.at)

### **Bezirkshauptmannschaft**

The Bezirkshauptmannschaft (district authority) is an administrative authority for the separate districts in the federal province of Salzburg, with the exception of the city of Salzburg.

[www.salzburg.gv.at/dienststellen/bezirke](http://www.salzburg.gv.at/dienststellen/bezirke)

### **Federal Ministries**

The federal government in Austria structures its work into various spheres such as finance, education, science and research or interior affairs. There are twelve federal ministries and the federal chancellery.

[www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/en.html](http://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/en.html)

## **Inland Revenue/Inland Revenue online**

In order to process your tax declaration or other applications, you can use the free e-government tool FinanzOnline (Inland Revenue online). FinanzOnline functions with the civic card or the mobile signature.

[www.finanzonline.at](http://www.finanzonline.at)

## **Ombudsman**

The office of the ombudsman supports all those who feel they have not been justly treated by an Austrian authority. Complaints can be made at all times and free of charge.

[www.volksanwaltschaft.gv.at/en](http://www.volksanwaltschaft.gv.at/en)

## **/ Further important institutions**

### **Post Office**

The Post Office not only delivers parcels but also has post office boxes and self-service possibilities. We recommend using the online platform so as to choose your desired delivery option, trace your parcel or to find a letterbox in your vicinity.

[www.post.at](http://www.post.at)

### **Salzburg Transportation Authority (SVV)**

The SVV is responsible for public infrastructure in the federal province of Salzburg. The tariff system is simple – using one ticket all public means of transport can be used. You can find more information about public means of transport from [page 66](#).

[www.salzburg-verkehr.at/en](http://www.salzburg-verkehr.at/en)

## Salzburg Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is the representative of companies in Austria with a legally regulated membership. It supports companies in the spheres of labour and trademark law, founding of companies, export business, taxes and customs duties.

[www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at)

## Salzburg Chamber of Labour

Each and every person in employment is a member of the Chamber of Labour (AK). The Chamber of Labour offers free consultancies on topics ranging from the labour law to tenants' rights and also further training for professionals.

[www.ak-salzburg.at](http://www.ak-salzburg.at)

## Innovation Salzburg



Innovation Salzburg accompanies enterprises in their innovation projects and carries out location marketing for the city and province of Salzburg in spheres such as digitization, building in the Alps, life sciences and creative business. Startup Salzburg is also available as an incubation network for taking the first steps towards founding one's own company. The Welcome Service is also located within Innovation Salzburg.

[www.innovation-salzburg.at/en](http://www.innovation-salzburg.at/en)

## Civic Card and Mobile Signature

To activate the mobile signature it is necessary to have an activated civic card (the e-card can be activated as a civic card) or the mobile signature can also be enabled via FinanzOnline, if you already have access to this. The mobile signature is an app and at the same time a legally valid electronic signature. With it you can "sign" documents, applications (e. g. for a residential building subsidy) or a referendum.

## **/ E-Government**

On the website [www.buergerkarte.at/anwendungen-handy.html](http://www.buergerkarte.at/anwendungen-handy.html) you can find all the possibilities of e-government applications (such as building permission, ELGA – Austria's health portal, subsidies for travel expenses or family allowance).

## **Taxes and Finance**

If your main residence is located in Austria, you have to pay your income tax here. The income tax you have to pay if you are in employment increases progressively according to your salary. The place of main residence defines this obligation to pay taxes. Double taxation agreements prevent people from having to pay tax several times for the same income if you live in several states or have income. If you have an employment contract, you do not have to submit the tax yourself because the tax and social security will be paid in by your employer in the process of payroll accounting. Self-employed persons and freelancers have to pay income tax and the social security payments themselves. More information can be obtained from the Finanzamt (Inland Revenue).

### **Tax equalization and employee assessment**

Tax equalization is usually voluntary and is often well worth it! Especially when there have been many movements on your salary slip in a tax year, it may well be that you have paid too much tax and through tax equalization you may receive reimbursement. On FinanzOnline, the online platform of the Inland Revenue you can apply for tax equalization for up to five years retroactively for each of these calendar years. You can find out under what conditions an employee assessment is compulsory or is carried out automatically on the website

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/steuern\\_und\\_finanzen/arbeitnehmerveranlagung/Seite.340000.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/steuern_und_finanzen/arbeitnehmerveranlagung/Seite.340000.html)



## **/ Income Tax**

If you have questions concerning income tax, please refer to the Chamber for Workers and Employees in Salzburg:

Kammer für Arbeiter und Angestellte für Salzburg  
*Markus-Sittikus-Strasse 10, 5020 Salzburg*  
*+43 662 86 87*  
*[www.ak-salzburg.at](http://www.ak-salzburg.at)*

You can find further information about the online platform of the In-land Revenue and how to fill in the tax equalization form from the website

*[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben\\_in\\_oesterreich/Information-in-English/Tax-and-Finance.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben_in_oesterreich/Information-in-English/Tax-and-Finance.html)*

## **/ Tax office**

*Hotline for private individuals: +43 50 233 233*  
*Hotline for companies: +43 50 233 333*  
*[www.bmf.gv.at/en.html](http://www.bmf.gv.at/en.html)*

*Finanzamt City of Salzburg and Salzburg Land*  
*Aignerstrasse 10, 5026 Salzburg-Aigen*

*Finanzamt St. Johann/Tamsweg/Zell am See*  
*Brucker Bundesstrasse 13, 5700 Zell am See*  
*Gartengasse 3, 5580 Tamsweg*  
*Hans-Kappacher-Strasse 14, 5600 St. Johann im Pongau*

## Opening an account

Sooner or later you will need an Austrian bank account, at the latest when your first salary is transferred. In order to be able to open this, you need only some kind of identification, preferably your passport and registration form (Meldezettel). You can find details about the various kinds of account from the relevant banks. But be careful: banks in Austria have very limited opening hours – most banks close for lunch and are open only briefly in the afternoons. The best thing to do is to make a consultancy appointment (more information about opening times on [page 70](#)).



*Photo: Fabian Blank on Unsplash*

## Social Security System

Austria is a welfare state. This means that in Austria there is a legally anchored social security system, comprising the spheres health, accident, unemployment and pension insurance. This means that in case of accident or dismissal from a job, the costs are covered by the community that pays for this into the system. This also means that people who have their principle place of residence in Austria and have a job or are self-employed, are obliged to pay social insurance. This

compulsory insurance serves to provide financial security in case of an accident, unemployment or illness as well as for covering the cost of living in retirement.

In addition you can conclude a private health or pension insurance. If you are in employment, the social security contribution will be automatically deducted from your salary. You must be careful if you are self-employed: you are also obliged to pay social security contributions. However, there are different prerequisites according to the kind of self-employment (as a tradesperson, new self-employed, etc.). Further information and access to an online guidebook for the self-employed are available from website [www.sozialversicherung.at](http://www.sozialversicherung.at).

## Health System

In Austria everyone is taken care of in health matters, regardless of how long the illness lasts or how serious it is. The health system is organized by the state and its services are separated into public and private services. The health system is financed primarily from public means, from social security payments and taxes. Only small parts of this have to be paid for with private means, such as for example a prescription fee or daily allowances in the case of a stay in hospital. There is also the possibility of concluding a private health insurance contract, which, according to the insurance company covers more extensive services than a compulsory insurance. If, as an employed person, you pay into the social insurance system, it is also possible to insure your life partner and children. Moreover there are special regulations for senior citizens as well as for the unemployed. Under certain circumstances self-insurance is also possible. Further information is available on the website [www.gesundheit.gv.at](http://www.gesundheit.gv.at).

## Austrian Health Care Insurance

The Austrian Health Care Insurance (ÖGK) is Austria's largest provider of health insurance. Services are provided by doctors and hospitals and other health institutions under contract. For instance the ÖGK

offers dental treatment in dental health centres. Consultancies on topics such as nutrition, sport and stress take place in the health information centre GIZ or in the ÖGK. So as to be able to use the many online services, the mobile signature is necessary.

[www.gesundheitskasse.at](http://www.gesundheitskasse.at)

### **/ Health Care Insurance**

For employees and workers (not self-employed)

Austrian Health Care Insurance

*Engelbert-Weiss-Weg 10, 5020 Salzburg*

*+43 5 0766-17*

*office-s@oegk.at*

*www.gesundheitskasse.at*

For self-employed persons and freelance professionals

Sozialversicherungsanstalt für Selbstständige (SVS)

Landesstelle Salzburg

*Auerspergstrasse 24, 5020 Salzburg*

*+43 50 808 808*

*www.svs.at*

### **The e-card**

All persons registered in the social security system receive an e-card. All relevant data for your visit to the doctor are stored on this. You have to present the card every time you go to the doctor, and it is at the same time an insurance card valid throughout Europe. With it you can receive medical treatment in an emergency within the EU, Switzerland and all EEA countries. ELGA, the electronic health portal, is closely linked with the e-card and allows doctors as well as patients simple and practical access to the relevant health data such as test results

and important findings. You can call up your data as a patient online with your mobile signature or civic card via the ELGA-portal on

[www.gesundheit.gv.at](http://www.gesundheit.gv.at)

You can obtain further information about ELGA on the website

[www.elga.gv.at/en](http://www.elga.gv.at/en) and about the e-card on [www.chipkarte.at](http://www.chipkarte.at).

## Doctors

When you have been living in Austria for a while, it is essential to have a GP (Hausarzt). Not only to be examined in case of illness but also to clarify whether it is necessary to see a specialist, if you need a medical note for your employer or other authorities. Please be aware of the fact that you may change your GP only once within a quarterly period, unless you go to a deputy because your own doctor is on holiday or indisposed. On the website [www.arztsuche.aeksbg.at/finder/search/land/SA,00](http://www.arztsuche.aeksbg.at/finder/search/land/SA,00) you can find the search function for general practitioners in Salzburg. It is also a good idea to take recommendations from colleagues or friends about good doctors.

### **/ In case of emergencies at the weekends or when your GP is not available**

GP Emergency Service

*Dr.-Karl-Renner-Strasse 8, 5020 Salzburg*

*Monday to Friday 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.*

*Saturday and Sunday and on public holidays*

*8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.*

*[www.notdienst141.at/en](http://www.notdienst141.at/en)*

In case of emergencies dial the number 141

or call an ambulance on 144





*Photo: Salzburger Land Tourismus*

## **My new Home, my Salzburg**

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# Living in Salzburg

The search for a suitable roof over the head is in Salzburg – as in every other country or every other city – first and foremost a question of what kind of roof. Is a rented apartment preferable? Or a terraced house? Or is it best to invest in one's own property? In Salzburg the majority of homes are in rented apartments. Besides private owners who let apartments there are municipal apartments which are awarded by the relevant municipalities to persons with a low income, or subsidized housing cooperatives, which are similarly awarded only under certain conditions. Consequently special prerequisites apply to the particular kinds of apartment; information about this can be found on the website

*[www.stadt-salzburg.at](http://www.stadt-salzburg.at)*

Information about life in Salzburg can also be found under

*[www.willkommen-in-salzburg.at/en](http://www.willkommen-in-salzburg.at/en)*

In order to gain a first overall view of the market for apartments in Salzburg, it is worth doing some research online. For instance in Austrian daily newspapers, in their online versions under the property sections which have current advertisements. You can find approximate property prices for example on the website

*[www.immopreise.at/Salzburg/Haus/Eigentum](http://www.immopreise.at/Salzburg/Haus/Eigentum)*

**/ Newsletter of the city of Salzburg**

*[www.stadt-salzburg.at/newsletter](http://www.stadt-salzburg.at/newsletter)*



## Renting

If you are renting an apartment in Salzburg for the first time, you have to be aware of some important information:

- / The deposit is the amount of money you have to pay in advance to your landlord/landlady and which is used to cover the cost of repairing possible damage in the apartment after moving out. Normally three months' rent are required for this. If everything is all right, you receive the deposit back again after moving out.
- / Some landlords/landladies require a fee for drawing up the rental agreement. However, after a change in the law there is no longer any legal basis for this, therefore you are not obliged to pay this fee.
- / If you rent or purchase an apartment or a house through an estate agency, fees are charged. In the case of a purchase, at present the fee is about three per cent of the purchase price and for rented property the fee must not exceed two months' rent plus tax.
- / Most apartments are subject to the rental law which safeguards the rights of tenants very well. Experts in the Chamber of Labour (see *page 39*) offer advice on the rental law, the association for tenant protection or the tenants' association (subject to charges [www.mieterschutzverband.at](http://www.mieterschutzverband.at), [www.mietervereinigung.at](http://www.mietervereinigung.at))
- / Rental costs usually include the rent, running costs (ancillary costs for general dues such as refuse, lift maintenance or water), an amount for rented furniture and VAT on ten per cent of the rent.
- / Electricity, gas and heating costs are mostly not included in the rental amount stated; tenants have to pay this in addition. Tenants must also make their own arrangements for internet, cable television and home insurance.
- / You are strongly advised to take out a home insurance policy so as to insure yourselves against damage such as theft, or damage in or to the apartment. What exactly is insured depends on the

relevant insurance company. What is special in Austria is that a compulsory protection is integrated in the household insurance which protects you and your family, in case you have caused damage.

### **Refuse and recycling**

Refuse is collected separately in Austria. If you live in an apartment, separate bins are usually available: residual waste (black), waste paper (red), plastics (yellow) and organic waste (green). In household waste recycling centres, in the city and province of Salzburg, you can discard all waste, even large objects such as defective household equipment.

### **Living expenses**

How much do goods needed for daily life cost in Salzburg? Here are some examples:

### **Leisure time**

- / Cinema ticket.....from 10 Euro
- / Fitness studio.....between 20 and 50 Euro (monthly)
- / Visit to a museum..... about 15 Euro
- / Meal for one person  
in a reasonably priced restaurant..... about 12 Euro  
in a sophisticated restaurant ..... about 50 Euro

## Groceries (in Euro)



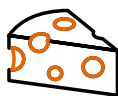
6 pcs.  
*about 3.50*



1litre  
*1.50-2.00*



1 pc.  
*from 2.00*



1 pc.  
*from 2.00*



1 pc.  
*from 20*



1 kg  
*about 2.50*



1 kg  
*about 1.70*



1 kg  
*about 1.50*



1 pc.  
*about 3.20*



1 pc.  
*1.30*



1 pc.  
*1.80*



1 pc.  
*from 3.50*



1 pc.  
*1.80*



1 pc.  
*3.50*



10 pc.  
*2.50*



1 portion  
*1.80*



1  
*8*



1  
*8-15*



1 scoop  
*1.50 - 2.50*



1 glass  
*from 3.80*

## Transport

### / Public transport:

Single journey in the city of Salzburg ..... 2.10 to 3.00 Euro  
"KlimaTicket" in Salzburg for 1 year ..... 365 Euro

/ A journey by taxi in the city of Salzburg ..... from 15 Euro

/ One litre of petrol ..... 1.70 to 2.00 Euro

Further information about public transport can be found on *page 66*.

## Education and School System

Practice makes perfect: in Austria there is a well-organized education system for children of an early age up to university degrees.

### **Playgroups for children under three years of age**

For children up to three years of age, there are care facilities such as playgroups or crèches. These are run by various providers, consequently the prices for care vary. They are also based on the duration of care and the income of the parents. In addition it is also possible to engage private supervision in the form of day parents, au-pairs or a nanny.

### **/ Childcare facilities and childminders**

*[www.tez.at](http://www.tez.at)*

*[www.koko.at](http://www.koko.at)*

*[www.hilfswerk.at](http://www.hilfswerk.at)*



*Painting a butterfly / Photo: Lucas Alexander on Unsplash*

## **Kindergarten**

Children are accepted in a kindergarten from the age of three. You can register your child directly in the kindergarten of your choice. It is compulsory for a child to spend one year in a kindergarten in the year directly before starting school and this is free of charge. Before that fees are charged which depend on the community where the kindergarten is located. Besides public kindergartens there are also private kindergartens which, however, result in higher costs.

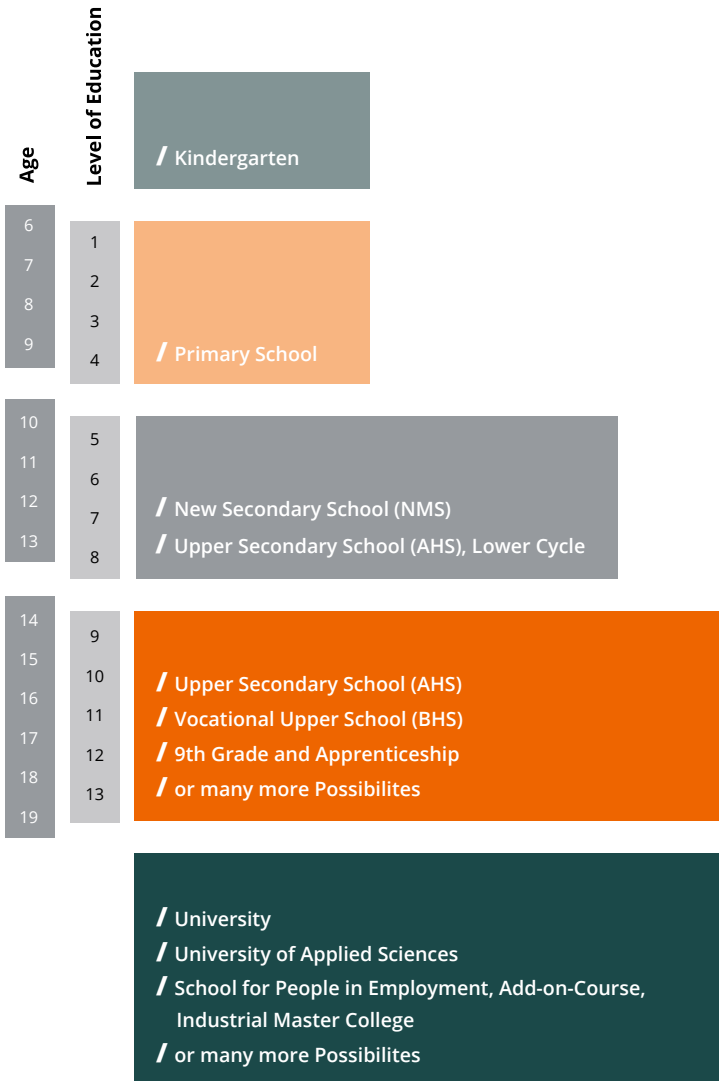
## **Care in the afternoons for primary-school children**

To help parents to combine professional and family commitments, many primary schools offer care facilities in the afternoons. In full day schooling, afternoon supervision is provided for all pupils. You can receive more information about the range of possibilities offered by schools from the school service centre at the Education Office in Salzburg.

[www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/bildung/kinder](http://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/bildung/kinder)

# The Austrian educational system

(simplified, source: [www.bildungssystem.at/en](http://www.bildungssystem.at/en))



## Family allowance

Family allowance is a state allowance for children and awarded to parents whose centre of life and work is in Austria. The Inland Revenue Office relevant for your place of residence is responsible. For every child born in Austria you receive the family allowance (ALF) fully automatically without the need to fill in a form. This saves you having to visit the authorities. This non-bureaucratic solution has already received some awards, among others the IT-Economic Prize e-Award in Maastricht.

## Starting school

It is compulsory in Austria for children who have reached the age of six to attend school. Parents or legal guardians have to register their child for enrolment in a primary school. The director of the school establishes during enrolment whether your child is ready for school. If the child is not yet ready for school, there is the possibility of attending a pre-school, so as to make the transition from kindergarten to school easier. Apart from this there are also cases when children who have not yet reached schooling age to be accepted prematurely in the primary school, if these children already show all the necessary competencies.

After positively concluding the fourth class of primary school your child attends either the Neue Mittelschule (NMS) or the lower grade of a general school of higher education (AHS).

### **/ Service centre for foreign families with children of school age**

Educational Directorate for Salzburg/Integration Service Point

*Mozartplatz 10, 5020 Salzburg*

+43 662 8083-1059

*claudia.baumann@bildung-sbg.gv.at*

## **Neue Mittelschule (NMS) New Secondary School**

The regular school lasts four years and begins after primary school. After positively concluding these four years, it is possible to attend a subsequent secondary, upper or polytechnic school. The NMS intends to convey on the one hand a good all round education and on the other to offer pupils advice and orientation concerning education and to help them to make decisions about their further course of training. If pupils show a certain level of achievement, it is possible to transfer from the New Secondary School to an Upper Secondary School or to a BHS.

## **Upper Secondary School (AHS)**

This type of school offers a four-year lower grade and a four-year upper grade that is concluded with the school leaving examination (Matura), equivalent to GCE A Levels. The school leaving examination entitles pupils to study at universities, universities of applied sciences, teacher training colleges and academies. The upper secondary school can be a grammar school (focus on linguistic, humanistic and liberal arts oriented subjects), a grammar school focusing on the sciences and mathematics, or a grammar school focusing on subjects from economics and business. A prerequisite for acceptance in an upper secondary school are very good marks in the subjects reading, writing and arithmetic in the primary school. If these prerequisites are not fulfilled, it is possible to take an entrance exam for acceptance in an upper secondary school.

## **Vocational Upper School (BHS)/Upper-grade**

After the secondary grade I (after concluding a new secondary school or the lower grade of an upper secondary school) pupils have the following possibilities: a vocational preparatory year and integrative vocational training, inclusive training (for children with and without a disability), polytechnic school, vocational school and apprenticeship, vocational training at a secondary school, vocational training at an



upper secondary school and additionally the upper grade of upper secondary schools.

## **Apprenticeship**

If your child should intend to practise a skilled trade, he or she must attend a vocational school in accordance with the so-called dual vocational training system which offers schooling, practical training and learning to carry out the profession in an appropriate enterprise. The vocational school is operated as a part-time school and for apprentices it is compulsory to attend the school.

Apprenticeship is concluded with the final apprentice exam. In addition it is also possible to take an apprenticeship and conclude it with the Matura final examination as in an upper secondary school or vocational school which then entitles apprentices to go on to study. After concluding the apprenticeship the master exam can be taken which enables him or her to train apprentices.

To find out why Salzburg is the ideal federal province for apprentices and for further information about this kind of vocational training please visit the website:

*[www.lehre-salzburg.at](http://www.lehre-salzburg.at)*

## **Universities**

After successfully concluding an upper secondary school, vocational school or concluding a vocational final exam or passing an entrance exam for a course of study, one can embark on a course of study at a university, university of applied sciences or teacher training college. Besides further training programmes and additional qualifications which are mostly tailor-made for those in employment, Salzburg universities offer Bachelor and Master degree courses as well as doctoral studies (PhD) and international courses in English. The specialist subjects are courses in the arts and sciences, engineering sciences and

artistic courses as well as teacher training courses, medical studies, natural sciences, law, social and economic sciences and theological studies.

## **Nostrification**

Nostrification means the recognition of schooling and examination certificates obtained abroad. The curricula of the certificate awarded abroad are compared with those in Austria and analysed to what extent they concord. It may well be that additional exams have to be taken. In any case try to ensure as soon as possible that all your certificates are recognized also in Austria. You can find more information about recognition of foreign schooling and examination certificates on the website:

[www.berufsanerkennung.at/en](http://www.berufsanerkennung.at/en)



*Photo: Dylan Gillis on Unsplash*

## Schools in Salzburg

You can find a list of all the schools in Salzburg on the website of the Educational Directorate for Salzburg:

[www.bildung-sbg.gv.at](http://www.bildung-sbg.gv.at)

In the city and province of Salzburg there are four international schools, or schools with international classes:

***Praxisvolksschule  
der Pädagogischen  
Hochschule Salzburg 5***

Akademiestraße 25  
5020 Salzburg  
+43 662 6388-6020  
[pvs.salzburg.at](http://pvs.salzburg.at)

***American International  
School***

Moosstraße 106  
5020 Salzburg  
+43 622 82 46 17  
[www.ais-salzburg.at](http://www.ais-salzburg.at)

***St. Gilgen International  
School***

Ischler Straße 13  
5340 St. Gilgen  
+43 6227 202 59  
[www.stgis.at](http://www.stgis.at)

***BG Zaunergasse – SALIS***

Zaunergasse 3  
5020 Salzburg  
+43 662 43 96 16  
[www.bgzaunergasse.at](http://www.bgzaunergasse.at)

## Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences in Salzburg

***University of Applied  
Sciences Salzburg***

Campus Urstein  
Urstein Süd 1  
5412 Puch/Salzburg

Campus Kuchl  
Markt 136a  
5231 Kuchl  
[www.fh-salzburg.ac.at/en](http://www.fh-salzburg.ac.at/en)

***Paris Lodron University  
of Salzburg***

Kapitelgasse 4–6  
5020 Salzburg  
[www.plus.ac.at/?lang=en](http://www.plus.ac.at/?lang=en)

***Mozarteum University***

Mirabellplatz 1  
5020 Salzburg  
[www.uni-mozarteum.at/en](http://www.uni-mozarteum.at/en)

***Pädagogische Hochschule  
Salzburg Stefan Zweig***

Akademiestraße 23  
5020 Salzburg  
[www.phsalzburg.at](http://www.phsalzburg.at)

***Paracelsus Medical  
Private University***

Strubergasse 21  
5020 Salzburg  
[www.pmu.ac.at/en](http://www.pmu.ac.at/en)

**Schloss Seeburg  
Private University**

Seeburgstraße 8  
5201 Seekirchen am  
Wallersee  
[www.uni-seeburg.at](http://www.uni-seeburg.at)

**Study and Management  
Center Saalfelden**

Leoganger Straße 51a  
5760 Saalfelden  
[www.smc-info.at](http://www.smc-info.at)

**SMBS – University of  
Salzburg Business School**

Sigmund-Haffner-Gasse 18  
5020 Salzburg  
[www.smbs.at](http://www.smbs.at)

**IFM – Institut für  
Management GmbH**

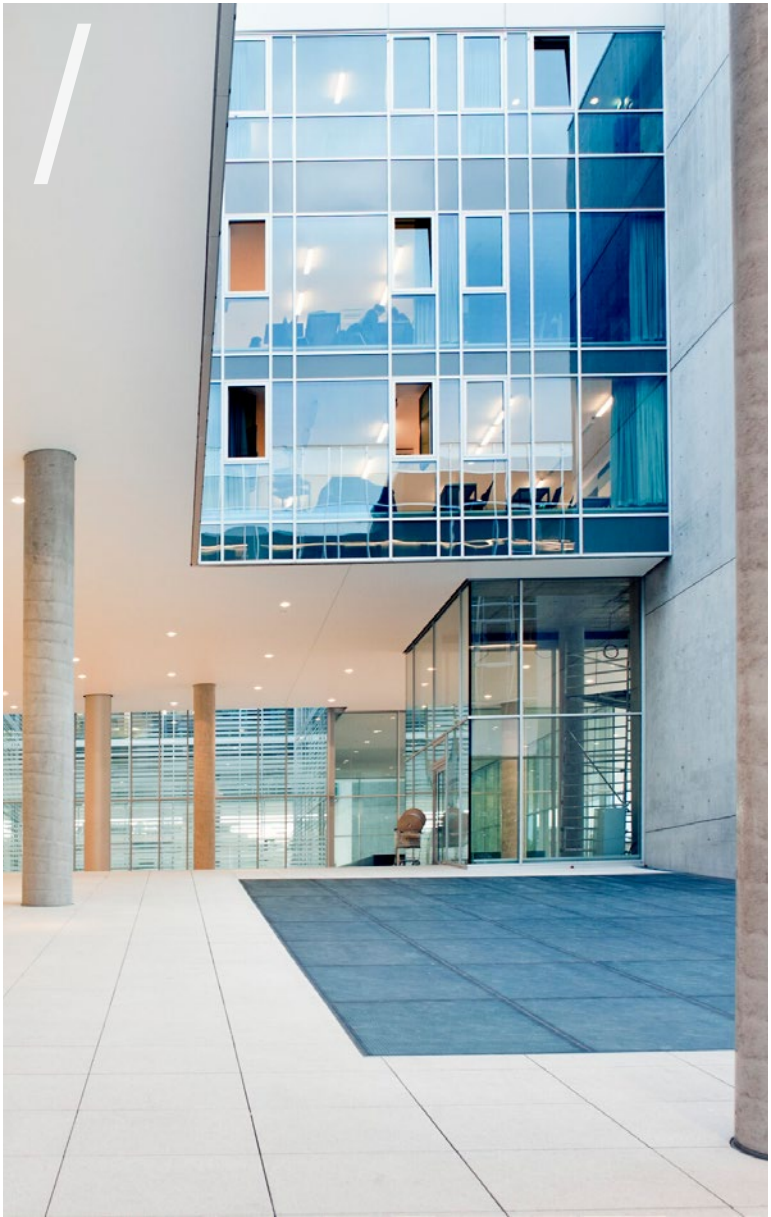
Birkenstraße 2  
5300 Hallwang  
[www.ifm.ac.at/en](http://www.ifm.ac.at/en)

**Salzburg College**

Bergstraße 12  
5020 Salzburg  
[www.salzburgcollege.edu](http://www.salzburgcollege.edu)

## German Language Courses

Even though many Austrians speak very good English, in rural areas it is particularly advisable to be able to converse in German with the local inhabitants. Moreover, it is essential to have sufficient knowledge of the language for the process of acquiring Austrian nationality or a residence permit. There are several public and private organizations that offer language assistance and German courses.



Unipark Nonntal / Photo: University of Salzburg, Luigi Caputo

Here you can find German courses (fees charged) in Salzburg:

[www.deuschlernen-salzburg.at](http://www.deuschlernen-salzburg.at)

You can have the course subsidized by the Austrian Integration Fund.  
The consultancy centre is:

***Integrationszentrum Salzburg***

Inge-Morath-Platz 18

5020 Salzburg

+43 662 87 68 74

[salzburg@integrationsfonds.at](mailto:salzburg@integrationsfonds.at)

In the city of Salzburg you can attend German courses free of charge in the Service Centres for Residents (in the districts of Itzling, Liefering, Aigen & Parsch, Salzburg-Süd etc.).

[www.stadt-salzburg.at/bewohnerservice](http://www.stadt-salzburg.at/bewohnerservice)

It is necessary to have basic knowledge of German for the German Conversation Course. You do not have to register, just drop by and you can start at any time! Every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m..

***City Library***

3rd Floor – Reading Room

Schumacherstrasse 14

5020 Salzburg

[buch.stadt-salzburg.at](http://buch.stadt-salzburg.at)

Language training & integration assistance can also be obtained from the volunteer network of Diakonie Salzburg.

+43 662 6385 51 014

[sprachtraining@diakoniewerk.at](mailto:sprachtraining@diakoniewerk.at)

## **/ Other Educational Institutions**

### **Educational Advice**

In the Educational Advice Office you can clarify interests and skills and you will be given information about appropriate training, further training and possibilities for grants.

Strubergasse 18

5020 Salzburg

+43 800 208 400

*[www.biber-salzburg.at](http://www.biber-salzburg.at)*

### **Salzburg Adult Education Centre**

The Adult Education Centre is an association in the city and province of Salzburg that offers courses and further training for adults. There are also branches in smaller communities.

*[www.volkshochschule.at](http://www.volkshochschule.at)*

### **BFI Salzburg**

The educational institution of the Chamber of Labour in Salzburg offers professional training and further training courses.

*[www.bfi-sbg.at](http://www.bfi-sbg.at)*

### **WIFI Salzburg**

The Business Development Institute (WIFI) is a training and further training institution for adults and offers over 2,500 courses, seminars and instruction courses from personality development and crafts to management training. It is financed by the Chamber of Commerce.

*[www.wifisalzburg.at](http://www.wifisalzburg.at)*



## Educational Directorate for Salzburg

The Educational Directorate is the administrative institution for the entire schooling system in Salzburg as well as in the whole of Austria. On the website you can find out about everything related to the current school system, subjects taught in schools, legal matters and general services in schools.

[www.bildung-sbg.gv.at](http://www.bildung-sbg.gv.at)

## Infrastructure and Mobility

Salzburg is an ideal location to be able to reach important cities in Europe in a short space of time. By train it takes two and a half hours to Vienna and two hours to Munich. Bolzano is about 300 km away, Ljubljana about 280 km and Prague about 375 km away. There are train connections as well as motorways to all neighbouring major cities.

### Salzburg Airport

Austria's second largest airport (after Vienna Airport) is Salzburg which has direct flights for instance to Berlin, Barcelona, Istanbul or Dubai. In addition there are many seasonal flights to popular holiday destinations such as Palma de Mallorca, Antalya or Corfu.



Salzburg Airport from above / Photo: Christine Bauernhansl, Hotel Königgut

## **Public Transport**

The city and province of Salzburg are served by a very good system of public transport. You can reach more or less every destination either by train or by bus. On the websites of the Austrian Federal Railways, ÖBB, or the Salzburg Regional Transport Association and of the city of Salzburg you can find a good overall view of routes, timetables and ticket prices.

On the Salzburg AG website timetables and ticket prices for transport in the city can be downloaded. A small piece of advice: buy individual tickets in advance in a Trafik or from the SalzburgMobil-App. This saves you time and money. There the ticket costs € 2 per journey. If you buy the ticket from a machine, you pay € 2.10 and if you buy it from the driver, the ticket costs € 2.90. There are also tickets for short journeys (a maximum of 2 stops per journey for € 1.20) and during the period 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. tickets cost € 1.70 per journey. There are price reductions for children, young persons and senior citizens. You can purchase season tickets in the service centres of the Salzburg AG.

*[www.salzburg-ag.at/bus-bahn/stadtverkehr/obus-albus.html](http://www.salzburg-ag.at/bus-bahn/stadtverkehr/obus-albus.html)*

If you are travelling in the federal province of Salzburg, the Salzburg Regional Transport Association is responsible for your transport. Here you can plan travel routes and calculate ticket prices for the entire region of Salzburg and parts of Upper Austria. You can buy tickets directly from the driver, as well as weekly or monthly tickets. You can buy yearly tickets in the Service Centre of the Salzburg Regional Transport Association.

*[www.salzburg-verkehr.at/en](http://www.salzburg-verkehr.at/en)*

Further information about public mobility in Salzburg is available on the website of Welcome to Salzburg:

*[www.willkommen-in-salzburg.at/en/arrival/transportation-and-transport](http://www.willkommen-in-salzburg.at/en/arrival/transportation-and-transport)*

While you are travelling, you can always refer to timetables and information about the network. For the city the app SalzburgMobil and for the province the app of Salzburg Regional Transport can be downloaded to your app-store free of charge. Hourly or daily tickets can be purchased via both apps.

[www.salzburg-ag.at/bus-bahn/fahrplan/fahrplan.html](http://www.salzburg-ag.at/bus-bahn/fahrplan/fahrplan.html)

[www.salzburg-verkehr.at/en/timetables/salzburg-verkehr-app](http://www.salzburg-verkehr.at/en/timetables/salzburg-verkehr-app)



Traffic in Salzburg / Photo: AdobeStock/Roman Babakin

If you are planning a long journey by train, refer to the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) or the Westbahn. On the website of the ÖBB, via the “Scotty” system you can find routes in the whole of Austria and beyond the borders and then also book your journey. The Westbahn links Salzburg with Linz and Vienna by rail. Here it is worth comparing the prices of both companies if you are planning a journey as there are always special offers.

[www.oebb.at/en](http://www.oebb.at/en)

[www.westbahn.at/en](http://www.westbahn.at/en)



Cycling in Salzburg / Photo: AdobeStock/Patrick Daxenbichler

Bus transport operated by private bus companies is also available in Austria. Within Austria and beyond the borders you can travel to large cities using the Flixbus. There are direct connections to the airports in Munich and Vienna. The Eurolines company links Salzburg with many European destinations, especially to the south and east, for instance to Bosnia, Serbia and Romania but also to the Baltic countries. Journeys of such distances do of course take a long time.

[www.flixbus.co.uk](http://www.flixbus.co.uk)

[www.eurolines.de/en/buslines/from/Salzburg](http://www.eurolines.de/en/buslines/from/Salzburg)

### **Individual Mobility**

Although in Salzburg you can travel very well using public transport, many people nevertheless do not wish to be without their own car. There are a few things you have to be aware of, especially if you come from a third country. Besides this, Salzburg is well-known for its traffic jams especially at rush hour. Therefore it is highly recommended to use a bicycle. Salzburg has a well-developed network of cycle paths both in the city as well as in the country. More information is available on the interactive map

[www.radlkarte.info](http://www.radlkarte.info)

### **Driving Licence**

Holders of a European or an EEA driving licence do not have to be registered – these driving licences are valid in Austria. Holders of a driving licence from a third country have to take a practical test and have their driving licence re-written for Austria. There are exceptions for some non-EU/EEA countries and the driving licence can be re-written without having to take a practical test. Information available on:

[www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/dokumente\\_und\\_recht/fuehrerschein/3/Seite.040500.html](http://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/dokumente_und_recht/fuehrerschein/3/Seite.040500.html)

Registration has to occur within the first six months after arriving in Austria. When you collect your new driving licence, the old one is retained. In the interim the old driving licence is still valid. The relevant authority is the police headquarters or the district commission, according to whether you live in the city or in the country. Please make sure that your driving licence is internationally valid.

### **Your own car**

In Austria there is the so-called NoVA, the normal consumption tax which has to be paid as a one-off tax by every car owner or motor bike owner when the first registration is made. If you wish to take your vehicle with you, the NoVA has to be paid in retrospect. This also applies to leased vehicles. Only trucks or lorries are exempted from this. This fee varies according to the type of car, its age and outfitting. Additional information about the NoVA is available on the websites of the Federal Ministry of Finance and of the automobile clubs ÖAMTC and ARBÖ.

*[www.bmf.gv.at/en](http://www.bmf.gv.at/en)*

*[www.oeamtc.at](http://www.oeamtc.at)*

*[www.arboe.at](http://www.arboe.at)*

## **Public Holidays and Opening Hours**

### **Opening hours**

Opening hours and holidays in Austria have always been influenced by Christianity. On Sundays, apart from a few exceptions such as petrol stations, railway stations (in which there are in some cases small shops offering the most essential groceries) or some restaurants and cafés, most restaurants, shops and supermarkets are closed. During the week very many shops shut down at 7 p.m. During the summer months, especially in tourism regions in Salzburg province, there are exceptions – if for instance you want to have a barbecue, you can buy all sorts of groceries even on Sundays. Opening hours of authorities or doctors' offices also vary considerably, but in general they are usually

open during the mornings. You can find out about opening hours from your local community office.

## Holidays

Austrians are rather spoiled when it comes to holidays. In an existing employment relationship they are legally entitled to five weeks of paid leave in a working year. From the seventh month after starting to work for a company, they are entitled to the full amount of leave in one year. Naturally you can only take your days off in agreement with your boss. Special leave is granted for getting married, the death of relatives, the birth of one's own child and for moving house. These days off always have to be clarified with the employer.

1.1.	New Year
6.1.	Epiphany
varies	Easter Monday
1.5.	State Holiday
varies	Ascension Day
varies	Whit Monday
varies	Corpus Christi
15.8.	Feast of the Assumption
26.10.	National Holiday
1.11.	All Saints' Day
8.12.	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
25.12.	Christmas Day
26.12.	St. Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)

Further information:

[www.feiertage-oesterreich.at](http://www.feiertage-oesterreich.at)

Incidentally: even if precisely when you are on holiday a stressful phase in the company occurs, you do not have to be prepared to work during your holiday. In other words you can take the time off that you need with a clear conscience.

If in special cases you are uncertain about what you must be aware of, check on the website of the Chamber of Labour.

[www.arbeiterkammer.at](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at)



*Christmas in Salzburg / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*



# Check-list for the First Steps

## For everyone

- Important documents such as birth certificate, marriage certificate, diplomas, certificates, curriculum vitae etc., especially when visiting government offices (where applicable in German and English)
  
- Find out in advance about recognition of foreign documents and certificates in Austria:
  - / For certificates concerning your profession:  
*[www.berufsanerkennung.at/en](http://www.berufsanerkennung.at/en)*
  
  - / For school certificates and academic degrees at universities or the relevant ministry  
*[www.bmbwf.gv.at/en/Topics/Higher-education-universities/Studying/Recognition-of-qualifications.html](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at/en/Topics/Higher-education-universities/Studying/Recognition-of-qualifications.html)*
  
  - / for foreign degrees:  
*[www.aais.at](http://www.aais.at)*
  
  - / Professional bodies and associations for regulated professions (doctors, teachers etc.)
  
- Documentation of accommodation, i. e. signed rental contract (essential for the required registration by means of registration form signed by the landlord/landlady in Salzburg).
  
- Registration with the relevant registration office has to occur within three days (more on *page 25*).

The registration form must be signed by the landlord/landlady:

[www.stadt-salzburg.at/fileadmin/e-government/pdf-formulare/meldewesen\\_nur\\_meldezettel\\_aktiv\\_/meldezettel.pdf](http://www.stadt-salzburg.at/fileadmin/e-government/pdf-formulare/meldewesen_nur_meldezettel_aktiv_/meldezettel.pdf)

- Health insurance either through the employer or self-insurance (compulsory insurance, e-card, more on *page 43*). In an employment relationship you are insured by the employer.
- If necessary: inform the authorities in your country of origin about removal to Austria.
- If you apply for the Red-White-Red Card, you must prove that you have an employment contract or have the necessary financial reserves (see *page 28*).
- In Austria it is recommendable to conclude a household insurance so that you are insured against minor damage and accidents. What is special here is that personal liability is included.
- Find out via the removal company about importing household and personal effects.
- Have your automobile registration and driving licence rewritten.
- If you lose your job, contact the Job Centre (AMS, see *page 37*).
- Register for social insurance and provide the Inland Revenue with your information (this applies in particular for the self-employed or persons intending to found a company). Register family members to be included in insurance.

Register with providers of gas/heating/electricity/telephone/tv and radio: in Austria there is a legal television and radio licence that every household has to pay as long as there is access to radio and television (more information on the website [www.gis.at/fremdsprachen/english](http://www.gis.at/fremdsprachen/english)).

Apply within four months for the EU certificate of registration (for EU/EEA and Swiss citizens).

### **For expatriates with children**

Find out about choice of schools and register your child/children, or where appropriate find a kindergarten or day time care service (see [page 52](#)).

### **For owners of animals**

Find out how the animals can best be brought to Austria. Dogs have to be registered at the local community office (don't forget the EU passports for the animals!).





*Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

## **A Good Life**

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# Sports Activities in Salzburg

Salzburg is a jewel for people who love sports. And at every time of year! Regardless of whether you want to snowboard in winter or water-ski in summer, enthusiastic sportsmen and -woman can always find possibilities to make their pulse beat faster! You can find a few suggestions on the following pages.

## Take a plunge

Salzburg is a true paradise for water-rats and all those who would like to become one. There are 180 small and larger lakes in the province of Salzburg, including the idyllic lakes of the Salzkammergut, 22 outdoor public swimming baths with over 60 swimming pools with perfect water quality. Water sports are just as varied as the water itself: sailing, diving, surfing, water-skiing, stand-up paddling, rafting or canyoning.



*Canyoning in Salzburg / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

## **Let it snow!**

Salzburg is a popular destination for winter sports fans – that fact becomes obvious, at the latest when the first snowflakes arrive. Snow enthusiasts of all ages stomp in their ski or snowboard boots to the ski lifts. Skiing and snowboarding are, however, not the only winter sports high up on the list of priorities in the province of Salzburg. Over the past few years ski tours off-piste and cross-country skiing have become extremely popular. Professional guides and wonderful routes take you straight from the outskirts of Salzburg to the winter wonderland. For all those who are not quite so sporty, simply fetch up your toboggan from the cellar and toboggan down the Gaisberg. More information on the website:

*[www.salzburgerland.com/en/experience-winter](http://www.salzburgerland.com/en/experience-winter)*

## **The mountains beckon**

For all those who are not satisfied merely with climbing trees, in Salzburg they can truly climb to their heart's content. In the city, for instance, in the Boulder Bar, the Salzburg Climbing Hall, the Climbing Parcours in Mülln or the City Wall. A little bit further away is the high-rope garden near the forest pool in Anif, which even for inexperienced climbers can test your nerves and bravery, as well as the climbing hall in Anif and the mini climbing park for children. The maxim for professionals is: follow your nose, when the mountains beckon. The websites of the Salzburg Alpenverein and the Salzburg Friends of Nature offer helpful advice:

*[www.alpenverein-salzburg.at](http://www.alpenverein-salzburg.at)  
[salzburg.naturfreunde.at](http://salzburg.naturfreunde.at)*

## **Bikes and trails**

Besides the many cycle paths in the city, the surrounding countryside of Salzburg offers wonderful routes for you and your bike. Regardless of whether you are a beginner or want to go on a professional tour, you can really cycle to your heart's delight. There are several bike trails

and bike parks but go on a tour of discovery yourself! Perhaps to Saalfelden-Leogang, Europe's prime destination for bikers. You can find more information about mountain bike tours on the website:

[www.salzburgerland.com/en/biking-and-cycling](http://www.salzburgerland.com/en/biking-and-cycling)

### **The journey is its own reward**

Quite apart from the countless wonderful hikes on the mountains to the high Alpine pastures, around the lakes or through the gorges of Salzburg province, even the city has several hiking experiences to offer. From the old town centre in a short space of time you can reach impressive panoramic hiking paths. Salzburg's "house mountains" – Kapuzinerberg, Mönchsberg, Nonnberg, Gaisberg and Untersberg – provide the best conditions. Before setting out on a longer hike, check out the route and the duration, for example on the website

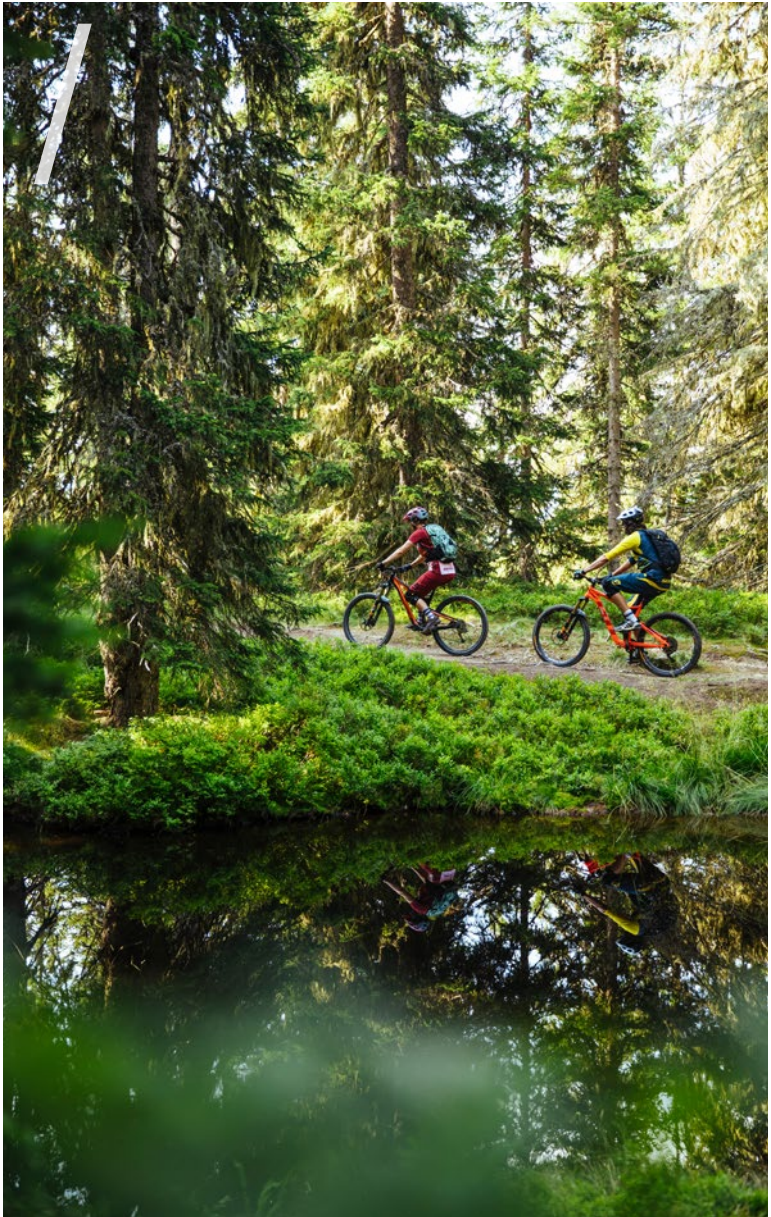
[www.bergfex.com](http://www.bergfex.com), so that you not only find the right path, but also the ideal clothing for the current weather situation.

### **Flying**

Have you already noticed all the to-ings and fro-ings in the air? Paragliding, hang-gliding and parachuting are very popular in Salzburg. All those who want to explore their new homeland from the sky, can do so for instance from a tandem flight under the guidance of a professional paraglider on the Gaisberg.

[www.flytandem.at/en](http://www.flytandem.at/en)





Cycling in Salzburg's nature / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus



Didi Maier / Photo: private

*"We enjoy cycling with the children to the Bluntautal. The path is even and goes through really beautiful countryside. In the place where I live is the Filmmooser Hofalm, at the foot of the Bischofsmütze, an absolute highlight. You can hike and in winter and summer take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage! There are two lodges offering food and drink and a high Alpine lake which you can walk around. In Salzburg we enjoy walking along the Mönchsberg and then have breakfast or brunch in M32 and then stroll through the town. Other highlights include ice-skating in the Volksgarten and the 'Schranne' open-air market on Thursdays or the Grünmarkt."*

**Didi Maier, star gourmet chef**

# Relaxation and Leisure

Salzburg province – an oasis of fitness and health with several kinds of health treatments, in particular for people suffering from chronic pain.

## Krimml Waterfalls

These are the largest waterfalls in Europe and the fifth highest in the world! There is even scientific documentary evidence that they have a very positive impact on your health. The waterfalls were tested in the context of a clinical study carried out by the Paracelsus Medical Private University and in the meantime are now regarded as a natural healing phenomenon by the Salzburg Regional Government. They have a positive effect on the immune system and the functioning of the lungs, and they help people who suffer from allergies and asthma to reduce their symptoms.

[www.wasserwelten-krimml.at/wk/en/index](http://www.wasserwelten-krimml.at/wk/en/index)



Krimml Waterfalls / Photo: AdobeStock/Alexey Oblov

## **Radon Gallery in Gastein**

The radon gallery in Böckstein offers a mixture of the gas radon, warmth and humidity – an excellent climate for pain therapy, especially for treating rheumatic illnesses or problems with breathing and the skin. Wearing a bathing suit you ride on a train into the heart of the mountain. Lying on a lounger, you undergo the therapy supervised by doctors and allow the energy from the gallery to take effect.

*[www.gasteiner-heilstollen.com/en](http://www.gasteiner-heilstollen.com/en)*

## **Giant World of Ice in Werfen**

The epic caves of the Giant World of Ice in the Austrian Alps are 40 kilometres long. Over 100 million years ago the first fissures in the rocks were created. The best time to visit the Giant World of Ice is in spring when the melting water seeps through the fissure in the rock and forms spectacular ice figures. There has been a new cable car since 2015 which transports visitors to the cave during the open season from May to October.

*[www.eisriesenwelt.at/en](http://www.eisriesenwelt.at/en)*

## **Liechtenstein Gorge**

The idyllic ravine formation of the Liechtenstein Gorge is located in St. Johann im Pongau. Accompanied by the raging sound of the waterfall you can reach the gorge via stairways and wooden pathways. Incidentally, St. Johann is the district capital of Pongau and an important centre of winter and summer tourism in Salzburg.

*[www.liechtensteinklamm.info](http://www.liechtensteinklamm.info)*



Liechtenstein Gorge / Photo: AdobeStock/serkat Photography

## **Kaprun High Alpine Reservoir**

Climb up the walls of the reservoirs or walk along the water basin. The Höhenburg Climbing Arena is a great attraction for climbers. And for all those who want to take it a little bit easier, the funicular – Europe's largest open lift – transports you to the reservoirs.

[www.verbund.com/en-at/about-verbund/visitors-centres/kaprun](http://www.verbund.com/en-at/about-verbund/visitors-centres/kaprun)

## **Grossglockner High Alpine Road**

Have you ever searched for marmots? You'll find them on Austria's highest mountain! But even if you do not see a marmot, the mountain has many magnificent viewpoints. A very special experience is to drive up the Grossglockner High Alpine Road, best of all in a convertible or



Grossglockner High Alpine Road / Photo: AdobeStock/marcin jucha

on a motor bike. But be careful! The road is closed in the winter and does not open again until the spring. And a toll also has to be paid for driving along this route.

[www.grossglockner.at/gg/en/index](http://www.grossglockner.at/gg/en/index)

## High Alpine Pastures in Salzburg

*Auf da Oim, do gibt's koa Sünd* is a saying about life up on the high Alpine pastures and roughly translated it means that everything is allowed there. Of course that is not quite true. Nevertheless, the saying reflects the mood on the pastures, where everything is certainly more relaxed and less complicated than in the valley. Perhaps it has something to do with the fantastic air in the mountains? Or maybe with one or two drams of home-made schnapps.



## **UNESCO World Cultural Heritage: The Old Town Centre of Salzburg**

The old town centre of Salzburg was built according to Italian models – large scale paved squares and many grand, religious buildings such as the cathedral or St. Peter’s Abbey. In the New Age the city also developed to become a cultural centre in Europe due to the omnipresent influence of the famous composer Wolfgang Amadé Mozart. In 1996 the old town centre of Salzburg was added to the list of world cultural heritage sites.

### **Hellbrunn Palace**

Hellbrunn Palace with its gardens and zoo is situated about twenty minutes away from the centre of Salzburg. Hellbrunn is well-known

for its water gardens and trick fountains, the pavilion from the famous musical The Sound of Music, and the annual Advent Market that takes place in the forecourt of the palace.

[www.hellbrunn.at/en](http://www.hellbrunn.at/en)

*The Stone Theatre in Hellbrunn is the place where I tank up on energy. Not many people seem to know about it when they visit Hellbrunn. That's why you can often be totally alone there and recuperate.*

*Kerstin Wimberger, Communications Expert  
with Innovation Salzburg*

## The Arts and Culture

Salzburgers know not only how to foster relics, castles and palaces but also how to celebrate exceptional festivities, organise impressive exhibitions or uphold absurd traditions. Here is a small insight into the variegated cultural programme in Salzburg:

### **Ruperti Fair**

One could say that what the Oktoberfest is for the people of Munich, is the Ruperti Fair for Salzburgers. The popular "I'm finally going to get my traditional dress out of the wardrobe" funfair is a festivity celebrating the consecration of the cathedral on St. Rupert's Day that takes place every year on 24 September.





Ruperti Fair / Photo: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH

## Advent Markets

In the period before Christmas the many large and small Advent markets enhance Salzburg with a very special atmosphere. In Austria Christkind (the Christ Child) brings presents at Christmas and so the Advent markets here are called Christkindlmärkte. They are a meeting place for colleagues, families and friends where they can enjoy mulled wine and roasted almonds while admiring the sparkling lights and dancing snowflakes. In Salzburg there is the Christkindlmarkt near the cathedral, the Christmas Market on the Mirabellplatz, the Advent Market in the grounds of the Fortress Hohensalzburg, and the enchanting Advent Market in Hellbrunn. Outside the city there are also magical markets, for instance Advent in St. Gilgen on Lake Wolfgang, in Strobl and St. Wolfgang, in Oberndorf, Filzmoos and in Hallein.

## Weekly Markets

The Schranne Market has existed for over a hundred years. It takes place every Thursday near the Andrae Church opposite the Mirabell Palace. Almost 200 stall-owners sell their fresh, mostly home-produced or harvested goods such as cheese, sausage, meat, bread and seasonable vegetables and fruit. Over half the vendors come from Salzburg. You can also buy fresh food from the surrounding region on the Kajetanerplatz (every Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.) or from the Grünmarkt (daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.).



Horst Hofer / Photo: Albert Moser

*"My favourite places are the little streets in the old town centre of Salzburg after 10 p.m., the hills close to the city and as an insider recommendation the Nockstein LAND ART 1042 in Koppl near Salzburg, where art and nature come together. I can also recommend the jazzit music club, the Salzburg Cultural Association and the Summer Scene Dance Festival. Good bars are the Café Bellinis and the Strobl-Stüberl."*

**Horst Hofer, musician**

## Electric Love Festival

Every year famous DJs play discs on the Salzburgering between Koppl and Plainfeld, about a 15-minute drive from Salzburg. Electro fans mark the date of the Electric Love Festival (ELF) in red in their calendars and over the years it has become an internationally renowned festival.

[www.electriclove.at/en](http://www.electriclove.at/en)



*Electric Love Festival / Photo: Geoffrey Hubbel*

## Literature Days in Rauris

Every year during the Literature Days in Rauris people take time off to read good literature. The event was founded in 1971, primarily to introduce modern literature to rural areas. Authors who were already renowned, such as Thomas Bernhard or Peter Handke, were among the guests. The Rauris Literature Prize has a long-standing reputation as a prestigious prize for ambitious writers of prose.

[www.rauriser-literaturtage.at](http://www.rauriser-literaturtage.at)

## Winterfest – Winter Festival

When the nights become longer and colder, then it's time for the Winter Festival in Salzburg. The largest festival for contemporary circus art in the German-language area takes place in the Volksgarten in Salzburg, offering live music, acrobatics and talented circus artists.

[www.winterfest.at/?lang=en](http://www.winterfest.at/?lang=en)

## Museums and Theatre

Exciting museums and theatres, be it venerated or modern, are located in Salzburg. The Museum der Moderne for instance is situated high up over the city; the Fortress Hohensalzburg has its own fortress museum. According to your preferences you can find true treasures in the Haus der Natur (Natural History Museum), in the Salzburg Museum, in the Mozart museums – Birthplace and Residence, in the Salzburg Marionette Theatre and in the Toy Museum.



Salzburg Marionette Theatre / Photo: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH

## Salzburg Festival

Salzburg is world renowned for the festivals that take place every year at Whitsun and in the summer. In 2020-21 the Salzburg Festival celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1920. The Festival presents opera, concerts, plays, including the famous Jedermann (Everyman), performed on the open-air stage on the venerable cathedral square.

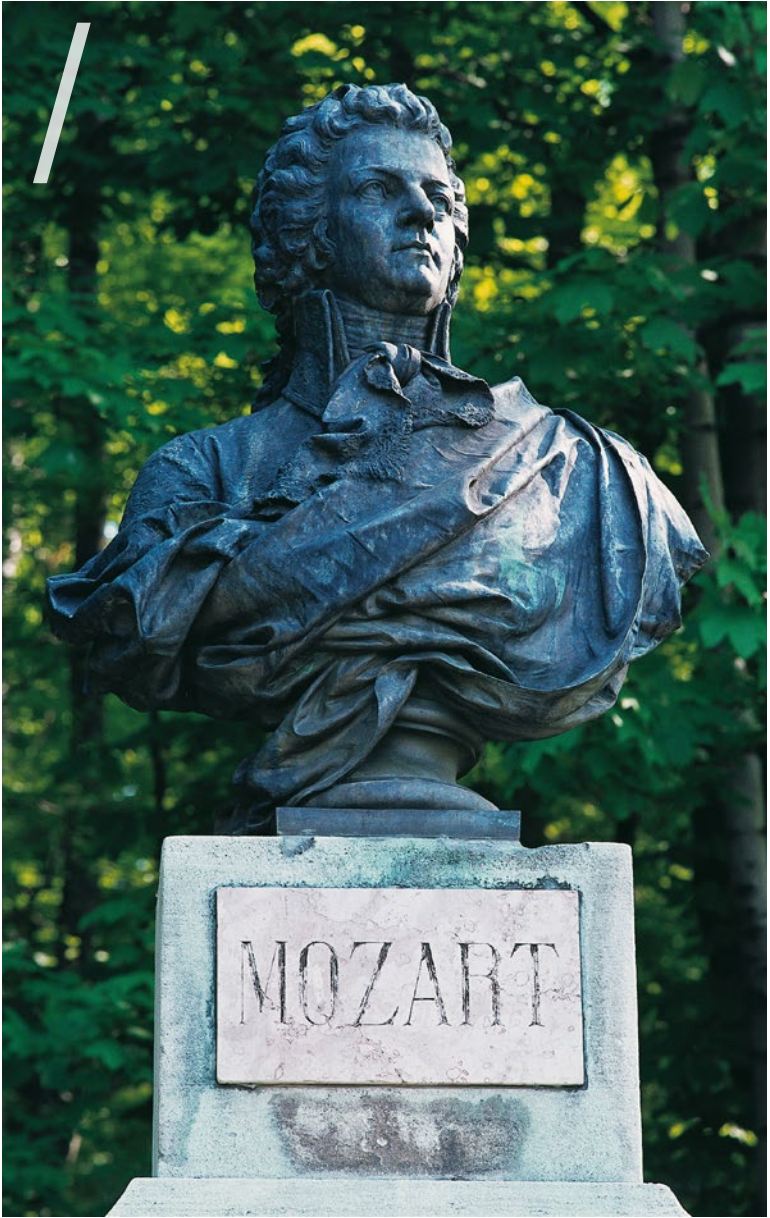
[www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en)

## Plenty on offer for 'culture vultures'

A great variety of cultural events can also be enjoyed in the Literaturhaus, the ARGEkultur, the Salzburg Museum, the Film Arts Centre Das Kino, in the Kino Hallein, Oval or the Domquartier Salzburg. Renowned bands and musicians enjoy performing in the Rockhouse in Salzburg, and in the Szene Salzburg and the Shakespeare you can also discover local bands and musicians, sometimes even before they become really "great", such as the Steaming Satellites for instance.

*"Rockhouse Salzburg! Our second living room, not only when we ourselves are standing on the stage. If you are keen on live music, regardless of whether it's pop, rock, metal, hip hop, folk or blues, that is the right place! The Musikladen: the best record shop in Salzburg with a huge range! Recommendation for insiders: choose a record, at the cash desk take a self-brewed Brauton made by the shop-owner himself and enjoy both on the first floor. What would a band be without your favourite bar? In our case it is the Belgian beer bar Beffa Bar in the Bergstrasse. If we are not on tour, in the rehearsal hall or in the Rockhouse, you can find us there."*

*Please Madame, Salzburg Band*



*Bust of Wolfgang Amadé Mozart / Photo: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH*

## **Mozart**

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart was born in 1756 in Salzburg. No other composer has had such a great impact on the city where he left behind long-lasting traces. Every year thousands of visitors from all over the world come to Salzburg to see where he lived and worked. You can experience the music and the œuvre of this great musician in two museums, in Mozart's Birthplace as well as in the Mozart Residence, and during the Mozart Week, a winter festival lasting about 10 days around his birthday on 27 January.

*[www.mozarteum.at/en/home](http://www.mozarteum.at/en/home)*

## **Goldegg Dialogues**

Fit as a fiddle! The Goldegg Dialogues, a series of open, exciting discussions about health and health-related topics were founded by the Schloss Goldegg Cultural Association, the Salzburg Medical Chamber, the ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) and the community of Goldegg. They have earned a reputation for offering a topical, innovative exchange for everyone who wants to devote themselves to new aspects of health. Anyone can take part who is interested in health topics.

*[www.schlossgoldegg.at](http://www.schlossgoldegg.at)*

## **The Sound of Music**

... is a musical dating from the year 1959 which became famous above all in the English-speaking world, probably because of the British actress Julie Andrews. The film is about the Trapp Family and is set in Salzburg. The Sound of Music is internationally so well-known that there are even special holiday tours that take visitors to the original film locations.

## Hohenwerfen Castle

Surrounded by forested hills, Hohenwerfen Castle in the Pongau district rises up out of the landscape. The architectural masterpiece is 900 years old and is regarded as a popular excursion destination for families. Life in the Middle Ages is portrayed in guided tours through the castle, and in addition in the grounds there are fascinating shows of birds of prey.

[www.salzburg-burgen.at/en/hohenwerfen-castle](http://www.salzburg-burgen.at/en/hohenwerfen-castle)



*Hohenwerfen Castle / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

## Silent Night

And how do things stand with Salzburg and music? Are the mountains really alive with the sound of music? For even in Oberndorf (in the Alpine foreland) in the year 1818 a poet and a composer (Joseph Mohr and Franz Xaver Gruber) created a song for eternity: the Christmas carol Silent Night, Holy Night. In Oberndorf you can follow the traces of what is perhaps one of the most popular Christmas carols. In



Hintersee there is also a Joseph Mohr Chapel as well as the Silent Night Museum in Hallein where you can find out everything about the world famous carol.

*[www.keltenmuseum.at/en/spezielseiten-english/keltenmuseum-hallein-start-seite-english](http://www.keltenmuseum.at/en/spezielseiten-english/keltenmuseum-hallein-start-seite-english)*

## **Pernerinsel Hallein**

There is a lot more to see in Hallein, for instance the Pernerinsel: a natural island in the River Salzach, where cultural events have taken place since 1992, including performances of the Salzburg Festival. Shortly before Christmas you can also visit a Christkindlmarkt here.

*[www.salzburg.info/en/events/event-venues/pernerinsel](http://www.salzburg.info/en/events/event-venues/pernerinsel)*

## **Salt in abundance**

Whoever would have thought it? Salzburg has long been famous for the intensive mining and transporting of salt. The mining of salt that brought Salzburg great wealth and also the spectacular methods of transporting salt up and down the rivers are historically very interesting subjects. The “white gold” was frequently robbed by “river pirates”. You can visit the Salzwelten (Salt Mines) on and in the Dürrnberg (including a slide inside the mountain!), where you can find out everything about salt mining in the past, even in pre-history.

*[www.salzwelten.at/en](http://www.salzwelten.at/en)*





*Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

## Avoiding the Cultural Shock

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## Typical of Austria, Typical of Salzburg

Every nation has its own characteristics. And according to the region there are even further peculiarities. The people of Salzburg have their own special kind of charm. Here is a little cultural introduction:

### ***Passt scho'* and *schau'ma mal* – two characteristic sayings**

Austrians have the reputation of not really wanting to be tied down. This probably falls under the mentality of Alpine countries and can certainly be ambiguous. *Passt scho'* does indeed mean “that’s all right” but it can also suggest something else. For instance the attempt to bring a discussion to a close, in which the words indicate that with the words *passt scho'* no one has won. The same is true of *schau'ma mal*, the typical answer when neither yes or no is applicable. One has to wait and see.

### ***Na no na ned***

Sarcasm is also a characteristic of the Austrians. *Na no na ned* is a rhetorical answer to a statement or question which in fact is clear in itself. Roughly it means: of course that’s true.

### **Coming down in stair rods**

The sky over Salzburg frequently darkens. Salzburg allegedly has more rainy days than Paris and it is among the cities in Europe with the highest amount of rainfall. If after several days of cloudbursts you feel as if the ceiling is going to fall on your head, you can take the bus from the Mirabellplatz to the Gaisberg. The clouds hang mostly so deep in the valley that up on the summit the sun might even be shining.

### **Congestion in the inner city**

The city of Salzburg is old, many of the streets are narrow and were not intended for use by cars. This is shown in kilometre-long traffic jams especially at rush hour in the mornings and evenings. The long lines

of traffic can only be avoided by using the bus which has its own bus lane, or a bicycle. This is well worth while. The city has made intensive investments in developing cycle paths and bike parks (see [page 69](#)).

## Tourism

They come, they go, they stay. One does not live alone in the city of Salzburg. If the crowds of people sometimes can be rather overwhelming, we have the following advice for you: little streets such as the Steingasse that leads to Schloss Arenberg with a park and a small hill. Or up onto the town's house mountains. Discover districts such as Nonntal, Aigen or Parsch. Outside the old town centre there is also the Europark Shopping Centre for instance, or many supermarkets in Freilassing in Germany.



Salzburg old town in the rain / Photo: AdobeStock/Arne Bramsen

## Building up a social circle

Why not join a club in the country? Combine hobbies such as music or sport with new acquaintances. Or put your name down to be a

voluntary member of the fire brigade, the water rescue service or the Alpine Association. Children quickly find new friends if they join the scouts or a youth club. If you own a dog: in parks and in zones set aside especially for dogs, not only the four-legged animals make friends! Highly recommendable is the extensive dog field behind Schloss Aigen with the adjoining woods that lead up to the Gaisberg.

## **City & Country**

They belong together like mountains and valleys and yet are completely different. What links them is the rural idyll and the diverse culture. Take time to discover the differing aspects of the city and province of Salzburg. For instance, take a hike on one of the many mountains or an excursion to one of the lakes. Incidentally the lakes are something special in every season. In the summer when you can dive in and in the winter when they are frozen!

## **Coffee House Culture**

Meeting for a chat over a cup of coffee has always been an important past-time in Salzburg and throughout Austria. This evolved into the well-known coffee house culture where it is a matter of taking a little bit of time off to have coffee and at best a piece of cake (such as apple strudel, Linzer Torte or Salzburger Nockerl). Try the typical coffee creations such as melange, Fiaker or Einspänner in one of the traditional coffee houses and imagine you have gone back in time to the imperial period.

## **The Salzburg Mozartkugel**

The Mozartkugel is secretly Salzburg's emblem. The centre is made of pistachio marzipan which is then coated with nougat and chocolate. Even though the ingredients are always the same, they could not taste more different from cake shop to cake shop. Confectionaries and cake shops have argued for a long time about which one deserves the title of the genuine, the original and the first Mozartkugel. It's best to try them all out and decide for yourself which kind taste most like Salzburg.



*The Mozartkugel / Photo: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH*

## **Language**

Even if you already speak German fluently, it can nevertheless happen that you do not understand some expressions in Salzburg dialect. Don't worry, that happens even to some Austrians. The further you travel into the mountainous regions, the stronger the dialect becomes. So as to be able to understand the locals a little better, the Tennengau Tourism Region has compiled a little dictionary of expressions specific to the Tennengau:

[www.tennengau.com/magazin/dialekt-crashkurs-tennengauerisch-fuer-anfaenger](http://www.tennengau.com/magazin/dialekt-crashkurs-tennengauerisch-fuer-anfaenger)

# Traditions in Salzburg

## Driving cattle up to the high Alpine pastures and down again

Cattle up to the high pastures, cattle down from the pastures. The long tradition of transhumance, as it is also known, annually brings together many people in the village. When the snow has melted and the twittering of the birds becomes louder, it is time to drive the herds up to the succulent Alpine pastures. The cattle, sheep and horses do not come back down to the valley until the autumn. This is accompanied by a great celebration, the animals are decorated with garlands of flowers and thanks are traditionally given together for the harvest season.



*Cattle / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

## Krampus & Perchten

They smell of goats and smoke and look absolutely terrifying. Whereas Krampus accompanies St. Nikolaus and punishes naughty children,



Perchten have a completely different job: they are intended to drive away the spirits of winter. The spectacular runs and processions of the Perchten begin in Salzburg at the beginning of November.



*Processions of the Perchten / Photo: SalzburgerLand Tourismus*

## **Samson**

In fact he was taken from the Old Testament but in the meantime Samson has become the emblem of the Lungau district. He is up to 6.5 metres tall and weighs about 85 kilos. Every year he is carried through the streets of communities in the Lungau district such as St. Margarethen, Mariapfarr or Tamsweg – a spectacular sight and listed in the UNESCO catalogue of the immaterial cultural heritage!

[www.lungau.at/en/typically-lungau1/folk-heritage/samson](http://www.lungau.at/en/typically-lungau1/folk-heritage/samson)

## **Glöckler Runs**

On the other hand in the Salzkammergut entire stories are carried on the heads of young men as they run through the streets. Glöckler are good spirits of light (also known as Schönperchten) who are intended

to drive away the spirits of the dark nights around Christmastime. At the beginning of the New Year they can best be seen in the villages around Lake Wolfgang.



Glöckler Run / Photo: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH

## **Dirndl Flight**

Girls wearing dirndls flying through the air? They can probably be found only in Salzburg. Every year in the summer the participants put on their dirndls (traditional dress) and dive into the pond in the Gössl Gwandhaus Park. The girl wearing a dirndl and with the most beautiful flying style wins.

## **Aperschnalzen (whipcracking)**

Just like the Perchten drive away the winter spirits, the whipcrackers, appropriately dressed in traditional clothes, also make an attack on the winter. In the early days of spring, if you hear the deafening sound of whipcracking and clapping on the streets, then these are whips of the whipcrackers. For instance if you are in Anthering, Bergheim,

Strasswalchen or Wals, and also in the city of Salzburg in the grounds of the Stiegl Brewery, when competitions are held to see who can conjure up the spring with the loudest crack of the whip.

### **Runs around the lakes**

Every year almost 100,000 runners run around the 27-kilometre course around Lake Wolfgang, always with a view of the radiant blue of the lake. The ultimate challenge on the other hand is the Trumer Triathlon as a Half-Ironman Contest. Either as a spectator or sportsman or sportswoman: the lake contests are certainly worth a visit.

## **Fräulein Flora's Hints**

Fräulein Flora is a blog from Salzburg for Salzburg. The Fräulein Flora team is always on the lookout for hip new venues, events and stores and is the perfect introduction to Salzburg's young scene. The team has compiled its highlights exclusively for us.



Small, Catholic and conservative: three words often used to describe Salzburg. This is not quite true. A fresh wind is blowing in Salzburg if you dare to take a few steps beyond the Getreidegasse. There are countless favourite spots to visit, we've chosen a few to present here:

### **Coffee in the 220 ° in Nonntal**

In an old factory building you can forget here that you are in Salzburg. The coffee tastes like the big, wide world. And the ambience contributes to the imaginary mini trip.

### **Vegetarian and Vegan in The Green Garden**

You eat also with your eye. In The Green Garden there is not only something good for everyone with sophisticated taste. The plates are

decorated so beautifully that you almost dare not eat the food. But do so nevertheless, otherwise you'll miss something!

### **Pizza in the Sempre**

In Lehen Salzburg looks like New York. Well almost: there's hardly anything more urban. The former city engineering works houses not only the University of the Third Age, the Trumerei, the Medical University and several offices but also a really chic Pizza restaurant. An absolute must before and after events in the Literature House.

### **Burek in the Balkan-Bakery**

Often we don't have any inclination to cook. Then a burek is exactly what the tummy needs. The puff pastry parcels with various kinds of fillings are to be found in the Balkan Bakery. Apart from the fact that they satisfy your hunger, they are not a burden on the purse.

### **Go out and do some sports**

The advantages of a small city? You are in the countryside really quickly. In Salzburg you don't even need to leave the city. The Mönchsberg and the Kapuzinerberg frame Salzburg. A relaxing walk along the hills is always a good idea. If you feel like climbing, take your equipment with you and climb up the City Wall in the summer. At sundown the view of the city is sensational.

### **Shopping**

Sometimes you feel like spending money. If you prefer to avoid chain stores, you'll enjoy the plastic free shop Damn Plastic, or you can go to the Fachl and buy nice small gifts in the Favourite Kamer Concept Store. There are some really enchanting things at wohnkram.

You can find more insider hints about places to go on the website:

[www.fraeuleinflora.at](http://www.fraeuleinflora.at)



View from the Humboldt terrace / Photo: Fräulein Flora

## In an Emergency

Here are the most important telephone numbers at a glance. If you are calling from a telephone abroad, do not forget to use the code **+43** for Austria!

Fire brigade	122
Police	133
Ambulance	144
Euro emergency service	112
Mountain rescue	140
General doctor emergency service	141
ARBÖ (vehicle breakdown)	123
ÖAMTC (vehicle breakdown)	120
Telephone counselling	142
Children's counselling	147
Poisoning information	01 406 43 43

### Hospitals

#### *Landeskrankenhaus Salzburg*

Müllner Hauptstrasse 48  
5020 Salzburg  
+43 5 7255-0

#### *Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Brüder Salzburg*

Kajetanerplatz 1  
5010 Salzburg  
+43 662 8088-0

#### *Christian-Doppler-Klinik Salzburg*

(neurological-psychiatric illnesses)  
Ignaz-Harrer-Strasse 79  
5020 Salzburg  
+43 5 7255-0

***Landeslinik St. Veit***

St. Veiter Strasse 46  
5621 St. Veit im Pongau  
+43 5 7255-46

***Landeslinik Tamsweg***

Bahnhofstrasse 7  
5580 Tamsweg  
+43 5 7255-47

***Landeslinik Hallein***

Bürgermeisterstrasse 34  
5400 Hallein  
+43 5 7255-44

***Universitätsinstitut für Sportmedizin***

Lindhofstrasse 20  
5020 Salzburg  
+43 5 7255-23200

# Publishing Note

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