AUSTRIA



Nestled among the towering Alps, the Austrian landscape has a beauty which is unsurpassed. This enchanting country has inspired musicians such as Strauss, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, Bruckner and Mahler. Visitors are sure to feel welcome in this hospitable country as they take in the beauty of its mountains, quaint villages, cathedrals and palaces.

AREA: 32,385 sq. miles **POPULATION:** 9,042,000 **CAPITAL:** Vienna *(population: 1,900,000)*
GOVERNMENT: Republic **LANGUAGE:** German

FOOD & DRINK Austrian food is derived from the cuisine of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Of course, there's Wiener Schnitzel and Sauerkraut. Pork dishes are popular, and the sausages are delicious. Try a sandwich with leberkäse (a kind of cold meatloaf), or bratwurst (seasoned, plump, fried sausage). The gulaschsuppe (goulash soup) is delicious, but if that is too spicy for you, try bohnensuppe (bean soup) or frittatensuppe (pancake soup). Austrian beer is excellent. The wine is first-class and often inexpensive. For dessert, try the local Konditorei (pastry shop). The best known dessert is "strudel" made with fruit or cheese and sometimes topped with a vanilla sauce, or try another specialty, Sachertorte (chocolate cake coated with apricot jam and iced with more chocolate). Independent lunches provide an opportunity to try some of these scrumptious culinary delights.

CLIMATE Winters in Austria are cloudy and cold, with frequent rain in lower altitudes and snow in the mountains. Besides its fair share of rainy days, Austria is known for its clear, crisp air in the Spring, Summer and Fall.

ALTITUDE Examples of the highest altitudes in Austria during our tours: Arlberg Pass (4,298 feet), Fulpmes (3,075 feet), Innsbruck (1,883 feet), Matrei (3,280 feet), Seefeld Pass (3,957 feet), and Silvretta Alpine Pass (6,667 feet).

BANKING HOURS The banks are generally open Monday through Wednesday and Friday: 8:00AM - 12:30PM, 1:30PM - 3:00PM, and Thursday: 8:00AM - 12:30PM, 1:30PM - 5:30PM.

SHOPPING Austria abounds with beautiful handicrafts, among which are petit point needlework, tablecloths, and leather goods. You may also want to shop for such favorites as silk blouses, porcelain, ski equipment, antiques, or Swarovski crystal. Traditional Austrian clothing, shawls or hats are also popular souvenirs. Shops are usually open 8:00AM or 9:00AM - 6:00PM or 7:00PM with a 2-hour lunch break, Monday through Friday. On Saturday, they are generally open until 12:00PM or 1:00PM (and until 5:00PM on the first Saturday of the month), although there are exceptions from city to city.

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