

pocket guide

Hello and Welcome to Upper Austria

**Come2
Upper Austria**



Upper Austria
has everything,
it is said.

Except the sea.



OÖ-Hymne "Hoamatland"

The Donauradweg is a mostly flat cycling trail along the Danube, leading from east to west and passing Linz.



Cycling along the
Donauradweg in Spring

In Austria, the water quality is extraordinary. You can drink it directly from the tap. Or swim in it – in one of the many lakes in the Salzkammergut.



Swimming in the
Attersee in Summer

Recommended for experienced hikers only.



Hiking on the Traunstein in Autumn

Skiing is Austria's national sport. If you don't have skiing equipment, don't worry: You can rent it at a sports shop.



Skiing on the Wurzeralm in Winter

A unique place to work and live

013

Upper Austria is a great place to live, with a breathtaking landscape, a lively cultural scene and an excellent level of public education. It is also Austria's number one industrial and export province. Innovative companies with their highly qualified employees and renowned researchers are shaping this ongoing success story. You are now one of them. Your international experience enriches our region enormously.

We warmly welcome you to Upper Austria and are convinced that you will quickly settle in. This pocket guide is your companion for the first weeks and months. It contains important information on the first steps after your arrival, about housing, health, taxes and finances, education and working life. The guide also covers the numerous leisure activities that our picturesque federal state has to offer.

We are delighted that you have chosen Upper Austria as your new centre of life and wish you a pleasant start!



Markus Achleitner
Upper Austria's Minister for Economic Affairs

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“Grüß Gott!”
and
“Servus”*

* “Grüß Gott!” means “God greets you!”. Austrians employ that phrase to greet and wish each other God’s blessing, even if not all are devote believers. For “Servus” see page 210.

You have just arrived in Upper Austria to work here? You have just decided, to finish your studies in Upper Austria and now you are looking forward to job opportunities? Then you've come to the right place! Hello and very welcome to your new short-term or long-term place to be. We are happy to support you in your arrival and your residence here. Hopefully you feel you are in good hands and we can make this place to something you call "home".

No doubt **everything is new to you**: the language, our country, the culture, the people, the climate. All this may lead to many outstanding **questions**. Don't worry too much, we tried to find answers to many relevant questions, like:

- Where can I find an apartment?
- What is there to do in my free time?
- Where can I learn German?
- What bureaucratic procedures are necessary and obligated?
- And many more besides ...

This **practical guide** will help you to quickly settle in here.

The **Come2Upper Austria team (C2UA)** will put their "heart and soul" into providing you with fast, uncomplicated, individual and tailor-made support.

The services we offer:

We at Come2Upper Austria offer **community social-events** for all international talents and students in Upper Austria, which range from regularly held get-togethers, board game nights, or entertaining pub quizzes, to name just a few. Thus, it is made easy to engage with others in a fun environment!

Furthermore, Come2Upper Austria sets up German and (Austrian) dialect courses in a classroom-setting on a regular basis. Additionally, intercultural trainings for companies and multicultural teams alike are offered in cooperation with an external training partner. This might be advantageous for you when you are right in the onboarding phase in your new work environment.

Come to Upper Austria!

In summary: **We offer advice on all aspects of your day-to-day life.**

You can find regular updates on all events on our Come2Upper Austria website here:

www.come2upperaustria.com/events

In order to stay updated, please subscribe to our Come2Upper Austria newsletter on our website:
www.come2upperaustria.com/newsletter-come2upper-austria

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Your contact at Come2Upper Austria:
Daria and Evelyn



 Also called the
 "Alpine Republic"

Stable economy

One of the richest countries in the EU

Life Satisfaction Rate of 7.9

out of 10, which is quite high

Moderate central European climate,

which means hot summers and cold winters

Area: 83,879 km²

Population: 9.1 million

Capital: Vienna

Official language: German

However, every federal state has its own dialect

Currency: Euro (EUR, €)

Calling code: +43

Internet TLD: .at

Electricity: 230 V

9 federal states

Learn more about Austria:

www.austria.info/en/service-and-facts





Federal
state arms

Strong economic region:

Upper Austria is one of Austria's industrial centres.

Area: 11,981.92 km²

Population: 1.49 million

State capital: Linz

Statutory city

Further statutory cities:

Wels
Steyr

4 regions:

Hausruckviertel
Innviertel
Mühlviertel
Traunviertel

439 municipalities,
divided among 15 districts

Learn more about

Upper Austria:

www.upperaustria.at





Innviertel

The Innviertel is the youngest of the four regions. Before it became part of Austria, it belonged to Bavaria. Maybe it's because of that former connection that the Innviertel is also called the "Bierregion Innviertel" (Innviertel beer region).



Hausruckviertel

The Hausruckviertel is named after the Hausruck mountain ridge. The region borders on the Innviertel in the west and on the Danube in the east, where the Eferdinger Becken is located, a fertile flatland where vegetables are grown. Around the middle of April, cherry blossoms transform the landscape into a fascinating nature spectacle.



Central Area ("Zentralraum")

This is not a separate region, but refers to the area surrounding Linz, which has the highest density of companies in Upper Austria.



Traunviertel

You will find industry in the north, and impressive mountains and the famous lake scenery with more than 70 lakes in the south. Not to mention Bad Ischl – the former summer residence of the Austrian Emperor Franz Josef I. and his wife Sissi.

Photos: OÖ Tourismus / www.robertmaybach.com, Patrick Langwallner, Paul Schütz, Tom Son

Mühlviertel

In the region to the north of the Danube, the ground is composed of granite and has shaped the typical architecture of the "Mühlviertler Steinbloßhöfe" – farmhouses which were built with this stone.

State capital Linz

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Welcome



**State capital
arms**



License plate code: L

Area: 96.05 km²

Population: 207,843

Postal codes:

4010 / 4020 / 4030 / 4040

Area phone code: 0732

Economic hub:

Many people from all four regions commute to Linz to work daily, mostly by car.

9 higher education institutions

7 hospitals

Learn more:

www.linz.at/english/index.php



Photo: istockphoto.com / alexander.koff

A land of opportunities

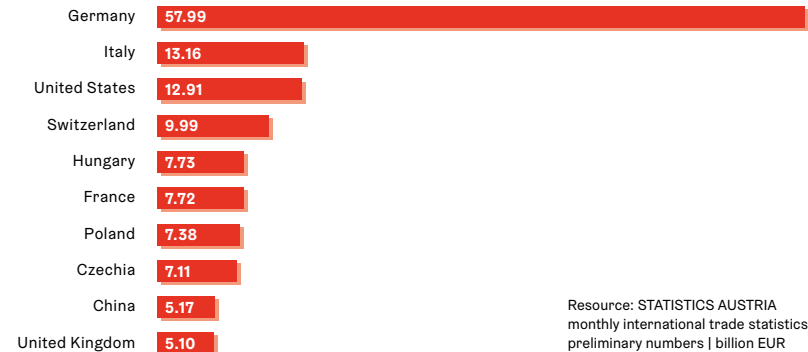
If you want to live, work and develop in a prosperous region, Upper Austria is the first choice for you. International and national top companies invest, research, develop, and produce their goods in one of the most dynamic regions in the heart of Europe.

Export Champion

The driving force behind the strong economic development is the manufacturing sector. Industry has always played a par-

ticularly important role in Upper Austria and still does. The companies based across the federal state generate around a quarter of Austria's industrial production and exports. Technology, components and know-how from Upper Austria can be found in aircraft, vehicles, ships, modern energy power plants and many other products worldwide. The Upper Austrians are proud to live in federal state that is leading in export, industry and technology.

Austria's top 10 trading partner countries by direction of trade flow 2022 – Exports



Resource: STATISTICS AUSTRIA
monthly international trade statistics
preliminary numbers | billion EUR

Smart innovators and global players

The economy in Upper Austria is as rich and diverse as the landscape. The economic structure is characterized by a few large leading companies and many small and medium-sized enterprises. Most of the smaller companies specialize in niche markets and generate world-class value for their customers. Many Upper Austrian companies are therefore among the global champions in their market.

Overview of important industries in Upper Austria

- Vehicles and automotive components
- Mechanical engineering, plant construction, environmental technology
- Metal production and processing
- Plastic, chemistry, paper
- Timber construction, furniture
- Groceries
- Information and communication technology

- Eco-energy
- Health technology
- Tourism and gastronomy

Prosperity and growth

New ideas and companies are very welcome at Upper Austria. Optimal framework conditions attract companies, investors, international professionals and students, who appreciate the diversity of the industries, the innovative strength and possibilities to grow and prosper. These are the outstanding advantages of Upper Austrian economy:

- Highly qualified labor force, universities and senior technical colleges
- Competence-centers, clusters, networks, in a nutshell: trendsetting policies for technology and innovation
- Strong and versatile industries
- Innovative small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Outstanding location (Central Europe) and transportation networks

A land of opportunities

- Moderate business tax
- Economic, social and political stability
- Attractive offers for leisure time activities and outstanding quality of life

Technology and impulse centers

Technology and impulse centers support start-ups during the first phase of their company's development. They add value to the location and promote economic development throughout the region. For more detailed information please visit the website of the Upper Austrian business agency.

www.biz-up.at/en/investor-service/technology-and-impulse-centres/

**Support for technology start-ups**

If you operate a start-up or are planning on developing your idea into a profitable business model, tech2b is the right place for you. tech2b fo-

cusses specifically on the development of start-ups in the technology sector. The 360° service includes a wide range of coaching, mentoring, further education and infrastructure as well as financial funding. More detailed information can be found on the tech2b website.



www.tech2b.at

Softwarepark Hagenberg

Softwarepark Hagenberg is a research, training and business location. As a spin-off of Johannes Kepler University Linz, it contributes significantly to innovation in Upper Austria. What distinguishes the software park is the state-of-the-art infrastructure, as well as a diverse network of experienced industry experts, young creative people and students who are eager for knowledge.





Photo: OÖ Tourismus / AIROS PICTURES

Get to
know the

033

The region and
its people

typical Austrian
cosiness



Photo: ÖÖ Tourismus / Robert Maybach

Traditions and customs

035

The region and its people

Austrians have a strong sense of tradition. But that does not mean they are old-fashioned. They are proud to preserve old customs as part of their heritage and let them shine in new splendour in the 21st century.

Discover the most common Upper Austrian traditions and customs with our list in chronological order:

Epiphany

At Epiphany on January 6th (known as Dreikönigsfest), young people all over Upper Austria dress in costumes resembling what the Three Kings supposedly wore. They walk from house to house singing carols and reciting sayings in order to collect donations for charities.

Carnival

In February, Carnival revelers have fun at parades all over Upper Austria and enjoy the Faschingskrapfen, a delicious filled pastry. The masquerade parade in the town of Ebensee, called

Fetzenszug, is an especially traditional Carnival celebration.

Liebstatsonntag

The Liebstatsonntag is a romantic tradition in the Salzkammergut region. On the fourth Sunday of the fasting period, people give each other decorated gingerbread hearts to show their affection for each other.

Ratscher

During Passion Week, children with rattles, the so-called Ratscher, walk from house to house making noise instead of the church bells.

Easter and Eierpecken (March/April)

The egg is an old symbol of fertility and also a symbol for the resurrection of Jesus. In Passion Week, the eggs are coloured on Gründonnerstag to be ready for Easter Sunday, when the eggs are put in nests and are hidden for the children. They have great fun looking for the nests and taking part in Eierpecken. But not only kids amuse

Jan

Feb

Mar

themselves trying to break their opponent's egg with their own.

Maypoles

On the first of May, or on the previous day, maypoles are set up everywhere. The whole village community decorates and sets up the maypole together at a celebration. There is also the custom of stealing maypoles from neighboring villages within the first three days. To prevent the maypole from being stolen, the villagers guard it around the clock.

Unruhe-Nacht

At Whitsun in May or June, the Night of Unrest takes place, also known as Unruhe-Nacht. Especially in rural areas, people should watch out as it is allowed to hide things from other people's gardens to indicate they should clean up.

Peterlfeuer

Summer solstice, a ritual which might appear outdated, usually takes place

on the night before June 29th. People celebrate it by setting fire to piles of wood with a straw doll on top, called Peterl, a personification of harm. They gather around the fire, play music, sing and jump over the flames.



Photo: OÖ Tourismus

Trachtensonntag

On this special Sunday in late summer, people wear their Trachten to raise public awareness for these traditional regional costumes: women wear a Dirndl and men a Lederhose, which are very traditional in Upper Austria.

It is often celebrated with music and folk dances, usually in combination with handicraft markets, religious village festivals with fetes, the so-called Kirtag, or the traditional Frühschoppen, where beer is already drunk on late Sunday morning. These Frühschoppen take place on Sunday mornings throughout the year and are public social events with brass bands and traditional Austrian food.

Almabtrieb

The ceremonial cattle drives during September and October down from more than 300 mountain pastures in Upper Austria into their winter barns in the valley, called Almabtrieb, takes place especially in the Salzkammergut, Pyhrnpass and Ausseerland regions. For this purpose, the cows are decorated with bells and garlands of flowers.

St. Martin's Day and Lantern Fest

St. Martin, who once shared his cloak

with a poor and freezing beggar, is commemorated on November 11th. The celebration is especially popular among children, who walk in processions carrying lanterns they made in kindergarten. People bake yeast dough pastries in the form of the so-called Martin men and eat roast goose, a dish called Martinigansl.

Advent season

On the four Sundays before Christmas, people light an Advent wreath. They are often self-made or can be bought at Christmas markets, where people admire handicrafts with a glass of hot punch or mulled wine in their hands. At this time of the year, people bake Christmas biscuits such as "Vanillekipferl", "Lebkuchen" (gingerbread) and "Ischler Gebäck", as well as "Kletzenbrot" (fruit bread).

Kids are waiting for Saint Nicolas on December 6th, who brings presents to good children, and hope that they

don't get a visit from Krampus on December 5th, if they misbehaved during the year.

Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve children can't wait for the Christ Child to come. The birth of Jesus is celebrated with a decorated Christmas tree. Until the early afternoon of December 24th, most families still make preparations for the Christmas dinner, decorating the Christmas tree and setting up the crib, until they go to the Christmas



Learn more about regional customs, origins, and their significance by scanning the QR code.



Scan the QR code to discover events and culture trips.

Oct

Nov

Dec

Children's Mass in the afternoon. When they return, the Christ Child has placed the presents under the Christmas tree unnoticed and the "Bescherung" can begin, where everyone opens their presents.

Oh! Did you know that?

When Upper Austrians visit their friends, it is common to bring a small gift for the hosts. Flowers, chocolate or a bottle of wine, for example. Moreover, it's common to take off your shoes before entering your host's home.

Oh! That's interesting!

These are the most common family names in Upper Austria:
Maier, Huber, Gruber, Lehner, Wimmer, Eder



In Upper Austria as well as in the whole of Austria, German is the official language. It is the first language of almost 100 million people worldwide and the most widely spoken native language in the European Union.

The German language

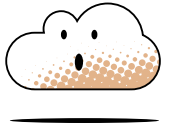
German has some special features. All nouns are written with initial capital letters, for instance. What can also be very confusing for beginners is that there are three genders, with the corresponding "Artikel" placed in front of the noun:

English	German	Gender
the house	das Haus	neuter
the tree	der Baum	masculine
the capital city	die Hauptstadt	feminine

Oh! That's helpful!

We have put together for you some basic Austrian vocabulary, funny words and useful everyday phrases to give you a good first overview of Austrian German. Just turn over to page 210.

Oh, and before I forget, here is another useful tip for you: A German language course can be taken into account in your annual tax assessment. Read more on page 146.



The Austrian dialects

Keep in mind: in Austria, every federal state has its own dialect which differs from others to a greater or lesser extent. Accents can be more or less guttural and strong, varying from region to region. Sometimes even Germans find the accents challenging to understand. But Austrians are very proud of their regional dialects and appreciate it very much if you take the effort to learn a few regional expressions.

For an easy start with German:

Use the Google Translate app

Or make your first steps in German via e-learning:

www.duolingo.com
www.babbel.com
www.uugot.it

Language courses

The best time to start learning German is right now. Language skills encourage social integration in private and at work, allow participation in social life and make day-to-day life easier. There are numerous institutions and educational facilities across Austria offering German courses – also online.

Additionally, many private language institutes offer individual and group courses for German as a foreign language such as wifi, bfi and vhs.

www.wifi-ooe.at
www.bfi-ooe.at
www.vhsooe.at

Oh! There are online German lessons for free!

The ÖIF (Österreichische Integrationsfond) offers free German lessons online for all ages. Find more information here:

www.sprachportal.at/en/mein-sprachportal-at-a-glance/



The majority of people in Austria are members of the Roman Catholic Church. Some Austrians have different faiths such as Protestants (4.7%), Muslims (8.0%) and other small religious groups.

Masses in Roman Catholic churches take place at different times. They are announced in the church or on the website of the respective parish or municipality. The Mariendom Cathedral in Linz offers masses in English on Sundays at 4.30 p.m. Find out more at: www.mariendom.at

Spiritual guidance services in foreign languages (Roman Catholic) are available here:

fremdsprachige.seelsorge@dioezese-linz.at
www.dioezese-linz.at

Oh! That's good to know!

Regardless of a person's origin, if they are Roman Catholic, they are obliged to pay an income-dependent contribution to the church.

The registry office forwards the religion stated on the registration certificate to the diocese, which in turn informs the individual by post of the church contribution tax to be paid.

www.dioezese-linz.at
www.kirchenbeitrag.at

This tax is deductible as personal expenses in the annual tax assessment. See page 146.



Annual holidays

On these official religious holidays there is no school or work, except for emergency personnel like in hospitals:

- New Year's Day (January 1st)
- Epiphany (January 6th)
- Easter (March or April)
- Ascension Day (May or June)
- Whitsun (May or June)
- Corpus Christi (May or June)
- Assumption of Mary (August 15th)
- All Saints' Day (November 1st)
- Immaculate Conception
(December 8th – it is a religious holiday but many shops stay open)
- Christmas (December 25th)
- Boxing Day (December 26th)

Other non-religious holidays are:

- Labour Day (May 1st)
- St. Florian (May 4th – no school but not a public holiday)
- National Day (October 26th)

Offers for different religious groups in Upper Austria

Evangelical Church A.B. Linz Centre (Martin Luther Church):

www.linz-evang.at

IGGÖ – Islamische Religionsgemeinde Oberösterreich:

www.facebook.com/irg.ooe

Mosques:

www.derislam.at

Jewish Synagogue in Linz:

www.ikg-linz.at

Buddhist Centre Linz:

www.diamantweg.at/linz

Hinduism in Austria:

www.hindumandirvienna.com

Traditional Upper Austrian food

People in Upper Austria love getting together for meals in an environment which is characterized by “Gemütlichkeit”, as they say, which can be loosely translated with “cozy atmosphere” or “sociability”. They mostly enjoy traditional local specialties. There are two especially famous Upper Austrian specialties: Brat'l and Knödel.

Brat'l in der Rein – oven-fresh roast pork, served in a pan

Brat'l, in its widest sense, refers to a whole piece of roast pork with crisp crackling. Many cuts of pork, however, are used for making Brat'l, be it shoulder, neck or belly meat. Depending on the region, side dishes are just as diverse, ranging from cabbage salad with bacon, called Speckkrautsalat, the cabbage Stöcklkraut, served in quarters, as well as bread or potato dumplings.

Preparing the roast

Season the top of the meat (salt, pepper, garlic powder) and place it in a pan filled with 5 cm of water, with the rind facing downwards, and braise in the

Ingredients (for 6 servings)

- 1.5 kg pork belly (uncured)
- 1.5 kg pork loin (brine-cured)
- 10 potatoes
- 5 carrots
- 1½ white cabbage heads
- 3 black radishes
- 500 g white bread cubes
- 5 eggs
- milk
- 2 onions
- coarse salt
- pepper
- artificial sweetener
- sunflower oil
- ground caraway seed
- white vinegar
- garlic powder

oven at 150 °C for about 45 minutes. Turn the meat and score the rind. Add the raw potatoes and carrots and braise for another 2 hours at 150 °C. Then roast at 250 °C with top heat until the crackling turns crispy. Caution: do not leave the oven out of sight as the skin becomes crispy very quickly. Top up the water regularly if necessary.

Preparing the cabbage salad

Slice the cabbage, then add the oil, salt and ground caraway seeds. Knead well, then season to taste with vinegar, sweetener and water. Tip: fry small pieces of bacon and sprinkle over the cabbage salad while still warm.

Preparing the bread dumplings

Combine the bread cubes with 5 eggs. Heat the butter and oil, add the onions and milk and briefly bring to a boil. Pour over the bread cubes and mix well. Form dumplings, wrap in plastic film and simmer gently for about 1 hour. To prepare the “Stöcklkraut”

(boiled cabbage): quarter the cabbage head and boil in salted water with whole caraway seeds until tender.

Arrange everything in a pan and enjoy!
Preparation time: 3 hours 30 minutes



Make your first own “Innviertler Brat'l in der Rein” with this video tutorial by Claudia Mayr.

Oh! That's funny!

In (Upper) Austria, people always say “Mahlzeit!” or “Moizeit!” in Austrian dialect when someone starts eating something. No matter whether it's just a snack or an entire meal. See also page 210.



Knödel – dumplings

This brings us directly to the other famous specialty in Upper Austria, the dumplings, better known as Knödel. Dumplings are prepared in many different shapes and sizes, not only as a side dish accompanying the Brat'l. Liver dumplings are eaten in soups and known as Leberknödel. Dumplings filled with minced meat are called Hascheeknödel and are served as a main course. In their sweet, fruit-filled version, Obstknödel are eaten as a dessert or even as a main course.

There are no limits: the modern Upper Austrian cuisine even created light Knödel with fish or vegetarian Knödel.

Beer

What do people in Upper Austria drink with their meals? They enjoy fresh draft beer. No other Austrian state offers such a large variety of beers. Small breweries and microbreweries

produce new creative beer flavors according to traditional recipes. Especially the Mühlviertel, north of the Danube, is one of the most famous hop-growing regions and home to many dedicated private breweries. The Innviertel region is the second beer-producing centre in Upper Austria and highly influenced by the neighboring Bavarian brewing tradition.

Most

People also enjoy a glass of the so-called Most. This cider-like drink is made of old varieties of fermented apples and pears, and was formerly designed to quench the thirst of field workers. The fruits used for Most production are still harvested from knobby trees around farms. However, most cellars have embraced new technologies to become producers of high-quality Most. Today, even haute cuisine offers Most.

Traditional Upper Austrian food

047

The region and its people



Innviertler “Plum Pofesen”

Preparation

- Cut the white bread rolls into centimeter-thick slices and spread the plum jam on the slices.
- Then, whisk the eggs with milk or margarine, and dip the bread well on both sides.
- Next, fry the bread in hot butter. Sprinkle with icing sugar and enjoy!

Ingredients

White Bread Rolls
Plum Jam
3 Eggs and Some Milk
Butter or Margarine
Icing Sugar for Sprinkling

“Potato Cheese”

Preparation

- Grate or mash the potatoes and add a tablespoon of butter if desired.
- Taste and adjust. Chop the onion and add to the potatoes.
- Mix the sour cream, whipped cream, salt, pepper, and cumin.
- Combine this mixture with the potatoes, and sprinkle with chives if desired. Enjoy!

Ingredients

Approximately ½ kg cooked potatoes, floury
1 Onion
125g Sour Cream
125g Whipped Cream
Salt
Pepper
Cumin
Chives for Sprinkling

The two recipes were provided by S'Innviertel Tourismus.

Linzer Torte

Of course, Upper Austrians also love eating sweet treats for dessert or with a cup of coffee. The “Linzer Torte” is the world’s oldest known cake recipe. Almonds, hazelnuts and a mixture of spices add an exotic touch to the shortcrust pastry. The redcurrant jam under a dough lattice gives the Linzer Torte a refreshing sweetness.

Ingredients

200 g butter
 330 g flour
 (wheat flour 700)
 200 g icing sugar
 130 g roasted hazelnuts
 2 eggs
 spices (vanilla, lemon,
 cinnamon, clove powder)
 10 g baking soda
 300 g redcurrant jam
 60 g almond flakes

Preparation

- Knead the butter and icing sugar until it forms a mass.
- Add the sifted flour, nuts, eggs and spices to the butter-sugar-mixture.
- Put the dough into the fridge and let it rest.
- To make the base, take the dough out of the fridge and roll out three quarters of the dough (1.5 cm thick, fitting a 24 cm form). Spread with redcurrant jam.
- Shape the remaining quarter of the dough into long rolls and place on the jam to form a grid. Lastly, place a long roll around the edge. Lightly brush the pastry with egg and sprinkle with almond flakes.
- Bake the Linzer Torte for 40–45 minutes at approx. 190 °C.



Photo: @Serjoscha – stock.adobe.com



Bake your first own Linzer Torte with this video tutorial by pastry chef Leo Jindrak:
www.jindrak.at/original-linzer-torte/backvideo

A perfect weekend in Upper Austria

Your family is coming to visit you one weekend and is curious to discover your new home country? But you don't know what to show them? Don't worry! We have prepared some real Upper Austrian insider tips for you and your loved ones off the beaten tracks, leading you through the beautiful landscapes of all four regions. Culture, culinary delights, sports or just relaxing – there is bound to be something for everybody.

FRIDAY

Afternoon in the Mühlviertel:

- Take a walk around the historic old town of Freistadt
- Visit the Freistädter Brauhaus, the only brewery commune in Europe

Another busy week at work in Linz is over and you can't wait to show your family your stunning second home country. Get into your car and drive north on the S10 into the Mühlviertel to visit Freistadt, about half an hour's drive from Linz.

Oh! Car rental!

If you don't have a car or you need a bigger one for all your friends and family, you can easily rent one via TIM:

www.tim-oesterreich.at/linz/



Historic old town of Freistadt

The old centre of Freistadt has a medieval charm and invites you to stroll through the small alleys. Admire the proud old city walls surrounding the old town, which protected the city from being conquered over the centuries. Stop for a while in the spacious main square and enjoy the Bohemian-style architecture of the beautiful and colourful buildings.



[www.muehlviertel.at/
oesterreich-stadt-ort/detail/
430000938/freistadt.html](http://www.muehlviertel.at/oesterreich-stadt-ort/detail/430000938/freistadt.html)

Freistädter Braucommune

The Freistädter Braucommune is the only brewery commune in Europe. It was founded in 1770 and today not only offers its typical Freistädter Bier and lemonades, but also a brewery restaurant, a brewery shop and Biererlebnis tours. The building combines historic substance with modern aesthetics and meets the taste of young and old.

Biererlebnis tours: they take 1.5 hours and can be booked in advance from Monday to Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (minimum: 8 persons).
Price: € 10 per person.

Brewery restaurant: Stay for dinner at the Freistädter Brauhaus and enjoy classics of the typical Austrian cuisine such as pancake soup, Schnitzel and Omas Buchteln for dessert.

Read more about the Freistädter Braucommune at:
www.freistaedter-bier.at

SATURDAY**Spend the day in the Salzkammergut**

- Hiking in St. Lorenz with views of the famous Drachenwand
- Lunch and a boat trip over the Mondsee

Going out in the evening in Linz:

- Speakeasy bar "Frau Dietrich"
- Before going home: snacking at Leberkas-Pepi

Oh! That's funny!

If you know the old musical movie "Sound of Music" from 1965, you may recognise the Basilika Mondsee from the wedding scene in the film.

**Hiking in St. Lorenz**

The most famous lake in the Salzkammergut is the Attersee. But you want to discover Upper Austria off the beaten tracks! That's why you should drive to the Mondsee, which is right beside the Attersee. Park your car in St. Lorenz near the Drachenwand and enjoy hik-

ing for about three to four hours. But make sure to bring hiking shoes and the right equipment with you. Here's a tour of medium difficulty for you:



[www.komoot.com/
smarttour/201751](http://www.komoot.com/smarttour/201751)

Boat trip over the Mondsee

After your hike, drive a few minutes to the village of Mondsee. In the centre, you have several options of having lunch, visiting the Basilika and the castle before strolling to the lakeside and boarding your ship.



[mondsee.salzkammergut.at/
artikel/detail/3265/
schiffahrt-mondsee.html](https://mondsee.salzkammergut.at/artikel/detail/3265/schiffahrt-mondsee.html)

Speakeasy bar “Frau Dietrich”

You are back in Linz, and still not tired after a break and a shower? Great! Get ready for a very special night out and head off for “Frau Dietrich” in the old town of Linz. The bar is a homage to the speakeasy bars of the 1920s. The cocktails are great, the waitresses, waiters and barmen are dressed in the clothes of the period, and swing music is played in the background.

www.frau-dietrich.at

Mandatory early morning snack

What do Upper Austrians do after going out in Linz? Exactly – they have a snack at Leberkas-Pepi in a small side street off the main square. People mostly queue in two rows outside on the street. But Leberkas-Pepi is prepared for those masses of people so that you can't pass the location without taking a Leberkas-Semmel with you.

www.leberkaspepi.at

SUNDAY

Enjoy a lazy day and relax:

- Recharge your batteries in a thermal bath or
- Discover Linz's cultural offerings

Thermal bath

After introducing your family and friends to Upper Austria, you all should recharge your batteries in one of the great thermal baths. In the SPA Resort Therme Geinberg or the Eurotherme Bad Ischl, you can relax and not only enjoy the thermal water, but also massages, saunas or the extraordinary hammam. If you have kids, the Eurothermen-Resort Bad Schallerbach offers fun for the whole family.

www.therme-geinberg.at/en
www.eurothermen.at/en/bad-schallerbach
www.eurothermen.at/en/bad-ischl

Cultural offerings of Linz

As an alternative to relaxing in a thermal bath, you can discover Linz's numerous cultural offers: Visit the Ars Electronica Center, which will introduce you to a world in which man and technology are increasingly merging. Take the bus to see the open-air gallery Mural Harbour in the Industriezeile or spend your day at the Lentos Art Museum, where various contemporary artists and old masters are exhibited for six months at a time.

www.oberoesterreich-tourismus.at
www.touristik.at
www.ars.electronica.art/news/en
www.lentos.at/html/de/index.aspx



Photo: OÖ Tourismus

Comfortable in Your Second Home Country

* In Upper Austria, we say “Dahoam is dahoam” which could be translated as “Home sweet Home”. We hope you will also feel “dahoam” here soon.



Photo: 00 Tourismus / Robert Maybach

Average living costs

Your average living costs will depend on your lifestyle, of course. However, here is a very general example of how an average Upper Austrian spends a monthly salary on living costs. This overview does not include expenses such as the cost of owning a car, local taxes, money for leisure activities, membership fees, expenses for pets, alcoholic drinks or smoking.

The example presented on this page was calculated on the basis of a single-person household. The exact figures for rent, food et cetera as well as calculation examples for other types of households such as couples or families with children can be found at:

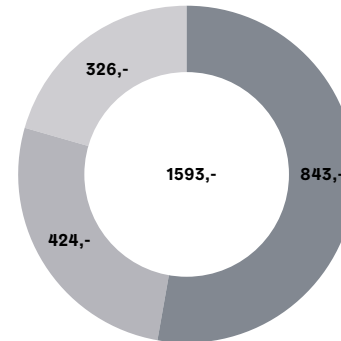
www.budgetberatung.at/budgetberatung/beispiele

What costs ... in Linz?

If you want to know how much you have to pay for renting a flat, for a cappuccino, a fitness club, childcare or a taxi, visit Numbeo:

www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Linz

Monthly budget example for a single-person household



* Not included are costs for a car, local taxes, subscriptions, membership fees, pets, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products.
June 2023

Resource: www.budgetberatung.at

- rent and utilities 558 €
- electricity (including hot water) . . . 42 €
- heating (gas, district heating) 69 €
- public transportation 91 €
- telephone, internet, cable TV 47 €
- broadcasting fees 27 €
- household insurance 9 €
- food (including snacks) 383 €
- cleaning supplies 8 €
- personal care products 33 €
- clothing, shoes 54 €
- furniture, equipment 83 €
- healthcare 38 €
- leisure activities 151 €



1 kg weath flour
(Fini's Feinstes)
€ 1.99



1 l milk (Schärdinger)
€ 1.81



1 kg bread
(Meter Brot)
€ 4.29



100 g Extrawurst
€ 1.96

15 pieces (450 g)
of fish fingers (Iglo)
€ 6.14



250 g yogurt
(Schärdinger)
€ 0.79



500 g coffee
(Jacobs Monarch)
€ 8.40

700 g mixed vegetables (Iglo)
€ 4.42



Photos: istockphoto.com, OÖ Tourismus, Adobe Stock, Unsplash

Rent Index for Rental Apartments 2024

Resource: www.wohnungsboerse.net/mietspiegel-Linz/16691

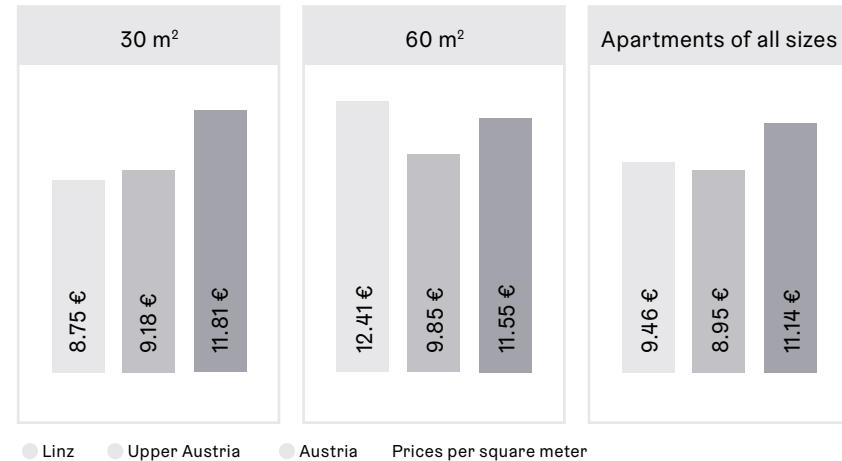




Photo: istockphoto.com / kate_sept2004

Residence in Austria

EU and EEA citizens

Citizens of the European Union and the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), including Swiss citizens, enjoy visa exemption and can reside in Austria for up to three months regardless of their employment status. According to the rules of the European Union, these citizens may reside in the country for longer than three months, provided that:

- they pursue work in Austria (as an employee or self-employed);
- they have enough funds and health insurance for themselves and their family members;
- the reason for their stay is education, and living costs and health insurance for themselves and their family are covered.

Registration certificate

Provided these requirements are met, a registration certificate (Anmeldebescheinigung) must be applied for within four months of arrival in Austria.

The application can be made at the respective local body – the municipal authorities in Linz, Wels and Steyr, or the district authorities.

Provided a five-year long continuous legal residence has been reached, an application for a permanent registration certificate can be made if all other requirements are met.

Third-country nationals

People who are not citizens of EEA countries or Switzerland are third-country nationals and require a residence permit for stays longer than six months, provided they do not have a right of residence under EU regulations. In general, a distinction is made between permanent immigration and temporary residence.

Permanent immigration

The aim of the Red-White-Red Card is to facilitate individualized and labour market-oriented immigration for quali-

Residence in Austria

fied workers from third countries and their family members. This residence card is valid for 24 months and allows a fixed-term settlement and employment with a particular employer. The following individuals can apply for a Red-White-Red Card:

- Very highly qualified workers
- Skilled workers in shortage occupations
- Other key workers
- Self-employed key workers
- Start-up founders
- Graduates of Austrian universities



For detailed information on the Red-White-Red Card, scan the QR Code.

The Blue Card EU

If you are a citizen of a third country, want to live and work in Austria for more than 6 months and you meet all the requirements, you will receive the EU Blue Card. For example, you must be particularly highly qualified, i.e. you do have a university degree and a job offer from a company or organization in Austria with a certain minimum salary. The Blue Card EU represents a combined residence and employment permit, meant for long-term employment in Austria. However, the pre-requisite is a binding job offer from an employer proving job perspectives.

The Blue Card EU is valid for 3 months longer than the job offer from the company or organization, but for a maximum of 2 years.

As long as you meet the requirements, the EU Blue Card can be extended for a

maximum of 2 years at a time.

The Blue Card EU only enables to work for the concerned company or organization named on the card.

Family reunification is possible. This means that you may bring your family with you to Austria. If the requirements are met, your family members will receive the Red-White-Red Card Plus, as a consequence. Please refer to the Come-2Upper Austria service team for more information.



For specific information on the Blue Card EU in relation to Austria, scan the QR codes.

Temporary residence

For temporary residences with no intention of settling, a temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsbewilligung), is issued to third-country nationals.

Among others, the following can apply for a temporary residence permit:

- Intra-corporate transferees
- Company delegates
- Self-employed
- Special cases of gainfully employed persons
- Pupils/students
- Researchers
- Family members
- Volunteers

The issuance of a Red-White-Red Card and temporary residence permit are both subject to the following minimum requirements:

- Secure livelihood
- Health insurance
- Entitlement to accommodation in Austria
- No threat to public order or security

Further information on residences, including a points calculator, application forms, time scales and responsible offices, further residence possibilities, options for taking your family with you and information on the process of extending a residence permit can be found at:
www.migration.gv.at/en

Citizenship

Austrian citizenship is either acquired by descent or is awarded. More information about getting citizenship, learning materials and an online practice test are available at:
www.staatsbuergerschaft.gv.at

Additional information is provided by the Upper Austrian State Government:
www.help.gv.at

Oh! That is important!

EU / EEA citizens must have a passport or identity card with them when they are in Austria. The driver's license is not sufficient. Third-country nationals must have proof of identity with them, for example a residence card or identity card.



Where you can get personal assistance:

The point of contact for residence are generally the municipal authorities in Linz, Wels and Steyr, the district authorities in rural areas or the relevant representative authorities (like embassies).

It is a challenge to build a life in a new country. In order to make your first steps in Upper Austria easier, we have prepared an overview of the individual institutions and their functions for you.

Come2Upper Austria

The initiative of the business agency Business Upper Austria serves as a hub for all relevant institutions. It helps internationals to help themselves whilst living and working in Upper Austria.

Come2Upper Austria also supports companies with international HR management.
www.come2upperaustria.com

Embassy

The embassy is responsible for all visa matters of third-country nationals. The Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs lists all Austrian representative authorities abroad, along with all Austria-based foreign representative authorities on its website.

www.bmeia.gv.at/en

Municipal authority (Magistrat) vs. district authority (Bezirkshauptmannschaft)

Management authorities, known as Magistrat (municipal authority) or Bürgerservice (Citizens' Service) in the statutory cities of Linz, Steyr and Wels, or Bezirkshauptmannschaft (district authority) in rural areas, are responsible for administrative processes relating to residence in Austria, for example the registration certificate.

www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/12118.htm



Municipal authority (Magistrat) vs. local authority (Gemeindeamt)

The registration and deregistration of a place of residence is performed by the municipal authorities in the three statutory cities of Upper Austria, whereas the local authorities are responsible in rural areas. These two institutions also provide information on everyday issues such as waste management and the like.

www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/12118.htm

Social insurance authorities

Social insurance authorities are responsible for the statutory social insurance system in Austria. For detailed information on your social insurance in Austria, please read the chapter "Health". (page 152).

State police headquarters (Linz) and city police departments (Wels, Steyr)

These institutions deal with policing issues relating to aliens, for example the transcription of foreign driving licenses.

Tax authority (Finanzamt)

All taxes deducted from salaries are paid immediately to the tax authority. Applications for family allowance and the annual tax assessment are also dealt with by the tax authority.

service.bmf.gv.at/service/anwend/behoerden/

Chamber of Labour (Arbeiterkammer/AK)

The Chamber of Labour is the interest group for all employees in Upper Austria. Apart from a few exceptions, regulations stipulate compulsory membership which is automatic when entering employment in Austria.

The Chamber of Labour offers comprehensive information on topics such as workers' rights, income and taxes,

careers with a family or consumer protection.

www.arbeiterkammer.at

Chamber of Commerce (Wirtschaftskammer/WKO)

The Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of Austrian businesses and campaigns for economically favourable conditions. It also advises and informs entrepreneurs. WIFI offers a wide range of training and further education on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

www.wko.at/ooe
www.wifi-ooe.at



The respective customs offices also provide information.

Public Employment Service (Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich/ AMS)

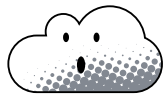
The Public Employment Service helps unemployed to find open positions and supports initiatives of job seekers and companies through information, training and financial support (e.g. unemployment benefit). Its goal is to reduce unemployment in Austria, in cooperation with other social partners.

www.ams.at

Oh! That is important!

When moving to your new home country, customs duties may occur. The Federal Ministry of Finance provides information about customs duties relevant to those settling in Austria:

www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs.html



Getting married in Austria

A wedding can generally take place in every civil registry office and lead to a legal union of the married couple. In contrast, religious ceremonies do not have any legal status. The starting point for a marriage is registration at a civil registry office – this is the local authority in rural areas or the municipal authority in Linz, Steyr and Wels.



For more information
scan the QR code.

Housing options:

Rental (very common) or lease purchase (person renting has the option to buy the property at a later time)
Purchase of property (apartment or house)
Short-term residence (temporary solution)

Rental or lease purchase

Monthly costs

The overall costs (monthly fixed costs) consist of the net rent plus service charges. The net rent is the cost of the accommodation ('cold'), and service charges include public services like water, sewage, waste collection, possible management charges and further heating costs. Cold costs for your accommodation means that your expenses for heating and electricity are charged separately. These fixed costs are due at the beginning of the month and payable in advance.

One-time payments

A deposit payment to the landlord from

three up to six months' gross rent is normal and serves as security for any damage or missed payments. After the rental contract has ended and the accommodation has been returned in a fit state, the deposit should be returned within a reasonable period (approximately two weeks).

You'll just pay the estate agent if you hire one. If you find a flat on a website then you won't have to pay the estate agent. For internationals, hiring local real estate agents can be very helpful as they can search an adequate flat based on the specific needs and financial possibilities. You can find further information on commission fees at:

www.mietervereinigung.at

Rental contract

All of the important rental terms are defined and regulated in the rental contract. Additional agreements, arrangements or declarations should be made in writing. Rental contracts have a minimum duration of 3 years, whereby a shorter duration is not permitted due to rental legislation. Rental agreements can usually be terminated with a three-month notice period. Special agreements can also be made regarding termination of the contract.



Purchase of property

One-time fees for the purchase of a property comprise the land transfer tax, a fee for registration in the land register, legal and notary expenses as well as commissions (not in the case of private purchases). These fees have to be paid in addition to the purchase price and should be budgeted at

around 10 % of the purchase price. Details on requirements and the necessary steps can be found at:



Short-term residence

To find a suitable short-term residence from a private operator, the website kurzzeitwohnen.com is recommended: www.kurzzeitwohnen.com/en/

Oh! That's important!

Don't forget that in addition to a residence card, you should register your place of residence within three days of moving into your new accommodation at your registry office (Magistrat or Gemeindeamt). The required form is available here:



For students, the International Student Center Linz (Julius Raab Heim) may be suitable accommodation.

www.studentenwerk.at

Other student accommodations can be found at:

www.studium.at

Also, many guest houses, bed and breakfasts and hotels offer cheap living opportunities as a temporary solution until you find the right rental accommodation.

How to find an accommodation:

- Real estate platforms
- Real estate agent
- Housing associations
- Other options

Real estate portals

When searching for homes, Upper Austrians mainly use online real estate portals, virtual marketplaces or the websites of regional newspapers such as:

www.immowelt.at
www.wohnnet.at
www.nachrichten.at
www.willhaben.at

Housing associations

Non-profit housing associations offer affordable housing and are mainly oriented towards socially disadvantaged people. Depending on the association, there are different requirements for eligibility, for example an upper limit on salary. The registration to join a housing association can be subject to a fee, and the waiting time for accommodation is usually several years.

www.gbv.at/gemeinnuetzige-bauwirtschaft/Mitglieder_des_Verbands/

Other options

Homes are also advertised in printed newspapers, on various notice boards in supermarkets, local/municipal authorities or on social media:



Genossenschaftswohnungen

In Austria, so-called cooperative apartments offer a unique housing option through non-profit associations. These associations require membership and other prerequisites for eligibility. The financial contributions by individuals not only assist in construction costs but also significantly lower the monthly rent. Factors such as age, location, and apartment size influence the contribution amount. Although one can register for apartments under construction, securing a preferred choice may involve waiting and compromise. Direct contact with non-profit housing associations is recommended, eligibility criteria may vary by federal state. However, it can be challenging to secure a cooperative apartment, requiring certain lead time.

More information on cooperative apartments by the federal state of Upper Austria can be found under „Lawog“ (only in German):

www.lawog.at

Running costs

- Electricity
- Household insurance
- Parking
- Telephone and internet
- Television and radio charges

Electricity

Electricity costs are not included in the service charges when renting a home and must be registered separately by the tenant.

Household insurance

It is highly recommended to take out household insurance, which mostly (but not always) includes liability insurance. This covers damage within the home, for example a broken water pipe, fire, theft or vandalism. An overview of prices offered by insurance companies according to your own requirements is available here:

www.durchblicker.at

Parking

In cities, you may have to pay extra for a parking space on top of the rent.

Oh! That's good to know!

Accommodation in Austria is typically unfurnished. In some cases, the kitchen can be bought from the previous owner or tenant. Sanitary appliances like a bath, shower and toilets are usually provided. As most accommodations are sold or rented out unfurnished, you might be looking for a good opportunity to buy some used furniture for your new home:

www.willhaben.at/iad/kaufen-und-verkaufen/wohnen-haushalt-gastronomie



Telephone and internet

There are plenty of telephone and mobile phone providers. A useful price calculator for telephone and internet contracts can be found here:

www.durchblicker.at

ORF Haushaltsabgabe

The „ORF household fee“ is considered the fee that is due for radio and

television services in Austria. From January 1, 2024 is set to 15.30 euros per month (until further notice). It is no longer device-dependent, but is paid for each address (household) where at least one person has its main residence.

The respective fee is always due in advance. Payment options include a payment via SEPA bank transfer (payment must be conducted in full with the yearly amount).

The regulation says that one adult must be registered as a responsible guarantee for the „ORF household fee“. The fee is also applicable to persons registered in Austria under their main address, who do not own radio receivers, have removed them. No fee is payable for a secondary residence in Austria. Certain groups will be exempt from the ORF fee or may enjoy reduced rates. These include, for example, recipients of social benefits or people with low incomes.

www.orf.beitrag.at/english

Subsidies

Depending on certain criteria such as household income, EEA and third-country nationals (subject to further requirements) can claim housing benefit – the so-called Wohnbeihilfe in German.



For further information on requirements and application, please scan the QR code.

We also recommend to ask your bank, estate agent or local authority about any further subsidies available.

Information and advice centres

The following institutions offer information and advice for tenants and home owners:

The Austrian Tenancy Association:
www.mietervereinigung.at

Consumer Protection at the Chamber of Labour provides lots of information and free advice on housing rights:
www.arbeiterkammer.at

Repairs and emergencies

You have problems in the bathroom or in the kitchen and need a plumber?

This is a useful website which lists all plumbers in Upper Austria:

www.installateure-ooe.at

For more information about locksmiths, gas leaks or power cuts, turn over to our collection of accident and emergency numbers in the chapter Good to know, page 217.

Oh! That's good to know!

When you move out of a rented flat, the property must be returned according to the agreed conditions in the rental contract. Any damage beyond normal wear and tear must be repaired or is paid for from the deposit. Furniture can remain if the new tenant agrees to buy it. The deposit must be returned after a proper handover.



Non-Austrian driving license

Driving licenses which have been issued in EU or EEA countries are recognised in Austria and can be voluntarily transcribed. For driving licenses issued outside the EEA, i.e. in a third country, transcription is compulsory in order to be permitted to drive. The transcription must be applied for within six months of residing in Austria, whereby a minimum age of 18 is also required. If the driving license is not in German, it is only valid in combination with an international driving license or a certified translation.

Translations of driving licenses can be made by court interpreters:

www.gerichtsdolmetscher.at/Verzeichnis

International driving licenses can be issued by the following automobile associations:

www.arboe.at
www.oeamtc.at
www.vcoe.at

Oh! That's important!

Keep in mind: When moving to Austria, you also have to register your motor vehicle at your new address. Find more general information about driving a car in Austria on page 166.



After the transcription to an Austrian permit, a European credit card-sized driving license is issued.

Practical driving test

As part of the transcription, a practical driving test must be taken, and the participant must provide a suitable vehicle according to the class of driving license. The driving school for the practical test can be freely chosen:

www.fahrschulsuche.at

Driving license from third countries

All driving license holders from third countries are required to have their driving license transcribed, but citizens of the following countries are exempt from taking a practical driving test:

All classes

Andorra, Japan, Monaco, Montenegro, San Marino, Switzerland, Serbia

Class B

Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hong Kong, Israel, Canada, New Zealand, Northern Macedonia, South Africa, South Korea (date of issue from 1997), United States of America, United Arab Emirates

Driving Licence – UK & Northern Ireland

Since January 1, 2021, owners of a British driving license with an Austrian residence are obliged to have it converted into an EU/EEA card driving license. There is no need to take any new driving tests or theoretical exams for this purpose. **This also holds true for driving licences issued by authorities of the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey.**

Holders of British driving licences who are only temporarily staying in Austria (for example for tourism) and who hold a British driving licence that complies with the provisions of the current or a previous European Union (EU) driving licence directive do not require an international driving licence to drive a motor vehicle in Austria.

Relevant departments

The application for transcription is submitted to the local body responsible for the chosen driving school: the district authority, the driving license department of the state police headquarters in Linz, or the respective police department in Steyr or Wels. If no practical driving test needs to be taken, the location for the transcription application can be chosen freely.



For further information, including the required documents, please scan the QR code.

Acquiring your first driving license

To get your first class B driving license, there is a minimum age of 17 (L17: for a certain period, driving is only allowed in the presence of an authorized person), or you must be 18 years of age or older. A medical report is also needed, along with a first aid certificate.

www.oteskreuz.at/ich-will-helfen/erste-hilfe
www.asb.or.at/seite164.aspx

After attending a theory course at a driving school of your choice, a theory test must be taken. It is possible to simultaneously driving and take the driving test once you have passed the theory test.

If all requirements are met, an application for a driving license can be filed at the local district authority responsible for the driving school, or at the driving license department of the state police headquarters if the driving school is located in Linz. This credit card-sized license is valid across Europe and elsewhere.

For the most current information, please scan the QR codes:



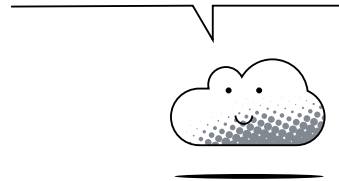
Vignette Austria – Motorway Tolls

The Austria vignette requirement applies to all motor vehicles under 3.5 t, including passenger cars, motorcycles, and camper vans. The Austria vignette is a road document confirming that a driver has covered the obligatory toll road tax. Driving in Austria on motorways and expressways without a valid vignette may result in financial penalties.

Motorway tolls in Austria are collected through digital vignettes and conventional adhesive vignettes. The motorway vignette is linked to a vehicle registration number and can be purchased online at the ASFINAG Website (Motorway and highway financing stock cooperation) or from the motorists club of ARBÖ or ÖAMTC, as authorized selling partners. Also many petrol stations run the Vignette in their

Oh! That's good to know!

Vignettes are available as 1-Day-Vignette, 10-Day Vignette (as short term vignettes), or 2-Months Vignettes and yearly vignettes (for long-term).



shops. When using conventional adhesive vignettes it is valid with immediate effect and does not require a standard 18-day cooling-off period.

The same applies when buying digital or adhesive vignettes at the motorists club. When buying online through the website of the ASFINAG, the vignette will be valid and active from the date selected during the ordering process. www.asfinag.at/en/toll/vignette

Come2Upper Austria

The Come2Upper Austria Service Center is an initiative of the Upper Austrian location agency Business Upper Austria. It supports companies recruiting internationally and assists foreign employees and their families with the relocation and settling-in process in Upper Austria. To make settling in easier, the initiative organises numerous networking events.

Find out more at:

www.come2upperaustria.com

Other international and local associations

Internations – Connecting global minds:

www.internations.org

Austro-American Society in Upper Austria:

www.aas-ooe.at

La France en Autriche:

www.ambafrance-at.org

Toastmaster:

www.toastmasters.org

BuddyMe:

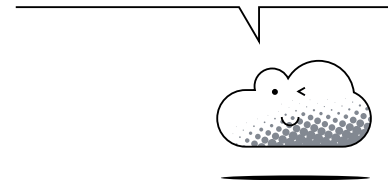
www.buddyme.me/en-AT

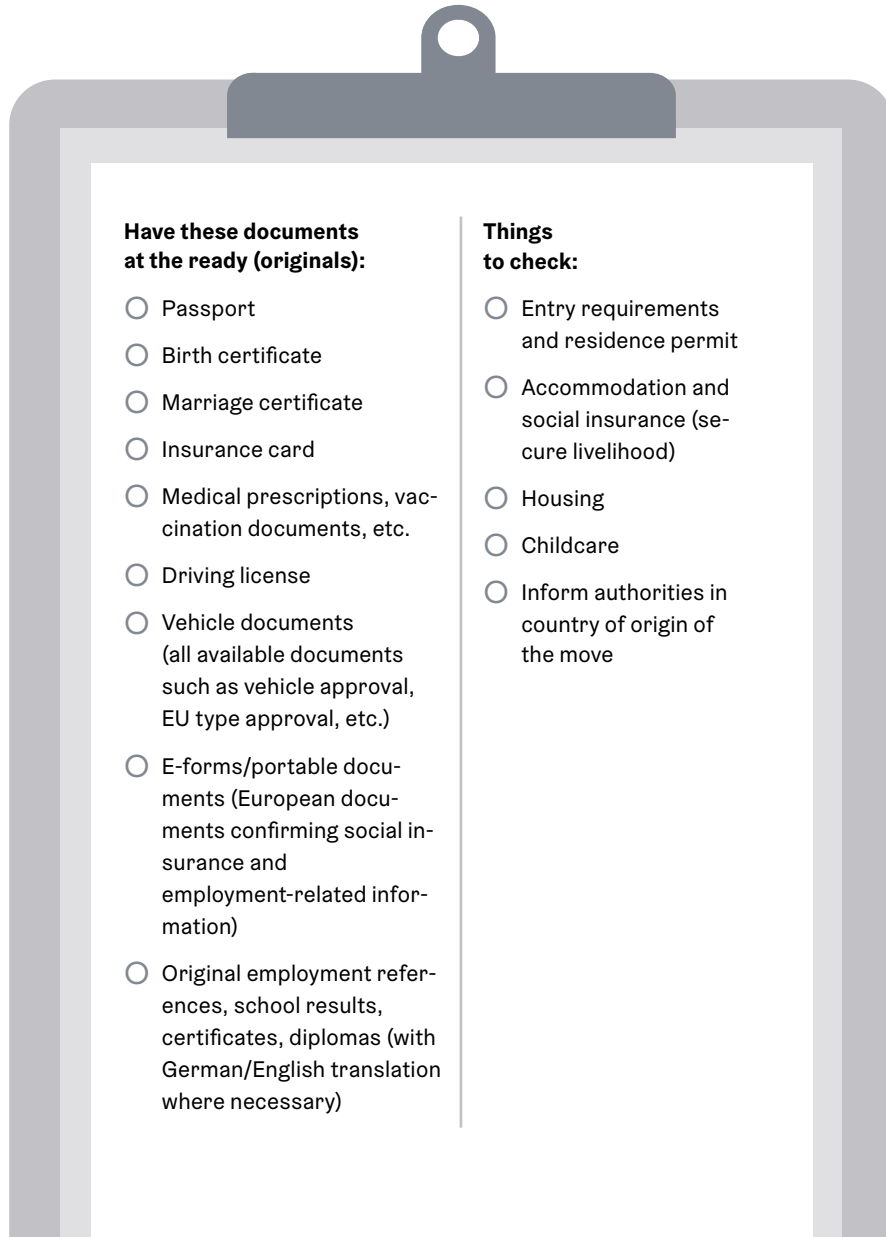
www.facebook.com

There are many international communities such as “Expats in Linz and Upper Austria”, “Piefke Connection in Upper Austria” or the “International Ladies Club Linz”.

Oh! That's good to know!

You are wondering where your children can play in English speaking playgroups, or if there are any music or sports societies in your new home town? Find out more about leisure activities for you and your children in the chapter “Everyday life” on page 191.





Have these documents at the ready (originals):

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Insurance card
- Medical prescriptions, vaccination documents, etc.
- Driving license
- Vehicle documents (all available documents such as vehicle approval, EU type approval, etc.)
- E-forms/portable documents (European documents confirming social insurance and employment-related information)
- Original employment references, school results, certificates, diplomas (with German/English translation where necessary)

Things to check:

- Entry requirements and residence permit
- Accommodation and social insurance (secure livelihood)
- Housing
- Childcare
- Inform authorities in country of origin of the move

Before and after arrival (checklists)

Before moving to a new country, many things have to be planned and thought about. In this chapter, you will find the most important points as checklists. If you need more detailed information about your first steps in Upper Austria, please visit:

www.migration.gv.at
www.help.gv.at
www.immigration-guide.workinaustria.com

In case an authentication of your individual documents is necessary, please consult a local notary, who you can find at:

www.notar.at

For translations of original documents, a list of court interpreters is available at:

www.gerichtsdolmetscher.at/Verzeichnis

Checklist: Before and after your arrival

Timescale	EU and EEA citizens / Swiss citizens	Third-country nationals	Point of contact	For details see chapter
before arrival		Residence permit, Red-White-Red Card	Embassy in the home country	Moving to Upper Austria
within 3 days	Residence registration (Meldezettel)	Residence registration (Meldezettel)	Local or municipal authorities	Moving to Upper Austria
within 14 days		Tuberculosis examination*	Municipal or district authorities	Health
within 1 month	Car number plate / approval / motor vehicle re-registration	Car number plate / approval / motor vehicle re-registration	State police headquarters in Linz, police departments in Wels and Steyr, district authorities in rural areas / technical test centres of Upper Austrian State Government or main importer	Transport
within 4 months	Registration certificate (Anmeldebescheinigung)		Municipal or district authorities	Moving to Upper Austria
within 6 months		Transcription of driving license has to be completed! (Please make sure to initiate the transcription at the earliest possible because it can take very long!)	State police headquarters / district authorities	Transport
within 1–2 years		Extension of residence permit	(if necessary) Municipal or district authorities	Moving to Upper Austria

* Tuberculosis examination

Third-country nationals are summoned to a tuberculosis examination within two weeks after registering their place of residence in Austria. Citizens of the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are exempt from this requirement. This free examination takes place in the municipal authority or, in rural areas, in the local district authority and does not require an e-card.

Before and after arrival (checklists)

Checklist: Further important steps

for key technical staff, independent of origin

All internationals	Point of contact	For details see chapter
In general		
Application for a social insurance number / e-card (for employees, this is taken care of by the employer)	The relevant social insurance authority	Health
German course	Language institute of your choice	The region and its people
Opening of bank account	Bank of your choice	Everyday life
Search for accommodation	Estate agent, private landlord (online)	Moving to Upper Austria
Registration of internet/phone/TV, water, electricity, ...	Free choice (or as recommended by the landlord)	
Household insurance	Insurance company of your choice	
Car liability insurance	Insurance company of your choice	Transport
Check regulations on pets (and if there are any taxes to pay)	Local or municipal authorities	
For arrival with partner and/or children		
Application for a social insurance number (e-card)	Application to the relevant social insurance authority	Health
Registration for childcare / school	Suitable local establishment (school, kindergarten, crèche)	Working, Education
Application for family allowance / childcare allowance	Local internal revenue office / social insurance authority	Working



Small
state

087

Education

of great
opportunities



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General information

Upper Austria provides a wide variety of high-quality international education at a fair price. In this chapter, you will find general information about how the Austrian educational system is structured and a compact overview of educational institutions, student benefits and useful links for further information.

Nine years of compulsory education

All children aged from 6 to 15 and living in Austria must go to school and are guaranteed a place at school. The classes are divided according to age. State schools are free of charge, in contrast to private schools. The duration of lessons is laid out in timetables. In case of illness or absence, the school has to be informed immediately.

Education options after eight years of compulsory school

Children can decide whether to start an apprenticeship or attend a high school. High schools are distinguished

by their focus, which is either general education (Allgemeinbildend/AHS) or vocational training (Berufsbildend/BMHS) with different subjects such as commerce, engineering or tourism. Applications do not have to be accepted, whereby the school management makes the final decision.

Which type of education is right for you?

Careers advice provided by the Chamber of Commerce (Wirtschaftskammer) of Upper Austria supports teenagers and adults in finding the right career and training path. Plenty of information and advice is offered, along with tests for analyzing potential. This is free for teenagers in the 8th school grade.

Check out your interest profile for free:

www.bic.at/bic_interessenprofil_intro.php?lg=en

International schools

Anton Bruckner International School (ABIS) – 4.5 to 16 years of age (from 1st to 10th grade)

Anton Bruckner International School (Association of Anton Bruckner International School) founded in 2008, is a co-educational, independent international school. It is the only international school in Upper Austria to offer the Primary Years Programme and Middle Years Programme authorised by the International Baccalaureate Organisation ibo.org

New students and parents transferring from public schools to Anton Bruckner International School can expect a life-changing educational experience, a growing pool of friends from around the world, and a feeling of empathy with life-long learners throughout the globe. ABIS offers a Kindergarten (Early Learning Center), as well as pri-

mary and secondary education for students ages 3 to 16 years, thereby setting a milestone for continuous international education in Upper Austria. ABIS' language of instruction is English.

Further information can be found at: www.abis.school

Linz International School Auhof 10 to 18 years of age (from 5th to 12th grade)

As an international school, LISA is part of the state-funded Europagymnasium (high school) in Linz-Auhof, and offers the International Baccalaureate (IB Diploma, www.ibo.org) alongside the standard school leaving certificate. Based on the AHS and IB curriculums, general education content is delivered in English using project-oriented and interdisciplinary techniques.

Information about the school, enrollment procedures and prices are provided at: lisa.europagym.at

All about the school year

Computer Science International @ HTL Leonding – 14 to 19 years of age (9th to 13th grade)

Computer Science International (CSI) provides a profound education in computer science. In particular, the curriculum of this study program has more than 50 % computer science subjects complemented with general educational subjects. This enables our students to start working as software developers in the industry after graduating. CSI education is accompanied by a special support program to help our international students to catch up with their German skills. Since CSI offers Austrian standard school leaving certificate (comparable to A-level exams), our graduates may start studying at Austrian universities.

Further information about HTL Leonding and the enrollment are provided at: www.htl-leonding.at/en

GRIBS (Gymnasium Ried im Innkreis Bilingual School) – 10 to 14/18 years of age (from 5th to 8th/12th grade)

The public secondary academic school Gymnasium Ried offers a bilingual (German – English) class for students aged 10 to 14/18 in Ried im Innkreis, implementing German as well as English as the language of instruction from the first day of school. Based on the Austrian curriculum, the programme is aimed at young people who seek a broad and balanced education on their way to the Austrian A-levels (Matura). Further information can be found on: www.gymried.at/neu

Find all schools in Upper Austria

The regional Board of Education is the control centre, the highest school authority and employer of teachers. It is also the point of contact for all pupils in Upper Austria. The institution's website lists all state and private schools in Upper Austria.



School year & performance assessment

The school year, which starts in September, is divided into two semesters. The pupils receive a report in February and a certificate at the end of the school year in early July. There are nine weeks of summer holidays between July and September. Pupils' performances are graded with the marks:

- Very Good (1)
- Good (2)
- Satisfactory (3)
- Sufficient (4)
- Insufficient (5)

If a subject is graded as insufficient, the pupil has the chance to improve this by taking an exam. Some compulsory schools offer other forms of assessment.

School-free days

Upper Austrian schools are closed on public holidays with discretionary school-free days: the latter being four

to five days, which are partly decided by the schools and partly by the regional Board of Education. All school-free days can be found here: www.schulferien.org/oesterreich/ferien/

School enrollment

As a rule, children are required to attend their local primary school according to their catchment area. A different school can be chosen, if this is agreed with the school management and the local authority. Enrollment for primary school takes place directly at the relevant school through a meeting between the school management, parent(s) and the child.

The registration deadline given by the regional Board of Education is usually in November for the following school year. This is announced through a notice on the school door or a letter from the responsible managing authority. Following registration, information is often given at parents' evenings, on request or on the school website.

Enrollment during the school year and inadequate German language skills

For assessment and validation of foreign certificates, please scan the QR code.



For new pupils joining a school during the school year, the school management is the first point of contact. The child is placed in the appropriate class according to academic level and age, provided prerequisites are met. Children with inadequate language skills can be taught, with or without grading, for two years as special needs pupils. In some cases, these children are also offered classes in their own language in the afternoon. Relevant information is provided by the school management.

Special needs, 6 to 15 years of age (1st to 9th school year)

At the request of the parents or guardian, schooling for children and teenagers with special needs can take place either at a special school suited to the respective disability, or as integrative teaching at a joint school. Please contact the respective parish schools for further information.

All-day supervision (6 to 14 years)

Information about all-day supervision options at compulsory schools is provided by the regional Board of Education:



School book initiative

This initiative provides all school children with schoolbooks for all subjects free of charge. If needed, children who are bilingual also receive books for learning German as a second language and bilingual dictionaries. Children attending classes in their own language will also be provided with appropriate schoolbooks.

Subsidised transport for pupils, apprentices and students

The pupil's ticket (Schüler-Ticket) provided by the Upper Austrian Transport Association (Oberösterreichischer Verkehrsverbund/OÖVV) allows subsidised travel between the place of residence and school on school days for the purpose of attending classes if the general criteria are met.

The OÖVV apprentice's ticket (Lehrlings-Ticket) allows subsidised travel between the place of residence and place of ap-

prenticeship training on workdays for the purpose of work if the general criteria are met. Application forms are generally available at every OÖVV branch.

The OÖVV semester ticket (Semesterkarte) allows travel between the place of residence and place of study in Upper Austria for five months.



For further information and prerequisites regarding the tickets and timetables, please scan the QR code.

All about the school year

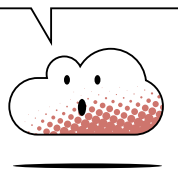
School allowances

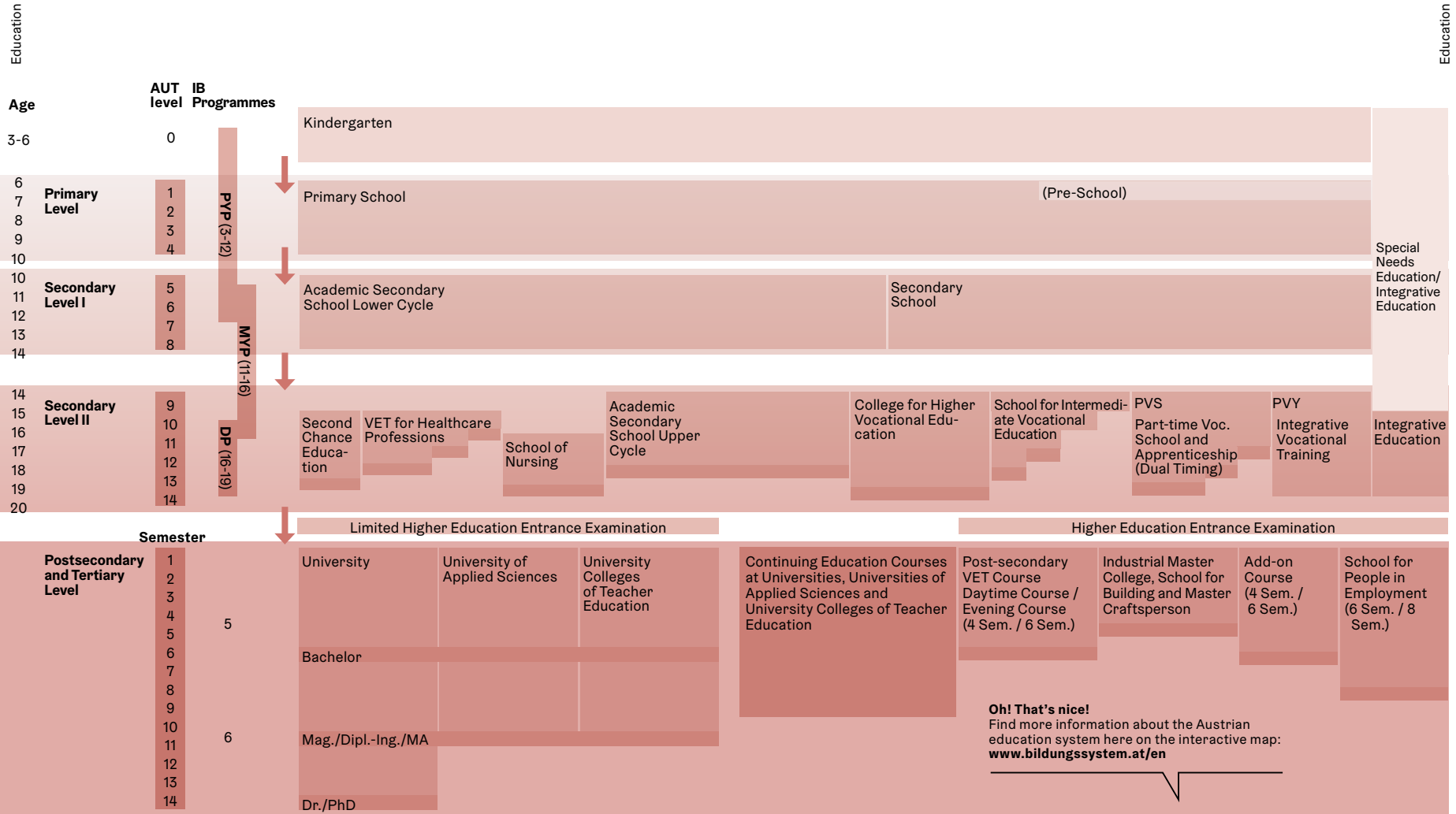
The multilingual online adviser Schülerbeihilfen provided by the Department of Education allows you to check the general eligibility requirements (social needs, time of residence in Austria, etc.) for different types of school allowance, and guides you to the correct application form.

**Oh! This could be helpful!**

The Schülerhilfe provides Austria-wide coaching for school children, also during the holidays:

www.schuelerhilfe.at







Structure of the educational system

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Education

Primary school (Volkschule/VS)

6 to 10 years of age (1st to 4th school year)

The first day of primary school is the second Monday in September for children who have reached their sixth birthday, provided they are advanced enough. If this is not the case, it is possible to arrange with the school management for the child to attend pre-school.

Oh! That's nice!

Here in Austria, children receive a small cone-shaped bag of sweets (known as Schultüte) on the first day of primary school, and they take it with them to school to share the joy with their new school friends.



Middle school (Mittelschule/MS)

General secondary school (Allgemeinbildende Höhere Schule/AHS) – lower grade

10 to 14 years of age (5th to 8th school year)

The MS is open to all pupils. There are also MS with specialisations, where assessment tests are required. Through a sound educational and professional focus, pupils receive advice based on their strengths, allowing them to make more informed decisions on their further education and career at the end of their schooling. In contrast to the MS, the AHS can decline pupils, even when all criteria are fulfilled. The AHS lower grade is aimed at high-performing pupils, with the goal of providing a comprehensive and in-depth general education along with making pupils more independent.

Polytechnic school (PTS)

14 to 15 years of age (9th school year)

This is a one-year educational programme that prepares pupils for professional life. The schooling covers general knowledge, career guidance and basic education. An orientation phase at the beginning of the school year facilitates getting familiar with the world of work. The choice of career or apprenticeship is supported through professional certification in apprentice workshops, external institutions and work experience in companies.

Dual education: apprenticeship and vocational school

From 15 years of age
(duration: 2 to 4 years)

An apprenticeship is open to all teenagers, provided they have completed the nine years of compulsory school. Access to an apprenticeship is not bound to a certain school-leaving qualification. The training takes place in two loca-

tions, one being a company where the apprenticeship takes place, and the other being a vocational school.

The apprentice has a training relationship with the company and is simultaneously a student of the vocational school. The apprenticeship (mostly three years) is completed with a final apprenticeship examination.

Further information can be found on the following platforms:

www.lehremitmatura-ooe.at/

www.jugendundberuf.at

www.lehrlingsportal.at

lehrbetriebsuebersicht.wko.at/

General secondary school (Allgemeinbildende Höhere Schule/AHS) – upper grade

14 to 18 years of age

After the MS or AHS lower grade, students can continue their education at the AHS upper grade. The AHS provides a good general education, with certain schools offering specialist sub-

Structure of the educational system

jects. The upper grade of the AHS lasts four years and ends with the school leaving certificate (Matura), which allows pupils to pursue higher education at universities, technical colleges or pedagogic schools.

Intermediate and Higher Vocational Education Schools (BMHS) 14 to 17 or 19 years of age (duration: 3 to 5 years)

Intermediate Vocational Schools (Berufsbildende Mittlere Schulen/BMS) last one to four years. The BMS provides a partial vocational education (one or two years) or a complete vocational education (final exam after three or four years, for example business schools).

After completing a BMS course of at least 3 years, an advanced course can be taken leading to a school leaving certificate or diploma. For graduates of 4-year technical schools, there are specialised vocational colleges focussing on specific subjects.

Higher Vocational Schools (Berufsbildende Höhere Schulen/BHS) provide a sound general education along with a higher vocational education over five years, ending with a school leaving certificate and diploma. A school leaving certificate entitles pupils to study at universities, technical colleges and colleges of education, and a diploma examination allows access to regulated professions according to the industrial regulations.

In some cases, an entry or aptitude examination must be taken to register at a vocational school. Please find more information here:

www.berufsbildendeschulen.at

Tertiary education

The entry requirement for universities, technical colleges and colleges of education is a school leaving certificate (Matura), secondary school vocational examination (Berufsreifeprüfung), university entrance examination or an equivalent certificate.

www.studieren.at

You will find a detailed list of all secondary schools and educational institutions in Upper Austria below. Different requirements and qualifications apply to different study programmes: bachelor and master programmes (three or two years), diploma courses (four years, however this programme is being discontinued), doctorate and PhD programmes.

IT:U Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria

IT:U Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria is one of the first public universities in Europe exclusively dedicated to the digital transformation of science, business and society. Based in Linz, Austria, they offer a new way of learning in a digital world. Their project-based and inclusive approach to technical education equips students from a wide range of disciplines with the digital skills required to tackle global challenges.

it-u.at

Here is an overview of the higher education institutions in Upper Austria:

Universities and private universities

- Anton Bruckner Private University
www.bruckneruni.at
- Catholic Private University
www.ku-linz.at
- Johannes Kepler University (JKU)
www.jku.at
- Private University of Education Diocese of Linz
www.ph-linz.at
- University of Applied Sciences for Health Professions Upper Austria (FH Gesundheitsberufe OÖ)
www.fh-gesundheitsberufe.at
- University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (FH OÖ)
www.fh-ooe.at
- University of Art and Design Linz
www.ufg.at
- University of Education Upper Austria (PH OÖ)
www.ph-ooe.at

Structure of the educational system

Fees may apply depending on the study programme, but ÖH fees must be paid in all cases: The Austrian Student Union (ÖH, Österreichische Hochschüler-schaft) is the legal representative of tertiary educational facilities.

Study allowance

In Austria, students' parents are expected to cover their costs until they can provide for themselves. This includes costs arising from taking a degree course. If the prerequisites of social eligibility and favourable academic performances are met, the student can apply for a scholarship at the scholarship office in Linz. A special form of self-supporting scholarship (Selbsterhalter-Stipendium) exists students who have provided for themselves for a minimum of four years with a minimum annual salary of 8,580 EUR before claiming study allowance. Detailed information about prerequisites, deadlines and forms can be found at:
www.stipendium.at

Oh! That's good to know!

You can find further information on studying in Upper Austria in our Study Guide here:

www.come2upperaustria.com/study/study-guide





Photo: istockphoto.com / amri photo

Further education institutions and subsidies

Further education opportunities for adults

www.bfi-ooe.at

In Upper Austria, there are a range of further education institutes alongside the tertiary education offerings, for example the vocational training institute BFI (Berufsförderungsinstitut), which offers both professional education for employees and training and retraining for job seekers.

www.wifi-ooe.at

The Institute for Economic Promotion (Wirtschaftsförderungsinstitut/WIFI) is an organisation specialising in professional adult education. It offers practical training and further education, from the start of your career to academic completion, along with free advice on German classes in German and English.

www.vhsooe.at

The Adult Education Centre (Volkshochschule/VHS) follows a comprehensive approach with programmes offering something for everyone.

www.limak.at and www.qualityaustria.com

In addition, there are organisations such as LIMAK in Linz, the first Business School in Austria (postgraduate education) or Quality Austria dealing with topics such as training and personal certification.

Further information about adult education and a course finder can be found at:

- www.weiterbilden.at
- www.erwachsenenbildung.at
- www.arbeiterkammer.at

Secondary school leaving examination (Berufsreifeprüfung)

Alongside the AHS and BHS examinations, the secondary school leaving examination is the third form of school leaving examination (Matura) in Austria. For people of all ages with completed professional training, it offers all opportunities associated with an AHS or BHS school leaving examination such as going to university.

The professional school leaving examination includes the subjects German, English, mathematics and a vocational field of choice at the level of a secondary school. The order in which the subjects are completed is decided by the student.

Points of contact include further education institutions:

www.wifi-ooe.at
www.bfi-ooe.at

Educational financial support

The website of the Chamber of Labour (Arbeiterkammer, AK) provides details and requirements for funding opportunities. The following options could be of particular interest to you:

Upper Austrian Training Account (OÖ Bildungskonto):

The Upper Austrian Training Account is a further education training fund set up by the state of Upper Austria to support qualification activities of Upper Austrian employees.

AK Training Bonus (AK-Bildungsbonus):

As part of this initiative, the Chamber of Labour (Arbeiterkammer/AK) encourages its members to acquire and develop key qualifications in areas such as IT, foreign languages, basic professional qualifications and personal development.

Further education institutions and subsidies

AK Service Card (AK-Leistungskarte):

Members of the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labour receive an AK Service Card discount on all courses at the BFI Upper Austria and the VHS Upper Austria, in addition to the training bonus.

For more details please visit:

www.arbeiterkammer.at



Oh! Isn't that great!

Education and training costs can be deducted from the annual tax assessment. Read more on page 146.





A Great Place
to Work



Photo: OÖ Tourismus, Robert Maybach

Career Platform by Come2Upper Austria

The career platform by Come2Upper Austria offers an easy to use interface to search for the right opportunities, matching your specific skillset. Upper Austria offers numerous opportunities for international talents at various stages of their careers, to live, work or study here.

You can get directly in touch with innovative companies, working on matters on a national and global scale, who are willing to kickstart the career of international talent, just like you. You will be

able to filter for specific occupations via the easy to use interface on the career platform to find a job, meeting your individual skills. Apart from that, create a profile for the purpose of raising the attention of a potential employer. All features of the career platform are completely free of charge. Once your registration is completed, you are free to get in touch with the companies. Further companies are continuously being added to the platform, while the feature for automated job notifications can optionally be added to the respective registration.

www.come2upperaustria.com/career-platform

Public Employment Service Upper Austria (AMS)

The first port of call for job seekers is the Public Employment Service Upper Austria. It is represented in all districts, matches candidates with job openings and assists employers. In addition, it offers skills training, counseling and information.

eJob-Room is an AMS job platform for companies and job applicants. Job seekers get an overview of vacancies or can post an application to attract the attention of interested companies.

jobroom.ams.or.at/jobroom/login_as.jsp



EURES

The European cooperation network European Employment Services aims to support employees seeking a job, and assist companies with finding employees.

www.ec.europa.eu/eures

www.karriere.at

On this Upper Austrian job portal you can search for job offerings in all professional sectors throughout Austria and upload your curriculum vitae to draw the attention of employers.

www.xing.at

Xing can be compared to LinkedIn and is the biggest professional network in German-speaking countries. It is very popular among personnel consultants searching for staff.

www.workinupperaustria.com

This Upper Austrian job portal is exclusively designed to attract international talents and is operated in English. It contains job offerings provided by Upper Austrian companies suitable for international talents. In addition, international talents can create a profile to draw the attention of employers.

Other professional platforms

www.workinaustria.com
www.itstellen.at
www.techtalents.at
www.financejobs.at
www.salescareer.at
www.ffg.at/karriere-grants
jobs.derstandard.at
www.monster.at
www.linzer-jobanzeiger.at
www.oberoesterreich-jobanzeiger.at
www.finden.at/jobs
www.linkedin.com/jobs
www.tecjobs.at

Recruitment agencies

Private personnel consultants and recruitment agencies such as the following help to find positions for applicants, many of whom are highly qualified (excerpt from a huge variety of institutions):

www.ivent.a.eu
www.epunkt.com
www.trescon.at
www.kern-partner.at
www.vace.at/hr/ueber-uns
www.ttirecruiting.com
www.manpower.at

Vacant positions are published in media such as newspapers. Here is a list of the most important ones:

Nationwide: Kronen Zeitung,
 Der Standard, Die Presse
 Upper Austria: OÖ Nachrichten
 Local newspapers: Tips, Rundschau

Check out Upper Austrian companies and their ratings

On the platform of the regional newspaper OÖ Nachrichten you can scroll through a list of the top 250 companies in Upper Austria:

www.nachrichten.at/wirtschaft/top250/ranking

And if you want to know how employees experienced working for the company of your interest, just look for it on:

www.kununu.com

What should your application include?

- Cover letter: write an individual one for every company you apply to
- Curriculum vitae: in tabular form with a professional photo
- Certificates and references: include only those relevant to the vacant position

Cover letter

It is not advisable to submit a uniform application to various companies. Always adapt applications to the respective vacant position and the company. The cover letter should be one page in length, ideally answering the following questions:

- How did you find out about the vacant position?
- What are your strengths, what motivates you, and why are you the right person for this job?

- Reference to added documents (curriculum vitae, school certificates, relevant references)

Curriculum vitae (CV)

The curriculum vitae (Lebenslauf) is the most important element of the application and, as a rule of thumb, should have a maximum length of two pages. It should be set out in tabular form and include the following aspects as concisely as possible:

- Personal information: contact information, date of birth, add a professional passport photo
- Education: chronological list of education institutions attended (name and place, specialisation, duration, topic of diploma thesis in case of academic graduation)
- Work experience (names of the various companies, place, date & length, responsibilities)
- Relevant skills: languages, computer skills, further training, etc.

- Additional information: voluntary work, extensive stays abroad, driving license, etc.
- CV should not contain more than 2 pages

Only add information which might be relevant to the company or the vacant position, and make sure to have an explanation for gaps in the CV. Here you can find some useful tips for writing your CV:

www.karriere.at/c/lebenslauf-englisch

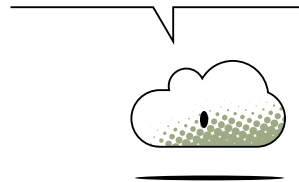
You can also create a CV here:

www.karriere.at/lp/lebenslauf-vorlagen

But keep in mind that in Austria, companies appreciate it if you go the extra mile and choose an individual design.

Oh! That's helpful!

For assessment and validation of foreign certificates, scan the QR code:



What should you do after applying?

- Prepare for the job interview
- Shine in the assessment centre
- Observe the dresscode and business etiquette

Job interview

You have been invited to a job interview? Congratulations, you have reached the next level! Job interviews are the most common method in Austria to learn more about the expertise, personality and motivations of the applicant. On the whole, the points covered are more or less the same in every company:

- Welcome
- Small talk
- Questions about education, qualifications, experience, strengths/weaknesses, where you see yourself in 5 to 10 years, why you are the perfect match to the vacant position, etc.

- Sometimes tasks have to be presented that had to be prepared for the interview
- Further information about the vacant position
- Possibility for the applicant to ask questions
- Definition of the further procedure
- Goodbye

After the first interview, one or two further interviews may follow until the company decides who to employ for the vacant position. There may even be an assessment centre where you have to compete directly with other candidates. Sometimes there is even a test day offered in the last round, where you can get in touch and become familiar with your potential new workplace and colleagues for the first time.

Assessment centre

An assessment centre is mostly used for the selection of candidates for management positions. Candidates are

given various exercises to test their abilities, competence and solution-oriented thinking. The test may include the testing of general knowledge, memory, special expert knowledge or the ability to concentrate, which often consists of tasks that are part of the later job profile. An assessment centre usually takes from half a day to up to two days.

Dresscode and business etiquette

You know, there is no second chance for a good first impression. So, find out about the company's dresscode and dress appropriately for the job. If in doubt, dress formally, but don't use too much perfume, make-up, jewelry or other accessories. Less is more.

When communicating, use a firm handshake and keep eye-contact – but make sure not to invade others' personal space of one arm's length. When talking, don't talk about too personal things.

It is better to stay formal and choose neutral topics. Also, use the formal you (Sie) until your counterpart suggests otherwise (du). This is what is perceived as polite behavior.

Oh! Let's talk about German!

The German language plays a big role in Austrian working life. It is therefore highly recommended to become familiar with the national language. Read more about the German language and the Upper Austrian dialect on page 39 and page 213.



Recognition of qualifications

In Austria, there are no uniform rules for the formal recognition of foreign qualifications. Instead, you will have to deal with a number of federal and state laws. As various authorities and institutions are responsible, procedures, costs and durations, etc. can vary.

A distinction is drawn between the recognition of qualifications for further or higher education, and the recognition for the purposes of practicing a profession. Whether recognition is required or not depends on whether a profession is non-regulated or regulated.

Recognition also depends on whether an EEA citizen has gained a degree in an EEA country (the same regulations apply to Swiss citizens). In this case, European law applies. Under certain conditions, the same regulations apply to third-country nationals who have already gained a degree in another EEA

country, or if the degree has been recognised there.

www.berufsanerkennung.at/en/professional-recognition/overview/

www.migrare.at/a/ast-anlaufstelle-fuer-personen-mit-im-ausland-erworbenen-qualifikationen

Oh! That's good to know!

The accreditation of the final apprenticeship examination and the evaluation of foreign school certificates and academic diplomas can contribute to the recognition process of qualifications from abroad.



Regulated professions

Regulated means that evidence of certain qualifications is a prerequisite to access the job market (including teachers, health professionals, lawyers and civil engineers). Generally speaking, only the practice of regulated professions requires formal recognition.

A list of regulated professions can be found in the regulated professions database:

ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/regulated-professions-database_en

Non-regulated professions

The job classification of non-regulated professions in private companies is usually the responsibility of the employer or defined by the employment contract. There are no specific legal provisions regulating the value of the qualifications of a person. Instead, they are defined by the job market situation.

Contact points for recognition

Contact points for people with qualifications gained abroad (known as AST) offer information about various recognition and evaluation procedures and provide support. The service is free of charge and offers mainly:

- Multilingual advice about recognitions
- Clarification if a formal recognition is necessary or possible
- Organisation of certified translations of diplomas, certificates and other documents
- Forwarding of diplomas/certificates to an evaluation office
- If necessary, assistance during the entire recognition process

For further information please visit:

www.anlaufstelle-erkennung.at/anlaufstellen

Recognition of qualifications

migrare, the centre for immigrants in Upper Austria

The centre offers support with the recognition and use of skills and expertise acquired abroad. The centre provides information, counseling and also monitors recognition and evaluation procedures if needed. Advice for migrants on legal, social and labor market-related issues completes the range of services.

There are contact points all over Upper Austria. The local office is located in:

Bulgaripl. 12

4020 Linz

Tel.: 0732/667363

Fax: 0732/667363 – 66

E-mail: office@migrare.at

Consultations only with a prior appointment by telephone.

Read more at:

www.migrare.at



Immigration guide Austria:
immigration-guide.workinaustria.com

Oh! That's funny!

In the recent past, Austrians were very proud of their academic titles, "Magister" and "Doktor". It was common to address a man who had earned the academic title "Doktor" as "Herr Doktor" and his wife with "Frau Doktor", even though she had no academic title at all.

With the bachelor's and master's degrees, this has already changed a great deal, especially in internationally operating groups. Nevertheless, it is still recommended to say "Herr Doktor Mair" and "Frau Magistra Huber".



All about the workplace



Work- and residence permit

EU/EEA, Swiss citizens

Based on the free movement of workers within the European Union, EU/EEA and Swiss citizens can work in Austria without a work permit. For more information about the transition period, see:

www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/mobility-within-the-eu

Third-country nationals – Red-White-Red and Blue Card (see page 59)

In order to immigrate to Austria, third-country nationals need the Red-White-Red Card (Rot-Weiß-Rot Karte). This card offers qualified workers from non-member countries and their families the chance to stay in Austria and work for a specific employer.

The Red-White-Red Card must be applied for at the responsible settlement and immigration authority (district or municipal authority), or at the repre-

sentative authority abroad (embassy) by the respective individual or employer in Austria.

www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration

Collective agreement

The collective agreement (Kollektivvertrag) is an agreement between a union, acting as the representative for all workers within an industry, and the Chamber of Commerce, which represents companies. The agreement is negotiated annually, and its objective is to guarantee the same standards of pay and working conditions within an industry. An employee must not fall below the minimum wage defined in the collective agreement.

Employment contract

The employment contract defines the legal basis of employment. It is a contractual agreement between the employee and the company regarding parameters such as working location,

areas of responsibility, working hours, salary and the underlying collective agreement. There are fixed-term contracts as well as permanent contracts, and a probationary period is often agreed: during this time, both the employer and the employee can end the employment relationship at any time without giving a reason. Additionally, a notice period is defined which applies to both the employee and employer.

Oh! That's wonderful!

Employees in Austria get 14 instead of only 12 salaries a year, they have health insurance, 5 weeks of payed vacation, public holidays, with some companies even providing additional benefits.



The employment contract is based on the standards defined in the collective agreement and may only deviate in favour of the employee. If there is no employment contract, the employee must be provided with a notice of employment (Dienstzettel).

Working hours and breaks

The full-time basis for working hours is regulated by the collective agreement. If there is no collective agreement, the information is provided in the works agreement (Betriebsvereinbarung). Generally, the following applies:

Working hours:

- 40 hrs/week (statutory working hours)
- 38.5 hrs/week (possible arrangement in a collective agreement)
- 8 hrs/day (as a rule, but this may differ)
- 12 hrs/day (maximum allowed working time per day, including overtime)

All about the workplace

- 60 hrs/week (maximum allowed working time per week, including overtime)
- 48 hrs/week (maximum allowed average working time over a period of 4 months)

Mandatory breaks:

- ½ hr break after 6 working hours
- 11 hrs break between two working days (this can be shortened to 8 hrs according to some collective agreements)
- Weekend: rest of 36 consecutive hrs

In Austria, all-inclusive agreements where overtime is not remunerated are often used. Nevertheless, staff may not work more hours than is legally allowed. Find out more about mandatory breaks and resting hours:

www.arbeiterkammer.at/service/broschueren/arbeitsrecht/Arbeitszeit_Ruhezeit.html

Salary

The negotiated gross salary is subject

to social insurance and income tax. Both are deducted from the gross salary and paid directly by the companies. Most collective agreements provide 14 salaries per year – including the additional holiday and Christmas salaries, which are taxed less than the normal monthly wage.

The gross-net calculator helps you to calculate your tax load:

bruttonetto.arbeiterkammer.at

Holiday entitlement

In general, employees receive 5 weeks holiday per year. A week off has five vacation days. If certain criteria are met (for example 25 years of service at the same employer, 18 years of service in addition to previously accrued years of service), 6 weeks are possible, although this should be clarified in each case. Holidays have to be arranged with the employer. In addition to their holiday entitlement, employees are off work on public holidays.

Sick note

Employees are obliged to inform their employer as soon as possible of any inability to work on the first day. The commencement of the inability to work is stated by the doctor in the sick note, which should be presented to the employer. Normally, a doctor is responsible for informing the relevant social insurance authority that the patient has recovered. However, if the sick note does not indicate a set end date for the inability to work, employees may have to register as recovered themselves.

Sick leave

During sick leave, employers pay a full salary for the duration of:

- 6 weeks, if the employee has been employed for less than 1 year
- 8 weeks, if the employee has been employed between 1 and 15 years
- 10 weeks, if the employee has been employed between 16 and 25 years
- 12 weeks, if the employee has been employed for more than 25 years

Half of the regular salary will be paid for a further 4 weeks. The state health service takes care of the salary for a certain period of time if the employer no longer provides a salary.

Notification of pregnancy to the employer

A medical confirmation of pregnancy should be presented to the employer as soon as you know you are pregnant. From this point in time, the pregnant woman is protected from dismissal by the employer and has special protection rights. Please note that dismissal during the probationary period because of pregnancy is not allowed, but in general, there is no protection against dismissal in the probationary period.

Educational leave

After working for more than six months for an employer, employees have the opportunity to take unpaid educational leave, from a minimum of two months

All about the workplace

to a maximum of one year in duration. According to unemployment insurance regulations (Arbeitslosenversicherungsgesetz or ALVG), employees are entitled to the equivalent unemployment benefit during educational leave – as long as evidence of further training of at least 20 hours a week is provided, and they are eligible for pension benefit entitlements. For employees taking educational leave with children, these requirements differ.

Part-time educational leave

Known as Bildungsteilzeit (from a minimum of four months up to two years), this is suitable for education with an ongoing working relationship without the need to arrange leave. Persons are entitled to a part-time education allowance (Bildungsteilzeitgeld) during part-time educational leave, provided that the previous standard working hours were unchanged for at least six months. Prerequisites are the fulfillment of pension benefit enti-

tlements and a certificate confirming further education of at least 10 hours a week.

Termination of employment**By the employee**

Resignation is affected through a resignation letter addressed to the employer. The termination date is usually the last day of the month unless the fifteenth is stated in the employment contract or collective agreement. After notice has been given, a notice period of usually one month must be observed. It is possible to extend the notice period by up to six months, provided the notice period for termination given by the employer is at least as long.

By the employer

On the employer side, the legal notice period depends on the duration of the working relationship:

between 0 and 2 years	6 weeks
between 2 and 5 years	2 months

between 5 and 15 years	3 months
between 15 and 25 years	4 months
after 25 years	5 months

Unless the collective agreement or employment contract does not also specify the fifteenth or last day of the calendar month, the employer must give notice of termination of the contract of employment at the end of a calendar quarter (March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, December 31st).

Severance payments & Corporate Pension Insurance Fund

One month after employment has started, employers start paying a certain percentage of the monthly gross salary (including special payments) as social insurance contributions for their employees. These contributions are forwarded to the selected Corporate Pension Insurance Fund (Betriebliche Vorsorgekasse). In an annual statement, the BVK informs the employee about the pension amount he or she

has reached so far in an annual, which results from the sum of paid contributions and takes into consideration investment returns and administration costs.

If the employer ends the employment relationship (end of contract term, mutual agreement, justifiable reason, etc.) after a minimum of three years of contributions, the employee can claim severance payment. If the employee ends the employment, or if fewer than three contributory years are achieved, the Corporate Pension Insurance Fund withholds the severance payment, where it continues to be invested until the special criteria for receiving the severance payments are met.



For more details, please scan the QR code.

All about the workplace

Pension

Pensions are generally paid as soon as employees reach retirement age. Subject to certain provisions, employees may be entitled to payments even if they resigned.

If the employee has worked for several employers, or in several jobs, it is possible to combine all contributions in one Corporate Pension Insurance Fund.

Oh! Did you know that!

Employees in Austria are divided into blue-collar workers (Arbeiter), white-collar workers (Angestellte), the marginally employed (geringfügig Beschäftigte) and apprentices (Lehrlinge). Regulations differ according to the employee group.

For more details, scan the QR codes:



Interest groups

The Austrian Chamber of Labour (Arbeiterkammer) is the interest group for employees in Austria and offers free legal advice relating to labour law and consumer rights. Legislation stipulates mandatory membership of the Chamber of Labour for all employees in a company.

www.arbeiterkammer.at

Workers' council

The workers' council (Betriebsrat) is the interest group for the employees in a company. The areas of competence of the council relate to information, monitoring and checking (e.g. compliance with the collective agreement or workers' safety regulations) and rights of intervention (improvement of working conditions, training, etc.). All rights and obligations of the workers' council are legally defined, and the employees elect the council every four years. A workers' council is not legally required.

Work and family

Maternity protection

Expectant mothers in Austria must observe the so-called maternity protection period (Mutterschutz), which means not working during the last 8 weeks before and after birth. Under certain circumstances, women are entitled to a minimum of twelve weeks. The maternity leave certificate should be presented to the employer. As the employer does not pay a salary during the maternity protection period, women receive a maternity allowance from the respective social insurance authority.

Parental leave

Parents are legally entitled to parental leave (Karenz), which is unpaid time off work. This is possible until the end of the child's second birthday, provided the child lives in the same household. Parental leave begins at the end of the maternity protection period for the parent who decides to take this leave first. It is recommended to notify the

employer of parental leave in a verifiable form, e.g. by registered letter. The employer must provide a confirmation based on this, which also serves as confirmation that both parents are not simultaneously taking parental leave.

As parental leave is unpaid time off work, a childcare allowance can be applied for. Please find out more on page 130.

More information can be found at:



www.usp.gv.at/mitarbeiter-und-gesundheit/karenz-und-teilzeit/elternkarenz-und-eltern-teilzeit.html



Early paternity leave or father month

To allow both parents to care for the newborn child together, the option of a so-called father month or paternity leave is available. Please find more information online:

www.gesundheit.gv.at/leben/eltern/baby/vaeter-karenz

Oh! Isn't that wonderful!

The father month also gives men, as new and proud fathers, the opportunity to spend the first few days close to their child and support their partner. How great that young dads get the chance to spend this wonderful and special time with their babies!



Parents also have the option of shared parental leave. Please find more information online:

www.oesterreich.gv.at/themen/arbeit_und_pension/elternkarenz_und_elternteilzeit/Seite.3590007.html

Care leave

Parents have the possibility of taking up to two weeks care leave each to care for sick children. However, the details of the leave should be agreed with the employer.

Parental custody

Married parents have shared custody of the child. For unmarried parents, the mother usually has custody unless the parents opt for shared custody. The custody agreement can be registered at the local civil registry office responsible for the place of birth once the acknowledgement of paternity has been confirmed.

Childcare optionsRegistration

Independent of whether private or public childcare is desired, it is highly recommended to research local childcare options directly after childbirth and to register as soon as possible.

Local public childcare facilities

Normally the child should visit the local childcare facility, although it is sometimes possible to find a place further afield depending on availability or on request. Under certain circumstances (e.g. new place of residence), it is possible to enroll at the childcare facility during the year.

Costs

From the 30th month after birth until the child starts school, kindergartens and nurseries can be attended free of charge in Upper Austria. For childcare before or after this date, a fee is payable. In addition, a material fee is payable to the facility itself. A food contri-

tribution must also be paid for lunch. The amount is set by the facility.

Fees for all-day schools depend on the income of the parents and the extent of the childcare offered. In general, the costs of care differ according to the form of childcare. Information is available directly from the facility or from the local or municipal authorities.

Institutional and private care options

- Crèche/nurseries (under 3 years of age)
- Kindergarten (from 3 years of age until school)
- International Kindergarten of Upper Austria (IKU, 1 to 6 years)
- All-day school (6 to 14 years)
- School-based afternoon care
- After-school care centres in Upper Austria (from 6 years of age)

Details on nurseries, kindergartens and afternoon care centres

From the age of 5, attending a kindergarten is compulsory.

Contact information for nurseries, kindergartens and afternoon care centres are available here:
www.ooe-kindernet.at

Further childcare options

Childminders (independent of age):
www.tagesmuetter-ooe.org

Rent-a-granny (independent of age):
www.familie.at/site/oesterreich/angebote/omaopadienst

English Play School (2.5 to 6 years):
www.playschool.at
www.linz.at/serviceguide/viewchapter.php?chapter_id=123049
www.abis.school/early-learning-center-4-5-6-years

Holiday care:
www.ooe.familienbund.at
www.kinderfreunde.at
www.camps.at
www.ferien4kids.at

Oh! That's good to know!

Turn over to chapter "Taxes and income" to learn more about how allowances are taken into account in your annual tax assessment on page 144.



Commuter allowance

Employees are entitled to a commuter allowance (Pendlerpauschale) under certain conditions:

- Is it possible/feasible to use public transport?
- What is the distance between the place of residence and the workplace?

If you want to find out whether you are entitled to the full or partial commuter allowance and to calculate the allowance, you can use this calculator:
pendlerrechner.bmf.gv.at/pendlerrechner

Mileage allowance

The official mileage allowance covers all costs incurred through the use of a private motor vehicle during business trips (such as wear and tear, insurance, fuel, additional equipment). If the employer pays less for the mileage driven for professional purposes than the permitted maximum or pays nothing at all, the difference is tax deductible.

Maternity allowance

During the maternity protection period (Mutterschutz), women are not allowed to work. From the beginning of this period, employed women can apply for maternity allowance (Wochengeld), which is a financial support to compensate for the loss of income. This is normally paid monthly in arrears and applied for at the responsible social insurance authority. A confirmation of employment and salary must be presented to receive maternity allowance, or a medical certificate with the predicted birth date.



Family allowance

Parents receive a so-called family allowance (Familienbeihilfe), which is independent of income. This can be applied for at the local tax authority.

The basic requirements for entitlement to family allowance are a right of residence and the main place of residence in Austria in addition to sharing a household with the child.



For children living abroad, there may be circumstances under which you can receive family allowance.



For further information, please scan the QR-code

Childcare allowance

There are two forms of childcare allowances in Austria, with different criteria to be met:

- Income-based childcare allowance
- Flat-rate childcare allowance



For detailed information, please scan the QR-Code.

You don't know if you are a candidate for one of these allowances? Make an appointment for a consultation:

Things change on a regular basis and questions relating to allowances can be a real bureaucratic minefield. The Chamber of Labour and your health insurance company will offer you good advice regarding your individual situation in a personal consultation.

You always wanted to be your own boss? Found your own company in Upper Austria! The Upper Austrian Chamber of Commerce (WKOÖ) is the interest group for entrepreneurs in Upper Austria and offers a diverse range of services answering all questions of commercial daily life. However, there are also several other points of contact, where founders can get help and information.

www.wko.at/ooe

WKOÖ Gründerservice

The Business Start-up Service is the first port of call for questions when it comes to transforming ideas into a new business venture. On the website, you can also find helpful online services such as a break-even calculator or a financing guidebook.

www.gruenderservice.at

tech2b

The live-cell incubator for the Upper Austrian economy is the key point of contact for technology-oriented founders and takes on the role of mediator between start-ups and established companies. Moreover, tech2b offers young companies neutral support with subsidy and financing issues.

www.tech2b.at

Startrampe Tabakfabrik

The Startrampe is powered by the bank Sparkasse OÖ and is a platform bringing together established companies and innovative young founders. The Startrampe accompanies, encourages and supports start-ups in all respects.

www.sparkasse-ooe.at/startrampe

startup300

startup300 is a company built on a top-class community of passionate entrepreneurs, investors, start-ups and visionaries. It operates a platform that provides know-how, capital, further training and space for developing new business models in times of digital change.

www.startup300.at

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is the national funding agency for industrial research and development in Austria. All FFG activities aim to strengthen Austria as a research and innovation centre on the global market and thus help to ensure the long-term availability of high-quality jobs and maintain the prosperity of one of the world's wealthiest countries.

The FFG is the largest provider of start-up funding in Austria. Each year, it invests more than 70 million euros in supporting new ideas.

www.ffg.at/en/startups





Photo: OÖ Tourismus / Robert Maybach

What You
Pay

is What
You Get

140 The Austrian tax system

Why do Austrians pay so much tax?

The Austrian government as well as other institutions offer plenty of financial support under certain circumstances. This includes commuting allowance, free travel for students, funding for further training as well as family and childcare allowance, to mention just a few.

More social services:

The Upper Austrian Social Guidebook, better known as OÖ Sozialratgeber, offers a detailed overview of social services, counselling and much more besides:

www.ooe.arbeiterkammer.at/sozialratgeber

In order to provide all these services, all employees contribute part of their income as income tax. But this is not the only tax Austrians pay:

20% value added tax

In stores, the displayed product price

is the final price. In other words, price include 20% value added tax (VAT).

10% reduced value added tax rate

A tax rate of 10% is applied, for instance, to food, medication, books, newspapers, apartment rentals, public transport, heating etc. Prices quoted in stores are gross prices and include VAT. For some larger purchases (capital goods), prices may be stated as net prices. In this case, VAT must be added.

Oh! That's great!

It's true, on the one hand, Austrians pay high income taxes, but on the other hand, all employees get 14 monthly salaries a year: Urlaubsgeld in summer and Weihnachtsgeld before Christmas. The Brutto-Netto-Rechner helps you calculate your social insurance, income tax and what you take home after all deductions have been made:

www.bruttonettorechner.at



141 Income tax system

Income tax deducted by the employer

Employers in Austria deduct income tax and transfer it directly to the Inland Revenue Office every month. This also applies to most foreign employers with registered offices in Austria, who also have to pay income tax. Provided employees have no other source of income, they are generally not required to file an income tax return.

When it comes to the annual tax assessment and tax allowances, different regulations apply depending on whether a person is subject to limited or unlimited tax liability.

The following applies to persons with unlimited tax liability whose residence or habitual place of abode is in Austria.

Income tax rates in Austria (all amounts applicable in 2024)

Annual income in Euros	Tax rates
Up to 12,816.00	0%
Above 12,816.00 up to 20,818.00	20%
Above 20,818.00 up to 34,513.00	30%
Above 34,513.00 up to 66,612.00	40%
Above 66,612.00 up to 99,266.00	48%
Above 99,266.00 up to 1,000,000.00	50%
Above 1,000,000.00	55%

Preferential taxation of special payments

Austrian employees benefit from the fact that special payments (other remunerations) are taxed at only 6%. The first 620 Euros are tax-free. Special payments include additional salaries at Christmas and before the summer holidays (13th and 14th salary) as well as bonuses.

Two limits apply to preferential taxation:

- A limit of one sixth of the yearly recurring payments (so-called Jahressechstel)
- On top of that, progressive tax rates apply in case this share is very high, starting with recurring payments totaling approximately 154,000 Euros per year. These rates apply to special payments within this share, and after deduction of employee contributions to social insurance:

Special payments	Tax rates
For the first 620 Euros	0%
For the next 24,380 Euros	6%
For the next 25,000 Euros	27%
For the next 33,333 Euros	35.75%
Over 83,333 Euros	Standard taxation rate

Employment income subject to income tax

This includes monetary compensation as well as benefits in kind. Benefits in kind are usually taxed on the basis of their market value. There are, however, a number of special regulations for determining the value of company cars and company-provided accommodation, for instance. Some benefits in kind are tax-free, others are partially tax-free.

Income-related expenses, special expenses and extraordinary burdens

These reduce the tax base and can be claimed in the tax return in the course of the annual tax assessment. However, some of these expenses may already have been taken into account by monthly payroll accounting such as:

- commuting allowance
- family bonus plus
- tax-exempt amounts based on a corresponding assessment
- lump sum for income-related

expenses: 132 Euros (already included)

- lump sum for special expenses: 60 Euros (already included)
- lump sum for income-related expenses for expatriates
- contributions to the statutory social insurance system

Commuting allowance

Employees can claim commuting allowance, better known as Pendlerpauschale, for travel between their place of residence and their workplace for distances of more than 20 km, or of more than 2 km if using public transport is not feasible (please note, that home office days might reduce the amount of commuting allowance). For this purpose, employees must submit a signed document to their employer specifying the distance travelled, which can be determined using the commuter calculator, the so-called Pendlerrechner:

pendlerrechner.bmf.gv.at/pendlerrechner

Family bonus plus

For each child who qualifies for family allowance, an amount of up to 2,000 Euros may be deducted from the annual taxation base, which can be considered in monthly payroll, when the employee submits the form E30.

Notification on tax exemptions

A notification on tax exemptions (better known as Freibetragsbescheid) enables the ongoing consideration of forecasted income-related expenses, special expenses and extraordinary burdens during payroll accounting. Otherwise, tax is only deducted in the annual tax assessment after the end of the year.

Lump sum for income-related expenses for expatriates

Expatriates are entitled to claim a lump sum for income-related expenses amounting to 20% of their gross salary (after deduction of tax-free payments and preferentially taxed special payments). The lump sum is limited to

10,000 Euros per year. Proof of actual income-related expenses is not required.

An expatriate is an employee of a foreign company ...

- who works in Austria for a maximum period of five years
- has an employment agreement with an Austrian employer (either an affiliated company or a company with operating facilities based in Austria)
- who has not been living in Austria for the last ten years
- whose place of residence is abroad
- whose salary is taxed in Austria

Relocation expenses

Payments of relocation expenses by the employer are exempt from tax if they are granted to the employee upon assignment to another location. The same applies to intra-corporate transferees. Payments of relocation expenses include compensation for travelling expenses incurred by employees and their families to their new place of

residence, actual freight charges for household effects as well as other expenses. No proof of payment is required, with flat-rate compensation capped at a maximum of one fifteenth of the annual gross income. Please note that this only applies when leaving your current residence.

Tax credits

Certain tax credits are already taken into account by monthly payroll accounting. They are deducted from the tax amount that was provisionally calculated and include:

- transportation tax credit
- tax credit for sole earners and single parents
- commuter subsidy

The annual transportation tax credit for employees amounts to 463 Euros.

Tax credit for sole earners and single parents

The tax credit is granted on condition that family allowance has been paid for

one or more children for more than six months during a calendar year, provided the partner does not earn more than 6,937.00 Euros per year. The tax credit for sole earners and single parents is included in the employer's monthly wage accounting as long as the employee submits the form E 30, which you can find here:

formulare.bmf.gv.at

The annual tax credit for sole earners and single parents amounts to:

- 572 Euros for one child
- 774 Euros for two children
- 255 Euros for the third child and any further children

Commuter subsidy (Pendlereuro)

There is an extra tax credit for employees entitled to commuting allowance, the so-called Pendlereuro, which is a commuter subsidy. The Pendlereuro amounts to two Euros per kilometre per year for one-way travel between the place of residence and the workplace.

Within the scope of an annual tax assessment (Arbeitnehmerveranlagung), the income tax deducted by the employer is recalculated. This may prove advantageous for employees who started their employment during the year. Due to the annual income tax system, they may have paid too much tax. This is because the tax base rests on the assumption that the monthly income is received for the entire year.

Furthermore, employees can claim deductions resulting in a lower tax base, which therefore gives rise to a tax credit. The following business expenses are deductible:

- operating expenses (computer, telephone, internet less a deductible, which for computers is usually assumed to be 40%)
- specialist literature
- traveling expenses
- training and further education costs
- relocation expenses
- maintenance of two households

- travel between the place of residence and the workplace (see commuting allowance, page 143)

It is not possible to deduct expenses related to clothing (such as suits) as these can also be worn privately. However, it is possible to deduct private expenses such as:

- church tax (up to 600 Euros from 2024)
- donations to certain institutions listed by the tax office
- tax consultant fees
- health care expenses (a deductible exceeding the amount of approximately one month's gross salary)

Persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities (increased family allowance) qualify for further tax deductions.

The declaration can be submitted online for the last five years via FinanzOnline. Just register once for the online portal, and your access data will be delivered to you by post. The Inland Revenue Office will provide answers to any minor issues related to the declaration. Further support can be obtained from tax advisers.

finanzonline.bmf.gv.at/fon

Oh! That's good to know!

Regardless of a person's origin, Roman Catholics are obliged to pay an income-based church tax. The registration authorities forward the religious affiliation stated on the certificate of registration to the diocese which, in turn, informs the person by post of the church tax to be paid.

www.dioezese-linz.at
www.kirchenbeitrag.at



Oh! That makes taxes easier!

Are all these taxes confusing you? Don't worry! As a matter of fact, they are difficult to understand. And you are not alone. Even Austrians have a hard time trying to make sense of them. The best thing might be to talk to a tax adviser. It's worth it! As you now already know, you can even deduct these expenses in your annual tax assessment. I recommend:

Deloitte.

Here, you can find all tax advisers (Steuerberater) in your vicinity:

www.ksw.or.at/mitgliederverzeichnis





Photo: 00 Tourismus / Robert Maibach

Your
Health is

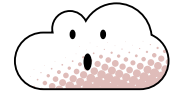
in Good
Hands

* When someone sneezes, Upper Austrians wish him or her "G'sundheit!" – "Stay healthy".

The Austrian health care system

Oh! That's important!

An e-card is given to all insured persons and serves as proof of insurance. It must be presented at every visit to a healthcare facility. The yearly service charge for the card is deducted from the salary in November and is indicated on the payslip.



Austria holds a leading position in international quality of life and health-care rankings. Legislation stipulates that social insurance is compulsory and based on the principle of solidarity. Income-based social insurance payments are made in return for benefits, regardless of the amount contributed. Once personal insurance is secured, a wide range of doctors and hospitals become available.

e-card – your health card

The e-card is a smartcard that can be used to obtain services (for example medical treatment and hospital care) without payment in cash. Panel doctors invoice the services directly with the social insurance authority on presentation of the e-card.



The rear side of the e-card is the European health insurance card, and this provides insurance during a temporary residence (for example, a holiday) in EU member states, the EEA region as well as Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Switzerland. It is recommended to check in advance whether medical facilities at your destination accept the e-card. If the e-card is not accepted, it may be necessary to make a payment and recover the costs from the social insurance authority in Austria. Costs up to a maximum of 80 % of standard Austrian rates can be refunded. Private travel insurance can be taken out to fully cover these costs. For more information about the e-card, an overview of your health insurance rights and other details, please visit:

www.sozialversicherung.at

Doctors

General practitioners

The GP is a general practitioner and the first point of contact for illnesses and complaints of all kinds. GPs can be selected freely, and many make home visits in the local area if necessary.

If necessary, the GP will refer the patient to an appropriate specialist or a hospital with a written referral (Überweisung) after examination of the complaint.

Panel doctors

So-called panel doctors (Kassenärzte or Vertragsärzte), independent of their field of specialisation, have contracts with one or multiple insurance funds and directly invoice treatment costs to them. Patients incur no costs unless a deductible is payable. To find out if a doctor has a contract with a health insurance fund, access:

arztsuche.aekooe.at/finder/search/land/OO,SA

- + Direct billing to the health insurance fund (without a deductible in most cases)
- Potentially longer waiting times due to high demand (appointments, visits) if the complaint is not acute, or shorter consultations.

Doctors of one's choice

A doctor of one's choice (Wahlarzt) does not have a contract with a health insurance fund and bills the treatment costs directly to their patients. Up to 80% of the costs which a panel doctor would receive for the same services can be claimed back from the health insurance fund, provided all requirements are met.

- + Fast appointments/short waiting times
- + More time for discussing the diagnosis
- Treatment costs are to be paid by the patient, and are only partly reimbursed

Hospitals

All patients are entitled to admission to

The Austrian health care system

the so-called standard class of care in a public hospital. State hospitals in rural areas, on the other hand, always allow admission. Please note the admission days (Aufnahmetage) of public hospitals in Linz on the respective hospital websites.

Generally speaking, only small fees are to be paid for the standard class of care in public hospitals. Higher fees are payable for the special class of care or care in private hospitals if the patient does not have private insurance.

Prescription fees

For every medication listed on a prescription from a panel doctor, a prescription fee is payable at the time of purchase at the pharmacy for each unit. Medication can be obtained directly from some doctors or from a pharmacy.

Co-insurance

In Austria, it is possible to co-insure

family members. Socially insured workers can co-insure the following persons at no extra cost:

- Spouses, registered partners and, under certain circumstances, people living in a joint household
- Children up to 18 years of age
- Children up to 21 years of age, provided they are not pursuing any professional occupation
- Children up to their 27th birthday if they are undertaking further education/training

There are special regulations for couples without children. For them, co-insurance is not free of charge.

Co-insured persons are entitled to the same services as the main insurance holder and receive their own e-card. The first point of contact for an application is the social insurance authority of the main insurance holder, for example the spouse.

Social insurance, with its emphasis on solidarity, is an important component in holding society together in the welfare state of Austria.

Social insurance applies to:

- almost all non-self-employed workers
- most self-employed persons
- persons claiming unemployment benefits
- those receiving a pension
- dependants of all the above groups

Social insurance registration

Registration at the responsible social insurance authority is performed by the employer for non-self-employed workers. The employer also takes care of the monthly payment of mandatory contributions, which include contributions from both the employer and employee. These are deducted directly

from the gross salary and indicated on the pay slip.

Social insurance authorities and service catalogue

There are 5 different social insurance authorities in Austria. People are assigned to the responsible authority according to occupational group. Every social insurance authority has its own service catalogue stating how much money is reimbursed for services. Therefore one authority may cover services that another does not.

To determine which one is responsible, information is available from the employer or the Main Association of Austrian Social Insurance Institutions:

www.sozialversicherung.at

Health insurance

Those covered by social insurance receive an e-card. By presenting this card, it is possible to receive medical services at panel doctors without ad-

vance payment, provided the person is covered by the insurance. Services covered by social health insurance are divided into these four groups:

Precautionary

- Mother-child pass
- Examinations for youths
- Check-ups (1 per year)
- Improvement of health

Maternity

- Hospital care
- Maternity allowance (replacement worker)

Illness

- Medical assistance & dental care to some extent
- Contributions to costs (e.g. dentures)
- Hospital care (a small fee is charged)
- Medicine (a prescription fee is charged)
- Medical care at home (through some GPs)

- Psychotherapy
- Diagnostics from clinical psychologists
- Medical rehabilitation
- Ergotherapy
- Sick pay
- Partial reimbursement (e.g. doctor of one's choice)

Therapeutic aids (e.g. shoe inlays) and appliances (e.g. wheelchair)

Oh! That's good to know!

Dental treatment by panel doctors is only free in certain cases. Children under 18 years of age could be entitled to free braces in cases of severe teeth or jaw misalignment. Ask your dentist or social insurance authority for details.



Check-ups

Insured people over 18 years of age can receive a yearly check-up (Vorsorgeuntersuchung or Gesundenuntersuchung), provided they reside in Austria. This free health check will assess if the person is in good shape.

Stay at a health resort

People suffering from long-term medical complaints can apply to their doctor for a stay at a health resort (Kuraufenthalt). If this is considered necessary for recovery, the pension insurance institution will cover the costs.

An approved stay is treated as sick leave, and the employer must be informed in advance. There is no legal right to such a treatment, and the deductible to be paid is based on monthly income.

Accident insurance

These contributions cover insurance services for accidents at the work-

place or work-related injuries. Accidents at the workplace include those occurring in the immediate vicinity of the workplace, within working hours, accidents caused in relation to work, or on the way to or from work.

Pension

The contributions paid are used to finance retirement and to maintain the standard of living in old age. Pension entitlements are dependent upon the period of insurance, the calculation basis and age.

Pension entitlements are available to those who:

- have reached the standard retirement age (women min. 60 years of age (from 2024, the retirement age for women will increase by 6 months each year until 2033, then the retirement age is 65 years); men min. 65 years)
- have fulfilled the required period of insurance

Social Insurances

- (generally a minimum of 180 months of insurance years = 15 years)

Recognition of pension contributions made abroad

Contribution periods from the EU/EEA region, Switzerland and countries which have bilateral social insurance agreements with Austria are recognised in the pension entitlement. Agreements with other countries can be found here:

Pension application

- 1) Application to the pension insurance institution at the place of residence
- 2) The pension insurance institution informs the authorities in the relevant countries
- 3) Countries calculate pension entitlements based on national regulations (contribution periods from member

states are recognised where applicable)

- 4) Persons with pension entitlements receive payments directly from each country

The Pension Insurance Institution (Pensionsversicherungsanstalt or PVA), as the responsible authority, recommends that, where there are plans to retire in Austria, an application for the determination of insurance periods (Antrag auf Feststellung von Versicherungszeiten) should be submitted as soon as possible.

www.pensionsversicherung.at

Unemployment insurance

Contributions to unemployment insurance are used for the payment of unemployment benefit. Those receiving unemployment benefit have health insurance. Requirements for receiving unemployment benefit while looking for work are:

- Registration as a jobseeker at

the Public Employment Service (Arbeitsmarktservice or AMS)

- Unemployed, willing and able to work
- Available for job openings
- Willing to take a job with a minimum amount of working hours
- Can provide evidence of a certain minimum period of employment
- Not beyond the maximum claim period for unemployment benefit

Previous insurance periods

Job seekers claiming unemployment benefit must have been in an occupation making unemployment insurance contributions for a certain period of time. Insurance periods in other countries can be taken into account where applicable. The application for unemployment benefit is submitted to the local AMS office.

www.ams.at

Vaccination schemes

The Ministry of Health provides information about current vaccination schemes in Austria, recommendations according to age group and the free child vaccination programme.

www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Impfen.html

Information and advice is available at any time from GPs, pediatricians, or alternatively, from the Upper Austrian advice and vaccination centres. Please find more information here:

www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/33454.htm

impfung) is therefore highly recommended.

Depending on the vaccine, each vaccination has a different price. However, there are a range of special offers and vaccination campaigns from the responsible social insurance authority, the Medical Chamber or the Chamber of Pharmacies:

www.aerztekammer.at
www.apothekerkammer.at

TBE vaccination

Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE or FSME = Frühsommer-Meningoenzephalitis) is transmitted by ticks and is widespread in Austria. This viral disease can lead to an inflammation of the brain, the cerebral membrane and the central nervous system. The so-called tick protection vaccine (Zeckenschutz-





Photo: iStockphoto.com / Bogdan Kurylo

Pregnancy and childbirth

Hospital registration

It is advisable to contact the chosen hospital as soon as possible regarding childbirth. The Kepler University Hospital (Med Campus IV) in Linz is the largest maternity hospital in Austria and accepts all expectant mothers. Other hospitals with maternity wards accept patients according to free capacity at the planned due date.

Depending on the hospital, it may be possible to visit and get familiar with the facilities in advance. Many hospitals also offer prenatal classes. It is also possible to give birth as an outpatient or at home, although this should be agreed in consultation with a gynaecologist.

Mother-child-pass (examinations)

The mother-child pass (Mutter-Kind-Pass) records precautionary health checks for expectant mothers and young children. It includes programme of medical examinations during pregnancy and until the child's fifth birthday: five check-ups before, and five af-

ter birth, which are all free of charge if performed by panel doctors.

If any check-ups are missed, this has an effect on the childcare allowance received. The mother-child pass is issued by the gynaecologist and should be carried with you at all times. All medical examinations until just before childbirth are performed by the gynaecologist, at which point the chosen hospital takes over.



Scan the QR codes to learn more about the mother-child pass.

A list of all specialists in gynaecology, obstetrics and midwifery (Frauenheilkunde und Geburtshilfe), and pediatric and adolescent medicine (Kinder- und Jugendheilkunde) in Upper Austria can be found here:



Administrative procedures

The first administrative procedures after childbirth can be completed at the civil registry office (Standesamt) local to the place of birth, situated at the municipal authority in Linz, Wels and Steyr, or otherwise at the local authority. Many hospitals have their own 'babypoint', where various registry office services are offered.

Birth certificate (Geburtsurkunde)

Immediately after childbirth, a notification to issue a birth certificate is made. Normally this is made by the hospital where the baby was delivered.

Registration for social insurance

This usually happens automatically after the birth has been registered at the relevant civil registry office. Whether the parents are married or not, the child is co-insured with the parents and receives its own e-card after the registration. To accelerate the process and avoid any questions, a short letter

Oh! That's good to know!

Get in touch with a local parent-child centre (Eltern-Kind-Zentrum) – they offer training, a meeting place, advice and support for parents and children from pregnancy to puberty, along with information about play groups:

www.elternkindzentrum-ooe.at



or call to the relevant social insurance authority is recommended.

Registration of place of residence

Based on the standard legal requirement to register a place of residence, newborn children must be registered at the municipal or local authority. This can take place at the same time as the registration of birth. Normally, the child should be registered with the authorities within three days of returning home from the medical facility.

Pregnancy and childbirth

Right of residence

Newborn children require a right of residence according to the Settlement and Residence Act, just as their parents do. Parents from third countries who are legally settled in Austria must apply for a residence permit (Aufenthaltstitel) within six months of childbirth. Children of citizens from the EU/EEA and Switzerland who benefit from freedom of movement must obtain a registration certificate (Anmeldebescheinigung) within four months after birth.

The responsible settlement bodies are always the district or municipal authorities (Bezirkshauptmannschaft or Magistrat). A valid right of residence is a prerequisite for receiving childcare and family allowance.

Citizenship and passports

Citizenship laws are based on nationality, therefore the rules of the country of origin must be considered. It is recommended to also apply for a passport when applying for citizenship.

Further information from A–Z about pregnancy, childbirth and the first years with your child can be found here:





Photo: istockphoto.com / Tommi L

How Upper Austrians

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Transport

get from
A to B

About driving in general:

- Right-hand traffic
- Mind the speed limits on highways, main roads and in towns
- Tire regulations for summer and winter
- Vignette for driving on highways required
- In a traffic jam on the highway, always make room for an emergency lane

Oh! That's important!

Attention should be paid to what is important when having a non-Austrian driving licence and bringing your own car to your new home country. Please read more on page 75.

**Speed limits**

130 km/h on the highway
100 km/h on the main road
50 km/h in towns
(or as marked by road signs)

Tire regulations

Independent of weather conditions, it is compulsory to fit winter tires from November 1st until April 15th of the following year. Plus, if the car is not equipped with winter tires, the insurance does not accept liability for damages anyway.

Vignette

A so-called Vignette is required for the use of motorways. There is a yearly Vignette and also a Vignette for shorter periods. A yearly Vignette must be renewed at the beginning of each year. The Vignette is available from automobile associations (ARBÖ, ÖAMTC, VCÖ), gas stations, tobacconists and ASFINAG toll locations.

There is also the possibility of buying a digital Vignette:

www.asfinag.at/maut-vignette/vignette/digitale-vignette/

Automobile associations

These associations represent the interests of road users and offer their members services such as roadside assistance, insurance, travel and buyer's information. The most well-known are the ÖAMTC and ARBÖ:

www.oeamtc.at
www.arboe.at

Traffic light colours

Austrian traffic lights consist of three colours: red means stop, green means go. When the green light is flashing, drivers should try to stop. After four green flashes, an orange light appears, which means that you should only continue to drive if it is impossible to brake in time or to stop.

Zebra crossings

In Austria, it is compulsory to stop at a

zebra crossing if a pedestrian wants to cross the road, but only if the crossing is not regulated by a traffic light.

ParkingParking on the street

There are sign-posted and blue-striped short-term parking zones, where a parking clock indicating arrival time (free of charge) or a parking ticket (payment necessary) is required. Tickets are available from machines in the immediate vicinity and should be placed under the windshield inside the car, where it is visible to parking wardens. Mind the sign-posted time periods displayed on the parking clocks. It is free to park in these zones outside these times.

Resident parking permits

In many cities, resident permits are available, which allow residents to park in designated short-term parking zones around their home at any time free of charge. Municipal or district authorities provide more information.

Underground car parks

There are also several underground car parks which are not free, where a ticket is issued on entry, and a fee is payable at machines just before departure.

About the car in general:

- Car registration
- Assessment (Pickerl)
- Car liability insurance

Car registration

Before a newly purchased car can be used on public roads, official registration is required at the relevant local body. A prerequisite is the purchase of liability insurance. If you bring your own car (or other motor vehicle such as a motorcycle or bus) from abroad, you must officially register it with the local authorities at your place of residence. After registration, you get a new local number plate for your car. Please also consider the information in the box when importing a car from abroad.

Foreign number plates and car imports

Persons with their main residence in Austria are allowed to drive a car with foreign number plates for one month after entry of the vehicle into Austria. After this period, the registration certificate and foreign number plates must be handed to the relevant local body: either the district authorities, the state police headquarters in Linz, or the respective police department in Steyr or Wels. Vehicles with an EU operating license do not require individual approval.

Oh! A car is highly recommended!

Upper Austria's infrastructure is generally well developed. As in most countries, public transport is more accessible in metropolitan areas than in rural regions. Rural locations can still be reached with public transport, but in fact a car saves time and is more practical.



Vehicles without an EU operating license

These require an individual approval, along with registration in an approval database. The bodies responsible for the approval are the technical test centres of the Upper Austrian State Government:

www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/155.htm

NoVA (Normalverbrauchsabgabe)

Regardless of whether the car is imported from the EU or from a third country, the so-called standardised consumption tax (Normverbrauchsabgabe/ NoVA) is payable to the local tax authority. A tax calculator can be found at:

www.nova-rechner.at/index.php/rechner-menu

Further information on rules for driving motor vehicles in Austria can be found here:



Assessment (Pickerl)

All vehicles must be assessed at regular intervals for roadworthiness and safety. The assessment date depends on the first registration of the vehicle, the month being indicated on the assessment sticker. The tolerance period for the assessment ranges from one month prior to four months after the month indicated. The assessment can be performed by automobile associations, approved freelance civil engineers and garages. Costs can vary according to the chosen assessment location.

Car liability insurance

The purchase of a car liability insurance is a legal requirement in Austria. This should cover both third parties and the insured and prevent financial ruin. For more information, please turn over to page 185.



Photo: Harald Eisenberger

ÖBB (Österreichische Bundesbahnen) – Austrian Railways

The trains of Austrian Railways, a nationally owned organisation, are the most widely used form of public transport in the country. The well-developed network of railways offers comfortable commuting by train, along with international connections. Busses are also operated by the ÖBB.

For train travel with the ÖBB, tickets must be purchased before boarding, either online or from a ticket machine at the stations. For frequent trips, the purchase of a weekly, monthly or yearly ticket can be cheaper. Alternatively, it is advisable to purchase a so-called ÖBB Vorteils card, as this can allow you to make substantial savings.

The timetables are available on the ÖBB website as well as on the free ÖBB Scotty app, which covers all bus and train connections, stops, delays and more, regardless of the operator. In addition, train connections of the WESTbahn are displayed in the app as well as on the website.

www.oebb.at
www.oebb.at/de/fahrplan/fahrplanauskunft/scottymobil

WESTbahn

The WESTbahn is a private company offering train travel between Vienna and Salzburg. Upper Austria benefits greatly from this service since it lies between these two

states. WESTbahn offers its services at lower prices than the ÖBB, using the ÖBB infrastructure. ÖBB Vorteils card holders can also travel at reduced rates with the WESTbahn.

Tickets bought from the ticket machines at railway stations are not valid for travel with the WESTbahn since they are only valid on ÖBB trains. WESTbahn tickets can be bought on the train directly from the ticket collector, in many tobacco shops, with the WESTpay app or on the WESTbahn website:

www.westbahn.at

In timetables, displays and apps (including the ÖBB Scotty app), WESTbahn trains are indicated with the prefix WB. On the platform, WESTbahn trains can be distinguished from the red ÖBB trains by their green-blue design.

Oh! That's good news!

Be sure to check out the Sparschiene offers on the ÖBB website. They are available for both Austria and Europe, and you can pre-book rail connections very cheaply. The family card (Familienkarte) is also helpful for cheaper travelling.



Linz AG lines (busses and tramway)

Linz AG is the operator of regional buses and trams in Linz and offers an excellent public transport network.

This allows trouble-free travel to all parts of Linz and beyond. Passengers must be in possession of a valid ticket before travelling, otherwise plain-clothes ticket inspectors can levy large fines.

Tickets (short or long-distance, day tickets) can be bought from ticket machines at all bus and tramway stops and should be purchased in advance. The ticket types and prices can be displayed in German and English. The tickets are valid for both buses and trams in Linz, but not for the Pöstlingberg tram. For frequent travel, a weekly, monthly or yearly ticket is highly recommended.

Extensive information is available at www.linzag.at/efa

Oh! Don't forget!

If you want to board a bus or tram with your dog, you have to buy a separate ticket for man's best friend! Oh, and make sure to press the stop button in busses and trams before reaching your destination.



Upper Austrian Transport Association

(Oberösterreichischer Verkehrsverbund/OÖVV)

The Upper Austrian Transport Association fulfills the demand for quantity and quality in public transport for the whole federal state. Its duties include providing information and advice to passengers, issuing and billing free travel for students or apprentices, and charging and providing services to customers.

The OÖVV website provides timetables, tickets and prices as well as information on tickets for trainees:

www.ooevv.at

ÖBB Bus

The Austrian Railways not only operate trains, but also an extensive bus network. Tickets for ÖBB busses can be purchased in cash from the driver as

well as online. For frequent trips, the purchase of a weekly, monthly or yearly ticket can be cheaper. Alternatively, it is advisable to purchase a so-called ÖBB Vorteils card as this allows you to make substantial savings.

The timetables are available on the ÖBB website as well as on the free ÖBB Scotty app, which covers all bus and train connections, stops, delays and more, regardless of the operator:

www.oebb.at

FlixBus

FlixBus is a German company operating an international long-distance bus network, which offers relatively cheap bus travel within Europe.

www.flixbus.de

Vienna International Airport

The airport in Vienna is the largest and most important Austrian airport.

It can be reached directly in less than 2 hours from Linz by ÖBB railjets, which offer the most comfortable way of travelling to the Vienna International Airport. Additionally, the airport can be reached by bus from all railway stations in Vienna.

www.viennaairport.com
www.oebb.at

Other airports

Linz Blue Danube Airport

The airport in Linz is rather small and flies predominantly to large hubs like Vienna, Frankfurt or Düsseldorf. It is primarily used for business trips.

In summer, there are also flights to various holiday destinations.

www.linz-airport.com

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Airport

Living in the south of Upper Austria, the airport in Salzburg may be the best option for flying. Like the airport in Linz, it is primarily used for business trips and for connecting flights to larger hubs.

www.salzburg-airport.com

Munich Airport

Another big international airport is Munich Airport. Although it cannot be reached by train as comfortably and directly as Vienna International Airport, it could be a good option for people living in the west of Upper Austria. Munich Airport is best reached by car.

www.munich-airport.com



LINZ AG collective on-call taxi

Linz AG lines offer a collective on-call taxi (Anruf-Sammel-Taxi/AST): A taxi running according to a timetable, which is shared with other passengers and is therefore cheaper. The taxi must be ordered at least 30 minutes before the desired departure time as demand is high.

All information can be found here:

www.linzag.at/portal/de/privatkunden/unterwegs/anruf_sammel_taxi

Taxi

Usually, there are taxi ranks at highly frequented locations in cities. Alternatively, many taxi companies are online.

A Google search with “taxi + location” indicates the nearest taxis and their contact information.

Oh! That's good to know!

It's advisable to keep a little cash for paying the taxi driver as not all accept debit or credit cards. And: It is common to give the driver a small tip.



Bicycle

Bicycles are also popular for making journeys. Cyclists should note that they must push their bicycle over zebra crossings and are not permitted to cycle on pavements. Additionally, there is also a strict limit on alcohol. For children under 12, a helmet must be worn for safety reasons. Although this is optional from the age of 13 onwards, a helmet is still highly recommended. Please note that you have to pay extra for taking your bicycle with you on public transport.

e-scooter sharing Linz

e-scooters can be rented against payment of a fee, mostly over smartphone apps, and are paid for by credit card or through online payment systems. The minimum age for driving an e-scooter is 12 years, but kids with a bicycle license at the age of 9 or 10 are also allowed to drive. Younger children are only allowed to drive if accompanied by at least one person of at least 16 years of age. Moreover, children under 12 years have to wear a helmet.

It is forbidden for two people to drive one e-scooter. In general, the rules for riding a bicycle apply to driving an electric scooter, although hand signals for turning are not allowed as it is too dangerous to steer an electric scooter with only one hand.





Photo: OÖ Tourismus / Marco Mestrovic

Discover the
Extraordinary

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Everyday Life

in the
Ordinary



Bank accounts (checking accounts)

Money transactions, such as the payment of salaries or bills, are generally made cash-free. This also means that a person needs to open a checking account for the processing of cash-free payments. To open a bank account, usually a valid photo identification is required, along with a residence registration in some cases. Depending on the selected account type, an overdraft facility is provided. This means that the account holder may have a negative balance by overdrawing, for which the bank charges an overdraft fee. An account with an overdraft often requires a salary statement.

Banks and varying account management fees

There are a range of banks with many branches all over Upper Austria to select from. Some of the most popular and biggest ones are:

www.oberbank.at
www.raiffeisen.at
www.sparkasse.at

www.volksbank.at
www.vkb-bank.at

As all major Austrian banks offer online banking or their own apps, it is usually not even necessary to go to the bank in person. But if you have to or simply want to, every bank customer is generally cared for by a private customer account manager, who answers questions and gives detailed information. Opening hours vary between banks and are indicated online.

Banks charge varying account management fees. Here is a tool to compare the fees of different institutes:

www.durchblicker.at/girokonto

Online banks

In addition to traditional, physically present banks, there are online banks. Some of them offer cheaper conditions as they don't have operating expenditures for branches.

Nevertheless, some require a reference account for money transfers.

These are some of the most popular online banks:

www.ing-diba.at
www.easybank.at
www.n26.com/en-at

Debit cards and credit cards

In Upper Austrian stores, it is very common to pay by debit card, which is usually included when opening an account. However, it is a good idea to check with the bank first whether this service is offered, as well as whether and what type of credit card is issued, as costs vary depending on the services included, such as insurance (including travel insurance). In some stores, it is possible to pay by credit card.

Nevertheless, as this is not always the case, it is recommended to carry cash or a debit card.

Standing orders

Money transfers by standing order are direct and reliable, making regular

payments like rent, utility costs and cell phone fees to the respective company easier.

Saving opportunities

The low interest rates on checking accounts make them unprofitable investments. Depending on the chosen bank, there are, nevertheless, other investment opportunities. Customer account managers offer personal consultations on different topics ranging from savings accounts and housing savings schemes to bonds and shares or loans.

Oh! That's funny!

Did you know that (Upper) Austrians love to pay cash? So you better keep some cash with you at all times to pay the taxi driver or in the restaurant as debit or credit cards may not be accepted.



Everyone should decide for themselves which insurance fits best. There are insurances for all walks of life and situations, such as burglary insurance or hail insurance. Some are legally required, others are recommended or voluntary.

Social insurance

As explained in detail in the chapter on health, social insurance is a legal requirement in Austria and provides a financial cover in the case of illness, accident or unemployment. Under certain conditions, gainfully employed persons can co-insure spouses and children. There is, however, also the possibility of private self-insurance. On top of that, it is possible to get additional coverage with benefits such as single hospital rooms or seeing doctors of one's choice.

Household insurance

As indicated in the chapter Housing, household insurance may be compul-

sory. Even if this is not the case, household insurance is still highly recommended. It covers, among other things, damage caused by fire, glass breakage, acts of nature as well as damage to objects, such as furniture or electronic devices, and home burglaries. It also includes liability insurance.

Car liability insurance and comprehensive insurance

The purchase of car liability insurance is a legal requirement in Austria. This should cover both third parties and the insured and prevent financial ruin. In the case of a traffic accident caused by the insured person, the insurance pays for material damage, personal injury and financial loss up to the agreed insurance limit. The insured person is liable for damages beyond this limit. Comprehensive insurance is optional and can be taken out to cover high repair costs, for example in the case of vandalism or bad weather with hail (according to the chosen insurance).

Legal expenses insurance

The purchase of legal expenses insurance is voluntary. It covers lawyers' and expert fees as well as procedural costs in case of a legal dispute. Most legal expenses insurances cover a range of legal areas such as labour, contract and tort law. Nevertheless, even the most expensive insurance policy does not offer complete protection.

Therefore, extra insurances like legal expenses insurance, patient protection insurance or legal insurance for cars might be of interest. Some areas may already be covered by other insurances, for instance personal liability insurance.

Life insurance

There are different types of life insurance to choose from. It can be used as a pension scheme, benefit for surviving dependants in the event of death, repayment tool, or it can serve as collateral for loans. Life insurance is taken out voluntarily and on a long-term basis.

Oh! That's helpful!

Here is a tool to compare the fees of different institutes:

[www.durchblicker.at/
versicherungsvergleich](http://www.durchblicker.at/versicherungsvergleich)

**Pharmacies**Stationary pharmacies

In every single one of the more than 200 stationary pharmacies in Upper Austria, you will receive prompt and straightforward professional advice for minor health problems, and can buy prescription-free medication. In addition, the pharmacies offer a range of alternative health products such as health teas and Bach flowers, or cosmetic products for everyday life and for skin with special needs. You can, of course, collect the medication prescribed by your doctor, but only if you can present the prescription to the pharmacy staff.

For opening hours, please refer to the website of your local pharmacy:

www.apothekerkammer.at/apothekensuche

In case of an emergency, some pharmacies provide an emergency service at night. Here, you can find a list of

pharmacies that are on duty at night, updated on a daily basis:

[www.apo24.at/apotheken/nachtdienste/
oberoesterreich](http://www.apo24.at/apotheken/nachtdienste/oberoesterreich)

Online pharmacies

A pharmacy online shop is, of course, very convenient if you wish to order everyday healthcare products, cosmetics and prescription-free medication.

You can also order prescription drugs, but you have to send the original prescription by post and wait for the pharmacy staff to verify it. Only then will the medication be sent to you, which will definitely take longer than going to your local pharmacy. Moreover, you have to go to the post office to send the prescription anyway.

www.shop-apotheke.com
www.vamida.at
www.apotheke.at/

The Austrian postal service (Österreichische Post)

With more than 400 post offices and about 1,300 postal partners all over Austria, the Austrian postal service is the leading logistics and postal service provider in the country.

Most services, such as pricing and collection services, telephone and banking services can be found on the website of the Austrian postal service. Find all post offices with the post office finder here:

www.post.at/sf/standortfinder

Hungry for Authenticity

Upper Austria is a land of genuine hospitality with dedicated and innovative hosts, continually surprising even seasoned connoisseurs with unexpected moments of joy, whether in a tavern, a gourmet restaurant, a pub, or selected food manufactories.

Upper Austria brings traditional cuisine into the present and future. From taverns to gourmet establishments, Upper Austria's dining venues guarantee fresh, regional ingredients and the highest quality. Many establishments, whether taverns or restaurants, are family-run, passing down generational knowledge and maintaining a family tradition of great taste.

Upper Austria's culinary diversity rests on the three unshakable pillars of its cuisine: roast pork, beer, and dumplings. As the culinary emblem of Upper Austria, the dumpling has conquered the entire menu. From liver dumplings

in soup to meat-filled dumplings in the main course to sweet, fruit-filled classics. Speaking of liver: a dish like "Leberschädel" can only be found in Upper Austria.

Year-Round Culinary Delight

Throughout the year, Upper Austria invites you to gourmet festivals and culinary initiatives, offering the chance to experience regional and seasonal specialties and creative cuisine. The year begins with the "Innviertler Biermärz." Breweries and gastronomy in the Innviertel beer region celebrate beer with a series of major events, from communal hikes to creative beer menus. FELIX – the tavern festival in the Traunsee-Almtal region – heralds spring as a season of indulgence. "TAVOLATA," the culinary festival in Steyr and the National Park region, features extraordinary venues that one would not immediately associate with high-end culinary culture. The gourmet autumn in the Attersee-Attergau region also



highlights selected regional ingredients each year.

In the Mühlviertler Hochland region, 22 gastronomic establishments have partnered with farmers and food producers under the “Mühlviertler Hoch. Genuss” initiative, promising year-round regional delights. Similarly, “Schmecktakuläres Almtal” in the northern Salzkammergut includes 24 establishments – from inns to farms, bakeries, butcheries, and breweries – serving guests the authentic taste of the Almtal.

Upperguide Culinary

Whether you're craving a hearty meal or a light snack, seeking an exquisite gourmet menu or classic tavern fare, Upperguide Culinary has you covered. Want to shop at a farm store or get a behind-the-scenes look at agricultural life? This 24/7 online guide helps you find the perfect spot for your culinary desires. Just choose your location and

date and let your digital travel companion lead you to genuine culinary delights, from cozy inns to stylish restaurants.

Find out about the latest culinary hotspots

Access the platform of the Facebook group “Linz isst”, where guests can exchange their experiences and get ideas about where to go:

www.facebook.com/groups/linz.isst

Or find the best addresses for good food all over Upper Austria on these platforms:



Our restaurant highlights:

Royal Bombay Palace – Indian cuisine

Escape from everyday life and spend an evening in an Indian palace with colourfully decorated rooms.

www.bombaypalace.at

Ristorante La Ruffa – Italian cuisine

To enjoy the best sides of Italy, visit the Ristorante La Ruffa in Linz-Urfahr. The best pizzas in town and other Italian food are served here, and of course Italian wine.

www.ristorante-laruffa.at

Kleiner Grieche – Greek cuisine

A special address for special occasions offering an elegant atmosphere. Not your typical, everyday Greek cuisine.

www.zumkleinengriechen.at

tamu sana – African cuisine

The tamu sana restaurant is not only a restaurant, but also a space for intercultural exchange. It also offers catering.

www.tamusana.at

Oh! Here's a tip about tips!

In Austria, it is usual to tip several types of service professionals such as waiters, hairdressers, craftsmen, taxi drivers and others. Usually the tip is between 5% and 10% of the invoice, at least in restaurants.



Klosterhof – Austrian cuisine

Especially in summer, the Klosterhof on the Landstraße in Linz is highly recommended due to its huge and shady garden with chestnut trees.

www.klosterhof.at

Gościnna Chata – Polish cuisine

It is the first Polish restaurant in Linz, and its name stands for the world-famous Polish hospitality.

www.goscinna-chata.at

Gelbes Krokodil – Multicultural cuisine

The kitchen team offers a daily mix of cooking culture, vegetarian meals and regional specialties.

www.krokodil.at

Opening hours

Opening hours vary between stores, and between rural and urban areas. Stores are usually closed on Sundays by law, except for supermarkets in train stations and minimarkets at gas stations, which are allowed to sell groceries on Sundays and public holidays. There are also some bakeries with open coffee shops.

Restaurants also have very different opening hours in rural and urban areas. In towns, restaurants are usually closed on Sundays, while in rural areas restaurants tend to be closed on Mondays or Tuesdays. It's recommended to check the opening hours of the respective restaurant online or by phone to avoid standing in front of closed doors.

Oh! Did you know that?

In Austria, shops are normally closed on Sundays and public holidays. This also means that many restaurants (especially in towns), groceries, bakeries or coffee shops keep their doors closed.



Groceries

Groceries as well as household and hygiene products are available in many different supermarkets. There are several supermarket chains all over Austria offering similar prices and ranges of products. Almost all supermarket chains have their own organic food brand, but there are also organic supermarkets, especially in large cities. Supermarkets also sell bread and pastries. Cosmetics, household and hygiene products are also generally available in supermarkets and drugstores.

Depending on the season, supermarkets also offer an extended product range including gardening tools in summer and Christmas decorations in winter. Almost all supermarkets have weekly offers, which can be found online or in apps.

There are also weekly markets in many places with fresh farm produce, and weekly farmers' markets in cities offering fresh seasonal and local food: www.genussland.at/aktuelles/veranstaltungen

Fashion, electronics and furniture stores

There are malls with a wide range of fashion and electronics stores, as well as shopping streets with many fashion stores in big cities. The main shopping street in Linz is the Landstraße, but there are also many small boutiques and specialist shops to be discovered in the side streets. Furniture, household products, products for babies

and decoration items can be found in small specialist shops as well as in large furniture stores.

Payment

In Upper Austria, you can as a rule pay either in cash or by debit card including all functions (e.g. Quick or Pay-pass). In some shops, it is also possible to pay by credit card, but in this case it is advisable to be careful and to also keep in mind that not every shop accepts them.

Consumer rights

The Upper Austrian Chamber of Labour provides comprehensive information about consumer rights and obligations as well as free consultations in individual cases.

www.arbeiterkammer.at/beratung/konsumenschutz/index.html

Leisure activities

Water sports

Dive into crystal-clear waters, explore the realm of adventure, and experience water in its purest form – literally. Upper Austria's lakes all boast drinking water quality, reflecting the surrounding natural scenery, especially in the Salzkammergut, home to 67 lakes.

www.salzkammergut.at/en
www.hello-yellow.at/en/
www.theriverwave.com
www.wasserskischule-linz.at

- **Tauchen:** For freshwater divers, the Salzkammergut is more than a hidden gem. Each lake offers a new discovery and its own secrets.
- **Actionsport:** Home to the world's largest river wave, numerous wakeboard lifts around the city, and stand-up paddleboard yoga, Upper Austria has become a hot-spot for action-packed water sports.

- **Baden:** Upper Austria offers a variety of idyllic waters that turn a day of swimming into an unforgettable summer experience, whether in clear lakes or refreshing rivers.
- **Segeln:** The Salzkammergut, the lake district in southern Upper Austria, provides ideal conditions for sailing on lakes such as Attersee, Traunsee, Mondsee, and Wolfgangsee.

Cycling, Mountain Biking and Gravel Biking

Upper Austria is a paradise for cycling enthusiasts. With over 2,400 kilometers of bike paths, the region offers routes that wind along rivers, circle lakes, and traverse meadows and fields – all well-marked for ease of navigation. For those who prefer mountain biking, there are more than 3,000 kilometers of designated mountain bike trails through mountains and alpine



pastures. Seasoned road cyclists can enjoy tested routes on quiet side roads, leading to the most picturesque areas of Upper Austria – from the Danube through the Mühlviertel to the famous lakes of the Salzkammergut. Additionally, the growing pump track scene is supported by an increasing number of bike parks.

Gravel biking is a cycling discipline that combines elements of road cycling and mountain biking across various ter-

rains. The Dachstein Salzkammergut region offers several routes featuring alternating road and off-road sections in a diverse landscape of mountains and lakes. Additionally, the nationwide route “Gravel Austria” passes through Upper Austria, providing even more opportunities for gravel biking enthusiasts to explore the scenic beauty of the region.

www.oberoesterreich.at/aktivitaeten/sommer/mountainbiken/touren
mountainbike-touren.html
www.velodrom.at

Hiking and Mountain Climbing

Experience the breathtaking landscapes of Upper Austria at a leisurely pace: from plains and idyllic river valleys to lush green pastures, and majestic mountains. Whether you prefer easy-going pleasure hikes and alpine walks or challenging multi-day and alpine tours, unforgettable nature adventures await. With more than 20 pilgrimage or spiritual trails, you can satisfy your desire for tranquility, reconnect with your roots, and enjoy direct contact with nature.

www.wandern.at
www.dachstein-salzkammergut.at
www.kalkalpenweg.at
www.donausteig.com
www.boehmerwald.at
www.johannesweg.at

Running and Trail Running

Move at your own pace with quick steps – all in the fresh air, surrounded by stunning nature and the most beautiful landscapes that make everything

else fade away. Running clears the mind and energizes the body. Discover running routes, events, and everything about trail running in Upper Austria.

Horse Riding

Discover enchanting places, legendary castle ruins, crystal-clear rivers and lakes, dense forests, and seemingly untouched nature – all with the power of one horse. Gallop over rough and smooth terrain. For those who have never ridden a horse before, Upper Austria's riding regions will quickly have you confidently in the saddle.

www.pferdereich.at
www.pferdeland-nationalpark.at
www.reiterdorf-ampflwang.at
www.pferdeurlaub.at

Golf

Lush green meadows, well-maintained fairways, and picturesque natural landscapes make golfing in Upper Austria an exceptional experience. Golf



courses stretch from the Bohemian Forest in the north to the majestic mountains in the south, offering quality, expertise, and the highest standards for swinging, chipping, and putting on the green. Enjoy a sport that opens unexpected perspectives in stunning surroundings.

www.golfurlaub.at

Skiing and Snowboarding

Upper Austria's winter sports areas are located in the Bohemian Forest and along the northern edge of the Alps. The largest ski resorts in the region include the family paradise, Hochficht, in the Bohemian Forest, the World Cup ski resort, Hinterstoder, and the nearby family-friendly Wurzeralm in Spital am Pyhrn. In the Salzkammergut region, you'll find the Feuerkogel in Ebensee, the Kasberg in Grünau im Almtal, the Freesports Arena Dachstein Krippenstein, and the Dachstein West ski region. These destinations offer diverse slopes and facilities for all skill levels, ensuring a memo-

orable winter sports experience for families and enthusiasts alike.

www.hochficht.at
www.kasberg.at
www.hiwu.at
www.dachstein.at
www.feuerkogel.net
www.dachstein-salzkammergut.com
www.wintersport.at

Free Riding

In Upper Austria, untouched powder slopes, majestic peaks, and unforgettable adventures await. The Dachstein in the south is a true paradise for freeriders looking to showcase their skills off the groomed trails.

Winter Sports Aside the Tracks

Variety means the adventure continues even after you unclip your skis. Why not switch it up? Try the cross-country trails at the Nordic Center Bohemian Forest, or explore the peaceful, rejuvenating silence of winter in the mountains on snowshoes. Guided ranger tours in the Kalkalpen National Park reveal nature's almost meditative tran-

quility during the cold season. On the ice, people in Upper Austria enjoy not only ice skating, but also participating in the region's "national sport," ice stock sport (similar to curling).

www.boehmerwald.at
www.skitourengehen.info

Thermal Springs

Upper Austria's thermal baths strike a perfect balance between a relaxing atmosphere and health expertise. At the EurothermenResorts in Bad Schallerbach, Bad Ischl, and Bad Hall, as well as at Therme Geinberg and Gesundheitsresort Lebensquell Bad Zell, the focus extends beyond the soothing and relaxing effects of thermal water, offering a comprehensive wellness experience.

www.eurothermen.at
www.therme-geinberg.at

For more online information about trips in Upper Austria

www.ausflugstipps.at
www.linztourismus.at

Cultural Offerings and Events

Upper Austria impresses with an incredible variety of cultural offerings – from concerts, to festivals, to visual arts, and experimental readings. It is a land of musicians and writers, history enthusiasts and forward-thinkers, high-flyers and culture lovers. Upper Austria has twice hosted European Capitals of Culture with Linz in 2009 and Bad Ischl Salzkammergut in 2024. Additionally, the region is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites, showcasing its rich cultural heritage.

www.kultururlaub.at

Festivals, Theatre and Traditions

Culture and traditions are deeply cherished and actively celebrated in Upper Austria. Theaters and concert halls are lively year-round, especially in Linz at the Music Theatre in Volksgarten, the Playhouse on the Promenade, and the Brucknerhaus in Donaupark. During the festival season, the whole of Upper Austria transforms into a grand stage, with the most beautiful spots becoming part of the Upper Aus-

trian Cultural Summer. The Steyr Music Festival and the Danube Festival Weeks in Strudengau captivate audiences with classic open-air performances. Operetta hits resonate at the Lehár Festival in Bad Ischl, while rock legends gather at the Clam Castle festival grounds in the Danube region. The "Woodstock of Brass Music" in Innviertel is Europe's largest festival for brass music, featuring everything from brass bands to big band sounds. Bad

Schallerbach celebrates the longest imaginable summer of music, while the Salzkammergut Festwochen Gmunden presents a multidisciplinary cultural festival. In the autumn, Linz takes over with the Ars Electronica Festival, offering a critical look at technology and society, celebrating the spectacular "Klangwolken" in Donaupark, and honoring world-renowned Upper Austrian composer Anton Bruckner with the "International Brucknerfest."

The annual journey of traditions is rich and varied, from the Glöcklerläufe and colorful Carnival festivities to magnificent Corpus Christi processions in summer, Advent markets, and New Year's Eve celebrations to end the year.

www.ars.electronica.art
www.woodstockderblasmusik.at
www.pflasterspektakel.at
www.donau-festwochen.at
www.festwochen-gmunden.at
www.leharfestival.at
www.klangwolke.at
www.crossingeurope.at
www.stream-festival.at
www.lidosounds.com/en/

Oh! That sounds great!

You don't know where to buy event tickets?
Here are some insider tips:

www.events.at
www.oeticket.com



Find all events in Linz at:
www.linz-termine.at



Heritage and UNESCO

Upper Austria tells the story of the world's oldest salt mine, submerged pile dwellings, and Roman legionnaires. It takes us to magnificent monasteries, mighty ruins, leads us through splendid cities, and shows us the magical places of summer retreats. Three sites in Upper Austria have been honored as UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut region, the pile dwellings at Lake Attersee and Lake Mondsee, and the former Roman Danube Limes.

Museums and Galleries

Collecting, researching, curating, and presenting: Upper Austria nurtures its museum tradition. The Textile Center Haslach's Weaving Museum, the Museum of the Working World in Steyr, the Lentos Art Museum, the Nordico City Museum, the Ars Electronica Center, and the Castle Museum in Linz are just a few examples of a vibrant and diverse museum landscape. These institutions showcase the rich history, art, and technological advancements of the region, providing valuable insights and experiences for visitors.

www.oekultur.at
www.linz.at/kultur
www.landesausstellung.at
www.linz.at/english/life/culture.php

Temporary Art

Contemporary art thrives particularly in the state capital of Linz, which has held the title of UNESCO City of Media Arts since 2014, making it part of the global UNESCO Creative Cities network. The Museum Francisco Carolinum specializes in media art, and Mural Harbour, an open-air gallery featuring large-scale graffiti art in the Linz harbor, is visible from afar and unique in Europe. Private collectors showcase their art treasures at the Museum Angerlehner in Wels and the Schütz Museum in Engelhartzell.

Christmas Time

Advent, the festive season before Christmas, is celebrated with charm in Upper Austria. The region is rich in customs and traditions that make winter in Upper Austria unique. Scented treats and genuine handicrafts characterize Advent markets throughout the country, marking the quietest time of the year. In Upper Austria, specifically in Christkindl near Steyr, resides the Christ Child. Hochburg-Ach is the birthplace of Franz Xaver Gruber, the composer of the melody "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

www.wels.at/welsmarketing/events/top-events/welser-weihnachtswelt.html
www.christkindlregion.at
www.schloss-weinberg.at
www.wolfgangseer-advent.at
www.schloesseradvent.at
www.baumkronenweg.at/waldweihnacht.html

Leisure time with children

As diverse as the land itself are the opportunities to spend exciting excursions with the family. For children, Upper Austria is an endless adventure.

Leisure Time Activities and Theme Parks

This is where children can truly let loose. Upper Austria's largest and most exciting playgrounds are in the treetops, transporting visitors to fairy tale worlds and the realm of dinosaurs. Here, fun and action are endless. Let's go, adventure awaits!

www.obrakinderland.at
www.agrarium.at
www.ikuna.at
www.jagdmaerchenpark.at

Mountain Adventure Parks

The mountains are calling – and we must go. Numerous cable cars in Upper Austria lead to thrilling mountain adventure worlds. They offer breathtaking views, wonderful natural landscapes, and various family adventures with playgrounds and summer toboggan runs.

www.naturschauspiel.at
www.kalkalpen.at
www.schafbergbahn.at
www.wurbauerkogel.at
www.gruenberg.info
www.baumkronenweg.at
www.urzeitwald.at

Oh! Don't miss that!

Make sure you get the Upper Austrian Family Card with reduced admission to a variety of venues. For more information please visit:

www.familienkarte.at



Leisure time with children

Zoos

In animal parks and zoos, native and exotic animals await visitors, from intelligent ravens to real sharks. Walking through Upper Austria's animal parks offers impressive encounters. Have you ever looked a giraffe directly in the eyes? Watched a lynx stealthily move about? These experiences and more await in Upper Austria's zoos and animal parks.

www.wildparkgruenau.at
www.zooschmiding.at
www.tiergartenwalding.com

Natural Spectacle

Get ready for the "Nature Spectacle"! Here, nature is the stage, showcasing its many faces. Every year, nature lovers can choose from a variety of adventure tours that lead to selected, protected natural sites in Upper Austria.

Recommendations for all weather Situations

What is there to do when the weather doesn't cooperate? Head to the pirates at Aquapulco Pirate World in the EurothermenResort Bad Schallerbach, visit interactive museums like the Ars Electronica Center Linz, the Museum of the Future, or the Welios Science Center in Wels. Enjoy the magical Grottenbahn in Linz, explore the world's oldest salt mine in Hallstatt, or choose from one of the many other indoor adventure options available!

www.piratenwelt.at
www.aec.at
www.welios.at
www.salzwellen.at
www.lollipark.at

Oh! Here's another useful hint!

Local authorities in rural areas and municipal authorities provide even more information on local cultural life.



Digital Leisure Time Planner

Upperguide:

This online leisure planner is an essential companion for excursions in Upper Austria. Want to know what's happening in the area? Looking for the next big event? Searching for the nearest tavern or restaurant? Upperguide provides 24/7 information tailored to your location.

myKulTour:

Upper Austria is a land full of culture waiting to be explored. The cultural experience planner myKulTour assists in this exploration. What interests you? When are you planning your trip? myKulTour creates a customized "Cultural Tour" in Upper Austria, tailored to your interests, schedule, and personal priorities.





In Case of an
Emergency:

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Read This
Manual

Basic Austrian vocabulary

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Good to Know

Everyday vocabulary

Austrian	German	English
Bakery and coffee shop		
I kriagat bitte zwoa Semmen ... a Stickl Toatn/Kuchn	Ich bekomme bitte zwei Semmeln ... ein Stück Torte/Kuchen	I would like to have two rolls ... a piece of cake/pie
An Cappuccino zum mitnehma bitte	Einen Cappuccino to go bitte	A cappuccino to go please
Ordering at the restaurant		
A Schnitzel und a Hoibe	Ein Schnitzel und ein Bier	A Schnitzel and half a litre of beer
Kaun i de Koartn nuamoi hobn wegn ana Nochspeis?	Kann ich bitte die Menükarte noch einmal sehen, um ein Dessert auszusuchen?	Could you please bring me the menu again to have a look at the desserts?
I zoi in bar / mit da Koartn	Ich zahle bar / mit der Karte	I will pay cash / with credit or debit card
Workplace		
Serwas!	Servus!	Hi!
Moang!	Guten Morgen!	Good morning!
Moizeit!	Guten Appetit!	Enjoy your meal!
Pfiad di! / Pfiad eich!	Tschüss!	Good bye! (singular/plural)
Passt scho	Ist in Ordnung; geht okay	That's okay.
A gmahde Wiesn	Eine einfache Angelegenheit	breeze
Net hud'In	Nicht übereilt und ohne mäßige Sorgfalt handeln	Don't be hasty and pay attention.
Jausn, jausnen	kleine (kalte) Zwischenmahlzeit (in Deutschland: Brotzeit) oder kaltes Abendessen	a snack, to snack
I geh ma a Jausn kaffn. Gehst mit?	Ich gehe mir eine Jause kaufen. Gehst du mit?	I'll go for a snack. Do you want to join me?
Geh ma auf an Kaffee?	Gehen wir auf einen Kaffee?	Shall we go and drink a coffee?



Oh! Servus und Grüß Gott!

Did you know, that we don't speak "Deutsch" in Upper Austria, but "Deitsch"? That's why we say "Serwas" instead of "Servus" and "Griaß God" instead of "Grüß Gott".



Wochateiln	Die Woche teilen	after-work beer on Wednesday to "celebrate" that half of the working week is over
Ratsch'n	plaudern	chatting
I-Tüpfel-Reiter	pingeliger Mensch, Pedant	stickler for accuracy, pedant
Going out in the evening		
aufmascherln, sich	sich schön herausputzen	do oneself up
Bussl (auch: Bussi)	Freundschaftlicher Kuss auf die Wange bei der Begrüßung	kiss on the cheek among friends, as a greeting
Gsteckt voll	komplett überfüllt	crammed full
Pack ma's!	Brechen wir nach Hause auf!	Let's go home!
Other useful basic words and phrases		
Ah, drum!	Aha, darum!	Oh, I see!
Gemma!	wörtlich: Gehen wir! auch: Anfeuerungsruf	Let's go on! (in a motivating, stimulating sense)
, ... oda?	rhetorische Frage, meist ans Ende eines Satzes angehängt, um sich positiv bestätigen zu lassen	rhetorical tag in the sense of "... isn't it?", mostly used at the end of a sentence to get approval
Aber geh! (auch: A geh!)	Aber nein, das stimmt nicht.	No, that's not true; that can't be true.
Was? (auch: Ha, was?)	Was? (Wie bitte?)	What? (I beg your pardon.)
Wüst? (auch: Wüst a was?)	Willst du was davon abhaben?	Would you also like some? (when offering somebody something)
Eh	ohnehin; oft nur leeres Füllwort	anyway, moreover
Oiwei	alleweil, immer	always
latzt	jetzt	now
Nocha	nachher	later
A Neichtl	eine kleine Weile	a little while

Assistance for filling out forms

Moving to a new country is often filled with bureaucracy. Filling out forms and documents in the language of the respective country can be a real challenge. Although these documents differ in their requirements, we have translated many of the key terms used in these documents in alphabetical order of the German word:

German keyword	Translation
Abmeldung der Unterkunft	Deregistration of the place of residence
Abreisedatum	Departure date
Abschlussklärung (ich nehme zur Kenntnis ...)	Final declaration (I acknowledge that ...)
Adresse (derzeitig)	Address (current)
Akademischer Grad (akad. Grad)	Academic title
Ankunftsdatum	Arrival date
Anmeldebescheinigung	Registration certificate
Anmeldung der Unterkunft	Registration of the place of residence
Anrede (Herr/Frau)	Title (Mr/Mrs)
Antrag	Application
Antrag auf Erteilung	Application for issuance
Antragsteller	Applicant
Arbeitgeber	Employer
Arbeitgebererklärung	Employer's certificate
Art des Antrages	Type of application
Aufenthaltsberechtigung	Right of residence
Aufenthaltsbewilligung	Temporary residence permit
Aufenthaltstitel	Residence permit
Aufenthaltszweck	Purpose of residence

German keyword	Translation
Ausstellungsbehörde / ausstellende Behörde / ausgestellt von	Issuing authority / issuing authority / issued by
Ausstellungsdatum	Date of issue
Beiname (erste Vorname bzw. 2. Vorname)	Other name (first name or middle name)
Beruf	Profession
Berufliche Tätigkeit	Occupation
Blockschrift	Block letters
Bundesland	Federal state
Ehegatte / Ehegattin	Husband / wife
Eheschließung	Marriage
Eingangsvermerk	Notice of receipt
Eingetragene Partner(-schaft)	Registered partner(ship)
Einkommen	Income
einladende Person	Inviting person
Erstantrag	First application
Familienangehörige	Family members
Familienname vor der ersten Eheschließung	Maiden name
Familienstand (ledig, verheiratet, geschieden, verwitwet, sonstiges)	Marital status (single, married, divorced, widowed, other)
Fingerabdruck	Fingerprint
Formular	Form
Geburtsdatum	Date of birth
Geburtsort	Place of birth
Geburtsstaat	Country of birth
Geplante Aufenthaltsdauer	Planned duration of residence
Geschlecht (männlich oder weiblich)	Gender (male or female)
Gesetzlicher Vertreter (beispielsweise Eltern, Erziehungsberechtigter ...)	Legal representative (for example parents, guardian ...)

Assistance for filling out forms

German keyword	Translation
Grenzübergang (hier schreiben Sie über welche Grenze Sie nach Österreich eingereist sind)	Border crossing point (here you state which border you crossed when you came to Austria)
Gültig bis	Valid until
Hauptwohnsitz	Main place of residence
Identifikationskarte (beispielsweise Führerschein oder Reisepass)	Identification card (for example driving license or passport)
Integrationsvereinbarung	Integration agreement
Kinder (minderjährig)	Children (underage)
Kopie (in Kopie vorgelegt)	Copy (provided in copy form)
Krankenversicherung (gesetzlich / privat)	Health insurance (public / private)
KSV-Auszug (Kreditschutzverband)	Credit statement (from Credit Protection Association) go to www.ksv.at/en
Mädchenname / Familienname bei der Geburt (beispielsweise Name vor der Hochzeit)	Maiden name / family name at birth (for example before marriage)
Meldepflichtiger	Registrant
Meldezettel	Residence registration
Mitversicherter	Co-insured person
Nachweis	Proof, certificate
Name / Familienname	First name / surname
Nationalität	Nationality
Nebenwohnsitz	Secondary place of residence
Niederlassungs- und Aufenthaltsgesetz (NAG)	Settlement and Residence Act
Niederlassungsbewilligung	Settlement permit
Nummer des Reisedokuments	Number of the travel document
Original (Originaldokument vorgelegt)	Original (original provided)
Ort und Datum	Location and date
Ortsgemeinde	Local congregation

German keyword	Translation
Polizeiliches Führungszeugnis	Criminal record
Reisedokument (beispielsweise Pass, Führerschein, Personalausweis)	Travel document (for example passport, driving license, identity card)
Reisedokument bei Fremden	Travel document if foreign
Religionsbekenntnis	Religion
Schulabschluss (höchst abgeschlossene)	Education (highest academic achievement)
Sicherung des Lebensunterhaltes	Safeguard of livelihood
Sozialversicherungsnummer / Sozialvers.Nr. (4 stellige Nummer + Geburtsdatum siehe e-card)	Social insurance number (4-digit number + date of birth, see e-card)
Staatsangehörigkeit (bei der Geburt)	Nationality (at birth)
Strafregisterauszug	Criminal record
Straße, Hausnummer, Türnummer	Street, house number, door number
Titel (nach Studienabschluss oder anderweitig erlangt)	Title (after graduation or other)
Unterhaltspflichtige Person	Dependent
Unterschrift	Signature
Urkunde	Certificate
Verlängerungsantrag	Application for extension
Vermögen	Fortune
Versicherte Person	Insured person
Visum / Visa	Visa
Wohnanschrift	Home address
Wohnsitz	Place of residence
Zustelladresse	Delivery address
Zweck der Reise	Reason for travel
Zweckänderungsantrag	Application for change of purpose

Accident and emergency numbers

Fire department (Feuerwehr)	122
Police (Polizei)	133
Service hotline for police (Connection to local police station)	059 /133
Ambulance (Rettung)	144
European emergency number (Euronotruf)	112
General Health Advice Hotline and Telemedicine (no emergency or rescue services)	1450
Locksmiths	firmen.wko.at/schlüsseldienst/ oberösterreich
On-Call pharmacy service (Apothekenotruf)	1455
Emergency doctors service (Ärztenotruf)	141
Information Service Line	118811
Breakdown Service – ARBÖ	123
Breakdown Service – ÖAMTC	120
Mountain Rescue Team	140
Water Rescue (Upper Austria)	130
Divers' Hotline (for Austria and Germany)	00800 326 668 783
Women's emergency hotline 24hrs	01/71 71 9
Battered Women Shelter Hotline (Frauenhaus)	0800/222 555
Gas leaks	128
State Lawyer for young children and teenagers (Protection of Minors, Education, Independence, etc.)	0800/240 264

Emergency Services for the deaf (text message or Fax)	0800 / 133 133
Emergency Hotline for Young People (Rat auf Draht)	147
Emergency Dentist Hotline	0732 / 78 58 77
Psychological Advice for Children, Teenagers and Parents	116 000
Power Cuts (Hotline for electricity issues in Upper Austria)	05 9000-3030
Telephone Counseling	142
Pet Emergency Numbers	www.petdoctors.at/notfall
Poisoning Hotline	01/406 43 43
Water Leaks	firmen.wko.at/suche_installateurfinder
Counselling Centers of any kind	www.beratungsstellen.at

European emergency number 112

112 takes emergency calls and information about the emergency, and forwards this to the relevant emergency services, such as the police, fire department or ambulance service. This number can be reached anywhere in the EU and complements the existing emergency numbers in most countries. This number is also reachable without a mobile phone contract, credit and even without a SIM card.

In general terms, people enjoy free movement within the EU. However, it is recommended to check entry requirements and destinations, especially outside the EU.



Please also consider possible e-card restrictions, and thus, insurance restrictions abroad. In case there are stars on the backside of the e-card instead of the contact information, please ask the social insurance authority, such as the Austrian Health Insurance (ÖGK), if a health insurance certificate while abroad is necessary.



Scan the QR code to order a health insurance certificate online (no login required).

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A compact guide designed to provide information about what you need to know in regards to everyday life in Upper Austria.

Here you will find important information on buerocratic procedures, employment, recreational activities as well as traditional and cultural events in Upper Austria.

The Pocket Guide also contains numerous insider tips and insightful advice to help you feel right at home!

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