

AUSTRIA RISK ASSESSMENT



City & Country

AUSTRIA, various destinations

Prepared by

Sussex Abroad Office

Before you go -

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

VISA REGULATIONS

You do not need a visa to enter Austria but you must hold a valid British passport. If you have another nationality, please contact the Austrian Embassy in London to find out what the visa requirements are. Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. ***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

HEALTH

If you're visiting Austria you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Austrian nationals. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation. ***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
CRIME	There is a low rate of crime, but as in any European country petty crime does occur and you should take the usual precautions to avoid becoming a victim of crime.	Do not leave valuables unattended. Be especially vigilant around major public transport hubs and city centre parks after dark. Pickpocketing can be a problem, especially in the major cities when tourists are targeted for their passports and money. Be aware that pickpockets operate in and around the city centre of Vienna, including restaurants, cafes, hotel lobbies and on public transport.
	Possessing or trafficking drugs will be dealt with severely. If convicted a lengthy prison sentence is usual.	Do not get involved with drugs
LOCAL LAWS & CUSTOMERS	It's illegal in Austria to wear in a public place any clothing or object that conceals the face and makes facial features unrecognisable.	Ensure that you do not wear clothing that conceals your face in public.
HEALTH	Tick borne encephalitis	You should seek medical advice about inoculations for tick borne encephalitis, which is endemic from spring to autumn. Ticks can be found in areas of vegetation (gardens, parks, forest fringes, meadows

		and marshes) below 1,400m. Cases of tick borne encephalitis may also occur following ingestion of unpasteurised milk products.
ROAD TRAVEL	There are complex driving laws in Austria.	<p>When driving in Austria, you should always carry your full driving license, ownership documents and insurance details.</p> <p>All vehicles must be adapted to winter road conditions between 1 November and 15 April. Heavy fines or temporary loss of vehicle may be imposed on those who ignore this legislation.</p> <p>If you intend to drive while in Austria, make sure you are full aware of the rules and regulations governing driving. For further information, please see the 'Road travel' section: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/austria/safetyand-security</p> <p>You should also check guidance on driving in the EU after Brexit for information on other additional documents you may need to carry</p>

<p>SKIING & WINTER SPORTS</p>	<p>There's a danger of avalanches in some areas, particularly in periods of heavy snowfall. Even during summer time this danger still exists for snow covered areas. See Skiing</p>	<p>Follow local guidance on weather and safety precautions before you travel, and while you are in the resort. Helmets are also strongly recommended when skiing. Avalanche beepers (receivers) are the most common rescue devices and when properly used provide the fastest way to locate an avalanche victim. Take extra care during the spring season, as this is when avalanches most commonly occur.</p> <p>Anyone taking part in winter sports must ensure that they are covered for this by their insurance policy.</p> <p>Off-piste skiing is highly dangerous and unlikely to be covered by your insurance policy.</p>
<p>IMMIGRATION</p>	<p>Immigration controls may temporarily be in place at some road and rail border crossing points with Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia.</p>	<p>You should carry your passport with you when crossing the border into, or from Austria, monitor local media and check with your transport provider or the Austrian Railways (ÖBB) website for updates.</p>
<p>TERRORISM</p>	<p>Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Austria.</p>	<p>You should be vigilant and follow the advice of local authorities. See Terrorism</p>

Please also note and be sensitive to the following:

- You are not required to carry your passport around with you, but your passport should be in the same district as you and you must be able to access it within a reasonable time. You should carry a photocopy of your passport at all times. A UK driving license is not recognised as an official form of ID.