

# Austria

**Continent:** Europe

**Languages Spoken:** German

**Population:** 9,100,000

**Currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Area:** 83,879

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Schönbrunn Palace', 'writeup': 'A former imperial summer residence in Vienna, known for its Baroque architecture and extensive gardens.'}
- {'name': 'Hofburg Palace', 'writeup': 'The former imperial palace in Vienna, now serving as the official residence of the President of Austria.'}
- {'name': 'St. Stephen's Cathedral', 'writeup': 'A Gothic cathedral in Vienna, notable for its multi-colored tile roof and as a symbol of the city.'}
- {'name': 'Salzburg Old Town', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its baroque architecture and as the birthplace of Mozart.'}
- {'name': 'Grossglockner High Alpine Road', 'writeup': 'A scenic mountain road offering views of Austria's highest peak, Grossglockner.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Alexander Van der Bellen

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Vienna Opera Ball', 'writeup': 'An annual high-society event held at the Vienna State Opera, featuring classical music and traditional dance.'}
- {'name': 'Salzburg Festival', 'writeup': 'A prominent festival of music and drama held every summer in Salzburg.'}
- {'name': 'Krampusnacht', 'writeup': 'A traditional event in early December where people dress as Krampus, a folkloric figure who punishes misbehaving children.'}
- {'name': 'Vienna Film Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event showcasing international and Austrian films.'}
- {'name': 'Advent Markets', 'writeup': 'Traditional Christmas markets held throughout Austria during the Advent season.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Austrian cuisine features hearty dishes such as Wiener Schnitzel, Tafelspitz, and Sachertorte, reflecting Central European influences with an emphasis on meats, pastries, and coffee culture.

## Brief History:

Austria was a major European power as the center of the Habsburg Empire. After World War I, it became a republic. It was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1938 and re-established as an independent country in 1945. Austria joined the European Union in 1995.

## Important People:

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Classical composer
- Sigmund Freud - Founder of psychoanalysis
- Gustav Klimt - Painter
- Arnold Schwarzenegger - Actor and former Governor of California
- Marie Antoinette - Queen of France, born Archduchess of Austria

**Current Conflicts:**

Austria is not involved in any active military conflicts. It maintains a policy of neutrality.

**Youtube Links:**

- Discover Austria: A Journey Through History and Culture
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Austria
- Austrian Cuisine: Traditional Dishes Explained
- The Music of Austria: From Mozart to Modern Times
- Austria Travel Guide: What You Need to Know