

THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION GUIDE

Austria

Alps, cities and rail-led journeys for Indian travellers

2026-27 EDITION

CURATED BY TRIPSTOR

INSIDE

Contents

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

Why Austria, and how to plan it	03	Seasons, weather and daylight	04
Seasonal profiles	18	Entry, visas and biometrics	21
Documents and application steps	23	Trains or driving between cities	25
Where to base yourself	27	Vienna, slowly	29
Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg	31	Graz and Carinthia	32
Guesthouses, hotels and apartments	33	Cafés, coffee and Austrian sweets	36
Music, museums and etiquette	38	Hiking, skiing, lakes and cities	40
Slow evenings by alpine water	42	Easy days for every age	44
Two parallel routes	46	Planning ranges in INR	47
Cards, cash and VAT refunds	48	Emergencies, mountains and local rules	50
Layers for mountains and cities	52	Short answers	54
Sources and verification	55		

WELCOME

Why Austria, and how to plan it

Planning principles for a first visit

Plan around three decisions

Austria rewards a planned trip. Most Indian travellers need a Schengen visa before arriving, so build your dates around the processing window rather than the other way round. Published processing times vary widely, from about ten to forty-five days, and summer and December applications can take longer. Confirm current timelines with the embassy and VFS before booking flights. You can explore [the full destination guide](#) or review [current holiday packages](#) when your dates are firm.

✓ Choose the season first

Alpine skiing generally runs from December to April, mountain hiking suits June to September, and Vienna is most comfortable in spring and autumn. Weather differs sharply between the west and east, so check forecasts nearer your travel date.

✓ Decide between rail and road

Trains link Vienna and Salzburg frequently and without changes, which suits city-led trips. A car gives freedom in the Alps but brings tolls, a motorway vignette and winter tyre rules from 1 November to 15 April.

✓ Plan in ranges, not fixed prices

Hotel rates and fares move with dates and booking channel. Treat every figure in this guide as indicative until you have a live quote.

Expect the EU Entry/Exit System to add time at your first border crossing, since it records fingerprints and facial images for short-stay non-EU travellers. Allow a little slack in your itinerary for the first day, and keep your documents easy to reach.

WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months



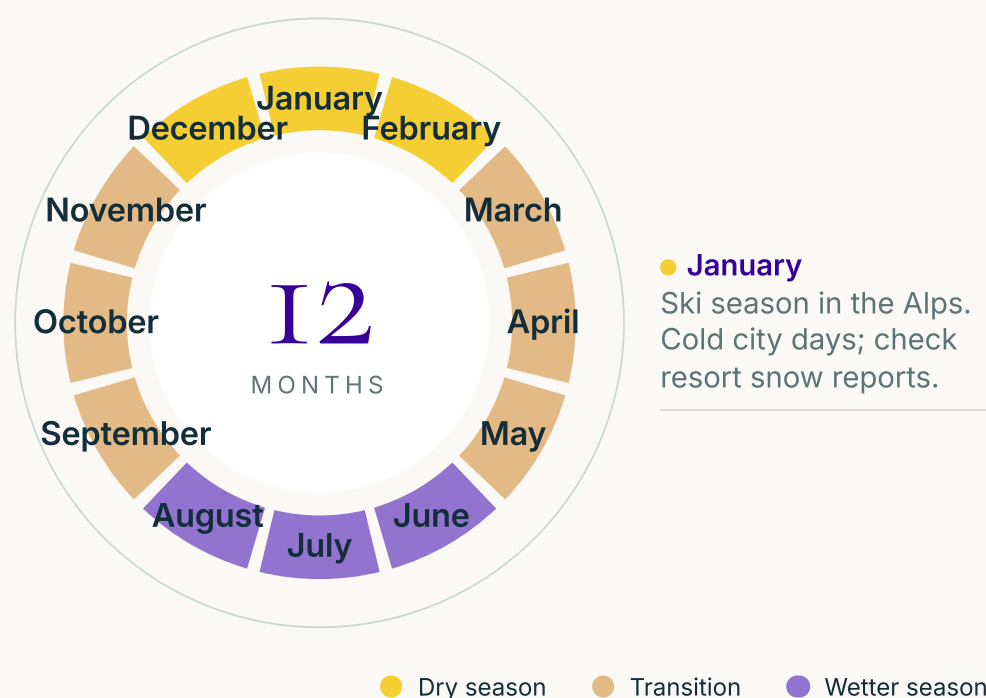
Austria rewards planning by season. The west has an alpine climate and the east a continental one, so one calendar rarely fits every destination. Ski resorts above roughly 800m offer reliable snow from December to April, while mountain summers bring comfortable hiking days. Spring and autumn suit visits to Vienna, Graz and Linz, with mild temperatures and fewer crowds. Treat the month guide below as a tendency rather than a forecast. You can compare options in our [Austria holiday packages](#) or begin with the [Austria holiday guide](#).

 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

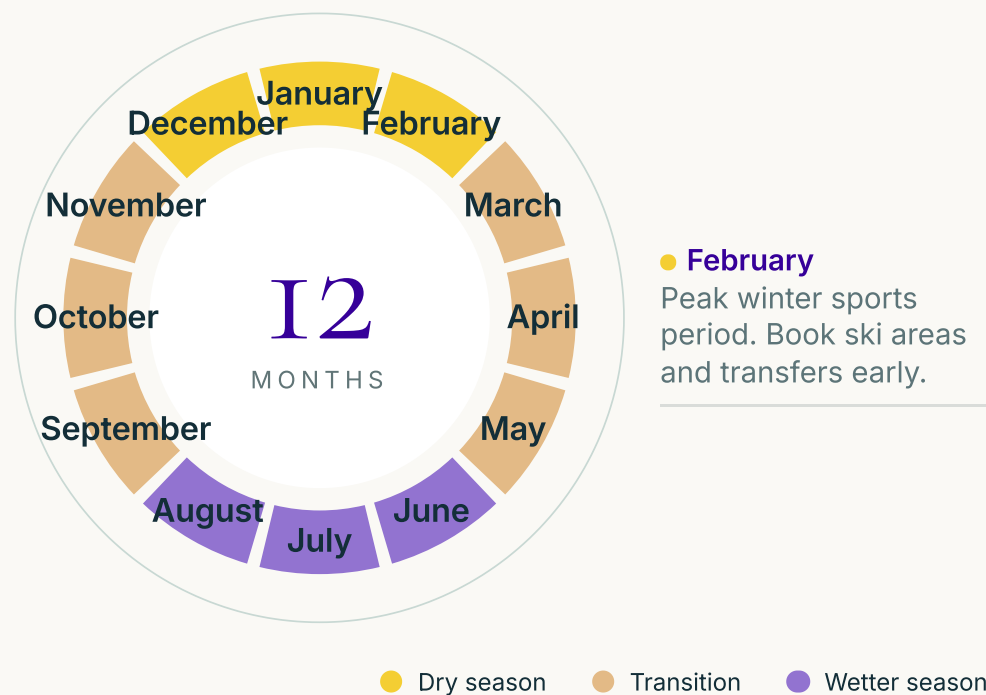


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

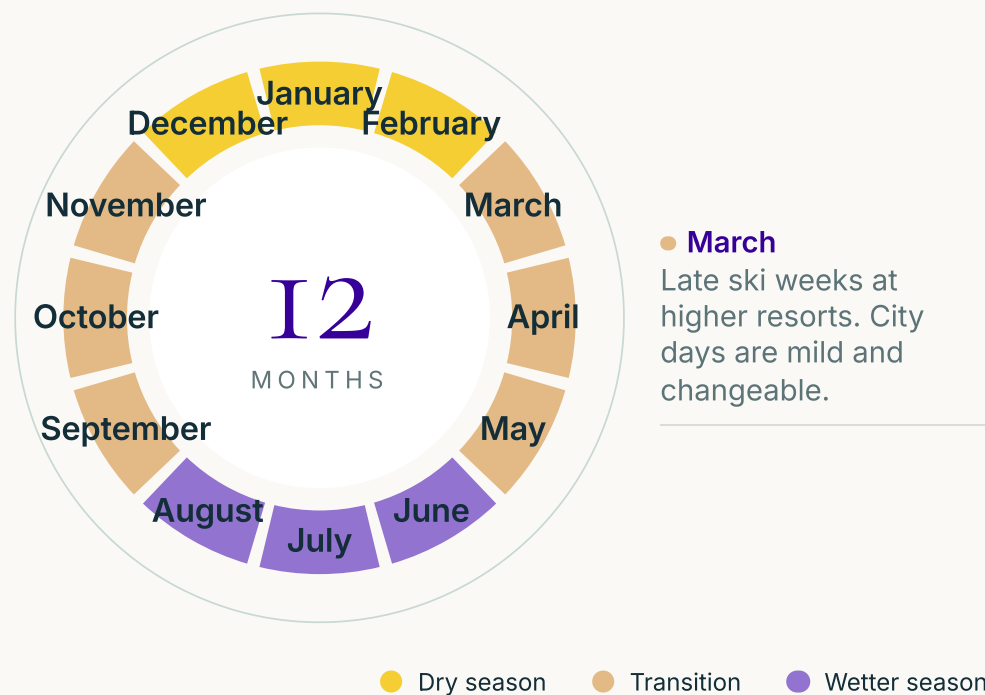


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

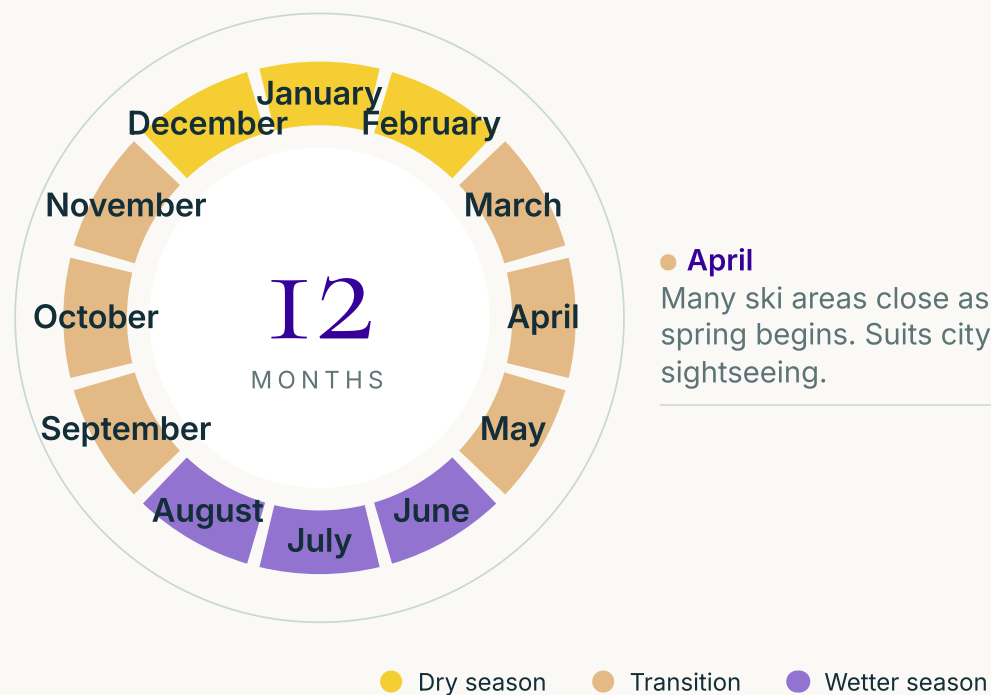


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

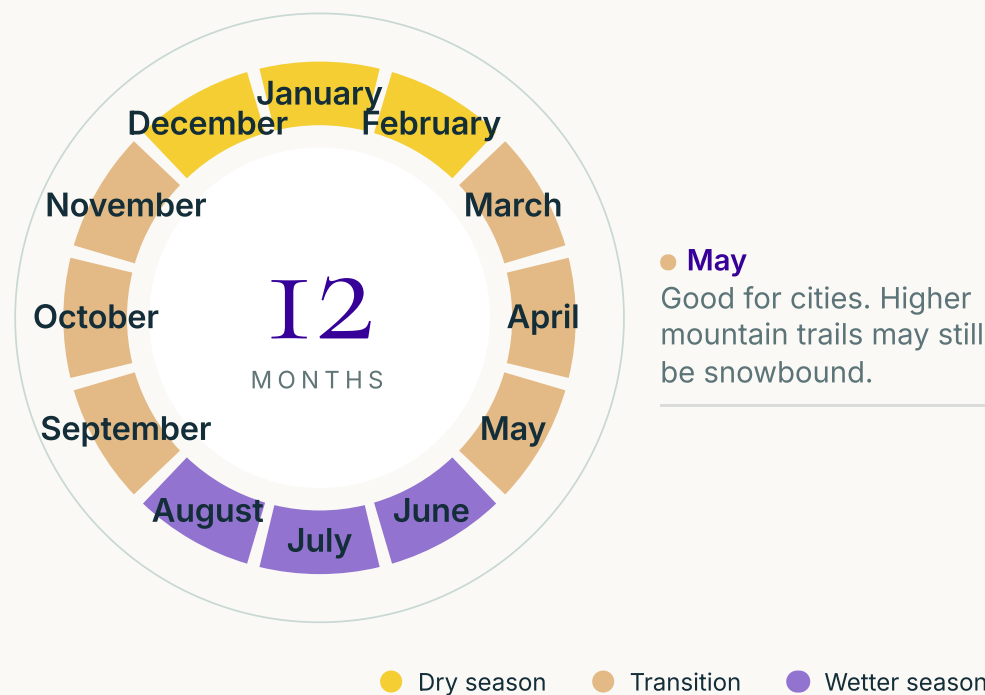


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

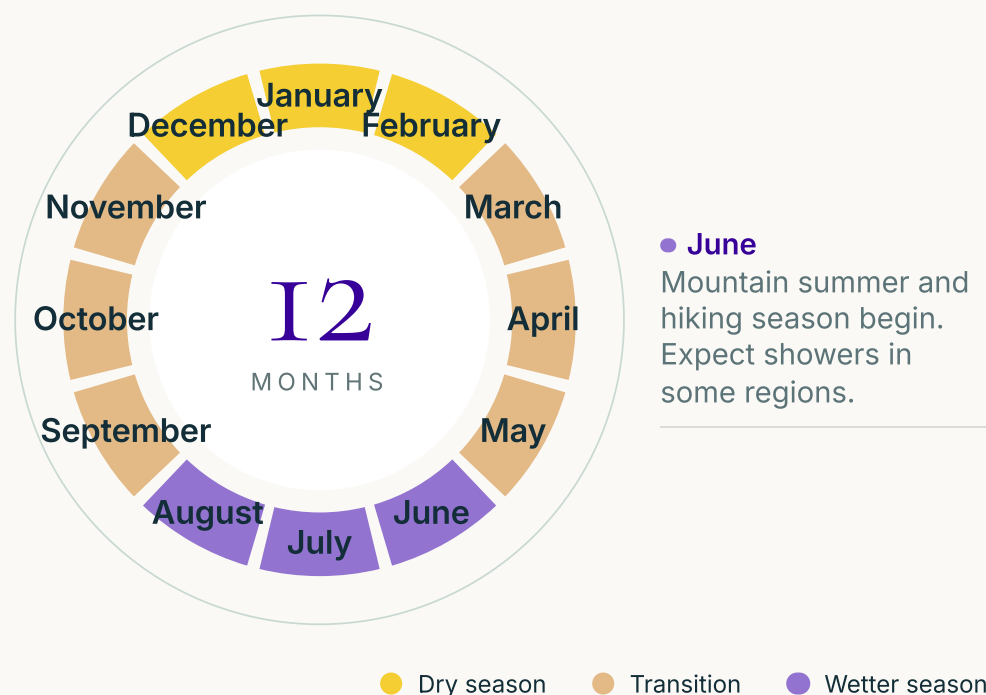


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

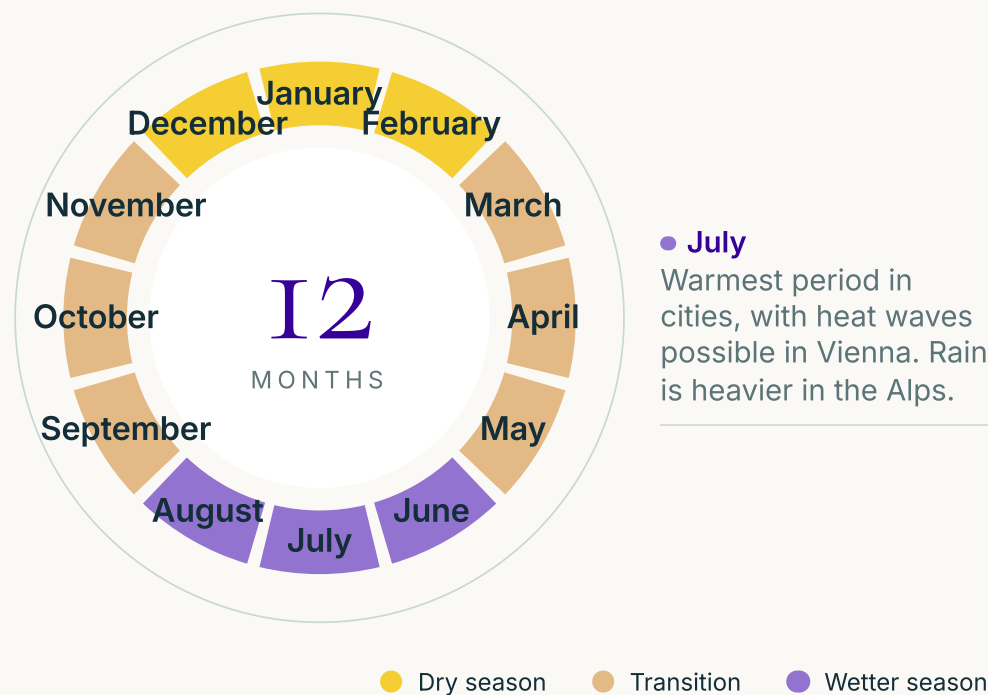


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

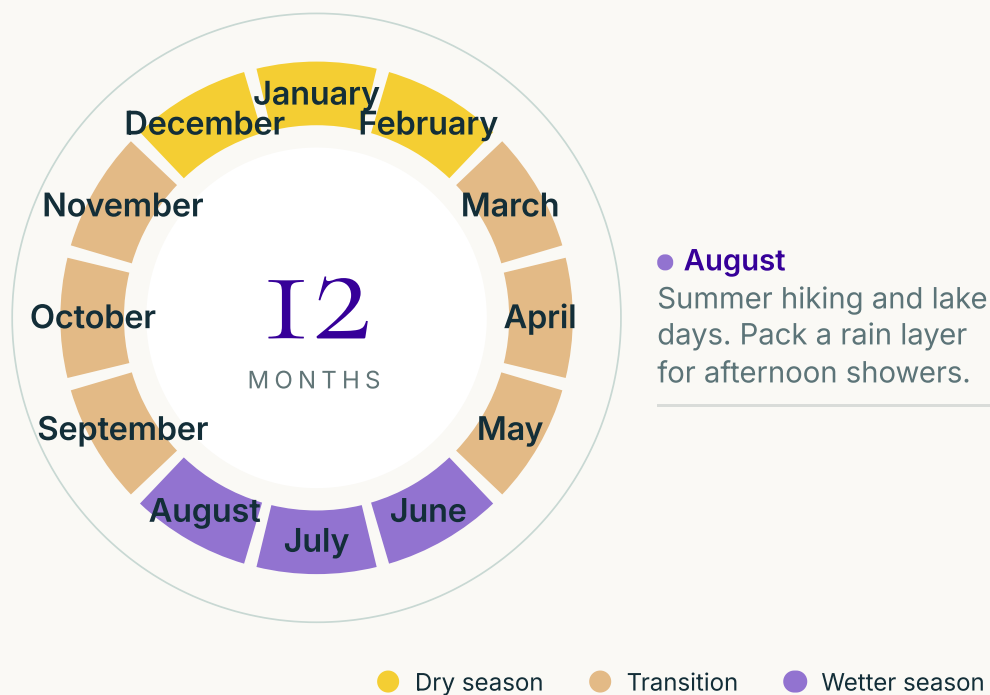


WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

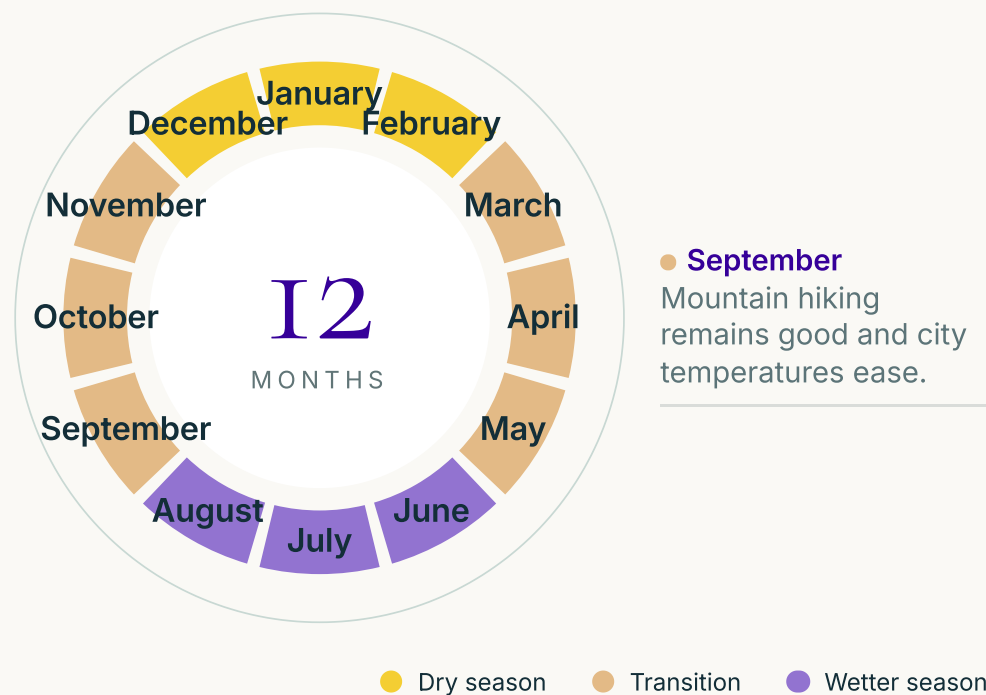


WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

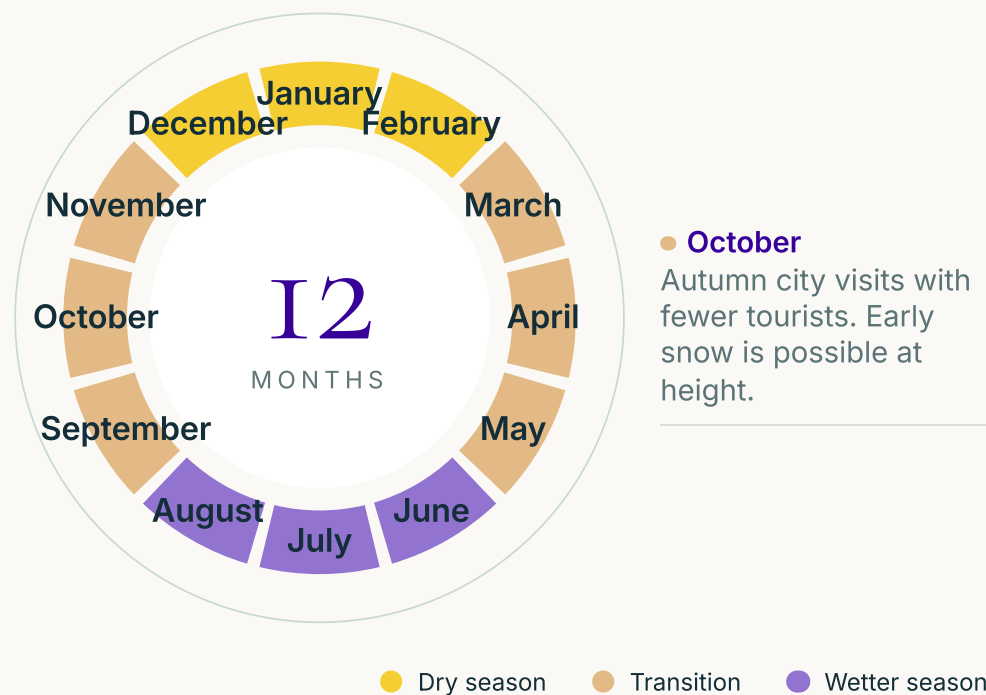


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

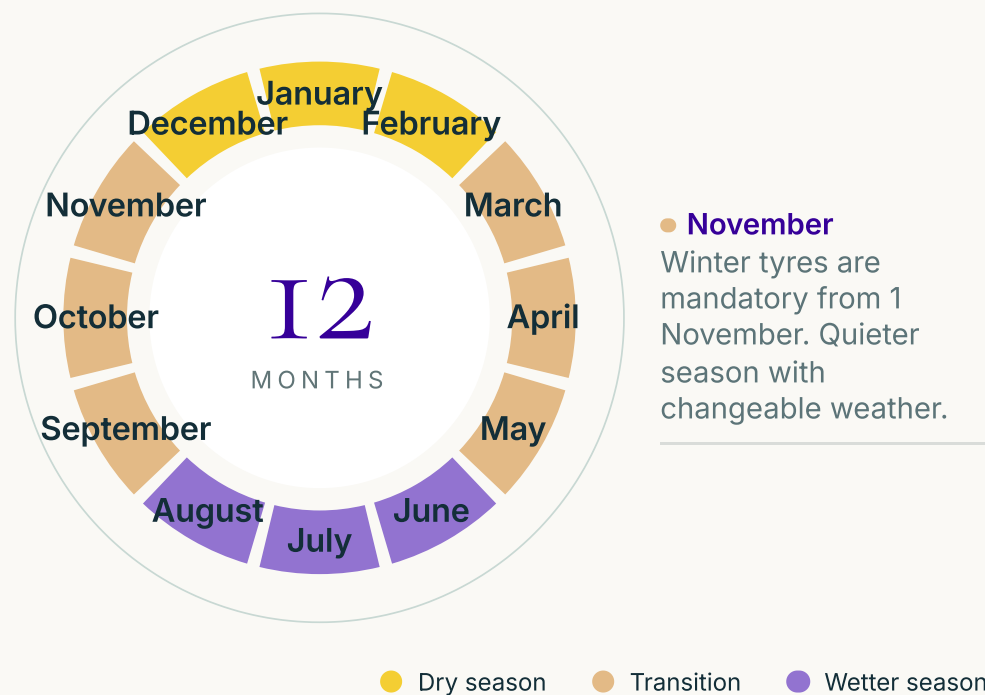


WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month

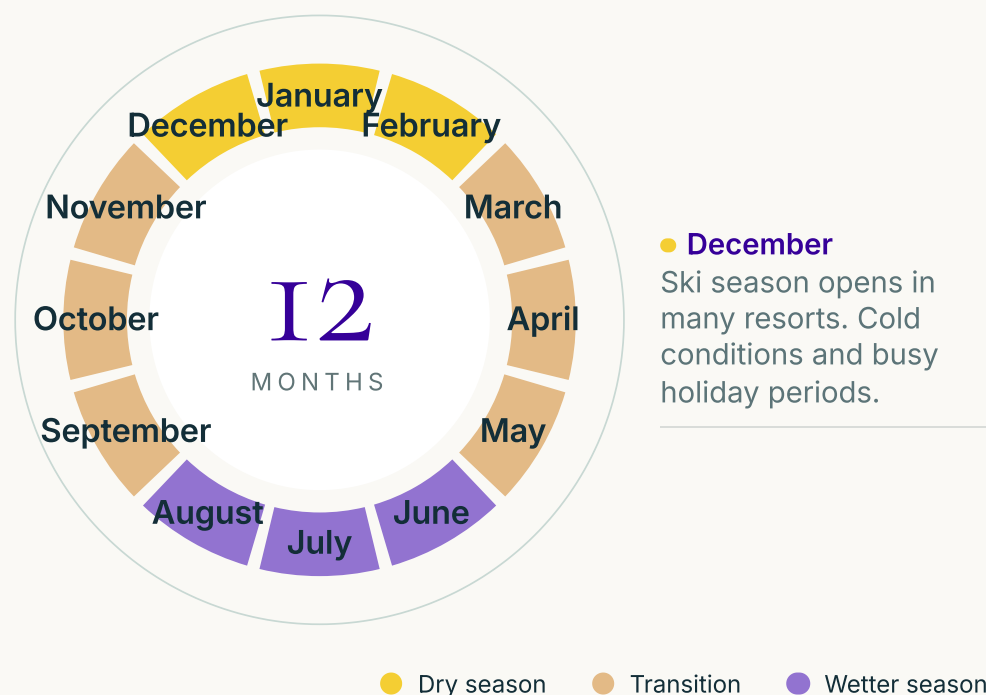


 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

Month by month



Reading the seasons

-  **Ski season**
Reliable snow is generally expected from December to April at resort elevations above 800m, subject to each season.
-  **Mountain summers**
Days of around 18 to 24°C and cool nights suit hiking from June through September.

 WHEN TO GO

Seasons, weather and daylight continued

Ski season, mountain summers and city shoulder months

 City shoulder months

Spring and autumn offer comfortable temperatures in Vienna, Graz and Linz.

 Heat and rain

Heat waves can push main-city temperatures to 36 to 38°C. Summer rain is heavier in the Alps; in the cited data, Innsbruck's July rainfall exceeds Vienna's.

Gaps in the evidence

The sources used here do not provide complete monthly temperature or rainfall figures for every region, so this section avoids precise statistics beyond the cited examples. Check official weather services and resort bulletins close to travel, especially for mountain routes, where conditions can change quickly.

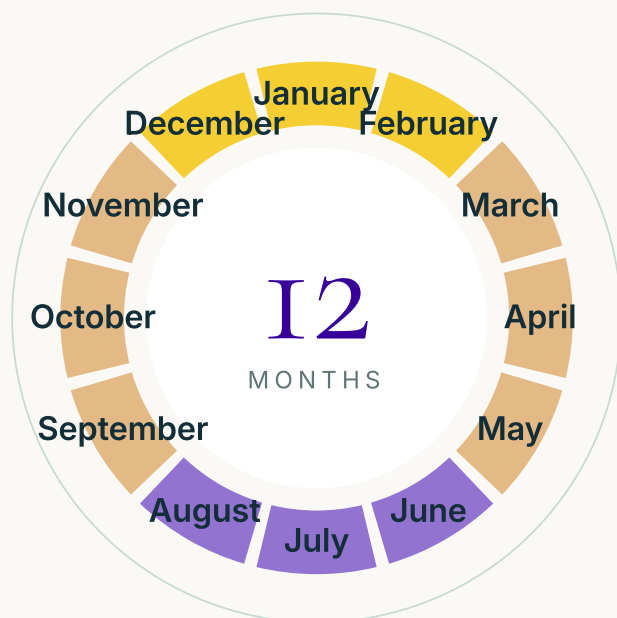
MONTH BY MONTH

Seasonal profiles

Dry, transition and wet months by region

Austria's weather follows its geography. The west has an alpine climate and the east a more continental one, so one calendar rarely fits every stop. The months below are general tendencies from secondary weather summaries, not forecasts. Check current forecasts before you travel, and compare travel windows on the [Austria holiday packages page](#).

Dry, transition and wet months



January

Winter ski season. Reliable snow is usually found at higher resort elevations.

February

Busy ski weeks in the Alps. Book lifts and stays early.

March

Late-season snow in the mountains. City days are cooler but pleasant.

April

The ski season winds down. Spring suits city visits to Vienna, Graz and Linz.

May

Comfortable temperatures for cities, with fewer tourists than in summer.

June

Hiking season opens. Expect showers in the mountains and check trail conditions.

● Dry season ● Transition ● Wetter season

MONTH BY MONTH

Seasonal profiles continued

Dry, transition and wet months by region

Dry, transition and wet months



July

One climate source puts Innsbruck's July rainfall well above Vienna's.

August

Heat waves can push main-city temperatures to 36 to 38°C.

September

Cooler, often clearer weeks for mountain walks, with comfortable city weather.

October

Autumn suits Vienna, Graz and Linz, with fewer crowds.

November

Winter tyres become mandatory from 1 November, so expect wet or icy mountain roads.

December

Ski season opens. Plan for the longer end of visa processing times in this period.

● Dry season ● Transition ● Wetter season

Regional profiles

REGION	TYPICAL CHARACTER	STRONGER MONTHS	PLAN AROUND
Vienna	Eastern lowland capital, driest of the main cities and warmest in summer	April to June and September to October	Summer heat waves
Salzburg	Cooler and wetter overall, close to the Alps	May to October for mountain days; December to April for skiing nearby	Wetter than Vienna overall

MONTH BY MONTH

Seasonal profiles continued

Dry, transition and wet months by region

Regional profiles

REGION	TYPICAL CHARACTER	STRONGER MONTHS	PLAN AROUND
Tyrol and Salzburg Land	Core Alpine and ski areas	December to April for skiing; June to September for hiking	Summer showers; avalanche bulletins in winter

Regional profiles

REGION	TYPICAL CHARACTER	STRONGER MONTHS	PLAN AROUND
Vorarlberg	Alpine west with mountain scenery	Late spring to early autumn	Confirm local conditions
Graz and Carinthia	Southern towns and lakes; limited weather data in the research	Spring and autumn for city and lake visits	Confirm rail timing before planning

Evidence gaps: the sources give little month-by-month data for Graz and Carinthia, and none for Vorarlberg. Treat those rows as directional only and check regional tourism sites before finalising dates.

BEFORE YOU GO

Entry, visas and biometrics

Schengen visa, fees and EES

Schengen visa, first

Indian passport holders need a Schengen visa for Austria. There is no visa-on-arrival, e-visa or visa-free entry for Indian nationals as of 2026. One visa allows stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Speak with our [visa planning team](#) early, because processing times vary.

Fees, insurance and timing

✓ Visa fee

The Schengen fee is €90 for adults, €45 for children aged 6 to 11, and free for under-6s. Some older sources still quote €80. Each application centre adds its own service fee, and most centres in India take payment in INR at the rate on the appointment date.

✓ Insurance

Secondary sources cite a minimum of €30,000 medical cover. Confirm the amount with the Austrian Embassy in New Delhi, which secondary sources say assesses all Austrian applications from India.

✓ Processing time

Sources vary widely, from about 10 to 45 days. Plan for the longer end for summer and December trips.

Biometrics and new systems

The EU Entry/Exit System (EES) has been phasing in since 12 October 2025 and was scheduled to become fully operational from 10 April 2026. It replaces passport stamping with electronic records and collects fingerprints and facial images from non-EU short-stay travellers. Allow extra time at your first border crossing. ETIAS is expected to start in the last quarter of 2026. It targets visa-exempt travellers, and one source says it does not apply to Indians who already need a Schengen visa, so confirm this on the official Travel to Europe site. Entry rules change, so verify dates and fees on official pages before you fly.

 BEFORE YOU GO

Entry, visas and biometrics continued

Schengen visa, fees and EES

PLAN IT WITH
TRIPSTOR

Plan your Austria trip



APPLICATION

Documents and application steps

Confirm every item with official sources

Start early, and treat every figure here as a planning guide until you have checked the official pages. Indian passport holders need a Schengen visa for Austria, and processing times vary widely, from about 10 to 45 days. Plan for the longer end for summer and December trips. Secondary sources say applications from India are assessed by the Austrian Embassy in New Delhi whichever VFS centre you use, so confirm this with the embassy before you book. For trip options, see [Austria holiday packages](#).

☐ Passport

Carry a valid passport and confirm the validity rules on the embassy page before applying.

☐ Visa fee

The adult Schengen fee is reported as €90, children aged 6 to 11 pay €45, and under-6s travel free. Some older sources still quote €80, so verify the current amount.

☐ Centre service fee

Each VFS centre adds its own service charge on top of the visa fee.

☐ Payment method

Most VFS centres in India accept INR only, converted at the rate on your appointment date.

 APPLICATION

Documents and application steps continued

Confirm every item with official sources

☐ Travel insurance

Secondary sources cite a minimum of €30,000 cover. Check that the policy includes medical cover and, for hiking or skiing, mountain rescue.

☐ Itinerary and bookings

Carry a plan of your stays and onward travel that fits the limit of 90 days within any 180-day period.

☐ Financial proof

A daily-spend threshold of €100 per day has been mentioned case by case, but it is not confirmed by an official source. Ask the embassy what it requires.

☐ Biometrics at first entry

The EU Entry/Exit System records fingerprints and a facial image for short-stay non-EU travellers. Allow extra time at your first border crossing.

TRANSPORT

Trains or driving between cities

Rail between Vienna and Salzburg, or a car for the Alps



Between Vienna and Salzburg, trains are the simplest choice. ÖBB runs trains twice an hour without changes, and the fastest, the RJX, takes about 2h25.

Criterion	Rail between cities	Car for the Alps
Best for	City-to-city days	Lakes, passes and valleys at your pace
Vienna to Salzburg	Twice-hourly direct trains; RJX about 2h25	Motorway driving; allow for weather and traffic
Advance fares	Sparschiene from €9.90 in 2nd class, limited availability, no refunds	Not applicable
Key rule	Advance fares online or in the ÖBB app only	Winter tyres from 1 November to 15 April

Austrian motorways need a vignette. ASFINAG lists 2026 car vignettes at €9.60 for one day, €12.80 for ten days, €32.00 for two months and €106.80 for the year. Rental cars normally already carry one, so confirm with your provider. Some passes and tunnels add tolls, reported as €12.50 for the Brenner and €15.00 for the Tauern and Katschberg tunnels. Check current figures before you travel. From 2027 only digital vignettes will be sold.

TRANSPORT

Trains or driving between cities continued

Rail between Vienna and Salzburg, or a car for the Alps



Rail between cities



Car for the Alps

✓ Winter driving

Winter tyres are mandatory from 1 November to 15 April, so plan ahead for colder months.

✓ Driving permit

Check whether you need an International Driving Permit alongside your Indian licence. We did not confirm an official source.

✓ Alpine weather

Mountain roads can change quickly. Check conditions before long drives and allow extra time in autumn and winter.

Use the train for the main city leg and a car only where your route needs it. Verify fares and timetables close to travel. You can also explore [Austria Holiday Packages](#) for transfers arranged in advance.

 REGIONS

Where to base yourself

Regional profiles at a glance

Austria rewards a considered base more than a long checklist. Vienna suits a first visit, with palaces, concerts and coffee houses, and it is the driest of the main cities as well as the warmest in summer. Salzburg is cooler and wetter, yet it has an easy rail link from Vienna, which makes a two-centre trip simple. For Alpine days, Tyrol, Salzburg Land and Vorarlberg form the core ski and hiking areas. Graz and Carinthia offer quieter towns and lakes, with rail timing to confirm before you plan that leg.

Vienna

CHARACTER

Eastern lowland capital with palaces, coffee houses and concerts

SUITS

City-first trips and shoulder seasons

PLANNING NOTE

Driest of the main cities; warmest in summer, with heat waves possible

Salzburg

CHARACTER

Cooler, rainier city with an easy rail link from Vienna

SUITS

Culture trips with day excursions

PLANNING NOTE

Trains from Vienna run twice an hour without changes

 REGIONS

Where to base yourself continued

Regional profiles at a glance

Tyrol, Salzburg Land and Vorarlberg

CHARACTER

Alpine core with lakes, valleys and ski areas

SUITS

Skiing, hiking and mountain views

PLANNING NOTE

Alpine climate; check weather and avalanche bulletins

Graz and Carinthia

CHARACTER

Quieter towns and lakes in the south

SUITS

Slower routes and lake days

PLANNING NOTE

Koralm Railway timing to confirm before planning

These are planning tendencies drawn from the sources, not rankings. Choose your base around the season you travel in, and check current conditions on the [official tourism pages](#) before you commit. Rail between Vienna and Salzburg is straightforward, so a combined city and Alpine trip works well. Compare how these bases fit your dates on the [holiday packages page](#).

 CITY

Vienna, slowly

Palaces, coffee houses and concerts

Walk the city at an unhurried pace

Vienna is the easiest Austrian city to explore on foot and by public transport, and it rewards slow days. In the sources consulted it is the driest of the main Austrian cities and the warmest in summer. Heat waves can push city temperatures to 36–38°C, so many visitors plan sightseeing for mornings and cooler hours, with indoor visits in the afternoon. Spring and autumn offer comfortable temperatures and fewer crowds, which suits long walks between palaces, parks and museums.

Palaces, coffee houses and concerts

Give a morning to the historic palace quarter, then settle into a traditional coffee house for a long, leisurely break. Classical concerts are a highlight of the evening, with performances held in historic halls throughout the year. Programmes change by season, so check dates and book seats in advance. Vienna also pairs well with a rail day to Salzburg; see [Austria Holiday Packages](#) for city-and-lake combinations.

Practical notes for Vienna

✓ Getting around

Trams, buses and the metro cover the central districts. Confirm current ticket options before you travel, as fares and passes change.

✓ Hotel rates

Budget 2–3★ rooms are often quoted at about €70–110 a night, while peak dates and major events can push prices well higher. Treat these as indicative ranges.

✓ Dress and pace

Comfortable walking shoes and a light layer suit most days. Plan rest stops, as palace visits and museum circuits take longer than expected.

 CITY

Vienna, slowly continued

Palaces, coffee houses and concerts

Accommodation types, budget ranges and daily spending are covered later in this guide, so you can compare Vienna with the Alpine core before you decide how many nights to spend in each place.

ALPINE CORE

Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg

Lakes, valleys and ski areas

The Alpine core brings together lakes, valleys and ski areas. Salzburg is the easiest base for a first visit, as trains run from Vienna twice an hour without changes. Tyrol and Vorarlberg suit slower days and planned mountain journeys. Weather here is more changeable than in the capital, so build in flexible days. Compare options on [Austria Holiday Packages](#).

SALZBURG

Salzburg city

Cooler and generally wetter than Vienna, with an easy rail link from the capital. A practical base for a first Alpine stay.

SALZBURG LAND

Lakes and valleys

Plan lake days and valley drives around the forecast. Rain is more likely here than in Vienna, so carry a light shell.

TYROL

Innsbruck

A central Alpine base for ski areas and mountain walks. Average July rainfall is about 128 mm, against 63 mm in Vienna.

WINTER

Ski areas

Snow is generally reliable from December to April at resort elevations above 800m. Confirm lift and resort timetables before booking.

VORARLBERG

Vorarlberg

A quieter western option for villages and Alpine scenery. Allow extra time for transfers and check connections in advance.

ROAD TRIPS

Driving between states

Winter tyres are mandatory from 1 November to 15 April. Some routes carry tolls, such as 12.50 euro for the Brenner and 15.00 euro for the Tauern and Katschberg tunnels.

SOUTHERN ROUTE

Graz and Carinthia

Quieter towns and lakes, with rail timing to confirm

Graz and Carinthia suit travellers who want quieter towns, lakeside walks and a slower pace than Vienna. Graz, the capital of Styria, offers a compact old town and a relaxed café culture. Carinthia, further south, is a lake region where many visits centre on walking, cycling and gentle days by the water. Seasonal opening hours, boat services and rail timetables change, so treat every date here as a planning check rather than a fixed promise.

CITY

Graz old town

Stroll the historic centre at an easy pace, then settle into a café for a long lunch. Museum and attraction hours vary by season, so check them before fixing a day around a single visit.

LAKES

Carinthian lakes

Lakeside paths and cycling routes suit a relaxed day. Boat hire and water-sport services are seasonal, so confirm dates for your trip rather than assuming summer availability.

RAIL

Koralm rail link

The Koralm Railway between Graz and Klagenfurt was listed for opening on 14 December 2025. Confirm that it is running and read the current timetable before planning that leg by train.

ROAD

Driving option

A car gives flexibility for lakeside villages and valley roads. Austrian motorways need a digital vignette, and some tunnels carry separate tolls, so check current prices in the transport section.

Rail is the main thing to confirm. The Koralm line was listed for opening in December 2025, so check that it is operating and read the current timetable before you plan a Graz to Klagenfurt journey. Advance Sparschiene fares are sold only online or in the ÖBB app, with no cancellation or refund, so book once your dates are firm. To combine this region with Vienna or Salzburg, [discuss a rail-led route](#) with our team.

Give quieter corners a few extra days. Weather varies by location, and the research did not produce reliable regional figures for this area, so check forecasts closer to travel and keep indoor options in mind for wet spells.

 WHERE TO STAY

Guesthouses, hotels and apartments

Stay types and typical ranges



Austria offers a wide range of places to stay, from family-run guesthouses in the valleys to large city hotels. Prices change sharply with season, event dates and location, so the figures below are planning guides rather than quotes. Vienna ranges come from secondary sources and should be checked against live rates before you book.

Vienna reference ranges

Budget 2–3★ hotel	€70–110 per night, double room	₹7,400–11,700
Mid-range hotel	€130–220 per night	₹13,800–23,300
5★ hotel	€400–1,200+ per night	₹42,400 and above
Peak-period rates	Often above €280 per night	About ₹29,700 and above

INR figures use about ₹106 per €1 for planning only. One source puts the average daily rate for Vienna hotels at €211 for the year to June 2025. That figure covers branded 4–5★ stock and a different method, so treat it as context rather than a price.

WHERE TO STAY

Guesthouses, hotels and apartments continued

Stay types and typical ranges



Guesthouses

Family-run guesthouses suit travellers who want a quieter base in the valleys, often with mountain views and a local feel. The research did not confirm typical rates for rural guesthouses, so request a quote for your dates and ask directly about breakfast, parking and access.

City hotels

Vienna and Salzburg offer the widest choice of category and location. Rates vary by season and events, and several sources report peak-period prices above €280 a night. Compare cancellation terms before paying.

Apartments

Apartments can suit families and longer stays. The research did not give verified apartment rates, so confirm the kitchen, laundry and arrival arrangements with the host in writing.

Booking timing

Book early for summer, December and ski weeks, when sources advise planning at the longer end of timelines. Ask about vegetarian or other dietary needs directly, as this was not part of the research.

 WHERE TO STAY

Guesthouses, hotels and apartments continued

Stay types and typical ranges

For package-based stays, [see Austria holiday packages](#) and confirm the room type, inclusions and cancellation terms before you commit. Hotel ranges here are indicative and will shift with dates, so use them to compare categories rather than to budget to the rupee.

PLAN IT WITH
TRIPSTOR

[Austria Holiday Packages](#)



TABLE

Cafés, coffee and Austrian sweets

Café culture and everyday dining



Coffee houses are central to daily life in Austria, and a long, unhurried table is part of the experience. Many guests order one drink and stay for an hour with a newspaper or a book. Popular houses can fill up at peak times, so it helps to ask about a table before settling in. For a fuller plan around city days, see our [Austria holiday packages](#).

Apple strudel and plum-filled pastries, sold by the slice at counters and cafés

TABLE

Cafés, coffee and Austrian sweets continued

Café culture and everyday dining

Sachertorte and Linzer torte, traditional cakes often served with whipped cream

✓ Water comes with coffee

A glass of water usually arrives with your drink, so you do not need to ask for it.

✓ Ask for the bill

Staff typically bring the bill when you request it, so there is no need to rush.

✓ Confirm payment first

Card acceptance was not verified in this research, so carry some cash for smaller cafés.

Meat-free dishes appear on many menus, but availability varies by venue. This guide has not verified options for vegetarian, Jain or halal needs. Ask staff before ordering, and check ingredients in pastries, soups and sauces, since recipes differ from one kitchen to another.

CULTURE

Music, museums and etiquette

Concerts, museums and local customs



Concerts and the opera house

Vienna is known for classical music, with everything from grand orchestral evenings to smaller chamber recitals in historic halls. Programmes change through the season, so check current listings and book ahead for popular performances. Smart casual dress suits most concerts, while some gala evenings at the opera call for a more formal look. Arrive a little early, as latecomers may need to wait for a suitable pause. [Browse city stays with concert nights](#) to plan your evenings.

Museums and palaces

✓ Palace visits

Imperial apartments and collections can feel busy at midday. Morning visits tend to be calmer, though opening times vary, so confirm them before you go.

✓ Galleries and museums

Many museums cluster in the central districts, which makes them easy to combine on foot. Ask at the desk about audio guides and combined tickets.

✓ Photography

Rules differ between venues. Look for signs and ask staff before using flash or a tripod.

 CULTURE

Music, museums and etiquette continued

Concerts, museums and local customs

Local customs

Austrians can seem reserved at first, and a polite greeting goes a long way. Use titles such as Herr or Frau when you are unsure of the right form of address. In traditional cafés, wait to be shown to a table. Tipping is customary in restaurants, and rounding up the bill or leaving a small amount in cash is a common gesture.

Public rules

Carry identification at all times and keep a copy of your passport separate from the original. Covering your face in public places is illegal in Austria, which can affect some clothing and religious dress, so check the details before you travel.

THINGS TO DO

Hiking, skiing, lakes and cities

Seasonal experiences



Austria rewards curiosity in every season. Ski areas, mountain trails, lakeside towns and historic cities each have their own rhythm, so choose experiences by the month you travel. Alpine conditions can change quickly, so check local weather and avalanche bulletins before any day outdoors. Plan rail and stay options with our [practical package guidance](#) once your dates are fixed.

WINTER

Skiing and snow

Alpine ski areas at higher elevations are generally open from December to April, though snow cover is never guaranteed. Book lessons and equipment early for peak weeks, and confirm that your travel insurance covers winter sports and mountain rescue.

SUMMER

Summer hiking

Mountain summers, typically June through September, suit walking in cooler air than the cities. Start early, carry layers and water, and keep to marked trails, as afternoon weather can turn quickly.

LAKES

Lakes and water

Alpine lakes suit gentle lakeside walks, cycling paths and evening views. Check water temperatures and local swimming rules before you go in, and treat any lake path as a shared route with cyclists.

CITIES

City days

Vienna, Graz and Linz are often most comfortable in spring and autumn, with fewer crowds than midsummer. Heat waves can push main-city temperatures towards 36–38°C, so plan indoor visits for the hottest hours.

 THINGS TO DO

Hiking, skiing, lakes and cities continued

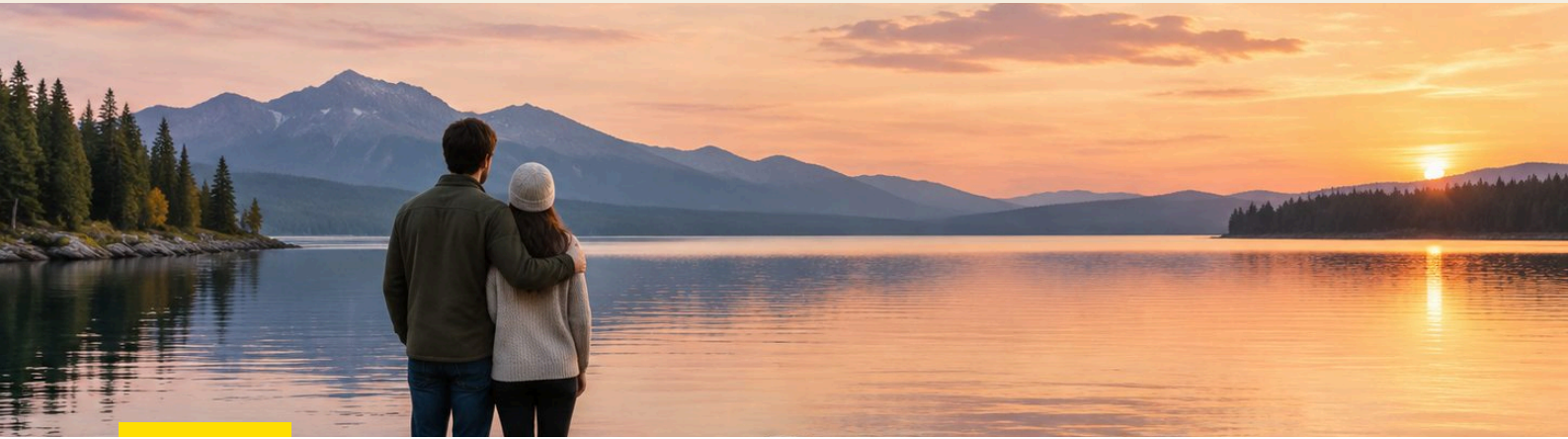
Seasonal experiences

Shoulder seasons offer the widest choice. Spring and autumn let you combine a city museum day with a short lakeside walk, while a winter trip can pair one or two ski days with Christmas markets and concerts. Confirm opening dates for lifts, trails and boats with local operators before you travel.

ROMANCE

Slow evenings by alpine water

Quiet lakes, long dinners and mountain views



Austria rewards a slower pace. Evenings by alpine water, long dinners and mountain views suit couples who want a quieter trip between the cities. Lake shores and village promenades feel most relaxed outside the busiest weeks, so shape each day around the light. For a trip built around these moments, [explore honeymoon-style packages](#) or [browse Austria holiday packages](#).

Lakeside evenings

Choose a base in Salzburg Land or Tyrol and leave time for an unhurried walk along the shore at dusk. Check local opening hours for boats and cafés before you go, as these vary by season.

Long dinners

Book a table for a late meal and ask about seasonal menus. Reservations matter most on weekends and in peak months, so reserve early when your dates are fixed.

Mountain views

Plan a viewpoint or a short cable car ride for clear morning light. Alpine weather can change quickly, so keep a flexible backup for the afternoon.

 ROMANCE

Slow evenings by alpine water continued

Quiet lakes, long dinners and mountain views

Plan with care

✓ Winter driving

If you drive in winter, note that official advisories state winter tyres are mandatory from 1 November to 15 April. Confirm the current rules before departure.

Plan with care

✓ Peak weeks

Rates in Vienna and Salzburg can rise sharply in peak periods, so compare dates early. Budget figures in this guide are indicative only.

Plan with care

✓ Mountain safety

For hikes and ski days, check weather and avalanche bulletins and confirm your insurance covers mountain rescue and winter sports.

✓ Entry first

Confirm your Schengen visa timing before fixing an anniversary or proposal date, since processing times vary and are not guaranteed.

Keep part of each day unplanned where you can. A slow afternoon by the water often becomes the part of the trip you remember most.

PLAN IT WITH
TRIPSTOR

Explore Austria honeymoon options



FAMILIES

Easy days for every age

Lakeside cycling, rail days and mountain walks



Austria suits family travel well because rail links between major cities are frequent, and many days can be built around a lake, a city park or a gentle valley walk. Plan one active outing and one slower option each day, and leave room for weather changes in the mountains.

Lakeside cycling

Flat lakeside paths suit mixed-age groups. Check bike hire and child seat or helmet sizes locally, as availability may be limited. Warmer months are generally the easiest for outdoor riding.

Rail days

Vienna and Salzburg are linked by trains twice an hour on the ÖBB route, often without changes. Children under 6 travel free on the fares we reviewed, so confirm the rule when you book.

Mountain walks

Choose trails that suit the youngest walker and allow extra time for breaks. Check the local forecast before setting out, as alpine conditions can change quickly.

 FAMILIES

Easy days for every age continued

Lakeside cycling, rail days and mountain walks

Winter days

Snow conditions and children's ski lessons depend on the season and resort. Confirm lesson age limits and check that insurance covers winter sports before you book.

Midday pauses

Plan a rest in a café or park during the afternoon. Shorter city visits are often easier for children and older relatives to enjoy.

Travel documents

Each traveller needs their own passport and visa application. Visa fee rules for children are set out in the entry section, and should be confirmed with official sources.

For a family itinerary that balances cities, lakes and mountain days, explore [family itinerary options](#) and confirm every fare, visa fee and insurance detail with the official source before you travel.

PLAN IT WITH
TRIPSTOR

Explore Austria family options



ITINERARIES

Two parallel routes

City-and-lake or mountain-focused routes

Two routes show how the same trip can lean towards cities or mountains. Both assume the Vienna to Salzburg rail link, which ÖBB runs twice an hour without changes, and both can shift with the season. Confirm timings before booking, and consider [Austria Holiday Packages](#) if you prefer a planned itinerary.

Salzburg arrival

Arrive by train and collect any car booked for the mountain leg.



Valley settling

Rest in a guesthouse and take a short walk to learn the local trails.



Season activity

Hike high meadows in summer, or take a ski lesson in winter when snow is reliable.



Drive to Tyrol

Carry a valid motorway vignette. Some tunnels and passes carry extra tolls.



Innsbruck

Visit the old town and return to your base before evening.



Mountain day

Choose a route or piste and after checking local weather and avalanche bulletins.

PLAN IT WITH
TRIPSTOR

BUDGET

Planning ranges in INR

Indicative ranges, not quotes

Austria can suit many budgets, but city hotels usually shape the total. The figures here turn euro research into rupees at about ₹106 per €1, a planning rate only. Rates move daily, so check your bank or an official reference rate before you book. Treat every number as a range, not a quote, because dates, events and booking channels change prices. Sources disagree on Vienna hotel averages, so we show bands rather than a single average. Visa fees, insurance and transport are separate costs. You can compare bundled options on [Austria holiday packages](#) before deciding how much to set aside.

TRIP STYLE	TRIP STYLE	TRIP STYLE
Budget	Mid-range	Premium
TOTAL · INR	TOTAL · INR	TOTAL · INR
7,420 – 11,660	32,542 – 42,082	72,080 – 156,880
Vienna 2–3 star hotel, per night for a double room	Vienna hotel, per night	Vienna 5 star hotel, per night
7,420 – 11,660	13,780 – 23,320	42,400 – 127,200
APPROXIMATE INR	Vienna daily spend including meals and local transport, about €177	Peak-period hotel rate in major hubs, from about €280
₹7,420 to ₹11,660	18,762	29,680
	APPROXIMATE INR	APPROXIMATE INR
	₹32,542 to ₹42,082	₹72,080 to ₹1,56,880

■ Vienna 2–3 star hotel, per night for a double room

Bars show the lower-estimate cost mix. Amounts already in INR; no conversion applied · reference 2026-10-22 · estimates, not quotes.

Peak periods can push Vienna and Salzburg rates well above the mid-range band, so book early if your dates are fixed. Keep a buffer for rail fares, which vary with advance purchase and flexibility. If you drive, add the car vignette and any tunnel or pass tolls. VAT refunds on eligible purchases are not included in these figures, and you should confirm the current refund rules before you shop. For a tailored estimate, speak with a planner through [Austria holiday packages](#).

MONEY

Cards, cash and VAT refunds

Exchange, tax-free shopping and card checks

Plan in rupees, but expect the rate to move. The European Central Bank reference rate on 22 October 2026 was about 106.25 INR per EUR, and the RBI reference rate on 23 October 2026 was 106.455. For planning only, use about ₹106 per €1 and check the live rate on the day you pay. Your bank's conversion margin and card fees can add more to the final cost than the headline rate, so compare them before you travel. Austrian prices are shown in euros, so a budget set in rupees should leave a margin for rate movement.

✓ Cards and cash

I found no verified source on card acceptance in Austria. Carry a mix of cards and some euro cash for small purchases, and check your bank's forex and card-fee terms before you fly.

✓ Remittance and TCS

Under India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme, large foreign spends may attract Tax Collected at Source. I have not verified the current rules, so confirm them with your bank or a tax adviser.

✓ Who can claim

VAT refunds apply to visitors whose domicile and residence are outside Austria and the EU. Each bill must exceed €75, and goods must leave Austria within three months after the end of the month of purchase.

MONEY

Cards, cash and VAT refunds continued

Exchange, tax-free shopping and card checks

✓ Customs stamp

A refund needs a digital customs stamp, available at Vienna airport. One older page puts the refund at up to 15% of the price after the provider's handling fee, so confirm the current figure with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (WKO).

✓ VAT rates

The standard rate is 20%, with reduced rates for food and some other goods, accommodation and public transport. Sources differ on the exact bands, so check WKO guidance before setting a shopping budget.

Exchange rate	About ₹106 per €1, indicative only
VAT refund minimum	More than €75 per bill
Export deadline	Within three months after the month of purchase
Customs stamp	Digital, available at Vienna airport
Refund share	Up to 15% after handling fee, to confirm

Keep receipts and check the refund process before you reach the checkout, so you can complete the customs step on the way out. For a planned route with money, timings and bookings in one place, see the [Austria Holiday Packages](#) or the [Austria Holiday Guide](#).

SAFETY

Emergencies, mountains and local rules

Practical safety and health notes

Practical safety, first

Austria is generally considered low-risk for visitors. The US State Department lists it at Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions, in an advisory dated 21 August 2026. Most crime is petty, with pickpocketing reported in tourist areas, larger cities, and on trains and public transport. Keep bags closed in crowded places and store passports securely. You can [browse Austria holiday packages](#) for planned support on the ground.

Emergency numbers

**112**

General emergencies

**133**

Police

**122**

Fire service

**144**

Ambulance

Terrorism and threat levels

Ireland's foreign ministry lists Austria's threat level as 4 of 5, 'high'. Check the Austrian Interior Ministry for the current level before you depart and follow local guidance during your stay.

 SAFETY

Emergencies, mountains and local rules continued

Practical safety and health notes

Mountains come first

In the Alps, hiking and skiing risks often matter more than crime. Check weather and avalanche bulletins before any route, and choose cover that includes mountain rescue and winter sports. Insurance requirements for winter sports are not confirmed by an official source, so [ask about suitable cover](#) and verify the terms in writing.

Local rules

Carry identification at all times. Austria restricts covering the face in public places. If face coverings are part of your travel wardrobe, check the current rules before arrival, as the details matter for some clothing.

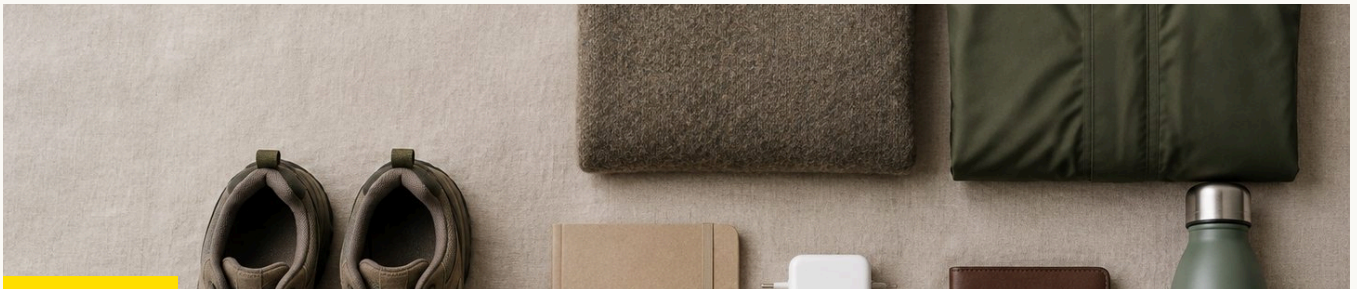
Health and insurance

Indian passport holders are not covered by the EHIC scheme, so travel insurance meeting the Schengen minimum is essential. Vaccine requirements were not verified for this guide. Check the Indian MEA and Austrian health ministry pages before you travel.

PACKING

Layers for mountains and cities

Essentials for changeable weather



Austria can feel very different from one day to the next. Vienna may be warm and dry while the Alps are cool and wet. Pack in layers so you can adjust on trains, city streets and mountain paths. Seasonal needs vary, so check the weather for each base before you leave. If you would like a planned route with these practicalities built in, compare [Austria holiday packages](#).

☐ Warm mid-layer

A fleece or lightweight wool sweater suits mountain evenings and cool churches.

☐ Waterproof shell

Showers can arrive quickly in summer, and mountain weather changes fast.

☐ Comfortable walking shoes

Cobbled streets and forest paths reward supportive, well-worn soles.

☐ Warm hat and gloves

Useful for winter visits and high-altitude days, even in shoulder seasons.

☐ Sun protection

A hat, sunglasses and sunscreen help on exposed alpine walks.

 PACKING

Layers for mountains and cities continued

Essentials for changeable weather

☐ Day pack

Carry water, a layer and your documents on excursions.

☐ Universal adapter

Confirm the plug type and voltage for each device before departure.

☐ Document wallet

Keep your passport, visa, insurance and bookings together, with copies stored separately.

☐ Prescription medicines

Carry them in original packaging, and check with your doctor about your own needs.

☐ One smarter outfit

Useful for concerts, opera and dinners in historic venues.

Baggage allowances differ by airline and route, so check your limits before packing. These suggestions are general, not a complete list. Adjust them for your season, activities and travel style, and reconfirm entry and health requirements on official sources before departure.

QUESTIONS

Short answers

Quick answers for planning

Do Indian travellers need a visa?

Yes. Indian nationals need a Schengen visa, which allows stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. The sources reviewed list no visa on arrival, e-visa or visa-free entry. Confirm the details with the Austrian Embassy in New Delhi.

How long does processing take?

Estimates vary widely, from about 10 to 45 days. Plan for the longer end for summer and December trips, and keep flexible dates.

Do I need ETIAS?

ETIAS is expected to start in the last quarter of 2026, but no confirmed date was found. One source says it does not apply to Indians who already need a Schengen visa, so check the official Travel to Europe site.

What does the visa cost?

The sources reviewed cite a 90 euro adult fee, with lower rates for children, and centres add their own service charges. Most VFS centres in India take rupees at the rate on your appointment date, so check the current fee before you pay.

What is EES?

The Entry/Exit System records entries and exits electronically and collects fingerprints and facial images from short-stay non-EU travellers. Allow extra time at your first border crossing.

Is rail or driving better?

Between Vienna and Salzburg, ÖBB trains run twice an hour without changes. Advance fares are cheaper but non-refundable. For the Alps, a car offers flexibility. Winter tyres are mandatory from 1 November to 15 April. Compare routes with our [Austria holiday packages](role:packages).

PLAN IT WITH
TRIPSTOR

Plan your Austria trip



SOURCES

Sources and verification

Checked 24 October 2026

Facts in this guide were checked against the sources listed here on 24 October 2026. Many are secondary or commercial pages, and several primary official pages could not be opened directly, so treat figures as indicative. Time-sensitive items need re-checking at print time: the ETIAS launch date, VFS fees and charges, the exchange rate, vignette rules from 2027, ÖBB fare structure and the Koralm Railway timetable. Official sources from the Austrian Foreign Ministry, the Austrian Embassy in New Delhi, the EU Travel to Europe site, ÖBB, ASFINAG and WKO should take precedence over any figure printed here.

S1 Austria Visa for Indians: May 2026 Updated Guide - Requirements, Fees & Online Application

There is no visa-on-arrival facility, no e-visa option, and no visa-free entry for Indian nationals as of 2026.

S2 Schengen Visa Fees from India 2026: Embassy, VFS and Total Costs

That's the visa processing fee set by the European Commission (raised from EUR 80 on June 11, 2024), and it's the same for all Schengen countries.

S3 Where to Apply for a Schengen Visa in India (2026): Centres & Booking — HatVisa

Where to apply for a Schengen visa in India ## The visa fee The Schengen visa fee is €90 per adult, €45 for children 6–11 and free under 6 — the sam...

S4 Schengen Visa Fees for Indians 2026: Complete Cost Breakdown (Embassy + VFS + Insurance + Everything) <!-- → — VisaBro

At most VFS centres in India, payment is accepted in INR only. The EUR amount is converted at the prevailing exchange rate on the date of your appoint...

S5 Austria Visa for Indians 2026 — Requirements, Fees, Documents & Process

All Austria Schengen visa applications from India are assessed by the Austrian Embassy in New Delhi — regardless of which VFS center you submit at.

SOURCES

Sources and verification continued

Checked 24 October 2026

S6 EES: The new European border Entry/Exit System goes live on 10 April 2026

It has been gradually implemented since 12 October 2025 and will be fully operational from 10 April 2026.

S7 Europe Entry Requirements in 2026 - EES & ETIAS Explained -

It replaces the manual stamping of passports with electronic records of every entry, exit, and refusal of entry for non-EU short-stay travellers.

S8 EU Entry/Exit System (EES) Fully Operational in 2026

- The digital system collects biometric data including fingerprints and facial images for all short-term non-EU travelers.

S9 Revised timeline for the EES and ETIAS - Travel to Europe

ETIAS is expected to become operational in the last quarter of 2026.

S10 Schengen Visa for Indians 2026: €90 Fee, 29 Countries

VFS Processing Time 15-30 days Min 10 days, max 45 days.

S11 Austria Weather & Travel Guide: Best Time to Visit - The Weather Guide

Austria combines alpine climate in the west with continental conditions in the east.

S12 Austria climate: temperature, rain, when to go - Climates to Travel

Heat waves of African origin are generally of short duration, but during these periods in the main cities the temperature can reach 36/38 °C (97/100 °...

S13 Austria: Weather, Climate & Best Time to Visit

For example, Innsbruck receives 128 mm (5 in) of rain in July, while Vienna experiences considerably less, with just 63 mm (2.5 in).

S14 Austria

It is mandatory to use winter tyres from 1 November to 15 April of the following year.

S15 High-speed rail in Austria

Neustadt) | 200 km/h | 47 km | Unknown (past) | 2024 (expected) | | Koralm Railway (Graz - Klagenfurt) | 250 km/h | 125 km (78 mi) | 2001 | 14 Decembe...

SOURCES

Sources and verification continued

Checked 24 October 2026

S16 Train from Vienna to Salzburg - Direct connections - ÖBB

Travel by train from Vienna to Salzburg ÖBB will take you from Vienna to the cultural city of Salzburg **twice an hour without any changes**, offeri...

S17 ÖBB Trains : Rail Travel to Salzburg : salzburg.info

The Vienna-Salzburg route is served by two Railjets per hour, with the fastest connection being the Railjet Xpress (RJX), which travels from Vienna th...

S18 ÖBB Sparschiene - ÖBB

- Bookable up to 6 months (180 days) before departure, only online and via the ÖBB App. - No cancellation or refund.

S19 Sparschiene Austria - ÖBB

Hello there, Sparschiene Austria ## Take the train and save money - **Sparschiene Austria tickets are available from € 9.90*** for 2nd class and fr...

S20 VIENNA TO SALZBURG by train

- **ÖBB railjets:** Advance-purchase
Sparschiene fares start at €19.90 in 2nd class or €29.90 in 1st class.

S21 Austria Vignette 2026: €12.80 for 10 Days + Where to Buy

Visitor Snapshot ASFINAG lists 2026 car vignette prices as EUR 9.60 for 1 day, EUR 12.80 for 10 days, EUR 32.00 for 2 months, and EUR 106.80 annual...

S22 Austria Vignette 2026: Digital Toll Sticker for Austrian Motorways

Austria vignette price 2026: cost per duration |
Duration | Car | Motorbike | | --- | --- | --- | | 1 day |
€9.60 | €3.80 | | 10 days | €12.80 | €5...

S23 Austria Vignette 2026: Prices, Where to Buy & Everything You Need to Know

From 2027, only digital vignettes will be available.

S24 Euro foreign exchange reference rates - European Central Bank

22 October 2026 All currencies quoted against the euro (base currency) | Currency | Currency | Spot | Chart | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | BRL |...

SOURCES

Sources and verification continued

Checked 24 October 2026

S25 India

India Foreign Exchange Rate: Reserve Bank of India
 ### Foreign Exchange Rate: RBI: Reference Rate:
 Euro 1999 - 2026 | Daily | EUR/INR | Reserve Bank...

S26 Tax free shopping

Tax free shopping – Guidelines for tourists ##
 Conditions The value added tax (VAT) paid on goods
 bought in Austria is refundable if the following c...

S27 Tax free Shopping - vienna.info

No refund is possible without a (digital) customs
 stamp.

S28 Tax-free shopping in Austria with Vatfree.com

Tax-Free Shopping in Austria at ## Value Added
 Tax (VAT) in Austria - Local currency is EUR - VAT is
 applied to all purchases - Standard VAT rate: 2...

S29 VAT refund in Austria: A complete guide to tax-free shopping in Austria for tourists

Second reduced rate10%Accommodation; campsites
 rentals; foodstuffs; a few beverages; books and
 newspapers; public transportation; medicine How
 much...

S30 How Much Does Vienna Cost? Complete 2026 Budget Breakdown

Complete 2026 Budget Breakdown ##
 Accommodation costs in Vienna **Budget hotels (2-
 3 star):** 70-110 euros per night for a double room.

S31 Is Vienna Expensive? 2026 Cost Guide & Money-Saving Tips

Hotel prices in Vienna are reasonable compared to
 other major European cities, with a wide range of
 options available: Vienna's hotel prices average a...

S32 Vienna Business Apartments 2026: Market Overview & Rates

According to Hospitalitynet's Vienna Hotel Market
 Spotlight (YE June 2025), Vienna's average daily rate
 for hotels reached **€211, up 6.2% year-on-yea...

SOURCES

Sources and verification continued

Checked 24 October 2026

S33 How much does it cost to travel to Austria? - 2026 Guide

Hotel rates in these tourist hubs often exceed €280 per night during peak travel periods.

S34 Vienna Travel Cost - Average Price of a Vacation to Vienna: Food & Meal Budget, Daily & Weekly Expenses

,"acceptedAnswer":{"text":"\$202(€177) is the average daily price for traveling in Vienna. The average price of meals in Vienna for one day is \$65 (€5...

S35 Austria Travel Advisory

Austria Travel Advisory ### Austria - Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions ### Travel Advisory August 21, 2026 **There were no changes to the advis...

S36 Austria

Austria's current threat level is 4, "high", on a 5-step scale.

S37 Austria Travel Safety: Risk Level, Embassies & Emergency Numbers

Low risk — level 1 of 4 Telcomia Safety Index: 1.18/4
What to know before traveling to Austria ### Trip essentials According to Spain — Ministry o...

S38 Is Austria Safe? Risk & Safety Score — Travel Safety Index

In the Alps, conditions can change quickly, so hiking and skiing risks are more relevant than crime for many visitors.

PLAN WITH US

Back cover

Austria rewards unhurried planning: a morning train through green valleys, a long coffee in Vienna, an evening by alpine water. Before you travel, confirm entry rules, visa timelines, rail timetables and vignette requirements with the official sources listed in this guide, as these change. Our team can help shape a route around your dates, your travelling group and your comfort with mountain weather. [Start planning your Austria journey](#) and we will take it from there.

TALK TO THE TRIPSTOR TEAM

Email

hello@tripstor.com

Call

[+91 98253 43323](tel:+919825343323)

Message

[WhatsApp](#)[facebook](#) [instagram](#) [linkedin](#) [x](#)PLAN IT WITH
TRIPSTORtripstor.com