Austria Visa Information

Website: www.austria-ny.org (download the forms from their webpage)

ALL visa applicants must appear in person at the Austrian Consulate General.

If you come to Austria as a tourist, pass through Austria in transit, visit friends and/or relatives in Austria, or are on business trip and your stay is not to exceed six months, you will most likely need an entry permit (visa) to cross the border into Austria. In general, you are not allowed to take up any employment while in Austria on a valid visa.

However, while a visa is not a work permit by itself, there are certain, clearly defined circumstances under which the holder of a valid D+C visitor-travel visa may work temporarily in Austria (took effect January 1, 2006).

In any case, the passport must be valid for three more months beyond the date of leaving Austria (and the Schengen zone).

Please note that both your nationality (= citizenship) and the passport you hold determine whether or not you must apply for a visa.

- Holders of Refugee Passports and Alien Passports need a visa for Austria.

Due to bi- and multilateral agreements, individuals who hold a valid regular passport of one of the following countries are visa-exempt and need NOT apply for a visa to enter Austria for stays of up to 90 days. The possibility to enter Austria visa-free does not grant you the right to work there.

All EU member countries and the following countries: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, South Korea, United States (USA), Uruguay, Venezuela.

Schengen Agreement
Austria is a member of the Schengen Agreement which has lead to the disappearance of internal border controls. With a Schengen visa, you may travel freely throughout the Schengen zone.

The following countries are members of the Schengen Agreement:
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

I) Airport Transit Visa (Visa A) & Transit Visa (Visa B)
Passengers who are not visa-exempt under the Visa Waiver Program and travel from the US (or any other non-Schengen country) via Austria to another non-Schengen country do not need a **transit visa** (Visa B) if they do not leave the transit area of the airport. If travelling from Austria via other Schengen countries (even if only to change planes), passengers will have to leave the transit area of the airport and therefore do need a transit visa (Visa B) or a Schengen visa (Visa C). This means passengers must have a **direct** connection flight from Austria to a non-Schengen country.

Holders of passports of one of the countries listed below who do not have a valid "Green Card" must apply for an airport transit visa (Visa A) even if they merely change planes in Austria without actually leaving the transit area of the airport:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Congo
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Iran
- Iraq
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka

II) **Travel Visa (Visa C)**

If you plan to go to Austria as a tourist, to visit friends or on a business trip for a period not to exceed 90 days **and** your country does not participate in the Visa Waiver Program, you need a Schengen **travel visa** (Visa C). This visa is **not** a work permit.

Please note that in order to apply for a travel visa at the Austrian Consulate, your **only destination** (longest duration of stay) must be Austria. In absence of a main destination, Austria must be your **first point of entry** into the Schengen zone.

III) **Visitor Visa (Visa D)**

If you intend to stay in Austria for more than 90 but less than 180 days as either a tourist, on a business trip, or to visit friends or relatives **and** you are neither a EU citizen nor EFTA citizen, you need a national Austrian **visitor visa** (Visa D). A visitor visa is valid for Austria **only** (it is **not** a Schengen visa), but it entitles the bearer to pass through other Schengen countries in order to get to Austria. It is **not** a work permit.
IV) Visitor-Travel Visa (D+C)

Starting January 1, 2006, the visitor-travel visa (Visa D+C) will allow you to work temporarily under clearly specified circumstances (e.g. artist or entertainer on short-term engagement) in Austria. It is not a work permit per se and, as such, does not allow you to take up any employment you like. Please note that you need the visa D+C to legally take up your temporary employment (as outlined above) even if you are allowed to enter Austria without a visa and your stay does not exceed three months.

You must provide the Consulate with all documents and additional authorizations required; otherwise, the visa will not be issued. However, the visitor-travel visa gives you the right to both stay in Austria for up to six months and travel within Schengen for up to three months.

Application procedure:

Before you fill out a visa application, please make sure that you need not apply for a residence permit to go to Austria.

- The Austrian Consulate General will accept only complete visa applications. Original documents will be returned after the application has been processed.
- The consular fee has to be paid at the time you submit your application.
- Visa applications will be processed as quickly as possible, but visas will not be issued for same-day travel. Exceptions are not permitted. The Consulate recommends that you apply at least three weeks before your date of departure.
- ALL visa applicants must appear in person at the Austrian Consulate. The Austrian Consulate General does not accept visa applications by mail.
  
  Address: Austrian Consulate General, 31 East 69th Street (between Park & Madison Ave), New York, NY 10021
  
  Public hours: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 12 noon; no appointment necessary; Austrian Legal Holidays
- If you wish to have your documents returned by US Postal Service please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (including filled out Certified Mail Receipt) with your application. Documents will not be returned for C.O.D. The Austrian Consulate General will not be responsible for documents after they were mailed.
- Please note that there is no legal claim on obtaining the visa applied for. In the event that changes are made to the application after it was received, additional fees will be charged.
- If you do not reside in the United States of America (e.g. being in the U.S. as a tourist), you cannot apply for a visa at the Austrian Consulate General in New York. You must apply for the visa at the Austrian Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence.

The following documents (if applicable) must be presented when applying for a visa:

1. valid and signed passport or travel document
   (Passport/travel document must be valid for at least three months beyond date of leaving
Schengen zone. In the case of minors, notarized signature of parent or guardian is required.

2. two visa application forms, completed and signed
3. two recent passport pictures. They strictly have to meet the following criteria

Recommended photographer in NYC:

**Columbia Photo**
3 West 51st Street (btw. 5th and 6th Av)
Phone 212 245 8058

Photographer in **Albany**: [www.timraabnorthern.com](http://www.timraabnorthern.com)
Max. head size 1.4 inch (36 mm), min. eye distance 0.3 inch (8mm)

4. travel itinerary (showing dates of travel) for complete journey
5. airline **reservation** (original airline and/or train tickets, **fully paid** rental car and hotel reservations **must be presented when visa is picked up**)
6. proof of **travel insurance or health/accident insurance** providing worldwide coverage: stating name of insurant, type of coverage (medical emergencies including repatriation) and amount of coverage (minimum USD 50,000)
7. **original** "Green Card" (notarized copy **not** accepted) or US visa with I-94 affixed to passport
   (must be valid for at least three more months beyond date of leaving Schengen zone)
8. visas of countries you intended to visit after your stay in Austria
9. one set of photocopies of **all** supporting documents

In addition to the above mentioned documents the following items must be submitted:

If you are traveling to Austria as a tourist:

- **confirmed** hotel-reservation
- **confirmation** of tour
- **recent** bank-statement, stamped and signed by your bank
- letter of continued employment and **recent** statement of income

If you are visiting friends or family:

- Please provide the number of the EVE (**Elektronische Verpflichtungserklaerung**) - **Electronic Invitation Letter/Financial Guarantee**. Your friends or relatives in Austria have to get in touch with the Austrian Immigration authorities in order to receive this number.

If you are traveling on business:

- Please provide the number of the EVE (**Elektronische Verpflichtungserklaerung**) - **Electronic Invitation Letter/Financial Guarantee**. A representative of the Austrian company/organisation has to get in touch with the Austrian Immigration authorities in order to receive this number.
If you are attending a conference:

- **original** invitation to the conference
- **original** proof of registration

If you are participating in a student program (less than six months):

- **original** Letter of institution
- **original** proof of registration
- **proof of sufficient financial means** (e.g. scholarship, letter of grants, bank statement of last two months [parent's account accepted], other proof of income)
- **proof of lodging** in Austria (e.g. lease contract, ownership papers)

*Elektronische Verpflichtungserklärung* - Electronic Invitation Letter/Financial Guarantee:

Electronic transmission of data to the Embassy/Consulate by the Austrian authority: An individual legally residing in Austria can approach the local authority responsible for visa and residence permits ((Bundespolizeidirektion, Bezirkshauptmannschaft, Polizeikommissariat) in order to sign a financial guarantee for his guest(s), wishing to visit him/her in Austria.

For business invitations, a representative of the inviting company/organisation in Austria has to file for the EVE at the local authority responsible for visa and residence permit in Austria (Bundespolizeidirektion, Bezirkshauptmannschaft, Polizeikommissariat). The Austrian authority verifies the identity of the host as well as reviewing his/her financial status. Upon completion of the verification process and signing the financial guarantee agreement, an 8-digit ID-number is given to the host. This ID-number is required by the Embassy or Consulate at the time of the application.

**Note:** The Embassy or Consulate can access the data only 48 hours after the verification process, thus an application should be filed 2 days later only.

FURTHER DOCUMENTATION MAY BE REQUIRED ON A CASE-TO-CASE BASIS!