



Austria

CAPITAL

Vienna

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

German

CURRENCY

the euro (EUR)

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This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions (from non-EU countries): Per the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (bmf.gv.at), personal property may be imported free of import duties and taxes when transferring normal place of residence to Austria, provided: the personal property belongs to the applicant; the items have been used at the former residence for a minimum of 6 months before the date of departure from the non-EU country; the applicant has lived at the previous residence abroad for at least 12 months (proof required); and the applicant is establishing normal place of residence in Austria.

Goods not eligible for exemption: Alcoholic products, tobacco products, commercial means of transport, and articles for use in a trade or profession (other than portable instruments of the applied or liberal arts).

Documents

Required Documents

- **Passport**
- **Bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)**
- **Detailed inventory (3 copies)**
- **Residence registration form (primary residence in Austria / Meldezettel)**
- **Original Austrian Customs forms: ZBefr2a (for returning Austrians, EU citizens, and immigrants who have previously lived in the EU) or ZBefr2 / ZBefr2E (for someone who has never lived in the EU before)**
- **Original power of attorney**
- **Exit certificate / certificate of stay abroad for at least 12 months (confirmation from local authority of previous residence, employer confirmation, or other official proof)**
- **Duty-free permit (Grundlagenbescheid), if applicable**
- **Invoices for all new furniture, appliances, gifts, and objects of art/antiques (2 copies)**

Household Goods — Specific Information

12-month import window: Removal goods can be imported duty-free within 12 months from the change of residence. Partial shipments are permitted within this window. For partial shipments, a guarantee may be required, and a judgement will be made regarding whether the person transferred residence within 12 months from the initial customs clearance.

12-month resale restriction: After customs clearance, removal goods may not be sold, lent, pledged, hired out, or otherwise transferred for 12 months without first paying customs duties and VAT.

Grundlagenbescheid (basic assessment notice): Required if the personal property includes means of transport (motorcycle, car, trailer, camping caravan, pleasure boat, private aircraft), or if the applicant already had a normal place of residence in the EU, or if the applicant is keeping a residence outside the EU after establishing residence in Austria. Apply to the competent customs office before the planned import.

Intra-EU moves: For moves within the EU, no customs formalities are required as goods move freely within the EU single market. However, if the person previously had a residence in the EU

before living outside the EU and is now returning, specific forms and potentially a Grundlagenbescheid are needed.

VAT: Standard Austrian VAT is 20%. For duty-free transfer of residence goods, both customs duty and import VAT are waived.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- **Narcotics and illegal drugs** — Strictly prohibited
- **Weapons** without permit — Prohibited under EU regulations
- **Counterfeit goods** — Prohibited
- **Material propagating violence, terrorism, or immorality** — Prohibited
- **Products infringing intellectual property** — Prohibited

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-Free Traveller Allowances (from non-EU countries)

- 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g tobacco
- 1 litre spirits over 22% ABV or 2 litres under 22% ABV
- 4 litres still wine, 16 litres beer
- Other goods up to EUR 430 (air/sea) or EUR 300 (land)

Restricted Items

- **Spirits, cigarettes, tobacco, perfumes** for personal consumption `PERMIT REQUIRED` — An import permit is required per IAM guide
- **Antiques** (100+ years) — Duty-free but subject to 20% VAT; certificate of appraisal from an Austrian expert may be required
- **New furniture, appliances, gifts, souvenirs, objects of art** — Subject to duties and taxes; certificate of circulation and import permit required where applicable
- **Plants and plant products** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Plant protection certificate required
- **Firearms** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Strict EU weapons regulations apply
- **Endangered species** `CITES` — CITES permits required; issued by BMLUK (Federal Ministry of Agriculture)
- **Alcohol within shipments** — Subject to excise duties

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **All documents listed above for household goods, plus:**
- **Vehicle purchase or leasing agreement**
- **Invoice / delivery note**
- **Motor vehicle registration certificate from origin country**
- **Other documents showing registration and/or insurance abroad**
- **Grundlagenbescheid (mandatory for vehicles — apply before shipping)**

Specific Information

Separate clearance required: Vehicles must be cleared separately from household goods and personal effects. Not every customs office is authorised for vehicle clearance — check with the destination agent.

Prior ownership: Vehicle must have been in the applicant's possession and use for a minimum of 6 months prior to the date of shipment. Documents supporting purchase and registration abroad must be provided.

Grundlagenbescheid mandatory for vehicles: Must be applied for at the competent customs office before shipping the vehicle. This is a critical step.

NoVA (Normverbrauchsabgabe): When first registering a motor vehicle in Austria, a standard consumption tax (NoVA) is due, payable at the local tax office. The NoVA ranges from 0% to 16%+ depending on fuel consumption/CO2 emissions. This tax applies even to duty-free imported vehicles.

Duties if not exempt: Per the U.S. Embassy in Austria, non-exempt vehicles are subject to 10% customs duty, 20% VAT (Einfuhrumsatzsteuer), and the NoVA. The amount depends on vehicle origin.

12-month resale restriction: Vehicles imported duty-free may not be sold within 12 months of Austrian customs clearance without first paying full duties and taxes.

Form T1: If arriving in Austria via personal vehicle, an application should be made to the Austrian Frontier Customs Office for a Form T1 (transit document).

Insurance: Foreign vehicles in Austria must have third-party liability insurance valid for the entire EU/EEA territory. Carry a valid Green Card (international insurance card) or purchase a one-month

border insurance policy.

Driving: Driving is on the RIGHT-hand side of the road.

Pets

Requirements

- **EU Pet Passport (issued by an authorised EU veterinarian)**

From EU Member States

- **ISO-compliant microchip (mandatory since 3 July 2011 for newly identified animals; tattoos applied before that date remain valid if legible)**

From EU Member States

- **Valid rabies vaccination (administered after microchip, at least 21 days before travel)**

From EU Member States

- **EU Health Certificate (non-commercial) — issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by USDA/APHIS. Must arrive in Austria within 10 days of USDA endorsement.**

From Non-EU Countries (including the US)

- **ISO-compliant microchip (ISO 11784/11785), implanted before rabies vaccination**

From Non-EU Countries (including the US)

- **Valid rabies vaccination (administered at least 21 days after microchip, for animals 12 weeks or older; primary vaccination valid for 1 year for US-vaccinated pets per EU rules)**

From Non-EU Countries (including the US)

- **Rabies antibody titration test (RNATT) — required from non-EU countries NOT on the Part 1 or Part 2 listed countries. The US is a Part 2 listed country, so a titer test is NOT required from the US. Required from unlisted countries; blood sample must be taken at least 30 days after vaccination and at least 3 months before travel.**

From Non-EU Countries (including the US)

- **Written declaration that the movement is non-commercial (not for sale or change of ownership)**

From Non-EU Countries (including the US)

Specific Information

Official authority: The Austrian Federal Office for Food Safety (BAVG) and customs authorities handle pet import controls. Pets entering from non-EU countries must pass through designated border crossing points: Vienna-Schwechat, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz-Thalerhof, or Klagenfurt airports.

Maximum pets: Up to 5 dogs, cats, or ferrets per person. This may be exceeded for animals participating in competitions/exhibitions with written proof of registration, provided animals are over 6 months old.

Minimum age: Pets must be at least 16 weeks old to enter Austria (12 weeks + 21-day post-vaccination wait). Austria does NOT allow entry of unvaccinated young pets or pets not yet immune to rabies from non-EU countries.

No quarantine: Quarantine is not required if all documentation requirements are met.

No import permit required: Pet owners do not need an import permit when entering Austria with dogs, cats, or ferrets. Unaccompanied pets may need a permit.

Customs control: Pets are controlled by customs authorities. At airports, use the red channel to declare your pet. The health certificate must be stamped and signed by the inspecting official.

Tapeworm treatment: NOT required for Austria (unlike Finland, Ireland, Malta, Norway, and Northern Ireland).

Dog registration: All dogs in Austria must be registered with local authorities and the Central Pet Register (Heimtierdatenbank). A dog tax applies, varying by municipality.

Banned breeds: No federal breed-specific legislation, but some provinces and municipalities have restrictions (e.g., Vienna has a "Hundehaltegesetz" with requirements for certain breeds).

Duty-free: Pets may be imported free of duties.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Inventory: A detailed inventory (3 copies) is required.

Customs forms: The correct ZBefr form must be used. ZBefr2a for returning Austrians/EU citizens/immigrants who have lived in the EU. ZBefr2 or ZBefr2E for those who have never lived in the EU.

Grundlagenbescheid: Must be obtained before shipping if importing vehicles, or if the applicant has maintained EU residence previously.

Port of entry: Vienna (primary), with customs offices at all major cities. Sea freight typically arrives via Hamburg or other northern European ports and is transported overland. Air freight via Vienna-Schwechat.

Currency: Euro (EUR). Austria is part of the Eurozone.

EU member state: Austria is an EU member state. Goods from other EU countries move freely without customs formalities. Only imports from non-EU (third) countries require customs clearance.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/austria/>
- **Wikipedia:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria>
- **BMF — Customs:** <https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs.html>
- **BAVG — Pet Travel:** <https://www.bavg.gv.at/en/import/living-animals/travel>
- **USDA APHIS — Pet Travel US to Austria:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-austria>
- **U.S. Embassy Austria — Customs:** <https://at.usembassy.gov/customs-clearance/>

Key country facts: Austria is a landlocked country in Central Europe, bordered by Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein. The capital is Vienna. The official language is German. The currency is the euro (EUR). Austria is an EU member state (since 1995) and part of the Schengen Area. VAT is 20%. Driving is on the right-hand side.

Regulatory Updates

- **April 2026 (CRITICAL — Pet imports):** From 21 April 2026, the movement of pet animals from third countries into the EU is governed exclusively by Part VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and its implementing regulations. Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 no longer applies. Old-format veterinary certificates based on Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 may still be issued until 30 September 2026 and remain valid until 31 March 2027. From 1 October 2026, only the new certificate format will be accepted. Confirm current certificate requirements with the destination agent and USDA/APHIS before shipping.

- **2023-2025:** Austrian customs continues to use e-zoll electronic customs clearance system. BMF customs information pages updated regularly.
- **Ongoing:** NoVA (vehicle consumption tax) rates adjusted periodically based on CO2 emission regulations.
- **2025:** Tariff Amendment 2025 effective July 1, 2025 (EU-wide tariff changes apply to Austria as an EU member).

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Austria](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Austria&lat=48.2082&lng=16.3738&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Austria)
https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Austria&lat=48.2082&lng=16.3738&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Austria
- [Foreign Embassies in Austria](https://www.embassypages.com/austria)
https://www.embassypages.com/austria
- [Austria's Embassies Abroad](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassies-consulates/)
https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassies-consulates/
- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/austria/)
https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/austria/
- [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria
- [Federal Ministry of Finance \(BMF\) — Customs](https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs.html)
https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs.html
- [BMF — Transfer of Residence from Non-EU Country](https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs/tax-and-duty-free-import-of-relocation-goods/transferring-place-of-residence-from-a-non-eu-country.html)
https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs/tax-and-duty-free-import-of-relocation-goods/transferring-place-of-residence-from-a-non-eu-country.html
- [BMF — Exceptions for Transfer of Residence](https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs/tax-and-duty-free-import-of-relocation-goods/transferring-place-of-residence-from-a-non-eu-country/exceptions-transferring-place-residence.html)
https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/customs/tax-and-duty-free-import-of-relocation-goods/transferring-place-of-residence-from-a-non-eu-country/exceptions-transferring-place-residence.html
- [BMEIA — Customs & Import Information](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/austrian-embassy-ottawa/travel-information-on-austria/customs-import/)
https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/austrian-embassy-ottawa/travel-information-on-austria/customs-import/
- [Austrian Federal Office for Food Safety \(BAVG\) — Pet Travel](https://www.bavg.gv.at/en/import/living-animals/travel)
https://www.bavg.gv.at/en/import/living-animals/travel
- [oesterreich.gv.at — Pet Passport Information](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/reisen_und_freizeit/haustiere/Seite.742050)
https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/reisen_und_freizeit/haustiere/Seite.742050
- [U.S. Embassy Austria — Customs Clearance](https://at.usembassy.gov/customs-clearance/)
https://at.usembassy.gov/customs-clearance/

- [USDA APHIS — Pet Travel US to Austria](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-austria)

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-austria>

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