FACTS & FIGURES

Capital: Vienna
Largest City: Vienna
Official Languages: Austrian, German
Official Script: Latin
Currency: Euro (EUR)

Geography (estimates)
Population: 8.77 million
Pop. Density: 104/km²
Area: 83,879 km²
Time Zone: EST + 6

Government
President: Alexander Van der Bellen
Legislature: National Council

*Independence or Founding Date*: 1804

HISTORY OF AUSTRIA

- From 1273 to 1918, Austria was dominated by the Houses of Hasburg and Hasburg-Lorraine
- After WWI, the Hasburg empire collapsed and the Austrian Republic was created by the Treaty of St. Germain
- Austria was annexed to Germany in 1938 as a part of WWII
  - Most of the Jewish population was killed or forced to leave during the Holocaust
- After the WWII, Austria was not an independent country again until a treaty was signed in 1955
- In 1995, Austria joined the European Union
- Three major Ranges of the Alps run West through East Austria
- Famous Austrians: Wolfgang A. Mozart, Marie Antoinette, Sigmund Freud (Psychologist), Fred Astaire (Actor)
There are two official languages in Austria: Austrian and German. Hungarian, Slovenian and Croatian are also widely recognized languages. Historically, Christianity is the most practiced religion in Austria, specifically Roman Catholicism. Other denominations practiced include, Protestantism, Islam, and Buddhism.

Austrian cuisine is derived from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They are famous for their well-balanced variations of beef and pork. Most well-known Austrian dishes are derived from Vienna. Other regions have their own variations on meals. The cuisine is one of the most multicultural in Europe and has been influenced by various cultures including, Hungarian, Czech, and French. Traditional dishes include: Sachertorte, Weiner Schnitzel, Millirahmstrudel, Kaiserschmarrn.

Music & Art

Austria was the birthplace of many famous composers, such as Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Mozart. Austria was known as a center for musical innovation due to its patronage with the Hasburgs. Vienna was often deemed the music capital of Europe. The Musikverein in Vienna is considered to be one of the three finest concert halls in the world. Regularly features performances by the Vienna Philharmonic.

Important Dates & Holidays

- New Year’s Day (Jan 1)
- Epiphany (Jan 6)
- Easter Monday (April 22)
- Labour Day (May 1)
- Ascension Day (May 30)
- Whit Monday (June 10)
- Corpus Christi (June 20)
- Assumption Day (Aug 15)
- National Day (Oct 26)
- All Saint’s Day (Nov 1)
- Immaculate Conception Day (Dec 8)
- Christmas Day (Dec 25)
- St. Stephen’s Day (Dec 26)