

Current information on the containment measures in Austria

Last updated: 21st September 2020

The information below is mainly about the important sectors for tourism. Every 15 days the effect of the measures in force is evaluated and as a consequence the rules and regulations regarding the prevention of coronavirus are adjusted depending on the results of each evaluation.

Entry requirements

You can find up-to-date information regarding the valid entry requirements on the Austrian Tourist Board's website: <https://www.austria.info/en/service-and-facts/coronavirus-information#entry-requirements>

For further information, please, visit the following website: <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/>

Please, make sure to inform yourself about the rules and measures when returning to your country of origin.

Safety adjustments for high-risk zones:

From September 2020 onwards, there will be a traffic light guiding system that informs about the epidemiological risk in each Austrian region, as well as about the possible safety measures in each region in addition to the following general rules. The recommended containment measures and instructions are based on the epidemiological situation of each province and are adjusted to it.

Masking obligation

- Public transport services, taxis and transfers, charter buses
- Healthcare and pharmacies
- Shops, department stores and shopping malls as well as service sector
- Street markets
- Public administration buildings
- Schools outside the classroom (hallways, toilets etc.)
- For waiters in the gastronomic field and for guests when entering or leaving the premises or leaving the table

Airport

- Masks are mandatory in all areas
- Body temperature measurements
- Safety distances (1 m)

Public transport

- Masks are mandatory on public transport (except for drivers)
- In public service buses, the first two rows must remain empty
- The safety distance should be kept

Piers

- Only one ship per pontoon
- One-way control with safety distances
- Frequent departures to avoid accumulation of guests

Transportation

Minivan

- Max. 5 persons per car incl. driver
- All passengers (incl. driver) are obliged to wear masks
- Disinfection of the interior by the driver (after each trip)
- Hand disinfection for all guests should be available in the car
- No newspapers or water for the customer's use
- On request the driver has to disinfect the interior on spot (additional costs and extra hours will apply).

Limousine

- Max. 3 persons per car incl. driver
- All passengers (incl. driver) are applied to wear masks
- Disinfection of the interior by the driver (after each trip)
- Hand disinfection for all guests should be available in the car
- No newspapers or water for the customer's use
- On request the driver has to disinfect the interior on spot (Additional costs and extra hours will apply)

Coach transfers & excursions

- For services in Austria all seats may be occupied
 - This may vary depending on the guests' origin.
 - This may vary depending on the guests' demands.
- Guide/hostess will be seated next to the driver
 - Microphone has to be covered with a disposable bag
- Social distancing of 1m applies during the service and when entering and leaving the bus (if the number of passengers doesn't allow to respect the safety distance this rule may be violated).
- All people on the bus are obliged to wear masks (except for children under the age of 6 and people who can't wear masks for health reasons)
- Disinfection of the interior by the driver (after each trip)
- Hand disinfection for all guests should be available in the car
- No newspapers or water for the customer's use
- Toilets will be locked

Excursions / other means of transport

- Masks are mandatory in cable cars and cog trains
- Masks are mandatory below deck on excursion boats

Guides & museums

- 1 tour guide + max. 30 guests for outdoor tours with a safety distance of 1m
- The maximum group size is 30 guests + 1 guide in most privately run museums (e.g. Schönbrunn Palace / Hofburg Palace). Pre-reservation is necessary in most cases.
- The maximum group size in the federal museums is 100 pax, but most museums recommend maximum group sizes between 25 - 35 persons. Pre-reservation is recommended.
- In all museums the safety distance of 1m applies.
- Guides have to wear masks on the bus, but not during guided tours outside the bus.

Restaurants

- Mask obligation for guests when entering or leaving the premises or leaving the table
- Masking obligation for staff and waiters
- There are no restrictions regarding the number of guests allowed per table
- Closing time is 01:00h
- 1 m safety distance must be given between tables and other guests
- If a menu card is available, it must be laminated and disinfected before use or "disposable menu cards" are used.
- No cruets at the table, use of packaged seasonings is recommended
- No consumption at the bar
- Special hygiene regulations for buffets:
 - The restaurant staff portion and serve food and drinks (no utensils for common use allowed).
 - Pre-portioned/covered food and drinks can be taken by guests.
 - Front cooking is possible with glass pane or alternative separation from the guest.

Accommodation/hotels

- Social distancing of 1 m applies as well as the mandatory use of masks:
 - Public areas and elevators
 - Check-in/Check-out
- Breakfast area & Restaurants
 - The same restrictions as for restaurants apply
 - Self-service buffet for overnight guests permitted under observance of appropriate hygiene measures (e.g.: disposable cutlery or presentation by hotel staff)
- Meetings and conferences
 - The maximum number of participants depends on size and conditions of the room.
 - No conference documents (except digital)
 - Minimum safety distance (1m)
 - Masks are mandatory

Exception: if the nature of the education or training does not permit compliance with these requirements (e.g. first aid course), the risk of infection must be minimised by other suitable protective measures.

- Spa, wellness and fitness areas
 - Minimum distance of 1m between daybeds.
 - 6 m² water surface per person except in hot baths (whirl pools) - a minimum distance of at least 1m must be kept here.
 - Sauna facilities, hot air and steam baths may only be opened provided that they are used exclusively by one person or by persons living in the same household, or otherwise only in a clear temporal or spatial separation. In all facilities effective ventilation must be ensured.
 - Max. one person per 10m² in fitness areas.
 - Fitness area must be entered with sportswear, changing clothes is not permitted on site.
 - It is not allowed to shower in the fitness area.
 - Group training for max. 12 people INDOORS & max. 20 people OUTDOORS in compliance with the prescribed measures.

Concerts, events, fairs and congresses

- Events will be allowed from September, 21st 2020 onwards:
 - With a maximum capacity of 10 pax without assigned seats indoors
 - With a maximum capacity of 100 pax without assigned seats outdoors
 - With a maximum capacity of 250 pax with assigned seats indoors and outdoors
 - With a maximum capacity of 251-1.500 pax indoors and a special permit from the local public administration authority
 - With a maximum capacity of 251-3.000 pax outdoors and a special permit from the local public administration authority
 - EXCEPTION for funerals: a maximum of 500 pax are allowed without any special permit and without commissioner
- For events with 50 or more participants indoors and 100 or more participants outdoors, a commissioner for Covid-19 as well as a Covid-19 prevention concept must be presented and put into practice.
- Masks are mandatory in closed event rooms (exception: directly at the seat).
At least one metre distance between people who do not live in the same household or do not belong to the same visitor group. If this distance cannot be maintained due to the arrangement of the seats, despite leaving the adjacent seats free, a mouth-and-nose protector shall be worn.
- At events without assigned and marked seats, a distance of at least 1 m must be kept from persons not living in the common household. In closed rooms masks must be worn additionally.
- For the serving of food and beverages to visitors during events the same rules apply as for restaurants.
- Trade fairs and congresses are allowed again in Austria - after official approval and with Covid-19 prevention concept.

Useful links:

<https://www.austria.info/en/service-and-facts/coronavirus-information>
<https://www.viennaairport.com/currentinformation>