

FAQ: Travel and tourism

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From which countries can I still enter Austria without facing any restrictions?

Persons may enter the country **without restrictions** if

- the country or territory from which the person is arriving is listed in Annex A

and

- the person stayed exclusively in Austria or in a country listed in Annex A for the past ten days.

The relevant countries and territories in Annex A are currently (as on 19/12/2020):

Australia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Uruguay, and the Vatican.

What rules apply for arrivals from EU/EEA countries, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, the Vatican, and the United Kingdom?

If the country is NOT listed in Annex A, persons arriving from an EU/EEA Member State, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, the Vatican or the United Kingdom or who have not exclusively stayed in Austria and/or one of these countries within the past ten days, must **immediately quarantine (at home) for ten days**.

It is **only possible to end the quarantine early** by taking a PCR test or antigen test that returns a negative result on the fifth day of the quarantine (i.e. from the fifth day after arrival, with the day of arrival being counted as “day zero”).

Exemptions are in place for the following groups of people:

- Humanitarian workers

- Persons entering the country for work purposes (including 24-hour carers, but not regular commuters)
- A companion for persons entering for medical reasons
- Persons entering for the purpose of performing an important obligation required by the judiciary or administrative officials, such as complying with a summons to attend a court hearing
- Foreigners in possession of photo ID under section 95 of the Aliens Police Act (FPG) 2005 (diplomats accredited in Austria)

These persons may enter the country if they are in possession of a medical certificate (Annex C or Annex D) confirming that a PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 or antigen test for SARS-CoV-2 was taken less than 72 hours prior to arrival and that the result was negative. If a medical certificate cannot be presented, the person is required to quarantine (at home) immediately for ten days. Persons required to quarantine must confirm as such by way of a signature in accordance with Annexes E or F. Any costs incurred shall be borne by the person. It is possible in such cases to end the quarantine early by taking a PCR or antigen test and returning a negative result at any time after entering the country.

What are the rules for arriving from other countries NOT listed in Annex A?

It is not generally permitted to enter Austria when arriving from any countries not mentioned above. There are exceptions to this ban on arrivals.

It is possible for the following groups of people as per section 5 para. 4 to enter the country with a mandatory quarantine (at home) of ten days and the option of ending the quarantine early by taking a PCR test or antigen test that returns a negative result only on the fifth day of the quarantine (i.e. from the fifth day after arrival, with the day of arrival being counted as “day zero”):

- Austrian citizens, EU/EEA citizens and persons living with them in the same household
- Swiss citizens, citizens of the United Kingdom and persons living with them in the same household
- Persons with their normal place of residence or abode in EU/EEA countries or Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, the Vatican, Switzerland or the United Kingdom along with persons living with them in the same household

- Persons who are entitled to reside in Austria on the basis of a residence permit, a residence title or documentation of the right of residence under the Settlement and Residence Act [Niederlassungs- und Aufenthaltsgesetz]
- Members of the staff of diplomatic missions or consulates and persons living with them in the same household
- Employees of international organisations and persons living with them in the same household
- Persons who are in an employment relationship with an Austrian regional authority or an Austrian public corporation and whose place of work is abroad or whose work is performed abroad, provided that the activities of this corporation abroad are in the interest of the Republic of Austria
- Persons entering for the purpose of starting or continuing a degree or research activities at an Austrian university or university of applied sciences
- Persons entering for the purpose of participating in school activities

Which persons under section 5 para. 4 are the subject of additional exemptions when arriving from countries and territories other than those listed in Annex A?

Under section 5 para. 5, the following persons are not required to quarantine if they are able to present a medical certificate (Annex C or Annex D) confirming that a PCR or antigen test was taken less than 72 hours prior to arrival and that the result was negative:

- Humanitarian workers
- Persons entering the country for work purposes (including 24-hour carers, but not regular commuters)
- A companion for persons entering for medical reasons
- Persons entering for the purpose of performing an important obligation required by the judiciary or administrative officials, such as complying with a summons to attend a court hearing
- Foreigners in possession of photo ID under section 95 of the Aliens Police Act (FPG) 2005 (diplomats accredited in Austria)

If a medical certificate cannot be presented, the person is required to **quarantine (at home) immediately for ten days**. Persons required to quarantine must confirm as such by way of a signature in accordance with Annexes E or F. It is strongly recommended to have

this form printed out and completed before your arrival. Any costs incurred for the quarantine shall be borne by the person concerned. It is possible in such cases to end the quarantine early by taking a PCR or antigen test and returning a negative result at any time after entering the country.

Who covers the costs of the PCR or antigen test taken to end the quarantine early?

The costs for such a test shall be borne by the person concerned. However, some federal Länder (states) offer free tests. Please contact the respective regional authorities for further information.

The costs of testing 24-hour carers shall be borne by the federal government, with billing taking place via the federal Länder.

How can I end my quarantine after the fifth day by taking a test?

It is possible to end quarantine by taking a PCR or antigen test on the fifth day at the earliest (i.e. from the 5th day after arrival, with the day of arrival being counted as “day zero”). It is permitted to leave the place of residence or accommodation for a sample to be taken despite the quarantine. Care must be taken here to minimise any risk of infection as far as possible.

Tests can be taken at various laboratories ([list of laboratories](#)) and by appointment at specific pharmacies (www.apotheker.or.at) Persons must pay for these tests themselves. There are other ways of having a test done which vary from region to region. Please contact the respective regional authorities for further information.

24-hour carers can claim the costs incurred for the tests from the federal Länder. These will then be reimbursed by the federal government.

Is it possible to leave Austria again before the end of the quarantine?

Yes. The quarantine may be ended before the ten-day period has expired for the purpose of leaving Austria. Care must be taken when leaving the country to keep the risk of infection as low as possible.

What are the rules for children arriving?

The same entry regulations for adults apply to **children travelling alone**.

Children under the age of ten travelling together with adults are exempt from the requirement to be tested upon arrival.

The same legal consequences apply to them as to the adults.

What are the rules for persons entering for medical reasons?

There are **no restrictions on entering the country** if it is **necessary to obtain urgent medical care in Austria**. This regulation applies to

- Austrian citizens
- Persons who are subject to compulsory health insurance in Austria
- Persons who have been assured treatment by an Austrian hospital

Confirmation of the urgent need for medical care abroad in accordance with Annexes G or H must be presented at the time of arrival.

Persons with their normal place of residence or abode in Austria may re-enter the country without restriction after having received urgent medical care abroad.

Confirmation of the urgent need for medical care abroad in accordance with Annexes G or H must be presented at the time of return.

What rules apply to persons entering the country for exceptional family-related reasons?

- There continue to be no restrictions on persons entering the country for **unforeseeable, urgent and exceptional family-related reasons**, such as serious illness, death, funerals, births and to provide care for **persons in need of support in emergencies**.

Persons arriving for such reasons are exempt from the requirement to quarantine for ten days or to take a mandatory test.

Evidence of the exceptional family-related reason must be provided upon arrival by, for example, presenting one of the following documents:

- Copy of death certificate
 - Funeral invitation
 - Hospital confirmation
 - Copy of birth certificate
 - Confirmation of due date (birth)
 - Medical certificates
- It is possible for persons to enter the country for other **important family-related events that can be planned**, such as weddings, baptisms, birthday celebrations or **visiting a life partner if this is not a regular occurrence**. The general rules on quarantine apply.

Regardless of the above, all other **legal requirements for entering Austria** (such as visas and entry permits) must be **observed**. Please visit the website of the Ministry for Internal Affairs for further information here.

Which groups of persons are exempted from the need to comply with the restrictions when entering Austria?

The following groups of persons may (re-)enter the country **without any restrictions**:

- Persons entering to ensure the transport of goods and passengers.

- Persons entering for essential animal welfare-related reasons and for necessary agricultural and forestry measures to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Persons entering as part of a professional transfer journey or flight.
- Persons whose arrival is in the compelling interest of the Republic of Austria.
- Transit passengers or persons travelling through Austria without a stopover.
- Persons entering or returning as part of regular commuter traffic (at least on a monthly basis) for work-related purposes, unless they are caregivers.
- Persons entering or returning as part of regular commuter traffic (at least on a monthly basis) to attend regular schooling or degree programmes.
- Persons entering or returning as part of regular commuter traffic (at least on a monthly basis) for family-related purposes or to visit a life partner.
- Persons entering to carry out a repatriation trip or flight.
- Persons entering who, coming from Austria, cross foreign territory without stopping to reach their destination in Austria.
- Persons in emergency vehicles under section 26 of the Road Traffic Act 1960 (StVO) or public service vehicles under section 26a StVO.
- Persons entering the municipalities of Vomp-Hinterriss, Mittelberg (Kleinwalsertal) and Jungholz.

Do persons wishing to enter Austria have to obtain confirmation of the lawfulness of entry from an official body in accordance with the ordinance on entering Austria issued by the Ministry of Health?

No. Neither the Ministry of Health nor any other authorities issue such confirmation, and it is not required for entry into Austria. Visa requirements continue to apply irrespective of the ordinance on entering Austria.

Can I drive across the border to go shopping?

The entry restrictions of the respective countries must be considered. However, a ten-day quarantine must be observed when returning to Austria from a country/territory not listed in Annex A. This can only be ended by taking a PCR test or antigen test that returns a negative result as of the fifth day of the quarantine (i.e. from the fifth day after arrival, with the day of arrival being counted as “day zero”).

I live abroad and work as a 24-hour caregiver in Austria. What do I need to consider?

24-hour caregivers are permitted to enter Austria for work-related purposes.

It is possible to enter by presenting a medical certificate (Annex C or D). This certificate must confirm that a PCR or antigen test was taken less than 72 hours prior to arrival and that the result was negative.

If such a certificate cannot be presented at the time of arrival, the caregiver must quarantine for ten days. It is possible to end the quarantine early by taking a PCR or antigen test and returning a negative result at any time. The costs incurred for such tests can be claimed back from the respective federal Land (state). These will then be reimbursed by the federal government.

I live in a border region and have relatives in need of support living in the neighbouring country. What do I need to consider?

Persons who regularly care for relatives in need of support living in a neighbouring country are not subject to any entry restrictions. They must demonstrate the credibility of the need to provide care when questioned by the authorities.

I live in a border region and work in the neighbouring country. What do I need to consider?

Persons who work abroad are covered by the exemption for commuter traffic. This means that persons may enter without restrictions if the commute is undertaken on a regular basis (at least once a month). Credible evidence of there being employment must be presented when questioned by the authorities.

I live abroad and work in Austria. Will anything change for me as a commuter?

Persons may continue entering for work, school, study or family reasons on a regular basis (at least once a month) without restriction.

I live and work abroad. Can I come to Austria for skiing?

Persons may only enter Austria to go skiing – without having to quarantine – if they are arriving from countries listed in Annex A. If entry is permitted on the basis of an exemption, it is certainly possible for the day to be used for sporting activities as well.

It should be noted, however, it is currently not permitted to use hotels and other forms of accommodation for recreational purposes. Bars and restaurants are also closed.

Where can I find travel information and travel warnings?

Travel advice issued by the Ministry for European and International Affairs can be found at www.bmeia.gv.at.

Can I cancel my flight or trip free of charge because of the coronavirus?

There are currently many issues arising for consumers in the travel sector as a result of Covid-19. For an overview of telephone contacts and online help for matters pertaining to travel regulations, please visit www.konsumentenfragen.at.

I am a visitor. Where can I find information about current regulations?

As a visitor or customer, information on the current regulations for accommodation establishments can be obtained at www.sichere-gastfreundschaft.at (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austrian Economic Chambers) and on the website of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism under the section providing information relating to the coronavirus.

I run a tourism business. Where can I find information?

Information for tourism businesses can be obtained at www.sichere-gastfreundschaft.at (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austrian Economic Chambers).

What rules apply to accommodation establishments, such as hotels, guesthouses, campsites, etc.?

Information on the current rules for accommodation establishments can be obtained at www.sichere-gastfreundschaft.at (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austrian Economic Chambers).

Additional information can be found in section 7 of the Ordinance on COVID-19 Measures.

I live and work in Austria. Can I visit my family abroad over the holidays?

It is possible to leave Austria at any time. The rules on entering the destination country must be observed here. When returning from countries that are not listed in Annex A, persons must quarantine for ten days. This can only be ended by taking a PCR test or antigen test that returns a negative result as of the fifth day of the quarantine (i.e. from the fifth day after arrival, with the day of arrival being counted as “day zero”). If I meet my family on a regular basis anyway (at least once a month), I can re-enter without restrictions.

I live and work abroad. What do I need to consider if I am spending the holidays with my family in Austria?

It is possible to enter and leave the country. Persons arriving from countries not listed in Annex A must quarantine for ten days. This can only be ended by taking a PCR test or antigen test that returns a negative result as of the fifth day of the quarantine (i.e. from the fifth day after arrival, with the day of arrival being counted as “day zero”). If I meet my family on a regular basis anyway (at least once a month), I can re-enter without restrictions.

Who can Austrians abroad contact with their enquiries/problems? What contact options exist?

Austrians who are abroad and require consular assistance in matters relating to the coronavirus should contact the respective embassy. The 24-hour emergency number can be found on the respective embassy’s website. The embassy’s medical officer is responsible for medical assistance (can also be found on the websites).

The app created to provide services for Austrians abroad (Auslandsservice) - available at www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/auslandsservice/reiseregistrierung – contains the contact details for all Austrian representations around the world.

The citizens' service office is responsible **at the headquarters in Vienna**. However, Austrians living abroad should always contact the respective embassy first. The citizens' service office run by the Ministry for European and International Affairs is available around the clock to help **Austrians in case of emergencies abroad (+43 190 115 - 4411)**.



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