

Austria/facts and figures

Location: Central Europe

Area: 83, 858 sq km (32, 378 sq miles)

Population: 8 million (UN estimate 2005)

Population density: 97.4 / sq km

Capital: Vienna (Wien), 1.6 million inhabitants

Time: GMT + 1

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50Hz. Round two-pin European plugs are standard.

Language: German is the official language.

Regional dialects are pronounced and within the different regions of the country one will encounter marked variations from 'standard' German.

There are Croatian and Slovene-speaking minorities in the Burgenland and southern Carinthia respectively.

Religion: 78 % Roman Catholic, 5 % Protestant, 5 % Muslim, 12 % other religious sects.

GEOGRAPHY:

Austria is a landlocked country, bordered by 8 countries.

It is a mountainous country, nearly half of which is covered with forests.

Austria's nine **Federal Provinces** (see bottom) form a political entity, but reflect a diversity of landscapes falling into five sections:

the Eastern Alps (62.8 per cent),

the Alpine and Carpathian Foothills (11.3 per cent),

the Pannonian Lowlands (11.3 per cent),

the Vienna Basin (4.4 per cent)

and the Granite and Gneiss Highlands or Bohemian Massif (10.1 per cent).

Austria's highest mountain is **Grossglockner** (3798m/12,465ft).

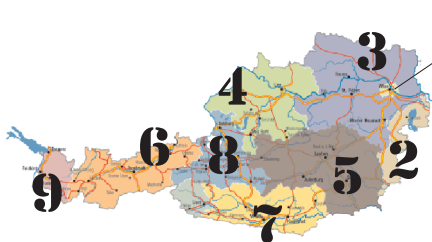
Our largest river is the **Danube**. On its way from the Black Forest in southern Germany to the Black Sea, the Danube flows approximately 360km (220 miles) through Austria.

The vegetation changes according to the climate:

the lower regions are densely wooded, with fir predominating above 1600ft and giving way to larch and stone-pine beyond 4000ft;

the Alpine foothills consist predominantly of arable land and grassland (above 2000ft).

The Pannonian region is characterised by scrub and heathland.



1 Vienna

2 Burgenland

3 Lower Austria

4 Upper Austria

5 Styria

6 Tyrol

7 Carinthia

8 Salzburg Province

9 Vorarlberg