



Fast facts: Austria

WHERE: Located in central Europe, landlocked Austria is bordered by eight countries: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Germany

SIZE: Austria covers around 32,000 square miles, making it slightly smaller than Maine and slightly larger than Scotland

POPULATION: More than 8 million

GEOGRAPHY: Forests and meadows cover much of Austria, and more than half of the country is mountainous. Three mountain chains run west to east: the Northern Limestone Alps; the Central (or High) Alps, which boast the tallest peaks in Austria, including the 3,797-meter Grossglockner; and the Southern Limestone Alps.

CURRENCY: Euro

LANGUAGE: German (also Slovene, Croat and Hungarian in some southern states)

GOVERNMENT: Austria consists of nine independent federal states (Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna) with their own provincial governments. Austria is a member of the European Union and the United Nations.

Word of mouth

"When in Melk, take the time to walk down from the Abbey to the ship through the town. There are some delightful cafés about halfway down. They serve delicious cakes and excellent coffee, and you'll feel like a local, because most patrons seem like they belong in the town."

—Bob & Wilma Barnes, Rockville, IL

"Viking River Cruises is the only river cruise line with its own winemaker. We are creating vintages are truly memorable. There has to be the right combination to properly accent the cuisine. This is what we strive for; well-balanced wines rich in character."

—Erhard Mörwald, Viking Vintner

Today's Weather: Cloudy
8 – 18 °C / 46 – 65 °F

Friday, August 15th, 2014

6:00 - 11:00 AM

Café Breakfast: Coffee, juice and pastries are available at the coffee station in front of The Lounge.

6:30 - 9:30 AM

Continental Breakfast: A selection of beverages and breakfast items are available on The Aquavit Terrace.

7:00 - 9:30 AM

Breakfast: Enjoy a buffet breakfast and a choice of dishes cooked to order in The Restaurant.

7:30 AM

Welcome to Melk: Viking Atla arrives in Melk, Austria.

Shore Excursion: Melk Abbey. Enjoy a visit to the spectacular 900-year-old Melk Abbey.

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Groups: A and B

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Groups: C, D and E

12:00 Noon

Lunch: Join us for lunch in The Restaurant.

12:00 Noon

Café Lunch: If you prefer, enjoy a lighter, buffet-style lunch on The Aquavit Terrace.

1:45 PM

Back On Board: Please be back on board the ship by this time. We will depart Melk for Krems shortly thereafter.

2:00 PM

Scenic Sailing: Enjoy spectacular views and commentary by Program Director Caspar as we sail along Wachau Valley.

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Concierge Desk Hours: Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard please visit the Concierge.

4:00 PM

Welcome to Krems: Viking Atla arrives in Krems, Austria.

4:00 PM

Shuttle Bus: Krems.

Bus from the ship to the Krems:
4:00 PM

Bus from the Krems back to the Ship:
6:00 PM

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Cocktail Hour: Enjoy one of our cocktails and live music in The Lounge.

6:45 PM

Daily Briefing: Program Director Caspar invites you to the Lounge to find out about tomorrow's excursions and events.

7:00 PM

Dinner: A Taste of Austria: We invite you to the restaurant, to the lounge and to the galley for dinner featuring Austrian favourites.

9:00 – 10:00 PM

Concierge Desk Hours: Should you need any assistance during your stay onboard please visit the Concierge.

9:00 PM

Live Music: Join your fellow guests for dancing and live music in The Lounge.

11:45 PM

Back On Board: Please be back on board the ship by this time. We will depart Krems for Vienna shortly thereafter.

IMPORTANT SHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Viking Atla team wishes you a happy and memorable day!

Ship Contacts:

Reception: +49 152 225 38 048

Program Director: +49 152 225 38 177

Ship Location:

Donaustation 23,

Krems



At a glance: Melk Abbey

With its cobblestone streets and majestic abbey, Melk is a highlight of your Danube Valley visit. Enjoy a visit to **Melk Abbey**, possibly the most famous abbey in Austria. Dramatically situated on an outcrop rising above the Danube, it stands resplendent in a golden hue, crowned by towers. The views from the abbey are sensational. Built between 1702 and 1736 by architect Jakob Prandtauer, the abbey was originally a royal palace with ceremonial courts, guest apartments, grand halls and a library.

In the 11th century, Leopold II of Babenberg presented the palace to the Benedictine monks, who turned it into a fortified abbey. The highlight of the abbey is the Stiftskirche, or "Abbey Church." With its twin spires and high octagonal dome, the church has an astonishing number of windows. Its jaw-dropping interior is a baroque extravaganza, with magnificent frescoes by Johann Michael Rottmayr, and the library contains around 80,000 medieval manuscripts.

The monastic community of Melk is more than 900 years old and black-robed Benedictine monks still stroll amid the marble sculptures and frescoed walls. It is also a prestigious monastery school with more than 700 students.

Wachau wow!

The stretch of the Danube between Melk and Krems, known locally as "the Wachau," is possibly the loveliest along the entire length of this majestic river. Both banks are dotted with ruined castles and medieval towns and are lined with terraced vineyards. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000, the Wachau is described as "an outstanding example of a riverine landscape." Noted for its cultural importance as well as its physical beauty, UNESCO says, "The architecture, the human settlements, and the agricultural use of the land in the Wachau vividly illustrate a basically medieval landscape which has evolved organically and harmoniously over time."

Have your cameras at the ready as you sail through this enchanting region, where history, culture and sheer beauty combine to create a picture like no other.

Viking fact

At Viking, food is our passion. That's why we have our own winemaker to produce the perfect wines to complement our onboard cuisine. Erhard Mörwald is a fifth-generation winemaker with a vineyard in Austria's stunning Wachau Valley. Here, the rich soil, stony slopes and unusual microclimate create the ideal conditions to create some of Austria's most sophisticated wines. Our complimentary wines served with lunch and dinner turn every meal into a special occasion. Take a look at the Viking video in your stateroom to find out more about this celebrated vineyard.



Krems

Located in the Wachau Valley, Krems is surrounded by terraced vineyards. Its cobblestone streets, taverns, wine bars and coffeehouses have a timeless appeal and the Steiner Tor, the only remnant of the old city wall, is one of the highlights of the city. The "Art Mile of Krems" extends from the historic town center to the medieval village center of Stein, highlighting museums, concert venues and restaurants along the way.

A few helpful Austrian words

The language spoken in Austria is recognizable as German, but like the differences between American English and British English, some of the word usage and grammar differs slightly

Hello—*Gruss Gott* (groos-got)

Hello/Goodbye—*Servus* (Ser-wus)

Thank you—*Danke* (Dan-ker)

Please—*Bitte* (bitter)

The bill (check) please—*Zahlen, bitte* (zarlen bitter)