

# AUSTRIA CLASSIC



## COUNTRY INFORMATION

Austria is famous for its natural splendour. Towering peaks overlook crystal lakes and thick green forests. The world's toughest downhill skiing race, Hahnenkammrennen, is organised in Kitzbühel, Austria, every year. Austria is a country with a revolutionary history. From the time when Charlemagne founded his territory and christened lost Vandals, Huns and Romans, to the huge kingdom and power of the Habsburgers that lasted until the First World War. Today's modern republic has matured slowly to become one of the favorite countries for the tourists of the world.

**Area:** 83,856 square kilometres

**Population:** Approximately 9 million

**Capital:** Vienna

**Language:** German

**National holiday:** 26<sup>th</sup> October

## COUNTRY MAP



**Age criteria:**  
15-18 years old

**Starting months:**  
September and February

**Language requirements:**  
Good English Skills

**Visa:**  
Mandatory - extra fees apply

**Area choice:**  
Vienna (per request)

**Preparation course:**  
STS Welcome Camp, extra fee apply

**School year:** September - June

**School day:**  
8:00 - 14:00 or 16:00

**Subjects:**  
Mandatory and optional subjects

**Optional trips:**  
Options to join trips during the year

## THE SCHOOL

In most cases you will go to school five days a week, except in some schools, where they have classes on Saturdays until 12 as well. Lessons start just before 8 o'clock in the morning and finish between 2 and 4 pm, depending on the school. The school year starts at the beginning of September. Fall semester is from September until January and spring semester from February until June.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Full Zapp application
- Good health
- Good grades (minimum C average)
- Good knowledge of English
- Skype interview before acceptance

## THE CULTURE

Austria is a country of beautiful landscape with a very rich cultural and artistic heritage. It offers a wide range of winter and summer sports event and facilities, as well as numerous cultural venues and happenings in the major cities.

## HOST FAMILY

Most host families live in small communities near a bigger city or town. Host families in Austria do not get paid for hosting a student. Austrian towns are very picturesque and often feel somewhat small compared to other European cities. Many host parents work, therefore the students should be mature enough to prepare their own lunch or warm up food. Normally the family eats together in the evening. Families have only one warm meal per day, if it is for lunch, the dinner will be bread, cheese and sausage, yogurt and fruits.

## SPORTS

In schools you can join sport activities, and for students with an interest in music, different musical activities are offered. Every school arranges trips, sport or cultural and language activities. The trips are a lot of fun to take part in, but not included in the programme fee.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All exchange students to Austria are invited to participate in several excursions during the year. The excursions give students the opportunity to make friends from all over the world while experiencing new and exciting parts of the country. The excursions vary from year to year, e.g. a Vienna weekend, Graz weekend and a skiing weekend and the prices depend on what is included. Information and invitations will be sent by email after arrival in the host country.