

Land und Leute



public transportation

Öffentliche Verkehrsmittel^o

Public transportation is efficient and much utilized by the people in German-speaking countries. Buses, streetcars, subways, and trains are owned by either the federal, state, or regional government. While cars are as popular in Germany as in the United States and Canada, governments subsidize public transportation because it is eco-friendly (**umweltfreundlich**) and ensures that everyone has access to transportation. Reduced rates are available for senior citizens (**Seniorenkarten**) and for students (**Schüler-/Studentenkarten**) at all levels. In towns, villages, and suburbs there is convenient bus and sometimes streetcar (**Straßenbahn**) service. Major cities have a subway (**U-Grundbahn** or **U-Bahn**) and/or a modern commuter rail system (**Schnellbahn/Stadtbahn** or **S-Bahn**).

The German, Austrian, and Swiss post offices provide extensive bus service between towns. If needed, even ferries are included in the public transportation network, such as the ferry on the Alster River (**Alsterfähre**) in Hamburg.

Trains are still a major part of the transportation system in German-speaking countries for both long and short distance travel. Larger cities have more than one train station (**Bahnhof**), but the main train station (**Hauptbahnhof**) is usually a prominent building located in the center of town. In addition to transportation facilities, larger train stations may also have a variety of restaurants and shops to serve the traveling public.

Commuters, business people, and even students use regional trains, either the **Regional-Express (RE)** or the

Regionalbahn (RB), which serves all train stations, large and small. Fast, comfortable **Intercity-Express (ICE)** trains run hourly between major cities, traveling at speeds up to 300 kilometers per hour. A network of trains known as **Intercity/Eurocity (IC/ICE)** connects the major cities throughout Europe. Germany has also been planning for several years to introduce some magnetic elevated trains (**Magnetbahn**) that will connect various cities.



Straßenbahnhaltestelle
in Wien.

The **Intercity-Express (ICE)** is called an "aircraft on wheels": it is half as fast as a plane but twice as comfortable. The trains feature telephones, equipped offices, and videos.

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Salzburg

Situated on the northern edge of the Alps, Salzburg (population 150,378) is Austria's fourth-largest city and the capital of the Bundesland Salzburg. Human settlement goes

back to the Neolithic age; the site was a Roman settlement, and the name Salzburg first appears in AD 755.

Salzburg's long history as a bishopric began around 696 when Rupert, Bishop of Worms, came to the area to Christianize the pagans. His successors would become great patrons of art and music and give their residence city (**Residenzstadt**) a rich variety of architecture. The city's most famous landmark (**Wahrzeichen**) is the Festung Hohensalzburg built in 1077. Sitting atop a mountain, it is Europe's oldest and best-preserved fortress.

Salzburg's most famous citizen was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791), and a favorite nickname



Blick auf die Altstadt von Salzburg und auf die Festung (*fortress*) Hohensalzburg.

for the city is **Mozartstadt**. It is indeed a city of music. It has four major orchestras. Festivals and concerts are numerous and include music from every era. The most famous festival, the **Salzburger Festspiele** founded in the nineteenth century, has taken place every summer since 1920. The festival is associated with many famous names such as the composer Richard Strauss and the dramatist Hugo von Hofmannsthal. Salzburg's cultural life is not limited to music. Its museums present exhibits of art, history, local customs, and, of course, Mozart. Salzburg also has five institutions of higher learning in the city or nearby towns, among them a **Musikhochschule**; the most recent school is the Salzburg Management Business School, founded in 2001.

In 1996, the historic Center of Salzburg was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site (**Weltkulturerbe Altstadt Salzburg**). The jury noted that Salzburg has preserved an amazingly rich urban fabric ranging from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century with special emphasis on the Baroque buildings. Also mentioned was Mozart's legacy and Salzburg's contribution to art and music.



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Die Habsburger

A significant period in Austria's history is the era under the rule of the House of Habsburg. In 1273 Rudolf von Habsburg was the first member of the Habsburg family to be elected emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (**Heiliges Römisches Reich**), which existed from 962 until 1806. In the first



Franz Stephan und Maria Theresia mit ihren Kindern.

400 years of Habsburg rule, the empire expanded greatly. The expansion was due to wars and to a successful

Heiratspolitik, which deliberately aimed at advantageous marriages with the ruling European houses.

Perhaps the most famous marriage was that of Marie Antoinette, daughter of Empress Maria Theresia of Austria, with Louis XVI of France. (Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI were guillotined in 1793 during the French Revolution.) The success of Napoleon's wars at the beginning of the nineteenth century led to the end of the empire in 1806, although members of the House of Habsburg continued to rule the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918, when Austria was declared a republic.



Rudolf von Habsburg (1218–1299) mit Gefolgsleuten (*retinue*).



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Kulturstadt Wien

Austria has a very rich and diverse cultural tradition. The university of Vienna (**Wien**), founded in 1365, is the oldest university in the present German-speaking world. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Vienna was the center of a musical culture associated with such names as Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. In the second half of the nineteenth century the **Operette** reached its prime with composers like Johann Strauss the Younger and Franz Lehár. At the end of the nineteenth century Vienna was a major intellectual and artistic center of Europe. Two important names of that time are Sigmund Freud, who established psychoanalysis, and Gustav Mahler, who continued the city's great musical tradition. Today, Vienna continues to attract well-known Austrian artists, performers, and writers, as well as creative people from Eastern European countries.



Nach der Vorstellung (*performance*) im Wiener Opernhaus.



Das Schloss Schönbrunn in Wien gehört zum Weltkulturerbe (*World Cultural Heritage*) der Unesco.

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Das Kaffeehaus



In vielen Wiener Kaffeehäusern kann man auch draußen sitzen.

The **Kaffeehaus** is the central spot for conversation, philosophizing, reading, and playing cards, billiards, and chess.

The **Kaffeehaus** was introduced to the German-speaking areas in the seventeenth century. The Viennese **Kaffeehäuser** in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries became famous as gathering places for artists, writers, and even revolutionaries like Leon Trotsky. Today, **Cafés** are still popular meeting places throughout the German-speaking countries and often provide newspapers and magazines for their customers. People from all walks of life—business people, students, and artists—enjoy taking a break for coffee and perhaps a piece of cake.

Coffee with **Schlagobers** (*whipped cream*) is a favorite in Vienna. There are no free refills of coffee in German-speaking countries. In addition to **Kaffee** and a wide variety of **Kuchen** and **Torten**, many **Cafés** offer a small selection of meals (hot and cold), ice cream treats, and beverages.

Cafés are usually not open evenings, but they are open six or seven days per week. The day on which a **Café** or restaurant is closed is called its **Ruhetag**. Most **Cafés** have a sign posted in a prominent place indicating their **Ruhetag**.



Die Altstadt von Innsbruck in Österreich.