



## OUTCAN Guide | Life in Vienna, Austria

### LOCATION

**Country:** Austria

**Town:** Vienna

**Base:** Canadian Embassy

**Other info to Consider:**

- Family (non-dependants) can visit and stay 90 days **without visa**.

### POPULATION

**Size:** Vienna is Austria's most-populous city, with about 1.9 million inhabitants (2.6 million within the metropolitan area, nearly one third of the country's population).

**Ethnicity:** 61.2% Austrian, 38.8% Other.

### LANGUAGE(S)

**Official language:** German.

**Prevalence of French or English speaking:** English is widely spoken in Vienna. The standard of education in Austria is very high, so well all schoolchildren get a solid grounding in English.

### COST OF LIVING

**Currency & Exchange rate to consider:** Euro. 1 EUR = 1.47652 CAD (March 2024)

### QUALITY OF LIFE

**Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:**

- Vienna has a typical dry continental climate, with warm summers and cold (often bitterly so) winters.
- Heavy rains may occur in the spring and summer, sometimes resulting in flooding and mudslides.
- In winter, heavy snowfalls may occur in towns and ski resorts. They may also make roads made impassable.

**Laws and Culture:**

- It is illegal to cover your face in public places in Austria. Failure to comply can lead to heavy fines.
- Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe. Convicted offenders can expect a jail sentence and a heavy fine.
- You should carry an international driving permit or a German translation of your driver's licence.
- If you are in Austria for more than 12 months you must obtain an Austrian licence.
- You must be 18 years old to drive in Austria.
- Penalties for drinking and driving are severe. The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.05 percent. If convicted, you can expect heavy fines, and local authorities can confiscate your driver's licence on the spot

- The use of a cellular telephone while driving is prohibited, unless it is fitted with a hands-free device.

### **Safety and Security:**

- Petty crime such as pickpocketing and purse snatching occur.

### **Level of isolation:**

- There are 2 Canadian families posted to Vienna (at the embassy).
- This post is considered remote, and has limited access to French, risk of feeling isolated.

## **HOUSING**

- Housing is locally available in Vienna.
- Most homes and flats are much bigger compared to Canada's average.
- Help for housing is available from a local agent. Contact housing office for more information.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Are there employment opportunities for spouses?**

- Due to tax and legal implications, spousal employment in the economy is not an option.
- Employment is extremely limited. Families should plan to be a single-income family for the duration of the posting. **CFMWS | MFS | OUTCAN Europe | CFMWS**
- Language abilities in French would be a condition for employment.

**Op Tempo:** Varies depending on place of work and position.

## **HEALTH CARE**

### **Access:**

- Health care is excellent, and comparable to Canadian standards.
- English services are widely available, French is very limited.
- The Canadian Medical Clinic in Geilenkirchen is responsible for the healthcare of all Canadian military members in Europe and can be accessed.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP. **PSHCP Member Portal (pshcp-msh.ca)**

### **Resources for children with special needs:**

- Depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed.
- It may be a wait before finding an appropriate match and at times may not be possible based on availability of English/French speaking providers or resources.
- It is highly advised that the family consult with Medical Screening Officer in Canada and / or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting

**Consideration for pregnancy / birth:** Health care for pregnancy and birth is available on the economy.

**Dental:** Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay up front, and you can then claim your expenses.

## **SCHOOLING**

- For an approved list of schools, please contact Children's Education Management at: **CEMGEE@forces.gc.ca**

- [Children's Education Management - Canada.ca](#)
- [Gestion de l'éducation des enfants - Canada.ca](#)

**Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:**

- The curriculum varies depending on the choice of school.
- Canadian history or geography is not offered at any school.

**Resources for special need children:**

- Access to special needs services depends on the choice of school, there may be language requirements, area of specialization and degree of support needed, so it may be very limited.
- Consult with CEM and the school before making any commitments.

**CHILDCARE**

- Local childcare is available.
- When choosing local childcare there is no guarantee that staff will be English or French speaking.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Things to Consider:**

- Vienna Airport (VIE) located approximately 18 kilometers southeast of central Vienna
- You should carry an international driving permit or a German translation of your driver's licence.

**RESOURCES AND AMENITIES**

**Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?**

- No physical centre. Families in Vienna are supported by the Remote Team:  
[MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com](mailto:MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com)

**Psychosocial / Mental Health Resources:**

- Not at post, MFS(E) Social Workers, CAF SW/Mental Health Team for members are located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Padre is located in Casteau, Belgium (SHAPE).

**Communications:**

- Cell phone and internet plans are very affordable and reliable in Vienna. Examples of companies are Telekom, Magenta Telekom, Orange, Mundio, and Lycamobile.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Access to sports or other leisure activities:**

- Depends on the area, but most do offer a wide variety.
- **Availability of playgrounds:**
- Yes. Many parks in residential areas also have walking parks.

**RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER**

**Are common law relationships recognized?** Yes

**Are same sex couples recognized?** Yes

**Medications that are illegal in the country:** Use without a prescription of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is illegal.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- European Commission Country Reports (2023)  
[https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/2023-european-semester-country-reports\\_en](https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/2023-european-semester-country-reports_en)
- Canadian Travel Advisories  
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- CIA World Factbooks (One Pagers from the US)  
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/austria>
- Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)  
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/austria>

**For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below**

- MFS(E) Social Worker: [MFSSocialWork@cfmws.com](mailto:MFSSocialWork@cfmws.com)
- CAF Social Worker: [GKMedicalClinic@forces.gc.ca](mailto:GKMedicalClinic@forces.gc.ca)
- MFS(E) Team: [MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com](mailto:MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com)
- MFS(E) Regional Office: +49 (0) 2451 717 173, [MFS.Europe@cfmws.com](mailto:MFS.Europe@cfmws.com)