

FACT SHEET

Austrian-Australian Bilateral Agreement on Visa Free Short Stays

Austria maintains a bilateral agreement with Australia for visa-free short-term stays. Below is an overview of the key points relevant to Australian citizens:

General Overview

The Bilateral Agreement on Visa Free Short Stays allows Australian citizens to extend their visa-free stay in Austria beyond the 90 days permitted under Schengen rules.

Initial Stay Under Schengen Rules

Australian citizens can stay in the Schengen Area, including Austria, for up to 90 days within a 180-day period under the Schengen visa-free regime.

Extension Using the Bilateral Agreement

After completing the 90-day Schengen stay, Australian citizens may extend their stay in Austria for an additional period (e.g., up to 90 days) under the bilateral agreement.

No exit from Austria or the Schengen Area is required or allowed to activate this extension.

Limitations

The bilateral agreement applies only to Austria. It does not permit travel to other Schengen countries during the extension period.

Re-entry into Austria using the bilateral agreement is not permitted. It can only be used to extend a current, legal short-term stay in Austria.

Compliance with Schengen Rules

The 90/180-day Schengen rule applies after utilizing the bilateral agreement.

After completing the extended stay in Austria, a 90-day period outside the Schengen Area is required before re-entering the Schengen Area.

Departure Requirements

Upon completing the extended stay in Austria, travelers must leave directly from Austria to a non-Schengen country. Travel through other Schengen countries for departure is not allowed.

Special Considerations

The bilateral agreement cannot be used as a substitute for a residence permit or national visa (e.g., Visa D).

Supporting Documents:

Travelers may need to demonstrate the purpose of their stay and compliance with visa rules upon request by Austrian authorities.

The decision on your entry is ultimately up to the competent border forces which may require you to present proof of your identity and evidence of your lawful stay at any time. The Austrian Embassy in Canberra cannot anticipate the competent border forces' decision.

Important Notes

The bilateral agreement is strictly for short-term stays and cannot be used to bypass requirements for long-term residence permits or visas.

Travelers are advised to familiarize themselves with the 90/180-day rule and ensure compliance to avoid penalties or entry bans.

For Assistance

If you have further questions regarding the bilateral visa agreement, please contact the Austrian Ministry of Interior.