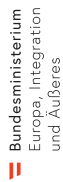


# Living in the district of Hermagor

Welcome to Hermagor



ÖSTERREICHISCHER  
INTEGRATIONS  
FONDS



Bundesministerium  
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KÄRNTEN  
University of  
Applied Sciences



Regionales  
Entwicklungs  
Programm

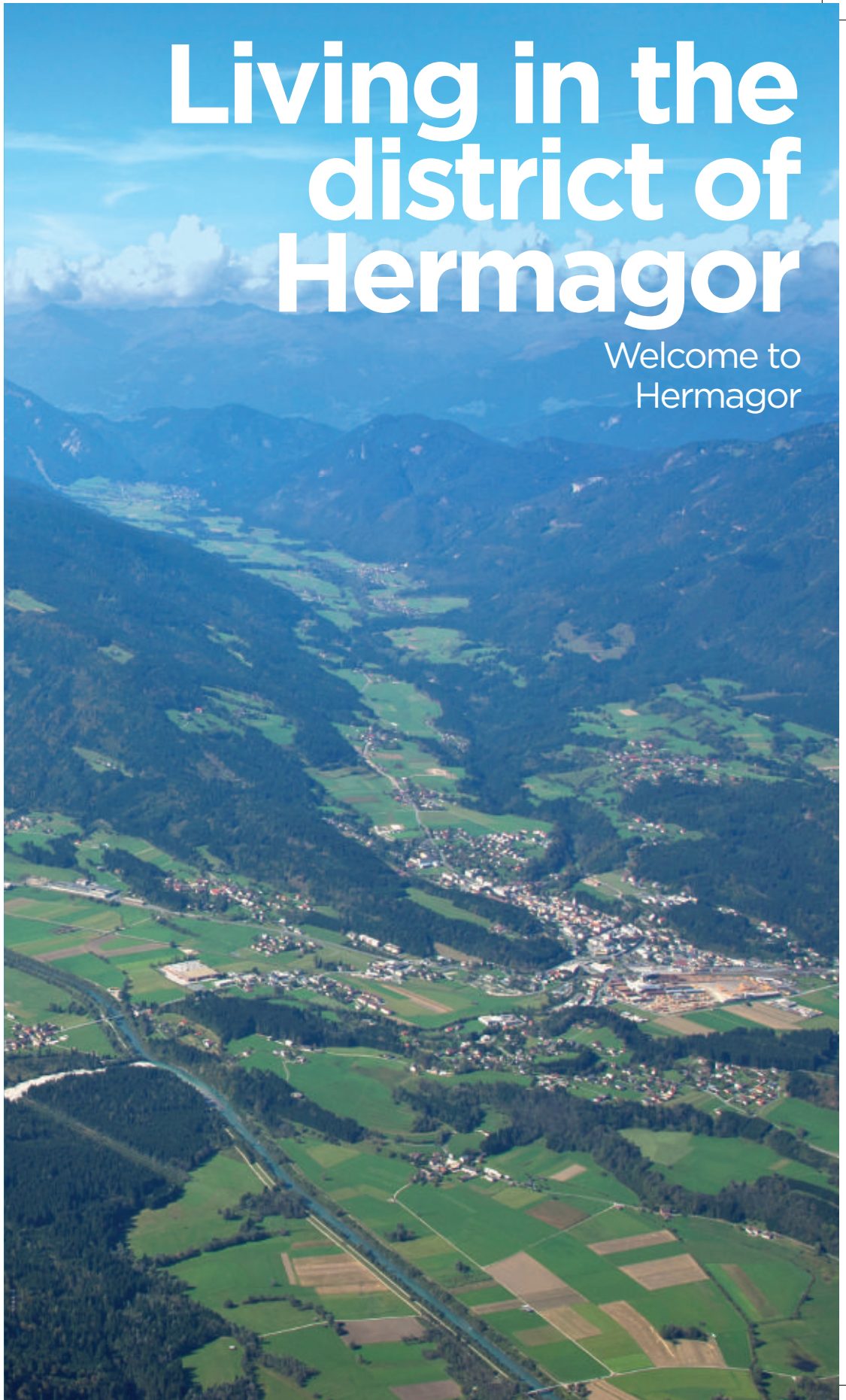
Mit Unterstützung von Bund, Land und Europäischer Union  
Bundesministerium  
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**Dear readers,**

Austria offers refugees and immigrants a wealth of opportunities, if they are prepared to actively work on their integration. Learning German, getting to know our values and adhering by them are all necessary steps in order to leverage the possibilities offered by the employment market. The Austrian Integration Fund ("Österreichischer Integrationsfonds"; ÖIF) operates integration centres that offer individual advice, assistance, German lessons and orientation courses on Austrian values and daily life. The new Integration Act makes it mandatory for many asylum seekers and persons entitled to subsidiary protection in Austria to attend integration courses. The reasons behind this are obvious: speaking the language and being familiar with the rules and values that underpin Austrian society are fundamental prerequisites for building a successful life in Austria and becoming part of a community. To ensure the best possible start for your life in Austria, please contact your nearest integration centre to find out more about your duties and about the assistance that is available to you.

**Franz Wolf**  
Director of the ÖIF



**Dear readers,**

We are proud to present you with the regional handbook for Hermagor. This publication was compiled with the assistance of the Carinthian University of Applied Sciences and aims at helping you in your daily life, making it easier for you to find your feet in Austria and hopefully also a new home in the district of Hermagor. The handbook was compiled in close cooperation between Hermagor Regional Management, the Integration Centre for Carinthia and the Carinthian University of Applied Sciences. It is part of a wider range of integration projects on a federal, provincial and regional level, such as the Carinthian integration model process that was initiated only recently. Overall, these efforts indicate that it is not just a societal, but also an individual responsibility to contribute towards a society where different cultures can live together in harmony. With this in mind, we hope that this manual will be helpful to you.

**FH-Prof. Dr. Dietmar Brodel**  
Head of the School of Management  
at the Carinthian University of  
Applied Sciences



**Dear new citizens,**

As the chair of the association of all seven municipalities that make up the district of Hermagor, I would like to warmly welcome you to our region. This regional handbook is intended to provide you with an overview of the region and all it has to offer. On the pages that are specific to the individual municipalities, you will find useful information on a range of topics that will assist you in starting your life in the respective town. Among others, you will find answers to the following questions: What does the regional education infrastructure look like? What is the employment market like? What leisure facilities are there for families? We want you to settle in well in our community. This works best when we approach each other with an open mind and a willingness to learn from one another, even if our cultural backgrounds are different. The goal is for all of us to work together in order to promote the development of the Hermagor region!

**Mayor Siegfried Ronacher**  
Chairman of the Municipal  
Association of the Carnic Region

# Austria at a glance



- Population: 8.8 million (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Area: 83,879 km<sup>2</sup>
- Capital: Vienna
- Provinces: 9 (Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna)
- Currency: Euro (since 2002)
- Government: parliamentary democracy
- Parliament: 2 chambers ("Nationalrat" and "Bundesrat")
  - Head of state: President
  - Head of government: Chancellor
- Member of the United Nations (since 1955), the European Union (since 1995) and of most of the UN organisations

## Historical and geographical overview

The region of modern-day Austria has been populated since the Palaeolithic Age. The Celtic kingdom of Noricum existed from approx. 800 until 400 BC. The name "Österreich" (Austria) was first mentioned as "Ostarrichi" in a deed of gift issued by Emperor Otto III in 996 AD. Austria is also referred to as the "Alpenrepublik" (Alpine Republic), and rightly so: approx. 60 percent of its surface area is mountainous. The Großglockner in the Hohe Tauern mountain range has an altitude of 3,798m and is the highest mountain in Austria. The largest lake that is located at least partially in Austria is Bodensee in Vorarlberg. At the other end of the country, in its easternmost corner, lies Neusiedler See.

# Austria's core values as the basis of good relations

## Why are values so important in Austrian society?

8.8 million people live in Austria. Not all of them have the same origins or religion, but that doesn't mean that they can't live together in peace and harmony. Only if diversity is paired with understanding and tolerance can everyone who lives in Austria contribute successfully to its society and economy. Common values are the foundation of living together successfully, and these values also form the basis of the Austrian constitution. Familiarising yourself with these values is an important step towards integration. They are part of this country and fundamental when it comes to strengthening the cohesion of Austrian society.

## What are the most important core values in Austria?

### Human dignity

Every human being has inherent dignity and deserves respect from birth, independent of gender, age, education, religion, origin or appearance. Women and men are equal. The state also acts in accordance with the principle of human dignity and treats all citizens the same.

*Example: Both men and women have the right to vote in democratic elections, and their vote carries the same weight.*

### Personal freedom

No person has the right of determining another person's opinions or actions. To the extent that is permitted by law, every person has the right to decide freely over their own life, for instance when it comes to religion,

choosing a career or a partner. This core value also implies that we respect another person's freedom as much as our own.

*Example: Every person has the right to an opinion and to announce this opinion in public. Others are free to share this opinion or not.*

### Rule of law

Austria is a state under the rule of law. The state, and all the people who live in Austria, must comply with Austrian laws. Personal beliefs are not a reason to break these laws. The law applies to all Austrian citizens and also protects all Austrian citizens to the same extent.

*Example: Everybody is equal in the eyes of the law, for instance in court.*

### Democracy

Austria is a democratic state where public authority emanates from the people. This means that citizens have the right to influence the way the country is run, and that they should make use of this right by voting in elections or being part of interest groups or associations.

*Example: You are free to start a citizens' initiative and stand up for your beliefs together with others.*

### Common welfare

As a republic, Austria stands out for the communal solidarity that underpins the structures of the state. The state actively tries to promote this principle through equal opportunities, social stability and investments in education and health. Every citizen is called upon to contribute to the common welfare of Austrian society,



for instance by helping out in emergencies and situations of crisis.

*Example: In Austria, many people show their solidarity for others by volunteering for organisations such as the voluntary fire department.*

### **Federalism**

Austria consists of nine provinces, all of which have their own powers. State responsibilities are divided between the federal state and the Provinces, depending on which entity is better suited to complete the tasks in question. This is referred to as "federalism". In fact, this principle also applies to the people who live in Austria: Every citizen has certain tasks that are his/her responsibility and that he/she should complete as best they can.

*Example: In a family, everybody helps to ensure that the daily routine runs smoothly. Children also frequently assist their ageing parents.*

### **Division of power**

Austria has three state powers: Legislative power (parliament), executive power (law enforcement) and judicial power (legal sector). These powers constantly keep watch over one another, making sure that power cannot be exerted randomly. Everyone can contribute to keeping Austria safe by standing up for their own rights and those of others, and handling conflicts non-violently.

*Example: You are witnessing an argument between two people that is threatening to escalate. By attempting to settle the dispute, or by calling the police instead of simply looking the other way, you will have shown civic courage.*

### **Where can I find out more about Austrian values?**

The compulsory values and orientation courses organised by the ÖIF will provide you with important information on values and the way of life in Austria. The ÖIF also offers extension courses that discuss the central topics of life in Austria in even greater detail. These workshops are free of charge and take place in the integration centres of the ÖIF all over Austria. For the latest dates, please visit **[www.integrationsfonds.at/termine](http://www.integrationsfonds.at/termine)**. You may register by telephone or e-mail.

The handbook "My Life in Austria. Opportunities and Rules" gives an overview of central values and also lists examples of how these shared values are lived on a daily basis. This brochure is available for free download at **[www.integrationsfonds.at/kurse](http://www.integrationsfonds.at/kurse)** → *Values and orientation courses*. Alternatively, you may pick up a personal copy at your local municipal office ("Gemeindeamt").

# New to Austria: First steps and ports of call

You have just arrived in Austria and you probably have lots of questions about life here. The following section answers some of the most common questions:

## **Do I have to register my new address?**

If you move to Austria, you are obliged by law to register your address within three days after moving into your house or apartment at the registration office (“Meldebehörde”). In your case, the competent authority is the municipal office of the district of Hermagor. The registered address is then your primary residence (“Hauptwohnsitz”). To register your address, you must fill out a form (“Meldezettel”) and present your passport and birth certificate at the registration office. Please note that the registration form must also be signed by your accommodation provider (e.g. the owner of the house, the landlord...). You must register with your new municipality even if you move within Austria. For more information, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Moving* → *Living in Austria* → *Registration*.

## **Do I also have to register my children?**

Yes. A registration form must be completed for every member of your household. For more information, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Moving* → *Living in Austria* → *Registration*.

## **My child needs a childcare place.**

### **What do I need to do?**

To secure a place for your child in a nursery (children up

to the age of 3), a pre-school (from the age of 3 until school) or after-school care facility (children aged 6 and above), it is important that you apply for a place in plenty of time. You can do this at your local municipal office. The application process is free of charge; however, parents are usually required to make a monthly contribution for childcare. To find out more, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Family and Partnership* → *Childcare*.

## **Does my child have to attend school?**

Every child spending at least one semester in Austria is required by law to attend school. Education is compulsory for a period of nine years, starting from a child's sixth birthday. It is your responsibility to enrol your child at a local primary school. For more information, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Education* → *Compulsory schooling*.

## **I have a car.**

### **Can I continue to drive it in Austria?**

If your primary residence is in Austria, you must apply for an Austrian registration certificate for your vehicle. Vehicles with a non-Austrian number plate may be used for a maximum period of one month. After this point, you must use an Austrian number plate. To find out more, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Motor vehicles* → *Rules for driving motor vehicles in Austria* → *Driving with foreign number plates*.

You must also change your non-Austrian licence to an Austrian licence within a period of six months after registering your primary residence in Austria. In any





case, it is a good idea to familiarise yourself with the Austrian rules of the road: [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Driving licence* → *Conversion of a foreign driving licence*.

**I keep a radio in my apartment.  
Do I need to get a licence for it?**

Radios and television sets must be registered with the GIS – Gebühren Info Service GmbH. For more information, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *GIS*.

**What else should I bear in mind for my life in Austria?**

There are a wide range of rules and regulations that apply to life in your new community and for leisure time activities, for instance: When is it permitted to mow the lawn? Is it OK to carry out building works on my property at the weekend? Do I have to keep my dog on a leash? Do I have to clear away snow from my property? Visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Building and housing* for the most important information for your municipality.

**Do you have any other questions on life in Austria?  
Keep on browsing – the next chapters of this  
publication answer specific questions.**

## Authorities

### District administrative authority of Hermagor ("Bezirkshauptmannschaft")

Passports and immigration law  
Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T +39 050 536-63000  
E [post.bhhe@ktn.gv.at](mailto:post.bhhe@ktn.gv.at)

### Municipal offices in the district of Hermagor ("Gemeindeämter")

To contact the municipal authorities in the district of Hermagor, please consult the pages for the specific communities.

## Advisory services

### Integration Centre for Carinthia (Integrationszentrum Kärnten)

10.-Oktober-Straße 15, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 0463 50 37 81-100  
E [kaernten@integrationsfonds.at](mailto:kaernten@integrationsfonds.at)  
W [www.integrationsfonds.at](http://www.integrationsfonds.at)

### Mobile advisory service of the ÖIF in Hermagor

Hermagor district administrative office, 4th floor  
Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0676 300 67 70

### Mobile advisory service of the ÖIF in Kirchbach

Kirchbach Municipal Office  
Kirchbach 155, 9632 Kirchbach  
T 0676 300 67 70

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## CHAPTER 2: Carinthia

# An introduction to the Province of Carinthia

### Geographical location

Carinthia is one of the nine provinces that make up Austria and the southernmost province of the country. The district of Hermagor is located right at the intersection point of three cultures: Austria, Italy and Slovenia. The three-nation triangle at Arnoldstein is the point where these three nations and cultures meet. Carinthia is known for its mountains and lakes. Austria's highest mountain, the Großglockner with an altitude of 3,798 metres, and Lake Wörthersee are also located in Carinthia.

Carinthia has a population of 560,989 (as of 01/01/2018), consisting of more than 140 nationalities. Politically speaking, Carinthia is structured into ten districts (Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt-Land, Villach, Villach-Land, Spittal/Drau, Hermagor, Feldkirchen, St. Veit/Glan, Wolfsberg, Völkermarkt) and 132 municipalities. Klagenfurt is the capital and has its own charter, as has Villach. To find out more, visit [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at) → *Land* → *Geographie* (German only).

### History of Carinthia

The history of Carinthia goes back to the Paleolithic (approx. 30000 BC). The oldest traces of human presence were found in the stalactite caves in the municipality of Griffen. Towards the end of the Neolithic (approx. 2000 BC), human settlements were already constructed on mountains such as Maria Saal mountain, Kanzianiberg mountain and the Strappelkogel in the Lavanttal valley. Around 700 AD, a land named "Carontani" and the people who populate it, the "Karantanen", are first mentioned. Around 800, reference is made to "Carantanum" (Carinthia in English;

Kärnten in German). Carinthia is Austria's oldest province. Until 1518, the flourishing town of St. Veit was its capital. After that point, Klagenfurt became the residence of the Estates that ruled the province. In 1514, Klagenfurt had been devastated by a fire and was rebuilt, in the modern style, with larger spaces and beautiful buildings. The "Lindwurm" statue is the landmark of the provincial capital.

The political municipalities were founded in 1849/50, bringing a greater degree of independence for farmers, who were no longer dependent on their landlords. The first "Landtag" (state parliament) in Carinthia was elected in 1861.

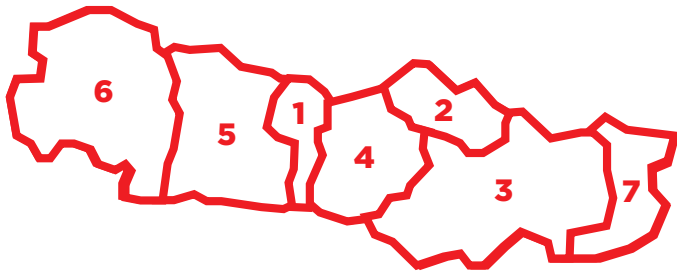
After the end of World War I (1914–1918), which resulted in the dissolution of the monarchy in Austria, the Slovenian government lay claim to Carinthia. Repeated skirmishes between "Southern Slavic" troops and "Carinthian troops" resulted in a referendum held on 10 October 1920, when people in the affected parts of Carinthia were asked to vote either in favour of joining Slovenia or remaining part of Austria. Roughly 59 per cent of the population voted to remain with Austria. One in two of the electorate was a Carinthian with Slovenian roots. The 10 October, the day of the referendum, is still a holiday in Carinthia.

After the end of World War II (1939–1945), the allied powers resolved to protect the Slovenian and Croatian minorities in Carinthia in the future peace treaty concluded with Austria in 1949. The protection of minorities is also enshrined in the Austrian State Treaty. For more information on the history of Carinthia, visit [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at) → *Land* → *Landesgeschichte* (German only).

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## CHAPTER 3: The district of Hermagor

# An introduction to the district of Hermagor



1 Municipality of Dellach, 2 Municipality of Gitschtal, 3 Municipality of Hermagor-Pressegger See (district capital), 4 Municipality of Kirchbach, 5 Municipality of Kötschach-Mauthen, 6 Municipality of Lesachtal, 7 Municipality of St. Stefan im Gailtal

### Geographical location

The district of Hermagor is one of ten political districts in Carinthia, comprising seven municipalities. The district of Hermagor is located in the south west of Carinthia and borders Italy in the south. There are two border crossing points, Plöckenpass and Nassfeld. In the west, the district borders the province of Tyrol (East Tyrol). The district capital of Hermagor-Pressegger See and the market town of Kötschach-Mauthen constitute the two centres of the district.

**Economically important industries** are construction (production sector), accommodation and food service (service sector).

### Overview

**Foreign nationals:** 7.9% of the total population; 81% EU citizens, 19% third-country nationals (as of: 01/01/2018; Statistik Austria)

**Number of nationalities:** 57 (incl. Austria)

The most represented nationalities are Germany, Italy, Croatia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United Kingdom. (As of: 01/1/2018; Statistik Austria)

**Highest mountain:** Hohe Warte (2.780 m)

### History of the district

The history of the district of Hermagor goes back to 1000 BC. The earliest settlements in the Gailtal valley hail back to that period. In the 3rd century BC, the district was settled by Celtic tribes, who called the river that flows through the district "Gailias" or "Gailias", "the foamy one". The modern-day name of the river, "Gail", harks back to those times, as does the name of the surrounding valley: the Gailtal. After the Celts, the district was settled by the Romans, then by German tribes, briefly also by the Avars and the Slavs, before it was eventually colonised by the Habsburgs. An important chapter in the history of the district was the reign of the Spanish Counts of Salamanca, who "purchased" the Gailtal valley in 1524 and ruled it until the dynasty died out in 1640, as well as that of the Counts of Porcia and Pordenone, who purchased the land in 1662 and ruled it until 1918, the end of World War I.

For more information on the history of the district of Hermagor, visit [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at) → *Verwaltung* → *Bezirke* → *BH-Hermagor* → *Chronik* (German only).

# Municipality of Dellach

## Overview

- Size of the municipality in terms of population: 1,001–1,500 (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Area: 36.17 km<sup>2</sup>
- Villages: Dellach, Sankt Daniel, Nölbling, Leifling, Goldberg, Gurina, Höfling, Monsell, Rüben, Stollwitz, Wieserberg, Siegelberg
- Dellach is the only cadastral municipality.

### Historic overview of the municipality

Evidence of the prehistoric settlement of Gurina was found within the borders of the municipality, dating back to the Hallstatt period. Caves that were used for copper extraction were found near the settlement, bearing witness to a culture that flourished there from 600 to 400 BC. Celtic coins were also minted at Gurina. The settlement dates back at least 2900 years and, during the Roman age, was the first Roman city fortifications on the territory of modern-day Austria. The reconstruction of the Gallic-Roman peripteral temple on the crest of the Gurina hill is unique in Austria.

The name Dellach comes from the Slavic ("Doljah", approximate translation "with those who live in the valley"). A possible Slovene name could be "Dole" (from "dol": down, below, valley-wards); "Doljani" in the vernacular. The first written mention of "Doelach" was made in 1370.

Ever since the late Middle Ages, Dellach had been a mining centre where zinc and copper was found. In the 18th and 19th century, iron ore was also mined and processed here. At times, up to 291 miners and pitmen lived here. The political municipality of Dellach in its present form dates back to 1850.

## Sights, traditions, customs and culture

### Sights

The church of St. Helena am Wieserberg (important Romanesque frescoes inside the church), parish church of St. Daniel (mother parish of the Upper Gailtal valley), Gurina (reconstruction of a Gallic-Roman peripteral temple; also see: [www.gurina.dellach.at](http://www.gurina.dellach.at)), visitor and information centre GeoPark Karnische Alpen ([www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at](http://www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at)), Nölbling waterfalls with Franziskusweg trail, bee trail, Zollner Alm pasture/Zollner See lake, Jaukenalm pasture – former mines

### Traditions, customs and culture

"Schanibegraben" (Carnival tradition), Dellacher Kirchtag parish festival, Dellacher Dorffest village festival, Zollnerfest festival, "Häfenschlagen", "Kultur am Berg" festival – range of events on Gurina hill, blessing of the herbs, Gaillklang Festival, St. Danieler Kirchtag parish festival, Leiflinger Kirchtag parish festival, Nöblinger Kirchtag parish festival, Advent market, "Nikolo" market

### Ways to get involved

Fraternities ("Dorfjugend" village youth organisations) Dellach, Nölbling, Leifling, Dellacher Sportverein (sports club), Voluntary fire brigades of the the municipality of Dellach, Dellach Historical Association, Kameradschaftsbund OV Dellach (veterans' association), church choir St. Daniel, MGV Dellach (male choir), Modellbuggy Gruppe Dellach Gail, Obergailtaler Trachtenverein Ortsgruppe Dellach (society for traditional costumes), Perchtengruppe Dellach (society for traditional masks), Pferdezuchtverein K17 (horse-breeding association), Seniorentreff (senior citizens' club), Sozialverein ALSOLE (social club), Theatergruppe Dellach (theatre group), Trachtenkapelle Dellach (brass band)



## Sports, leisure and social activities

### Sports and leisure

Sports and leisure centre, Gail outdoor pool, municipal library Dellach

### Childcare and educational facilities

Childcare: Pre-school run by the municipality of Dellach (3–6 years), Nature kindergarten run by the ALSOLE social association (3–6 years), afternoon care for primary school children provided by the ALSOLE social association.

Schools: Dellach primary school

## Economy and infrastructure

The municipality of Dellach has many small- and medium-size enterprises.

The economic infrastructure includes: 3 restaurants, 1 tavern, 1 bakery, 2 joiner's workshops, 1 cabinetmaker's workshop, 1 tiling company, 1 hotel, 1 pension, 1 hair-dresser, 1 beauty and foot care studio, 1 hardware store, manufacturers of metal products, 1 horse-riding establishment, painters & decorators, 1 plumbing company,

1 lama trekking provider, 2 electric power plants, 1 gravel pit, 1 scrap company, 2 grocery stores, 1 car repair shop, 1 bank, 1 municipal office, several small accommodation providers (private rooms and holiday lets), 1 agricultural machinery business and garage, 1 massage practice, numerous farming businesses (some with farm shops)

## Contact details of the municipal office

### Municipality of Dellach

Dellach 65, 9635 Dellach im Gailtal

T 04718 301

E [dellach@ktn.gde.at](mailto:dellach@ktn.gde.at)

W [www.gemeinde.dellach.at](http://www.gemeinde.dellach.at)

### Tourism Information

[www.dellach.gv.at](http://www.dellach.gv.at) → *Tourismus* (German only)

# Municipality of Gitschtal

## Overview

- Size of the municipality in terms of population: 1,001–1,500 (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Area: 56.48km<sup>2</sup>
- Villages: Weißbriach, St. Lorenzen/G., Jadersdorf, Lassendorf, Regitt, Leditz, Langwiesen, Brunn, Golz, Wulzentratten

### Historic overview of the municipality

The first settlement in the Gitschtal valley to be mentioned in a historical document is Weißbriach (1331). From the 16th century, precious metals, and later also iron ore, were mined in the Gitschtal. Hammer mills were located in the Gösseringgraben and were bought up by Baron Kranz in the mid-1600s. Until their closure in the 19th century, they played a huge factor in the economic upturn of the region.

Tourism in the Gitschtal valley developed from the second half of the 19th century. The Kneipp spa rooms were built after World War I.

Today's municipality of Gitschtal started out as the municipality of Weißbriach in 1850. As part of the local municipality restructuring reform, the two hitherto independent municipalities of Weißbriach and St. Lorenzen im Gitschtal were merged in 1973 to form the municipality of Gitschtal.

## Sights, traditions, customs and culture

14

### Sights

Roman-Catholic parish church of Weißbriach and St. Lorenzen/G., Protestant parish church of Weißbriach, Weißbachklamm gorge near Jadersdorf, Gitschtal iron forging museum, educational trail in Gösseringgraben

### Traditions, customs and culture

Parish fairs (Weißbriach and St. Lorenzen/G.), mountain parish fairs (Möselalm pasture and Kohlrösl hut), Gitschtaler "Krautfest" (always on the first Sunday in October, largest culinary festival in the Gitschtal valley), "Zechfest'l", cowpat tombola

### How to get involved

Numerous clubs and associations offer everyone living here a wide range of possibilities to get involved in communal life. These clubs and associations include: Weißbriach athletic association – football and skiing sections, volunteer fire brigade (Weißbriach, St. Lorenzen/G., Lassendorf and Jadersdorf), village club Weißbriach, village club St. Lorenzen/G., Gitschtaler Trachtenkapelle Weißbriach (brass band), male choir Weißbriach 1877, Protestant church choir Weißbriach, mixed choir St. Lorenzen/G., "Zechburschen" fraternity St. Lorenzen, "Schuhplattler" dance group "Kohlröslbuam", Gitschtal costume group, Weißbriach theatre group

## Sports, leisure and social activities

### Sports and leisure

Gitschtal adventure pool, mountain/themed crazy golf course outside the pool in Weißbriach, indoor pool at the Kurhotel Weißbriach, "Yolates" path in Weißbriach, hiking and cycling, skiing, sledging, cross-country skiing

The municipality also attaches great importance to preserving its natural heritage. The nature trail in the Gösseringgraben enables visitors to immerse themselves in this untouched natural setting.

### Childcare and educational facilities

In addition to a pre-school and primary school in the village, there is also the option of attending the local music school.



## Economy and infrastructure

60 businesses in the municipality provide many opportunities for employment and shopping.

Larger companies: the Hubmann timber construction company, the Weißbriach health resort, hair salon "Enzi", bakery "Moritz", Spar supermarket in Weißbriach, Wieser painting and decorating

## Contact details of the municipal office

### Municipality of Gitschtal

Weißbriach 202, 9622 Weißbriach

T 04286 212

E [gitschtal@ktn.gde.at](mailto:gitschtal@ktn.gde.at)

W [www.gitschtal.gv.at](http://www.gitschtal.gv.at)

### Tourism Information

9622 Weißbriach

T 04286 219

E [gitschtal.tourist@ktn.gde.at](mailto:gitschtal.tourist@ktn.gde.at)

W [www.weissbriach.at](http://www.weissbriach.at)

# Municipality of Hermagor- Pressegger See

## Overview

- Size of the municipality in terms of population: 5,001-10,000 (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Area: 204.31 km<sup>2</sup>
- 64 villages

### Historic overview of the municipality

Hermagor is named after St. Hermagoras, the first bishop of Aquileia, and received town status in 1930. The foundation of the parish goes back to the 9th century AD. Hermagor was first mentioned in a document in 1169 and was awarded market rights in 1288. In order to find out more about the history of the Gailtal valley, a visit to the Gailtal museum of local history at Möderndorf castle is recommended. The castle houses more than 5,000 artefacts of historical and cultural importance from the Gailtal, Gitschtal and Lesachtal valleys. Objects that truly stand out are a fossilised, 300-million-year-old Sigillaria tree and a Lutheran bible from 1541.

## Sights, traditions, customs and culture

Garnitzenklamm gorge is a wonderful place for regeneration and recharging your batteries. As one of Austria's longest gorges, it opens up amazing views of a world dominated by shapes and colours, created by the crystal-clear waters of the Garnitzenbach. The Geotrail in the gorge and on Nassfeld provides visitors with information on plant or animal fossils that give important insights into the past and the geological development of the Carnic Alps.

One of the most interesting customs in the region is the so-called "Kufenstechen" that takes place every year in the villages of the Lower Gailtal valley. The custom dates

back to the defensive wars against the Turks fought in the 15th century. Unmarried young men from the village ride bareback and as they pass by a wooden barrel, they try to smash the barrel with a hammer made of iron while remaining on horseback.

### How to get involved

The municipality of Hermagor-Pressegger is home to more than 100 associations, 4 of them athletic clubs, 4 brass bands, 14 volunteer fire brigades, village clubs, choirs, cultural associations, folk dance groups, fraternities (village youth clubs), hunting clubs, mountain rescue volunteers, Alpine associations, senior citizens' associations etc.

## Sports, leisure and social activities

### Sports and leisure

Mountain and lake adventures: **Nassfeld mountain** is not just the largest integrated ski resort in Carinthia, but has also become Carinthia's no. 1 destination for mountain adventures: Millennium Express (longest gondola lift in the Alps), "Pendolino" (Carinthia's longest summer sledging run), family adventure path "Aqua Trail" at an altitude of 1,900 metres (stroller-friendly), Lift & Bike Giro (longest bike run in the Alps), rock labyrinth, Flying Fox mile, Treßdorfer Alm show dairy with Gailtaler Almkäse cheese (protected designation of origin) and Gailtaler Speck (protected geographical indication) are just a few of the sights and activities on offer.

**Lake Pressegger See**, also referred to as the "bath tub of the Gailtal", is one of Austria's warmest swimming lakes and its calamus-containing waters are said to have healing properties. The lake is considered a true fountain of youth and is a wonderful place for swimming, fishing, water sports or simply to cool down after a hike or cycling tour. Carinthia's 1st Adventure Park on the shores





of Lake Pressegger See offers a versatile combination of action and water fun for the whole family.

**Childcare and educational facilities**

Pre-schools: Hermagor and Pressegger See with crèche, private pre-school in Fritzendorf; primary schools: Hermagor, Tröpolach and Egg; music school: NMS Hermagor, district music school Hermagor; secondary schools: BORG Hermagor, Höhere Lehranstalt für wirtschaftliche Berufe (HLW; Higher College for Occupations in the Service Industries Sector), which also houses the municipal library of Hermagor. The WIFI (Institute for Economic Development) and the Volkshochschule (Adult Education Centre) offer a range of classes, in particular language classes.

**Economy and infrastructure**

Due to the abundance of woodland in the municipality, the wood-processing industry plays an important role. Former saw mills became timber-processing businesses such as Hasslacher GmbH or Hasslacher Holzleimbau in Hermagor. Over time, smaller wood-chip heating plants and district heating systems developed. Timber-proces-

sing is closely connected to the use of renewable energy. Agriculture is also a major factor in the municipality, with an increasing demand for locally sourced, high-quality products. Farmers play a crucial role for tourism as they cultivate and care for the landscape. Many small- and medium-sized companies, primarily family-run, provide safe employment for the population. In total, there are approximately 700 businesses in the municipality. One of the largest employers is the Gailtal Klinik hospital.

**Contact details of the municipal office**

**Urban Municipality of Hermagor-Pressegger See**

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04282 2333  
 E [gemeinde@hermagor.at](mailto:gemeinde@hermagor.at)  
 W [www.hermagor.at](http://www.hermagor.at)

**Tourism Information**

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04285 8241  
 E [info@nassfeld.at](mailto:info@nassfeld.at)  
 W [www.nassfeld.at](http://www.nassfeld.at)

# Municipality of Kirchbach

## Overview

- Size of the municipality in terms of population: 2,501–3,000 (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Villages: Grafendorf, Welzberg, Schmalzgrube, Katlingberg, Lenzhof, Gundersheim, Bodenmühl, Rauth, Unterbuchach, Oberbuchach, Griminitzen, Goderschach, Stranig, Reißkofelbad, Rinsenegg, Schönboden, Forst, Reisach, Kirchbach, Treßdorf, Krieben, Oberdöbernitzen, Unterdöbernitzen, Wassertheurerberg, Stöfflerberg, Hochwart, Staudachberg, Waidegg, Anraun, Tramun, Schimanberg (31 in total)

### Historic overview of the municipality

Kirchbach is located in the Upper Gailtal valley, between the Gailtal Alps in the north and the Carnic Alps in the south, which also form the state border to Italy. Traditionally, the market town was mainly dependent on agriculture and forestry, but trade and tourism have become predominant in the more recent past. The name is derived from the German "Kirche am Bach", meaning "church next to the creek".

Mining used to be an important activity in the Gailtal Alps. The Veneti, an Illyrian tribe, were searching for ore in the Gailtal valley as early as the 4th century BC. Zinc and copper were also mined here. In the 2nd century BC, Celtic tribes who had migrated from France were mining iron and gold. In 15 BC, the Noric kingdom was occupied by the Romans, with Teurnia near Spittal as the administrative centre. A tolling station was set up in Mauthen (Loncium). The Romans continued to mine the region, as indicated by remains of smelting furnaces that have been excavated. Around 600 AD, Slavs and Avars arrived in the region and settled side by side with the local population. Some Slavic place names still bear witness to this period, for instance Reisach – Rischa =

water fall, or Stranig – Stranié = side village. In 1850, the municipalities of Kirchbach, Reisach and Waidegg (changed to Waidegg in 1957) were constituted. In 1964, Waidegg lost its independent status and was integrated in the municipality of Rattendorf, until the new, larger municipality of Kirchbach was created in 1973, consisting of Kirchbach, Reisach and Waidegg. In 1997, the provincial government awarded Kirchbach the status of "Marktgemeinde" (market town).

## Sights, traditions, customs and culture

### Sights

Cultural trail – mill hiking trail, parish church of Grafendorf, chapel on Katlingberg, military cemetery in Griminitzen from 1817, former succursal church of St. Andreas in Goderschach, parish church in Reisach, succursal church in Stranig, Kirchbach parish church, chapel of St. Nikolaus in Oberdöbernitzen, Protestant church in Treßdorf, Waidegg parish church

### Traditional events and festivals

Grafendorf parish festival, Reisach parish festival, Kirchbach parish festival, Treßdorf parish festival, Waidegg parish festival, Stranig parish festival, Goderschach parish festival, first Sunday in October – apple festival, midsummer bonfires in the individual villages on 21 June, Christmas market in Kirchbach (8 December), funfair

### Pastures ("Alm") where refreshments are served

**In the Carnic Alps:** Gundersheimer Alm, Achonacher Alm, Waidegger Alm, Straniger Alm, Unterbuchacher Alm, Kleinkordin Alm

**In the Gailtal Alps:** Jochalm, Schimanberger Alm

### Ways to get involved

Sports associations in the market town of Kirchbach:



GSK – Gundersheimer-Grafendorfer Sportklub, KSK – Kirchbacher Sportklub; heritage societies; volunteer fire brigades and village clubs in the individual villages, fraternities (village youth associations) in the individual villages; choirs: Grafendorf mixed choir, Grafendorf youth choir, male choir Gundersheim-Griminitzen, male choir Kirchbach 1901, mixed choir Kirchbach; musical societies: Reißkofel Reisach musical society, Alpenrose Waidegg musical society; theatre groups: Treßdorf amateur dramatic society, Reisach dramatic society

## Sports, leisure and social activities

### Sports and leisure

Nassfeldgolf in Waidegg (24-hole golf course), Kirchbach outdoor pool (fun for the whole family in the solar-heated outdoor pool in Kirchbach, beach volleyball court and playground, family-friendly ticket prices), mill-themed hiking trail, natural playground at the Gail river: "edible landscape", family ski lift in Griminitzen, sports fields in Grafendorf and Oberdöbernitzen, ice-skating rink

### Childcare and educational facilities

Pre-schools: Gundersheim day care centre (1 group),

Kirchbach pre-school (1 group); Primary schools: Gundersheim primary school, Kirchbach primary school with after-school care

## Economy and infrastructure

The market town of Kirchbach is dominated by small- and medium-sized companies. The largest employer is A. Zoppoth Haustechnik GmbH (plumbing and heating technology) in Gundersheim. For further details, see the homepage of the municipality: [www.kirchbach.gv.at](http://www.kirchbach.gv.at) → *Infrastruktur* → *Wirtschaft*.

## Contact details of the municipal office

### Municipality of Kirchbach

Kirchbach 155, 9632 Kirchbach  
T 04282 228-0  
E [kirchbach@ktn.gde.at](mailto:kirchbach@ktn.gde.at)  
W [www.kirchbach.gv.at](http://www.kirchbach.gv.at)

### Tourism Information

[www.kirchbach.gv.at](http://www.kirchbach.gv.at) → *Tourismus* (German only)

# Municipality of Kötschach-Mauthen

## Overview

- Size of the municipality in terms of population: 3,001–5,000 (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Villages: Aigen, Buchach, Dobra, Dolling, Gailberg, Gentschach, Gratzhof, Höfling, Kosta, Kötschach, Kreuth, Kreuzberg, Krieghof, Kronhof, Laas, Lanz, Mahlbach, Mandorf, Mauthen, Nischwitz, Passau, Plöcken, Plon, Podlanig, Sankt Jakob im Lesachtal, Sittmoos, Strajach, Weidenburg, Wetzmann, Würda, Würmlach

### Historic overview of the municipality

The area was first settled by the Celts in the 5th to 2nd century BC. The multi-faceted history of the region is reflected in the rock inscription by the Veneti in Würmlach, dating back to the 2nd century BC, the Roman trail across the Plöckenpass with the settlement of "Loncium", and the expansion of Mauthen that has remained visible to this day. The area became significant thanks to mining and the Roman road network across the Plöcken. During the Middle Ages, iron ore, silver, gold and lead were mined here and the economy flourished. Most of the villages that are part of the municipality were already mentioned in documents around that time, for instance Mauthen in 1276 or Kötschach in 1308. From the 16th century, the region was part of the earldom of Ortenburg. In 1930, it was awarded the status of market town. In 1958, the villages of Kötschach and Mauthen were fused into the twin locality of Kötschach-Mauthen. In 1973, villages in the Upper Gailtal valley and the Lower Lesachtal valley were integrated into the municipality.

## Sights, traditions, customs and culture

The most important sights in the market town are the "Gailtalerdom" on the main square in Kötschach, the church of St. Markus in Mauthen and the Maria Schnee pilgrimage church along Plöckenstraße Road. The mu-

seum "1915-1918: From Ortler mountain to the Adriatic Sea" documents the history of World War I through the fate of rank-and-file soldiers and the civilian population on both sides. The four sectors of the open-air museum on the Plöckenpass, 12km from Kötschach, are best enjoyed in combination with the museum in the town hall (free entry); starting points: Plöckenhaus or Plöckenpass. "Mauthner Klamm" gorge: Thanks to a tunnel and suspension bridges, exploring the gorge is relatively straightforward, with the last part having been designed as a via ferrata. The "Blumenparadies Mussen" is considered a highly valuable area of Alpine flora and is subject to stringent protection measures. The flower-themed hiking trail features no less than 140 protected types of Alpine flower. Every two years, the "GERN" trade fair is a meeting point for all those who want to keep up with the latest developments in the field of renewable energy. The summer concerts along the Via Julia Augusta have something to offer for all music enthusiasts. The "Käse-Fest" is a cheese festival that takes place on the last weekend in September, presenting local cheeses as well as cheeses from the wider region (e.g. Italy and Slovenia).

### Ways to get involved

A wide range of athletic associations, from football to curling, provide ample opportunity for getting to know the locals and having fun in a community setting. Five volunteer fire brigades are always ready to lend a hand in an emergency, and cultural associations, choirs, brass bands, fraternities (village youth associations) and senior citizens' associations leave their mark on the cultural life of this flourishing market town.

## Sports, leisure and social activities

The market town is the starting point of the Carnic cycle trail R3 and is particularly bike-friendly. The "AQUARENA" with an outdoor pool, indoor pool and sun bed makes swimming fun all year around. Around the AQUARENA Kötschach-Mauthen, there are several





tennis courts, a state-of-the-art football pitch and a family ski resort. The "mountaineering village" of Mauthen has a natural swimming pool and is also the seat of the Austrian Alpine Association of the Upper Gailtal", which offers a broad selection of leisure activities: rafting, climbing courses, ice climbing, ice hockey, curling and the youth hostel at the ÖAV centre.

#### **Childcare and educational facilities**

Pre-schools: The parish pre-school in Kötschach offers half-day care to 24 children from age 3 to 6. The pre-school in Würmlach offers half-day and full-day care for 50 children (age 3 to 6) and also operates a crèche for 14 toddlers (full-day care). The primary school, secondary school and secondary school with an emphasis on music are also located in Kötschach. A broader range of secondary schools is available in Hermagor (35km) and in Lienz (25km).

### **Economy and infrastructure**

The market town of Kötschach-Mauthen is home to a wide range of industries. In "Carinthia's most delicious corner" that considers itself a slow-food destination,

there is a large selection of food products and grocery stores on offer, from tiny delis to large discounters. For the last 20 years, the municipality has also been exploring the option of becoming energy self-sufficient and has adopted energy principles as a basis for targeted measures related to renewable energies and the protection of the climate and the environment. In this capacity, it has made a name for itself far beyond the borders of Carinthia as a model for renewable energy.

### **Contact details of the municipal office**

#### **Municipality of Kötschach-Mauthen**

Kötschach 390, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
T 04715 8513  
E [koetschach-mauthen@ktn.gde.at](mailto:koetschach-mauthen@ktn.gde.at)  
W [www.koetschach-mauthen.gv.at](http://www.koetschach-mauthen.gv.at)

#### **Tourism Information**

Kötschach 390, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
T 04715 8516  
E [info@koemau.com](mailto:info@koemau.com)  
W [www.koemau.com](http://www.koemau.com)

# Municipality of Lesachtal

## Overview

- Size of the municipality in terms of population: 1,001–1,500 (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Villages: 4 main villages (Maria Luggau, St. Lorenzen i. L., Liesing and Birnbaum) and 27 hamlets

### Historic overview of the municipality

The word "Lesach" has Slovenian roots and means "where the forest dwellers live". The municipality of Lesachtal occupies the major part of the upper stretch of the Gail river that bears the same name in the far south west of the province and is bordered by the main ridge of the Carnic Alps in the south and the Dolomites in the North. The remoteness of the area with its rivers and tributaries that are carved into the landscape like so many gorges has created a unique natural and cultural landscape that is dominated by large pastures and mountain meadows, with small hamlets dotted in between. To this day, the Lesachtal is predominantly agricultural, with the lack of arable land and the difficulty of hauling timber constituting the main problems. For several decades, gentle, year-round tourism has been playing an increasingly important role. The Lesachtal is considered a model example of gentle tourism for communities all over the world, reflected in many awards such as "Europe's most unspoilt valley" or "landscape of the year".

## Sights, traditions, customs and culture

### Sights

Circular hiking trail "Kraftquelle Radegund" and "Mühlenweg Maria Luggau", the Mega Dive giant swing, the Liesing culture and leisure centre with adventure pool and event facilities, adventure and forest world, "Millnatzenklamm" via ferrata, "Venezianergatter" show mill,

violin-building museum, shoe-making museum, Maria Luggau pilgrimage church with historic monastery garden

### Traditional and cultural events

Parish fairs: Maria Luggau: on a Sunday around the 21/8, St. Lorenzen i. L.: on 10 August every year, Liesing: on a weekend around the 20/7, Birnbaum: on a weekend around the 29/9; other parish fairs in the outer hamlets throughout the year; "Brotfest" bread fair: 1st Sunday in September every year, "Mühlenfest" Maria Luggau: on the 1st or 2nd weekend in August, Lesachtal ski tour event: every year in February, "Silvesterlauf" cross-country skiing event: 31/12 every year, Dolomite cycling loop

### Ways to get involved

Volunteer fire brigades in Maria Luggau, St. Lorenzen i. L., Liesing and Birnbaum; DSG Lesachtal (sports club); village association of St. Lorenzen i. L.; Maria Luggau brass band, St. Lorenzen farmers' band, Liesing brass band, Birnbaum brass band; church choirs: Maria Luggau, St. Lorenzen, Liesing, Birnbaum; Liesing mixed choir; Liesing drama group; folk dance group Maria Luggau, children's folk dance group Liesing; Mühlenverein Maria Luggau (cultural association); youth groups: Maria Luggau, St. Lorenzen i. L., Liesing and Birnbaum

## Sports, leisure and social activities

### Sports and leisure

Liesing leisure centre: adventure pool (<http://freizeit-anlage-lesachtal.at>) with campsite; via ferratas within the municipality or nearby: Millnatzenklamm, Hohe Warte, Cellon; hiking tours in the Carnic Alps (e.g. "Karnischer Höhenweg" trail) and south towards the Lienz Dolomites

### Childcare and educational facilities

Pre-school in St. Lorenzen i. L.; educational centre Lesachtal: primary school and secondary school, Lesachtal music school



## Economy and infrastructure

In total, the Lesachtal houses more than 100 small- and medium-sized enterprises across a range of industries such as leisure and tourism, grocery stores in the four main villages as well as a farm shop in Maria Luggau

## Contact details of the municipal office

### Municipality of Lesachtal

9653 Liesing 29  
T 04716 242  
E [lesachtal@ktn.gde.at](mailto:lesachtal@ktn.gde.at)  
W [www.lesachtal.gv.at](http://www.lesachtal.gv.at)

### Tourism Information

Liesing 29, 9653 Liesing  
T 04716 242-12  
E [info@lesachtal.com](mailto:info@lesachtal.com)  
W [www.lesachtal.com](http://www.lesachtal.com)

# Municipality of St. Stefan im Gailtal

## Overview

- Size of the municipality in terms of population: 1,501–2,000 (as of: 1/1/2018)
- Villages: Bach, Bichlhof, Bodenhof, Dragantschach, Edling, Hadersdorf, Karnitzen, Köstendorf, Latschach, Matschiedl, Nieselach, Pölland, Pörtschach, St. Paul an der Gail, St. Stefan an der Gail, Schinzengraben, Schmölzing, Sussawitsch, Tratten, Vorderberg

### Historic overview of the municipality

The parish church of St. Stefan is first mentioned in a document from the 13th century. Over the next centuries, the development of the town was mainly influenced by the Bambergers, the Counts of Gorizia and finally the Habsburgers. Today's municipal district of St. Stefan im Gailtal is largely identical with the district council of Aichelburg that was in existence until 1848. In 1850, two municipalities were founded, that of St. Stefan an der Gail (population 1,983) and Vorderberg (population 681). The two were merged in the local municipality restructuring reform of 1973.

## Sights, traditions, customs and culture

The parish fairs held in the individual villages with the traditional "Kufenstechen" contest are the highlight of the year. The municipality also houses seven historic churches and castles (for instance the parish church of St. Stefan, the Maria im Graben pilgrimage church and the Steben pilgrimage church).

### Ways to get involved

The municipality has six volunteer fire brigades (St. Stefan, St. Paul, Tratten, Matschiedl, Köstendorf and Vorderberg). Customs and traditions are upheld by

associations such as the Alpenland Matschiedl brass band, the MGV Tratten male choir, the Karnitzen quintet and the Vorderberg women's choir.

A wide range of associations and clubs offer many opportunities to get involved in the community, for instance the bee-keeping association, the amateur dramatical society etc.

## Sports, leisure and social activities

The nature pool in Vorderberg is an oasis of peace and relaxation (open from May until September). Visitors can admire the facility with its water lilies and reeds from an observation deck. Many hiking trails as well as the Carnic bike trail R3 run across the municipality and are especially popular during the summer months.

### Childcare and educational facilities

The municipality of St. Stefan has a shared educational centre that houses the pre-school, primary school and music school.

## Economy and infrastructure

Tourism is the predominant source of income of the municipality that also houses 20 enterprises, most of them small in size. Leading businesses are the Karnischer Hof hotel in St. Paul and the Naturgut Matschiedl. Local shops are the Kaufhaus in Vorderberg and the butcher's shop Smole in St. Stefan.

A particularly cost-effective, innovative transport solution is the GO-Mobil model with a dedicated car service available for travel within the region of the Lower Gailtal valley.





## Contact details of the municipal office

### Municipality of St. Stefan im Gailtal

Schmölzing 7, 9623 St. Stefan im Gailtal

T 04283 2120

E [st.stefan-gailtal@ktn.gde.at](mailto:st.stefan-gailtal@ktn.gde.at)

W [www.st-stefan-gailtal.gv.at](http://www.st-stefan-gailtal.gv.at)

### Tourism Information

Schmölzing 7, 9623 St. Stefan im Gailtal

E [st.stefan-gailtal@ktn.gde.at](mailto:st.stefan-gailtal@ktn.gde.at)

W [www.st-stefan-gailtal.gv.at](http://www.st-stefan-gailtal.gv.at) → *Commerce and tourism (German only)*

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## CHAPTER 4: Residence

# Residence permit and settling in

You have moved to the district of Hermagor and are planning to stay for an extended period of time? Your right to reside here will depend on your nationality as well as the duration and purpose of your stay.

### Your nationality

If you come from a member state of the European Union or the European Economic Area and are planning to reside in Austria for longer than three months, you require documentation that proves your right to reside within the border of the European Economic Area. For more information, see [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at) → *Types of immigration* → *Mobility within the EU*

If you are a third-country national (i.e. not a national of an EU or EEA country or a Swiss national), you will need a residence permit.

### The purpose of your residence

There are three official purposes of your residence in Austria, which will define the length of your residence title:

- 1 Family reunification
- 2 Employment
- 3 Education

#### 1 Family reunification

You must specify the relation of the family member you are planning to join in Austria (degree of kinship) as well as his/her nationality (Austrian national, EEA national, third-country national).

#### 2 Employment

The type and scope of your employment is relevant here. As a highly qualified worker, a skilled worker in a shortage occupation or as a key worker, you may apply for a Red-White-Red Card. Family members of Red-White-Red Card holders may apply for a Red-White-Red Card plus. To find out more, visit [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at) → *Types of immigration* → *Permanent immigration*.

#### 3 Education

If you have come to Austria to study at a university, college or a University of Applied Sciences, you have the option of remaining in Austria for the duration of your course/degree (temporary residence permit). For more information, visit [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at) → *Types of immigration* → *Temporary residence*.

Do you have any other questions on residence titles and your right to reside? We have answered some of the most frequent questions for you in the section below.

#### I am an EU/EEA national. Do I need a visa/a residence title in Austria?

As an EU/EEA national or as a Swiss national, you do not require a visa for the first three months of your residence. You have the right to stay in Austria for longer than three months if you are employed or self-employed in Austria, if you are in education or training, and if you have sufficient resources as well as sickness insurance cover for yourself and your family. If you fulfil all these requirements, you will be issued a so-called "Anmeldebescheinigung" (registration certificate). An application for such a certificate has to be made within four months

from when you first arrived in Austria at the Bezirks-  
hauptmannschaft Hermagor (district administration).

For more information, visit [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at) →

*Types of immigration* → *Mobility within the EU*.

Also see [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at).

### **I am a third-country national. Do I need a visa/a residence title in Austria?**

As a rule, third-country nationals (nationals of countries outside the EU/EEA and non-Swiss nationals) require a visa when entering Austria. However, this visa is intended for a short-term stay only. Visas are issued subject to fulfilment of a certain set of requirements. Third-country nationals planning to stay in Austria for longer than six months require a residence title. Residence titles are issued for a specific purpose. The initial application for a residence title must be made prior to entering Austria, at the Austrian representation authority in the person's home country (embassy, consulate). Family members of Austrian nationals as well as EU/EEA nationals are exempt from this rule. Prior to entering Austria, the applicant must also demonstrate German skills at A1 level (as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). A1 denotes the elementary level (basic skills). Proof that these skills have been mastered must be presented in the form of a language diploma or course certificate issued by a Goethe Institute of the Austrian Integration Fund. Residence titles are issued for a certain period of time. Third-country nationals may receive an unlimited residence title (long-term resident/EU) if they were entitled to reside in Austria during the last five years without interruption and completed Module 2 of the Integration Agreement.

For more information, visit [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at) → *Types of immigration*. Also see [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Residence in Austria* → *Third-country nationals* → *General Information* → *Third-country nationals* and at [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Third-country nationals* → *Learning German before immigrating*.

### **What types of residence titles are there?**

For an overview of residence titles, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Residence in Austria* → *Third-country nationals* → *Residence titles*.

### **What is the Red-White-Red Card?**

With the Red-White-Red Card, Austria has set up a system for the points-based immigration of highly qualified third-country nationals. They are entitled to enter the country on a job-seeker visa for the purpose of finding employment within a period of six months. The Red-White-Red card is valid for two years and entitles the holder to reside in Austria temporarily and to work for a specified employer. For more information on the Red-White-Red Card, the Red-White-Red Card plus and the EU Blue Card, visit [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at) → *Types of immigration* → *Permanent immigration*. To find out more, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Residence in Austria* → *Third-country nationals* → *Residence permits* → „Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte“ (subject to legal changes)

## **Contact points**

### **Bezirkshauptmannschaft Hermagor (District administrative office)**

Passports and immigration law  
Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 536-63000  
E [post.bhhe@ktn.gv.at](mailto:post.bhhe@ktn.gv.at)

### **Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung (Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia)**

Electoral law, citizenship, civil status and residence  
Hasnerstraße 8, 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee  
T 050 536-10852  
E [abt1.wahlen@ktn.gv.at](mailto:abt1.wahlen@ktn.gv.at)

### **„Gemeindeämter“ in the district of Hermagor (municipal offices)**

To contact the municipal authorities in the district of Hermagor, please consult the pages for the specific communities.

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## CHAPTER 5: Language

# Learning German

To live and work in Austria, a knowledge of the German language is essential. Whether in the supermarket, the doctor's or at work: if you speak German, you will find it much easier to get by.

German language skills also make it easier to take part in community life, chat to friends and colleagues, attend events or get involved in clubs and associations. German language skills are the foundation of a successful life in Austria, both at work and outside the workplace.

### Where can I attend German courses in the district of Hermagor?

The website [www.sprachportal.at](http://www.sprachportal.at) → *Courses* lists all certified providers of German courses in your vicinity. In addition, the ÖIF also offers information on local German courses through its mobile advisory service. For details, see the end of this chapter under the heading "Providers of German courses" and at [www.integrationsfonds.at](http://www.integrationsfonds.at) → *Locations* → *Integrationszentrum Kärnten* → *Counseling*.

### What language levels are there and what do they stand for?

There are six language levels ranging from A1 to C2. A1 means that learners are familiar with everyday expressions and able to use and understand simple sentences. At A2 level, learners are able to master everyday situations such as shopping or a doctor's appointment, using simple, routine phrases and structures. At B1 level, learners are able to talk coherently about experiences and events, elaborate on their opinions or provide a description. For more information on the individual language levels, visit [www.osd.at](http://www.osd.at) → *Profile Deutsch* → *Die Referenzniveaus* (German only).

### How can "Mein Sprachportal" help me learn German?

The "Mein Sprachportal" website at [www.sprachportal.at](http://www.sprachportal.at) is a comprehensive service platform for learners of German, provided by the ÖIF. The website gives you the opportunity of improving your German at any time and free of charge, testing your German skills and preparing for exams, at home or when on the go. The platform comprises innovative learning material such as short films, animated graphics and podcasts as well as Austria-specific learning material for download. In this way, you can improve your German while also learning more about everyday life, culture and society, education systems and the employment market in Austria. The learning platform is available in ten languages: German, English, French, Turkish, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Polish, Romanian, Hungarian and Dari/Farsi. Registration is quick and easy and allows you to measure your personal progress directly in the Sprachportal. You can also use the Sprachportal to find out about exam dates all over Austria or register for an ÖIF exam online.

### What other language services does the ÖIF provide?

The ÖIF offers German courses for different target groups. In addition to literacy courses and standard language courses from levels A1 to B2, industry-specific courses and technical courses are also on offer, such as IT courses or courses to help you get started as a carer. The ÖIF also offers a wide range of learning material, for instance "**Deutsch lernen**", a free magazine to help you improve your German and learn more about living and integration in Austria, starting from level A1, and the publication "**Österreich Spiegel**" for more advanced levels.

### Who can take part in ÖIF German courses?

The German courses provided by the ÖIF are tailored to the needs of immigrants. Migrants, asylum seekers and those granted subsidiary protection are all eligible to take part in ÖIF German courses. The allocation of funding by the ÖIF adheres to the principle of subsidiarity, i.e. the ÖIF will make funding available if you are in need of support and do not receive funding from any other organisations. Make an appointment with the ÖIF to find out more about what kind of language-learning support is on offer.

### What is the Integration Agreement 2017?

The Integration Agreement 2017 supports the linguistic and cultural integration of migrants in Austria. New elements are the mandatory attendance of values and orientation courses and the communication of values as part of language classes. The integration exam therefore no longer requires just language skills, but also knowledge about cultural values and orientation. For more information on the Integration Agreement, visit [www.integrationsfonds.at/language/integration-agreement](http://www.integrationsfonds.at/language/integration-agreement).

The **ÖIF-App „Meine Integration in Österreich“** supports you in preparing for the integration exam. As a first step, you will learn about Austrian values. The study material is available in several languages. You then have the option of practising the questions contained in the question catalogue as often as you like and you will receive immediate feedback. Once you feel confident, you can sit a mock exam using the app. By answering real-life exam questions, you can test whether you are sufficiently prepared. The smart phone app of the ÖIF is available free of charge in the app stores for Android and iOS.

## Advisory services

### Integration Centre for Carinthia (Integrationszentrum Kärnten)

10.-Oktober-Straße 15, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 0463 503781-100  
E [kaernten@integrationsfonds.at](mailto:kaernten@integrationsfonds.at)  
W [www.integrationsfonds.at](http://www.integrationsfonds.at)

### Mobile advisory service of the ÖIF in Hermagor

Hermagor district administrative office, 4th floor  
Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0676 300 67 70

### Mobile advisory service of the ÖIF in Kirchbach

Kirchbach municipal office  
Kirchbach 155, 9632 Kirchbach  
T 0676 300 67 70

## Providers of German courses

### BFI Hermagor district office

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 2150  
W [www.bfi-kaernten.or.at](http://www.bfi-kaernten.or.at)

### Hermagor Adult Education Centre

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
E [vhs-hermagor@vhsktn.at](mailto:vhs-hermagor@vhsktn.at)  
W [www.vhsktn.at](http://www.vhsktn.at)

### Kötschach-Mauthen Adult Education Centre

Kötschach-Mauthen 302, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
E [VHS-Koetschach-Mauthen@vhsktn.co.at](mailto:VHS-Koetschach-Mauthen@vhsktn.co.at)  
W [www.vhsktn.at](http://www.vhsktn.at)



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## CHAPTER 6: Education

# The Austrian education system

Austria has a well-developed education system that is open to all. School attendance is mandatory for nine years. It is recommended that children start their education in a pre-school ("Kindergarten") from age of 3, before they reach the official school age. Pre-school attendance is mandatory in the year before a child has to start school.

All children who reside in Austria permanently must attend school from age of 6 until the age of 15. Children MUST attend school by law. Violations of this law are subject to severe punishment.

**Please note:** School holidays differ from province to province. For precise school holiday dates for the individual province, visit [www.bmbwf.gv.at](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at) → *Bildung* → *Beratung & Service* → *Ferien und schulfreie Tage*. (German only)

**IMPORTANT:** It is not permitted to take children out of school during term time, i.e. outside the school holidays. If this should be necessary for whatever reason, the head teacher of your child's school must be informed as early as possible.

### Childcare and pre-school education

To help parents get back to work again after having a baby, there is the option of having your child looked after at a crèche/nursery between the age of 1 and 3. From the age of 3, children may attend a pre-school ("Kindergarten"). Attendance is mandatory in the year before the child is due to start school. This applies to all children who turn five before the 1 September in the

year in question. This pre-school year (half-day) is mandatory and free of charge. Children benefit greatly if they attend a pre-school from an even younger age. To secure a pre-school place, children must be registered at the Gemeindeamt/Magistrat (municipal office). It is recommended to register your child as early as possible.

For more information, see [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Family and partnership* → *Childcare*. The pre-schools in the district of Hermagor are listed on the websites of the individual municipalities.

The "Kinderhort" provides afternoon care and is available for children from the age of 6. It provides a form of full-day care and supervises children after the end of the school day. You also have the option of having your child looked after by a registered childminder.

### An overview of the Austrian education system

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#### YEAR 1 TO YEAR 4

**Length:** 4 years

**Age of students:** Usually from 6 to 10

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#### Primary level: "Volksschule"

Children receive their primary education at the Volksschule for a period of 4 years. A child who turns 6 by the 31 August in a given year must start school the following September. The parents of school-age children will receive a letter from the Schulamt (education authority), asking them to enrol their child at a school. After 4 years of primary school, children attend either a "Neue Mittelschule" secondary school or a "Gymnasium" secondary school.

**YEAR 5 TO YEAR 8****Length:** 4 years**Age of students:** Usually from 10 to 14**Secondary level I:****"Neue Mittelschule" (NMS) (formerly "Hauptschule"),  
"Allgemeinbildende Höhere Schule" (AHS) - junior level**

At secondary school level I (NMS or AHS), students receive a more substantiated general education. The NMS is a comprehensive, compulsory school that is open to all students after year 4 of primary school. The NMS curriculum is based on that of the "Realgymnasium" school type. To attend an AHS at junior level, students must have passed all primary school subjects, with the grade "good" or "very good" in German, literacy and numeracy. If this is not the case, they must sit an admissions exam. The AHS school type aims at providing students with an extensive, in-depth general education. After graduating from the junior level of an NMS or AHS, students may choose between a wide range of institutions of secondary and higher education (see section on secondary level II).

**YEAR 9****Length:** 1 year**Age of students:** 14-15**Polytechnische Schule (PTS),  
year 1 of a vocational school,  
year 5 of an AHS senior level**

After the first eight years of schooling, students must choose a school type for completing their ninth and final year of compulsory schooling. This is an important decision for their further education and career path. Schools generally organise open days and taster days for prospective students. Educational/career advisers at the school may also help with the decision.

**YEAR 10 TO YEAR 12/13****Length:** 3-5 years**Age of students:** Usually from 15 to 18/19 years of age**Secondary level II: AHS senior level, Berufsbildende Höhere Schule (BHS) (Secondary vocational high school or college), Berufsbildende Mittlere Schule (BMS) (Secondary technical and vocational school), Berufsbildende Pflichtschule (vocational school)**

The BMS curriculum focuses on vocational and general qualifications. The BHS curriculum focuses on higher vocational qualifications and a comprehensive general

education. To graduate from an AHS or BHS at senior level, students must sit their school-leaving exams ("Matura"). Once these have been passed, they qualify for studying at university level.

**Sonderschule (Special needs school)**

Children with special educational needs are either be taught in special needs schools or in a mainstream school that offers integrative classes. Children whose German skills are not yet up to scratch are not considered as having special educational needs.

**Please note:** To see the full range of compulsory schooling facilities in the district, visit the websites of the individual municipalities in Hermagor or the pages relating to the individual municipalities in this manual.

**Vocational training after compulsory schooling (apprenticeships)**

Apprenticeships are vocational training programmes of 2 to 4 years in length. They start after the end of compulsory schooling (year 9). Apprentices receive their education at the training company and at a vocational school. Students who have passed their "Matura" are also eligible for apprenticeships.

Information on available apprenticeship programmes is available online on the following websites:

**A-Z list of trades requiring an apprenticeship:**

[www.bmdw.gv.at/Vocational training/](http://www.bmdw.gv.at/Vocational%20training/)

Apprenticeships and vocational training

**Platform for apprenticeships and vocational training:**

<http://lehrberufsliste.m-services.at> (German only)

**Job lexicon published by the Public Employment**

**Service Austria:** [www.beruflexikon.at](http://www.beruflexikon.at) (German only)

For a list of apprenticeship vacancies, visit:

**Apprenticeship exchange of the Public Employment****Service Austria:**

[www.ams.at/lehrstellen](http://www.ams.at/lehrstellen) → *Lehrlinge - Schnellsuche*

→ *Lehrstelle* → *Österreich - Kärnten - Hermagor*

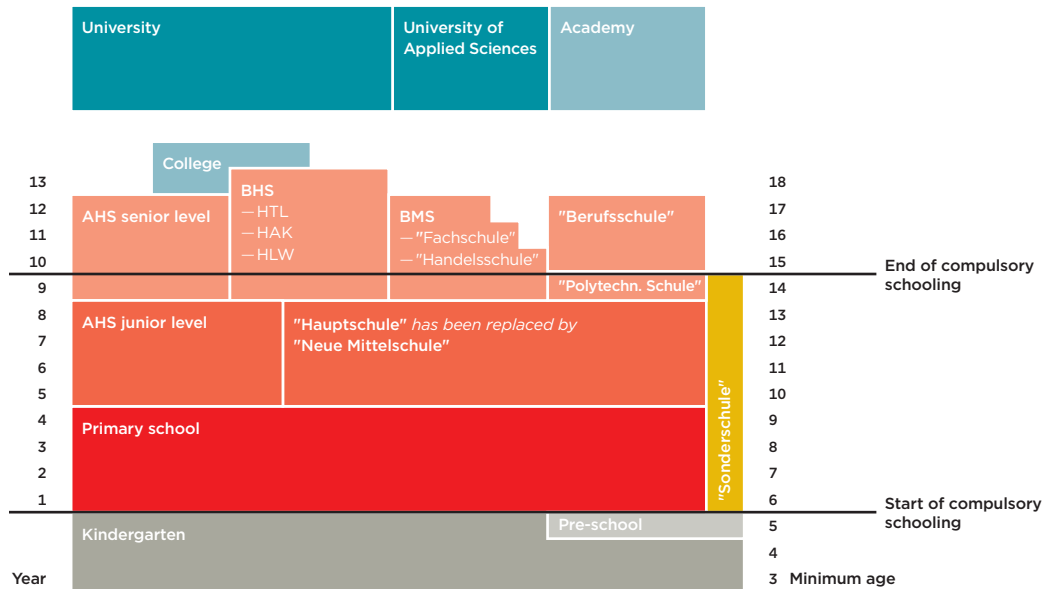
(German only)

**To search for apprenticeship vacancies:**

<http://lehrberuf.info>



## The Austrian school system



### Education after the "Matura" (tertiary education)

After completing the "Matura" exams, students may choose to study further at a university, University of Applied Sciences ("Fachhochschule") or teacher training institutes. The tertiary segment comprises bachelor's and master's degrees all the way to PhDs and post-doctoral qualifications.

### Do I have to pay tuition fees?

Austrian nationals, EU nationals and Convention refugees are exempt from tuition fees at universities and teacher training institutes if they do not exceed the regular course length per study segment ("Studienabschnitt") by more than two semesters (university) or one semester (teacher training institute). Tuition fees may apply at Universities of Applied Sciences even if the regular segment length is not exceeded.

Non-Austrian nationals from third countries must pay EUR 726.72 per semester. Students from certain countries are exempt from these tuition fees. For a list of

these countries and more information on the subject, visit [www.bmbwf.gv.at](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at) → Studies → Studying in Austria

### Can I get funding for my studies?

Austrian students, equivalent foreign nationals as well as stateless persons are entitled to a study grant in Austria ("Studienbeihilfe"). This grant is means-tested and subject to good academic results. Students producing excellent academic may also qualify for merit-based scholarships, which are not means-tested. For more information, see [www.stipendium.at](http://www.stipendium.at) (German only)

### Adult education and lifelong learning

For persons who have not completed their compulsory schooling, there is the option of doing so as adults. Apprenticeship diploma exams or secondary school vocational certificates may also be completed later on in life. As part of the commitment to lifelong learning, there is a wide range of options on offer for those wishing to improve their qualifications or explore a hobby in greater depth.

## Authorities

### Landesschulrat Kärnten

#### (Carinthian Provincial School Board)

10.-Oktober-Straße 24, 9020 Klagenfurt

T 0463 5812-0

E [office@lsr-ktn.gv.at](mailto:office@lsr-ktn.gv.at)

W [www.lsr-ktn.gv.at](http://www.lsr-ktn.gv.at)

### "Gemeindeämter" in the district of Hermagor (municipal offices)

The municipal offices in the district of Hermagor provide information on childcare, compulsory schooling as well as secondary schools. To contact the municipal authorities in the district of Hermagor, please consult the pages for the specific communities. You will also find a list of educational facilities on offer in each municipality.

## Secondary schools

### District of Hermagor

#### Bundesoberstufenrealgymnasium (BORG) Hermagor

##### (Senior secondary school for ages 14-18)

10.-Oktober-Straße 9, 9620 Hermagor

T 04282 2075

E [borg-hermagor@lsr-ktn.gv.at](mailto:borg-hermagor@lsr-ktn.gv.at)

W [www.borg-hermagor.at](http://www.borg-hermagor.at)

#### Höhere Lehranstalt für wirtschaftliche Berufe (HLW) Hermagor

##### (College for occupations in the service industries)

10.-Oktober-Straße 9, 9620 Hermagor

T 04282 3158-0

W [www.hlwhermagor.at](http://www.hlwhermagor.at)

#### Polytechnische Schulen/9. Schuljahr: Berufsvorbereitungsschule PTS Spittal

##### (Year 9: pre-vocational year)

Dr.-Arthur-Lemisch-Platz 1, 9800 Spittal an der Drau

T 04762 259415

E [direktion@pts-spittal.ksn.at](mailto:direktion@pts-spittal.ksn.at)

W [www.pts-spittal.ksn.at](http://www.pts-spittal.ksn.at)

#### Polytechnische Schule Lienz (Lienz Polytechnic School)

Emanuel-von-Hibler-Straße 10, 9900 Lienz

T 04852 63417

E [direktion@pts-lienz.tsn.at](mailto:direktion@pts-lienz.tsn.at)

W [www.pts-lienz.at](http://www.pts-lienz.at)

### Other schools

#### Landwirtschaftliche Fachschule (LFS) Litzlhof (Agricultural college)

Litzlhof 1, 9811 Lendorf

T 04769 2225-0

E [office@lfs-litzlhof.ksn.at](mailto:office@lfs-litzlhof.ksn.at)

W [www.litzlhof.com](http://www.litzlhof.com)

#### Landwirtschaftliche Fachschule Stiegerhof (Agricultural college)

Stiegerhofstraße 20, 9585 Gödersdorf

T 04257 2402

E [office@lfs-stiegerhof.ksn.at](mailto:office@lfs-stiegerhof.ksn.at)

W [www.lfs-stiegerhof.ksn.at](http://www.lfs-stiegerhof.ksn.at)

#### Landwirtschaftliche Landeslehranstalt (LLA) Lienz (Agricultural college)

Josef-Müller-Straße 1, 9900 Lienz

T 04852 65055

E [lla.lienz@tsn.at](mailto:lla.lienz@tsn.at)

W [www.lla-lienz.tsn.at](http://www.lla-lienz.tsn.at)

#### Bundesrealgymnasium (BRG) Spittal/Drau (Secondary school for ages 10-18)

Zernattostraße 10, 9800 Spittal an der Drau

T 04762 4112

E [brg-spittal-ahi@lsr-ktn.gv.at](mailto:brg-spittal-ahi@lsr-ktn.gv.at)

W [www.brg-spittal.com](http://www.brg-spittal.com)

#### Bundesoberstufenrealgymnasium (BORG) Spittal/Drau (Senior secondary school for ages 14-18)

Zernattostraße 10, 9800 Spittal/Drau

T 04762 5509

E [borg-spittal@lsr-ktn.gv.at](mailto:borg-spittal@lsr-ktn.gv.at)

W [www.borg-spittal.at](http://www.borg-spittal.at)

**BG & BRG Lienz****(Secondary school for ages 10-18)**

Maximilianstraße 11, 9900 Lienz  
 T 04852 62729  
 E [brg-lienz@tsn.at](mailto:brg-lienz@tsn.at)  
 W [www.brg-lienz.tsn.at](http://www.brg-lienz.tsn.at)

**Bundes-Oberstufenrealgymnasium (BORG) Lienz****(Secondary school for ages 10-18)**

Kärntnerstraße 8, 9900 Lienz  
 T 04852 62414  
 E [borg-lienz@tsn.at](mailto:borg-lienz@tsn.at)  
 W [www.borg-lienz.at](http://www.borg-lienz.at)

**BHAK & BHAS Spittal****(Commercial college & business school)**

Zernattostraße 2, 9800 Spittal an der Drau  
 T 04347 6261-340  
 E [hak.spittal@utanet.at](mailto:hak.spittal@utanet.at)  
 W [www.hakspittal.at](http://www.hakspittal.at)

**BHAK/BHAS Lienz****(Commercial college & business school)**

Weidengasse 1, 9900 Lienz  
 T 04852 63175  
 E [kontakt@hak-lienz.at](mailto:kontakt@hak-lienz.at)  
 W [www.hak-lienz.at](http://www.hak-lienz.at)

**Private Höhere Technische Lehranstalt (HTL) Lienz****(Private higher technical college)**

Linker Iselweg 22, 9900 Lienz  
 T 04852 72738  
 E [htl-lienz@tsn.at](mailto:htl-lienz@tsn.at)  
 W [www.htl-lienz.tsn.at](http://www.htl-lienz.tsn.at)

**HTL Villach (Higher technical college)**

Tschinowitscher Weg 5, 9500 Villach  
 T 04242 37061-0  
 E [office@htl-villach.at](mailto:office@htl-villach.at)  
 W [www.htl-villach.at](http://www.htl-villach.at)

**Music schools****Musikschule Hermagor**

Gailtalstraße 24, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04282 2013  
 E [hermagor@musikschule.at](mailto:hermagor@musikschule.at)  
 W [www.hermagor.musikschule.at](http://www.hermagor.musikschule.at)

**Musikschule Hermagor, St. Stefan im Gailtal branch**

Bach 25, 9623 St. Stefan im Gailtal  
 T 04282 2013  
 E [hermagor@musikschule.at](mailto:hermagor@musikschule.at)  
 W [www.hermagor.musikschule.at](http://www.hermagor.musikschule.at)

**Musikschule Hermagor, Gitschtal branch**

Weißbriach 202, 9622 Weißbriach  
 T 04282 2013  
 E [hermagor@musikschule.at](mailto:hermagor@musikschule.at)  
 W [www.hermagor.musikschule.at](http://www.hermagor.musikschule.at)

**Musikschule Kötschach-Mauthen/Lesachtal****→ Kötschach branch**

9640 Kötschach 124, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
 W [www.koetschach-lesachtal.musikschule.at](http://www.koetschach-lesachtal.musikschule.at)

**→ Lesachtal branch**

9654 St. Lorenzen 103 (Bildungszentrum Lesachtal)  
 W [www.koetschach-lesachtal.musikschule.at](http://www.koetschach-lesachtal.musikschule.at)

**Further education institutions and advisory services****Berufsförderungsinstitut (BFI) (Vocational Training Institute), Hermagor district office**

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04282 2150  
 E [info@bfi-kaernten.at](mailto:info@bfi-kaernten.at)  
 W [www.bfi-kaernten.or.at](http://www.bfi-kaernten.or.at)

**Volkshochschule (VHS) Hermagor****(Adult education centre)**

Town Hall, Wulfeniaplatz 1, 4th floor, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 050 477 7301  
 E [vhs-hermagor@vhs-ktn.at](mailto:vhs-hermagor@vhs-ktn.at)  
 W [www.vhs-ktn.at](http://www.vhs-ktn.at)

**WIFI Hermagor**

**(Economic Promotion Institute)**

Eggerstraße 9, 9620 Hermagor

T 05 9434 536

E hermagor@wkk.or.at

W www.wifikaernten.at

**Kompetenzberatung Kärnten**

**(advisory service)**

www.kompetenzberatung.at/home (German only)

**Verein Bildungsland Kärnten**

**(Carinthian Educational Associations)**

www.bildungsland.at/default.aspx?Siid=63sowie

(German only)

**Wissenslandkarte Kärnten**

**(information portal for educational services)**

www.wissenslandkarte.ktn.gv.at

## Higher education institutions

**Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt**

**(University of Klagenfurt)**

Universitätsstraße 65–67, 9020 Klagenfurt

T 0463 2700-9200

E studieninfo@aau.at

W www.aau.at

**Fachhochschule Kärnten**

**(University of Applied Sciences)**

Villacher Straße 1, 9800 Spittal an der Drau

T 05 90500-0

E info@fh-kaernten.at

W www.fh-kaernten.at

**Pädagogische Hochschule – Viktor Frankl Hochschule**

**(University College of Teacher Education)**

Hubertusstraße 1, 9020 Klagenfurt

T 0463 508508

E office@ph-kaernten.ac.at

W www.ph-kaernten.ac.at



# Recognition of qualifications

You have already started or completed a qualification programme in your country of origin? Then you might be able to have your qualification recognised ("nostrifizieren"). The nostrification process makes your non-Austrian diploma or degree equivalent to an Austrian diploma or degree. Make sure you find out more about having your qualification/diploma recognised by the Austrian authorities!

## Where can I have my school reports recognised?

To have your school reports recognised, they must be checked by the Austrian Ministry of Education and compared to the Austrian education system. It is possible that you may have to re-sit certain exams. For more information, see [www.bmbwf.gv.at](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at) → *Bildung* → *Unterricht und Schule* → *Bewertung und Nostrifikation ausländischer Zeugnisse* (German only).

## Where can I have my school-leaving diploma recognised?

The Ministry of Science is responsible for recognising secondary school-leaving diplomas. The school-leaving diplomas of several countries are recognised automatically. For a full list and additional information, see [www.bmbwf.gv.at](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at) → *Studium* → *Academic Mobility* → *ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA* → *FAQ* → *Anerkennung von Reifezeugnissen*.

## Where can I have my university degree recognised?

To have a university degree recognised, you must apply to an Austrian university or University of Applied

Sciences, or to ENIC NARIC, the central information point of the Ministry of Science. With regard to university degrees, agreements exist between Austria and other states to facilitate the recognition of your degree. For information, points of contact and advisory services, visit [www.nostrifizierung.at](http://www.nostrifizierung.at).

## Where can I have my vocational qualifications recognised?

Different bodies are responsible for the recognition of vocational qualifications for the individual industry. For a complete overview of these bodies, see [www.berufsanerkennung.at](http://www.berufsanerkennung.at).

## Authorities

### Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research)

Minoritenplatz 5, 1010 Wien

T 01 53120-0

E [ministerium@bmbwf.gv.at](mailto:ministerium@bmbwf.gv.at)

W [www.bmbwf.gv.at](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at)

### Bundeskanzleramt Österreich - Frauen, Familien und Jugend - Frauen und Gleichstellung (Federal Chancellery of Austria - Women, Families and Youth - Women and Equality)

Ballhausplatz Wien, 1010 Wien

T 0800 222 666 (Citizens' advice service)

E [service@bka.gv.at](mailto:service@bka.gv.at)

W [www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at](http://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at)



**Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung  
Abteilung 6 – Bildung und Sport  
(Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia,  
Department 6)**

Mießtaler Straße 1, 9021 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee  
T 050 536-16002  
E [abt6.post@ktn.gv.at](mailto:abt6.post@ktn.gv.at)  
W [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at)

## **Advisory services**

**Contact point for persons with qualifications obtained  
in other countries (AST) ZEBRA – Intercultural Therapy  
& Counselling Centre**

Rudolfsbahngürtel 40, 9020 Klagenfurt  
(at AMS Klagenfurt)  
T 0316 83 56 30  
E [ast.kaernten@zebra.or.at](mailto:ast.kaernten@zebra.or.at)  
W [www.zebra.or.at](http://www.zebra.or.at) → *Therapy & Counselling* →  
*AST contact point*

## **Universities and higher education institutions**

**Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt  
(University of Klagenfurt)**

Universitätsstraße 65–67, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 0463 2700-9200  
E [studieninfo@aau.at](mailto:studieninfo@aau.at)  
W [www.aau.at](http://www.aau.at) → *Study* → *Studying at AAU* → *During  
your programme* → *Recognition of examinations*

**Fachhochschule Kärnten  
(University of Applied Sciences)**

Villacher Straße 1, 9800 Spittal an der Drau  
T 05 90500-0  
E [info@fh-kaernten.at](mailto:info@fh-kaernten.at)  
W [www.fh-kaernten.at](http://www.fh-kaernten.at) → *About CUAS* → *Study* →  
*Recognition of Prior Learning*

**Pädagogische Hochschule – Viktor Frankl Hochschule  
(University College of Teacher Education)**

Hubertusstraße 1, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 0463 508508  
E [office@ph-kaernten.ac.at](mailto:office@ph-kaernten.ac.at)  
W [www.ph-kaernten.ac.at](http://www.ph-kaernten.ac.at)

## CHAPTER 7: Working, employment and finances

# Working in the Hermagor region

The region of Hermagor is not just an attractive place to live, but also to work. There are approximately 660 businesses in the region (as of: 2015).

The majority of employees in the region work in the service industry (approx. 71%), mostly in the public administration, education, healthcare and social care sector (approx. 33%), followed by the hotel and restaurant sector (approx. 25%). The production sector also employs a lot of people (approx. 29%), in particular in the construction industry (approx. 45%) and the manufacturing sector (manufacturing of machinery and equipment; approx. 26%). For more information, see WIBIS Kärnten, Bezirksprofil Hermagor, updated 2018.

### Who are the biggest employers in the district?

The largest manufacturing companies (in terms of employee numbers) are:

Name of business	Number of employees (rounded)
A. Zoppoth Haustechnik-Gesellschaft m.b.H.	160
Seiwald Bau GmbH	150
Hasslacher Hermagor GmbH	50
LOIK-BAU GesmbH	40
Karnische Massiv Möbel GmbH	40
Petritsch Edelstahltechnik GmbH	40
Hasslacher Werke e.U.	40

AMS Österreich, Hermagor regional office, as of: 01/01/2017

The largest service industry companies (in terms of employee numbers) are:

Name of business	Number of employees (rounded)
Landeskrankenanstalten-Betriebsgesellschaft - KABEG Gailtal-Klinik	320
Landeskrankenanstalten-Betriebsgesellschaft - KABEG Laas	230
Stadtgemeinde Hermagor-Pressegger See	126
Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Carinzia Betriebs GmbH	90
Robinson Austria Clubhotel GmbH	70
Clubhotel Gesellschaft mbH	70
Stadtgemeindeamt Hermagor-Pressegger See	60
Falkensteiner Hotel Sonnenalpe GmbH	60
Hotel Gartnerkofel Waldner GmbH	50
Almwellness-Hotel Tuffbad Gesellschaft mbH & CO KG	50
Autohaus Patterer GmbH	40
Biopension Familie Daberer Gesellschaft mbH	40

AMS Österreich, Hermagor regional office, as of: 01/01/2017

### Am I allowed to work in Austria?

Whether you are allowed to work in Austria and whether you are subject to certain limitations when it comes to accessing the labour market depends on your residence





status. For more information, see [www.ams.at](http://www.ams.at) → *Arbeitssuchende* → *AusländerInnen* → *Asylberechtigte* (available for download in English).

#### **Who can help me find a job?**

The Arbeitsmarktservice (AMS) will support you in finding a job or apprenticeship position. The AMS can also help you if you already have a job, but are looking for a career change. For more information, visit [www.ams.at](http://www.ams.at).

#### **Where can I turn if I have problems with my employer?**

Austria has two organisations that represent the interests of employees: the Austrian Chamber of Labour (Arbeiterkammer, AK) and the Austrian Trade Union Federation (Gewerkschaftsbund, ÖGB). Employees are automatically members of the Chamber of Labour. The Chamber of Labour provides advice if you have any questions relating to employment law. Simply contact your nearest branch office. For a list of contact addresses, see [www.arbeiterkammer.at](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at).

If you are self-employed or have your own business, your interests are represented by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (Wirtschaftskammer, WKO). Again, membership is automatic. For more information, visit [www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at).

#### **What do I do if I lose my job?**

If you lose your job, you must notify the Arbeitsmarktservice (AMS) immediately. The AMS will help you in finding a new position and will inform you on whether you are eligible for unemployment benefit. The purpose of unemployment benefit is to keep you afloat while you are looking for work. To receive unemployment benefit, you must demonstrate that you are doing your best to find employment again as soon as possible. It is therefore important that you invest sufficient time in finding another job. For more information, visit [www.ams.at](http://www.ams.at) → *Geschäftsstellen* (German only).

#### **Do I have to pay for my own insurance?**

As an employee or contractor, you will be insured by your employer, which means that you automatically pay your social insurance.

### Do I have to pay tax?

If you are an employee, i.e. not self-employed, your employer is obligated by law to pay tax on your wages. Your employer pays this tax directly to the Austrian tax authority. The amount of tax on your wages depend on your income. If you are self-employed, a freelancer or contract worker, you must pay income tax and send an income tax return to the financial authority every year and on your own initiative. For more information on taxes, see [www.bmf.gv.at](http://www.bmf.gv.at) → *Steuern* → *Für Arbeitnehmer/innen & Pensionist/innen* → *Arbeitnehmer/innen-Veranlagung* (German only).

### How can I start my own business?

You have a great idea for starting out on your own? No matter what motivates you to fulfil your entrepreneurial ambitions, before you start earning money, there is a bit of paperwork to be done. For more information, visit [www.gruenderservice.at](http://www.gruenderservice.at) or the homepage of the Chamber of Commerce at [www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at). Also refer to the homepage of the Ministry of Finance [www.bmf.gv.at](http://www.bmf.gv.at) → *Steuern* → *Für Selbstständige & Unternehmen* → *Ich mache mich selbstständig* (German only).

## Contact points

### AMS Hermagor

Eggerstraße 19, 9620, Hermagor  
T 04282 2061  
E [ams.hermagor@ams.at](mailto:ams.hermagor@ams.at)  
W [www.ams.at/ktn](http://www.ams.at/ktn)

### Arbeiterkammer Kärnten, Bezirksstelle Hermagor (Chamber of Labour)

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 477  
E [hermagor@akktn.at](mailto:hermagor@akktn.at)  
W <http://kaernten.arbeiterkammer.at>

### autArk IntegrationsFachDienst

Hauptstraße 32, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 24501  
W [www.autark.co.at](http://www.autark.co.at)

### Institut für Arbeitsmigration (IAM)

Gabelsbergerstraße 11-13, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 0463 509 301  
E [info@iam.co.at](mailto:info@iam.co.at)

## Consulting services in Hermagor

### Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund – Landesorganisation Kärnten (Carinthian branch of the Austrian Trade Union Federation)

Bahnhofstraße 44, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 0463 5870  
E [kaernten@oegb.at](mailto:kaernten@oegb.at)

### AMS Hermagor

Eggerstraße 19, 9620, Hermagor  
T 0699 18 31 59 96

### Wirtschaftskammer Kärnten – Bezirksstelle Hermagor (Hermagor branch of the Chamber of Labour)

Eggerstraße 9, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0590 904-536  
E [hermagor@wkk.or.at](mailto:hermagor@wkk.or.at)  
W [www.wko.at/ktn](http://www.wko.at/ktn)

### Gründerservice der WKO

### (Start-up service of the Chamber of Commerce)

Eggerstraße 9, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0590 904-745  
E [gruenderservice@wkk.or.at](mailto:gruenderservice@wkk.or.at)  
W [www.gruenderservice.at](http://www.gruenderservice.at)

# Finances

## Why do I need a bank account?

When you open a bank account, your wages can be paid directly into your account. You will also receive a "Bankomat" card (debit card) that allows you to withdraw cash from cash dispensers or to pay in shops without using cash. A bank account is a prerequisite for cashless payments, for instance rent payments that are usually conducted without using cash. With a standing order, a certain sum (for instance your rent) will be paid into a different account at regular intervals. Having a bank account also accrues bank charges. Banks offer different account packages - it is worth shopping around to see how costs differ from bank to bank.

## Where can I find out more about taxes?

Several kinds of taxes are collected in Austria. As an employee or a self-employed person, you must pay tax on your wages or income tax (see chapter "Working in the district of Hermagor"). Value-added tax is automatically added to invoices and bills and is a tax paid on the exchange of goods and services. For important information on taxes, see <https://finanzonline.bmf.gv.at> or [www.bmf.gv.at](http://www.bmf.gv.at) → *Taxation*.

## How can I get a bank loan?

Banks offer various kinds of loans with different repayment terms. Compare what is on offer and make sure that the terms of the loan are explained to you in detail, for instance, what happens if you want to pay off your loan in full before the official end of the repayment period. Be careful when it comes to overdrawing your account: Money that you borrow from the bank in this way is repaid at extremely high interest!

## I am in debt. Where can I get advice?

Debts can spiral out of control if you don't do something about them early on. If you fall behind with your rent, for instance, you may lose your home. Electricity and gas are also cut off if you fall behind with your payments.

Make an appointment with a debt advice centre, for instance the Schuldnerberatung Kärnten. For more information, see [www.schuldnerberatung.at](http://www.schuldnerberatung.at) → *Beratungsstellen* → *Kärnten* (German only).

## Important

**Before opening a bank account or savings book or signing up for a bank loan, make sure to compare the terms and conditions of the individual banks as they may differ greatly! Visit [www.bankenrechner.at](http://www.bankenrechner.at) to compare the terms and conditions of the individual banks.**

## Official authorities for the district of Hermagor

### Finanzamt Villach (Tax office)

Meister-Friedrich-Straße 2, 9500 Villach  
T 050 233 233  
W [www.bmf.gv.at](http://www.bmf.gv.at)

### Finanzamt Spittal (Tax office)

Dr.-Arthur-Lemisch-Platz 2, 9800 Spittal an der Drau  
T 050 233 233  
W [www.bmf.gv.at](http://www.bmf.gv.at)

## Advisory services

### Open days of the debt advisory service at the BH Hermagor (Schuldnerberatung)

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 536 63460  
E [bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at](mailto:bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at)  
W [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at)

### Schuldnerberatung Kärnten - Villach (Debt advisory service)

Bahnhofplatz 8, 9500 Villach  
T 04242 22616  
E [office@schuldnerberatung-villach.at](mailto:office@schuldnerberatung-villach.at)  
W [www.schuldenberatung.at](http://www.schuldenberatung.at) → *Beratungsstellen* → *Kärnten* (German only)

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## CHAPTER 8: Housing

# Housing and living together

### Where can I find a place to live?

Check the daily papers for places to rent or buy (e.g. *Kleine Zeitung*), contact estate agents, housing associations or the housing department of your local municipality. Information on the list of requirements for getting a state-funded flat, see [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Bauen, Wohnen und Umwelt* → *Wohnen* → *Gemeindewohnungen* (German only).

There are also special websites that can help you find somewhere to live, for instance:

[www.bazar.at](http://www.bazar.at) → *Immobilien*  
[www.willhaben.at](http://www.willhaben.at) → *Immobilien*  
[www.immosuchmaschine.at](http://www.immosuchmaschine.at)  
[www.privatmarkt.at](http://www.privatmarkt.at)  
[www.immodirekt.at](http://www.immodirekt.at)  
[www.immmo.at](http://www.immmo.at)  
[www.wohnet.at](http://www.wohnet.at)

**Important:** Check the weekend editions of newspapers as they contain a wealth of information on apartments and houses available for let. Also contact the housing departments of your municipality and let them know that you are looking for somewhere to live.

### Where do I have to register my address when I have moved into a flat?

In Austria, it is mandatory to register your address. This means that you need to register your address at your *Gemeindeamt/Magistrat* (municipal office) within three days of moving in.

### To register, you will need the following documents:

- Completed registration form ("Meldezettel"): available at the registration office or via the Internet
- Passport and birth certificate
- Registration certificate for all other addresses
- The registration certificate must be signed by the landlord and the tenant and handed in at the registration office.

For more information, visit [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Living in Austria* → *Residence* → *Registration/De-Registration*.

### What additional costs should I expect for a rental flat?

#### 1. Initial costs (one-off payments)

##### Deposit

This is to safeguard the landlord's interests in case of damages to the rental property or loss of rental payments. Usually, a deposit consists of two to three months' net rent.

##### Agent's fees

For apartments found through an agent, the tenant must usually pay a fee.

##### Contract fee

Written rental agreements are subject to a fee payable to the local tax office. The amount of this fee depends on the amount of rent. The rental agreement usually specifies who pays this fee (landlord or tenant). Usually, the fee is paid by the tenant.

##### Transfer fee ("Ablöse")

If the landlord has reimbursed the previous tenant for

investments made in the property, the landlord may pass on this cost to the next tenant. A transfer fee may also be charged for fittings and furniture bought by the previous tenant. For more information, see [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at) → *Building and housing* → *Rentals*.

## 2. Running costs

### Monthly rent payments and service charges

The rent comprises the cost of usage for the property in question. As a rule, service charges are added to the rent payment (waste collection, water, cleaning, sewage etc.). In combination, these make up the gross rent.

### Electricity and heating

These are usually not part of the service charge and must be paid separately. How much you have to pay in electricity and heating will depend on your actual usage. Usually, electricity and heating charges are paid in several instalments.

### What is contents insurance ("Haushaltsversicherung")?

If you have concluded a contents insurance policy, costs for damages that were caused by water or fire will be paid for by the insurance company. If you do not have such an insurance policy, you must pay for these repairs yourself.

### Am I eligible for housing assistance ("Wohnbeihilfe")?

Tenants for whom housing expenses constitute an unreasonable burden are eligible for housing assistance. According to the Carinthian Housing Construction Subsidy Act of 1997 (Kärntner Wohnbauförderungsgesetz; K-WBFG 1997), eligible persons are Austrian citizens or persons with equal status according to section 2, line 12 of the K-WBFG, in particular EU or EEA citizens, Convention refugees and persons who have lost Austrian citizenship after 1933 due to political, racial or religious reasons, were forced to emigrate from Austria and returned at a later point.

### What are House Rules ("Hausordnung")?

Residential buildings and official buildings have special House Rules. These regulate life in the building (e.g. quiet

times, cleanliness, safety, pets, rubbish separation, behaviour in play areas) and are intended to make living together easier for everyone. Usually, these rules are displayed at a central point in the building, for instance near the front entrance. Often, buildings also have a notice board where the property manager and/or the landlord puts of important information. A curfew applies from 10pm until 6am. During this time, loud music, TV or music-making is not allowed. Please be considerate of your neighbours, also when it comes to having parties.

**Important:** If you are not sure about a provision in the House Rules, please ask your property manager.

### Where can I go if there are problems?

The Arbeiterkammer Kärnten (Chamber of Labour) provides advice on consumer protection and publishes information brochures on tenancy law. For more information, see [www.kaernten.arbeiterkammer.at](http://www.kaernten.arbeiterkammer.at) → *Beratung* → *Konsumentenschutz* → *Bauen & Wohnen*. (German only)

### What do I do if I lose my home?

If you are afraid of becoming homeless or have already become homeless, contact the housing advice service of Volkshilfe Kärnten: [volkshilfe-ktn.artemis.foon.at](http://volkshilfe-ktn.artemis.foon.at) → *Dienstleistungen Wohnen* → *Wohnberatungsstelle Klagenfurt* (German only), T 0664 88 94 6205.

### I want to buy an apartment or a house.

#### What do I need to know?

Many people eventually decide to buy a property instead of renting one. As a property owner, you no longer pay rent, but you do pay service charges (water, chimney-cleaning, waste collection, cleaning, elevator maintenance costs) as well as other maintenance and repair charges. Before making the decision to buy, check your financial leeway and compare the financing options available at different banks. If you are not sure, have the contract checked by a lawyer or notary prior to signing it.

The website [www.kaernten.arbeiterkammer.at](http://www.kaernten.arbeiterkammer.at) → *Beratung* → *Konsumentenschutz* → *Bauen & Wohnen* → *Eigentum* (German only) also contains useful information.



### I want to build a house. What do I need to know?

If you want to buy a plot as a non-Austrian citizen, you need a special permission. The process to obtain this permission takes two to three months and varies from province to province. Contact the competent land registry office ("Grundverkehrsbehörde") prior to submitting your application.

For more information, visit: [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at) → *Living and working in Austria* → *Housing* → *Property ownership*.

### Info

**The contact persons in the housing department of your municipality will be able to provide advice on state-funded housing in your area. To contact the municipal authorities in the district of Hermagor, please consult the pages for the specific communities.**

### Authorities

**Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung  
Abteilung 11 – Zukunftsentwicklung, Arbeitsmarkt  
und Wohnbau  
(Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia,  
Department 11)**

Mießtalerstraße 1, 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee  
T 050 536-31002  
E [abt11.wohnbau@ktn.gv.at](mailto:abt11.wohnbau@ktn.gv.at)

### Advisory services

**Arbeiterkammer Kärnten, Bezirksstelle Hermagor  
(Chamber of Labour, Hermagor branch)**

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 477  
E [hermagor@akktn.at](mailto:hermagor@akktn.at)  
W <http://kaernten.arbeiterkammer.at>

**Mietervereinigung Österreichs –  
(Austrian Tenancy Association)  
Landesgeschäftsstelle Kärnten**

*(please note that paid membership is required)*  
T 05 0195-2300  
E [kaernten@mietervereinigung.at](mailto:kaernten@mietervereinigung.at)  
W [www.mietervereinigung.at](http://www.mietervereinigung.at)

**Mieterschutzverband Kärnten  
(Tenants' Protection Association)**

*(please note that paid membership is required)*  
Benediktinerplatz 5/1, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 0463 513092  
E [office@msv-kaernten.at](mailto:office@msv-kaernten.at)  
W [www.mieterschutzverband.at](http://www.mieterschutzverband.at)

**Österreichischer Mieter- und  
Wohnungseigentümerbund  
(Tenants' and Owners' Association)**

T 0463 5862-21  
F 0463 5862-25  
E [www.mieterbund.at](http://www.mieterbund.at)

# Separating waste, saving energy, living sustainably

In Austria, the environment and environmental protection are held in high regard. An intact, natural environment, extended woodlands, well cared-for parks and high-quality drinking water make Austria one of the countries with the highest standard of living worldwide.

## Why is it important to separate your waste?

Separating waste means that many materials may be re-used and re-cycled, thereby saving on precious raw materials and protecting the environment. Most of the waste we produce is collected by the public waste collection service at regular intervals. Certain waste materials may be taken to the collection points provided by the municipality. Find out more about correct waste disposal here: [www.saubermacher.at](http://www.saubermacher.at) → Services → Trennhilfe (German only).

Every household should separate the following waste groups: organic waste, paper/cardboard, glass, metal/cans, plastic, problematic substances, clothing, Styrofoam, drink cartons.

## How can I save energy and money at the same time?

The sensible use of energy is a good way of reducing pressure on your household budget. Doing laundry accounts for about one quarter of a household's electricity consumption. Measures such as reducing the wash temperature, using the short wash cycle and always

putting in a full load yield tangible results when it comes to saving money. Also make sure you opt for low-energy appliances when purchasing new electrical appliances. Appliances come with a label specifying their energy efficiency class, i.e. the amount of energy consumed by the appliance over the course of one year. The scale goes from A (very low energy consumption) to G (highest level of consumption).

## How important is water in Austria?

Austria abounds with clean rivers and lakes and has a protected drinking and service water supply throughout the country. The high quality and seamless availability of water is essential for public health and hygiene. One prerequisite for this is the careful disposal of wastewater, i.e. making sure that leftover oil and food is not disposed of in the toilet or sink.

## Authorities

**Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung**  
**Abteilung 8 - Umwelt, Energie und Naturschutz**  
**(Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia,**  
**Department 8)**

Flatschacher Straße 70, 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee  
T 050 536 18002  
E [abt8.post@ktn.gv.at](mailto:abt8.post@ktn.gv.at)





## Waste and waste avoidance

### **Abfallwirtschaftsverband (AWV) Westkärnten (West Carinthian waste management association)**

Kühwegboden 13, 9620 Hermagor-Presssegger See  
T 04282 2333-270  
E [office@awvwestkaernten.at](mailto:office@awvwestkaernten.at)  
W [www.awvwestkaernten.at](http://www.awvwestkaernten.at)

### **Altstoffsammelzentrum Dellach im Gailtal (recycling centre)**

Gemeinde Dellach im Gailtal  
9635 Dellach im Gailtal (former rubble disposal site)

### **Altstoffsammelzentrum Gitschtal (recycling centre)**

Gemeinde Gitschtal  
9622 Weißbriach (north of Langwiesen)

### **Altstoffsammelzentrum Hermagor (recycling centre)**

Stadtgemeinde Hermagor-Presssegger See  
Kühwegboden 13, 9620 Hermagor

### **Altstoffsammelzentrum Kirchbach (recycling centre)**

Marktgemeinde Kirchbach  
Kirchbach 155, 9632 Kirchbach

### **Altstoffsammelzentrum Kötschach-Mauthen (recycling centre)**

Marktgemeinde Kötschach-Mauthen  
Kötschach 523, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
(next to sewage treatment plant)

### **Altstoffsammelzentrum Lesachtal (recycling centre)**

Gemeinde Liesing, 9653 Liesing

### **Animal carcass disposal**

Hermagor recycling centre  
Stadtgemeinde Hermagor-Presssegger See  
Kühwegboden 13, 9620 Hermagor

## Saving energy and protecting the environment

### **energie:bewusst Kärnten -**

#### **Independent energy advice association**

Flatschacher Straße 70, 9020 Klagenfurt  
T 050 536 18802  
E [energiebewusst@ktn.gv.at](mailto:energiebewusst@ktn.gv.at)  
W [www.energiebewusst.at](http://www.energiebewusst.at)

### **Karnische Energie model climate and energy region**

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0664 88 941 800  
W [www.karnische-energie.at](http://www.karnische-energie.at)

# Health insurance, doctor's appointments and care services

## Do I have health insurance?

In Austria, every person who works must have health insurance ("Pflichtversicherung", mandatory insurance). How exactly your insurance works depends on your type of employment. Minors and students can be included in their parents' insurance. Spouses can also be included in their husband's/wife's insurance. For more information, visit [www.sozialversicherung.at](http://www.sozialversicherung.at) (German only).

## How can I get health insurance for my wife/husband/child?

Family members who do not have their own insurance and who live in your household may be included in your insurance. For more information, visit [www.sozialversicherung.at](http://www.sozialversicherung.at) → *Online-Services* → *Versicherte* → *Online Ratgeber* → *Mitversicherung Angehörige* (German only).

## What does the health insurance cover?

Your health insurance covers medical assistance, hospital stays, nursing care at home, rehabilitation, medication and the purchase of therapeutic aids (e.g. wheel chair). Your insurance does not cover consultations with a physician who does not have a contract with your insurance company.

## Where should I go if I feel unwell?

In Austria, people don't usually go to a hospital when

they feel unwell (except for emergencies). Your first port of call should be your general practitioner. Visit [www.aekkt.at](http://www.aekkt.at) → *Arztsuche* (German only) to search for doctors in your area.

**Important:** Always bring your social insurance card (e-card) when going to the doctor.

## I am an employee. What should I do if I get sick? (sick leave and doctor's note)

Employees are obliged by law to inform their employers immediately if they are unable to come to work because of sickness. In most cases, this is done over the phone, ideally right before the start of working hours or even earlier. Next, you must consult a doctor and ask for a sick note. Your employer has the right to ask for such a note ("**Krankenstandsbestätigung**"). This note must include the start date, likely duration and reason for your absence from work. The reason for your absence does not refer to the actual diagnosis, it should simply state whether you are sick or have had an accident. For more information, visit: [www.arbeiterkammer.at](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at) → *Beratung* → *Arbeit & Recht* → *Krankheit & Pflege* → *Krankenstand* (German only).

## What does "psychosocial health" mean?

Good health includes not just physical, but also mental aspects. Life-changing events and experiences (e.g. displacement, a death in the family, a break-up) may cause traumata and psychological disorders such as depression, anxiety or sleep disorders. Psychological issues can also



lead to physical problems or play a part in them. The **Psychiatrische Not- und Krisendienst** (psychiatric emergency service) is available around the clock and free of charge (Hotline: 0664 30 09 003).

**What is a preventive check-up ("Vorsorgeuntersuchung")?**

Preventive check-ups are medical examinations that are performed on a regular basis, even if you don't feel ill, with the purpose of monitoring your state of health. Persons over the age of 18 are eligible to one free check-up a year. For more information, see the website of the Kärntner Gebietskrankenkasse insurance company **www.kgkk.at** → *Vorsorge* → *Gesundheitsvorsorge* → *Vorsorge(Gesunden)-untersuchung* (German only).

A preventive approach towards health also means protecting yourself from diseases and making sure that your vaccinations are up to date. To find out more about which vaccinations you and your children should receive, visit **www.kgkk.at** → *Vorsorge* → *Schutzimpfungen* (German only).

**Where can I get information on nursing care for older or disabled persons?**

If you are unable to care for a family member yourself, there are nursing services available who offer professional support in looking after people at home. People who require care may be eligible for care allowance ("Pflegegeld"). For more information, visit **www.pflegedaheim.at**

**Where can I get information on disabled persons?**

For information on topics such as disability badges, education options and allowances for persons with a disability, visit **www.help.gv.at** → *Menschen mit Behinderungen* (German only). For questions on equal opportunities for persons with a disability, contact the free hotline at 0800 201 611.

## Authorities

### **Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit und Konsumentenschutz (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection)**

Stubenring 1, 1010 Wien

T 0800 201622

E [post@sozialministerium.at](mailto:post@sozialministerium.at)

W [www.sozialministerium.at](http://www.sozialministerium.at) → *Pension/Nursing* → *Long-term Care* → *Benefit*

### **Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung**

#### **Abteilung 4 – Soziale Sicherheit**

**(Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia, Department 4)**

Mießtaler Straße 1, 9021 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee

T 050 536-14504

E [abt4.post@ktn.gv.at](mailto:abt4.post@ktn.gv.at)

W [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at) → *Verwaltung* → *Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung* → *Abteilung 4 – Soziale Sicherheit* (German only)

### **Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung**

#### **Abteilung 5 – Gesundheit und Pflege**

**(Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia, Department 5)**

Mießtaler Straße 1, 9021 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee

T 050 536-15002

E [abt5.post@ktn.gv.at](mailto:abt5.post@ktn.gv.at)

W [www.ktn.gv.at](http://www.ktn.gv.at) → *Verwaltung* → *Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung* → *Abteilung 5 – Gesundheit und Pflege* (German only)

## Hospitals in the district of Hermagor

### **Gailtal-Klinik**

Radnigerstraße 12, 9620 Hermagor

T 04282 2220

E [office@gailtal-klinik.at](mailto:office@gailtal-klinik.at)

W [www.gailtal-klinik.at](http://www.gailtal-klinik.at)

### **Landeskrankenhaus Laas**

Laas 39, 9640 Kötschach

T 04715 7701-0

E [office@lkh-laas.at](mailto:office@lkh-laas.at)

W [www.lkh-laas.at](http://www.lkh-laas.at)

### **Medalm**

Tröpolach 168, 9631 Jenig

E [info@medalm-nassfeld.at](mailto:info@medalm-nassfeld.at)

W [www.medalm-nassfeld.at](http://www.medalm-nassfeld.at)

### **Zahnambulatorium der Kärntner Gebietskrankenkasse (outpatient dental clinic of the Carinthian Public Health Insurance)**

Egger Straße 7, 9620 Hermagor

T 050 5855 4300

E [hermagor@kgkk.at](mailto:hermagor@kgkk.at)

W [www.kgkk.at](http://www.kgkk.at)

## Doctors

You are looking for a doctor in your area? The website of the Carinthian Medical Chamber contains information at **[www.aekkt.at](http://www.aekkt.at)** → *Arztsuche* (German only) and lists all doctors in your area.

## Healthcare and nursing institutions

### **AVS – Sozial- und Gesundheitszentrum Hermagor (social and healthcare centre)**

Hauptstraße 51, 9620 Hermagor

T 04282 25199-300

E [avs.hermagor@avs-sozial.at](mailto:avs.hermagor@avs-sozial.at)

W [www.avs-sozial.at](http://www.avs-sozial.at)

### **AVS – Pflegeheim Hermagor „Haus Wulfenia“ (nursing home)**

Hauptstraße 51, 9620 Hermagor

T 04282 25199

E [aph-hermagor.office@avs-sozial.at](mailto:aph-hermagor.office@avs-sozial.at)

W [www.avs-sozial.at](http://www.avs-sozial.at)

### **AVS – Pflegeheim St. Stefan/Gailtal (nursing home)**

Schmölzing 17, 9623 St. Stefan

T 04283 30528

E [aph-st.stefan.office@avs-sozial.at](mailto:aph-st.stefan.office@avs-sozial.at)

W [www.avs-sozial.at](http://www.avs-sozial.at)

### **Gesunder Punkt Dellach**

**(coordination point for mobile nursing and home care services)**

Dellach 123, 9635 Dellach

T 0664 832 75 51

### **Gesundheits- und Pflegezentrum Grafendorf (health and nursing care centre)**

Grafendorf 155, 9634 Gundersheim  
 T 04718 329-0  
 E [haus.grafendorf@aha-gruppe.at](mailto:haus.grafendorf@aha-gruppe.at)  
 W [www.aha-pflegehome.at](http://www.aha-pflegehome.at) → Standorte → AHA  
 Grafendorf (German only)

### **Mobile nursing services/home care services**

T 04282 25199-300 or 0664 832 75 58

### **Physiotherapy outpatient clinic**

T 04282 25199-550

## **Day-care centres**

### **AVS – Tagesstätte Hermagor**

T 04282 25199-350  
 E [tagesstaette.hermagor@avs-sozial.at](mailto:tagesstaette.hermagor@avs-sozial.at)

### **AVS – Tagesstätte St. Stefan**

Schmölzing 17, 9623 St. Stefan im Gailtal  
 T 0664 803 275 457  
 E [tagesstaette.st.stefan@avs-sozial.at](mailto:tagesstaette.st.stefan@avs-sozial.at)

## **Mental health**

### **Psychosozialer Dienst Hermagor (psycho-social service)**

Hauptstraße 51, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04282 25199-450  
 E [a.rosenzopf@avs-sozial.at](mailto:a.rosenzopf@avs-sozial.at)

### **Psychologisch-Psychotherapeutischer Dienst für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien – KJF (psychological and psycho-therapeutic service for children, young people and families)**

Hauptstraße 51, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04282 25199-400 oder  
 0664 832 78 54

### **Psychologisch-Psychotherapeutischer Dienst für Kinder und Familien – Kinderbetreuungseinrichtungen (KF-KBE) (psychological and psycho-therapeutic service for children and families)**

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 0664 832 78 40

## **Insurance**

### **Kärntner Gebietskrankenkasse – Hermagor branch**

Egger Straße 7, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 050 5855 4300  
 E [hermagor@kgkk.at](mailto:hermagor@kgkk.at)  
 W [www.kgkk.at](http://www.kgkk.at)

## **Pharmacies**

### **Adler-Apotheke**

Hauptstraße 4, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04282 2066  
 E [adlerapo-hermagor@aon.at](mailto:adlerapo-hermagor@aon.at)  
 W [www.apotheke-hermagor.com](http://www.apotheke-hermagor.com)

### **Gailtal-Apotheke KG**

Bahnhofstraße 10, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 04282 25381

### **Apotheke Zum heiligen Josef**

Kötschach 425, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
 T 04715 217  
 E [apotheke@koetschach.at](mailto:apotheke@koetschach.at)

## **Info**

For more information on healthcare and social care institutions in your area, see the brochure "Ratgeber des Sozial- und Gesundheitssprengels Hermagor" (Guide to the Hermagor district social and healthcare office), available at the **Bezirkshauptmannschaft Hermagor**.

# Family life

The Austrian state aims at preventing poverty and promoting the social and economic stability of the country through a range of social benefits and mandatory insurance services. One important factor in this is the Austrian Social Security Act (Allgemeines Sozialversicherungsgesetz, ASVG). It regulates the mandatory health, accident and pension insurance for employees. The Austrian state also provides additional support through social benefits such as family allowance or child-care allowance that is paid after the birth of a child.

## Family counselling and family planning

Do you have questions regarding your relationship? Are you planning to start a family or are you pregnant? Do you have questions regarding contraception? For more information, visit [www.familienberatung.gv.at](http://www.familienberatung.gv.at) (German only).

## Authorities

### Familienberatung bei der Bezirkshauptmannschaft Hermagor (family counselling service)

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 536 63500  
E [bhhe.jugendamt@ktn.gv.at](mailto:bhhe.jugendamt@ktn.gv.at)  
W [www.bh-hermagor.at](http://www.bh-hermagor.at)

### Referat für Jugend und Familie | Außenstelle Kötschach (department for young persons and families, Kötschach branch)

Rathaus, Kötschach 390, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
T 050 536 63960  
E [bhhe.jugendamt@ktn.gv.at](mailto:bhhe.jugendamt@ktn.gv.at)

## Advisory services

### Eltern-Kind-Zentrum (parent-child centre)

Rotkreuzgasse 4, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0660 54 91 644  
E [kontakt@ekiz-hermagor.at](mailto:kontakt@ekiz-hermagor.at)  
W [www.ekiz-hermagor.at](http://www.ekiz-hermagor.at)

### Familien-, Partner- und Jugendberatung (family, relationship and young persons' counselling services)

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 536 63460  
E [bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at](mailto:bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at)

### Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft (kija) Kärnten (ombudsman for children and young people in Carinthia)

Völkermarkter Ring 31, 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee  
T 050 536 57132  
kostenlose Nummer: 0800 22 1708  
E [kija@ktn.gv.at](mailto:kija@ktn.gv.at)  
W [www.kija.ktn.gv.at](http://www.kija.ktn.gv.at)

### Kinderschutzzentrum Delfi Kinderfreunde Kärnten (child protection centre)

Zweigstelle Hermagor  
Hauptstraße 61, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 25006  
E [beratung.hermagor@ktn.kinderfreunde.org](mailto:beratung.hermagor@ktn.kinderfreunde.org)  
W [www.kisz-ktn.at](http://www.kisz-ktn.at)



# Women

## What rights do women have in Austria?

Women have had the right to vote in Austria since 1918. Ever since then, they have had the same rights as men when it comes to political decisions and votes. Furthermore, the family law reform of 1975 determined that women and men have the same rights and duties in a marriage. It was also ruled that children born in and out of wedlock are equal in the eyes of the law. This affects things such as family names, citizenship or the right to inherit. The Austrian constitution guarantees equal rights for men and women – however, these are not always put into practice in everyday life, and women are sometimes paid less than men for doing the same job. For this reason, legal stipulations exist to protect the rights of women, also during pregnancy and after having a baby. Abortion in Austria is legal during the first three months of pregnancy. Forced marriage and genital mutilation are forbidden by law.

## Where can women go to protect themselves from violence?

The Violence Protection Act (“Gewaltschutzgesetz”) aims at ensuring that women are able to live safely and free from fear, also in their own family. In terms of criminal law, rape within marriage carries the same punishment as rape outside marriage. Women affected by violence receive help from women’s shelters (“Frauenhäuser”) and local advice centres. The Austrian-wide number for girls and women facing acute problems with violence is: **Frauenhelpline 0800 222 555**.

## Authorities

### District administration of Hermagor (Bezirkshauptmannschaft)

District social and healthcare office  
Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
E [bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at](mailto:bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at)

## Advisory services

### Frauen Info Point Hermagor (advice for women and children)

Gasserplatz 3a, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04242 24609  
E [info@frauenberatung-villach.at](mailto:info@frauenberatung-villach.at)

### Frauenfluchtpunkt Spittal an der Drau (women’s shelter)

9800 Spittal/Drau  
T 0664 76 08 581

### Frauenzentrum Osttirol (women’s centre)

Schweizer Gasse 26, 9900 Lienz  
T 04852 67193  
E [info@frauenzentrum-osttirol.at](mailto:info@frauenzentrum-osttirol.at)  
W [www.frauenzentrum-osttirol.at](http://www.frauenzentrum-osttirol.at)

### Frauenberatung Villach (women’s advice centre)

Peraustrasse 23, 9500 Villach  
T 04242 24609  
E [info@frauenberatung-villach.at](mailto:info@frauenberatung-villach.at)  
W [www.frauenberatung-villach.at](http://www.frauenberatung-villach.at)

### Frauengesundheitszentrum Kärnten (women’s health centre)

Völkendorferstraße 23, 9500 Villach  
T 04242 53055  
E [fgz.sekretariat@fgz-kaernten.at](mailto:fgz.sekretariat@fgz-kaernten.at)  
W [www.fgz-kaernten.at](http://www.fgz-kaernten.at)

### Gewaltschutzzentrum Kärnten | BH Hermagor (centre for protection against violence)

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0463 590 290  
E [info@gsz-ktn.at](mailto:info@gsz-ktn.at)  
W [www.gsz-ktn.at](http://www.gsz-ktn.at)

### Oberkärntner Frauenhaus (women’s shelter)

Postfach 9, 9800 Spittal/Drau  
T 04762 61 386  
W [www.frauenhilfe-spittal.at](http://www.frauenhilfe-spittal.at)



# Social affairs

## What is the needs-based minimum benefit ("bedarfsorientierte Mindestsicherung")?

The needs-based minimum benefit is paid to people who do not have sufficient financial means for supporting themselves or their families. True to the principle "helping people to help themselves", the needs-based minimum benefit is intended as an important support payment for persons who are unemployed while trying to find their way back to the labour market.

## When am I eligible for state benefits?

Different criteria and prerequisites apply for receiving state benefits. Your residence title is also a factor.

## What social service institutions are there in the district of Hermagor?

The district administration of Hermagor offers persons in difficult circumstances a dense network of help and support services. Many advice and counselling points are available for practical help and support with social and financial issues. The goal is to achieve a long-term improvement of the person's living situation.

## Authorities

### Sozialberatung in der Bezirkshauptmannschaft Hermagor (social advice service of the Hermagor district administration)

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
E [bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at](mailto:bhhe.sozialamt@ktn.gv.at)

## Advisory services

### ALSOLE Sozialverein Dellach

Dellach 65, 9635 Dellach  
T 0660 653 03 17  
E [alsole@dellach.at](mailto:alsole@dellach.at)

### Caritas & Du

#### (Catholic social service organisation)

Katholischer Pfarrhof Hermagor  
Dechant-Pietschnigg-Gasse 1, 9620 Hermagor  
T 0463 55560-0 oder  
0650 840 30 10  
W [www.caritas-kaernten.at](http://www.caritas-kaernten.at) → *Hilfe & Beratung* →  
*Soziale & finanzielle Notlagen* (German and Slovenian only)

### Hilfswerk Kärnten

#### (charity organisation)

Hermagor branch  
Gösseringlände 7, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 544 06  
E [hermagor@hilfswerk.co.at](mailto:hermagor@hilfswerk.co.at)  
W [www.hilfswerk.at/kaernten](http://www.hilfswerk.at/kaernten)

### Sozialhilfeverband Hermagor

#### (social assistance association)

Hauptstraße 44, 9620 Hermagor  
T 050 536 63690  
W [www.region-hermagor.at](http://www.region-hermagor.at) → *Verwaltung* →  
*Sozialhilfeverband* (German only)

# Out and about in Hermagor and surroundings

## Public transport in the district of Hermagor

Kärntner Linien buses run between the municipalities of St. Stefan and the Lesachtal valley and will take you safely to your destination. For information and timetables, contact the Mobilbüro Hermagor at [www.mobilbuero.com](http://www.mobilbuero.com). There is also a regional e-car-sharing scheme (Travel with Fred: [www.fred-fahren.at](http://www.fred-fahren.at)). The municipality of St. Stefan im Gailtal, in cooperation with the municipalities of Feistritz, Hohenthurn, Nötsch im Gailtal and Bad Bleiberg, operates the shuttle service "GO-Mobil", which is available to locals at a low-cost rate for trips within the region. The Go-Mobil runs from 8am/9am to midnight on weekdays and Saturdays and until 10pm on Sundays and public holidays.

## Out and about on foot or by bicycle

Many destinations in the towns and villages of the region (for instance grocery stores, doctors' surgeries, inns and taverns) are within easy walking distance. The region of Hermagor also offers numerous possibilities for cycling, mountain-biking and e-biking.

With 950 kilometres of cycling paths and mountain bike trails, the region is a popular destination for holiday-makers who enjoy cycling. In the southwestern region of Carinthia, families enjoy the Gailtal cycling and hiking path "R3", a 90km-long trail that runs parallel to the Italian border and is signposted with green signs and white ground markings. Children and parents cycle along the Gail river, through small villages and past ancient farmhouses. The Gailtal cycling trail also affords wonderful views of the surrounding Carnic and Gailtal Alps. The tour starts in Kötschach-Mauthen, continues

via Hermagor and Lake Pressegger See to Vorderberg and Nötsch all the way to Villach. The Karnische Radwanderweg trail goes slightly downhill most of the way and is therefore also suitable for younger children. It runs mostly along traffic-free, asphalted roads.

## Bus/train/bicycle

### Bahnhof Hermagor (train station)

Gailtalstraße 15, 9620 Hermagor  
T 05 1717

### Mobilbüro Hermagor (Hermagor mobility office)

Gösseringlände 7, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 252 25  
E [mail@mobilbuero.com](mailto:mail@mobilbuero.com)  
W [www.mobilbuero.com](http://www.mobilbuero.com)

For timetables, see [www.mobilbuero.com](http://www.mobilbuero.com) →  
*Fahrpläne* (German only)

### Cycling in the district of Hermagor and the surrounding area

For more information, visit [www.nassfeld.at](http://www.nassfeld.at) → *Active* →  
*Hiking & Biking*

### Hiking in the district of Hermagor and the surrounding area

For more information, visit [www.nassfeld.at](http://www.nassfeld.at) → *Active* →  
*Hiking & Biking* → *Hiking*

### E-mobility

For more information, visit  
[www.fred-fahren.at](http://www.fred-fahren.at)  
[www.mobilbuero.at](http://www.mobilbuero.at)



# Culture, recreation and community activities

Hermagor is the centre of the Gailtal cultural region. Throughout the year, the Hermagor region offers a wide choice of cultural activities. Regional products, many of them organic, such as Gailtaler Speck or Gailtaler Almkäse cheese, bread from the Lesachtal valley, honey and much more, are usually great attractions at regional festivals and fairs.

Some of the cultural institutions in the region that are known for their high-quality programmes are the Moderndorf Local History Museum, the World War I Museum in Kötschach-Mauthen or the museum of the GeoPark Karnische Alpen in Dellach.

Traditional festivals and fairs in the individual towns, concerts, plays and exhibitions by local artists attract many visitors. For information on art and culture in Hermagor, visit [www.gailtalnetz.wordpress.com](http://www.gailtalnetz.wordpress.com) → *Kunst & Kultur* (German only).

## Where can I be physically active?

Sports clubs are a good option for staying physically fit and getting to know the locals at the same time. There are a great many options, from football and swimming to gymnastics and of course skiing, the Austrian national sport. Cycling, running, skiing or chess-playing – staying fit in the district of Hermagor and having fun at the same time is easy.

For more information, visit:

[www.sportclub-hermagor.at](http://www.sportclub-hermagor.at)

[www.bso.or.at](http://www.bso.or.at)

[www.askoe.at](http://www.askoe.at)

[www.asvoe.at](http://www.asvoe.at)

[www.sportunion.at](http://www.sportunion.at)

## Where can I do volunteer or community work?

Austria has a long tradition of volunteering. 3.3 million people or 46 percent of the population from the age of +15 are active volunteers. There are many associations and organisations where you or your children could play a part, for instance the Red Cross, Caritas, the Volkshilfe and Hilfswerk charities, the volunteer fire brigade, the Landjugend youth organisation, a wealth of sports clubs or the Austrian scout movement.

## Tip

**Join a volunteer organisation such as a sports club, the Red Cross or the volunteer fire brigade ([www.ff-hermagor.at](http://www.ff-hermagor.at)) in the district of Hermagor. This will make it easier for you to get to know the locals and the organisation will in turn benefit from experience and talents.**



## Authorities

### "Gemeindeämter" in the district of Hermagor (municipal offices)

The municipal offices in the district of Hermagor always provide up-to-date information on events, activities, options for volunteering etc. To contact the municipal authorities in the district of Hermagor, please consult the pages for the specific communities.

#### Tourism Information:

##### NLW Tourismus Marketing GmbH

Wulfeniaplatz 1, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 3131  
E [info@nlw.at](mailto:info@nlw.at)  
W [www.nlw.at](http://www.nlw.at)

## Culture and recreation

### (selection)

#### Jugendzentrum Hermagor (youth centre)

Bahnhofstraße 5, 9620, Hermagor  
T 04282 20158  
E [jugendzentrum-hermagor@speed.at](mailto:jugendzentrum-hermagor@speed.at)  
W [www.jugendzentrum-hermagor.at](http://www.jugendzentrum-hermagor.at)

#### Jugendzentrum Kötschach-Mauthen (youth centre)

Kötschach 147, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
W <http://juzekeoemau.wordpress.com>

#### Archaeology park

Gemeinde Dellach, 9635 Dellach im Gailtal  
T 04718 301-0  
E [dellach@ktn.gde.at](mailto:dellach@ktn.gde.at)  
W <http://gurina.dellach.at>

#### Gailtaler Heimatmuseum (museum of local history)

Möderndorf 1, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 3060  
E [gailtaler.heimatmuseum@aon.at](mailto:gailtaler.heimatmuseum@aon.at)

#### GeoPark Karnische Alpen

Dellach 65, 9635 Dellach  
T 04718 301 DW 17 bzw. 22 bzw. 33  
E [office@geopark-karnische-alpen.at](mailto:office@geopark-karnische-alpen.at)  
W [www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at](http://www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at)

#### Via Julia Augusta summer concerts

Kötschach 390, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
E [info@via-iulia-augusta.at](mailto:info@via-iulia-augusta.at)  
W [www.via-iulia-augusta.at](http://www.via-iulia-augusta.at)

#### Museum 1915–1918

Kötschach 390, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
T 04715 8513-32  
W [www.dolomitenfreunde.at](http://www.dolomitenfreunde.at)



**Schmiedemuseum Weißbriach (forging museum)**

Weißbriach 185, 9622 Gitschtal  
 T 0699 18 87 7279  
 W [www.gitschtalschmiede.at](http://www.gitschtalschmiede.at)

**For more information on museums in the region, visit:**  
[www.karnische-museen.at/museen.htm](http://www.karnische-museen.at/museen.htm)

**Sports facilities, clubs and associations****(selection)****Aquarena Kötschach-Mauthen**

Wasser- und Wellnessoase GmbH,  
 Kötschach 370, 9640 Kötschach-Mauthen  
 T 04715 567  
 E [info@aquarena.info](mailto:info@aquarena.info)  
 W [www.koetschach-mauthen.gv.at/aquarena](http://www.koetschach-mauthen.gv.at/aquarena)

**Lamatrekking in St. Daniel im Gailtal**

St. Daniel 41, 9635 Dellach im Gailtal  
 T 0664 514 28 06  
 E [lama.kanzian@a1.net](mailto:lama.kanzian@a1.net)  
 W [www.lamatrekking.at](http://www.lamatrekking.at)

**Marienpilgerweg nach Maria Luggau (pilgrimage route)**

[www.marienpilgerweg.at](http://www.marienpilgerweg.at)

**For information on other pilgrimage routes, visit**

[www.pilgerwege-kaernten.at](http://www.pilgerwege-kaernten.at)

**OEAV Kletterzentrum Hermagor (climbing centre)**

Hauptstraße 65, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 0650 67 91 978  
 E [oeav-hermagor@gmx.at](mailto:oeav-hermagor@gmx.at)  
 W [www.kletterzentrum-hermagor.at](http://www.kletterzentrum-hermagor.at)

**Reiterhof Schneider (horse-riding stables)**

St. Daniel 7, 9635 Dellach im Gailtal  
 T 0650 26 10 793

**Volunteering****(selection)****Bezirksfeuerwehrkommando Hermagor (fire brigade)**

W [www.bfkdo-hermagor.at](http://www.bfkdo-hermagor.at) → *Feuerwehren*  
 → *Abschnitt Oberes Gailtal* (German only)  
[www.bfkdo-hermagor.at](http://www.bfkdo-hermagor.at) → *Feuerwehren*  
 → *Abschnitt Unteres Gailtal* (German only)

**Hilfswerk Kärnten (charity organisation)**

Gösseringlände 7, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 05 0544 5601  
 E [hermagor@hilfswerk.co.at](mailto:hermagor@hilfswerk.co.at)  
 W [www.hilfswerk.at](http://www.hilfswerk.at) → *Kärnten* → *Freiwilligenarbeit*  
 (German only)

**Rotes Kreuz Hermagor (Red Cross)**

Obervellach 88, 9620 Hermagor  
 T 050 9144 1700  
 E [office@he.k.rotekreuz.at](mailto:office@he.k.rotekreuz.at)  
 W [www.rotekreuz.at](http://www.rotekreuz.at)

**Volkshilfe Bezirk Hermagor (people's aid association)**

E [hermagor@vhktn.at](mailto:hermagor@vhktn.at)  
 W [www.volkshilfe-ktn.at](http://www.volkshilfe-ktn.at)

# Keeping traditions alive

In the district of Hermagor, ancient traditions have been kept alive over many centuries. From spring to summer, there are many customs that also reflect the natural cycle of the seasons. See below for a selection.

## **"Nikolaus" and "Krampus"**

On 5 December, St. Nicholas and his side-kick "Krampus" are out and about in Hermagor. Good children get sweets and small presents, while naughty children will receive a tap of the birch that the Krampus carries.

What are the origins of this custom?

When autumn turns into winter in the month of December, the period of the mid-winter "Rauhnächte" nights begins, a concept that goes back to pre-Christian times. In those days, the period around the winter solstice was a demonic and mythical time of year, and the Krampus figure helped to keep the demons at bay.

More information:

[www.krampusgruppe-hermagor.net/geschichte](http://www.krampusgruppe-hermagor.net/geschichte)  
(German only)

## **"Pisnen"**

This is a Carinthian tradition with Celtic and Christian roots. On 28 December, the day of the "Massacre of the Innocents", children carry a "Tase" (spruce branch) and bring good wishes to the adults for the year ahead.

More information:

<https://gailtalnetz.wordpress.com/brauchtum/besondereiten/pisnen>  
(German only)

## **"Fasching" (carnival season)**

Carinthian carnival traditions go back to cultish rituals from Pagan times: Customs such as "Faschingsrennen",

"Faschingstreiben" or "Faschingsjagen" included representations of farm work and played on pagan bans of certain chores (e.g. the ban on spinning on certain days during the Fasching season). Other customs, for instance "Blockziehen", or hitching girls to a plough, were supposed to help a good harvest. Dolls made out of straw became Fasching brides, eloquent citizens were demoted to the rank of "Schalksnarren", or carnival fools, and girls unwilling to marry were taunted and mocked.

Today, these traditions survive in the sittings of the Fasching committees with their orators and their humorous, pointed speeches. Fasching outfits have evolved over time and these days include masks, cardboard noses and elaborate costumes. However, the purpose of the Fasching season has remained the same: It is an opportunity to celebrate the end of winter and to usher in the spring. In many Carinthian towns and villages, carnival parades are held on Shrove Tuesday (the last day of Fasching) and attract thousands of spectators.

More information:

[www.kaernten.at](http://www.kaernten.at)

## **St. Martin - lantern festival**

St. Martin lived in the 4th century AD, became a Christian at the age of 18 and was later made Bishop of Tours. After giving half his coat away to a poor beggar, he was later told in a dream that the beggar had been Jesus himself. Children re-enact this scene on 11 November, followed by a procession, where children and parents walk through the village with home-made paper lanterns, singing St. Martin's Day songs.

More information:

[www.katholisch.at/heiligermartin](http://www.katholisch.at/heiligermartin) (German only)





### "Kufenstechen"

Kufenstechen is a Carinthian custom that is kept alive in villages of the Lower Gailtal valley, usually on parish fair days. Young men, wearing the traditional costumes of the Gailtal, ride bareback and as they pass by a wooden barrel, they try to smash the barrel with a hammer made of iron while remaining on horseback. Then, the girls of the village, also in their colourful and precious costumes, are led to the traditional dance ("Lindentanz").

More information:

<https://gailtalnetz.wordpress.com/brauchtum/besonderheiten/kufenstechen>

(German only)

### Easter

Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter weekend, is filled with culinary traditions, religious rites and ancient customs. It is the week when people prepare for Easter Sunday. Customs include the blessing of the Palms,

eating spinach on Maundy Thursday, fasting on Good Friday, the Easter bonfires, gun salutes and the blessing of cold meats on Holy Saturday. The "Osterjause", a meal that marks the end of Lent on Holy Saturday, is of great importance in Carinthia. Easter ham, sausages, horse radish and hard-boiled Easter eggs are always part of this meal, as is the "Reindling", a cake made from yeast dough and filled with raisins and walnuts.

More Information:

[www.kaernten.at](http://www.kaernten.at)

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## CHAPTER 14: Religion

# Religion

Freedom of faith is a fundamental freedom and a human right guaranteed by the Austrian constitution. In Austria, 17 religions and religious communities are recognised by law. Members of these religions have the right to religious instructions in public schools. However, recognised religious communities also have certain duties, not just in terms of religion, but also when it comes to social and cultural-political tasks that serve the community at large. The majority of Austrians belong to the Roman-Catholic church.

### Am I free to practice my religion in Austria?

Freedom of faith is a fundamental freedom and a human right guaranteed by the Austrian constitution. The starting point of religious freedom in Austria was the Edict of Toleration, issued by Emperor Joseph II back in 1781. Austria also played a pioneering role in the recognition of Islam, which in Austria was recognised as an official religion as early as 1912.

### How many official religions exist in Austria?

Currently, there are 17 officially recognised religions and religious communities in Austria. Members of these religions or religious communities have a right to religious instruction in public schools. For an overview of faith communities in Austria, see [www.bka.gv.at](http://www.bka.gv.at) → *Österreich & die Welt* → *Kultusamt* → *Kirchen und Religionsgemeinschaften* (German only).

### What are registered faith communities?

Since 1998, followers of a religion that has so far not been officially recognised have the option of founding a "registered faith community". For more information, including addresses of representatives of religious and faith communities that have this status, see [www.bka.gv.at](http://www.bka.gv.at) → *Österreich & die Welt* → *Kultusamt* → *Religiöse Bekenntnisgemeinschaften* (German only).

## Parishes and religious communities

### Evangelische Pfarrgemeinde Hermagor (Protestant parish community of Hermagor)

Radniger Straße 4, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 2135  
E [evang.hermagor@gmx.at](mailto:evang.hermagor@gmx.at)  
W [www.evang-kaernten.at](http://www.evang-kaernten.at)

### Other Protestant churches in the district of Hermagor

[www.evang-kaernten.at](http://www.evang-kaernten.at) → *Kirche & Strukturen*  
(German only)

### Islamische Religionsgemeinschaft Kärnten (Islamic religious community in Carinthia)

[www.derislam.at](http://www.derislam.at)

### Link to Muslim religious communities in Carinthia

[www.derislam.at](http://www.derislam.at) → *Einrichtungen* → *Gebetsräumlichkeiten* (German only)

### Römisch-katholische Pfarre Hermagor (Roman-Catholic parish of Hermagor)

Dechant-Pietschnigg-Gasse 1, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 2141  
E [hermagor@kath-pfarre-kaernten.at](mailto:hermagor@kath-pfarre-kaernten.at)  
W [www.kath-kirche-kaernten.at/pfarren/pfarre/C3043/](http://www.kath-kirche-kaernten.at/pfarren/pfarre/C3043/)  
(German only)

### Other Catholic churches in the district of Hermagor

[www.kath-kirche-kaernten.at](http://www.kath-kirche-kaernten.at) → *Pfarren* → *Dekanat Hermagor/Šmohor* (German and Slovenian only)

### Funerals

Friedhofstraße 8, 9620 Hermagor  
T 04282 2313

For Muslim burials, please contact the Islamic community of Carinthia.



## The most important telephone numbers and links at a glance

### Residence

Residence title and "Red-White-Red Card"

[www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at)



[www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at)



Integration Agreement and language

[www.sprachportal.at](http://www.sprachportal.at)



Language skills as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:

[www.osd.at](http://www.osd.at) → *Profile Deutsch* → *Die Referenzniveaus* (German only)

### Bezirkshauptmannschaft Hermagor (district administration of Hermagor)

T 050 536-63000

E [post.bhhe@ktn.gv.at](mailto:post.bhhe@ktn.gv.at)

### Education

Childcare/nursery care/pre-school: [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at)

Austrian education system: [www.bmbwf.gv.at](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at)

Registering for a school place: [www.landesschulrat.at](http://www.landesschulrat.at)

Studying in Austria: [www.bmbwf.gv.at](http://www.bmbwf.gv.at)

Funding opportunities: [www.studium.at](http://www.studium.at)

Recognition of degrees and diplomas:

[www.berufsanerkennung.at](http://www.berufsanerkennung.at)



### Working and employment

Non-Austrian employees in Austria:

[www.ams.at](http://www.ams.at), [www.wirtschaftskammer.at](http://www.wirtschaftskammer.at)

Taxes in Austria: [www.bmf.gv.at](http://www.bmf.gv.at)

Self-employment: [www.mingo.at](http://www.mingo.at),

[www.gruenderservice.at](http://www.gruenderservice.at)

Mentoring for migrants: [www.integrationsfonds.at](http://www.integrationsfonds.at)

### Health and family

Health insurance: [www.sozialversicherung.at](http://www.sozialversicherung.at)

List of doctors: [www.aerztekammer.at/arztsuche](http://www.aerztekammer.at/arztsuche)

Preventive check-ups: [www.gesundheit.gv.at](http://www.gesundheit.gv.at)

### Housing and finances

Registering/de-registering your address: [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at)

General information on renting: [www.migration.gv.at](http://www.migration.gv.at)

Problems with landlords: [www.arbeiterkammer.at](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at)

Tax information: [www.bmf.gv.at/steuern](http://www.bmf.gv.at/steuern)

Comparison of terms and conditions of banks:

[www.bankenrechner.at](http://www.bankenrechner.at)

### Culture and recreation

Art and culture: [www.austria.info/at](http://www.austria.info/at)

TV licence: [www.gis.at](http://www.gis.at)

ORF: <http://orf.at/uebersicht/>

Sports clubs: [www.bso.or.at](http://www.bso.or.at), [www.askoe.at](http://www.askoe.at),

[www.asvoe.at](http://www.asvoe.at), [www.sportunion.at](http://www.sportunion.at)

### Freedom of faith

Officially recognised religions, religious and faith communities: [www.bka.gv.at](http://www.bka.gv.at)

### Emergency numbers

Ambulance 144

Fire brigade 122

Police 133

Women's emergency line 0800 222 555



Hergestellt nach der Richtlinie des Österreichischen Umweltzeichens UWNr. 874

## The Austrian Integration Fund (Österreichischer Integrationsfonds, ÖIF)

The ÖIF is a fund provided by the Republic of Austria and a partner of the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. The ÖIF runs integration centres in all provincial capitals as well as mobile advice centres in the individual municipalities and provides assistance and support for refugees and migrants looking to start a new

life in Austria. In addition to information and advice on all topics related to integration, the ÖIF also gives out grants for German courses, initiates and organises regional as well as inter-regional integration projects and supports refugees and migrants with a range of programmes and initiatives.

### Kärnten

Integration Centre for Carinthia

10.-Oktober-Straße 15

9020 Klagenfurt

T +43 463 503781

M [kaernten@integrationsfonds.at](mailto:kaernten@integrationsfonds.at)

### Mobile advisory service of the ÖIF in Hermagor

District administrative authority of Hermagor, 4th floor

Hauptstraße 44

9620 Hermagor

T +43 676 300 67 70



## About us

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