

St. Mary's University School of Law
2009 Institute on World Legal Problems
Innsbruck, Austria

Travel Suggestions

“Welcome to Innsbruck” When you arrive for classes in Innsbruck on Monday morning, you will receive a booklet entitled “Welcome to Innsbruck.” The booklet was prepared especially for our program by Professor Bernhard Koch of the University of Innsbruck, and it contains a wealth of information about shopping, dining, public transportation, and services in the University area, as well as information about the University itself and a primer on the Austrian political, economic, legal, and educational systems. You can access the text of the booklet via the Internet before you arrive in Innsbruck at:

<http://www2.uibk.ac.at/roemischesrecht/innsbruck/>

Country Specific Information Sheet The U.S. State Department's advice to international travelers, including the most recent Country Specific Information Sheet for Austria, can be found at www.travel.state.gov.

Arrival in Munich If you fly into Munich, you can reach Innsbruck either by train or by passenger van. The cost and time are comparable, and both ticket counters are located in the center of the airport terminal. For train tickets and information, you should go to the D Bahn counter (the sign is a large “DB” in red and white). The shuttle van is operated by Four Seasons Travel. Both D Bahn and Four Seasons have helpful, English speaking ticket agents.

Arrival in Innsbruck If you arrive in Innsbruck by train or air, you should take a taxi or a bus to the Haus Karwendel. The location is:

The Karwendel
Hottinger Au 84/84a
A-6020 Innsbruck
Austria, Europe

Phone number (from the U.S): 011-43-512-220-682

[011 is overseas; 43 is the country code; 512 is the city code; 220-682 is the local number]

The Karwendel is about two miles from the train station and about a mile from the airport.

E-Mail Addresses Students will have Internet access at the University of Innsbruck. You should set up a free email account with Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, or some similar provider and give that e-mail address to your family and friends. You will save money on air mail postage and phone calls.

Lexis and Westlaw Please bring your Lexis or Westlaw I.D. number with you (and, if necessary, apply for an extension or validation for the summer term before arriving in Innsbruck). If you have your number, you will be able to use these databases via the Internet.

Eurail Most participants in the Innsbruck program travel on weekends by train. A Eurail pass might be a good investment, depending on the extent of your travel. Go to www.raileurope.com or www.ricksteves.com for information on the types of passes available. Some rail passes must be purchased in the United States before you depart for Europe.

Passports Please safeguard your passport. It is best to carry it in your front pants pocket or in a concealed travel pouch. You should keep a copy of your passport in your luggage and another copy at a location you can contact in the United States. Do not be alarmed if hotel desk clerks or train conductors ask for your passport. This is standard practice.

Money Matters Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in Europe, though not as universally as in the U.S. ATM cards also work in Europe, and machines are available in most larger towns. If you plan to use your ATM card, you should check with the issuing bank regarding transaction fees, and notify them that the card will be used in Europe. If you need to change U.S. currency or cash U.S. traveler's checks, several banks have offices near the law school. Money can also be changed in the train station and at numerous places in Innsbruck, but these will almost certainly be more expensive than a bank. Airports often have Currency Exchange offices, but they usually charge high commissions.

Electricity If you bring electronic devices, you will need an adapter so that the plug can fit into a European outlet (two round prongs). In addition, unless your device works on 220-volt (as opposed to 110-volt) current, you will need a current converter. Adapter plugs and current converters are available from discount or travel stores.

Clothing There will be two "dress up" events, for which gentlemen will need jacket and tie and ladies will need a cocktail dress, pantsuit, or similar attire. You will also need some clothing for cool weather, such as a sweatshirt or fleece jacket. A lightweight rain jacket is essential. If you plan to go hiking, you will need appropriate shoes. Shorts are unacceptable when visiting some religious sites in Europe. Taking lots of underwear and socks will ease your laundry problems substantially. The laundry machines in Austria are *very* slow.

Health Care Issues If you require prescription medicine, please take an amount sufficient for the length of the program. Many travelers also find it useful to take over-the-counter medications with them. If you wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, you should bring an extra pair or a copy of your prescription. Medical care will be available at the University of Innsbruck medical center, which is directly across the street from the law school. Payment is your responsibility. The fees typically are modest, and you might be able to obtain reimbursement from your health insurance carrier. Short term medical insurance for travelers can be obtained at a modest cost through a number of carriers, most of which can be found online.

Language and Manners Please try to be a good guest. Europeans tend to be more formal and courteous than their American counterparts, and American visitors would do well to follow their example. While English is widely spoken in most tourist areas, you should learn and use the local words for “please,” “thank you,” “excuse me,” “good morning,” etc. A German-English pocket dictionary will be helpful.

Phone Calls It is expensive to call the United States from hotel phones. A cheaper alternative is to buy a phone card at any post office or Tabak (tobacco shop). They work in most pay phones, and you can see exactly what the call is costing as you talk. In recent years, some students have found attractive deals on cell phones in Innsbruck.

Shop Hours If you plan to arrive in Innsbruck on Sunday, keep in mind that most stores will be closed. Shops in the train station, including a large grocery store, are open on Sunday, as are many restaurants.

Travel Guides You probably will want to take one or more travel guides with you. English-language guidebooks are difficult to find in Europe, and they are more expensive to buy there.

Hiking Professor Richard Flint is an avid hiker with extensive experience on the trails around Innsbruck. If you are interested in hiking, you should seek him out.

English Masses Professor Flint can also provide information about daily Mass in English near the University.