

AUSTRIA: THE BIGGEST NUMBER OF OVERNIGHT STAYS SINCE 1994



The run on hotels in Austria's summer tourism has rapidly accelerated in July when compared to the previous months. During the current summer season's "half-time", the increase in overnight stays expanded to 4.6 %, while it previously only accounted for 2.1% in June. With 33.02 million overnight stays between May and July, Statistik Austria reported the best results since 1994.

Especially foreign guests arrived to Austria in increased numbers - their overnight stays between May and July grew by 6.8% to 22.61 million as compared to the previous year. **Domestic tourism, on the other hand, only saw a slight increase of 0.2% to 10.41 million, as reported by Statistik Austria.**

The number of overnight stays in 4 and 5 star hotels increased by 5.7 % to 11.76 million and in commercial holiday flats by 10.4 % to a total of 1.84 million. Private holiday homes also saw significant increases with 8.5%. Private quarters, on the other hand, experienced losses (-2.8%).

Among foreign tourists, especially the number of German visitors increased during the first half of the current summer season with a six percent increase to a new total of 11.24 million. Tourists from the Netherlands, who usually make up the second-strongest part of Austrian tourism, made 2.7% more overnight stays, bringing their total up to 1.97 million. Guests from Switzerland and Liechtenstein saw an increase of six percent (1.27 million), guests from the United Kingdom a plus of five percent (0.67 million).

The strongest decreases in terms of overnight stays between May and July were, just as in previous periods, seen among Russian guests (-28.9 %). The main reason for that is the Ruble's rapid decline, which makes international holidays increasingly expensive. Other nations with decreases in Austrian visits were Hungary (-1.7 %), France (-4.1 %) and Belgium (-1.8 %).

In July, the overall increase in overnight stays amounted to 7.2 %, which was mostly caused by international (+9.7 %), but also by domestic (+1.3 %) tourists. The overnight stays of German guests experienced an especially strong increase compared to last year, with a plus of half a million, or 9.5% to a total of 5.34 million stays.

During the first seven months, the number of overnight stays increased by 3.3 % to 83.71 million - a new record. The number of tourist arrivals also reached an all time high with a plus of 5.5 % and a total of 23.3 million. During the first half of this year's summer season (May to July), the number of arrivals increased by 7.3% to a new record of 10.69 million; this included domestic (+2.3 %) as well as international (+10.1 %) tourism.

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