



A RELOCATION GUIDE FOR SOUTH AFRICANS MOVING TO AUSTRIA

May 2008

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Introduction

We hope that this short guide will provide some useful information for your move from SA to Austria. Although you may be assigned a Relocation Agent to assist with the arrangements on the other side, this document aims to provide assistance with the host of local issues, which need to be taken care of prior to your departure.

While we have tried to cover most of the more important issues you may need to deal with, we certainly don't intend for this to be a comprehensive manual covering the A - Z of your move, so we offer this information to you as a summary of our recent experiences ...

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Part A (Pre-planning)

1. You will need a **Police Clearance Certificate** for submission with your residence permit application. You will need to apply for this through the SAPS in South Africa. For this you will need to visit your local SAPS for fingerprinting and an application form. The cost is around R160. Once you have done the necessary paperwork, you will need to courier this to (if you live outside of Pretoria)

SAPS Criminal Record Centre
Private Bag x 308
Pretoria
0001
Tel: +27 12 393 3928
Fax: +27 12 393 3909

together with a copy of your ID. You can call after 3 week to keep track on the progress and try to speed things up (although you will find this near impossible). The total process can take up to 8 weeks, but if you are lucky you could receive it after 6 weeks. When the certificate is ready, you can either collect personally (if in the area) or arrange for a courier collection. The original certificate will need to be couriered overseas to the agent submitting your application.

2. If your **passport** has expired or is very near to expiring, apply via your local Dept of Home Affairs for a new one or a renewal. Once in Austria this can be done via the local SA embassy in Vienna but it takes up to 3 months.
3. If you plan to move with your **pets** to Austria, you will be happy to know that there is no quarantine required but there is quite a lengthy process to follow before the pets leave SA (usually 4 months) so it is also a good idea to start this as soon as possible. In and around the Durban area, most furniture removals companies sub-contract the removal of pets to a company called Pets en Transit. Their contact number is 0861 738247. In Gauteng, Global Paws is very popular. Their contact number is 011 - 6621777 (also see web link at end of document). The cost of transporting

pets through an agent depends on the size of the animal but for example the cost to move 1 medium and 1 large size breed to Austria, is in the region of R9 500.

If your pets have not been micro chipped or had rabies injections within the last 6 months, you will need to take your pets to your local vet to have this done. After 30 days from the rabies injection has lapsed, the pets need to be returned to the vet for blood samples to be drawn and couriered to a recognised international testing laboratory together with the required paperwork. The pet transport companies can provide you with a list of accredited overseas laboratories (there are none in SA, although the University of Pretoria was hoping to be able to offer this in the future). The University of Bern is quite a popular choice - the full procedure and downloadable forms you will need to complete can be found on their website at

[http://www.cx.unibe.ch/ivv/Swiss Rabies Center/swiss rabies center.html](http://www.cx.unibe.ch/ivv/Swiss_Rabies_Center/swiss_rabies_center.html)

Since the couriering of blood samples is usually contracted out to a specialised sub-contractor, it is advisable to arrange for a collection date with DHL a few days before you plan to have the blood drawn. The blood tests are usually conducted within 2 weeks of the arrival of the samples in Switzerland, after which a certificate and invoice will be sent to your vet. The Swiss laboratory charge around 133 Swiss Franks per animal and most vets prefer for you to arrange this payment directly since it involves going through the foreign exchange department of a bank. Note that the pet transporters do not take care of any of the arrangements mentioned so far - they only take over once you have received the clearance certificate from the overseas laboratory. Once this has been done, however, it would be a good time to contact the pet removal company you plan to use and discuss the rest of the details from there.

The last step in the process will be to return your pets to the vet 7 days before their scheduled departure date for their final medical check (will need to have the pets treated for ticks and fleas just before this appointment). The pets will only be allowed to leave the country after 3 months has lapsed since the date the blood samples were taken (This date will also appear on the clearance certificate).

Remember to keep the pet's vaccination booklets and all paperwork relating to the micro chipping and rabies clearance certificates separate and in a safe place since this will need to be handed to the pet transport company when the pets finally leave the country.

Getting your pets again on the other end is somewhat involved so do ask your agent to find out exactly where at the airport you need to collect them from and clearly explain all the steps involved. You will need about 2.5 - 3 hours after your pets arrive to complete the entire procedure, so bear this in mind when confirming their arrival times.

4. You will also need to apply to SARS for a **Tax Clearance Certificate** if you are emigrating or a Certificate of Good Standing if you will only be working abroad for a few years. If you will be emigrating, you will need to attach copies of retirement annuity / pension / provident fund statements as well as any life insurances, so keep all these documents handy.

5. Depending on how long you will be going for, you may want to consider renewing your **SA driver's licence** if it is coming up for renewal during the period you will be staying overseas.

All of the above issues are those which take the longest, some of which are required as input for further downstream processes, so that is why it is important to action these as soon as possible.

Aside from this, the relocation agent will, quite early in the process, e-mail you an application for a work permit form together with a list of supporting documentation required. For this you will need a passport photo (would suggest you have a few photos taken since they will also be required later for your visa and international drivers licence). They will also require copies (in both English and German) of your birth certificate and qualifications. As part of this process, you will also need to visit your local GP for a medical check. If you have any documentation on previous immunisations / inoculations (from childhood onwards), take these with you to the GP. The German translations need to be done by an official interpreter (not just a German speaking colleague or friend!). An internet search on one of the SA search engines will turn up a few people who specialise in this.

6. If you are relocating with children of school-going age the following tips for English Language schools are important.
 - a. The cost of international schooling is prohibitive ranging anywhere from €10000 to €20000 p.a. for non-boarder schools, depending school grade. Substantial enrolment fees are also applicable. It is necessary to discuss scholastic sponsorship with any prospective employee. Most UN posts, embassies and private business do pay for, or supplement, international education.
 - b. Although AIS and VIS (see below) have extensive bus services, it is prudent to consider the distance between your residence and the school. Due to winter weather and road conditions - travelling by car is not as easy in Vienna as in South Africa. Public transport, although safe, is difficult for children who do not speak/understand German. It is also time consuming.
 - c. The school year runs from September through end of June. When considering relocation it is wise to co-ordinate with the new school's calendar year. This makes sense both academically and socially.
 - d. The international schools come with a myriad of families who are also ex-pats, embassy families etc. This can prove very useful when trying to establish relationships/networks for the entire family.
 - e. A drawback of these types of schools is that they have a transient student population. Families are continually on the move and it is not unusual for half the class to leave at the end of the school year.
 - f. For purposes of this comparison – a fee structure has been used that corresponds to the South African equivalent of School Readiness

Year/Grade 0 – Matric. Many of the schools listed below also have 'nursery school' and post-matric equivalents.
For information on fee range and enrolment costs, please contact the schools below directly.

VIENNA:

American International School (AIS)

Location: 19th District
Qualifications: International Baccalaureate, Austrian Matura or American High School Diploma
Web: www.ais.at
Tel: +43 1 40132-0

Danube International School (DIS)

Location: 2nd District
Qualifications: International Baccalaureate and Austrian Matura
Web: www.danubeschool.at
Tel: +43 1 720 3110

Vienna Christian School (VCS) Religious-based education

Location: 22nd District
Qualifications: American High School Diploma
Web: www.viennachristianschool.org
Tel: +43 1 25122 501

Vienna Elementary School (VES) Primary School Only

Location: 18th District
Qualifications: The curriculum is based on the Austrian school system and also incorporates the best elements of other European and American systems. After five years of elementary school (including Kindergarten), children will be ready to attend any Austrian middle school (Gymnasium) or the fifth grade of any English-speaking international school.
Web: www.vienna-elementary-school.at
Tel: +43 1 470 46 00

Vienna International School (VIS)

Location: 22nd District
Qualifications: International Baccalaureate, VIS Academic Diploma (Austrian Matura equivalent), VIS General Diploma
Web: www.vis.ac.at
Tel: +43 1 203-5595

OUTSIDE VIENNA:

Boarding available: Grade 7 – Grade 12 only.

AIS Salzburg

Location: Salzburg
Qualifications: American High School Diploma, ESL Diploma, some IB Courses
Web: www.ais-salzburg.at
Tel: + 43 662 824617

The St. Gilgen International School: Opens in 2006.

Location: St. Gilgen
Qualifications: International Baccalaureate, Austrian Matura equivalent
Web: <http://www.stgilgen-international-school.at/> or
<http://www.english-schools.org/austria/st-gilgen-international-school.htm>
Tel: +43 1 512 3699/0

OTHER LANGUAGE OPTIONS

Austrian Schools

Local Austrian schools are a much more affordable option. However a student's academic direction is determined at an early age, so your child's initial lack of German skills may preclude some opportunities, for example the chance to qualify for a Gymnasium and go onto university.

Contact:

Stuart Simpson – Co-ordinator for bilingual and international projects

Europa Buro – Stadtschulrat für Wien

1080, Auerspergstrasse 15/22

Tel: 0043 1 525 25 77084

e-mail: stuart.simpson@ssr-wien.gv.at

There are however a few Public Bilingual Schools also in Vienna:

VBS – VOLKSSCHULEN/ PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Keplerplatz 7, 1100 Wien

Tel: 604 15 36

Director: Eva Bartolich, M.A

Selma – Lagerlöf – Gasse 20, 1100 Wien

Tel: 688 23 66

Director: Roswitha Evans, M.A

Herbststraße 86, 1160 Wien

Tel: 492 43 23

Director: Gabriele Prokop

Scheibenbergstraße 63, 1180 Wien

Tel: 470 63 69

Director: Ingeborg Werwendt

Grinzinger Straße 88, 1190 Wien

Tel: 37 011 49

Director: Dipl. – Päd. Karin Erthal

Leonard Bernstein Str, 2 1220 Wien

Tel: 263 66 36 111

Director: Verena Freyler-Korninger

Meißnergasse 1, 1220 Wien

Tel: 203 21 31

Director: Marianne Richter, M.A

VBS – SEKUNDARSTUFE 1 / LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Wendstattgasse 3, 1100 Wien

First Vienna Bilingual Middle School (HS/VBS)

Tel & Fax: 688 16 60, 688 27 46

e-mail: first-vbs@vbs.at

web: www.first-vbs.at

Director: Dir. Mag, Martha Hafner

Bilinguale Sekundarschule Komensky m. OR
Tel: 714 88 76-30
e-mail: direktion@komensky.at
web. www.komensky.at
Director: Dir. Mag, Jana Hanzl

Koppstraße 110/11, 1160 Wien
Tel: 495 14 41
Director: OSR Anton Feßl

Parhamerplatz 18, 1170 Wien
Tel: 486 34 07
Director: HR Mag. Stefan Böck

In der Krim 6, 1190 Wien
Tel: 368 56 41
Director: OSRn Mag. Brigitte Eyberg

Krottenbachstraße 11, 1190 Wien
Tel: 368 14 88
Director: Mag. Georg Latzke

Simonsgasse
23, 1220 Wien
Tel: 774 62 91
Director: Dr. gerhard Prammer

Theodor Kramer-Straße 3, 1220 Wien
Tel: 258 69 50
Director: Mag. Erwin Greiner

Drascherstraße 90-92, 1230 Wien
Tel: 617 42 66
Director: Mag. Dr. Friedrich Anzböck

VBS – SEKUNDARSTUFE 11 / UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Hetzendorfer Straße 66-68, 1120 Wien
Tel: 804 35 79
Director: HR Mag. Dieter Wlcek

Parhamerplatz 18, 1170 Wien
Tel: 486 34 07
Director: HR Mag. Stefan Böck

Krottenbachstraße 11, 1190 Wien
Tel: 368 14 88
Director: Mag. Georg Latzke

Theodor Kramer-Straße 3, 1220 Wien
Tel: 258 69 50
Director: Mag. Erwin Greiner

Drascherstraße 90-92, 1230 Wien
Tel: 617 42 66
Director: Mag. Dr. Friedrich Anzböck

French
www.lycee-francais.at

Japanese
www.japaneseschool.at

Swedish
www.svenskaskolan.at

Part B (Preparing for your household removal)

7. Once you have tackled the above issues, it is a good idea to separate those items to be shipped overseas and those to remain. Some things to consider:
 - a. Most unfurnished rental houses do not have any fitted cupboards so if you can get these in SA and include them with the shipment, it will certainly save you quite a bit of money and hassle. The cheapest cupboard sells for around 120 EUR, comes in kit-form melamine, is about 175 cm high by 145 cm wide and has a small section of hanging space, 3 shelves and 3 drawers. Solid Pine is considerably more expensive. A good source of cupboards is IKEA (there are 2 stores in the Vienna area), as well as KIKA and LUTZ, who have stores in many locations in Austria.
 - b. 'Unfurnished', often also means that the kitchen is nothing but an empty shell of a room (without even a kitchen sink). Where the kitchen units are fitted already, you may have to pay the previous tenant for them. Most full kitchen units which are bought on the other side include a fridge, dishwasher, stove hob and sometimes a microwave as part of the standard set, so you might want to consider letting go of any of these single items in SA, if you will be getting a fitted unit. The most basic unit will cost you around 3000 EUR (including installation fees) for which you get a fridge/deep-freeze, glass top stove, oven, hood, small microwave, dishwasher, single sink and a bit of cupboard space (not a lot). What is interesting is that the fridge is usually 'hidden' behind a cupboard door so at first glance you don't see it. Looks very neat.
 - c. Bayonet light bulbs are not available in Austria (everything is the screw-in variety) so if you are taking lamps with bayonet fittings, be sure to include a substantial supply of bulbs.
 - d. Appliances such as TV's, kettles, microwaves, lamps etc do work in Austria.
 - e. All plug points are also 2-pin so don't bother to cart over all your 2-pin to 3-pin conversion adaptors. If most of your plugs are 3-pin, might be an idea to pack a few multi-plug adaptors but

then cut-off the end plug which goes into the wall and have a 2-pin one fitted on the other side (will save you having to change every 3-pin plug). Not a bad idea to also get hold of a few Euro adaptors, the 3-pin to 2-pin conversion ones for the first few days in the country before you get to buying new plugs so at least you can have a cup of tea when you arrive (which you will certainly look forward to I can assure you !) In SA, the Automobile Association or Game (in the luggage section) usually sells these adaptors.

- f. You are only allowed between 20-30kg of luggage per person depending on your flight class (check with your airline), which you will find is not a lot. The airlines are generally quite ruthless with charging for excess luggage at frighteningly high rates so it's a good idea to pack as much of your clothing as possible in the container. Only take the most essential items with you on the aeroplane and try to use as much of the 7kg of hand luggage per person as you can. If you simply have no other option but to take more luggage with you, then it would be a much cheaper option to air-freight the excess with a carrier such as Swiss Port or KLM rather than having it checked in as excess baggage on day of departure. This does need to be arranged a day or so in advance of your departure and is freighted on the first flight with cargo space. Generally takes 3-7 days to arrive at your destination.
- g. It is not a bad idea at this time to start washing and ironing all curtains and have all upholstery / rugs cleaned. While you are at it, you might also want to wash and clean all those items that have gathered dust over the past few years so they arrive nice and clean on the other side. Remember that you will probably not have the luxury of a regular maid over there (unless you have plenty of money of course) so best to use the resources you have locally to get this done while you can. The cost for a maid (Putz Frau) is anything between 8 euro and 12 euro an hour.
- h. Be quite ruthless with what you take over with you. This is the ideal opportunity to trash all those items you hardly ever use and could quite easily live without. Make use of your local charity thrift store or second-hand store.
- i. Remember to box up any office items you will need to send over (which you won't need before you leave) and include with the shipment.
- j. If you take regular medication or use specialised facial products or cosmetics, you might want to consider stocking up on a few month's supplies in advance (or at least one full month) and sending over in the container with you to allow you sufficient time on the other side to find the same or similar product. Perhaps ask your doctor to provide you with a list of your medication showing active ingredients as many medicines have

different names but have almost identical recipes to those in South Africa.

- k. Also an idea to pack some good SA wines. There is a limit though on how much you can take so check this first with the removal company. Also, pack in favourite groceries such as Custard Powder, BBQ spices, curry powder etc. It takes time once you are settled to work out the replacement products and besides the instructions are in German.
8. Once you have an idea of the content of your container, you should arrange for 3 international removals companies to visit your home to provide a quote. (Takes about 1 hr per assessment). The best but most expensive is Stuttafords. Some of the other bigger companies to consider are: Biddulphs, Pickfords, Elliot, Frasers etc.

Although most do, it is advisable to ensure that all companies quote on the same basis i.e. including or excluding insurance, the value of excess payment to be paid vs. the % premium to be paid, transportation of pets etc. Remember when pointing out the items to be shipped, to include any items of yours that are not on the property (e.g. if you have a canoe or windsurfer stored at your local club which you plan to take). If you still plan to buy some larger items, remember to advise the agent during the assessment since each item needs to be listed and measured. Also note that if anything is bought within 12 months of your departure, a 25% import tax is supposed to be paid on the item at customs. Also useful to ask if the removals company will be willing to return and remove all the unpacked boxes after you have completed all your unpacking, usually about 2 weeks after your delivery. Some only remove what you have on the day and the rest is left to you to dispose of (which you will find is quite a mission).

9. Start collecting / getting an idea of replacement costs for all items to be shipped (this is required for the insurance form). Be sure of prices for the really valuable and more fragile / high risk items or otherwise you may end up not getting the true replacement value back should you need to claim for anything. You will find the packers are very diligent though and really do wrap each item meticulously so most items arrive in perfect order on the other end.
10. Find out from the removal company when they submit the quote how long it will take to your final destination (including the delivery time to your door, not just to the where the ship docks as some only tell you) and work back to the required removal date.
11. If you will be leaving your pets behind, advertise for new owners and arrange for suitable rehousing before the furniture removals date. This will be a traumatic enough experience for them (and for you) as it is but will be less so if they are not there when the house is packed up.
12. Advise your domestic and garden workers of your impending departure and provide formal notice of termination of service or arrange for a transfer of employment to new owners / tenants. Best to

check with the Dept of Labour on what payments you will need to make e.g. retrenchment pay, leave pay, UIF etc

13. If you will be arriving in Winter (November – March) and you are short of some REAL winter clothing, Cape Union Mart is just the place to visit. Although they are quite pricey, their quality is superb and you will probably pay a lot more for something similar overseas. Due to central heating, the best clothing strategy is LAYERS. For ski clothing though, it is probably advisable to wait to buy in Austria as they really are the specialists in this regard.
14. Make arrangements for temporary accommodation between when the furniture container leaves your home and arrives at the door of your new residence. Vienna especially has a variety of furnished serviced apartment's ideal for your first month. No matter how well you time the move, you will need to book the first night in Austria in a hotel or B&B since you need to register in person with the local municipality on arrival in the area before the customs will release your furniture container and this process takes one full day.
15. Remember to keep all the items you will need to use before you leave and /or take with you on the aeroplane well away from the rest of the items to go in the container. If you don't already have a home personal file containing all your valuable household and personal information, it is a good idea to create one and keep separate from the goods to be shipped. Keep copies of passports, employment letters, birth certificates, marriage certificate with you as replacement from overseas would be tough.

Part C (Post shipment arrangements)

16. If you own property, decide on whether to sell or rent out your home and approach agents / begin advertising privately. (If planning to sell, might be a good idea to run a show day before your furniture is cleared out).
17. This is also a good time to tackle all those around-the-house jobs which still need to be done before handing over to a new owner / tenant. (It is quite amazing how, after a while, we tend not to notice all the small things around the house that need attention, but which will certainly be noticed by a new owner or tenant!)
18. If you will be selling your car/s, it might be an idea to sell one of them quite a while in advance and make do with one vehicle until a few weeks before you leave. Also not a bad idea to sell the second one a short time before you need to leave and hire a car for the last while rather than having to stress about finding a buyer in your last week.
19. You will need to visit your nearest AA (Automobile Association) at some stage with your drivers licence, 2 photos and around R110 to get an international drivers licence conversion. (Only takes a few minutes to issue)

20. If you will be buying a new vehicle on the other side and you know what you want, it might be an idea to order this in advance since there can be a waiting period of a good few weeks / months for some models. (Hopefully you will have already seen a few Austrian car dealers at the time of your property tour). Remember to ask for all the manuals to be ordered in English otherwise you will get the standard German version!
21. If buying a used car, some sites you can visit are www.autoscout24.com, www.cars4you.com (for all vehicle types) or senker.com (for VW and Audi vehicles).
22. Depending on when you will receive your vehicle you may need to hire a car either through the dealer or through a car hire company. Rates are better if bookings are done in advance.
23. Remember to cancel / transfer all monthly services that will no longer be required (some require 1 month's notice before the payment will be stopped). The more common services include:
 - a. Home telephone
 - b. Home internet service provider
 - c. Cell phone contract
 - d. M-Net / DSTV
 - e. Water, electricity, rates
 - f. Insurance (household, car, personal)
 - g. Armed Response
 - h. Post box rental
 - i. Sports club memberships
 - j. Any other debit orders to be cancelled
24. For those monthly payments you will need to continue to make in SA (e.g. rates and taxes on a property you will be renting out, bond repayments etc) and which are not already paid by debit order, you might want to consider converting them to this method. Internet banking will allow you to manage these accounts quite easily while abroad.
25. You will find that getting out of a cell phone contract is not that easy and the cost you need to pay works out to around the same as keeping the contract active! If you can't get someone to take over the contract, you might want to consider keeping the debit order in place and giving the phone as a free gift to a family member or friend in SA. (At least this way you don't just give the free minutes you would have received back to the service provider!)
26. Don't forget to write down all the contact numbers you will need from your cell phone if you are not taking it with you.
27. Start advising all senders of postal mail that you will be moving and provide them with a local forwarding address where necessary (required for some bank and municipal accounts which remain open).

28. Ask your insurance provider to give you a signed letter detailing your insurance history with them and your claim rating since some of the Austrian insurance companies offer very substantial discounts if you can show your favourable no-claim history. One of these insurance houses is Zurich insurance but best to work through a broker who can do some comparisons for you.
29. Now is probably not a bad time to start familiarising yourself with the German language. There are some very good and fairly inexpensive CD programmes and books on the market. A well recommended CD course titled "Learn to Speak German v9" by Mindscape can be ordered through a supplier at 021 - 9481817. The cost, inclusive of delivery, is around R350.
30. Exclusive Books also have some good German language and pocket-size phrase books and dictionaries. A good dictionary really is a must-have for grocery- shopping because everything of course will be in German and the brand names will be mostly unfamiliar so do try and lay your hands on one. They also have very good books for tourists on Europe, Austria and Vienna. Search under the Travel section or browse on-line. While it is not easy to find an English bookstore in Austria, Vienna has 3 branches of the British Bookstore, which stocks latest best-sellers as well as language, tour and hobby books.
31. If you have children with birthdays coming up soon, you may wish to purchase any games or books for inclusion in your container.

Part D (Getting ready for departure)

32. When you have confirmation that your work permit has been issued you can book your flights and get your foreign exchange. For this you will need a copy of the ticket or confirmation of booking, a copy of your passport and proof of your residential address (such as a telephone or electricity account). You can get traveller's cheques either from your bank or from a foreign exchange bureau (such as American Express, Rennies etc). Suggest you compare each of them against the % commission they take to process the transaction and the actual rate of exchange they will give you compared to the market exchange rate. (Bear in mind that the final rate you pay is calculated on the exchange rate at the time you take possession of the traveller's cheques, which is usually a few days after you have ordered the money). You can take out R0000 per family member or person travelling overseas per year. If you are single and will not be travelling over with anyone on your departure and you will need to take out more than the R0000 allowed, you can write a special motivation to the Reserve Bank to allow you to exceed this amount. Your bank's forex consultant will usually assist you with this process. Will just need to provide a list (ideally from the relocation agent) of all the costs you will incur before your first pay cheque e.g. buying a car, rental deposit etc.
33. Once you have the foreign exchange, you can apply for a visa via your travel agent. Remember that you can only apply for a visa once your work/residence permit has been complete in full in Austria and the necessary paperwork has been received by the embassy in

Pretoria. The entire process takes between 3 - 4 months from the application for police clearance to the issuing of your visa.

34. By this time, you are probably only days from leaving and whatever hasn't been done won't be done so best to relax and make the most of your last few days in sunny South Africa!

Part E (The day of your departure)

35. So the day has arrived for you to finally leave. No doubt this will be a pretty emotional day for you (and so too probably were the last few days, or even weeks). This is all quite natural and an important step in the process of letting go.

Remember when you finally pack to weigh your luggage (including the suitcase) and to keep strictly to your limits if you don't want to foot a hefty excess luggage bill. When you pack your hand luggage, be sure to plan for the possibility of your checked luggage going astray (which happens quite frequently) so be sure to include a full set of clean clothing and other essentials you will need in your first 48 hours.

36. Lock all possible openings to your luggage ideally with combination locks or otherwise plastic ties. Keep all valuables (digital camera, video camera, laptop, jewellery, cell phones) safely in your hand luggage.
37. Leave for the airport in good time to allow for any unforeseen delays on route, all the airport procedures and a bit of time at the duty-free shops after check-in!

Conclusion

We do hope that we have been able to help in some way and that your move is a pleasant experience. We know how stressful international moves can be, but with proper planning and a cool head, it really can be an exciting adventure!

As a final comment, please note that this information is accurate in terms of our experience and as at March 2008. As legislation changes and time goes by, the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed.

We would also welcome any feedback you may have on anything we could still add into this guide, so please do contact us (fosa@fosa.at) if you have any additional information you would like to share with others.

We look forward to meeting up with you in the beautiful county of Austria. Good luck until then!

Useful Web Sites

English people living abroad

<http://www.virtualvienna.net/>

<http://www.rainbownation.com/index.asp>

Information on Austria

<http://www.help.gv.at/Content.Node/HELP-FC.html>

<http://www.gmacglobalrelocation.com/CountryReports2.asp.html>

Pet Travel

<http://www.pettravel.com/immigration/austria.cfm>

http://www.cx.unibe.ch/ivv/Swiss_Rabies_Center/swiss_rabies_center.html

www.globalpaws.co.za

Cost of living

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity

<http://www.homefair.com/homefair/servlet/ActionServlet?pid=246&previousPage=245&cid=homefair&fromSalary=450000&fromCity=610&toCity=45>

Vehicles

<http://www.autoscout24.at/>

<http://www.weltauto.com/>

<http://www.cars4you.at/>

Department stores

http://www.ikea.com/ms/de_AT/

<http://www.kika.at/>

<http://www.lutz.at/>

Relocation agent

<http://www.relocation-services.at/>

Some Costs

Accommodation

Houses with gardens are not easy to come by and if you are lucky enough to find one, the rentals are at a premium. Apartments are the more popular form of accommodation and therefore provide more choice, at a slightly cheaper rental. Accommodation in Vienna is slightly more costly. Accommodation can range from €1000 for a medium city apartment, €2500 for a medium townhouse in the suburbs to €5000 for a luxury house in the 19th district. Smaller country towns are cheaper.

Aside from the rental, other costs include:

- Deposit. Varies from 3 – 6 month's rent upfront.
- Heating. Can either be built into the rental price or paid as an additional monthly cost. 150 - 200 Euro (rough estimate)
- Estate agent fees. Usually 3 month's rent and paid by new tenant.
- Rental contract tax. Around 380 Euro.

- Rental contract drafting fee. Around 300 Euro.
- Water. 12 Euro per month (rough estimate)
- Electricity. 80 Euro per month (rough estimate). Separate from the heating fee.

Vehicles

You will be glad to know that while property is comparably more expensive in Austria than SA, vehicle prices are marginally lower. The choice of vehicle manufacturers is slightly more limited there but the bigger names are fairly well represented. Of course, all cars are left-hand drive! 4x4's are fairly uncommon. Most cars are dark in colour and diesel. Most are of German origin. Service costs are much higher than in SA though, so in the end the total costs all balance out.

Furniture and household appliances

Definitely more expensive across the board so if in any doubt, rather buy in SA!

Labour costs

This is totally different and you will find South Africans are really spoilt in this regard. If you hire someone to clean your house or garden, you can expect to pay 10 EUR per hour at a minimum. Handymen, Electricians, Plumbers etc are much more expensive so might be an idea to pick up a good Do-It-Yourself book while you are still in SA!

Groceries

Also much more expensive than what you will be used to paying with quite a range of small shops offering different quality and price options. The following prices were taken from one of the Inter Spar brochures (regular not special prices). Inter Spar is the largest and probably the most popular chain store in the area (at least one familiar shop you will find here!). Big grocery outings are rather unusual, people seem to shop as they need, largely due to lack of storage space and public transport.

Most stores have quite good specials almost weekly so you are bound to pick up many of these items a lot cheaper from time to time but you could make up your own basket of goods from the items below and compare this to what you pay in SA to give you a better idea of the difference.

Category	Item	Brand	Quantity / Detail	Austria price	Austria price in Rands (@ exchange rate of R8.00 to 1 EUR)
Groceries	Apples		2 kg	€ 1,29	R 10,32
	Bananas		per kg	€ 1,59	R 12,72
	Beef		per kg	€ 9,99	R 79,92
	Beer	Zipfer	500 ml can	€ 0,65	R 5,20
	Bottled baby food	Hipp	190 g bottle	€ 0,99	R 7,92
	Brie		100 g	€ 0,79	R 6,32
	Butter	Heidi	250 g	€ 1,59	R 12,72
	Cheese		per kg	€ 7,90	R 63,20
	Chicken fillets		per kg	€ 8,99	R 71,92
	Chicken pieces		per kg	€ 3,99	R 31,92
	Chips		250 g	€ 0,69	R 5,52
	Chocolate	After Eight	200g chocolate mint	€ 1,59	R 12,72
	Cleaning cream		500 ml (equivalent to Handy Andy)	€ 2,49	R 19,92
	Coffee	Nescafe	200 g Classic	€ 6,99	R 55,92
	Coke, Fanta ...		2 l	€ 1,89	R 15,12
	Cream cheese	Kiri	120 g	€ 1,79	R 14,32
	Deodorant Spray	Dove	175 ml	€ 2,79	R 22,32
	Dishwashing Liquid	Palmolive		€ 1,79	R 14,32
	Drinking yoghurt	Elite	500 ml	€ 1,29	R 10,32
	Eggs		6 pack	€ 2,09	R 16,72
	Flour		1 kg	€ 1,19	R 9,52
	Frankfurters		per kg	€ 5,99	R 47,92
	Fresh orange	Cappy	1 l carton	€ 0,95	R 7,60
	Frozen Fish	Iglo	400g (hake fingers and fillets)	€ 2,49	R 19,92
	Gouda Cheese		per kg	€ 5,70	R 45,60
	Ham		per kg	€ 4,99	R 39,92
	Ice-cream	Cremissimo	1 l	€ 2,22	R 17,76
	Lamb		per kg	€ 11,90	R 95,20
	Margarine	Rama	500 g tub	€ 1,49	R 11,92
	Marmalade		450 g	€ 2,29	R 18,32
	Martini		Bianco	€ 4,99	R 39,92
	Milk		long life	€ 1,29	R 10,32
	Mineral water		1,5 l	€ 3,54	R 28,32
	Nesquick		1 kg	€ 3,29	R 26,32
	Oil	Mazola	500 ml	€ 1,39	R 11,12
	Oranges		2,5 kg	€ 1,99	R 15,92
	Pork		per kg	€ 8,49	R 67,92
	Potatoes		per kg	€ 1,39	R 11,12
	Red bull		250 ml	€ 1,29	R 10,32
	Red wine	Zonneblom	Merlot (from SA)	€ 5,99	R 47,92
	Rice		1 kg	€ 1,15	R 9,20
	Salami		per kg	€ 7,98	R 63,84
	Shampoo	Palmolive	400ml	€ 1,39	R 11,12
	Spagetti			€ 0,99	R 7,92
	Sugar		500 g white	€ 0,79	R 6,32
	Toilet rolls	Cosy	15 rolls, 3 ply	€ 3,49	R 27,92
	Tomato Sauce		400 g	€ 1,39	R 11,12
	Toothpaste	Colgate	75 ml tube	€ 1,59	R 12,72
	Vodka	Absolut		€ 12,99	R 103,92
	Whiskey	Johnny Walker	Red Label	€ 13,79	R 110,32
Yoghurt	Danone	180 g	€ 0,49	R 3,92	

Some of the items you don't find in the shops so you may want to bring with you while you get weaned off them are:

Bovril, Marmite, Rusks, Anchovy Paste, Low caffeine Ceylon tea, Peri-Peri sauce, Chutney, Cross & Blackwell Mayonaisse, Custard Powder,

If you are a big tea drinker, you may also want to bring some of your 5 Roses along until you get used to the locally available variety. Does taste a bit different but do bear in mind that this is a coffee-drinking nation so you can get the most amazing coffee here. Although Rooibos tea is sometimes available as a speciality tea, it is really expensive so if you are a Rooibos tea fan, you would also be well advised to stock up on this. One good thing is that

Twinnings have produced a caramel flavoured Rooibos tea which is very nice. Are plenty of herbal teas but once again, they are sold as speciality tea's so come at a price.

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