

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 26, 1955—AUSTRIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 1918—AUSTRIAN HISTORICAL HOLIDAY

Every year, the Federal Government celebrates this day with a series of events in Vienna:

- The Federal President and the Federal Minister of Defense attend a celebration at Heldenplatz.
- The Federal President lays a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Burgtor.
- The Council of Ministers holds a festive meeting.
- The Federal President addresses the population in a “State of the Union”-styled speech on TV.
- The Federal Chancellery opens its doors to the public
- The new recruits of the Austrian Armed Forces are sworn in.

The citizens have the possibility of visiting federal museums for free or at a discounted fee on that day. Various institutions also open their doors to the public (ie. the Federal Chancellery). Austrian Embassies around the world celebrate the Austrian National Day by hosting a number of different events for Austrian citizens.

What Do People Do?

On October 26, the Austrian national flag is omnipresent throughout the country. Memorial ceremonies are held in many locations, federal museums offer free entry and some state institutions open for visitors.

A very different tradition on National Day are the “fitness marches” (*Fit-Märsche*). These are hikes that are organized throughout the country and attract around 100,000 people each year. The aim is to promote fitness and raise awareness of a healthy lifestyle.

Public Life

The National Day on October 26 is a public holiday in Austria. Offices, banks, schools and businesses are closed. Public transport runs on a reduced schedule.