

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

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

der 26. Oktober: **Austria's Independence Day / Österreichs Staatsfeiertag**



- **National Holiday in Austria, when it declared its neutrality.**
- **This day commemorates the founding of the Republic of Austria in 1955, when the country became physically free of foreign occupation.**
- **Last Allied soldiers left the country on the night of 10/25, ending 17 years of foreign occupation, first by Germany and then the 4 Allied countries.**

NATIONAL DAY IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN AUSTRIA

NATIONAL DAY IN AUSTRIA: OCTOBER 26

National Day is a public holiday in Austria.

National Day of Austria is October 26, 2009, and commemorates the day in 1955 when the Soviet Union ended its occupation, and Austria passed a law of perpetual neutrality.

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS AND ACTIVITIES

The celebration of National Holiday in Austria has come to be marked by a national “fitness day” with many people all over Austria taking long walks. The Parliament building and all national museums are open, but stores and many other businesses are closed.

How is Austria's National Day celebrated?

The day is celebrated each year with a series of events in Vienna:

- › the Federal President and the Federal Minister for Defense attend a Mass on the Heldenplatz
- › the Federal President followed by the Federal Government lay wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier in the Crypt of the outer Burgtor
- › a festive meeting of the Council of Ministers is held
- › the government attends a Concert for Austria at the Vienna Staatsoper and
- › finally the new recruits of the Austrian Armed Service are sworn in.

The citizens are offered the possibility to visit the federal museums for free. Various institutions also traditionally open their doors for the day (ie. the Federal Chancellery). Around the country so called “marches for fitness” are organized to raise awareness among the population about the benefits of exercise and fitness.

Around the world the Austrian Embassies celebrate the National Day with receptions for the Austrian citizens.

Did you know?

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hollywood actor and former governor of California, was born and raised in Austria.