

United States Embassy - Vienna, Austria
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Demonstrations Planned Near Hofburg

January 26, 2016

The U.S. Embassy in Vienna informs U. S. citizens that on the evening of January 29th, 2016, the Wiener Akademiker Ball will take place at the Hofburg Palace in the First District. Similar to years past, police will close down the area near the Hofburg Palace and Heldenplatz in anticipation of a large and unruly demonstration. Two years ago police reported approximately 3,000 demonstrators with a number of arrests, several minor injuries, and damage to parked vehicles and storefronts. Last year there was sporadic violence and demonstrations.

Access to the area immediately surrounding the ball venue will be restricted to ball guests, residents, and business owners after 5:00 pm on Friday January, 29th 2016. Street closures in the area—both inside the Ring road and to the South of Wipplingerstrasse and West of Rotenturmstrasse/Kartnerstrasse will begin at 3:00 pm the same day and will include a heavy police presence.

Residents who normally leave their car on the street overnight in the affected areas should consider alternate parking. Lack of access to the area, unruly crowds and damage to personal property are real possibilities.

We remind you that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, monitor local news stations for updates, and report specific incidences of targeted violence to the U.S. Embassy in Vienna at the number below. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Austria enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. Embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the U.S. Embassy.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country](#)

[Specific Information for Austria](#). For additional information, refer to “[A Safe Trip Abroad](#).”

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

The U.S. Embassy’s Consular Section in Vienna is located at Parkring 12a, 4th Floor 1010 Vienna, Austria. To reach the American Citizens Services unit during business hours, please call 31-339-7535, or e-mail us at ConsulateVienna@state.gov. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +43 1-31-339-0.**