SO, YOU'RE HOSTING A STUDENT FROM AUSTRIA.

Thank you for hosting with AYA! We understand that this is not only a very exciting time for you, but you may also be feeling nervous. Fear not! **Here are some helpful hints to help make your year a successful one.** (*Please note: while this information is mostly typical of a culture, it does not apply to all students. Every personality is different, so keep that in mind!*)

Please be Aware...

While German is Austria's official language, Austrians speak with distinct regional dialects. They may enjoy sharing their dialect, but appreciate when people avoid confusing Austria with Germany.

Austrian humor can be subtle or dry, and students may not immediately grasp American jokes or sarcasm. Offer patience and light explanations when needed.

1 Clear & Polite

Austrians tend to communicate in a direct yet polite way. Clarity and honesty are appreciated, but conversations are usually less blunt than German interactions. Austrian teens may seem a bit formal at first, but they are often warm and humorous once comfortable.

2 Independence

Austrian teens are generally given a good deal of independence — walking, biking, or using public transport on their own from a young age. Your student may be comfortable managing their own schedule and planning activities independently.

3 Reserved Personality

Austrian teens may appear quiet, reserved, or private when they first arrive. This doesn't mean they're unhappy — it's a sign of cultural caution and respect. Give them time and space, and they will become more open with familiarity.

4 Food Preferences

Students may be used to simpler, less processed meals and may initially find U.S. snacks and fast food unappetizing. In Austria, breakfast is often bread-based, lunch is the largest meal and dinner is lighter.

5 Punctuality & Structure

Punctuality is a cultural norm. Austrians value being on time for appointments, school, and meals. Your student may expect consistent routines and could feel uncomfortable with a "loose" household schedule.

AYA
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