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Toponymic data files: national gazetteers

Geographical Names Database of Austria

Submitted by Austria**

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Geographical Names Database of Austria¹

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¹ *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (Ed.): Geographical Names Database of Austria. Austrian Academy of Sciences Press. Wien 2002. ISBN 3-7001-2941-6*

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1 Recommendations of the United Nations

In its resolution on the national standardization of geographical names the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 4th – 22nd September, 1967, at which Austria was represented by Dr. Josef Breu, issued the following recommendation:

”National gazetteers: It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names. It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

1. The kind of feature to which the name applies;
2. Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference, if possible, of each named feature;
3. Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;
4. Such information on administrative or regional areas is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the feature lies;
5. All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-references to be made to names previously used for the same feature.

When national authorities determine it possible, both technically and economically, they may include such information as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation in the system of the International Phonetic Association and such other linguistic information as may lead to the better understanding and use of names both nationally and internationally.”

Moreover, the United Nations, in the same resolution, recommended the publication of glossaries of geographical appellatives occurring in geographical names and lists of officially acknowledged names of minority languages.

2 Selection Criteria and Sources Used

2.1 Selection Criteria

The names database covers all named geographical features contained in the Gazetteer of Austria, edited by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Vienna 1975) and in the *Übersichtskarte von Österreich 1 : 500,000*, published by the *Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen* in Vienna (1997). Information on additional data included in the names database is given in the preface. As far as the selection of names of populated places and communes is concerned a few explanatory remarks are called for.

The principle in official Austrian maps is to name the topographically independent populated places. In the *Österreichische Karte 1 : 50,000*, the names of communes are not separately given if they correspond to the names of populated places within these communes. In the *Übersichtskarte von Österreich 1 : 500,000*, with a few exceptions only populated places are named, but in this names database care was taken to list all the names of communes as main entries that are not registered as names of populated places.

2.2 Sources Used

1. Names of Populated Places:
Ortsverzeichnis von Österreich compiled on the basis of the 15th May, 1991 census, edited by *Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt*, Vienna, various publication dates. More recent changes have been included into the names database according to the *Änderungen der Verwaltungsgliederung*, published by *Statistik Österreich*, formerly *Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt*, Vienna, various publication dates. For the purposes of this names database the set date for the inclusion of names of populated places and relating them to communes and administrative districts was 1st January 2000.
2. Administrative Units:
Gemeindeübersicht, edited by the *Statistik Österreich*, formerly *Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt*, published yearly.
3. Names of federal roads:
 Bundesstraßengesetz 1971, Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Österreich, Nr. 286/1971 and amendments.
4. Names of mountain huts, Alpine hotels and inns:
 The spelling used by the *Österreichischer Alpenverein* was adopted for whatever names were not fixed in the *Ortsverzeichnis*.
5. Other geographical names:
Österreichische Karte 1 : 50,000, edited by the *Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen*. For the official sources used in this map see chapter D I.
 For names of objects not appearing in the *Österreichische Karte 1 : 50,000* information was obtained from other reliable sources, mostly from documents held by the naming authorities.

A comprehensive list of sources for the standardised spelling of geographical names can be found in the *Quellenverzeichnis für geographische Namen – Arbeitsunterlage für Redakteure* (Directory of sources for geographical names – A handout for editors), published by the *Österreichische Kartographische Kommission*.

3 The Structure of the Gazetteer

3.1 Headword

The geographical names in this names database are listed in alphabetical order both as main entries and as cross-references.

1. Main Entries

The main entries contain all the necessary lexical information according to the guidelines recommended for gazetteers by the United Nations.

2. Cross-references

Cross-references include: variant forms, such as *Isper* for *Ysper* [river]; in entries like *Dachstein*, *Hoher* reference is made to *Hoher Dachstein*; some obsolete names like *Viertel oberm Manhartsberg* for *Waldviertel*; with Slovenian names for objects in the area where this language is spoken, such as *Korte*, reference is made to *Trögern*; names for parts of cities, etc.

3. Alphabetical Arrangement

- a) The customary sequence of letters of the Roman alphabet is used: *a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z*.
- b) Letters with diacritical marks such as *ä*, *š* or *é*, are alphabetized as *a*, *s* and *e*.

- c) *ae*, *oe* and *ue* are alphabetized as *a* plus *e*, *o* plus *e* and *u* plus *e* regardless of their pronunciation (*oe* = *o* + *e*).
- d) *ß* is alphabetized as *ss*.
- e) Hyphens, spaces, the use of upper and lower case letters, and commas are disregarded for the purposes of alphabetizing. Examples: *Großglockner-Hochalpenstraße* is read as *Großglocknerhochalpenstrasse*; *Laa an der Thaya* as *Laaanderthaya*; *Dachstein, Hoher* [cross reference] as *Dachsteinhoher*.

3.2 Variant Forms

Variant forms of main entries are given if they are commonly used. Colloquial names and obsolete forms are given as an exception only. Official Slovenian place names in Carinthia and geographical names for mountains and passes at the border with Slovenia were included.

3.3 Pronunciation

1 General remarks

- 1.1 In this gazetteer, the pronunciation of each geographical name is indicated by means of an international phonetic transcription system, according to a recommendation of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1968; Resolution 4). The "International Phonetic Alphabet"/IPA is used for that purpose (see 2, "Pronunciation key"). A number of facts and problems should be noted:
 - 2.1 The indications in square brackets after the headword refer as a rule to a pronunciation on the level of Standard German. This might raise problems since the traditional spelling of many geographical names is based primarily on the local pronunciation in a dialect. Often such names retain a dialectal or semi-dialectal pronunciation even within spoken Standard German. In these cases the phonetic indications will tend to be a compromise. (See 3.1.2.)
 - 3.1 With many geographical names there are two different ways of stressing – often one of them used by local and regional speakers and the other one by Austrians outside the area. Accordingly, in several cases two variants of stressing are indicated, marked "einheimisch" (= local) and "ortsfremd" (= non-local), respectively.
 - 4.1 The notation of the Standard German pronunciation in this gazetteer follows the prestigious manuals *Duden/Wörterbuch geographischer Namen/Europa* (Mannheim, 1966) and *Siebs/Deutsche Aussprache*, 19th edition (Berlin, 1969). Such alignment was well-founded at a time when the *Geographisches Namenbuch Österreichs* was being prepared for publication, in the early seventies, and there is no need to depart from it in the new edition. It is true that this type of notation refers to a somewhat formal, spelling-biased pronunciation. On the other hand, it is exactly this characteristic which makes it more serviceable for users whose task is a transcription from Roman into non-Roman letters. For switching from a more formal pronunciation to one closer to everyday speech (cf., i.a., *Duden/Aussprachewörterbuch*, 3rd ed., Mannheim, 1990) there is a set of simple rules. (See 3.2.)

2 Pronunciation key

IPA symbol	as in the word(s)	Phonetic description	Equivalents in spelling
a	<i>satt</i>	short neutral [a]-vowel	<i>a</i>
a:	<i>Saat</i>	long neutral [a]-vowel	<i>a, aa, ah</i>
aI	<i>weit</i>	diphthong beginning with [a] and ending in [I] or [e]	<i>ei, ey, ai, ay</i>
aU	<i>laut</i>	diphthong beginning with [a] and ending in [U] or [o]	<i>au</i>
b	<i>Bad, Ebbe</i>	voiced labial plosive	<i>b, bb</i>
ç	<i>ich</i>	voiceless palatal spirant	<i>ch; g</i> (in the suffix - <i>ig</i>)
d	<i>da, drei</i>	voiced dental plosive	<i>d, dd</i>
e	<i>real, Methan</i>	short close [e]-vowel	<i>e</i>
e:	<i>See</i>	long close [e]-vowel	<i>e, ee, eh</i>
E	<i>fett</i>	short open [E]-vowel	<i>e, ä</i>
E:	<i>spät</i>	long open [E]-vowel; often replaced by [e:]	<i>ä, äh</i>
K	<i>singen, kommen</i>	short centralized [e]-type "schwa" vowel; see 3.2	<i>e</i>
f	<i>oft</i>	voiceless labiodental spirant	<i>f, ff, v, ph</i>
g	<i>gut, Egge</i>	voiced velar/palatal plosive	<i>g, gg</i>
h	<i>hart</i>	voiceless breathed sound	<i>h</i>
i	<i>lineal, vital</i>	short close [i]-vowel	<i>i, y</i>
i:	<i>viel</i>	long close [i]-vowel	<i>i, ie, ih, ieh, y, yh</i>
iK	<i>Diex, Mieming</i>	diphthong combining [i] and open [K] similar to Southern Brit. Engl. <i>here, beer</i>	<i>ie</i>
I	<i>wissen</i>	short open [I]-vowel	<i>i, ie, yh</i>
j	<i>ja</i>	voiced palatal spirant	(Engl. <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i>)
k	<i>kalt, Kind</i>	voiceless velar/palatal plosive, in most positions aspirated	<i>k, ck, gg, kk; in certain positions g, c, q; chs, x = [ks]</i>
l	<i>lang, alle</i>	voiced lateral	<i>l, ll</i>
m	<i>immer</i>	voiced labial nasal	<i>m, mm</i>
n	<i>nein</i>	voiced dental nasal	<i>n, nn</i>
N	<i>lange, Wink</i>	voiced velar nasal	<i>ng; n</i> before <i>k</i>
o	<i>Fotograf</i>	short close [o]-vowel	<i>o</i>
o:	<i>hoch</i>	long close [o]-vowel	<i>o, oo, oh</i>
O	<i>Loch</i>	short open [O]-vowel	<i>o</i>
O]	<i>neun</i>	diphthong beginning with [O] and ending in open ü [I] or close ö [I]	<i>eu, äu, oi, oy</i>
/	<i>ökonomisch</i>	short close ö-vowel	<i>ö, oe</i>
/:	<i>schön</i>	long close ö-vowel	<i>ö, öh, oe</i>
œ	<i>können</i>	short open ö-vowel	<i>ö</i>
p	<i>Lippe</i>	voiceless labial plosive, in most positions aspirated	<i>p, pp, in certain positions b</i>
pf	<i>Pfropfen</i>	combination of voiceless labial plosive and labio-dental spirant	<i>pf</i>
r	<i>rollen, irren</i>	voiced apical or uvular vibrant; see 3.2	<i>r, rr, rh</i>

IPA symbol	as in the word(s)	Phonetic description	Equivalents in spelling
s	<i>was, weiß</i>	voiceless "narrow" dental sibilant (hiss)	<i>s, ss, ß</i>
S	<i>schon, Stern</i>	voiceless "broad" palato-alveolar sibilant (hush) (Engl. <i>sh</i> in <i>she</i>)	<i>sch; s</i> before <i>p, t</i>
t	<i>Tat</i>	voiceless dental plosive, in most positions aspirated	<i>t, tt, th, dt</i> , in certain positions <i>d</i>
ts	<i>zehn</i>	combination of voiceless dental plosive and "narrow" sibilant (dental affricate)	<i>z, tz; c</i> vor <i>e, i, y</i>
tS	<i>deutsch</i>	combination of voiceless dental plosive and "broad" sibilant (palato-alveolar affricate) (Engl. <i>ch</i> in <i>much</i>)	<i>tsch</i>
u	<i>Union</i>	short close [u]-vowel	<i>u</i>
u:	<i>gut</i>	long close [u]-vowel	<i>u, uh</i>
U	<i>Stunde</i>	short open [U]-vowel	<i>u</i>
v	<i>wohl</i>	voiced labio-dental spirant (Engl. <i>v</i> in <i>very</i>)	<i>w, v</i>
x	<i>acht</i>	voiceless velar spirant (Scott. <i>ch</i> in <i>loch</i>)	<i>ch</i>
y	<i>Physik</i>	short close ü-vowel	<i>y</i>
y:	<i>grün</i>	long close ü-vowel	<i>ü, üh, y</i>
]	<i>wünschen</i>	short open ü-vowel	<i>ü, y</i>
z	<i>Rose</i>	voiced "narrow" sibilant (Engl. <i>z</i> in <i>zeal</i>)	<i>s</i>
'	<i>ver-anlassen, ge-ohrfeigt</i>	voiceless glottal plosive (glottal stop)	(none)

The sign ' means that the following syllable carries the main stress in the word, e.g. *Moment* [mo'mEnt].

The sign " denotes that the following syllable carries a secondary (weaker) stress, as in *Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft* ['dampfSIffa:rtsgK"zElSaft] (used in special cases only).

The sign - in p-f, t-S means that p and f, and t and S are to be pronounced separately, as in *Abfall* ['ap-fal], *Mattscheibe* ['mat-SalbK] (comp. Engl. *hat shop*).

In a few geographical names containing foreign personal names other sounds may occur:

IPA symbol	as in the word	Phonetic description
w	Engl.: <i>well</i>	labial glide
Z	Engl.: <i>measure</i>	voiced "broad" sibilant (<i>zh</i> -sound)
θ	Engl.: <i>thank</i>	voiceless dental spirant
V	Engl.: <i>puzzle</i>	half-open, central, unrounded vowel between [K], [() and [a]

3 Details of spelling and pronunciation

3.1 Letter-to-sound relationship in Austrian geographical names.

3.1.1 The letter *v* is almost always the symbol for the sound [f]. In a number of names an erroneous pronunciation as [v] is, however, fairly widespread.

Something similar is true for the letter *y*: as a rule it is only an older spelling for *i*. The pronunciation [y], [i] (i. e. "ü"), should be avoided.

Such wrong pronunciations [v] and [y/] are not pointed out in this gazetteer. In names like *Virunum* (Latin) or *Pyramidenkogel* (from *Pyramide* [py-]) the pronunciation [v] and [y], respectively, is of course the right one.

- 3.1.2 gg between vowels (e.g. Eggenburg) denotes an unaspirated [k]-sound not having a phonological counterpart in Standard German. In this publication both sounds, [k] and [g], are given as alternatives.

Several spellings with *ie*, *ue* (see e.g. *Mieming*, *Pass Lueg*) are dealt with in an analogous way.

3.2 Styles in German standard pronunciation

Below a few rules are given (cf. 1.4) for the conversion of a more formal style of pronunciation (as presented in this gazetteer) into a style closer to everyday speech:

- 3.2.1 The vowel [K] in [Kl], [Kn] at the end of a word or before a consonant is omitted, e.g. *Baden* ['ba:dKn] → ['ba:dn], *Mistelbach* ['mIstKlbax] → ['mIstlbax]. However, [K] in [mKn], [nKn], [NKn] is retained, e.g. *Rinnen* ['rinKn], *Langen* ['laNKn].

- 3.2.2 The sequence [Kr] at the end of a word or before a consonant is replaced by [P], an [a]-type "schwa"-vowel (approximately between [K] and [a] and similar to *a* in Engl. *comma*, *Nora*), e.g. *Lofer* ['lo:fKr] → ['lo:fP], *Attersee* ['a:tKrze:] → ['a:tPze:], *Angern* ['aNKrn] → ['aNPN].

- 3.2.3 When the consonant [r] occurs after a long vowel and either at the end of a word or before a consonant, it is replaced by a non-syllabic vowel [P] (see 3.2.2), e.g. *Mur* [mu:r] → [mu:P] (similar to Southern Brit. Engl. *moor*), *Ziersdorf* ['tsi:rsdOrf] → ['tsi:PsdOrf].

4 Bibliography

See chapter C III 4 of the German text.

3.4 Category of the Object

Indication of the category of the object, namely river, lake, glacier, mountain, mountain group, town, village, mountain hut, etc.

With populated places the topographic designations which are applied to parts of settlements are used or, where these do not exist, those applied to settlements in the official statistical publications are used: *Dorf*, *Weiler*, *Rotte*, *Einschicht*, *zerstreute Häuser*, *Schutzhaus*, etc. For definitions see chapter D V 1.

3.5 Description of the Object

Short description of the location with reference to geographical regions, facilitating location on a map.

3.6 Indication of the Administrative Units

With the names of populated places and administrative units the larger administrative units are given. The ranking in Austria is as follows: commune (*Gemeinde*), judicial district (*Gerichtsbezirk*), administrative district (*Politischer Bezirk*), and province (*Land*). For other geographical names only the province is indicated.

3.7 Indication of Statistical Units

With the names of populated places and communes the statistical unit of the NUTS 3 level they belong to is given.

3.8 Geographical Co-ordinates

All co-ordinates given refer to northern latitude (n. Br.) and eastern longitude (ö. L.). The figures are rounded to minutes. In the case of populated places they refer to the centres, in the case of administrative units to the seat of the administration, in the case of rivers to their mouths or the place where they cross the Austrian border, in the case of lakes to the middle of the lake. In the case of regions, mountain ranges, traffic routes and the like the co-ordinates mark their extent.

The height above sea level refers to the standardized sea-level of the Adriatic Sea at Trieste.

3.9 Cartographic Assignment

Indication of the sheet numbers of the *Österreichische Karte 1 : 50,000*.

3.10 Matching to Map Scales

Depending on the importance of the object denoted by a geographical name and on the space available on a map of a certain scale, each geographical name is attributed to those map scales in which it should be found. This attribution to map scales with their different levels of generalisation refers to topographic maps and their usual contents, and not to thematic maps and categories of geographical objects usually not included in smaller scale maps (e.g. power stations, nature parks, communes, judicial districts, administrative districts). The matching was done for the scales 1 : 500,000, 1 : 750,000, 1 : 1 million, 1 : 2 millions and 1 : 5 millions, as these are scales of maps on Austria often found in school and world atlases and sufficiently differing in generalisation. In principle, all names with an individual entry in the data file are suitable for use in maps on the scale 1 : 500,000 with the exception of names of geographical object categories usually not shown on topographic maps of this scale. As a rule, a geographical name denoting an object sufficiently important to be shown on the smallest scales will also appear on all larger scales. There are, however, a few exceptions, when names for general terms are meaningfully replaced by names for subordinate divisions (e.g. *Alpenvorland* by *Flachgau*, *Innviertel*, *Hausruckviertel*, *Traunviertel*, *Mostviertel*). Since it can be a problem to place geographical names on a map in the space available, the names of important geographical objects in regions with a density of detail are occasionally left out. However it is recommended that the names of less important objects are used in regions with sparse map contents.

3.11 Grammatical Information

The gender of a word is indicated by its definite article. No articles are given for the names of populated places since such names are neuter in Standard German. The fact that, in various dialects, many names of populated places are regarded as feminine words is not indicated. For names only used in the plural the abbreviation "Mehrz." was added.

Suche Namen

Database of Austrian Geographical Names

Search for Names

Grammatical information

Pronunciation

Category of the object

Description of the object
Stadt am r. Ufer der Donau, n. von Wien

See

Variant forms

Pronunciation of variant forms

Navigation buttons

Commune

Judicial district

Administrative district

Province/country

Statistical unit (NUTS 3)

Latitude Height above sea level in meters

Longitude Matching to map scale

Cartographic assignment Austrian map 1:50,000

Record: of 2 (Filtered)