

## Austria and its “Trachten”

Traditional clothes from Austria are called “Trachten” and they are defined as traditional clothes from different regions or federal countries.

In general, there are two different types of clothes men can wear. On the one hand men can wear the “Steireranzug”, which consists of grey cotton trousers and a grey cotton jacket. These two pieces of clothing have little green details mostly made of wool and the buttons are staghorn buttons. On the other hand men can wear different kinds of “Lederhosen”. “Lederhosen” are trousers made of full-grain leather, which can have different colors – mostly between light brown and black. The color depends on which leather is used. There are short “Lederhosen”, which end just over the knees, some which are knee-long and long ones, which reach the ankles. Men combine “Lederhosen” either with a shirt, mostly checked and in different colors or with a shirt and a waistcoat on top of it. A Lederhosen can also be worn by women.

Women normally wear “Dirndl”. A “Dirndl” is a dress and it consists of the dress itself, an apron on top of the dress and a blouse underneath the dress. “Dirndl” can be worn either in a short version or long version. For nearly every region in Austria there is a typical “Dirndl”. For example, there is the “Vulkanlanddirndl” – in English “volcano landscape Dirndl”. It is a typically East Styrian one. It got its name from the fact that in the east of Styria there were some active volcanos thousands of years ago.

Another example is the typical Dirndl from our region. It is called “Kernöldrndl”, as pumpkin seed oil is a very typical product of our region. This shows that a special kind of “Tracht” does not always belong to a specific region, it can also be a symbol for something traditional.

Of course, “Dirndl” from some regions are more popular than others. One of the most popular ones and nearly the most typical design in Styria is the so called “Ausseer-Dirndl” which comes in the colors green, light pink and lilac. It is from Bad Aussee, a village in the north of Styria.

Another difference between various “Dirndl” is that there are traditional ones and modern ones. Modern “Dirndl” called “Modedirndl” mostly have a flashy design with loud colors like pink, light blue or grass green. They do not have a history and do not come from any

specific region. With these “Dirndl” the focus is on the design with modern details, not on a region or a traditional thing.

(written by Patrizia Paulitsch)