
Travel Guide Vienna

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Quick view

Vienna: Grand Palaces, modern lifestyle and the waltz

One of Europe's great imperial cities, Vienna is timeless and elegant. The home of the Habsburgs overflows with baroque grandeur – thanks in part to the elegant *schlösser* (palaces) that the imperial family constructed around the city. Under Habsburg patronage, Vienna became a vibrant hub for music and the arts; it was no accident that Mozart, Haydn

and Beethoven were drawn to the city that launched their music to the world. Two centuries later and the music of composers from the Viennese school still floats across the city squares, but the historic art houses have been joined by space-age hotels, designer bars and dynamic modern museums.



Austria

General knowledge

Country overview

Austria's landscape is of a beautiful and great diversity. As a traveller, you will find the majestic Alps as well as the green valleys of the Danube. Austria is known for its historic architecture, impressive museums and galleries but also for its high class ski regions. Mozart, Schubert and the inventor of psycho-analysis, Sigmund Freud,

were born here and are some of its most famous and influential sons. When it comes to architecture, the buildings of the Habsburgs are especially valuable. This dynasty dominated central Europe for seven centuries and left a great heritage which includes for example the opera house in Vienna.

Geography

Mountainous Austria is a landlocked country at the heart of Europe, bordered by Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy. The diverse landscape can be divided into five sections: the Eastern Alps (62.8%), the Alpine and Carpathian Foothills (11.3%), the Pannonian Lowlands (11.3%), the Vienna Basin (4.4%) and the Granite and Gneiss Highlands or Bohemian Massif (10.1%). Austria's highest mountain is Grossglockner (3,798m/12,465ft) found in the Alps' Hohe Tauern range, and, on its way from the Black Forest in southern Germany to the Black Sea, the winding River Danube flows for approximately 360km (220 miles) through the country.

Nearly half of Austria is covered with forests, with the lower regions particularly densely wooded. Fir predominates above 488m (1,600ft), and gives way to larch and stone-pine beyond 1,219m (4,000ft); the Alpine foothills consist predominantly of arable land and grassland (above 610m/2,000ft); the Pannonian region is characterised by scrub and heathland.

General knowledge

Key facts

Population: 8,7 million (January 2017)

Population Density (per sq km): 100

Capital: Vienna (Wien).

Language

German is the official language. Regional dialects are pronounced and within the different regions of the country one will encounter marked variations from *Hochdeutsch*, i.e. 'standard' German.

Currency

Euro (€) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2, 1 and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Electricity

230 volts AC, 50Hz. Round two-pin European plugs are standard.

Public holidays

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2019 – December 2020 period.

2019

New Year's Day: 1 January 2019
 Epiphany: 6 January 2019
 Easter Sunday: 21 April 2019
 Easter Monday: 22 April 2019
 National Holiday: 1 May 2019
 Ascension Day: 30 May 2019
 Whit Sunday: 9 June 2019
 Whit Monday: 10 June 2019
 Corpus Christi: 20 June 2019
 Assumption Day: 15 August 2019
 Republic Day: 26 October 2019
 All Saints' Day: 1 November 2019
 Immaculate Conception: 8 December 2019
 Christmas Day: 25 December 2019
 St. Stephen's Day: 26 December 2019

2020 New Year's Day: 1 January 2020 Epiphany: 6 January 2020 Easter Sunday:
 12 April 2020 Easter Monday: 13 April 2020 National Holiday: 1 May 2020
 Ascension Day: 21 May 2020 Whit Sunday: 31 May 2020 Whit Monday: 1 June
 2020 Corpus Christi: 11 June 2020 Assumption Day: 15 August 2020 Republic
 Day: 26 October 2020 All Saints' Day: 1 November 2020 Immaculate Conception:
 8 December 2020 Christmas Day: 25 December 2020 St. Stephen's Day: 26
 December 2020 All information subject to change.



Travel etiquette How to fit in

Social Conventions

Austrians tend to be quite formal in both their social and business dealings. They do not use first names when being introduced, but after the initial meeting first names are often used. Handshaking is customary when saying hello and goodbye. It is considered impolite to enter a restaurant or shop without saying *Guten Tag* (good day) or, more usually,

Grüss Gott (common greeting which literally means 'greet God'); similarly, to leave without saying *Auf Wiedersehen* (goodbye) can cause offence. If invited out to dinner, flowers should be brought for the hostess. The Church enjoys a high and respected position in Austrian society, which should be kept in mind.



Health Health

Ticks often live in heavily forested areas during the summer months in some of the more easterly parts of Austria and can create discomfort and, in very rare cases, serious infection to people who are bitten. Tick-borne encephalitis is endemic and travellers likely to find themselves in wooded areas from spring to autumn should take a course of injections. Rabies is present in Austria, although there have been no incidents reported in recent years. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten seek medical advice without delay.

Contractual physician of Lufthansa

Dr. Porenta, Gerold
 Rudolfinerhaus
 Billrothstr. 78
 A-1190 Vienna
 Austria
 Tel. +43-136036628
 Praxis Cardiocare
 Alszeile 103
 A-1170 Vienna
 Austria
 Tel. +43-14804444

Please note that Lufthansa accepts no responsibility for the treatment nor will it bear the cost of any treatment.



Phone calls & Internet

Phone calls & Internet

Telephone

Country code: +43

Mobile telephony and Internet

Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on data packages. For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking TANs entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.



Getting around Vienna

Getting around

Public Transport

Navigating Vienna has moved on a bit since the days of horse-drawn carriages. The city's impressively integrated mass transit network is run by Wiener Linien (Tel. +34-1/790 71 00, wienerlinien.at); passes lasting from 24 hours to one month are valid on the city's buses, trams and underground trains. The fastest mode of transport is the U-Bahn, with underground trains connecting most quarters of the city. However, you'll enjoy a better view of Vienna from one of the city's buses or trams. Buy tickets from U-Bahn stations, on board buses and trams or via App.

Taxis

The taxi service in Vienna is well organised and fares are metered, except for longer journeys outside the city limits. Flag down a cab in the street, or call to book with Taxi 60160 (Tel. +43-1/61 45 50), Taxi 40100 (Tel. +43-1/401 00) or Taxi 31300 (Tel. +43-1/313 00). Airport taxis can be booked through Flughafentaxi-Wien (Tel.: +43-1/890 30 18). A tip of around 10% is customary.



Top 10 sights

Top 10 sights in Vienna

The Hofburg

The primary residence of the Habsburg emperors for more than 700 years, the Hofburg has been remodelled and embellished repeatedly over the centuries. Highlights include the private apartments of Franz Josef I and the Habsburg family silver.

Michaelerkuppel	Opening times:
1010 Vienna	Daily 0900-1730 (Sep-Jun)
Austria	0900-1800 (Jul-Aug)
Tel: (01) 533 7570	
	www.hofburg-wien.at

Schönbrunn

The Habsburg love of pretty things went into overdrive at their finest imperial residence. This extraordinary baroque palace is a treasure house of elegant furniture, lavish upholstery, gilded chandeliers and trompe l'oeil paintwork.

Schönbrunner Schlosstrasse 47	Opening times:
1130 Vienna	Daily 0830-1730 (Apr-Jun and Sep-Oct)
Austria	0830-1830 (Jul-Aug)
Tel: (01) 811 13239	0830-1700 (Nov-Mar)
	www.schoenbrunn.at

Belvedere

Offering two exquisite baroque palaces for the price of one, this was once the personal playground of Prince Eugene of Savoy, and later, of Franz Ferdinand. Set in elegant formal gardens, the Upper and Lower Belvedere overflow with Habsburg riches.

Prinz Eugen-Strasse 27	Opening times:
1030 Vienna	Daily 1000-1800
Austria	
Tel: (01) 7955 7134	www.belvedere.at

Kunsthistorisches Museum

It's hard to say which is more impressive – the lavish art or the building that contains it. Set in a Habsburg palace, this grand art museum covers everything from the German Renaissance to works by Titian, Rubens and Veronese.

Maria-Theresien-Platz	Opening times:
1010 Vienna	Tue-Wed and Fri-Sun 1000-1800
Austria	Thurs 1000-2100
Tel: (01) 152 5240	
	www.khm.at

MuseumsQuartier

A whole city block of museums, arts centres and cultural spaces, MuseumsQuartier is the creative heart of modern Vienna. Take your pick from children's museums, performance halls, public exhibition spaces and big art museums such as the Leopold Museum and Museum Moderner Kunst.

Museumsplatz 1/5	Opening times:
1070 Vienna	Hours vary for individual museums
Austria	
Tel: (01) 523 5881	www.mqw.at

The Prater

Long before the fad for giant Ferris wheels swept the world's capitals, the Wiener Riesenrad was lifting tourists high above the streets of Vienna. The giant wheel, with its chalet-style cabins, was constructed in 1897, and the park that surrounds it has been a favourite Viennese retreat since 1766.

Prater www.prater.at
1020 Vienna
Austria
Tel: (01) 728 0516

Ringstrasse

Vienna has a ring road like no other. Following the lines of the old city walls, the Ringstrasse was laid out in the 19th century, and the tram route that follows it whispers past some of Vienna's most spectacular buildings, from historic hotels to handsome state offices and elegant palaces.

Ringstrasse
Vienna
Austria

Stephansdom

From the baroque high altar to the soaring South Tower and the Habsburg eagles on the roof tiles, this Gothic masterpiece is a testament to the imperial glory of Vienna.

Stephansplatz 3 www.stephanskirche.at
1010 Vienna
Austria
Tel: (01) 5155 23054
Opening times:
Mon-Sat 0600-2200
Sun 0700-2200

Vienna Boys Choir

Founded way back in 1498, the Vienna Boys Choir is perhaps the most famous gathering of trebles and altos in Europe. Despite 500 years of history, the choir exercises its collective vocal chords in the futuristic MuTh concert hall, designed for almost perfect acoustics.

MuTh www.wienersaengerknaben.at
Am Augartenspitz 1
1020 Vienna
Austria
Tel: (01) 2345 6789

Spanische Hofreitschule

Watching the prancing Lipizzaner stallions has been a favourite pastime for Vienna's well-to-do since the time of the Habsburgs. The stables are set within the Hofburg palace complex, and horses perform their famous dressage routines on Saturdays and Sundays.

Michaelerplatz 1 www.srs.at
1010 Vienna
Austria
Tel: (01) 533 9031
Opening times:
Sat-Thurs 0900-1600
Fri 0900-1900



Shopping in Vienna

Shopping in Vienna

Key Areas

There's no denying that Vienna has style; shop for big brands along bustling Kärntner Strasse and Mariahilfer Strasse, or browse the cutting-edge ateliers in the Neubau District. For designer stores and old-fashioned sweetshops, explore the lanes around Graben and Kohlmarkt.

Markets

To stock up on ingredients for a picnic lunch in the Stadtpark or Volksgarten, browse the stalls of the Naschmarkt, or head to the Karmelitermarkt in Second District, particular on Saturday for the farmers' market. More foodie treats can be found in the Brunnenmarkt, Vienna's longest street market. In December, Christmas markets open in city squares across the city.

Shopping centres

The Viennese prefer long shopping streets to enclosed malls, but there are plenty of modern-style shopping centres in the city. Small but central Ringstrassen Galerien is the most popular choice in the historic heart, and there is more mall shopping west of the centre at Lugner City on Gablenzgasse.



Restaurants

Restaurants in Vienna

Dining in Vienna spans everything from piping hot pretzels bought from a street stand to lavish banquet dinners overlooking the city rooftops. As well as traditional restaurants, the city is famous for its old-fashioned coffee shops and *beisl* (bistro pubs) – the best place to sample authentic goulash and Wiener Schnitzel. Good areas for dining include Magareten, Mariahilf and around the Stephansplatz.

Restaurant Steirereck

The grand dame of Vienna restaurants, with two Michelin stars and a gorgeous location in a historic pavilion in the Stadtpark.

Am Heumarkt 2A
1010 Vienna
Austria

Price: Expensive

Walter Bauer

A superior menu, complimented by a superior wine list, in this cosy, Michelin-starred Viennese eatery.

Sonnenfelsgasse 17
1010 Vienna
Austria

Price: Expensive

Glacis Beisl

Diners flock to this garden restaurant in the MuseumsQuartier for perfectly prepared Viennese classics with a modern twist.

MuseumsQuartier Breitengasse 4
1070 Vienna
Austria

Price: Moderate

Meierei im Stadtpark

Casual cousin to Restaurant Steirereck, serving lavish breakfasts and the city's favourite goulash in a fine setting in the Stadtpark.

Am Heumarkt 2A
1030 Vienna
Austria

Price: Moderate

Café Sacher

The historic coffee shop at the Hotel Sacher is still the best place to sample Vienna's famous *Sachertorte*, invented here in 1832.

Hotel Sacher, Philharmonikerstrasse 4
1010 Vienna
Austria

Price: Budget



Nightlife Nightlife in Vienna

A cultured evening of classical music is still the definitive night out in Vienna, but these days, you can also take your pick from trendy cocktail bars, laid-back bistro pubs and late-night DJ clubs. Top drinking districts include Gumpendorferstrasse in Mariahilf, Schleifmuhlgasse in Wieden and the old Jewish quarter in Innere Stadt. In summer, the banks of the Danube are transformed into the city's most popular bar strip.

Staatsoper

Vienna's most famous opera house, with a stunning programme of classic opera and stylish modern interpretations.

Opernring 2
1010 Vienna
Austria

Theater an der Wien

The 'new' opera house in Vienna has been staging grand operas, plays and orchestral performances since 1801.

Linke Wienzeile 6A
1060 Vienna
Austria

Sky Bar

If your perfect recipe for a chic night out is a glass with a view, head to this lofty cocktail bar, perched atop the Steffl department store.

Kärntner Strasse 19
1010 Vienna
Austria

Flex

A year-round favourite for big-name guest DJs and local talent, covering everything from Austrian techno to international rock.

Augartenbrücke 1

1010 Vienna
Austria

Loos American Bar

This tiny art deco speakeasy has been serving the best cocktails in the Innere Stadt since 1908.

Kärntner Durchgang 10
1010 Vienna
Austria



Calendar of events Calendar of events

Vienna Opera Ball

A suitable finale to Austria's ball season, the annual Opera Ball is a prestigious affair that is famed across Europe. Attracting an impressive list of celebrities and socialites, the Opera Ball takes place in the city's wonderful State Opera House which is transformed into a giant dance floor. But don't despair if you don't have a Prince or Princess Charming to take you to the ball; the event is broadcast live on Austrian television. Very much part of the national identity, this is a great introduction to Austrian high society.

28 February 2019

www.wiener-staatsoper.at

Venue: Vienna State Opera House

Schonbrunn Palace Easter Market

With the incredible Baroque architecture of Schonbrunn Palace in the background, this has to be one of the prettiest settings for a market anywhere in the world. It is also a great place to soak up the atmosphere and learn more about Austrian Easter traditions and customs as shoppers browse the main stalls selling everything from Easter eggs to handmade gifts and souvenirs. There are also numerous drinks and food stalls selling regional and national specialities.

6 - 23 April 2019

www.ostermarkt.co.at

Venue: Schonbrunn Palace Easter Market

Festwochen Wien (Vienna Festival)

An extravaganza of music, drama and dance.

10 - 16 Juni 2019

www.festwochen.at/en

Venue: Venues throughout the city

Danube Island Festival

An event especially for young people, the annual Danube Island Festival is one of the largest youth parties in Europe that attracts visitors from all over the world. The fun festival programme includes a lively blend of music, dancing, entertainment and food and drink stalls. Performances take place in a number of different open-air stages and tented areas around the island.

June 2019

donauiSELFEST.at

Venue: Danube Island, Vienna

Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market)

Markets selling trinkets, hand-made products, and, of course, glühwein (mulled wine).

November - December 2019

www.christkindlmarkt.at

Venue: Rathausplatz

**Hotels****Hotels in Vienna**

Vienna has hotels to suit all tastes and budgets, but it would be a shame to visit the imperial city and not stay somewhere with a few baroque flourishes. Historic hotels and *pensionen* (guesthouses) in the 3-star category abound; with more to spend, you can live like a king in a former Habsburg palace.

Palais Coburg Residenz

A gleaming white imperial palace, with elegantly designed rooms that would make a Habsburg feel at home.

Coburgbastei 4
1010 Vienna
Austria

Category: Expensive

Hotel Imperial Vienna

The first choice for visiting royalty, the Hotel Imperial recreates the vanished luxury of the imperial era, with impeccable service and suites as grand as royal apartments.

Kämtner Ring 16
1015 Vienna
Austria

Category: Expensive

Das Triest

Terence Conran had a hand in the interiors at this stylish modern design hotel, in a prime location for shopping, dining and nightlife.

Wiedner Hauptstrasse 12A
1040 Vienna
Austria

Category: Expensive

Hotel Royal

Looking out onto Stephansdom, Hotel Royal punches above its weight when it comes to facilities and service.

Singerstrasse 3
1010 Vienna
Austria

Category: Moderate

Hotel Daniel

This hip hotel offers modern design sensibilities without the designer price tag, plus Vespa scooters for hire and beehives on the roof.

Landstraßer Gürtel 5
1030 Vienna
Austria

Category: Budget



Crew Tip My Vienna

The 1070 in 7th district is where I like to go for a meal out – everything is freshly bought and prepared on the day there.

Because of the tiny kitchen, they work to a “running cooking” concept. The courses are small so you may well end up ordering several.

(Reservation recommended, restaurant-1070.com)



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Best of ... Fashion & Design



© mauritius/Alamy

Vienna is a flourishing fashion capital whose young designers have made waves internationally - its fashions are refreshingly fun and offbeat. The great opportunities and highquality of life the Austrian capital offers attracts a lot of young and upcoming fashion designers from all over the country.

Eva Blut

Ask Eva Buchleitner what she makes and she'll say “tokens of chivalry.” That sounds like something from a bygone era, but the fashion accessories the 42-year-old designer sells under her own Eva Blut label are anything but old-fashioned. Her current collection of purses and bags displayed in the window of her store on a street corner in Vienna's First District play with transparency and are made of materials as different as leather and nylon. The designs are straightforward with a twist. And that's not just a figure of speech. The Twister bag made of slategray Napa leather and printed canvas turns on its own axis at the center so that it hugs your body no matter how you carry it. “I wanted to make bags that were practical and wearable,” Buchleitner explains, “that were both versatile and beautiful.” The Austrian-born designer is a pioneer of her country's fledgling fashion scene. Ten years ago, the only Austrian couturier with an international reputation was Helmut Lang. Times have changed. “When I showed my collection in Paris in 2001, my

label was one of only four or five from Austria," Buchleitner explains. "That number has now grown to about 20."

Jordangasse 3 www.evablut.com/
1010 Vienna
Austria
Tel. +43- 1/524 05 95

Flo Vintage

Viennese fashions are refreshingly fun and offbeat. Young designers are moving to the capital from Linz, Graz and Salzburg because of the great opportunities and quality of life Vienna offers. Lena Hoschek, Thomas Kirchgrabner and the Sandra Thaler and Annette Prechtl duo have all gained a reputation beyond Austria's borders. While big international designers, like Miu Miu, Giorgio Armani and Louis Vuitton, have recently opened flagship stores downtown, Vienna's local labels tend to be located in the Josefstadt, Mariahilf and Margareten districts, where apartments and studio spaces are less expensive. But examples of the local designers' work can also be admired at the Modepalast trade fair (modepalast.com) and is a great place to meet the people behind the labels and shop to your heart's content.

Schleifmühlgasse 15a www.flovintage.com/
1040 Vienna
Austria
Tel. +43-1/ 86 07 73

Mark & Julia

Julia Rupertsberger and Mark Baigent met at fashion school in Linz and soon began winning awards for their unisex designs after establishing the Mark & Julia label in January 2010. Although Julia and Mark both earn their living mainly as stylists, they have a clear goal: "If our designs aren't earning us proper money by the time we're 30, we've chosen the wrong career," says Mark. Neither of them had wanted to remain in their hometown, Linz. "Vienna is the only Austrian city that has the stores, the media and the fashion scene," Julia explains. "There's a great awakening taking place in Vienna's fashion scene right now," she continues. And Vienna's full of people willing to spend money. Mark & Julia's last winter collection of roughly 300 pieces was sold out within two months.

Kaiserstraße 34/1 markandjulia.com/
1070 Vienna
Austria
Tel. +43- 676/ 89 73 61

Ute Ploier

Ute Ploier, 36, is a graduate of the renowned Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London and the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Her graduate collection won the City of Vienna Fashion Award, which came with prize money for starting her own collection. Ploier set up shop in 2003, specializing in men's fashions because she liked the idea of turning the "men design for women" principle on its head. Her elegant androgynous blazers, pants and shirts have been shown in Paris, and her designs are extremely popular in Japan, although she has a loyal following in Vienna, too. "This city has made huge strides in fashion over the last ten years," she says, "but there's still room for creativity."

Rüdigerstraße 8/3 www.uteploier.com/
1050 Vienna

Austria
Tel.: +43-1/943 12 56