

## VIENNA

**Vienna** is the capital of the **Republic of Austria**. It is by far the largest city in Austria, as well as its cultural, economic, and political centre. As the former home of the Habsburg court and its various empires, the city still has the trappings of the imperial capital it once was, and the historic city centre is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Traditional Vienna is one of the many façades of this city, the downtown area of which is a UNESCO world heritage site and is sometimes compared to an open air museum. But Vienna is also a dynamic young city, famous for its (electronic) music scene with independent labels, cult-status underground record stores, a vibrant club scene, multitudes of street performers.

Vienna is also famous for its coffee culture. "Let's have a coffee" is a very commonly heard phrase, because despite incursions by Starbucks and Italian-style espresso bars, the **Kaffeehauskultur** is still the traditional way to drink a cup of coffee, read the newspaper, meet friends, or fall in love.



Modern." The Orangerie houses temporary exhibits and a collection of medieval tapestries.

**The Belvedere.** Intended as a summer residence for Prince Eugene of Savoy, the Belvedere was located outside the city walls. Its two palace segments, the Upper and Lower Belvedere, later became the permanent home of the **Austrian Gallery**. The Oberes Belvedere (Upper) contains recent Austrian and international art from the past two centuries. Viennese art from the early twentieth century is well-represented in the permanent collection "Vienna around 1900 and the Art of the Classical



**The Kunsthistorisches Museum** (Museum of Art History) is one of the premier museums of fine arts and decorative arts in the world. The term Kunsthistorisches Museum applies to both the institution and the main building. It was opened in 1891 at the same time as the **Naturhistorisches Museum**, by **Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria-Hungary**. The two museums have identical exteriors and face each other across Maria-Theresien-Platz. The façade was built of sandstone. The building is

rectangular in shape, and topped with a dome that is 60 meters high. The inside of the building is lavishly decorated with marble, stucco ornamentations, gold-leaf, and paintings, making it a spectacular work of art in its own right.

**Hofburg Imperial Palace** is a palace which has housed some of the most powerful people in Austrian history, including the Habsburg dynasty, rulers of the Austro-Hungarian empire. It currently serves as the official residence of the President of Austria. It was the Habsburg's principal winter residence, while Schönbrunn Palace was their preferred summer residence. The Palace was the birthplace of Marie Antoinette in 1755. The Hofburg has been expanded over the centuries to include:

- various residences (with the Amalienburg);
- chapels (Hofkapelle, Hofmusikkapelle, Burgkapelle);
- museums (the Naturhistorisches Museum & Kunsthistorisches Museum);
- the Imperial Library (Hofbibliothek now the Prunksaal);
- the treasury (Schatzkammer);
- the national theatre (Burgtheater);
- the riding school (Hofreitschule); and,
- the horse stables (the Stallburg and Hofstallungen).



**Schönbrunn Palace** is a royal residence. One of the most important cultural monuments in the country, since the 1960s it has been one of the major tourist attractions in **Vienna**. The palace and gardens illustrate the tastes, interests, and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs.

**The Albertina** is a museum in the Innere Stadt (First District) of **Vienna**. It houses one of the largest and most important print rooms in the world with approximately 65,000 drawings and approximately 1 million old master prints, as well as more modern graphic works, photographs and architectural drawings. Apart from the graphics collection the museum has recently acquired on permanent loan two significant collections of Impressionist and early 20th century art, some of which will be on permanent display.

**The Wiener Prater** is a large public park in Vienna's 2nd district Leopoldstadt. The Hauptallee (main avenue) is the main artery, lined with horse chestnut trees, closed to motorists and known to sports enthusiasts from the annual **Vienna Marathon**. The Wiener Prater is home to the **Liliputbahn**, a narrow gauge railway. Another unusual object to be found in the Wiener Prater is the **Republik Kugelmugel** (Republic of Kugelmugel), a spherical micronation. The Wiener Prater also houses a planetarium and the Prater Museum.

**The Wiener Riesenrad** (German for "Viennese giant wheel"), is a Ferris wheel at the entrance of the Prater amusement park. It was one of the earliest Ferris wheels, erected in 1897 to celebrate Emperor Franz Josef I's golden Jubilee. The designer was an Englishman, Walter Basset, which explains why the wheel's diameter is a round number in Imperial units - 200 feet (approximately 61 m). The Riesenrad is now one of Vienna's most popular tourist attractions, and symbolises the district as well as the city for many people.

**The Leopold Museum**, housed in the Museumsquartier, is home to one of the largest collections of modern Austrian art, featuring artists such as Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and Richard Gerstl. It contains the world's largest Egon Schiele Collection. The more than 5,000 exhibits collected by Rudolf and Elisabeth Leopold over five decades were consolidated in 1994 with the assistance of the Republic of Austria and the National Bank of Austria into the Leopold Museum Private Foundation. In 2001 the Leopold Museum was opened.

- Torre del Danubio - alta 252 m e all'altezza di 150 m si trova la terrazza panoramica da cui si gode di una bellissima vista sulla città e sulla Foresta Viennese, e sopra di essa il ristorante su piattaforma rotante.
- Concerto Filarmonico di Capodanno si tiene ogni 1° gennaio e viene trasmesso in diretta in tutto il mondo.

## INFORMATION

### Tourism Office

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