

Vienna



The history of Vienna can be traced back to Roman times. Like many cities throughout Europe, it is based on a former Roman military settlement called Vindobona. After the decline of the Roman Empire, the remains of this camp developed into a town under the reign of the Babenberger dynasty. In 1492 it became the seat and capital of the Habsburger's Holy Roman Empire and began its development into the city it is today.

Today, Vienna is the capital of the Austrian Republic, the seat of government, home to approximately 1.7 million people and place of work for many Austrians from the surrounding area.



Vienna offers an abundance of sightseeing options. The St. Stephen's Cathedral is one of the City's oldest buildings, combining, as a result of its lengthy construction time, a number of different architectural styles. The Ringstrasse, the former encircling border of the city centre was turned into a magnificent boulevard in the 19th century and is definitely worth a walk. A must for tourists is the Schloss Schönbrunn, the former summer seat and residence of the Habsburgs, with its parks, palm house, butterfly house and world renowned Zoo.

Vienna is a melting pot for what used to be a multinational empire during the Habsburg monarchy. The immigration of Hungarians, Czechs and Poles and other ethnic groups has left its influence everywhere, especially on the surnames of many Viennese inhabitants.



Vienna is not only the political, but also the cultural capital of Austria. The city offers a wide variety of theatre, film, dance festivals, opera and operetta. It has been home to many famous musicians, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert and Johann Strauss. Today, its musical heritage continues with the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Boys' Choir.

Through the centuries, Vienna has been a very popular place to live for artists from all over the world. The city has countless art treasures, due to the collecting passion of art-loving rulers and monarchs.



Other Things to do in Vienna

In September, the vineyards are ready for harvest and it is the peak of the "Sturm" season, lightly fermented grape juice, served in the Heurigen (wine inns).

Also at this time of year, the new season in theaters and operas opens and most museums present new temporary exhibitions. During the entire month of September, a festival of literature is held with writers from all over the German-speaking world giving lectures and signing books in front of the Burgtheater.

The "Wien modern" festival, dedicated to contemporary music, takes place in October, and later in the month, the "Viennale" opens its gates, an independent film festival.

The surroundings of Vienna are engaged in all kinds of wine harvest celebrations and create ideal conditions for some hill walking in the Wienerwald, cycling in the Wachau or walks through the vineyards.

For other information, go to

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