

Vienna, Austria

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Vienna today is robed in 18th-century charm and 19th-century grandeur. Its old-world ambience comes from the friendliness of its inhabitants as well as the history of its architecture. The Viennese invented the cafe society, and they continue to perfect the art of sophisticated relaxation.



Spend some time in a Vienna coffeehouse, chatting with residents, or go to a concert of waltzes by Johann Strauss. Vienna is also where you'll find the fabled Spanish Riding School with its magnificent white Lipizzaner stallions.

Vienna is a safe, clean city, and it has an excellent public-transportation system. Use it to visit the many museums, galleries, parks and restaurants that make Vienna such a pleasant place.

Must See or Do

Sights—The Stephansdom; the Innere Stadt (the historic city center), with its winding back streets and baroque churches; the wonderful imperial buildings along the Ring; the Staatsoper (famed opera house); the Hapsburg tombs in the Kaisergruft; the *Jugendstil* (art-nouveau) Secession Building; Schonbrunn Palace and gardens; the Wiener Volksprater fairground; the tombs of the composers at the Zentralfriedhof.

Museums—Art collections at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Belvedere Palace and the Albertina; the Treasury, Imperial Apartments and Sisi Museum in the Hofburg; the MuseumsQuartier; the Sigmund Freud Museum; Mozart's only extant address, the Mozarthaus; Austria's famous Thonet chairs in the Hofmobiliendepot.

Memorable Meals—Traditional Austrian dining in the Palmenhaus, overlooking the former palace gardens; the large Wiener schnitzels at Figlmuller; the Kaiser's favorite *tafelspitz* at Plachutta; the views of the Stephansdom from Do & Co; Asian cooking at its freshest at Kim Kocht near the Volksoper; a sausage from a *wurststand* on a cold winter day.

Late Night—Enjoying a glass of wine and the *schrammelmusik* in the garden of a *heurige* (wine tavern); drinking beer in one of the city's labyrinthine medieval wine cellars; jazz at Porgy and Bess in the so-called Bermuda Triangle; outdoor dancing at the Volksgarten Disco; strolling through Vienna's famous Advent street markets during the Christmas season.

Walks—A stroll through the First district or along the Ring; a visit to the Donauinsel (an island in the Danube); an exploration of the huge parks at Schonbrunn Palace and the Lainzer Tiergarten; a walk through the forested hills of the Wienerwald to the Kahlenberg, with splendid views back across the city.

Geography

Vienna lies in the northeastern corner of Austria, at the crossroads of eastern and western Europe. Nestled in the foothills of the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods), Vienna's city center is generally flat, although the terrain slopes higher as you get closer to the woods. The Danube (Donau) River of waltz fame traverses the city to the east, and the Danube Canal (Donaukanal), a tributary often mistaken for the Danube proper, runs closer to the city center.

The heart of the city is the ancient streets and hidden courtyards around the Stephansdom (St. Stephen's Cathedral). Karntner Strasse, a lively street lined with shops and reserved for pedestrian traffic, leads away from the cathedral and out toward the Ring, or Ringstrasse, a broad and grand, curving boulevard. The 1-sq-mi/2.6-sq-km area within the Ring is the Innere Stadt (inner city). Within the Innere Stadt and along the Ring are most of Vienna's imposing and historic structures.

Vienna is divided into 23 districts (*Bezirke*). The Innere Stadt is the First district (known also as the Alt Stadt, or "Old City"), which all other districts encircle in a clockwise sequence. Districts 2-9, immediately outside the Ring, are the inner suburbs, and districts 10-23, beyond the Gurtel ring-road and the Danube Canal, are the outer suburbs. Address listings, in a phone book for instance, will begin with the district number, followed by the street name and number. When you see *19 Probusgasse 6*, it means house number 6 on Probusgasse in the 19th district. In this report, the district number is listed in parentheses after the street address.

History

Vienna officially became a city in 1137, but its true historical significance dates to 1278, when the Bohemian King Ottakar was defeated by Rudolf von Habsburg. The resulting Habsburg dynasty endured until just after World War I.

Those intervening years were far from stable, however. Plague decimated Vienna's population in the mid-1300s, and various military sieges against the city were to come: the Turks in the 16th and 17th centuries, and Napoleon twice in the early 19th century. During the reign of Emperor Franz Josef I, Europe's longest-serving monarch (1848-1916), Vienna saw many changes. Walls surrounding the city center were removed and replaced by the Ringstrasse, fortifications along the outskirts were torn down to allow for the growth of suburbs, and the government changed to a dual monarchy with Hungary.

Austria became a republic on 12 November 1918, at the conclusion of World War I, and its empire reduced dramatically. World War II was also turbulent for the city, marked by occupation, anti-Semitism and heavy fighting. But since then, Vienna has rebuilt itself and grown into a major cosmopolitan capital, as well as an increasingly popular tourist destination. In 1995, Austria united with other European countries and became part of the European Union, further securing Vienna's future as a flourishing European capital.

Potpourri

Le Petit in the Josefstadt is the smallest theater in the world. It only has room for 21 spectators.

The famous French croissant was actually invented by a Viennese baker who was inspired by the Turkish war insignia at the siege of Vienna in 1683, which showed a crescent. Marie Antoinette introduced it into France.

The *Wiener Zeitung* is the oldest daily newspaper in the world that is still publishing. Its first edition dates from 8 August 1703.

The first coffee in Vienna is said to have been brewed when the Turks left behind bags filled with green coffee beans in 1683, and only a Polish spy knew what to do with them.

Most parts of Vienna enjoy some of the cleanest tap water in the world: Since 1873, it has been piped directly from the mountains, to the chagrin of the mineral-water industry.

When Beethoven lived in Vienna, he changed his domicile dozens of times. The three most important houses he lived and worked in are the Eroica-Haus in Doblinger Hauptstrasse 92, the Pasqualati-Haus in Molker Bastei 8 and the Heiligenstadter-Testament-Haus in Probusgasse 6.

Guests who were invited to dine with Emperor Franz Josef often went hungry. The emperor was known to be a fast eater, and as soon as he dropped his fork and knife, dinner was over, often before the guests had a chance to tuck into their meal.

SEE & DO **Sightseeing**

Most of the sights you'll want to take in are located in the city center, encircled by the Ring. For a panoramic view, climb the 448-ft/137-m south tower of the Stephansdom. A few blocks away is the Albertina museum, which houses more than 200,000 drawings (works by Albrecht Durer, among others). At another corner of the Old City is the Hofburg Palace, a massive complex that contains the Burgkapelle (the chapel where the Vienna Boys Choir sings), the Stallburg (where the famous Lipizzaner horses are stabled), the Imperial Treasuries (containing the Hapsburg crown jewels), the elaborate Austrian National Library and the Sisi Museum, devoted to the tragic life of the penultimate emperor's famous wife.

The pulse of the city is the Ring itself. Fuel up with a cup of coffee or tea and head to one of the world-class museums along the Ring. The Kunsthistorisches Museum has works of art by Brueghel, Rembrandt, Caravaggio and Titian, as well as Roman and Egyptian antiquities. Just across the plaza is the Naturhistorisches Museum, which has the *Venus of Willendorf*, one of the oldest works of art in existence. It also boasts some stunning geological specimens. Right next door is the enormously popular MuseumsQuartier, a cultural complex that houses five galleries and museums as well as stylish cafes, restaurants and bookshops.

A 10-minute walk from the Ring is another enjoyable museum, namely the quirky KunstHausWien, designed by the artist Hundertwasser. The museum is a fantasy of colorful tiles, deliberately uneven floors and peculiar architecture (trees grow out of the third-floor window). Slightly southeast of the Ring is the beautiful Upper Belvedere Palace, which houses a stunning collection of Viennese art from the art-nouveau era. Another palace visitors shouldn't miss is the elaborate 17th-century Schonbrunn, which was the Hapsburg summer home. However, be prepared for a crowd of sightseers and rows of tourist buses, as this is Vienna's most popular attraction.

Prater Park, across the Danube Canal from the Old City, is a fun amusement park that dates from the 18th century. The park's main attractions are the Riesenrad (a giant Ferris wheel, made famous in the film *The Third Man*), restaurants and cafes, and its sports grounds (located in the park's southern section), which feature tennis courts, cycling tracks, and jogging and walking paths.

While in Vienna, you can also visit the homes and burial sites of many famous Viennese residents, including Freud and Mozart. There are also numerous museums honoring the likes of Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert, Johann Strauss and Schoenberg.

The Vienna Card provides reduced rates for selected museums, galleries and guided tours; unlimited travel around the city for a 72-hour period; and discounts at some stores and cafes. It costs 18.50 euros and can be purchased at the Vienna airport, train stations, the Vienna Tourist Board at Albertinaplatz 1, and at most Vienna hotels and tourist agencies. For additional information, see <http://www.wienkarte.at>.

Casinos

Casino Wien

With numerous roulette, blackjack and poker tables, slot machines and weekly promotional specials, this is Vienna's best-known casino. Daily from 3 pm. Closed 24 December. Karntner Strasse 41 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-4836. <http://www.casino-wien.at>.

Concord Card Casino

This casino has a variety of gaming options. It also hosts the European Poker World Series. A restaurant that offers light meals and daily set menus is also on-site. Open daily 24 hours. Brehmstr 21, Vienna. Phone 749-0136. <http://www.ccc.co.at>.

Historic Sites

Belvedere Palace

A stunning baroque structure housing one of Vienna's most impressive art collections. Designed as a summer palace for Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736), it was a sumptuous, gilded retreat for princes, dukes and archdukes of the Hapsburg dynasty. The facade of the prince's winter palace at Himmelpfortgasse 8 (First) is also worth a look. There are actually two buildings (upper and lower), with magnificent formal gardens and fountains between them. The "lower" contains medieval and baroque art, and the "upper" displays the world's best collection of Viennese art nouveau, including Gustav Klimt's famous painting *The Kiss*. Daily 10 am-6 pm; stables open daily 10 am-noon. Guided tours in English are available Friday-Sunday at 11:30 am. 13.50 euros adults. Prinz Eugen Strasse 27 (Third), Vienna. Phone 7955-7134. <http://www.belvedere.at>.

Donauturm

Breathtaking views of Danube scenery are available from the revolving restaurant of Vienna's tallest freestanding structure (827 ft/252 m). The top is reached by two express elevators and the observation deck offers a great view of the city below. Definitely not for the fainthearted. Take the U-1 subway to VIC/Kaisermuhlen, then Bus 20B to the Danube Tower. Daily 10 am-midnight. 5.90 euros adults, 4.30 euros children. Most major credit cards. Donauturmstrasse 4 (22nd), Vienna. Phone 263-3572. <http://www.donauturm.at>.

Gasometer

Among Vienna's more unusual tourist attractions are its four enormous late-19th-century gasometers, or gas tanks. Their ornate brick outer casings have been converted into apartments, shopping centers, car parks and leisure facilities. The public areas are open daily from 9 am. Free. Guglgasse (11th), Vienna. Phone 720-740-966 for guided tours. <http://www.gasometer.org>.

Hofburg

This palace served as the city residence of the ruling Hapsburgs. The vast complex of buildings interspersed with squares and parks is open to the public and contains exhibitions and collections. The Burgkapelle (castle chapel) is where the renowned Vienna Boys Choir sings, and next door is the fabled Schatzkammer (treasury) where the Hapsburg crown jewels are displayed, including the imperial crown dating from the 10th century. The world-famous Lipizzaner horses are stabled in the nearby Stallburg at Reitschulgasse 2—their training and hugely popular performances take place in the Winterreitschule (Spanish Riding School; <http://www.spanische-reitschule.com>).

Hundertwasser Haus

Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928-2000) was a unique force in Viennese art and architecture in the late 20th century and certainly left his mark on this otherwise unexceptional apartment block. Despising straight lines and minimalism, he covered every surface of the house with reused materials in every conceivable color and style. Despite only being visible from the outside, the Hundertwasser Haus remains a favorite with many tourists. Kegelgasse 36-38 (Third), Vienna. Phone 0900-900-913. <http://www.hundertwasserhaus.com>.

Kaisergruft

Since 1633, the mortal remains of many Hapsburgs have been contained in flamboyant sarcophagi in vaults below the surprisingly modest Kapuzinerkirche. Their hearts are stored in separate urns in the Loreto Chapel of the Augustinerkirche, and their entrails are in the catacombs below the Stephansdom. It was believed they could rule more powerfully if their remains were distributed across the city. Daily 10 am-6 pm. 5 euros adults, 2 euros children. Tegetthofstrasse 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-6853. <http://www.kaisergruft.at>.

Karl Marx Hof

After World War I, Vienna became the first European city governed by a socialist council. It was known as Red Vienna. The period saw the building of many schools, swimming pools and apartment blocks. Of the latter, the most famous is the Karl Marx Hof. A half-mile/kilometer in length with 1,350 apartments, it remains an awesome architectural achievement. The building can only be viewed from the outside, but its many courtyards are open to the public. Take the U-4 subway to Heiligenstadt. Free. Boschstrasse (19th), Vienna.

Karlskirche

Designed by Johann Fischer von Erlach, this 18th-century church is considered one of Europe's greatest works of baroque architecture. The church was commissioned by Emperor Charles VI as an appeal to St. Borromeo to protect the city from the plague, which had killed more than 8,000 victims. Also, a special "panorama elevator" has been installed to enable visitors to see the frescos up close, as well as a stunning view of the city. Notice the two former pavilions of the Wiener Stadtbahn on the Karlsplatz, built by Otto Wagner in beautiful art-nouveau style. Monday-Saturday 9 am-12:30 pm and 1-6 pm, Sunday and holidays noon-5:45 pm. 6 euros adults, 4 euros children to tour the church and to ride the panorama elevator. Karlsplatz (Fourth), Vienna. Phone 504-6187. <http://www.karlskirche.at>.

Kirche am Steinhof

A seldom-visited and almost neglected *Jugendstil* (art-nouveau) masterpiece on the grounds of the Steinhof psychiatric clinic. Built by Otto Wagner in 1907, the church is a work of art inside and out. It has impressive stained-glass windows and an enormous glass, marble and enamel mosaic at the altar. Take Bus 48A to the Steinhof clinic (the last stop). The church is set on the hill at the back of the clinic. Group tours available Saturday at 3 pm. Baumgartner Hohe 1 (14th), Vienna. Phone 91060-11204. http://www.wienkav.at/kav/ows/texte_anzeigen.asp?id=2268.

Klimt Villa

Closed for renovations until 2010, the Klimt Villa is little known, even by the Viennese. At the core of this neobaroque house are the remains of the modest cottage where artist Gustav Klimt spent his last years. Feldmuhlgasse 15a (13th), Vienna. Phone 676-725-7094. <http://www.klimt.at>.

Maria Am Gestade

Of Vienna's 100 or so churches, that of Maria Am Gestade is one of the most interesting. Perched on a former riverbank (*gestade*), this 14th-century church was once frequented by Danube boatmen who approached it via the magnificent flight of steps. Of note are the building's crooked alignment and its delicate filigree spire, beautifully illuminated at night. Daily 7:30 am-6 pm. Free. Salvatorgasse 12 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-9594.

Mozarthaus

Mozart lived in an apartment in this six-story building (1784-87) while he composed *The Marriage of Figaro* and received such famous visitors as Haydn and Hummel. The creaky wooden floors, the wall paneling and the gilded window shutters date from Mozart's time, and the stucco ceiling in his bedroom is fascinating. The relatively small apartment is a must-see for Mozart fans. The access balconies in the backyard, called *pawlatschen*, are typical for Viennese tenements. The refurbished house is a comprehensive museum with audiovisual installations. Daily 10 am-7 pm. 9 euros. Domgasse 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-1791-30. <http://www.mozarthausvienna.at>.

Nationalbibliothek

The baroque Prunksaal of the Austrian National Library, built in the early 18th century by Johann Fischer von Erlach and son, is said to be the most magnificent library hall in the world. Its walls are 65 ft/20 m high and covered with precious bookshelves. The vaulted ceiling shows a beautiful fresco with Roman mythology themes. The Augustiner reading hall is only accessible to users of the library. State Hall: Daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm, Thursday until 9 pm. Guided tours available. State Hall, 7 euros adults, 4.50 euros children. Josefsplatz 1 (First), Main Entrance, First Floor, Vienna. Phone 53410. <http://www.onb.ac.at>.

Papyrussammlung

This papyrus museum is a permanent exhibition of the Nationalbibliothek, showing 3,000 years of documents, not just of papyrus, but of many different materials used for writing. The museum also includes displays of all aspects of life in Ancient Egypt. October-June Monday and Wednesday-Friday 10 am-5 pm; July-September Monday and Wednesday-Friday 10 am-4 pm. 3 euros adults; 2.50 euros children, students and seniors. Heldenplatz (middle gate), Vienna. Phone 53425. <http://www.onb.ac.at>.

Pestsaule/Dreifaltigkeitssaule

This baroque monument, known as the Plague Column, was erected by Leopold I to celebrate the city's deliverance from the plague in 1679. Located along Graben Strasse (First), Vienna.

Schonbrunn Palace

This vast palace is one of Europe's most enchanting. The former summer home of Hapsburg emperors and empresses, it encompasses no fewer than 1,441 rooms and halls, whose opulence can be seen on guided tours. On-site is the Orangerie, scene of a musical duel in 1791 between Mozart and Antonio Salieri during a court dinner (dramatized in the play and movie *Amadeus*). The park and gardens surrounding the Schonbrunn are dotted with baroque fountains and sculptures—even a fake Roman ruin. The rose garden is spectacular. The Schlosstheater near the front is the site of summer music concerts. Also worth a peek is the Wagenburg collection of imperial coaches and carriages.

A wonderful view of the palace and city behind it can be seen from the Gloriette, a small colonnade that has been converted into a scenic coffeehouse. Also on the grounds are the Tiergarten, one of the world's oldest zoos, and the graceful Palmenhaus (Palm House), with its exotic plant collections. West of the city center, beyond the Ring (13th). Take the U-4 subway line or Trolley 10 or 58. Palace is open November-March daily 8:30 am-4:30 pm; April-June, September and October daily 8:30 am-5 pm; July and August daily 8:30 am-6 pm. Imperial Tour (22 state rooms) 9.50 euros adults, 6.50 euros children; Grand Tour (40 state rooms) 12.90 euros adults, 8.90 euros children. Small admission fees to other on-site attractions. Schonbrunner Schloss-Strasse (13th), Vienna. Phone 81113-239. <http://www.schoenbrunn.at>.

Secession Building

A delightful departure from the revivalist architecture that prevailed in the late 19th century. The Secession was a group of artists who in 1897 seceded from Vienna's art establishment and formed a new art association with the motto, "To the age, its art. To art, its freedom." The building, with its cupola of golden laurel leaves and its art-nouveau facade, is one of Vienna's

best works of art. Additionally, Gustav Klimt's Beethoven Frieze is always on view downstairs. Daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm (Thursday to 8 pm). 8.50 euros. Guided tours Saturday 3 pm and Sunday 11 am, 1.50 euros plus admission. Friedrichstrasse 12 (First), Vienna. Phone 5875-30721. <http://www.secession.at>.

Staatsoper

Vienna's magnificent State Opera House was built in the 1860s, but initial public reaction to the design was so negative that one of the architects killed himself soon after it was completed. Much of the building was destroyed in World War II. After extensive reconstruction, it reopened in 1955 and today is recognized as one of the world's finest opera houses. Daily except Monday. Opera tour plus Opera Museum entry 6.50 euros adults, 3.50 euros children. Opernring 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 5144-42250. <http://www.wiener-staatsoper.at>.

Stephansdom

For more than 800 years, the imposing St. Stephen's Cathedral has served as a symbol of the city. Vienna's most famous landmark is the Steffl, the 448-ft/137-m south tower. In the north tower is the Pummerin (a heavy bell fashioned from Turkish cannons); it can be reached easily by elevator or stairs, and the view from the observation deck is dazzling. The main entrance is the Riesentor (Giant's Gate), which can be seen best from the corner of the Stock im Eisen Platz. Underneath the cathedral are the *Katakomben* (catacombs), which hold the entrails of Hapsburg family members and of unidentified plague victims. Inside the church are the Gothic pulpit from 1515, which shows the fathers of the church (as well as the sculptor, Anton Pilgrim, who peeks out from below); the Wiener Neustadter Altar, a masterpiece of carved wood from 1447; and the tomb of Friedrich III, the inventor of the *semmel*, the beloved Viennese bread roll. Daily 6 am-10 pm. Guided tours Sunday 1-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday 9-11:30 am and 1-4:30 pm. Free. Stephansplatz (First), Vienna. Phone 5155-23526. <http://www.stephanskirche.at>.

St. Marxer Friedhof

A short ride on Trolley 71 from Schwarzenbergplatz takes visitors to one of Vienna's most peaceful and enchanting cemeteries, famous for being the last resting place of Mozart. The approximate location of his grave is marked by a broken pillar toward the rear. November-March daily 7 am-dusk, April and October 7 am-5 pm, May and September 7 am-6 pm, June-August 7 am-7 pm. Free. Leberstrasse 6-8 (Third), Vienna.

Zentralfriedhof

One of the great cemeteries of Europe, Vienna's central cemetery contains twice as many graves as there are people alive in the city today and boasts three trolley stops to service it. Most people go there to pay their respects to the great composers (Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and the Strausses). Also of interest are the vast number of Russian graves from the 1944 liberation of the city from the Nazis, the field of crosses at the back of the cemetery marking the Austrian dead from both world wars and graves belonging to victims of the 1848 Revolution. Regular buses take visitors on a circular tour of the cemetery. The cemetery gets very busy on All Saints' Day (1 November). Take the U-3 subway to Simmering and then Trolley 71/72 to Gate 2 of the cemetery. Daily 7 am-dusk. Free. Simmeringer Hauptstrasse (11th), Vienna.

Museums

Vienna has more than 100 museums covering every aspect of the city's history. Its annual expenditure on cultural heritage is greater than that of any other city in Europe. There is even a place where rueful thieves can anonymously deposit stolen art objects.

<http://www.werftgalerie.at>. **Albertina**

The Albertina holds the world's largest collection of graphic arts, including important works by Michelangelo, Durer, da Vinci, Rembrandt and others. Open daily 10 am-6 pm (Wednesday until 9 pm). Guided tours available Saturday, Sunday and holidays at 3:30 pm. 9.50 euros adults, 8 euros seniors, 7 euros students. Tour tickets cost an additional 2 euros per person. Albertinaplatz 1 (First), Vienna. Phone 53480. <http://www.albertina.at>.

Generali Foundation

One of Vienna's most exciting collections of contemporary concept and media art. Daily except Monday and holidays 11 am-6 pm, Thursday until 8 pm. 6 euros. Wiedner Hauptstrasse 15 (Fourth), Vienna. Phone 504-9880. <http://foundation.generali.at>.

Globenmuseum

Part of the Nationalbibliothek, but located in the Palais Mollard-Clary, it has a unique collection of globes, armillary spheres and historic maps. Monday-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 am-2 pm, Thursday 3-7 pm. 5 euros adults, 3 euros children. Herrengasse 9 (First), First Floor, Vienna. Phone 53410. <http://www.onb.ac.at>.

Haus der Musik

This hands-on attraction is especially popular with children and houses the museum of the famous Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. It offers an opportunity to listen to an endless scope of classical Viennese music. Children can also mix their own CDs there. Daily 10 am-10 pm. 10 euros adults, 5.50 euros children. Seilerstätte 30 (First), Vienna. Phone 51648. <http://www.hdm.at>.

Hofmobiliendepot

Anyone interested in the Hapsburgs and/or the history and development of furniture and interior design should head to this collection. It began life as Empress Maria Teresa's warehouse for unwanted and outdated furniture from the many Hapsburg properties. Subsequently, it has developed into an important design museum that also boasts the world's largest collection of chairs. Daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm. 6.90 euros adults, 4.50 euros children. Guided tours (in German only) are also available Tuesday-Friday at 3 pm; 1.50 euros adults, 1 euro children. Andreasgasse 7 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 524-3357. <http://www.hofmobiliendepot.at>.

Judisches Museum

This museum is both informative and affecting. It details the importance of the Viennese Jewish population to the city's development, as well as the effects of numerous anti-Semitic outbursts. A holographic exhibition leaves the visitor with an unforgettable series of images. Try the coffee in the museum's kosher cafe—it's some of the best in town. Sunday-Friday 10 am-6 pm (closed Saturday). Free guided tours in German are also available on Sunday at 3 and 4 pm. 6.50 euros adults. Dorotheergasse 11 (First), Vienna. Phone 535-0431. <http://www.jmw.at>.

KunstHausWien

This is a decidedly unconventional museum created by the Viennese artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser in 1991. Although it houses some of his works, as well as those of his contemporaries, the popularity of this museum stems from its unorthodox structure and decor, with trees growing out of windows and uneven floors that imitate the floor of a forest. Colorful tiles and splashing fountains surround the idyllic garden cafe. Daily 10 am-7 pm (cafe open later). Guided tours are also available Sunday and holidays at noon. 9 euros each for the permanent and temporary exhibits, or 12 euros for both. Monday half-price. Untere Weissgerberstrasse 13 (Third), Vienna. Phone 712-0495. <http://www.kunsthauswien.at>.

Kunsthistorisches Museum

Vienna's national gallery of art and a treasure-house containing 16th- and 17th-century European art, the world's largest Brueghel collection in the Gemaldegalerie, and a host of antiquities and precious objects in the Antikensammlung and the Agyptisch-Orientalische Sammlung. Also don't miss the collection of old musical instruments (Neue Burg, entrance Heldenplatz). It's one of the world's great art museums. Don't leave without stopping at the charming cafe upstairs and the superb card and gift shop downstairs. Daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm (Thursday to 9 pm). 10 euros. Guided tours (in English) are also available Tuesday at 11 am, Friday and Saturday at 3 pm; 2 euros per person. Maria Theresien Platz 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 525-240. <http://www.khm.at>.

Liechtenstein Museum

Rarely crowded because of its suburban location, the Liechtenstein Museum is a lovely combination of exquisite baroque art, fine architecture and relaxing gardens. Friday-Monday 10 am-5 pm. 10 euros adults, 5 euros children. Furstengasse 1 (Ninth), Vienna. Phone 319-5767-252. <http://www.liechtensteinmuseum.at>.

Museum fur Angewandte Kunst (MAK)

This museum of applied arts has a large collection of furniture and objects of the art-deco period, together with furniture from the baroque, Renaissance and Biedermeier periods. Eclectic and constantly changing, MAK's exhibits range from the photography of Dennis Hopper to architectural models of the 20th century. On Tuesday's MAK-Nite, young artists show their works. Daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm (Tuesday to midnight). 9.90 euros with guide or 7.90 euros without. Free admission on Saturday. Guided tours (in English) are also available Sunday at noon; 2 euros per person. Stubenring 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 711-360. <http://www.mak.at>.

Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig (MUMOK)

Austria's largest museum for modern and contemporary art is part of the MuseumsQuartier and housed in a massive basalt cubus. Its collections span from 1900 to the 1960s. Strong points are Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism, Dada, Surrealism and Viennese Actionism of the 1960s. Daily 10 am-6 pm, Thursday until 9 pm. 9 euros adults, 2 euros children age 13 and younger. Museumsplatz 1 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 52500. <http://www.mumok.at>.

Museum of Young Art (MOYA)

Vienna's center for young art of all genres is located in a beautifully renovated apartment building of the 19th century, very close to the Burgtheater. The English name emphasizes the fact that this is a very international place for European painting, graphics, sculpture, photography, video, installations and new media from the year 2000 to present. Artists from eastern Europe are especially well-represented. Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm, (subject to change in winter). 5 euros adults, 3 euros children. Lowelstrasse 20 (First), Vienna. Phone 535-1989. <http://www.moya-vienna.at>.

MuseumsQuartier

The MuseumsQuartier (MQ) is a remarkable cultural complex located on the edge of the Old City. It's worth seeing just for the revitalized baroque architecture (the former court stables) blended with modern design. The MQ is actually five separate museums combined with centers for dance and architecture, as well as cafes and restaurants. It's a must-see. Each of the MQ's five museums is worth a visit, but the Leopold Museum (<http://www.leopoldmuseum.at>) is a local favorite; it features the work of Austrian painters from the 19th and 20th centuries, including outstanding works from Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele. Daily and holidays 10 am-6 pm; open Thursday until 9 pm. Admission into the complex is free. Prices vary for the individual museums; combination tickets are available. The prices for combination tickets range 17 euros-29 euros, depending on the number of museums included. Museumsplatz 1-5 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 523-5881. <http://www.mqw.at>.

Naturhistorisches Museum

Only separated by Maria-Theresia-Platz from the Kunsthistorisches Museum (designed by the same architects), the grand old National History Museum was opened in 1889. It has a stunning display of archaeological, anthropological, mineralogical, zoological and geological objects, including one of Europe's most comprehensive collections of gems and artifacts of the Bronze Age. Its highlights include the famous Venus of Willendorf, an ancient, very curvaceous fertility figure found in Lower Austria. She's said to be around 24,000 years old. Also check out the Hallstatt Archaeological Finds from the early Iron Age (the reconstructed chariot from the Bycis Kala cave in Moravia is fascinating) and the casts of several gigantic dinosaur skeletons. Entrance is on Maria Theresia Platz. Thursday-Monday 9 am-6:30 pm, Wednesday until 9 pm. 8 euros adults, 3.50 euros children. Burgring 7 (First), Vienna. Phone 521-770.

Sigmund Freud Museum

A meticulous tribute to the father of psychoanalysis—a collection of photographs, personal effects and selections from his collection of antiques. Sigmund Freud lived and worked in this house during the most active part of his life, from 1891 until his flight from the Nazis in 1938. Open daily 9 am-6 pm. 7 euros adults, 2.50 euros children. Berggasse 19 (Ninth), Vienna. Phone 319-1596. <http://www.freud-museum.at>.

Strassenbahn Museum (Tramway Museum)

This museum showcases 94 vintage trams that were once used in Vienna as public transportation. The museum also houses numerous photos and other tram memorabilia. Open May-October Saturday, Sunday and holidays 9 am-4 pm. Ludwig-Koessler-Platz (Third), Vienna. Phone 7909-41800. <http://www.wiener-tramwaymuseum.org>.

Uhrenmuseum

This fascinating clock museum displays examples from 700 years of timekeeping, from astronomical instruments to tiny wristwatches to computer-driven clocks. More than 1,000 clocks are on display. Daily except Monday and holidays 10 am-6 pm. Guided tours are also available. 4 euros adults, 2 euros children. Free entrance on Sunday. Schulhof 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-2265. <http://www.museum-vienna.at>.

Wien Museum Karlsplatz

One of the best smaller museums in Vienna. The museum's diverse collection includes a number of important paintings by Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele—even one by the musician Arnold Schoenberg—as well as the reconstructed apartments of architect Adolf Loos and playwright Franz Grillparzer. It also houses an interesting collection of armor, weapons and maps from the 16th-century Turkish siege of Vienna. Look for the collection of Roman antiquities excavated around the city (the best remains can be visited below Hoher Markt) and the scale models of Vienna and its long-lost Renaissance walls. Daily except Monday and holidays 9 am-6 pm. 6 euros adults, 3 euros children. Free entrance to permanent collection on Sunday. Karlsplatz (Fourth), Vienna. Phone 505-8747. <http://www.wienmuseum.at>.

Neighborhoods & Districts

The 13th District

Take the U-4 subway to Hietzing, one of the leafiest and grandest of Vienna's suburbs. Hietzing was carved out of woodland following the construction of the Hapsburgs' summer palace at nearby Schonbrunn. Consequently, the area is littered with Biedermeier, *Jugendstil* (art-nouveau) and modernist villas along such well-appointed streets as Gloriettegasse, Trautmannsdorfgasse and Wattmannngasse. Also of note is the huge Lainzer Tiergarten, the former imperial hunting ground.

The 19th District

This district contains some of the city's most beautiful neighborhoods, including Grinzing, Nussdorf, Neustift am Walde, Sievering, Döbling and Heiligenstadt. Most of these neighborhoods have *heurigen* (wine taverns). From Schottentor, take Trolley 38 to Grinzing or Trolley 37 to Hohe Warte, a beautiful, hilly residential area midway between Grinzing and Heiligenstadt. Bus 38A runs from Heiligenstadt through Grinzing into the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods), all the way to the Kahlenberg, the highest point in Vienna with a spectacular view of the city. (You could also walk from the village of Grinzing to the Kahlenberg.)

The Eighth and Ninth Districts

The Eighth district of Josefstadt and the Ninth district of Alsergrund make up an intensely built-up yet attractive area of old apartment blocks, small public gardens and interesting shopping streets. From the Ringstrasse take Trolley J along Josefstadter Strasse for the Eighth district or Trolley 38 along Wahringerstrasse for the Ninth district. Tourist attractions within the area include the famous Theater in der Josefstadt on Josefstadter Strasse, the beautiful baroque Piaristenkirche around the corner, Sigmund Freud's former practice on Berggasse and the neo-Gothic Votivkirche with its twin spires. Hidden near the Danube Canal is the glorious Servitenkirche, as well as Vienna's oldest Jewish cemetery at Seegasse 9-11. The Old Hospital

on Wahringerstrasse is an attraction in its own right, being home to the Narrenturm (Fool's Tower), an early lunatic asylum, and the Josephinum, a former military training hospital with a collection of human bodies made from beeswax.

Parks & Gardens

Burggarten

On the other side of the Hofburg from the Volksgarten is the Burggarten, created in the early 1800s for the Hapsburgs but now open to the public (you're even allowed to lie on the grass). There's a little pond in the middle and a monument to Mozart with scenes from *Don Giovanni*. The Burggarten's art-nouveau greenhouse serves as the tropical Schmetterlingshaus (with live butterflies), a favorite with children or those just hoping to escape a chilly winter day. The Burggarten is open daily 6 am-dark (from 6:30 am November-March). The Schmetterlingshaus is open Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-6:30 pm (November-March 10 am-4 pm). The Burggarten is free; the Schmetterlingshaus costs 5 euros adults, 2.50 euros children ages 3-6. Opern Ring and Goethegasse (First), Vienna. Phone 533-8570. <http://www.schmetterlinghaus.at>.

Donaupark

This park, the second-largest green area in Vienna, is located on the Donauinsel, a man-made island that lies in the middle of the Danube River. A large recreational area, it encompasses flowerbeds, a lake called Irissee and a huge theater. However, it is most well-known for the Donauturm, which is an 827-ft/252-m tower that features two restaurants as well as a commanding view of the entire Vienna metropolitan area. To get there, take the U-1 subway line (U-Bahn) to the Donauinsel station. Free.

Lainzer Tiergarten

Situated in Vienna's western woods, this was the hunting area of the emperors. Now it's a huge natural park filled with oak and beech trees and entirely encircled by an old stone wall. If you take the walking paths, you may spot deer and wild boar. Within the Tiergarten is the Hermesvilla (Empress Elisabeth's private villa). It houses exhibits about the life of Elisabeth (Sisi) as well as other exhibitions. There's a pretty good restaurant, too. Take the U-4 subway line to Hietzing or Bus 60B to Lainzer Tor. (It's a 20-minute walk from either gate to the Hermesvilla.) The park area is free and open mid-February to mid-November daily 8 am-sunset. Hermesvilla is open mid-March to late October Tuesday-Sunday and holidays 10 am-6 pm, and late October to mid-March Friday-Sunday and holidays 10 am-4:30 pm. Adults 5 euros (4 euros on Sunday). Hermesstrasse (13th), Vienna. Phone 804-1324. <http://www.wienmuseum.at>.

Setagaya Park

Hidden away in the 19th district, Setagaya Park is one of Vienna's hidden gems. It is a Japanese garden built to reflect the cultural ties between the suburb of Döbling and its counterpart Setagaya in Tokyo. All the classic elements are in place, namely a teahouse on the edge of a lake strewn with water lilies, a white-pebble beach, dwarf azaleas and maple trees, stone lanterns, a graceful footbridge and a tumbling brook. Daily 7 am-dusk (closed December-February). Free. Hohe Warte and Gallmeyergasse (19th), Vienna. Phone 478-3498.

Stadtpark

This city park is the most accessible park for visitors—and one of the most enjoyable. Located on the Park Ring in the First district and designed in 1862, the Stadtpark contains a notable gilded statue of Johann Strauss, which can be seen from the Ring. Not surprisingly, it's always surrounded by photographers. The park is beautifully manicured with flowers, trees and paths for walking or jogging—it's also a nice place just to sit and rest. During the summer, you can dine at some very pleasant outdoor restaurants, and an orchestra plays traditional Viennese music most afternoons from the terrace of the Kursalon (a lovely old building at the edge of the park, located at Johannesgasse 33). There's a large playground in the middle of the park. Free.

Volksgarten

The Volksgarten is just inside the Ring in the First district. Famous for extensive rose gardens and ornate fountains, it also affords a good view of Heldenplatz and the Hofburg complex. Within the park are a memorial garden to Empress Elisabeth (Sisi) and the Theseustempel, modeled after an ancient temple in Athens. There are also two outdoor cafes, one with an enormous outdoor dance floor and disco. April-November daily 6 am-10 pm, December-March 6:30 am-10 pm. Free. Phone 533-9083.

Amusement Parks

Wiener Volksprater

Commonly known as the Prater, this immense green parkland, which extends between the two arms of the Danube, was once a hunting reserve for the aristocracy. It's divided into two sections: One remains a huge green area for cycling or walking and has many well-marked trails; the other section is a famous amusement park with booths, rides, merry-go-rounds, a roller coaster, shooting galleries, and many *heurigen* (wine taverns) and restaurants. The focal point is the Riesenrad, the more-than-100-year-old giant Ferris wheel that's been seen in many movies, including *The Third Man*, *Before Sunrise* and the James Bond film *The Living Daylights*. Take the U-1 to Praterstern or Trolley N to Prater Hauptallee—signs will direct you.

The Ferris wheel operates roughly 10 am-8 pm in the winter, 10 am-midnight in the summer. The Prater is open mid-March to October 10 am-1 am and closes earlier in the colder months. The Ferris wheel (<http://www.wienerriesenrad.com>) offers a wonderful view of the city for 8.50 euros adults, 3.50 euros children ages 3-14; free admission for children age 2 and younger. In the amusement park, you can pay at each ride or station (attractions range 1 euro-10 euros each). The Vienna Card also offers discounts on rides, such as the Ferris wheel. Hauptallee and Austellungsstrasse (Second), in the Prater, Vienna. Phone 21114 (Vienna Tourist Office). <http://www.wiener-prater.at>.

Zoos & Wildlife

Haus des Meeres

Located in the unlikely setting of a World War II anti-aircraft tower, the House of the Sea is a surprising attraction that is especially popular with children. Huge water tanks on the ground floor contain free-swimming sharks and turtles, and the upper floors are home to a series of aquariums containing beautiful coral reefs. Bolted onto one side of the tower is a huge conservatory containing a miniature rain forest filled with tropical birds and monkeys. Daily 9 am-6 pm (Thursday to 9 pm). 11.90 euros adults, 9.10 euros seniors and students, 6.50 euros children ages 6-15, 3.30 euros children ages 3-5. Esterhazypark (Sixth), Vienna. Phone 587-1417. <http://www.haus-des-meeres.at>.

Schonbrunn Tiergarten

Founded in 1752 by the husband of Empress Maria Teresa, the Tiergarten (zoo) on the grounds of the Schonbrunn palace is regarded as the world's oldest. In its center is a former Hapsburg banqueting house (now the Kaiser Pavilion cafe) from which paths radiate out through a wide range of animal habitats. The giant pandas, Nile crocodiles and elephants are always popular, as well as the polar zone inhabited by penguins and seals. Other popular attractions include the Regenwaldhaus (rain-forest house), where a Borneo rain forest is re-created, and two panorama trains that take riders through the entire zoo. Daily 9 am-6:30 pm (until 4:30 pm in winter). 14 euros adults, 6 euros children. Tours of the Regenwaldhaus are also available for 3 euros per person. Trains are in service 10 am-6 pm (5 euros adults, 3 euros children). Combination tickets to the various zoo attractions are also available on-site. Schonbrunn Park (13th), Vienna. Phone 877-9294. <http://www.zoovienna.at>.

WustenhauS

Part of the Vienna Zoo and adjacent to the graceful Palmenhaus (Palm House), in the gardens of Schloss Schonbrunn. This desert house is set against beautifully painted backdrops. Exotic succulent plants shade the colorful lizards and tiny desert shrews scampering beneath them. An incredibly calm place with canvas seats available for those who wish to really unwind.

October-April daily 9 am-5 pm; May-September daily 9 am-6 pm. 4 euros adults, 2.50 euros children. Schonbrunn Park (13th), Vienna. Phone 877-9294.
<http://www.zoovienna.at/wuestenhaus.htm>.

Recreation

Vienna has many options for recreation. Swimmers will enjoy the beaches along the Alte Donau part of the Danube, which is also popular with boat enthusiasts. There are plenty of bike paths along the river and on Donauinsel island. Facilities are also available for golf, tennis and ice skating, all popular pastimes.

Bicycling

Predominantly flat, Vienna is a city of bicycle enthusiasts: Cycling is not only an avid recreational pursuit, it's also a routine means of transportation for thousands of Viennese citizens. About 310 mi/500 km of cycle paths run through the city, many regulated as to lanes and speed.

You can rent bikes at select locations throughout the city. Prices vary but start at 4 euros per hour. Unfortunately, bikes available at stalls located throughout the First district require a local ATM card for rental and may therefore be inaccessible to many tourists. Rental locations and general tips for cyclists are listed at <http://www.vienna.info>. Any tourist information office can also provide more details.

Prime areas to explore by bike include the Donaukanal, near the city center (there's even a trail that leads you through Lower Austria up to Passau). Another good choice is the Donauinsel, or you can follow bike trails in the Prater (a marked trail starting at the Ring leads you there). Also, check with the Vienna Tourist Board for additional information on bicycling in the area. Phone 24555.

Pedal Power

This rental service delivers bikes to your hotel and picks them up after you're done. Included in the cost is a booklet and special map with routes and numbered sights. For an additional fee, it also offers a daily guided bike tour. Holders of the Vienna Card receive a discount. Open daily March 8 am-5 pm, April and October 8 am-6 pm; May-September 8 am-7 pm. Ausstellungsstrasse 3 (Second), Vienna. Phone 729-7234. <http://www.pedalpower.at>.

Hiking & Walking

The fabled Wienerwald (Vienna Woods) west and south of the city has trails for hikers (and cyclists). Much of the Wienerwald can be reached by public transportation. Generally, you'll need to catch a bus at the end of a trolley line to reach wooded areas. You can also get into the woods by foot from the center of Grinzing. Expect to see nice, old taverns and restaurants as you explore the forest.

For additional information on transportation into the woods, as well as maps and brochures, contact the Vienna Tourist Board (phone 24555) or the Austrian National Tourist Office (phone 0810-101-818).

Note: In spring and summer, be sure to wear protective clothing, avoid tall grass and check for ticks after your hike. If you suspect a tick has bitten you, seek medical help. The local variety of ticks can be dangerous, and inoculation prior to travel is recommended.

Swimming

Vienna has much to offer for those who enjoy swimming. For all pools, visit <http://www.wien.gv.at/baeder>. **Amalienbad**

This traditional covered pool has beautiful art-deco tiling. 4 euros-5.50 euros per person. Reumannplatz 23 (10th), Vienna. Phone 607-4747.

Gansehaufel

This popular, tree-fringed bathing resort has a natural setting. Located on an island in the Alte Donau (Old Danube), Vienna. Phone 269-9016.

Krapfenwaldbad

During the hot summers, this historic, open-air pool is popular. Vienna Woods of the 19th district, Vienna. Phone 320-1501.

Nightlife

The Bermuda Triangle in the First district is the main area for nightlife in Vienna. It is located near Hoher Markt, in the general area between Marc-Aurel Strasse and Rotenturm Strasse. Music and drinking establishments proliferate there. Other popular areas for nighttime revelry are around Naschmarkt, the Freihaus district and the Spittelberg area. Clubs close anytime between midnight and 5 am. For party events, visit <http://www.oe4.com>.

Vienna's *heurigen* (wine taverns) are wonderful places to spend an evening. In addition to enjoying wine and a buffet, you can often hear traditional *schrammelmusik* (sentimental ballads).

On various evenings May-September, you can catch Summer Stage events—a series of free concerts, theatrical performances and art exhibits scenically staged on the Danube promenade along the Donaukanal.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

Babu

This hip club in the suburbs is also a restaurant specializing in Asian and classical Viennese food. Stunning multilevel decor, complete with TVs in the floor and a swing hanging from the ceiling. Located in some of the Stadtbahn arcs designed by Otto Wagner. Monday-Wednesday 10 am-2 am, Thursday and Friday 10 am-4 am. Happy hour until 10 pm. Most major credit cards. Stadtbahnbogen 181-184 (Ninth), Vienna. Phone 479-4849. <http://www.babulifestyle.at>.

Dino's American Bar

Despite its name this bar offers a rather cozy Italian atmosphere with jazz and Latin music plus more than 250 different cocktails. It is renowned for its selection of rare bourbons, said to be the largest in Austria. Monday-Thursday 6 pm-3 am, Friday and Saturday until 4 am. Salzgries 19 (First), Vienna. <http://www.dinos.at>.

Eden Bar

The traditional late-night destination for Vienna's high-society types. Features live music. Monday-Saturday 9 pm-4 am. Proper attire is required; women must wear an evening dress or suit, men must wear a suit (a tie is no longer required, but we recommend one, anyway). Most major credit cards. Liliengasse 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-7450. <http://www.edenbar.at>.

First Floor

Get a table near the window and watch the busy scene in the so-called Bermuda Triangle below. Cozy, romantic ambience to snuggle up with your partner. Monday-Saturday 7 pm-4 am, Sunday 7 pm-3 am. Seitenstettengasse 5/Rabensteig (First), Vienna. Phone 533-7866.

Loos Bar

This tiny jewel of an American bar was designed by Viennese architect Adolf Loos in 1908 and holds barely 20 patrons. The design is all original, and incredible attention has been paid to each detail, from the coat hooks to the light fittings. Be warned that the prices are high and sightseers are not welcome. There are a couple of tables on the street outside. Daily from noon. Most major credit cards. Karntner Durchgang 10 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-3283. <http://www.loosbar.at>.

Motto Club Restaurant-Bar

A popular Vienna bar and restaurant that is ideal for couples looking for a romantic night on the town or for singles looking to meet someone new. Nightly from 6. Most major credit cards. Schonbrunner Strasse 30 (Fifth), Vienna. Phone 587-0672. <http://www.motto.at>.

MuseumsQuartier

One of Europe's largest concentrations of museums and galleries is busy at night, too, with a range of stylish bars and terrace cafes catering to those visiting the five separate attractions. Hours vary from place to place. Museumsplatz 1-5 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 523-5881. <http://www.mqw.at>.

Planter's Club

Planter's Club has the look and feel of an English colonial club, with Indonesian wood paneling and old Sri Lankan furniture. Relax in comfy leather chairs and enjoy soft jazz, soul and Latin music. They have extremely old whiskeys, cognacs and rums, if you like to splurge. Daily 5 pm-4 am. Zelinkagasse 4 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-339-315. <http://www.plantersclub.com>.

Roter Engel

A long-established city bar good for live music—mostly jazz, rock, funk, house and soul on Friday—and features a wide selection of cocktails. Monday-Saturday 5 pm-4 am, Sunday 6 pm-2 am. No credit cards. Rabensteig 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 535-4105. <http://www.roterengel.at>.

Salzamt

An intimate bar hidden away on a cobblestoned street in the oldest section of the city. It's pleasant to listen to music in the romantic garden cafe in back, which has a view of Ruprechtskirche. Monday-Friday noon-2 am, Saturday and Sunday 5 pm-2 am. Visa accepted. Ruprechtsplatz 1 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-5332.

Schweizerhaus

Vienna's most-famous beer garden, smack in the heart of the Prater amusement park. Locals feast on crispy pork knuckles (called *stelze*), potato pancakes and roast chicken under the shade of a large tree in the courtyard. Real Budweiser beer (from the Czech Republic) on tap. Mid-March to October Monday-Friday 11 am-11 pm; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 10 am-11 pm. Closed the rest of the year. No credit cards. Prater Strasse des 1 Mai 116 (Second), Vienna. Phone 7280-15213. <http://www.schweizerhaus.at>.

Sky Bar

Atop the department store Steffl, it's a chic watering hole for beautiful people. Wonderful view and surprising details, such as a large table reserved for families with children. Monday-Saturday 5 pm-3 am, Sunday 6 pm-2 am. Piano music Thursday-Saturday 4-7 pm. Live music Tuesday and Thursday from 10 pm. Most major credit cards. Karntner Strasse 19 (First), Vienna. Phone 513-1712. <http://www.skyrestaurant.at>.

Urania Cafe

A stylish and cool cocktail and cafe bar located in the former imperial astronomical observatory. Monday-Saturday 9 am-2 am, Sunday 9 am-midnight. Uraniastrasse 1 (First), Vienna. Phone 713-3066. <http://www.barurania.com>.

Live Music

Jazzland

Very good traditional live jazz and blues. Monday-Saturday from 7:30 pm (music starts at 9 pm). Cover ranges 10 euros-20 euros. Franz Josefs Kai 29 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-2575. <http://www.jazzland.at>.

Porgy and Bess

A basement club with excellent acoustics in the heart of the city's so-called "Bermuda Triangle." Tasteful jazz and groups whose names end in Quartet, Quintet and Trio. After concerts, the place becomes a nightclub. Nightly from 8. Cover starts at 11 euros and decreases as the night goes on. Riemergasse 11 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-8811. <http://www.porgy.at>.

Other Options

Heurigen are wine taverns that serve first-year wines. Many are set in idyllic gardens or courtyards, with accompanying *schrammelmusik* (sentimental ballads, played on accordion, guitar and violin, about how wonderful Vienna was in the good old days—the Austrian equivalent of pub songs). Choose from white wine (the most typical), red wine or *gespritzt* (an equal mixture of white wine and mineral water). August-October, you'll find *sturm* (partially fermented wine) and *most* (unfermented wine). During the winter months, you'll also find *gluhwein*, a warm drink made with red wine, cinnamon, cloves and orange peel, which is also sold on the street. For the truest *heurige* experience (outdoors, in a garden setting, surrounded by vineyards rather than an urban environment), go to the *heurigen* in the outlying areas of Salmansdorf, Sievering, Stammersdorf, Grinzing, Nussdorf and Heiligenstadt. (Be warned that most tourist buses head for Grinzing.)

As many *heurigen* are closed during the winter months, try exploring the city's dark and mysterious medieval cellars (*keller*), once monastic wine vaults, that serve both local wine and beer. **Augustinerkeller**

Very pleasant atmosphere in the cellar of a 500-year-old building, with curved ceilings and multiple rooms. Many of the patrons you'll see are tourists. Daily 11 am-midnight. The music begins at 6:30 pm. Most major credit cards. Augustinerstrasse 1 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-1026. <http://www.bitzinger.at>.

Fischerbrau

The perfect spot for a beer after a walk in the Vienna Woods. The view of the city is unsurpassed. Monday-Saturday 4 pm-1 am, Sunday 11 am-1 am. Jazz is also played on Sunday. No credit cards. Billrothstrasse 17 (19th), Vienna. Phone 369-5949. <http://www.fischerbraeu.at>.

Fubrgassl-Huber

A classic Viennese *heurige*, with garden seating in warm weather. Monday-Saturday 2 pm-midnight, Sunday noon-midnight. Most major credit cards. Neustift am Walde 68, Vienna. Phone 440-1405. <http://www.fuhrgassl-huber.at>.

Mayer am Pfarrplatz

A scenic and very Viennese *heurige* located in one of Beethoven's homes (he had many). Excellent Austrian white wines and a wide range of salads, spreads and roasted meats. Monday-Saturday 4 pm-midnight, Sunday 11 am-midnight. Closed 20 December-15 January. Pfarrplatz 2 (in Heiligenstadt), Vienna. Phone 370-3361. <http://www.pfarrplatz.at>.

Plutzer Brau

Located in the lovingly restored district of Spittelberg. Good selection of beers. Daily 10:30 am-2 am. Most major credit cards. Schrankgasse 2 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 5227-3522. <http://www.plutzerbraeu.at>.

Sirbu

In a pastoral setting on Kahlenberg, off a tiny lane bordered by vineyards. Wonderful view of Vienna and the Danube. Good food and wine to boot. Try the Nussdorfer Riesling. April to mid-October Monday-Saturday 3 pm-midnight. Closed the rest of the year. Kahlenberger Strasse 210 (in Nussdorf 19th), Vienna. Phone 320-5928.

Weingut am Reisenberg

Still something of a secret, this *heurige* is just a few minutes' walk beyond the end of Grinzing but has thus far escaped the tourist hordes. It has wonderful views, too. April Thursday and Friday from 4 pm, Saturday and Sunday from noon; May-September Monday-Friday from 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday from noon; October-December Wednesday-Saturday from 6 pm. Most major credit cards. Oberer Reisenbergerweg 15 (18th), Vienna. Phone 320-9393. <http://www.weingutamreisenberg.at>.

Zahel

Fabulous *heurige* way off from the tourist traps in the southern part of Vienna. It not only offers excellent white and red Viennese wine, but also cold platters of tasty *speck* (bacon), sausage and cheese. The warm dishes, such as roasted calf's liver or venison, are tasty as well. Generally open from the first Thursday of every month for 18 days, except for Mondays that are not holidays. Check Web site for exact times, usually 3 pm-midnight. No credit cards. Am Maurer Hauptplatz 9 (23rd), Vienna. Phone 889-1318. <http://www.zahel.at>.

Zum Martin Sepp

Good locally produced white wines accompany hearty platters groaning with meats and cheeses. Long refectory tables are set outside in a rustic courtyard, and musicians usually stroll around while the stars twinkle overhead. Daily 11 am-midnight. Most major credit cards. Cobenzlgasse 34 (19th), Vienna. Phone 320-3233. <http://www.zummartinsepp.at>.

Zwoelf-Apostelkeller

A wonderful rustic *heurige* located in a converted medieval wine cellar in the heart of Vienna. Daily 4:30 pm-midnight. Live music Wednesday-Friday from 7 pm. Sonnenfelsgasse 3 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-6777. <http://www.zwoelf-apostelkeller.at>.

Performing Arts

Vienna provides the perfect setting for opera, classical music, waltzes and drinking music—something for every taste. The gilded, baroque Staatsoper (State Opera) on the Ring and the Volksoper (People's Opera) in the Ninth district make Vienna a mecca for opera lovers. The Musikverein on Karlsplatz and the Konzerthaus nearby are two premier concert halls, famous for their beautiful interiors; the Musikverein is renowned as well for its acoustics (the Vienna Philharmonic performs there), and its Goldener Saal is host to a famous New Year's Day concert.

The Vienna Boys Choir sings on High Mass Sundays and religious holidays in the chapel of the Hofburg. And Viennese churches host performances of some of the most beautiful music ever composed, including organ concerts and choral performances.

In July and August, there are excellent summer concerts in the courtyard of the Rathaus (free open-air films of operas and ballets, too) and at Schonbrunn. During Rathaus events, there are often stalls selling international cuisine, creating a festival atmosphere. For theater programs, visit <http://www.culturall.at>.

Music

Vienna Boys Choir

The renowned group (of approximately 100 boys) sings at Masses at the Hofmusikkapelle on Sunday and religious holidays. It also performs at various national and international events. Services start at 9:15 am. The price for seats ranges 5 euros-29 euros, but standing room is free. Orders for seats should be received at least 10 weeks ahead of time at Hofmusikkapelle, Hofburg, 1010 Vienna. Phone 533-9927. Pick up tickets at the Burgkapelle on the Friday preceding the performance 11 am-1 pm or the morning of the performance 8:15-8:45 am. If any seats remain, box office sales begin at the Burgkapelle at 5 pm the preceding Friday. No more than two tickets per person will be issued. General information about the Vienna Boys Choir can also be obtained from the offices at the Augarten Palais (Second), Vienna. Phone 216-3942. Office hours are Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm. You can also check for concert dates on its official Web site at <http://www.wsk.at>.

Alternatively, you can hear the Vienna Boys Choir at the Musikverein (<http://www.musikverein.at> for more information) every Friday at 4 pm May-October. Tickets (36 euros-63 euros) can be obtained from hotels and from Mondial, Operngasse 20b, Vienna. Phone 588-040. Fax 587-1268. <http://www.mondial.at/english/culture/index.html>.

Wiener Philharmoniker

Performances of the Vienna Philharmonic are in the Musikverein. Detailed programs are available at every tourist information station or at Stadtinformation. Ticket availability is rare—most sell out months in advance through subscriptions. Non-subscription ticket prices vary depending on the event. For additional information on obtaining tickets, contact the ticket office directly at Karnter Ring 12 (First), Vienna. Phone 505-6525. <http://www.wienerphilharmoniker.at>.

Theater

Burgtheater

One of Europe's great German-language theaters is still very much in business, despite being largely destroyed during World War II. Tours in German are available at 3 pm (Sunday also 11 am) to view surviving frescoes by Gustav Klimt. The second venue of the Burgtheater is the Akademietheater, staging mainly contemporary authors and unusual adaptations of classical works on Lisztstrasse 1 (Third). Burgtheater at Dr. Karl Lueger Ring 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 51444-4140. <http://www.burgtheater.at>.

Kabarett Simpl

The famous political cabaret was founded in 1912 under the name Simplicissimus. Fritz Grunbaum and Karl Farkas are Austrian legends of the 1920s and 1930s. It is still the top venue for this witty genre. Wollzeile 36 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-4742. <http://www.simpl.at>.

Raimund

Operettas and musicals are popular in this legendary theater named after the great dramatist Ferdinand Raimund. Wallgasse 18-20 (Sixth), Vienna. Phone 599-770. <http://www.musicalvienna.at>.

Ronacher

A variety theater with a varied schedule that has included Broadway shows. Selierstatte 9 (First), Vienna. Phone 58885. <http://www.musicalvienna.at>.

Theater in der Josefstadt

Built in 1788 and remodeled in the 1820s, this theater is a favorite with the Viennese. Ornate chandeliers and lots of history. Josefstadter Strasse 26 (Eighth). The second venue of the theater is the Kammerspiele, located in Rotenturmstrasse 20 (First), Vienna. Phone 4270-0300. <http://www.josefstadt.org>.

Theater Rabenhof

This is the place to go for experimental, nonconformist and very political theater. Rabengasse 3 (Third), Vienna. Phone 712-8282. <http://www.rabenhof.at>.

Vienna English Theatre

Often overlooked, this little gem in the Josefstadt has Austrian and European debut performances of works in English. They also play in French and Italian. Josefgasse 12 (Eighth), Vienna. Phone 4021-2600. <http://www.englishtheatre.at>.

Volkstheater

Modern plays, comedies and classic works of European theater. Performances can be a mixed bag, excellent one day and awful the next. Neustiftgasse 1 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 521-1110. <http://www.volkstheater.at>.

Ticket Brokers

Vienna Ticket Office

Sells tickets to various events in Vienna and also books tours. Daily 9 am-6:50 pm. Karntner Strasse 51, Vienna. Phone 513-1111. <http://www.viennaticketoffice.com>.

Venues

The Staatsoper and the Volksoper host both ballet and opera. International requests for tickets to either venue can be made by phone (starting 29 days before a performance) or online.

If you haven't purchased tickets before your trip, you might still be able to buy them from the ticket office located at the side of the Staatsoper (near the book and music shop) or at the ticket office at the Bundestheaterverband. A more expensive option is to purchase them through a ticket broker or hotel (expect to pay a premium). Standing-room tickets are sold at the box office prior to the performance. For particularly popular performances, plan on showing up hours ahead to stand in line. **Staatsoper**

Tickets vary in price from 2 euros for standing room to 254 euros for prime seating. Opernring 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 5144-42250. <http://www.wiener-staatsoper.at>.

Volksoper

Tickets vary in price from 2 euros for standing room to 150 euros for prime seating. Währingerstrasse 78, Vienna. Phone 5144-43670. <http://www.volksoper.at>.

Other Options

Lipizzaner Stallions

These highly trained white horses with elaborately dressed riders perform an intricate dance to classical music in the Spanish Riding School (part of the Hofburg Palace). Children younger than 3 are not permitted at any of the performances. Photo taking is also prohibited. The performance schedule varies, so check the Web site for exact dates and times. Another option is to watch the horses practice their morning exercises 10 am-noon. Tickets for performances range 24 euros-165 euros (standing room costs 18 euros-28 euros). Tickets for morning practice cost 12 euros adults, 9 euros seniors (older than 60), 6 euros students and children. Spanische Hofreitschule-Bundesgestut Piber, Gesellschaft öffentlichen Rechts, Michaelerplatz 1, Vienna. Phone 533-9031. <http://www.srs.at>.

Spectator Sports

Vienna is known far more for its cultural rather than sporting scene. However, horse races and football (soccer) are both popular.

Horse Racing

Galopprennbahn Freudenau

Horse races occur there late March-November. Prater (Second), Vienna. Phone 728-9531. <http://www.freudenau.at>.

Trabrennbahn Krieau

The trotting races season runs September-June. Prater (Second), Vienna. Phone 728-0046. <http://www.krieau.at>.

Soccer

FK Austria Wien

Franz Horr Stadion, Vienna. Phone 688-0150 for tickets. <http://www.fk-austria.at>.

SK Rapid Wien

Gerhard Hannappi Stadion, Vienna. Phone 727-430 for tickets. <http://www.skrapid.at>.

Shopping

Walking through the city, you'll find plenty of typical souvenirs such as miniature replicas of the cathedral. But also consider handcrafted items: glassware, crystal, little porcelain figures or dolls in Austrian costumes. You can send Sacher torte all over the world, and *Mozartkugeln* (marzipan balls with rum truffle, covered in chocolate) are usually a welcome gift. Clothing made and sold in this fashion-conscious city is very chic, and traditional woolen coats (loden) are popular. Another Viennese specialty is petit-point hand embroidery, found on handbags, brooches and powder cases.

The antiques shops and secondhand bookshops of the city center are packed with pictures, paintings and books that are uniquely Viennese. For quality (and the high prices that go with it), explore Braunerstrasse, Spiegelgasse, Dorotheergasse and Plankenstrasse. You should look also in the Dorotheum—the public auction house—where precious porcelain, jewelry and furniture are offered for sale.

The most elegant shopping streets are in the city center—Karntner Strasse, Graben, Kohlmarkt and their side streets. Opposite the cathedral, streets such as Rotenturmstrasse, Wollzeile, Singerstrasse and Tuchlauben also have attractive shops. Haas-Haus is a modern six-story glass structure opposite the cathedral, boasting some of Vienna's most exclusive shopping. For an equally fashionable destination, try the Ringstrasse Galerien near the State Opera House.

Shopping Hours: Generally, larger stores and shops in very busy shopping areas (Karntner Strasse, Mariahilfer Strasse) operate Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6 or 7 pm (9 pm on Thursday), Saturday 9:30 am-5 pm. Small shops tend to close for an hour or more at lunchtime and close at 6 pm during the week, at noon or 1 pm Saturday. Most shops are closed all day Sunday and on public holidays.

Antique Stores

Dorotheum

One of the world's biggest auction houses, located inside a neobaroque palace. Several auctions are held each day. Antiques and paintings may be viewed beforehand; other artifacts may be purchased conventionally in the showrooms. More modestly priced antiques and pictures can be purchased over the counter in the ground-floor showroom. The area around Dorotheum, especially Spiegelgasse, is filled with quaint antiques shops. Monday-Friday 10

am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-5 pm. Auctions usually begin at 2 pm. Dorotheergasse 17, Vienna. Phone 515-600. <http://www.dorotheum.com>.

Bookstores

British Book Shop

Offers a large selection of English-language books. Two additional locations at Mariahilferstrasse 4 (Seventh) and Albert-Schweitzer-Gasse 4A (Fourteenth). Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-6 pm. Weihburggasse 24-26 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-1945. <http://www.britishbookshop.at>.

Buchhandlung Frick

Excellent bookstore, centrally located. Upstairs, there's a fair selection in English. Books about Vienna and Austria. Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm, Saturday 9 am-5 pm. Graben 27 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-9914. <http://www.buchhandlung-frick.at>.

Freytag & Berndt

The city's best travel bookstore, with a large English-language section. If you need a map, guide or picture book, this is the place to go. Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm, Saturday 9 am-6 pm. Kohlmarkt 9 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-8685. <http://www.freytagberndt.at>.

Morawa

Vienna's largest bookshop (numerous locations scattered throughout Vienna), with departments covering most subjects. The room devoted to travel guides is especially impressive. Newspapers and magazines are also for sale. Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm, Saturday 9 am-6 pm. Wollzeile 11 (First), Vienna. Phone 51375-13450. <http://www.morawa.at>.

Shakespeare & Company

Specializes in books in English. But you might want to visit this little shop just because of its interesting location in the old Jewish Quarter of Vienna. Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm. Sterngasse 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 535-5053. <http://www.shakespeare.co.at>.

Thalia

Sells books, newspapers, greeting cards and art materials on several floors. Seating areas are scattered within the store. Monday-Wednesday 9:30 am-7 pm, Thursday and Friday 9:30 am-8 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-6 pm. Mariahilferstrasse 99 (Sixth), Vienna. Phone 595-4550. <http://www.thalia.at>.

Department Stores

Gerngross

Opened in 1897, this is one of Vienna's few authentic department stores, located just outside the city-center shopping mall. The rooftop cafe offers excellent views of the city. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-7 pm, Saturday 9 am-5 pm. Mariahilferstrasse 38-48 (First), Vienna. Phone 521-800. <http://www.gerngross.at>.

Ringstrassen Galerien

A selection of luxury stores under a covered arcade and a very well-stocked food hall. Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-6 pm. Restaurants and cafes open daily 8 am-1 am. Karntner Ring 5-7 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-5181. <http://www.ringstrassengalerien.at>.

Steffl

An ultramodern shopping temple crammed with top labels, cosmetics and a media cafe. An outside glass elevator takes you up to the seventh floor for a breathtaking view of Vienna. (The elevator operates until midnight for those visiting the Sky Bar and international restaurant atop the building.) Monday-Friday 9:30 am-7 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-6 pm. Karntner Strasse 19 (First), Vienna. Phone 514-310. <http://www.kaufhaus-steffl.at>.

Markets

Advent markets are popular during the Christmas season. The Spittelberg market occupies several streets in the historic district. Its offerings include *gluhwein* (mulled wine), handmade Christmas-tree ornaments, crafts and hot snacks. Other popular Christmas markets are held at Schonbrunn, Rathausplatz, Am Hof and Freyung.

Alt Wiener Kunst und Antike Markt

Antiques and flea market specializing in books, postcards, objets d'art and antiquities. March-24 December Friday and Saturday 10 am-8 pm. Am Hof (First), Vienna.
<http://www.kunsthandwerksmarkt.at>.

Brunnenmarkt

A colorful, predominantly Turkish and Balkan market specializing in fruit, vegetables and halal meat. Monday-Friday 6 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 6 am-5 pm. Brunnengasse (16th), Vienna.

Freyung

Sells fresh produce, including honey, cheese, herbs and smoked meats. Each year, this is the site of the one of the largest Easter markets, where vendors sell various Easter-related goods, including colorful Easter eggs. Open Friday and Saturday 9 am-6 pm on odd calendar weeks. Freyung (First), Vienna.

Heiligenkreuzerhof

Specializes in artistic works of exceptional quality, displayed in the historic courtyard of an art school in the center of the city. Open the first weekend of the month April-September 10 am-6 pm; also open every weekend late November-December Saturday 10 am-7 pm, Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Schonlaterngasse 5 (First), Vienna.

Karmelitermarkt

Large market specializing in fruit, vegetables, regional wine and cut flowers. Often has bargains at the end of the day. Monday-Friday 6 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 6 am-5 pm. Karmeliterplatz (Second), Vienna.

Kutschkermarkt

Off the tourist track and better for it in terms of pricing. Small farmers stalls are set up along the street, with an emphasis on cut flowers, fruit, cheese and wine. It has none of the bustle associated with larger markets, and it's ideal for strolling. Monday-Friday 6 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 6 am-5 pm. Kutschkergasse (18th), Vienna.

Naschmarkt

The largest open-air market in the city. Flowers, food, wine, Asian and Balkan items, even clothing. Sit in the sun and sample Turkish kebabs or sip champagne at a champagne bar. Monday-Friday 6 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 6 am-5 pm. Off Linke Wienzeile close to the Ring, Vienna.

Shopping Areas

Mariahilfer Strasse

The longest shopping street, and the one most frequented by residents, Mariahilfer Strasse is the dividing line between the Sixth and Seventh districts. It's generally less expensive and exclusive than downtown streets. Gerngross, probably the most popular department store in Vienna, is located there. You can start at the Westbahnhof (U-3 and U-6 subway lines) and walk almost to the Ring, where the U-2 Babenbergerstrasse station is located. There's limited traffic on Mariahilfer Strasse, and sidewalk cafes have sprung up, trees have been planted and many grand old buildings have been renovated since the 1980s.

Spittelberg

Centuries ago, this was a red-light district. Now, it's a pretty neighborhood filled with shops selling embroidered linens, blown glass, wood carvings, leather goods, novelty dough figures and enamelware. In wintertime, don't miss its famous Advent market. To get there, take the U-2 or U-3 line to Volkstheater station. <http://www.spittelberg.at>.

Specialty Stores

Altmann & Kuhne

A great spot for chocolates and confections just around the corner from the cathedral. The tiny homemade chocolates, wrapped up in elaborate little boxes, make great gifts. Monday-Friday 9 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm. Am Graben 30 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-0927. <http://www.altmann-kuehne.at>.

Artup

Large showcase of young Austrian designers selling more than 40 different labels of fashion, home decor, accessories and unusual souvenirs in this artsy, one-stop shop. Monday-Friday noon-6:30 pm, Saturday noon-5 pm. Bauernmarkt 8 (First), Vienna. Phone 535-5097. <http://www.artup.at>.

Augarten

This well-known Vienna porcelain manufacturer produces exquisite, formal hand-painted works. The factory is in the Augarten Schloss, which was Empress Maria Theresa's hunting castle. Tours Monday-Friday at 10 am. The shop is open Monday-Friday 9:30 am-5 pm. Tours cost 6 euros. Obere Augarten Strasse (Second), Vienna. Phone 2112-4200. <http://www.augarten.at>.

Austrian Delights

Small shop for the best Austrian fine foods and beautiful gifts such as handpainted Viennese porcelain and extremely rare leatherware made of fish skin. Chose among sausage specialities; a selection of noble mustards, vinegar and the finest oils; wonderful jams and marmalades; handmade confectionary; and other Austrian specialities. Do not miss the rowanberry vodka. Monday-Friday 11 am-7 pm, Saturday 11 am-6 pm. Judengasse 1a (First), Vienna. Phone 532-1661. <http://www.austriandelights.at>.

Bakalowits

Designs customs chandeliers and performs chandelier restorations. Call for hours. Gumpendorferstrasse 32 (Sixth), Vienna. Phone 920-2626. <http://www.bakalowits.com>.

Demmer's Teehaus

Part of a chain of tea shops that offers quality loose teas from around the globe and a tea salon. January-October Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-1:30 pm; November and December Monday-Friday until 6:30 pm. Molkerbastei 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-5995. <http://www.demmer.at>.

Doblinger

Austria's treasure trove (and best editor) for music scripts and the first stop for everyone interested in finding that rare sheet of even rarer composers. The selection is awesome and of course includes every note that Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss have ever written. Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm. Dorotheergasse 10 (First), Vienna. Phone 515-030. <http://www.doblinger.at>.

Erster Wiener Susswarendiskont

A small backstreet shop crammed with all types of chocolates and sweets, including the famous *Mozartkugeln* made with chocolate and a marzipan center. Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm. Fleischmarkt 12 (First), Vienna. Phone 513-2752.

Frey Wille

Creative, colorful jewelry made of gold and fine enamel. Also sells beautiful silk scarves and shawls, tie clips, cufflinks, leather belts and designer pens. Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-noon. Gumpendorferstrasse 81 (Sixth), Vienna. Phone 59925. <http://www.frey-wille.com>.

Galerie Kovacek

Exquisite glass objects from the Renaissance, the baroque, Biedermeier and Jugendstil eras, also more modern masterpieces. Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm. Spiegelgasse 12 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-9954. <http://www.kovacek.at>.

Gerstner

Many kinds of homemade chocolate, but the specialty is chocolate-dipped strawberries. Five locations throughout Vienna. Monday-Saturday 8:30 am-8 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-6 pm. Karntner Strasse 13-15 (First), Vienna. Phone 743-4422. <http://www.gerstner.at>.

Gramola

A real treasure for all those interested in classical music. The store's large stock includes CDs and DVDs. The staff is knowledgeable and helpful. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-5 pm. Graben 16 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-5034. <http://www.gramola.at>.

Haas & Haas Teehaus

Known for its large selection of black and fruit teas, attractively packaged for gift giving. In the garden behind it is a cozy little teahouse and restaurant. The store is open Monday-Friday 9 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 9 am-6 pm. The teahouse is open Monday-Friday 8 am-8 pm, Saturday 8 am-6:30 pm. Stephansplatz 4 (right behind the cathedral), Vienna. Phone 512-9770. <http://www.haas-haas.at>.

J & L Lobmeyer

This store has made the chandeliers for the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and has other famous clients all over the world. There is also a museum of porcelain and crystal on the third floor. Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-6 pm. Karntner Strasse 26 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-0508. <http://www.lobmeyr.at>.

Kober

A paradise for children. Great toys, including dolls, teddy bears, model railroads and handmade tin soldiers. Monday-Friday 9:15 am-6 pm, Saturday until 5 pm. Graben 14-15 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-6018. <http://www.kobertoys.com>.

Lanz

A great shop for traditional classic Austrian clothing. Styles for men, women and children. Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-6 pm (10 am-5 pm July and August). Karntner Strasse 10 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-2456. <http://www.lanztrachten.at>.

Loden Plankl

A long-established source for traditional Austrian outfits—men's, women's and children's. Monday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm. In January, February, July and August, open Saturday until 5 pm. Michaelerplatz 6 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-8032. <http://www.loden-plankl.at>.

Ludwig Reiter

The Ludwig Reiter Schuhmanufaktur (located in the outskirts of Vienna) is the only Austrian factory still manufacturing high-quality shoes by hand. Most of the styles can be produced to order. Not cheap, but extremely comfortable, and the shoes will last for decades. Three stores in Vienna. Monday-Friday 10 am-6:30 pm, Saturday until 5 pm. Molkersteig 1 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-420-422. <http://www.ludwig-reiter.com>.

Martina Rogy

Nonchalant fashion by the young Austrian designer, one of the biggest talents in her country. Martina likes flowing, playful and sensual clothes in pastel colors such as creamy white, dusty pink, soft gray and violet, with great attention to details. Check out the sophisticated pleated skirts and her stunning high heels with handmade aprons. Monday-Friday 11 am-7 pm, Saturday until 5 pm. Landskrongasse 1-3 (Fifth), Vienna. Phone 650-944-2299. <http://www.martinarogy.com>.

Meinl am Graben

Austria's former gourmet emporium has fallen on hard times, but the central store still is Vienna's finest place to buy Viennese culinary delicacies. Wines and cheeses (400 varieties) are particularly noteworthy, but do check out the wide range of hams and cold cuts, the chocolates, caviar and truffles. You can also dine in the renowned Meinl's Restaurant on the

first floor with unique views, have a coffee at Meinl's Cafe or a glass of wine in Meinl's Wine Bar in the basement. A recent addition is the sushi bar. Graben 19 (First), Vienna. Phone 532-3334. <http://www.meinlamgraben.at>.

Original Wiener Schneekugeln

Vienna snow globes are very popular souvenirs and make great gifts. They come in an impressive variety of scenes and have been produced by the grandfather of the current owner since 1900. They are great collectors' items. You can order your very own design, too, as did former U.S. President Bill Clinton who chose the confetti of his inauguration parade as "snow." They even have a museum showing the best examples of Viennese "snowscapes." Schumannsgasse 87 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 486-4341. <http://www.viennasnowglobe.at>.

R. Horn's Wien

Fine leather shop: elegantly designed timeless handbags, briefcases, agendas and accessories. Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-3 pm. Braunerstrasse 7 (First), Vienna. Phone 513-8294. <http://www.rhorns.com>.

Schon Schoen

Get styled, get clothed, get fed: three locations in one, separated only by glass walls, that's the idea of this very charming Viennese combination invented by three friends. The coiffeur doesn't like credit cards, though. Interesting Austrian fashion labels presented in a minimalist interior, delicious Austrian-French fusion cuisine is served in a tiny restaurant, which only has one table with 20 seats. Tuesday-Friday noon-10 pm, Saturday until 6 pm. You can drink and dine until 11 pm. Lindengasse 53 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 699-1537-7701. <http://www.schon-schoen.at>.

Trachten Tostmann

True Austrian-style clothes for the entire family. Not many people know about the wonderful medieval cellars below the store, containing a fine collection of Austrian folk art (they may be visited free of charge by request). Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-6 pm. Schottengasse 3a (First), Vienna. Phone 533-5331. <http://www.tostmann.at>.

Vienna Bag

Quality designer handbags in every fabric and color. Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10:30 am-5 pm. Backerstrasse 7 (First), Vienna. Phone 513-1184. <http://www.vienna-bag.at>.

Xocolat

This paradise for chocoholics is located in the noble Palais Ferstel, but do not miss the small entrance. Venture a few steps downstairs and be seduced by Austria's best selection of chocolates. They have about 130 different brands, all handmade. Ever heard of Russian Korkunov, Spanish Enric Rovira or Italian Slirri chocolate? Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm. Freyung 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 535-4363. <http://www.xocolat.at>.

DINING

Dining Overview

Because Vienna was the imperial capital of the Hapsburg Empire—whose reach spread across central, eastern and southern Europe—you can expect "Austrian cuisine" to encompass a broad spectrum of dishes. In addition to Wiener schnitzel, roasted meats, dumplings, and superb pastries and cakes, you'll find Hungarian goulash, Turkish kebabs, Italian ice cream and much more. Additionally, Vienna offers many other international dining options, including Asian, French and Italian.

Vienna is also famous for its coffeehouses. Besides wonderful coffee and pastries, coffeehouses often serve snacks and light meals. Many students and artists in the city practically take up residence in their favorites. Wine taverns, called *heurigen*, are also nice places to dine, but the first-year wines and the atmosphere are the main draw there.

If you just want a quick snack, head to the nearest *wurststand* for a sausage or to a *fleischwaren* or *wurstwaren* store for butcher-shop sandwiches. In winter, small booths appear on the streets, selling *maroni* (hot chestnuts), *bratkartoffeln* (roast potatoes) and *gluhwein* (mulled spicy wine).

Beer drinkers should try the local Ottakringer. The same brewer also makes a nonalcoholic variation called Null Komma Josef. You might also want to try the soda Alm Dudler, which is made from herbs and tastes similar to ginger ale.

Although major credit cards are frequently accepted in larger establishments, it's a good idea to check first if you plan to pay with your card. This is a city where advance reservations are also a good idea, especially at better restaurants. Viennese tend to eat out for lunch noon-2 pm. In *heurigen*, dinner is usually eaten 6-8 pm, but in restaurants it's later, 7-9 pm.

Diners are advised to keep an eye on drink prices in restaurants. Though food is subject to a 10% tax, a hefty 20% tax is added to drinks. A reasonably priced, well-cooked meal can suddenly become a memorably expensive one.

Expect to pay within the following guidelines, based on the cost of a single dinner, not including tip or drinks: \$ = less than 11 euros; \$\$ = 11 euros-22 euros; \$\$\$ = 23 euros-50 euros; and \$\$\$\$ = more than 50 euros.

Local & Regional

Altwienerhof

A wonderful example of a traditional Viennese kitchen. It also has a unique Mediterranean flair. Serves excellent game, fish, and local and international wines and cheeses. The hotel in which the restaurant is located is suitably grand. Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for dinner only. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Herklotzgasse 6 (15th), Vienna. Phone 892-6000. <http://www.altwienerhof.at>.

Bei Max

The place to sample dishes from the Carinthian kitchen of southern Austria. Typical is the Carinthian *kasnudeln* (cheese noodles). Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Landhausgasse 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-7359.

Brezl' Gwoib

Typical Viennese dishes in a rustic, romantic setting. Nice garden in the back. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Ledererhof 9 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-8811. <http://www.brezl-gwoelb.at>.

Do & Co

Overlooking the cathedral from the seventh floor of one of Vienna's most strikingly modern buildings (the Haas-Haus), Do & Co has the city's best view and the affection of Austrians and visitors alike. Excellent international cuisine, as well as a bar. Another Do & Co is located at Albertinaplatz 1. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$. Visa accepted. Stephansplatz 12 (First), Vienna. Phone 535-3969. <http://www.doco.com>.

Drei Husaren

Critics hail Vienna's oldest gourmet restaurant, Drei Husaren, as one of Vienna's best traditional eateries. Elegant and exclusive, with an extensive wine list. In the evening, there's piano music. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. Proper attire is required; men must wear a jacket and tie. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Weihburggasse 4 (First), Vienna. Phone 5121-0920. <http://www.drei-husaren.at>.

Figlmüller

This restaurant is famous for its enormous Wiener schnitzels that often hang over the edge of your plate. Very popular (and somewhat touristy). Daily for lunch and dinner. Closed in August. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Wollzeile 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-6177. <http://www.figlmueLLer.at>.

Gmoakeller

One of the oldest restaurants in Vienna, and a great place to sample authentic Viennese dishes such as beef *gulyash*, innards, sweetbread and roasted liver at affordable prices. Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$. No credit cards. Am Heumarkt 25 (Third), Vienna. Phone 712-5310. <http://www.gmoakeller.at>.

Griechenbeisl

Delicious Viennese and international dishes have been served at this site for more than 500 years. It was once part of the city walls, and it is Vienna's oldest inn dating from 1447. Sidewalk garden seating in summer. Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Fleischmarkt 11 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-1977. <http://www.griechenbeisl.at>.

Gulaschmuseum

A must for lovers of rich, spicy goulash—the only restaurant in Vienna with more than 15 varieties. It also has a large selection of newspapers. Monday-Friday 9 am-midnight, Saturday, Sunday and holidays 10 am-midnight. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Schulerstrasse 20 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-1017. <http://www.gulasch.at>.

Korso bei der Oper

Located across from the opera house in the elegant Hotel Bristol. The Korso serves an elegant balance of haute and Viennese cuisine. Supported by an excellent waitstaff and sommelier. Daily for dinner only. Closed in August. Reservations required. Proper attire is required; men must wear a jacket and tie. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Mahlerstrasse 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 5151-6546. <http://www.restaurantkorso.at>.

Ofenloch

Cozy, small rooms in an ancient building—once a Roman bathhouse, it was taken over by a Jewish brotherhood in 1398. Viennese specialties, from schnitzel and *zwiebelrostbraten* (roast beef with crispy onions) to *palatschinken* (dessert pancakes). Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Open on holidays. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Kurrentgasse 8 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-8844. <http://www.ofenloch.at>.

Osterreicher im MAK

This gourmet restaurant located in the Museum für Angewandte Kunst bills itself as a new interpretation of a traditional Austrian inn. Chef Helmut Osterreicher serves truly excellent traditional and modern Viennese cuisine. Lunch options are hearty and surprisingly cheap. Try delicacies such as mushroom meat loaf with onion-mustard or frankfurters with mustard, horseradish and goulash gravy. You can also dine in an extra room with a futuristic design and a removable roof. In summer the beautiful, quiet garden is worth checking out. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Stubenring 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 714-0121. <http://www.oesterreicherimmak.at>.

Oswald & Kalb

High-quality, traditional Viennese fare. The Styrian Schilcher wine is recommended. Daily for dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Backerstrasse 14 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-1371.

Palmenhaus

A stylish brasserie located in the lovely turn-of-the-19th-century glass and cast-iron imperial greenhouse. The setting, overlooking the emperor's former private garden, is so stunning that you might not notice the imaginative cuisine. Traditional Austrian food with a modern flair; specializes in fish, lamb and vegetable dishes and has one of the most extensive wine lists in

town. Additionally, a breakfast menu is served 10 am-1 pm. A wide selection of cocktails is also available. In nice weather during the summer months, DJs play music on Friday starting at 9 pm. Daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Closed Monday and Tuesday in winter. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Palmenhaus Burggarten (First), Vienna. Phone 533-1033. <http://www.palmenhaus.at>.

Plachutta

Plachutta is the best option for Emperor Franz Josef I's favorite dish of boiled beef (*tafelspitz*)—he reputedly ate it every day in the Hofburg. You will be served at your table from a silver tureen, the superbly braised meat having been immersed in a vegetable stock and served up with grated apple and horseradish. The premises are stylishly decorated in distinctive green and cream colors. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. Proper attire is required; men must wear a jacket and tie. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Wollzeile 38 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-1577. <http://www.plachutta.at>.

Restaurant Anna Sacher

Part of the Sacher Hotel, this restaurant is worth visiting for just its atmosphere and history. The traditional meal is *tafelspitz* (boiled beef—the national dish of Austria) and the world-renowned Sacher torte (chocolate cake flavored with apricot) for dessert. Also, there is a great selection of fine wines and cigars. Daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. Proper attire is required; men must wear a jacket and tie. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Philharmonikerstrasse 4 (First), Vienna. Phone 5145-6840. <http://www.sacher.com>.

Schloss Concordia

One of Vienna's more unusual, and least known, eating experiences and housed in a seemingly derelict wooden villa opposite the first gate of the Zentralfriedhof (Central Cemetery). Surrounded by overgrown trees and illuminated only by candles in the evening, this place has a theatrical atmosphere all its own. For those with a hearty appetite, try the bizarre but delicious "Super Schnitzel." Daily 10 am-1 am. \$. No credit cards. Simmeringer Hauptstrasse 282 (11th), Vienna. Phone 769-8888.

Steirereck

Perennially rated as Vienna's top restaurant (although sometimes it comes in at No. 2 just to give other restaurants a chance), this is the only restaurant in town awarded two Michelin stars. Traditional Austrian cuisine with a creative flair. When available, try the *wachtel* (quail), *spanferkel* (suckling pig), *waller* (sheatfish), *beuschel* (innards) and beef of *almochse* (Alpine oxen). Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner. Closed weekends and holidays. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Am Heumarkt 2 (Third), Vienna. Phone 713-3168. <http://www.steirereck.at>.

Stomach

Located in an old farmhouse within the city limits, Stomach has garnered an excellent reputation over the years for innovative Viennese cooking with flair. Vegetarian fare is also available. There's a leafy courtyard to the rear, and the seldom-seen Austrian rose wine is on offer. Wednesday-Saturday for dinner, Sunday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Seegasse 26 (Ninth), Vienna. Phone 310-2099.

Zum Basiliken

A cafe, restaurant and bar where all of the best-loved Viennese dishes are served in a cozy, wood-paneled room. For a twist on an old favorite, try the *zwiebelrostbraten* (roast beef and crispy onions) with vanilla. Also, there is a large selection of Austrian and international wines. Daily noon-2 am. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Schonlaterngasse 3-5 (First), Vienna. Phone 513-3123. <http://www.tourist-net.co.at/lokale/basilisk>.

Zum Leupold Kupferdachl

An excellent choice for traditional Viennese cuisine, served up by a splendid kitchen. Specialties include *tafelspitz* (boiled beef), *lungenbraten* (beef tenderloin stuffed with goose liver, served with cream sauce and dumplings), *rahmschnitzel* (creamed veal cutlet) and, of

course, Wiener schnitzel. Very friendly and attentive service. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Schottengasse 7 (First), Vienna. Phone 5339-38112. <http://www.leupold.at>.

Zum Schwarzen Kameel

Elegant art-nouveau restaurant (but much older) with excellent dishes that only use the freshest ingredients. It has actually been a delicatessen for about 400 years. Fabulous wine list. Beethoven used to drink at this place, which was then a wine bar. Daily for lunch and dinner. The buffet is available 8 am-10 pm. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Bognergasse 5 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-8125. <http://www.kameel.at>.

Cuisines

French

Bar & Restaurant Shambala

Parisian Michelin chef Michel Rostang created this restaurant, located in the hotel Le Meridien near the Hofburg Palace. The food is a mix of healthy organic ingredients and exotic tastes. The atmosphere is also quite nice, with a modern, tastefully decorated dining area. Daily noon-3 pm and 6 pm-midnight. \$\$\$\$. Opernring 13 (First), Vienna. Phone 588-900. <http://www.vienna.lemeridien.com>.

Flein

Conveniently located but little known, this restaurant serves French and Austrian dishes in the pleasant gardens of the French Institute. Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. No credit cards. Boltzmanngasse 2 (Ninth), Vienna. Phone 319-7689.

Italian

Cantinetta Antinori

Very popular with the Austrian upper crust (and with demanding Italians), this is a classic Tuscan restaurant in the very heart of the city, not far from the main entrance to the cathedral. It's housed in an old building with curved ceilings and archways, embellished with beautiful furnishings and fine paintings. The superb cuisine and fine wines are a match for the elegant setting. Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Jasomirgottstrasse 3-5 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-7722. <http://www.antinori.it>.

Da Capo

This restaurant features a wood-fired oven, an extensive menu, a fine antipasti buffet and a show kitchen in the cellar. Outdoor seating is available in the quiet inner courtyard on warm days. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Schulerstrasse 18 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-4491. <http://www.dacapo.co.at>.

Da Conte

This restaurant might serve the best pasta in town. It also has a good selection of fresh fish, and in addition to a cozy atmosphere, tables are set up on the pedestrian street outside in summer. Bruschetta and crudites tend to be served (and charged) as a matter of course, and the wine can be expensive. Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Kurrentgasse 12 (First), Vienna. Phone 533-6464. <http://www.daconte-ristorante.com>.

Fabios

This popular restaurant, with stunning transparent walls, is a favorite among the young, wealthy and trendy, but it's not snobby at all. It has a restaurant and bar/lounge, both of which tend to stay packed. Excellent pasta and seafood Mediterranean-style. Restaurant and lounge are open Monday-Saturday and holidays for lunch and dinner, lounge open Sunday 6 pm-1 am. Reservations required. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Tuchlauben 6 (First), Vienna. Phone 513-2222. <http://www.fabios.at>.

Regina Margherita

Exceptional pasta, pizza and risotto in this surprisingly peaceful, flower-filled courtyard just off busy Kohlmarkt. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Visa only.

Wallnerstrasse 4, Palais Esterhazy (First), Vienna. Phone 533-0812.
<http://www.barbaro.at/regina.html>.

Zanoni & Zanoni

Extremely popular Italian ice-cream parlor known for its vast and lively street terrace in summer. Also serves breakfast. Daily 7 am-midnight. Corner of Rotenturmstrasse and Lugeck (First), Vienna. Phone 512-7979. <http://www.zanoni.co.at>.

Mediterranean Hansen

Great location in the basement of the old Vienna stock exchange on the Ringstrasse—perfect for lunch. Tasty and light Mediterranean-style dishes in bright surroundings with lots of greenery. Excellent choice of wines. Monday-Friday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Saturday for breakfast and lunch. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Wipplinger Strasse 34 (First), Vienna. Phone 532-0542. <http://www.vestibuel.at>.

Cafes & Tearooms

Das Moebel

A new and unique cafe experience where you have the opportunity to buy the chairs you sit on. All are made by young Austrian designers. Daily 10 am-1 am. Breakfast served 10 am-2 pm. \$. No credit cards. Burggasse 10 (Seventh), Vienna. Phone 524-9497. <http://www.dasmoebel.at>.

Trzesniewski

A famous stand-up eatery, with eight locations in Vienna, which serves little open-faced sandwiches (about 1 euro each) topped with egg, salmon, salami or other delicious tidbits. Wash them down with a beer in a minimug called a *pfiff*. Monday-Friday 8:30 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 9 am-5 pm. \$. No credit cards. The two most popular locations are on Dorotheergasse 1 (First) and Landstrasser Hauptstrasse 97 (Third), Vienna. Phone 512-3291. <http://www.trzesniewski.at>.

Coffeehouses

Cafe im Kunsthaus

Located in KunstHausWien, a museum created by the eccentric Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. The psychedelic cafe is an extension of the wacky decor of the museum, and the crowd is a melange of wealthy artsy types, tourists and bohemians. The food is a fresh take on typical Viennese dishes. Daily 10 am-9 pm. \$\$\$. No credit cards. Untere Weissgerberstrasse 13 (Third). After 7 pm, enter at Weissgerberlande 14 (Third), Vienna. Phone 712-0497 or 718-5152. <http://www.kunsthauswien.at>.

Cafe Mozart

A sentimental favorite, located next to the State Opera House in the heart of Vienna. Elegant setting and sinfully good desserts. Daily 8 am-midnight. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Albertinaplatz 2 (First), Vienna. Phone 241-000. <http://www.cafe-wien.at>.

Cafe Sacher Wien

The world-famous Hotel Sacher is, according to a court case, the legal home of the Sacher torte. Cafe Sacher Wien is located inside of this hotel. For those who can resist eating the world-famous Sacher torte on the premises, there is a useful mailing service available. Piano music daily 4-7 pm. Also, if you will be traveling around Austria, branches of Cafe Sacher can be found in Salzburg, Graz and Innsbruck. Daily 8 am-midnight. Philharmonikerstrasse 4 (First), Vienna. Phone 514-560. <http://cafes.sacher.com>.

Demel

More of a *konditorei* (pastry shop) than a coffeehouse, Demels is a Vienna legend. Founded in 1776, it was once a confectioner to the emperor himself. The staff wears traditional black outfits with white frills. Daily 10 am-7 pm. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Kohlmarkt 14 (First), Vienna. Phone 5351-7170. <http://www.demel.at>.

Diglas

The city's best all-around coffeehouse, and it's usually full. Traditional atmosphere, formally dressed servers, excellent coffee and some of Vienna's best pastries (served in large portions). Daily 7 am-midnight. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Wollzeile 10 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-5765. <http://www.diglas.at>.

Eiles

Not one of the truly great coffeehouses, but its location outside the Ringstrasse guarantees an authentic old-world peacefulness that many other establishments now lack. The *kaiserschmarrn* (pancake with plum compote and raisins) is excellent. Monday-Friday 7 am-10 pm; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 8 am-10 pm. \$. Most major credit cards. Josefstadter Strasse 2 (Eighth), Vienna. Phone 405-3410.

Hawelka

A famously bohemian coffeehouse with a crumbling atmosphere and an excellent art collection. The owner, Leopold Hawelka, is himself a Viennese institution. Monday and Wednesday-Saturday 8 am-2 am, Sunday and holidays 10 am-2 am. \$-\$\$\$. No credit cards. Dorotheergasse 6 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-8230. <http://www.hawelka.at>.

Kleines Cafe

Vienna's smallest coffeehouse and one of its most charming. It's set in a peaceful square far from the crowd, with cozy sofas. Owned and run by Hanno Poschl, a well-known Viennese actor. No phone. Monday-Saturday 10 am-2 am, Sunday and holidays 1 pm-2 am. \$. No credit cards. Franziskanerplatz 3 (First), Vienna.

Landtmann

This lavish cafe was a favorite of Gustav Mahler and Sigmund Freud. Today, it's a favorite of Austria's political and theatrical establishment. Substantial outdoor seating with umbrellas in the summer. Pricier than most. Daily 8 am-midnight. Breakfast is also served until 3 pm. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Dr. Karl Lueger Ring 4 (First), Vienna. Phone 241-000. <http://www.landtmann.at>.

Sperl

Another institutional Vienna coffeehouse famous for its selection of newspapers, apple strudel, creaky floorboards and temperamental servers. Monday-Saturday 7 am-11 pm, Sunday and holidays 11 am-8 pm. \$. Most major credit cards. Gumpendorfer Strasse 11 (Sixth), Vienna. Phone 586-4158. <http://www.cafesperl.at>.

Seafood

Kervansaray

A well-respected fish restaurant and *hummerbar* (lobster bar), with a Turkish restaurant upstairs. Monday-Saturday noon-midnight. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Mahlerstrasse 9 (First), Vienna. Phone 512-8843. <http://www.hummerbar.at>.

SECURITY

Etiquette

Austria has much in common with Germany, but the two cultures are distinct in many ways, and Austrians pride themselves on their independence. Visitors are well-minded to keep the distinction clear, or they may find themselves being set straight by their Austrian acquaintances.

Appointments—Schedule meetings well in advance. Be punctual: Austrians pay close attention to the clock.

Personal Introductions—It is considered rude to "get down to business" before pleasantries have been exchanged. Follow your Austrian counterpart's lead in small talk before pulling out the contract. Firm handshakes are the common greeting for both men and women, though a woman should make the practice clear by offering her hand. Make eye contact, but not too intensely, and give a brief nod upon introduction. Titles and qualifications are considered very important in Vienna. Use the German form of title: Herr for men and Frau for most women (fraulein is usually only used for women younger than age 18). Continue using the person's title and last name until instructed otherwise. The English titles "Mr." and "Ms." are also acceptable.

Negotiating—Discussions will be direct and to the point, but decisions are typically made by several people, some of whom may not attend your meetings. Austrians like empirical evidence and facts. Meetings will have a formal atmosphere.

Business Entertaining—Business lunches and dinners are common, but meetings are usually not held at breakfast. Follow your host's example in regard to mixing social and business conversation during the meal. Be aware of your table manners, as Austrians tend to follow more rigid dining etiquette.

Body Language—Austrians are usually not physically expressive, and they observe a wide personal space. Gesturing is minimal. Posture is important, so do not act too casual in your demeanor.

Gift Giving—Gift giving is lightly practiced in business context. When giving gifts to an acquaintance, avoid personal gifts such as perfumes or clothing, and be careful with flowers: Roses are for intimate acquaintances only, and lilies are used for funerals.

Conversation—Politics can be full of land mines: Austrians tend to be sensitive about past German domination of their country, and World War II doesn't help a conversation much (for instance, mentioning that Adolf Hitler was born in Austria is definitely not going to win you many friends). Safer topics include sports, the Alps, the Austrian countryside and music (if you are well-versed).

Personal Safety

For the most part, Vienna is a safe city, and most visitors shouldn't encounter problems. There have, however, been some reports of pickpocketing in high season near the two main train stations, so do take care when in those areas. It is never advisable to carry large amounts of cash and other valuables when they can easily be left in the hotel safe. Also, never leave any bags or luggage unattended. For lost objects, visit any Municipal District Office, which handle lost-and-found items in Vienna. For inquiries, you can also phone the hotline at 4000-8091 Monday-Wednesday 8 am-2:30 pm and Thursday 8 am-5:30 pm.

The center of Vienna is generally considered safe even at night, because—especially on Karntner Strasse, Kohlmarkt or the Graben—there are always people visiting the bars and restaurants. However, it is advisable not to walk through the parks at night. The Gurtel is Vienna's red-light district, where most of the city's strip clubs and prostitutes are found. However, this area is changing, as new trendy cafes and bars push the red-light business into the background. Still, women venturing out there alone might feel uneasy, but it's not really

unsafe. And we recommend visiting the Prater area outside of the amusement park only during the day.

Be aware that, as in many urban centers, the larger subway stations in Vienna can be hangouts for drug addicts and the homeless. Also watch out for aggressive East European beggars in the subway.

For police assistance, phone 133.

For more information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

Health

Medical care in Austria may be expensive, depending on the medical procedure performed. Additionally, you may be asked to pay in cash for any medical services. Therefore, prior to your trip, it is recommended that you consult with your travel agent or insurance provider to determine whether either offers any travel insurance plans to cover health-care costs that could be incurred on your trip.

The Service Department for Foreign Patients, part of the Vienna Medical Association at Weihburggasse 10-12, has a 24-hour hotline (phone 513-9595). Phone 1771 or 515-010 during the day. For an ambulance, phone 144. <http://www.medicalservice.at>.

The Health Consult Team has a number of English-speaking doctors and nurses. A dentist is also available at this facility. Freyung 6, Vienna. Phone 79580-8000. For dental emergencies, call 512-2078. <http://www.health-consult.at>.

No vaccinations are required for Austria, although those spending time walking in the forests may want to get a "tick shot." This is protection against the *zecken*, a tick that lives in the trees and can transfer encephalitis. Occasionally this disease has proven fatal.

Prescription and nonprescription medications, including aspirin, antacids and cold tablets, can be obtained from an *apotheke*, Monday-Friday 8 am-noon and 2-6 pm, Saturday 8 am-noon. A *drogerie* sells over-the-counter health-care products such as bandages and toothpaste, as well as cosmetics and beauty supplies.

For more information, contact your country's health-advisory agency or visit http://www.viennaby.com/tourist_information/health.htm.

Disabled Advisory

Vienna is becoming increasingly wheelchair accessible. Almost all subway stations are wheelchair accessible; however, older trolleys and buses still are not. Several taxi companies can transport passengers in wheelchairs, and many train stations have Braille guides for the blind. Most cultural institutions are also well-equipped for disabled visitors, as are most newer hotels. For the most current information, visit <http://www.vienna.info/article.asp?IDArticle=10541>. A list of tour guides who specialize in tours for the disabled can also be found there.

Information for travelers who are disabled can also be obtained from Behindertenberatungszentrum Bizeps. Kaiserstrasse 55/3/4a, Vienna. Phone 523-8921. <http://www.bizeps.or.at> (Web site is in German only). Additionally, specific details on handicap accessibility to public buildings can be obtained at <http://www.you-too.net>.

Dos & Don'ts

Do spend a few romantic hours or even a night in the Hotel Orient in Tiefer Graben 30, which definitely has a naughty history. Today its great *fin de siecle* style makes it a great venue for film and model shootings.

Do use the public toilets on the Graben in the heart of Vienna. You won't find many places in the world in authentic art-nouveau style like these.

Do dress up for the opera and upscale nightlife venues. Note that some restaurants and bars will refuse entry to men who don't wear a tie, but often rent out one.

Don't go on an organized *heurige* tour to Grinzing; you will miss out on the intimate atmosphere that those places have. Do prefer places where the tour buses don't go.

Do remember that the Viennese speak a very distinct dialect from Germans, so even if you speak German, communications still may be difficult. Don't feel bad: Many Germans share the problem.

Don't mind too much if the locals sound unfriendly at times. The Viennese love to grumble a bit at all times, a pastime that is called *raunzen*.

Don't correct a Viennese when he addresses you as "Herr Professor" or "Frau Doktor" Viennese love to liberally bestow titles on people who just look like they might qualify for one.

FACTS

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: Passports (valid for at least six months) and proof of onward passage are required of travelers from Canada and the U.S. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

Population: 2,315,000.

Languages: German. Most Viennese speak (or at least understand) some English.

Predominant Religions: Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant).

Time Zone: 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the end of March to the end of October.

Voltage Requirements: 220 volts/50 Hz.

Telephone Codes: 43, country code; 1,city code;

Money

Currency Exchange

Austria has used the euro as its currency since 2002. The best way to get cash is at an ATM. If you need to exchange foreign currency, you can do so at exchange offices located at the airport, at post offices or at train stations. You will be ensured a fair rate, although commissions can apply and will vary. The best way to convert foreign money, however, is to go to a bank, such as Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederosterreich-Wien AG, Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen-Platz 1 (Second), Vienna. Phone 211-360.

Taxes

A value-added tax of 20% (known as Mehrwertsteuer, abbreviated as MwSt) is included in the price of almost all purchases. It's possible for non-European Union residents to have some of that reimbursed if at least 75 euros were spent in one store on one day. The salesperson needs to fill out a special form, so carry your passport with you when shopping. If you've purchased items from different departments, the store's customer-service staff can put all of them on a single customs form for you.

To get the refund, you must show the unused items to customs officials as you depart Austria (or another EU country if you're visiting various places in Europe). Customs officials will stamp the form provided by the store. (They may ask to see the merchandise, so do this before you check your bags.) At the airport and at many border-crossing points, it's possible to get your refund immediately in cash. Or you can mail the stamped form back to Austria to have the refund transferred to a credit card or bank account.

Tipping

The standard tip is 10% but can increase for larger groups or excellent service. Also, check your bill first before tipping, because a gratuity may already be included in the bill. If tipping, be sure to hand the tip to the server, rather than leaving it on the table.

Weather

Weather in Vienna is subject to sudden changes. Winter highs can reach 55 F/13 C, and the low temperatures can plunge below freezing. Expect chilly winds. There is often heavy snow beginning in late December. Summer highs can reach 90 F/32 C but then quickly fall to 50 F/10 C.

Heavy rain may occur at any time of the year, although rainfall is most abundant March-May. September and October might be the best months to visit: It is cooler and mostly dry, and there are fewer tourists (so the lines are shorter for museums and attractions). Skiers should wait until midwinter, however.

What to Wear

Dress for the climate: Vienna's weather runs from warm (and sometimes humid) summers to cold, blustery winters that blanket the city in snow. Even in summer, you may want to take along a raincoat and warm sweater. If you're traveling into the countryside, especially, you'll want to have a warm sweater for occasional cool evenings. If you plan to go hiking in the spring or summer, be sure to pack long pants to protect your legs from ticks.

Business meetings invariably call for suits and ties for men, similarly conservative dress for women. Most Viennese dress up to attend the opera, concerts and theater. Ties for men are not mandatory on these occasions but are appropriate. Upscale restaurants and bars may require a jacket and a tie. At any of the Viennese balls during the mid-January to mid-February season, men typically wear tuxedos and women wear long gowns. Also, traditional Austrian clothing (*Trachten*) is worn at hunters' balls known as Jagerballe.

Communication

Telephone

If you're calling from outside Austria, first dial your country's international access code; then Austria's country code, 43; and then Vienna's city code, 1. If you're calling Vienna from another area within Austria, dial 01 followed by the local number. Local Vienna phone numbers have a varying number of digits. For Austrian and European Union directory enquiries, call 118-877; for international directory enquiries, dial 0900-118-877. Telekom Austria can also be reached by calling 0800-100-100.

Pay phones are available at the post offices and around the city. Most operate with phone cards, which are available at post offices and the *tabaktrafiken* (kiosks that sell newspapers and cigarettes).

GSM900/1800 mobile phones work in Vienna. You can use a roaming service or buy prepaid SIM cards. Some cheap options are even available in supermarkets. Mobile phone numbers start with 664, 676, 699, 650, 660 or 699.

Internet Access

In Austria, you can access the Internet from your computer using dial-up, Wi-Fi and broadband connections.

New Internet cafes are opening in Vienna every day. They're especially plentiful in the First district. Prices start at 3 euros per hour, and opening hours tend to be daily, approximately 8 am-midnight.

Mail & Package Services

Hauptpost Wien (Vienna General Post Office)

Open Monday-Friday 7 am-10 pm, Saturday 9 am-10 pm. Working hours at other branches vary, but are usually Monday-Friday 8 am-noon and 2-6 pm. Fleischmarkt 19 (First), Vienna. Phone 515-090. <http://www.post.at>.

Newspapers & Magazines

Various international newspapers may be purchased at newsstands and in some bookstores throughout the city.

The local daily newspapers, *Der Standard*, *Die Presse*, *Kurier* and *Neue Kronenzeitung* are available throughout the city. Besides the news, they contain listings of theater performances, concerts, movies and special cultural events.

A good, free magazine (in English and German) that lists monthly events in Vienna and its surroundings is *Enjoy Vienna*. You can download it as a PDF file at <http://www.wieninternational.at>.

An online newspaper covering current Austrian news and events in English is available at <http://www.austriatoday.at>. Also visit <http://wienerzeitung.at> for weekly news and culture.

Transportation

Sitting more or less in the center of the continent, Vienna is easily reached by plane, train, automobile and even riverboat. Within Vienna, driving may be difficult if you are not used to sharing relatively narrow streets with trolleys and bicyclists. Also, some areas are pedestrian only. Even the outlying districts can easily be reached by public transportation (and sometimes you will even have a choice among a trolley, bus or subway). A taxi is always an option for more remote locations.

Air

Vienna's airport, Wien-Schwechat Flughafen (VIE), is about 12 mi/20 km from the city center (a half-hour drive). The airport handles millions of passengers a year.

If you will be departing Vienna by plane, make sure that you arrive at the airport at least two hours prior to your flight in order to allow enough time to go through security procedures. To obtain additional information on Vienna's airport, call the airport's 24-hour assistance line at 7007-22233. <http://www.viennaairport.com>.

Bus

The bus station is located at Landstrasse-Wien Mitte (First), beside the Hilton and the U-3 and U-4 subway stations. For all bus information call 71101 daily 6:15 am-6 pm.

Public Transportation

Vienna has an excellent public-transportation system. We urge you to use it, rather than drive. For speed, choose the U-Bahn (subway), with five lines that run above- and underground throughout the city center and suburbs. Or, choose the S-Bahn or Schnellbahn (fast train), which connects the outer suburbs and beyond. Your choice of train will be dictated by the end stations: The U-1, for instance, travels to either Kagran or Reumannplatz. Most hotels supply route maps, but additional information is available at these subway stations: Karlsplatz, Stephansplatz, Westbahnhof, Praterstern, Philadelphiabrücke, Landstrasse and Volkstheater. The U-2 is currently being extended from Schottenring to the Prater (Second district) and then across the Danube into the outer suburbs. It will reach the far-flung suburb of Aspern by 2010.

The same ticket may be used on buses, trolleys, subways (U-Bahn) and fast trains (S-Bahn) when it operates within the city limits. A single-journey ticket costs 1.70 euros (2.20 euros when bought on buses and trolleys) and can be used on any combination of transport to get you to your destination as long as the trip is continuous (no stopping for coffee along the way). You can purchase tickets at Tabak stores, at ticket offices throughout the city (Stephansplatz, Schwedenplatz, Karlsplatz and Schottentor), from vending machines in subway stations, and on trains, trolleys or buses. Single-journey tickets are valid for up to one hour after stamping.

The Vienna Card, costing 18.50 euros, provides unlimited travel for a 72-hour period, as well as reduced rates for selected museums, galleries, guided tours and even discounts at some stores and cafes. The card can be purchased at the Vienna airport, at train stations, at the Vienna Tourist Board (Albertinaplatz 1) and at most Vienna hotels and tourist agencies. For additional information, see <http://www.wienkarte.at>.

Buses

Buses normally run every five or 10 minutes from early in the morning until after midnight. 1.70 euros adults, 0.90 euros children if purchased before the trip; 2.20 euros adults, 1.10 euros children if purchased on-board. Phone 79090. <http://www.wienerlinien.at>.

Trams

Old-fashioned, red-and-white trams run above ground on tracks through the city run from very early in the morning until late in the evening. During peak hours, you'll seldom wait more than a few minutes. 2 euros.

Ship

International river cruises to Bratislava, Slovakia, Budapest, Hungary and Passau, Germany, as well as local river tours are available April-October from DDSG Blue Danube Schiffahrt GmbH. Various boarding locations are available, including one at Station Handelskai at the Reichsbrücke, which is three subway stops from the city center (Schwedenplatz) on the U-1 line. For more information, call 58880 Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm or visit the DDSG headquarters at Handelskai 265 (Second), Vienna. <http://www.ddsg-blue-danube.at>.

Taxi

You can order a taxi by phone or board one at a taxi stand or one of the larger transport terminals. Of course, you can also hail one on the street—although officially, this is not allowed. If you order a taxi by phone, you'll pay an extra 2 euros. Within the city, all taxis have the same rates, which are determined according to time and distance. Major companies can be reached by calling 31300, 40100, 60160 or 81400.

Bratislava, Slovakia

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Slovakia's capital is a charming city that sits at the point where the Carpathian Mountains meet the Danube River. The city has two personalities: The first is old-world, Hapsburg baroque, reflected in the charming row houses and the historic Old Quarter. The other is characterized by concrete block-style neighborhoods typical of former Eastern Bloc countries. Both architectural styles combine to form an interesting, urban mix.

Much of older Bratislava has been spruced up—the center of Old Town is now an attractive pedestrian zone. At the heart of Old Town is Hlavne Square, which hosts a wonderful Christmas market in December. Stands are set up to sell wooden handicrafts, Christmas ornaments, hot schnapps, sausages, soup and *palacinky* (crepes).

Also of interest in town are the Slovak National Gallery (modern art), the Slovak National Museum, the Clock Museum, the Museum of Jewish Culture, the Municipal Museum (of local history) and the Museum of Wine Production. Bratislava also has a few art-nouveau buildings, most notably St. Elizabeth Church (also known as the Blue Church).

It's hard to miss Novy Most, also called Most SNP (the Slovak National Uprising Bridge)—it resembles a large oil derrick. It has an observation deck and restaurant, which has nice views. (Sadly, the city's old Jewish quarter was torn down to make way for this structure.)

The best place to see totalitarian architecture is Namestie Slobody, a monumental square that was built around a giant statue of Communist President Klement Gottwald. (The statue has since been removed.) On one side of the square is the world's largest post office. When you feel the need for refreshment with traditional bee-hall ambience, visit Prazdroj, which is located on Mostova.

SEE & DO

Sightseeing

Next to Hlavne square is the old City Hall, the most beautiful building in town. It has a colorful tile roof and a tower with a cannonball lodged in its side, supposedly fired by Napoleon's army. After his victory at Austerlitz, Napoleon and the defeated Austrians signed the Treaty of Pressburg (the German name for Bratislava) in the pink neoclassical Primacialny Palace next door.

Other sights include the copper-domed churches throughout the city and the Bratislava Castle. Imposing from its 200-ft/60-m hilltop perch, the structure was burned down by some drunken Austrian soldiers in 1811, then neglected until World War II, when the Allied forces thought enough of what was left to bomb it. The castle was rebuilt in the 1960s and now houses government offices, some artifacts from the Slovak National Museum, a Museum of History and an interesting jewel exhibition.

Historic Sites

Michalska Street and its continuation, Venturska, pass a number of historical sites, including the Mozartov Dom, where Mozart performed at age 6. A much older Franz Liszt gave his first performance down the street (at the advanced age of 9). Also in the area is the city's oldest pharmacy, Lekaren U Cerveneho Raka, which houses a pharmacy museum—and Michalska Veza (Michael's Gate), the city's only remaining watchtower. The tower has a weapons

museum (things you would want to have if you were fighting a knight) and a great view. You'll find the best shopping in the city on Obchodna Street (particularly good for handicrafts).

At the other end of Old Town is Dom Sv. Martina (St. Martin's Cathedral), which hosted the coronation of exiled Hungarian kings during the years when most of Hungary was controlled by the Turks.

Budapest, Hungary

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Budapest, Hungary, may be the capital of the landlocked country, but it's far from dry. In fact, Budapest's most seductive element is water. It springs from underground wells, filling Ottoman, baroque and art-nouveau pools.



It flows through the city in the broad and meandering Danube River, dividing Buda and Pest in yin-yang fashion. It even provides welcome relief after a bowl of hot paprika-spiced goulash.

Few visitors can resist the Budapest baths, but the city's allure goes beyond its spa status. As a large urban center, Budapest manages to strike a nice balance between nature and development. Hills, islands and parks coexist with Budapest hotels, theaters, cafes, monuments and other buildings in an

Must See or Do

Sights—Buda Castle; Castle Hill with Matyas Templom and Halaszbastya; Parliament; Rudas and Kiraly Turkish baths; Hosok Tere (Heroes Square); Szent Istvan Bazilika.

Museums—Magyar Nemzeti Muzeum for Hungarian history; Hungarian art at the Magyar Nemzeti Galeria; Szepmuveszeti Muzeum for the works of old masters, especially Spanish; history of the city and Buda Castle at Budapest Torteneti Muzeum; Iparmueszeti Muzeum for decorative arts in a decorative building; Memento Park for its garden of politically outdated sculptures.

Memorable Meals—Traditional Hungarian food at the opulent Gundel; Hungarian and Transylvanian cuisine at Karpatia; French cuisine at Le Jardin de Paris; coffee and pastries at Central Cafe, Cafe Muevész or Gerbeaud; a communist kitsch atmosphere at Marxim's.

Late Night—Enjoy a drink at Castro Bistro or Vian; listen to live jazz at Fat Mo's or folk at Fono Budai Zeneház; dance with the young crowd at Zold Pardon (summer only), or the beautiful crowd at Bed.

Walks—Along the Danube embankment; around Castle Hill; up and down Andrássy Ut and Váci Utca; along the *korut* (ring road); up Gellert Hill; around the lovely neighborhood surrounding the Hungarian National Museum; on Margit Island; in the Buda Hills.

Geography

Orientation is slightly more complicated than dividing the city into Buda and Pest—but it's a good way to start. The Danube (Duna in Hungarian) flows through the middle of the city: Buda and Obuda are on the west side, Pest is on the east. Seven bridges, in addition to two railway bridges, span the divide.

Buda has hills. Castle Hill is home to some of the city's most visible landmarks, including Buda Castle (the royal palace). Moszkva Ter, a square north of Castle Hill, is an important transportation hub. To the south of Castle Hill is Gellert Hill, which is topped by the citadel and the Liberation Monument. North of Castle Hill is Rozsadomb (Hill of Roses), an upper-class neighborhood. Still farther north is Obuda, the oldest part of the city. The city's Turkish baths are located in Buda near the river.

By comparison, Pest is flat. The grand Parliament building dominates the Pest embankment and skyline. South of Parliament is the area that is generally referred to as the city center. Deak Ter is a square at the heart of the city—all three metro lines cross there. The boulevard Andrassy Ut runs from Deak Ter to Hosok Tere (Heroes Square), which is at the edge of Varosliget, the main city park.

Most of the attractions in Pest are contained within an area between the river and a ring road (actually, more like an arc), which changes its name every 10 blocks or so. In a north-to-south progression, it's called Szent Istvan Korut, Terez Korut, Erzsébet Korut, József Korut and Ferenc Korut.

Fortunately, there's another aid to orientation: All of Budapest is divided into 23 numbered districts. Districts 1-3, 11, 12 and 22 are on the Buda and Obuda side (Castle Hill is the first district). District 21 is on Csepel Island, and the remainder of the districts are on the Pest side. The city center is the fifth district, and districts 6-9 encircle it to the east and southeast. The number of the district is written after the street address.

Addresses will be easier to understand if you know a few Hungarian words: *Ut* means avenue, *utca* means street, *ter* (or *tere*) means square, *hid* means bridge, *koz* means alley and *korut* means ring road.

History

The history of Budapest has been marked by waves of conquerors and immigrants. Celtic remains have been found near Gellert Hill, but one of the first substantial settlements was Roman. The Romans conquered the area in 11 BC and established a city called Aquincum in present-day Obuda. The Huns began threatening the area around AD 250 and, led by Attila, finally gained control over present-day Hungary in 437.

The empire collapsed with Attila's death less than 20 years later. Successive ethnic groups migrated to the area over the next several hundred years, with the Magyars (ethnic Hungarians) gaining dominance.

The Mongols destroyed both Buda and Pest in 1241, but Buda rebounded and became an intellectual and artistic center during the Renaissance. In 1541, the Ottoman Turks sacked the city and went on to rule until they were replaced in 1686 by the Austrian Hapsburgs. The Hungarians revolted against Austria in 1848-49, and a compromise was reached in 1867, creating the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary.

In 1873, Buda, Pest and Obuda were united into one city, Budapest, which became the capital of Hungary. The city underwent expansion and mass development through the end of the 19th

century. During that period, the large boulevards were laid out and many of Budapest's landmark buildings were erected.

But then World War II wreaked devastation: Nazi troops occupied Budapest in the latter part of the war, and heavy fighting between the Germans and the Soviet army resulted in much destruction.

Fortunately, the city center and the bridges over the Danube were rebuilt. The Soviets gained control after the war, and a 1956 uprising was squelched with force. In 1989, Hungary's borders were finally reopened—a contributing factor in the eventual fall of the Berlin Wall.

Despite a steady turnover of political leadership since then, Budapest has played an integral role in keeping Hungary's economic growth strong. Hungary joined the European Union in May 2004.

Budapest has undergone a tremendous amount of change, and it seems there is more to come. A boom in construction and renovation projects resulted in the renewal of several famous coffeehouses and hotels dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Budapest maintains modern goals in an area rich with history, making it a fascinating place to visit.

Potpourri

The Hungarian language is spoken exclusively in Hungary and has survived even though Hungarians have lived in Europe for more than 1,100 years. It is related to Finnish and Estonian and is thought to have originated in an Asian language.

The entire city of Budapest is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The building that houses Budapest's Parliament is the largest parliament building in Europe.

Budapest has Europe's oldest metro after London's. The *foldalatti* is still in use.

Quite a few movies have been filmed in Budapest, although the city often stands in for somewhere else. They include *The Matador*, *Underworld*, *I Spy*, *Munich*, *Spy Game* and *Evita*.

SEE & DO

Sightseeing

Budapest's geography will help you organize your sightseeing so you can use your time efficiently. Start in Buda at Castle Hill. It's a Hungarian acropolis, covered in attractions. Buda Castle, on the hill's southern end, houses the National Gallery, the city's history museum and a contemporary arts museum. On the northern end of Castle Hill are two easily recognizable sights: the beautiful spire and colorful roof of Matyas Templom and the cone-shaped towers and terrace of Halaszbastya (Fishermen's Bastion). The Castle Hill quarter also boasts a high concentration of antiques stores, museums and upscale restaurants. You can take the Budavari funicular (Siklo) railway up from Clark Adam Ter near the Chain Bridge. Horse-drawn carriages are an enjoyable way to see the neighborhood. You can usually find them just outside Matyas Templom.

Buda is also where you'll find wonderful bathhouses, a legacy of the Ottoman Turks who occupied the city for nearly 150 years. The Rudas baths are considered to be the most beautiful Turkish bathing complex, but the Kiraly baths are also extraordinary. Soaking in a warm pool beneath a sunlight-pierced dome has to be the most relaxing form of sightseeing.

On other days, see Pest. Gracing its embankment is the stately Parliament building, which houses the crown jewels and is open to guided tours. Also in Pest, on opposite sides of the monumental square called Hosok Tere, are the Museum of Fine Arts and the Palace of Art. Behind the square lies Varosliget, the city's main park, which is home to the zoo, an amusement park and replicas of famous Hungarian buildings.

The Danube River and its bridges (most notably Szechenyi Lanchid, also known as the Chain Bridge) are attractions in their own right. Margitsziget, an island-park in the river, is one of the most beautiful open spaces in the city. The beauty of the Buda Hills is also easily accessible, thanks to a series of trains and lifts. The hillside nature preserve on Sas-Hegy is the best place to examine the wide-ranging local flora, but for a good panoramic view of the city, you can't beat Gellert Hill. And no visit to Budapest is complete without seeing and enjoying the Gellert Baths in Buda and the Szechenyi Baths in Pest.

Casinos

Las Vegas Casino

Just a few steps away from the Vaci Utca shopping area is one of the city's most popular casinos, which was opened by Sylvester Stallone in 1992. It offers 53 slot machines, 26 live table games and several restaurants. An ID or passport is required for entry. You must be 18 years old to play. Daily 24 hours. Free entry for hotel guests; 3,000 HUF otherwise. Inside the Sofitel Atrium Budapest Hotel, Roosevelt Ter 2, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-317-6022. <http://www.lasvegascasino.hu>.

Tropicana Casino

This centrally located casino offers various games of chance including Texas Hold 'em, roulette, blackjack, and more. You must be 18 years old to play. Daily 11 am-6 am. Casual dress. Vigado u. 2, 5th,, Budapest. Phone 1-266-3062. <http://www.tropicanacasino.hu>.

Historic Sites

Budavari Palota

Gracing the southern part of Castle Hill and the city's western skyline is Buda Castle. Once a royal palace (the oldest part was built in the mid-13th century), it now houses the National Gallery, the Budapest History Museum, the Aquincum Museum featuring Roman ruins, and the National Library. If you don't have time to go inside, at least enjoy the views of the city. The most interesting way to get up the hill is to take the funicular from Lanchid Utca near the Chain Bridge, or take the Castle Bus (*Varbusz*) route from Moszkva Ter. Szent Gyorgy Ter, 1st, Budapest.

Dohany Utcai Zsinagoga

This synagogue is reported to be the largest in Europe. Its Zsido Muzeum (Jewish Museum) has a moving exhibit and memorial devoted to the Hungarian Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Open Sunday-Thursday 10 am-4 pm, Friday and Sunday 10 am-2 pm. Closed Saturday to visitors. 1,200 HUF adults or 1,600-2,600 HUF adults with a guide. Dohany Utca 2-8, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-342-8949.

Halaszbastya

The Fishermen's Bastion was built in 1905 on the site of the fish market. It's a Castle Hill standout with its cone-shaped towers and dramatic evening lights. The terrace provides an exceptional view of the Pest embankment and Parliament. Daily 8:30 am-11 pm (shorter hours mid-October to mid-March). 360 HUF adults. Szent Haromsag Ter, 1st, Budapest.

Hosok Tere

Heroes Square, constructed in 1896 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the Magyars' arrival in the area, is the city's most imposing square. The Millennium Monument, in the center of the square, has statues of Hungarian leaders, kings and statesmen, with the Angel Gabriel atop the pillar bearing the nation's Holy Crown. In front is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and flanking the monument are the Museum of Fine Arts and the Palace of Art. At the end of Andrassy Ut (at the entrance to Varosliget), 14th, Budapest.

Kiraly Gyogyfurdo

Parts of this Turkish bath date back to 1565, making it one of the oldest existing buildings in the city. It retains its Ottoman ambience: Faint sunlight filters through the large dome through small holes and sparkles on the water in the central octagonal pool below. Four other pools have temperatures ranging from 79 F/26 C to 104 F/40 C. Hours for women are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7 am-6 pm. Hours for men are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9 am-8 pm. 1,300 HUF for two hours. Fo Utca 84, 2nd, Budapest. Phone 1-202-3688. <http://www.kiralyfurdo.hu>.

Magyar Allami Operahaz

The Hungarian State Opera House, built in 1884 to rival Vienna's, is a neo-Renaissance treasure. Whether you see a performance there or not, you'll enjoy a tour of the magnificent building. Guided tours, offered daily at 3 and 4 pm. 2,600 HUF for adults. Andrassy Ut 22, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-322-8197. <http://www.opera.hu>.

Matyas Templom

Matthias Church's colorful, patterned roof and beautiful spire stand out on Castle Hill. The church was completely rebuilt over remains of a Gothic structure. Its painted interior is a wonderful example of Hungarian art nouveau. Noted for its good acoustics, the church holds an evening concert series May-September and occasional concerts during the rest of the year. Audio guides are available for rental. Open Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm. Modest dress on and cell phones turned off. 700 HUF for adults; 480 HUF for students, seniors and soldiers; free for children younger than 6. Orszaghaz u. 14, 1st, Budapest. Phone 1-489-0716. <http://www.matyas-templom.hu>.

Parliament

This striking, stately neo-Gothic building—built in 1902 and still the active seat of the Hungarian government—dominates the Pest embankment. Exhibits include coronation regalia and jewels. Groups can visit Parliament only on guided tours with advance booking. Tours are available for individuals in English daily at 10 am, noon, and 2 pm. Purchase tickets at Gate X. Adults 2,950 HUF, students 1,480 HUF. Free entry to European Union citizens. Ticket office open Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm, Saturday 8 am-2 pm, Sunday 8 am-6 pm. Kossuth Lajos Ter 1-3, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-441-4904. <http://www.parlament.hu>.

Rudas Gyogyfurdo

In these 16th-century Turkish baths, some of the grandest in the city, a large dome, supported by eight columns, rises over an octagonal pool. There are five other thermal pools and a large indoor swimming pool, each with water at a different temperature. Nude bathing (men): Monday and Wednesday-Friday 6 am-8 pm. Nude bathing (women): Tuesday 6 am-8 pm. Co-ed bathing (suit required): Friday 10 pm-4 am, Saturday 6 am-5 pm and 10 pm-4 am, and Sunday 6 am-5 pm. The swimming pool (men and women) is open Monday-Friday 6 am-6 pm and Saturday and Sunday 6 am-2 pm. 900 HUF for the thermal bath, 1,500 HUF adults, 1,000 HUF children for the swimming pool only. Dobrenlei Ter 9, 1st, Budapest. Phone 1-356-1322. <http://www.rudasfurdo.hu>.

Szechenyi Lanchid

The Chain Bridge, which links the center of Buda to the center of Pest, was completed in 1849 and was the city's first permanent bridge across the Danube. A stroll across the bridge by day or night is an integral part of a visit to Budapest.

Szent Istvan Bazilika

St. Stephen's Basilica is the largest church in the city. It contains the mummified right hand of St. Stephen, king and founder of the Hungarian state. The rooftop viewing platform offers one of the best panoramas in the city, and a renovation of the square in front has made it even more atmospheric. The church is open Monday-Saturday 9 am-7pm, Sunday 1 pm-4 pm. Free admission to church; 500 HUF for entry to viewing platform. Szent Istvan Ter, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-317-2859. <http://www.basilica.hu>.

Museums

For discounted (or even free) entry to museums, inquire at the local tourist office about purchasing a Budapest Card or a Hungary Card. The cards also provide discounts at hotels and restaurants and on transportation. **Budapest Torteneti Muzeum**

The city's history museum is located in the medieval part (Wing E) of Buda Castle. The Gothic chapel is a highlight, and exhibits include Gothic sculpture, medieval armor and a historical chronology from the 1686 siege against the Turks to the 1989 fall of communism. Castle Museum and Municipal Picture Gallery open daily except Monday. March-September 10 am-6 pm, November-February 10 am-4 pm. Hours for the other museum sections may vary slightly. 1,300 HUF adults, 650 HUF seniors and students (6-26 years of age) 1300 Ft. English audio guide rental 850 HUF. Szent Gyorgy Ter 2, 1st, Budapest. Phone 1-224-3700. <http://www.btm.hu>.

Galleria Centralis

This tiny gallery, associated with the Soros-funded Open Society Archives, hosts excellent exhibitions with a historical slant: There have been shows on Samizdat, North Korea and retouched Communist propaganda. Whatever the current theme is, it's sure to be fascinating. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Arany Janos Utca 32, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-327-3250. <http://www.osa.ceu.hu/galeria>.

Holokauszt Emlékközpont

The Holocaust Memorial Center, located in the wonderfully renovated and expanded Pava Utca Synagogue, is dedicated to studying and preserving the memory of the Holocaust. Besides housing an exhibit on the repression and terror of the Holocaust, the Center collects documents and artifacts for study and research. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm; ticket office closes at 5 pm. 1,300 HUF adults. Audio guide 850 HUF. Pava Utca 39, 9th, Budapest. Phone 1-455-3333. <http://www.hdke.hu>.

Iparművészeti Múzeum

This was one of the first museums of decorative and applied arts in Europe. The building is spectacular, with multicolored ceramic roof tiles characteristic of architect Lechner Odon, a stark white interior and an atrium with a glass ceiling. The collection of 18th- and 19th-century furniture is impressive, as is the collection of wasp-waisted and corseted women's fashions. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm, Thursday until 10 pm. The museum library is open Tuesday-Friday 1-5:30 pm. 2,000 HUF adults (for entry to all collections). Ulloi Ut 33-37, 9th, Budapest. Phone 1-456-5107. <http://www.imm.hu>.

Ludwig Museum Budapest, Kortárs Művészeti Múzeum

This contemporary-arts museum has pop art, Hungarian art from the 1990s, and works from the 1980s by French, German and North American artists. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-8 pm. On the last Sunday of the month, free for people younger than 26. General admission 1,300 HUF adults. Palace of the Arts, Komor Marcell Ut 1, 9th, Budapest. Phone 1-555-3444. <http://www.ludwigmuseum.hu>.

Magyar Fotográfusok Háza a Mai Mano Hazban

Hungarians have always been strong in the photographic arts (Robert Capa was Hungarian). The House of Hungarian Photography is in the restored home of Mano Mai, the court photographer to Hapsburg Emperor Franz Josef. The exhibits range from historic to modern, and they occasionally feature rising Hungarian talents. Open Monday-Friday 2-7 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am-7 pm. 1,000 HUF adults, 500 HUF students and seniors. Photo permit 300 HUF. Nagymező Utca 20, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-473-2666. <http://www.maimano.hu>.

Magyar Nemzeti Galeria

The National Gallery displays the finest collection of Hungarian art from the 13th century to the present. Especially worth seeing are the large, luminous canvases of Tivador Csontvary, a late-19th-century mystical painter. Other highlights include medieval sculptures, Gothic altarpieces and Hungarian impressionist paintings. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 900 HUF adults. In Wings B, C and D of Buda Castle, 1st, Budapest. Phone 1-356-0049. <http://www.mng.hu>.

Magyar Nemzeti Muzeum

The Hungarian National Museum chronicles the country's history. Highlights range from a Roman-era floor mosaic to a collection of communist posters. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 1,040 HUF adults, 520 HUF students and seniors. Free entry to disabled visitors with an escort, children younger than 6 and on 15 March, 20 August, and 23 October. Muzeum Korut 14-16, 8th, Budapest. Phone 1-338-2122. <http://www.hnm.hu>.

Magyar Terror Haza

This slightly sensationalized multimedia museum is housed in a beautiful villa that was both the site of the former headquarters of the Hungarian secret police and of the Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross. The House of Terror brings to light the crimes against humanity committed there under the fascist and communist regimes. A room with photos of the actual torturers—Hungarians who worked for the secret police, many of whom still live in Hungary—created a national controversy. Open Tuesday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-7:30 pm. 1,800 HUF adults. Audio guide rental 1,300 HUF. Andrassy Ut 60, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-374-2600. <http://www.terrorhaza.hu>.

Memento Park

Memento Park is a cross between a socialist-realist sculpture garden and a communist theme park. It was created as a safe place to put the statues that once prominently represented the old regime. It's a bit far out from the city center, but worth the ride. The easiest way to get there is to take the direct bus from Deak Ter (September-June daily 11 am; July and August daily 11 am and 3 pm). A round-trip bus ticket costs 4,000 HUF adults. Daily 10 am to dusk. 1,500 HUF adults. At the corner of Balatoni Ut and Szabadkai Ut, 22nd, Budapest. Phone 1-424-7500. <http://www.szoborpark.hu>.

Mucsarnok

The Palace of Art is the country's largest exhibition space, featuring temporary exhibitions of Hungarian and international artists. There's a strong emphasis on modern art, and the exhibits range from fine and applied art to photography and design. Open 10 am-6 pm Tuesday-Sunday, until 8 pm on Thursday. 1,400 HUF adults. Dozsa Gyorgy Ut 37, Budapest. Phone 1-460-7000. <http://www.mucsarnok.hu>.

Neprajzi Muzeum

The building was originally the Ministry of Justice, and it's an appropriately beautiful housing for a museum of Hungarian folk traditions; the statue aloft on the facade represents the spirit of the enlightenment. There are some excellent historical photos of village life, and the room with old clocks, sundials and other timekeeping devices is a pleasant way to spend some time. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm. 800 HUF adults. Free for disabled with escort, people younger than 26 and on Hungarian national holidays. Kossuth Lajos Ter 12, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-473-2400. <http://www.neprajz.hu>.

Vasarely Muzeum

This museum holds works by Victor Vasarely, the 20th-century Hungarian-born artist who has been called the father of op art. The museum is in a nice villa in the historic Obuda neighborhood. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5:30 pm. Free entry to permanent collection. Szentlelek Ter 6, 3rd, Budapest. Phone 1-388-7551. <http://www.vasarely.tvn.hu>.

Nature

Palvolgyi Cave

One of the most remarkable of the many caves in the Buda Hills—more than 15 mi/24 km of stalactites and cavernous rooms. You must go through them with one of the guided tours, which leave every hour. Tours are offered in Hungarian only, but true cave fans won't mind the language barrier. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-4 pm. 750 HUF. Szepvolgyi Ut 162, 2nd (take Bus 65 from Kolosy Ter), Budapest. Phone 1-325-9505.

Sas-Hegy Nature Preserve

This 872-ft-/266-m-high hill is home to a wide variety of warm- and cold-climate plants. The best way to visit the preserve is on a guided tour. Telephone for details. Tajek Utca 26, 11th, Budapest. Phone 1-325-5722. <http://www.dinpi.hu>.

Parks & Gardens

Margitsziget

This island in the Danube is one of the most beautiful open spaces in Budapest and a popular recreation spot. It has a large park, several pools, an outdoor theater and two spa hotels. The only cars allowed are those belonging to guests staying at hotels on the island. The island is connected to Buda and Pest by Margit Bridge in the south and Arpad Bridge in the north. (Take Tram 4 or 6 and get off at the stop in the middle of Margit Bridge).

Millenaris Park

This attractive space near Moszkva Ter used to be a factory. The buildings were razed and a public space created. It's full of families, especially during the frequent weekend free concerts and events. The park also houses the House of the Future, a cafe, a playground and several event halls. Feny Utca, 2nd, Budapest.

Varosliget

Budapest's largest park has an amusement park, a zoo, the circus and the beautiful outdoor Szechenyi Baths. The park's Vajdahunyad Castle is a replica of a famous site, as are the attached buildings, one of which houses an agricultural museum. You can rent rowboats on the artificial lake (it becomes an ice rink in winter) near the castle. In the 14th district, Budapest.

Zoos & Wildlife

Fovarosi Allat es Novenykert

This zoo and botanical garden is in Varosliget (the main city park). One of the highlights is the Elephant House, a domed palace covered with tiles made by the famous Zsolnay porcelain workshop. Open November-February daily 9 am-4 pm; March and October Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm and Friday-Sunday 9 am-5:30 pm; April and September Monday-Thursday 9 am-5:30 pm and Friday-Sunday 9 am-6 pm; May-August Monday-Thursday 9 am-6:30 pm and Friday-Sunday 9 am-7 pm. Allatkerti Korut 6-12, 14th, Budapest. Phone 1-273-4900. <http://www.zoobudapest.com>.

Other Options

Csodak Palotaja

The Palace of Miracles in Millenaris Park is a huge interactive playhouse of practical science—the first of its kind in central Europe. Its slogan sums it up: The World is Interesting. It is affiliated with the House of the Future, which has rotating futuristic exhibits. Open Tuesday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 1,090 HUF adults. A combined ticket covering the House of the Future is 1,790 HUF adults. Family and group discount tickets are also available. Feny Utca 20-22, 2nd, Budapest. Phone 1-336-4000. <http://www.csodapalota.hu>.

Recreation

There are plenty of places in Budapest to work out and get wet. In addition to the Turkish baths, the city has a number of swimming complexes.

The two most famous ones are the Gellert and Szechenyi baths. At the Gellert, you can swim indoors beneath a stained-glass skylight or outdoors in a wave pool. At the palatial Szechenyi, you can swim laps in one pool, cool down in another, and then relax and play chess in a third—each pool has a different temperature. Spa facilities are available at both complexes.

The two main areas for outdoor recreation are Margit Island and Varosliget (the main city park). Margit Island is off-limits to cars, except for hotel guests, so it's a nice spot for walking, jogging, cycling and in-line skating.

There's also a tennis center and a swimming pool on the island. Varosliget is a particularly good spot for walking, jogging and cycling on Sunday, when cars are not allowed in the park. During November-March, there's ice skating on the park's artificially frozen lake. When there's snow, you can even ski down a run in the Buda Hills. Tennis and squash courts are readily available, but golfers will have to travel a good distance out of the city.

Golf

Kisoroszi Golfpark and Country Club

This 18-hole course is located on Szentendre Island, about 20 mi/35 km north of Budapest. Equipment can be rented. Advance reservations required. Open March-October. Club House, H-2024 Kisoroszi, 2024 Szentendrei-sziget, Kisoroszi. Phone 36-26-392-465.

Polus Palace, Thermal Golf Club Hotel

This resort and 18-hole, par-72 golf course lies about 15 mi/25 km northeast of Budapest, about 20 minutes from downtown. Equipment can be rented, and advance reservations are required. Kadar Utca 49, God. Phone 36-30-400-5611. <http://www.poluspalace.hu>.

Horseback Riding

Hungarian Equestrian Tourism Association

This organization offers current information on all horse-related activities in Hungary. Telephone it for information relating to your inquiry. Rada y u. 8, 9th, Budapest. Phone 1-455-6183. <http://www.equi.hu>.

Spas and Health Clubs

Danubius Premier Fitness Club

This chain has locations in several of the upscale hotels in Budapest, and it's a convenient location for a complete workout. The complex also has a spa, weight room, aerobics and yoga classes, pool, solarium, sauna and massages. Open Monday-Thursday 7 am-10 pm, Friday-Sunday 7 am-9 pm. One convenient location is Danubius Hotel Flamenco, Tas Vezer Utca 3-7, 11th (in the Congress Park Hotel Flamenco), Budapest. Phone 1-889-5761. <http://www.premierfitness.hu>.

Gellert Gyogyfurdo

The Gellert Hotel's incredible bathing complex is rich in art-nouveau and Hungarian Secession-style ornamentation. It's definitely a feast for the eyes, but the main emphasis is on the rest of the body: The complex includes men's and women's thermal baths, saunas, massage, an indoor pool covered with a stained-glass skylight, and outdoor pools, including a wave pool. The thermal baths are open Monday-Friday 6 am-7 pm (until 5 pm in the winter) and Saturday and Sunday 6 am-5 pm (until 4 pm in the winter). The outdoor pool is open seasonally 6 am-7 pm. 2,700 HUF pool; 200 HUF thermal tub. Kelenhegyi Ut 4, 11th, Budapest. Phone 1-466-6166. <http://www.spasbudapest.com/furdo.php?id=5>.

Lukacs Gyogyfurdo

This spa complex, built in 1894, has thermal baths and an outdoor pool. The plaques on the walls are from grateful bathers, cured of their medical complaints. Thermal baths open Monday-Friday and Sunday 6 am-7 pm, Saturday 6 am-5 pm. 2,100 HUF therapeutic tub; 1,500 pool. Frankel Leo Ut 25-29, 2nd, Budapest. Phone 1-326-1695. <http://www.spasbudapest.com/furdo.php?idx=7>.

Szechenyi Gyogyfurdo

This incredible, not-to-be-missed bathing complex is located in a palatial baroque setting. It has several indoor pools and three outdoor pools. It includes a hot pool with chess boards, another with a spiral current that delights kids and adults alike, and a lap pool. It's one of Europe's largest spa facilities, complete with saunas, steam rooms and mud baths. Open daily 6 am-10 pm. 2,400 HUF pool; 200 HUF thermal tub. Allatkerti krt.11 in Varosliget, 14th, Budapest. Phone 1-363-3210. <http://www.spasbudapest.com/furdo.php?idx=14>.

Swimming

The Turkish baths and the Gellert Hotel's indoor pool are good places for a relaxing dip but not for active swimming. The Rudas and Szechenyi complexes have rectangular pools more suitable for swimming laps, but they're often crowded. **Palatinus**

This large outdoor pool and recreational complex is popular with swimmers and sunbathers. It's probably your best bet for swimming laps. Open 1 May-31 August. Daily 9 am-7 pm. 1,800 HUF adults, 1,300 HUF children. On Margitsziget, 13th, Budapest. Phone 1-340-4505. <http://www.spasbudapest.com>.

Nightlife

Budapest has an abundance of wonderful cafes that are also popular nightspots. One of the liveliest areas is the Theater District around Liszt Ferenc Ter and Andrassy Ut. Szentkiralyi Utca (near the Hungarian National Museum) and Raday Utca are other popular streets.

In the summer months, there are wonderfully atmospheric outdoor bars located in the 7th district. You'll also find quite a few bars and clubs near Vaci Utca (be aware, though, that some cafes and bars there charge a hefty service fee).

Large dance clubs are farther out from the city center, with a younger crowd often frequenting Zold Pardon or at techno parties at Supersonic Technicum. Angyal Bar is the city's biggest gay dance club.

Nightlife generally begins at cafes in the early evening—if you want a table, you should arrive by 9 pm (earlier in summer if you want to sit outside). By 10:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, the bars are usually packed. Dance clubs don't fill up until after midnight, and they stay open till dawn.

Bars, Taverns & Pubs

Captain Cook

This place is a perennial favorite for its central location, large terrace in summer and long opening hours. Australian beers on tap. The place for a relaxed drink. Monday-Saturday 10 am-1:30 am, Sunday 2 pm-1:30 am. \$. Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Utca 19/a, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-269-3136.

Columbus Pub

A table on the upper level of this moored boat (early reservations recommended) will give you the best Buda Castle vista in the city. The Irish-themed menu is outstanding (try anything with Guinness gravy). There's jazz, too. Daily noon-2 am. \$. . Vigado ter 4, 5th (Pest embankment, across from the InterContinental Hotel (south of the Chain Bridge)), Budapest. Phone 1-266-9013. <http://www.columbuspub.hu>.

Egri Borozo

This popular cellar wine bar carries wines from the northern Eger region. There's a terrace for warmer weather, too. Daily from noon. Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Ut 72, 5th (nearNyugati train station), Budapest. Phone 1-302-1724.

Ellato

A favorite hang-out spot with expats and young Hungarians. Also has a kitchen. Open Monday-Wednesday noon-2 am, Thursday-Friday noon-4 am, Saturday-Sunday 5 pm-4 am. \$. No credit cards. Klauzal Ter 1-2, 7th, Budapest.

Incognito

Liszt Ferenc Ter is full of places to drink, and this place is one of the best choices. It's dark, cozy and a great place to start or finish a night. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-midnight, Saturday and Sunday noon-midnight. Liszt Ferenc Ter 3, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-342-1471.

Kiado

Get a little retro at this homey place. Simple Hungarian food with outside seating in warm weather. Daily 5 pm-1 am. Outdoor seating in summer Monday-Friday 10 am-midnight. \$. No credit cards. Jokai Ter 3, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-331-1955.

Szimpla Kert

Take one old Budapest building, add a bar and a bunch of people, and you get one of the best places to spend a late summer night. Films are screened impromptu in summer and the whole place is covered in winter (it gets stuffy). It also has a dance floor. Daily noon-4 am. No credit cards. Kazinczy Utca 1, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-352-4198. <http://www.szimpla.hu>.

Vian

This pleasant French-style cafe is often crowded in the evenings and is also a great place to stop for a sunny breakfast. Daily 9 am-1 am. Liszt Ferenc Ter 9, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-268-1154. <http://www.cafevian.com>.

Walhalla Club

This Viking-themed restaurant/bar across from a synagogue has a full menu, pool tables, bowling alleys, dartboards and more than 80 types of wine. In the warmer months, tables are set up outside. Daily noon-2 am. \$. Most major credit cards. Dohany Utca 1/a, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-266-7966. <http://www.walhalla.hu>.

Live Music**A38**

One of Budapest's most interesting cultural venues and nightclubs, the A38 was once a Ukrainian barge. Now reconstructed and anchored on the Danube, it hosts a variety of cultural activities, such as film screenings, book readings, food events, DJs and all sorts of concerts. There are restaurants, bars and great views everywhere. Daily 11 am-4 am. Next to the Petofi Bridge (Buda side), Budapest. Phone 1-464-3940. <http://www.a38.hu>.

Alcatraz

This slickly designed music club and restaurant features a jailhouse theme and some very clever details. Live acts nightly, with an emphasis on blues and jazz. Open Sunday-Wednesday 6 pm-2 am, Thursday-Saturday 6 pm-4 am. No cover. Nyar Utca 1, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-478-6010. <http://www.alcatraz.hu>.

Fat Mo's

This small club offers live jazz and blues Sunday-Tuesday, with DJs taking over the rest of the week. Tuesday-Wednesday 6 pm-1 am, Thursday 6 pm-2 am, Friday and Saturday 6 pm-4 am. Closed Sunday and Monday. No cover. Most major credit cards. Nyari Pal Utca 11, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-267-3199. <http://www.fatmo.hu>.

Fono Budai Zeneház

It may be farther from the city center, but it's probably the best place to hear Hungarian folk music. There's also a steady lineup of performers from other parts of central Europe and points farther east, as well as plenty of jazz and occasional world music. The club has a bar and a record store on the premises, and it hosts *tancház* (folk-dance nights) every Wednesday at 8 pm (800 HUF), complete with instruction. Visit the Web site for concert schedule. Sztregova Ut 3, 11th, Budapest. Phone 1-206-5300. <http://www.fono.hu>.

Jazz Garden

Live jazz plays nightly in this beautifully decorated restaurant. Open from 6 pm, concerts at 9 pm; closed Sunday and Tuesday. Cover 800 HUF or 1,000 HUF on Saturday (unless you're dining). Veres Pálné Utca 44a, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-266-7364. <http://www.jazzgarden.hu>.

New Orleans

This posh concert venue and restaurant features top international acts and the best of the region. Open Tuesday-Saturday 6 pm-2 am. Cover generally 1,500 HUF or more for live acts. Lovag Utca 5, 6th, Budapest. Phone 20-451-7525. <http://www.neworleans.hu>.

Old Man's Music Pub

The schedule features favorite local bands—predominantly rock and blues. After concerts, the bar transforms into an all-night dance club that is always jam-packed. Daily from 3 pm. Bands begin playing at 9 pm. No cover. Akacfa Utca 13, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-322-7645. <http://www.oldmans.hu>.

Performing Arts

Budapest's performing arts are dominated by music. Not only is the quality of performance excellent, but also many of the city's venues are architectural gems, and tickets for concerts are often absurdly inexpensive.

The Muveszetek Palotaja is a state-of-the-art hall that hosts the best of Hungarian classical music and visiting ensembles. The Zeneakademia (Academy of Music) is a concert hall and conservatory that houses the Franz Liszt Collection and is home to the Budapest Festival Orchestra, considered the best ensemble in the country.

The best venue for opera and ballet is the Magyar Állami Operaház (Hungarian State Opera). Other notable venues include Matyas Templom on Castle Hill for its organ concerts and oratorios; Fono Budai Zeneház for folk dance and folk music; and Operettszínház (<http://www.operettszinhaz.hu>) for operettas and stage plays by Hungarian playwrights; and Trafo for some of Europe's finest contemporary dance.

Most companies and theaters follow a September-June calendar. The warmer months are an occasion for open-air performances. Margitszigeti Színpad, an outdoor stage on Margit Island, hosts a wide array of performances from operas to concerts and musicals.

The weeklong Sziget Fesztival in August is one of the largest pop music festivals in Europe and a highlight in Budapest's annual calendar.

Other genres worth experiencing in Budapest include Hungarian and Gypsy folk dance performances at the National Dance Theater and puppet shows at Budapest Babszínház. English-language plays are sometimes staged at the Merlin Theater.

Dance

National Dance Theater

Dance performances are held year-round, in a theater in Buda Castle. Színház Utca 1-3, 1st, Budapest. Phone 1-201-4407. <http://www.nemzetitancszinhaz.hu>.

Music

Budapest Festival Orchestra

Though a newcomer by Hungarian standards (it was formed in 1983), this ensemble is regarded as the best orchestra in the country. It was founded by Zoltan Kocsis and Istvan Fischer, Hungary's two star conductors. When it's not touring, the orchestra performs in the Zeneakademia September-June. Office address: Alkotas Utca 39/c, 12th, Budapest. Phone 1-355-4015. <http://www.bfz.hu>.

Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra

This is Hungary's oldest orchestra. Most of its concerts take place in the State Opera House. Office address: Hajos Utca 8-10, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-331-9478. <http://www.bpo.hu>.

Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra

This well-established ensemble has a rich history. It's generally regarded as the second-best orchestra in Hungary. Most of its concerts take place at the Zeneakademia. Office address: Komor Marcell Ut 1, 9th, Budapest. Phone 1-411-6600. <http://www.filharmonikusok.hu>.

Opera

Magyar Allami Operahaz

The resident company of the State Opera performs September-June, with an occasional break in December. It also performs during the annual opera and ballet festival in August. Andrassy Ut 22, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-332-7914. <http://www.opera.hu>.

Theater

National Theater

Located some distance from the city center, the National Theater hosts mainly Hungarian-language plays and musicals with an occasional English-language event. Bajor Gizi Park 1, 9th, Budapest. Phone 1-476-6800. <http://www.nemzetiszhaz.hu>.

Spectator Sports

Soccer matches draw big crowds and enthusiastic fans—a bit too enthusiastic, some would argue. You should definitely give the color of your clothing careful thought before going to a match, and be aware that rowdiness and even hooliganism are occasionally part of the spectacle. The favorite among several local soccer teams is Ferencvaros, also called Fradi (the team colors are green and white).

Another popular sport is Formula 1 racing, which takes place at the Hungaroring Grand Prix race track near the town of Mogyorod (just east of Budapest). The Hungarian Grand Prix is held there every August. http://www.hungaroinfo.com/formel1/index_en.htm.

The largest sports venue in the city is Puskas Ferenc Stadion (formerly called Nepstadion), which hosts concerts in addition to various competitions. Nearby is the Budapest Arena, an indoor hall that can be configured for different sporting events, including track meets.

Shopping

Budapest offers many shopping options, from malls and boutiques to local arts and crafts shops. Vaci Utca in the city center features higher-end Hungarian designers, while antiques shops are clustered around Vaci Utca, Falk Miksa Utca and the Castle Hill quarter. Other streets worth strolling are Kossuth Lajos Utca, Rakoczi Ut and the ring made by Karoly Korut, Muzeum Korut, Szent Istvan Korut, Erzsebet Korut and Terez Korut.

Or you could head to one of the shopping malls: Westend City Center, Mammut or Duna Plaza have lots of stores. Also worth visiting is the iron-strutted Nagy Vasarcsarnok (Great Market Hall) for knickknacks or food but most of all for the wonderful architecture.

Hungarian porcelain makes a nice (but fragile) souvenir. Herend is the most famous type of Hungarian porcelain, but don't overlook Zsolnay, Hollóháza and Alfoldi. Also look for Ajka crystal, which has caught on abroad, and Halas lace, another national specialty.

Some packaged and precooked food items also make excellent souvenirs. Of course, there's paprika from Kalocsa and Szeged, more varieties of salami than you can imagine, and tins of pate and caviar at bargain prices. Famous Hungarian wines include the dessert wine Tokaji Aszu, as well as red and white wines from the Alfold, Balaton, Eger, Sopron and Villany regions. Unicum, a bitter herb liqueur in a characteristic dark green, spherical bottle, is called the national drink, although that honor should really go to *palinka*, the Hungarian fruit brandy. It can be made from plums, apricots or other fruits, and it is strong stuff.

Be aware that to take works of art or antiques out of Hungary, you will need to fill out special paperwork. Be sure to ask your dealer for these forms when making a purchase.

Shopping Hours: Stores are generally open Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm and Saturday 9 am-1 pm. Smaller shops sometimes have longer hours. Shopping malls stay open late and, along with a few other shops, are open on Sunday.

Galleries

Kieselbach Gallery and Auction House

The Kieselbach is Hungary's premier place to buy art. It has more than 15,000 paintings in its archives, some of which are shown in the gallery. If your budget doesn't run to an original Csontvary, you can buy art books and postcards. Szent Istvan Korut 5, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-269-3148. <http://www.kieselbach.hu>.

Vintage Gallery

This gallery shows modern and contemporary Hungarian artists, and also has a nice selection of art books. Open Tuesday-Friday 2-6 pm. Magyar Utca 26, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-337-0584. <http://www.vintage.hu>.

Markets

Ecseri Flea Market

Antiques, furniture, musical instruments and clothing—you can find anything and everything there. The collectors go early on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, while Saturday is usually the best day for casual browsing. Open Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm, Saturday 6 am-3 pm, Sunday 8 am-1 pm. Cash only. Nagykorosi Ut 156, 19th, Budapest. Phone 1-280-8840.

Nagy Vasarcsarnok

The city's grand market hall was opened in 1897 and renovated in 1996. Definitely worth a visit for shopping and sightseeing. The first floor is a fresh produce market; the upper level has a snack bar with Hungarian specialties, as well as an array of Hungarian souvenirs. It's a good spot to pick up some paprika: In September and October the quantity and variety of the

bountiful harvest is a sight to behold. Folk art, such as dolls, pottery and embroidered linens, is also available. Open Monday 6 am-5 pm, Tuesday-Friday 6 am-6 pm, Saturday 6 am-2 pm. Fovam Ter, 9th, Budapest. <http://www.csapi.hu>.

Shopping Areas

Duna Plaza

The city's first real shopping mall, Duna Plaza has a multiplex cinema, ice-skating rink, bowling alley, gym and post office. Daily 10 am-9 pm (Sunday until 7 pm). Vaci Ut 178, 13th, Budapest. Phone 1-465-1666. <http://www.dunaplaza.net>.

Mammut I and II

The mall has two parts, with a bridge connecting them. Inside, besides lots of shops, are a multiplex cinema, squash club and disco. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Lovohaz Utca 2-6, 2nd, Budapest. Phone 1-345-8020. <http://www.mammut.hu>.

Westend City Center

The city's largest mall, and arguably the most popular, Westend features a multiplex cinema, supermarket, disco and rooftop garden. Daily 8 am-11 pm. Vaci Ut 1-3 (next to the Nyugati train station), 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-374-6573. <http://www.westend.hu>.

Specialty Stores

Ajka Crystal

With four locations in Budapest, you are sure to find just what you want in lead-crystal wine goblets, vases, water pitchers and other pieces in striking jewel tones. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-1 pm. Jozsef Attila Utca 7, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-317-8133. <http://www.ajka-crystal.hu>.

Bortarsasag

This store is one of a chain of four wine shops. The wine selection isn't huge, but the vintages have been carefully selected—every wine in this store is a winner, and the knowledgeable staff make this the best place to buy wine. Free wine tastings are held on Saturday. Located at the foot of the Castle district (near Moszkva Ter). Open Monday-Friday 10 am-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-6 pm. Batthyany Utca 59, 1st, Budapest. Phone 1-212-2569. <http://www.bortarsasag.hu>.

Folkart Centrum

Go there for souvenir-style Hungarian folk art and handicrafts, including dolls, pottery and embroidered items. Daily 10 am-7 pm. Vaci Utca 58, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-318-5840. <http://www.folkartcentrum.hu>.

Herendi Porcelain

This is the best shop for Herend table services and figurines, and there is also a store on Andrassy Ut. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm. Jozsef Nador Ter 11, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-317-2622. <http://www.herend.com>.

Katti Zoob

This Hungarian designer combines a modern, sleek approach with traditional women's wear for a new and unusual look. She's making a name for herself outside Hungary, but this is the best place to see her designs. Szent Istvan Korut 17, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-312-1865. <http://www.kattizoob.hu>.

Rozsavolgyi

This shop has an abundant selection of classical music recordings and musical scores. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm. Szervita Ter 5, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-318-3500. <http://www.rozsavolgyi.hu>.

Tango Classic

This shop specializes in women's clothing, with well-tailored suits and outerwear, as well as lovely evening gowns. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm. Vaci Utca 8, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-274-4414. <http://www.tangoclassic.hu>.

Tisza Cipo

The Tisza shoe company was a communist standby that disappeared when the system changed. Now it's back, reinvented as a fashionably retro-style icon. Sneakers, bags and sweatshirts, all with the characteristic "T" symbol. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-1 pm. Karoly Korut 1, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-266-3055. <http://www.tiszacipo.hu>.

Zsolnay Markabolt

This is a good shop for Zsolnay porcelain and Ajka glassware. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-1 pm. Pozsonyi Utca 11, 13th, Budapest. Phone 1-340-5568.

DINING

Dining Overview

Hungarian food relies heavily on pork, but game meats such as venison and wild boar are also popular. Sour cream, paprika, cabbage, crackling and goose liver are also essential elements of many dishes.

In Budapest, you'll still find traditionally rich and heavy Hungarian dishes such as *gulyas* (a soup) and *porkolt* (a stew served over noodles or rice). You'll also find such standard dishes as roast goose or duck with cabbage, *paprikascsirke* (paprika chicken) and stuffed cabbage.

Hungary has many rivers, if no sea coast, and *ponty* (carp) is popular, as is traditional *halaszle* (fish soup). But there are also plenty of ethnic restaurants—Italian is especially popular.

Coffeehouses are an important part of Hungarian life, as are pastries such as *Eszterhazy torta* or *Dobos torta*. Coffee is espresso, served straight or with hot milk (*tejes kave*), or diluted with a little hot water (*hosszu kave*). In bakeries, you'll find the savory biscuits called *pogacs* that are a part of everyday Hungarian life, as well as bread and rolls baked fresh every day.

You should also sample Hungarian wine. Try the red and white wines from the Villany, Balaton and Alfold regions, as well as rich reds from the Eger region. The local sparkling wine (*pezsgo*) is also very good. Of course, the most famous Hungarian wine is the golden Tokay (Tokaji Aszu)—the 5-Puttonyos is the sweetest, and 1993 and 1999 are excellent years.

When dining out, be wary of restaurants that don't list prices on their foreign-language menu—some places can and will charge whatever they want. You should also remember to double-check the bill before you pay.

In restaurants, breakfast is generally served 10 am-noon, lunch noon-2 pm and dinner 7-10 or 11 pm.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a single dinner without tax, tip or drinks: \$ = less than 2,000 HUF; \$\$ = 2,000 HUF-3,500 HUF; \$\$\$ = 3,501 HUF-5,000 HUF; \$\$\$\$ = more than 5,000 HUF.

Local & Regional

100 Eves Etterem

This restaurant, steeped in old Budapest tradition and atmosphere, specializes in re-creating old-fashioned Hungarian dishes. It has a wonderful selection of Hungarian wines, and musicians perform regularly. Daily noon-midnight. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Pesti Barnabas Utca 2, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-266-5240.

Bagolyvar

The hook is that the restaurant is staffed entirely by women—even the Hungarian recipes are gathered from grandmothers rather than famous chefs. It's a cozy, homey place with a tranquil terrace and shares a kitchen with the famous Gundel. Daily noon-11 pm. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Allatkerti Ut 2, 14th, Budapest. Phone 1-468-3110. <http://www.bagolyvar.com>.

Bock Bisztro

Run by Jozsef Bock, one of Hungary's premier winemakers, this bistro features Mediterranean-influenced food and decor. The wine is excellent. Open Monday-Saturday noon-midnight. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Erzsebet Korut 43-49, 7th (attached to the Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal, a lavishly restored edifice), Budapest. Phone 1-321-0340. <http://www.bockbisztro.hu>.

Feszek Klub Etterem

This shady courtyard is in Budapest's famous artists' club. Fish, poultry and pork is served in typical Hungarian fashion. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Kertesz Utca 36, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-322-6043. <http://www.feszeketterem.hu>.

Fresco Cafe

This elegant spot is a nice place just to stop by for a drink. It serves the kind of food very popular in upscale Hungarian eateries: Continental, with a distinct Hungarian element. Open daily noon-1 am. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Liszt Ferenc Ter 10, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-411-0915. <http://www.fresco.hu>.

Gundel

This is one of the country's most famous restaurants. Traditional Hungarian dishes are served in a sumptuous columned dining room or on the terrace in the summer. Try the grilled goose liver with a glass of Tokaji Aszu or a bowl of a truly refined *gulyas* soup. A less formal buffet-style Sunday brunch is recommended, and there are three-course lunch specials daily. Daily for lunch and dinner, Sunday for brunch. Reservations required. Men are required to wear jackets. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Allatkerti Ut 2, 14th, Budapest. Phone 1-468-4040. <http://www.gundel.hu>.

Karpatia

The food is old Hungarian with a Transylvanian twist, and the menu focuses on old-time recipes for lamb, veal, poultry and game. The spacious, elegant interior has high vaulted ceilings and traditional furnishings. There's an extensive wine list. Gypsy musicians and dancers complete the picture, and the summer garden is a delight. Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Ferenciek Tere 7-8, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-317-3596. <http://www.karpatia.hu>.

Kehli Vendeglo

The menu descriptions—taken from one of Hungary's great writers, Gyula Krudy—are as good as the food. Try the *hortobagyi palacsinta* (meat-filled pancakes with a savory sauce). Daily noon-11:30 pm; bar open until midnight. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Mokus Utca 22, 3rd, Budapest. Phone 1-368-0613. <http://www.kehli.hu>.

Klassz Bisztro

This pleasant, bistro-style eatery is one of the best places for tasting Hungarian wine, and it offers more than 110 different varieties. Open Monday-Saturday 11:30 am-11 pm, Sunday 11:30 am-6 pm. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Andrassy Ut 41, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-413-1545. <http://www.klassz.eu>.

Menza

Trendy, retro-style Menza, with lots of outdoor seating in the warm months, has become a Budapest favorite since it opened. Try the three-course daily lunch specials or the daily

specials scrawled on the chalkboard. Daily 10 am-midnight. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Liszt Ferenc Ter 2, 6th (on the corner of Andrássy Ut), Budapest. Phone 1-413-1482. <http://www.menza.co.hu>.

Restaurant Hemingway

This trendy but good restaurant and bar serves creative Hungarian-inspired international cuisine. Outdoor dining available in summer. Daily noon-midnight. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Kosztolányi Deszö Ter 2, 11th, Budapest. Phone 1-381-0522.

Cafes & Tearooms

Auguszt Cukraszda

Five generations of pastry chefs have manned the Auguszt shops, and the results are unsurprisingly delicious. Stop by for coffee and *svajci kifli*. There are three locations in the area: Auguszt Pavilon 1112 Bp, Sasadi út 190, Auguszt Belvaros (downtown Budapest) 1053 Bp. Kossuth L. u. 14.-16 and Auguszt Cukraszda, Feny Utca 8, 2nd. Phone 316-3817. <http://www.augusztcukraszda.hu>.

Cafe Europa

This cafe has a bustling and urban atmosphere, in contrast to the lingering pace of many cafes. Daily May-October 9 am-11 pm, November-April 9 am-10 pm. \$. No credit cards. Szent Istvan Korut 7-9, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-312-2362. <http://www.europakavehaz.hu>.

Cafe Muvesz

This is a nice spot for afternoon coffee and cake or an evening drink. Sit outside and watch the pedestrians on beautiful Andrássy Ut. It's also the perfect place to go before or after an opera performance. Daily 9 am-11:45 pm. \$. No credit cards. Andrássy Ut 29, 6th, Budapest. Phone 1-352-1337.

Cafe Ruszwurm

This is one of the oldest *cukraszda* (pastry shops) in the city, founded in 1822. Two small rooms make for limited seating. Daily 10 am-7 pm. \$. No credit cards. Szentharomsag Utca 7 (near Matyas Templom on Castle Hill), 1st, Budapest. Phone 1-375-5284. <http://www.ruszwurm.hu>.

Central Cafe and Restaurant

First opened in 1887, the cafe has been restored to its former glory. It offers an expanded menu suitable for a light lunch or dinner. Try one of their homemade dill *pogacska*, a savory Hungarian biscuit. Daily 7 am-midnight. \$. Most major credit cards. Karolyi Mihaly Utca 9, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-266-2110. <http://www.centalkavehaz.hu>.

Cukraszda Hauer

This traditional bakery and cafe, founded in 1890, has been brought back to life after having been closed for more than 20 years. Daily 8 am-midnight. \$. Most major credit cards. Rakoczi Ut 47-49, 8th, Budapest. Phone 1-323-1477.

Gerbeaud

This cafe was founded in 1848 and patronized by the social elite. Now it's a requisite tourist stop, which makes its prices somewhat higher than other cafes, but it is still a treat to visit. Daily 9 am-9 pm. \$. Most major credit cards. Vorosmarty Ter 7, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-429-9000. <http://www.gerbeaud.hu>.

SECURITY

Personal Safety

Budapest is comparable to other European capitals in terms of safety. Violent crime is rare, but commonsense precaution is advised. The most frequent crimes involving foreign visitors are confidence tricks, car thefts and pickpocketing in crowded areas such as the subway, in buses and in the city center. Always park your car in a safe place, such as a garage, and order a taxi by phone (or use the official taxi rank at the airport).

Do not change money on the black market.

After dark, exercise caution when visiting areas that are poorly lit. Areas outside the city center, including Margit Island, have fewer people after dark and therefore pose a greater risk. A more common danger is getting ripped off: Keep an eye on your taxi meter and take a sharp look at your bill.

Men should be wary of attractive, English-speaking Hungarian girls around the Vaci Utca area. In one of the most common scams in Budapest, known as the *konzumlanyok*, these girls lure men to bars, then stick them with bills that can reach thousands of dollars. If the man can't pay, he is escorted to an ATM by a few big bouncers.

Take precautions in restaurants, check your bill carefully, and don't ever order anything that doesn't have a price listed.

In case of a problem, dial 107 to contact the police; dial 105 for a fire. Also note that a foreign-language police hotline is available to tourists by calling 1-438-8000.

For the latest information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

Health

No vaccinations are required to enter the country. Tap water and food are safe to consume, and general sanitation is good. Most doctors, particularly younger ones, speak English. For a general emergency, dial 112. For an ambulance, call 104.

Medical advice and assistance for travelers is available from the FirstMed Centers in Budapest. Phone 1-224-9090 for more information or visit <http://www.firstmedcenters.com>.

As in many countries in the area, one in 10 ticks in Hungary carry Lyme disease, so take precautions when hiking. Tuck your long trousers into socks, and use insect repellents.

For the latest information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

Disabled Advisory

Although Budapest is becoming more accessible for the disabled, access to many buildings can be difficult. More museums have become accessible, and many buses can handle those with special needs. Some metro trains have lifts available.

For up-to-date information on transportation services, contact the National Federation of Disabled Persons Associations (MEOSZ), San Marco Utca 76, 3rd, Budapest. Phone 1-388-5529. <http://www.meosz.hu>.

Dos & Don'ts

Do try traditional Hungarian food such as beef stew (*marhaporkolt tarhonyaval*), which is usually served in a spicy paprika sauce with noodles (*tarhonya*).

Do learn a few phrases of Hungarian before visiting Budapest. Even though many people speak English and other languages in the city, it is always appreciated when foreigners know a few key phrases. "Good day" is *jo napot* and "thank you" is *koszonom*.

Do shop at flea markets for bargains on traditional folk crafts including fabrics, wooden articles and ceramics. The quality of the items sold there can be very good.

Do walk up Andrassy Ut from Deak Ter to the city park, and walk along the ring road from Blaha Lujza Ter to Margit

FACTS

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: Citizens of Canada and the U.S. need passports but not visas for stays under 90 days. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

Population: 1,693,000.

Predominant Religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox.

Time Zone: 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the end of March to the end of October.

Voltage Requirements: 220 volts.

Telephone Codes: 36, country code; 1, Budapest city code; 06, cell phone and intercity phone;

Money

Currency Exchange

ATMs are abundant in the city center. Withdrawing Hungarian forints from an ATM with an ATM card or credit card is convenient, and the exchange rates are decent and consistent. Exchange offices do not usually charge a commission, but their rates can vary. You can also exchange currency at banks, such Raiffeisen Bank, which is located at Akademia u. 6. Phone 1-484-4400. Do not change money on the black market—it's illegal and dangerous.

Taxes

A value-added tax varying from 4.76%-16.67% is included in the price of all goods, depending on the type of purchase.

Foreign visitors are entitled to a refund for purchases in one shop of more than 44,001 HUF if purchases are taken out of the country. You must file a claim within 90 days of your purchase, and the items must be new when they are taken out of the country. Ask for an AFA refund form in the store, then fill it out and give it to the customs office when leaving Hungary. The refund will be mailed to you or, if you paid by credit card, it will be posted to your account.

You can also get cash refunds in forints (minus a service fee) before departing Hungary from the IBUSZ agencies at the airport, Keleti train station, the international boat station and other border-crossing points. *Note:* Tax refunds can't be claimed on antiques or works of art. For more information contact Global Refund. Phone 1-411-0157. <http://www.globalrefund.com>.

Tipping

With the exception of some posh establishments on and near Vaci Utca, a service fee is generally not added to restaurant bills. Tip servers 10%-15% and try to include the tip in the total amount when settling the tab—or else give it directly to the server rather than leaving the money on the table. Tip cab drivers about 10%.

Weather

Budapest's climate is temperate. However, there can be big temperature differences among the four seasons. Generally speaking, December-February are the coldest months (average temperature in January is 27 F/-3 C), and July and August are the hottest (average temperature in July is 85 F/30 C). Spring and fall are the ideal times to visit, with daily highs in the 60s F/15-20 C.

What to Wear

Hungary has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons. A warm coat is always advisable in winter, and a light coat is a good idea in summer.

Casual dress is acceptable in most situations, although upscale restaurants may require a coat and tie for men. Opera and theater visitors sometimes don evening wear, but semiformal dress is most common. Conservative suits are the business norm for men and women.

Communication

Telephone

Almost everyone in Hungary uses a cell phone. The three dominant companies are Pannon (prefix 0620), T-Mobile (prefix 0630 or 0660) and Vodafone (prefix 0670). Reception is excellent, even in the metro, and you can use your phone most anywhere without being rude.

Most public pay phones take phone cards that can be purchased at newsstands. To place direct international calls from within Hungary, dial 00, followed by the country code, city code and local number. To call between cities, dial 06; wait for a second dial tone and enter the city code followed by the number. To charge long-distance calls to a credit card, you must go through an operator. For directory assistance in English, dial 198 (domestic) or 199 (international).

To call a local Budapest number from within the city, omit the 1 and dial the number direct.

To call a Hungarian cell phone number from a landline, dial the prefix followed by the number. To call two cell-phone numbers on the same network, dial the number directly without the prefix. To call two cell-phone numbers on different networks, dial the number excluding "06" (but enter the rest of the prefix plus the number).

Internet Access

Internet cafes abound in Budapest—you'll find the greatest density in the fifth and sixth districts, and each big shopping mall provides Web access. Added services and rates are competitive across the city. **Ami Internet Kavezo**
Popular and busy Internet cafe that's centrally located. Daily 9 am-2 am. V Vaci utca 40, Budapest. Phone 1-267-1644.

Libri Konyvpalota

This chain of bookstores also has computers with Internet connections. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-3 pm. Rakoczi Ut 12, 7th, Budapest. Phone 1-267-4844.
<http://www.libri.hu>.

Transportation

Budapest is a large but manageable city. We recommend taking the metro for longer distances and walking for shorter ones. We also recommend two tram routes: Tram 4 or 6 loops around much of the inner city and crosses Margit Bridge in the north and Petofi Bridge in the south. Tram 2 travels along the river on the Pest side, giving you good views of Buda. Take

advantage of the various lifts to get up or down Buda's hills, such as the Budavari Siklo (funicular railway) at Castle Hill.

Public Transportation

The public transport network consists of the metro (subway), trams, blue local buses, red electric trolley buses, suburban trains, ferries and the Fogakereku Vasut (a cogwheel train). <http://www.bkv.hu>.

A single ticket allows you to take one ride on one line for an unlimited distance. A transfer ticket allows you one transfer—for example, on the metro. If you are using a single ticket and switch from one form of transport to another, you'll have to validate a new ticket or pay a fine.

Tickets are checked by men and women with red armbands who operate in stealthy fashion. They are usually on the lookout for tourists, so always make sure to have your ticket handy and validated: Insert it into the punch machine at the entrance to the metro or on the tram/bus when you get on.

It's cost-effective to buy books of tickets, day passes or multiple-day passes. You can purchase tickets from ticket machines, but safer are sales windows in metro stations. Single tickets are usually available at news stands. If you buy a book of tickets, validate them one by one, but leave them in the book or they won't be accepted.

Inquire at the local tourist office or ticket counter about purchasing a Budapest Card or a Hungary Card—both provide free or discounted local travel, as well as discounts at selected hotels, restaurants and many museums. You can also buy the Budapest Card online at <http://www.budapestinfo.hu>.

Metro

This is the quickest way to cover a lot of ground in the city. There are three lines. Line M1 (the yellow line) is the oldest subway line on the Continent. It runs from the city center (Vorosmarty Ter) out beyond Varosliget (Mexikoi Ut). Line M2 (the red line) runs east-west from the Deli train station in Buda to the Keleti station in Pest and then farther east (Feher Ut). Line M3 (the blue line) runs from northern Pest to southern Pest. All three lines cross at Deak Ferenc Ter: If you change lines, unless you have a transfer, you'll have to validate a new ticket. The metro runs daily 4:30 am-11:30 pm.

Trams

Unlike buses, trams don't have to compete much with traffic. They're also good for sightseeing. For example, the No. 4 or No. 6 route takes you around most of the inner city and across Margit Bridge, and the No. 2 route gives you a good view of the Danube and Castle Hill. Most routes operate daily from 4:30 am to around midnight.

Ship

Mahart Passnave

This company is the operator or ticket agent for various trips on the Danube, including sightseeing cruises within Budapest. There's daily hydrofoil service from the beginning of April to the beginning of November between Budapest and Vienna, Austria. (A stop to disembark or board in Bratislava, Slovakia, can be arranged in advance.) The trip takes about five hours from Budapest to Vienna and about four hours from Vienna to Budapest. It's best to reserve a seat. Mahart Passnave also offers hydrofoil service to Visegrad and Esztergom on the Danube Bend, as well as theme-based boat rides. Departures are from Mahart Passnave's terminal at Vigado Ter. Belgrad Rakpart, 5th, Budapest. Phone 1-484-4000. <http://www.mahartpassnave.hu>.

Taxi

Finding a taxi is generally not a problem. The easiest and cheapest way is to order one by phone—most companies have English-speaking operators. You can also find taxis at designated taxi stands, or you can hail one on the street, but do not enter an unofficial or unmarked taxi.

City Taxi

Phone 1-211-1111.

Tele5Taxi

This company offers airport transportation with fixed prices. Phone 1-355-5555.

Train

Budapest has four train stations. Except for Jozsefvaros Palyaudvar, each is connected to the metro system. Train service is run by MAV (Hungarian Railways). Kerepesi ut. 3, Budapest. Phone 1-371-9449. <http://www.mav.hu>.

Keleti Palyaudvar (off Kerepesi Utca, 8th) is the main train station. It serves international trains to and from western and eastern Europe, as well as domestic trains to and from the north/northeast part of the country.

Deli Palyaudvar (at Alkotás Utca 1, 1st) serves trains to and from the south, including domestic trains between Budapest and Lake Balaton and Transdanubia.

Nyugati Palyaudvar (on Nyugati Ter, 13th) serves domestic trains to and from northwest Hungary, as well as some trains to Romania and Slovakia.

Jozsefvaros Palyaudvar (off Fiurnei Utca, 8th) provides mainly local service.

HEV Railroad (Suburban Trains)

These fast trains travel on four lines, but there are only a few stops in the city. Main stations for this service include those at Batthyany Ter, Boráros Ter, Kozvágóhid and Ors vezér Ter. Connections to the HEV Railroad can be made via tram or metro lines.

The most useful line for visitors runs from Batthyany Ter (just across the Danube from Parliament) to Aquincum in Obuda and to Szentendre, a beautiful town north of Budapest. Ticket prices vary depending on destination. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the train station or while on board from a conductor.

Other

Buda and points west have some pretty steep hills. Fortunately, there are several ways to maneuver them easily. The Budavari Sikló funicular railway (daily 7:30 am-10 pm; 800 HUF one-way) is a convenient way to ascend Castle Hill. The station is at Clark Adam Ter near the Chain Bridge.

The cogwheel-train line New Line 60 runs from Varosmajor (near Moszkva Ter) to the top of Szechenyi-Hegy. It's a good way to see a bit of the Buda Hills.

The Libego chairlift runs between Janos-Hegy and Zugligeti Ut daily 10 am-4 pm. 700 HUF adults. Phone 1-394-3764.

Vukovar, Croatia

OVERVIEW

Introduction

One of the initial horrors of the Serb-Croatian war occurred in Vukovar. The city was the first known experiment in "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia. Completely flattened by fighting between the advancing Yugoslav Federal Army and the defending Croatian militia, the city was reminiscent of a World War I battlefield—not one structure was left intact.

Now repopulated with both Croats and Serbs, Vukovar has rebuilt itself. The Franciscan Monastery has been restored, and apartments, office buildings and hotels have been built anew or restored (including the Hotel Lav from 1840). The surrounding area is also gaining in popularity with outdoor enthusiasts; nearby Kopacki Rit Nature Park is a great place to bird-watch or fish. Located on the Danube, 110 mi/175 km by road east of Zagreb.

Osijek, Croatia

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Osijek, Croatia, is a delightful little town situated a few miles/kilometers away from the Danube on a tributary, the River Drava.

The city of about 115,000 is an industrial center with oil refineries. The town's 18th-century Tvrd (fortress) is a surprising expanse of buildings and churches wrapped by walls that appear intact, all reflected in the river in picture-perfect fashion for river cruisers to view.



Also visible to cruisers are the town's Sts. Peter and Paul Church, commonly called the "cathedral," in the 19th-century Upper Town. Next is a docking space, adjacent to a pleasant residential area and riverside promenade.

Nearby is the Kopacki Rit nature park, one of Europe's largest wetlands. It protects fish and mammals, but the most visible beneficiaries are the roughly 260 bird species that nest there.

Bird watchers will delight in the white-tailed eagles and other indigenous birds, as well as ducks and cormorants.

Belgrade, Serbia

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Belgrade, Serbia's capital, is located at the junction of the Sava and Danube rivers, 86 mi/139 km north of Kragujevac. Belgrade (Beograd) is also a bustling metropolis, home to many businesses and industries.

Interesting sites to see in Belgrade include Belgrade Fortress, Ruzica Church (the oldest Orthodox church in Serbia), Kalemegdan Park, Ruder Boskovic Observatory, Jevremovac Botanical Gardens and the Belgrade Zoo. Belgrade is also involved in preserving 37 natural treasures, one of which is Banjica's Forest—the nesting spot of more than 70 species of birds.

In Belgrade, you can partake of many international or regional shopping and dining experiences, and the city also offers sports enthusiasts opportunities to hunt, fish and enjoy other activities such as swimming and horse racing. While in Belgrade, don't forget to see Tito's grave, located at his former residence on Bulevar Mira.

Also recommended are day trips to visit the five-domed Church of St.

Vidin, Bulgaria

OVERVIEW

Introduction

The town of Vidin lies on the banks of the Danube about 90 mi/145 km north of Sofia. Vidin is the site of the medieval Baba Vida Castle, a museum, and several churches and mosques of interest. Just 1.5 mi/2.5 km north of Vidin is a car and passenger ferry, which crosses the Danube to Romania.

Rousse, Bulgaria

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Located on the right bank of the Danube River near the Romanian border about 205 mi/330 km by road northeast of Sofia, Rousse is a pleasant university town with a rich cultural heritage (art gallery, opera house, theater and museum).

Sites to see in Rousse include St. Trinity Church, the National Museum of Transport and Communications, the Town Museum of History, Urban Lifestyle Museum and the Monument to Freedom. From Rousse, excursions can also be made to enormous Lipnik Park or to the ruins of the medieval town of Cherven, located 22 mi/35 km south of Rousse.

But the real reason to visit Rousse is to see the nearby Ivanovo Rock Monastery. The monastery—a collection of churches, chapels and caves with murals and frescoes—was inhabited by monks between the 12th and 14th centuries high up on the side of the picturesque Roussenski Lom River valley.

Just 4 mi/6 km north of Rousse is the Bridge of Friendship, which crosses over the Danube River into Gyurgevo, Romania; it is also the border crossing between Bulgaria and Romania.

Bucharest, Romania

OVERVIEW

Introduction

This 500-year-old capital, once touted as the Paris of eastern Europe, is undergoing changes as it breaks free from its past and joins other former Soviet-satellite capitals that are now part of the prosperous European Union.

Among the attractions is the Palace of Parliament. Built at the behest of Nicolae Ceausescu, the building is home to Romania's parliament and the Museum of Contemporary Art. It is also the second largest building in the world. Guided tours in English are offered daily.



After visiting the palace, other sites to see include the National Art Museum, the National History Museum, Museum of the Romanian Peasant, Bucharest University and the Open-Air Village Museum, which showcases the history of Romanian architecture from the past three centuries. The historic dwellings are filled with period clothing and furnishings. Additionally, during weekends in the spring and summer, musicians often play on-site. It's a good introduction to the diverse regions of the country.

There are several nice churches to visit, among them Catedrala Mitropoliei, which is the headquarters of the Roman Orthodox Church, and Biserica Curtea Veche, Bucharest's oldest church and where former kings were crowned.

Herastrau Park, located north of downtown, is a nice place to visit. It has a lake and displays the Arcul de Triumf that was built in 1877 in honor of Romania's independence. Cismigiu Gardens in downtown Bucharest is also worth a visit (in the winter there is an ice-skating rink). Bucharest's subway system makes it easy to get around. *85 mi/135 km south of Brasov.*