

# The heart of Europe: Vienna guide

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## **What is the best thing about Vienna?**

Vienna has flair and offers something for everyone: culture, art, music, history, a lively atmosphere and culinary treats. It is a safe and friendly city in the heart of Europe.

## **What is the worst thing?**

The shops are generally closed on Sundays – so it is advisable to plan well ahead.

## **What should each visitor see at least once?**

Most of Vienna's main sights are to be found in the central district or Innere Stadt, including St Stephens's Cathedral, the Opera, the Hofburg (Imperial Palace), the old Jewish quarter and many other sights, historic streets and squares. For something special, take a tour to the Central Cemetery where luminaries such as Beethoven or Schubert are buried.

## **If someone has a spare afternoon where should they go?**

If you do not have much time and want to see a lot, take a trip on a tram around the city. Tram No 1 or 2 makes a round trip on the Ring, which circles the city centre. Afterwards enjoy a warming cup of coffee in one of the many wonderful, traditional coffee houses of Vienna.

## **What's the best thing to do in the evening?**

As Vienna is a city of high culture, there is a plethora of events from the opera, to concerts, musicals and art exhibitions to attend. Especially in the 'Mozart Year 2006' there are many events not to be missed.

## **What is the best time of year to visit?**

Vienna is a year-round destination. I personally prefer the warmer months from April to September, when you can sit outside. However, winter and Christmas time is wonderful in town.

## **Which do you think is the best hotel?**

Vienna is a tourist hotspot, whose hotels cater for every budget. International hotel chains and some designer hotels can be found at the top end, whereas smaller and cheaper hotels are also a good choice for quality.

## **What is the best way to get around?**

Vienna has an excellent and efficient public transport system with flat fares.

Getting around on foot is a nice way to experience the atmosphere in town; most of the famous sights are located in the inner city and some of the main streets are pedestrian zones.

## **Where is the best place for dinner?**

There are so many different restaurants to choose from in Vienna, covering all budgets and all styles of cuisine.

For typical Viennese or traditional Austrian cuisine try Plachutta. Or for an evening with a view in a splendid surrounding with a more modern touch try Do & Co opposite St Stephen's Cathedral. For a more informal dinner or drink go to the Museumsquartier, which has many nice pubs and hangouts.

## **Where would you recommend for a drink**

I recommend a nice glass of wine (Austrian white and red wines are excellent) in a good restaurant downtown, or at the Heurigen (which is a typical Austrian wine tavern).

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Airfinance Journal's Second Annual Aviation Forecasting Conference is at the Vienna Marriott Hotel, Austria, on February 14 and 15.

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