

**Never been to Vienna? Well, it's about time then. There is a lot to be seen, and our tips how to see Vienna in three days may be a good start.**

### **Day 1: Encounter the old city**

After the hearty Viennese buffetbreakfast at Kolping Wien Zentral, you start at 9.00 am the day with a little walk to the **Imperial Palace (aprox. 12 walking-minutes)**, there you can make a little tour viewing the private rooms of Emperor Francis Joseph (ruled 1848-1916) and those of his wife, Empress Elisabeth. Certainly a must here: the **Treasuries** with the magnificent crown jewels.

Full-dress performances at the **Spanish Riding School** tickets must be ordered in advance, but as an alternative without prior arrangement there is the **Lipizzaner Museum** in the Stallburg (Reitschulgasse 2).

Time for a little break? Drop into the dignified **Demel** cake shop, once a Purveyor to the Court (Kohlmarkt 14). But keep an eye on the time because at **12 noon**, at Hoher Markt, the art nouveau "**Anker**" Clock will strike ...

And this clock with a procession of life-size figures is a spectacle in itself.

You can then continue to Judenplatz for a short visit to the **Judenplatz Museum** and the memorial in remembrance of the persecution of the Jews. You can also explore the maze of narrow streets where time seems to have stood still.

Now on to the **oldest church in Vienna, St. Rupert's** (8th century), from where you have a nice view of the Danube Canal and Franz-Josefs-Kai. Climb up again to explore the medieval romanticism of Hafnersteig, Heiligenkreuz Court, the Jesuit Church and the quarter around Blutgasse, reaching on these winding paths the very centre of Vienna: **St. Stephen's Cathedral** the city's most famous landmark for just 850 years. If your feet will still carry you, climb the 343 steps of the south tower: the panoramic view is certainly worth it. (Guided tour of the cathedral at 3 p.m.)

Go for a stroll across **Graben** with the baroque Plague Column or in the famous **Kärntner Strasse**, both of which are lined with nice shops and cafés and street musicians playing at every other corner. Walk through the pedestrian zone toward the State Opera and on to the **Secession** a magnificent specimen of Art Nouveau architecture that has just celebrated its 100th birthday. Take your time to study the Beethoven frieze by Gustav Klimt.

The **buildings on Linke Wienzeile** and the **subway pavilions** at Karlsplatz are more wonderful examples of Art Nouveau by architect Otto Wagner.

Roam across the **Naschmarkt-market** this produce market is a delight for all the senses - easy to see that Eastern Europe (or even the Orient?) begins in Vienna. At the end of the Naschmarkt-market is Kolping Wien Zentral – before you plunge into **Vienna's nightlife**, you may want to stop by for a little rest ...

Nothing more authentic than an evening at a **Heuriger** - one of the wine taverns with gardens in the hilly outskirts, and the more plain and remote they are, the cosier the atmosphere. Therefore, don't just try places in Grinzing but also in Sievering, Pötzleinsdorf, or on the other side of the Danube in Stammersdorf.

Back in the city centre, there's still time to wander around the old town. If you feel up to it, **finish the evening** in the maze of streets called Bermuda Triangle (Rabensteig / Seitenstettengasse) where you find one bar next to the other.



## **Day 2: From Schönbrunn Palace to the Giant Ferris Wheel**

Go down to the underground U 4 - station "Kettenbrückengasse" (just 150 meters away from Kolping Wien Zentral), take the underground direction Hütteldorf and go out to Schönbrunn Palace - but do not get off the train until the station called "Hietzing". This is the much nicer side, for here you can enter the extensive gardens through the "Hietzing Gate", where you are immediately faced with the historical glass-and-steel **Palm House**. Take a walk up to **Gloriette** where a spectacular view over the palace and the city awaits you at the café. Or you can visit the **Zoo**.

In the **palace** itself, rent an "Audio Guide" for an individual tour through the magnificent state rooms to see the living and working atmosphere of the Hapsburgs.

Now take the U4 **back to the city centre (direction Heiligenstadt)**, get off at station Karlsplatz, where at first you can stroll across Karlsplatz with the **Church of St. Charles Borromeo** and Otto Wagner's Stadtbahn pavilions.

Don't forget to make a break!!! Sit down in any **cosy inn**.

There's the guided tour in the **State Opera House (attention – not daily – ask at reception desk)**: the grand staircase, marble foyer and red-and-gold auditorium are well worth seeing. Afterwards, you will pass the Hotel **Sacher** behind the opera - famous for its chocolate cake - and take in the **Monument against War and Fascism** by Alfred Hrdlicka on Albertinaplatz.

Not far from here (Neuer Markt/Tegethoffstrasse), go down to the **Imperial Burial Vault**, the final resting-place of the Hapsburgs' bones. From here, take the city bus (3A) or walk through Annagasse to Schwarzenbergplatz, behind which rise the exquisite gardens of the baroque **Belvedere Palace** - enjoy a great view of the city centre from the Upper Belvedere, in which the Austrian Gallery has a permanent exhibit of works by Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka.

After so much art and history, some diversion should follow. From the South Railway Station (Südbahnhof), the "O" tram-line will take you to the big amusement park in the **Prater**(Wien-Nord station).

Try a ride on the **Giant Ferris Wheel** and taste some typical Viennese hot sausages with sweet mustard at a "Würstelstand" (sausage-stand). Or else take in a real meal at the **Schweizerhaus**, for instance Spiegelkarpfen nach böhmischer Art (carp Bohemian style) or Stelze (roast leg of pork). If you have had enough of the fairground hubbub, go for a walk along the **Prater Hauptallee**- a paradise for jogging, in-line skating or strolling.

Enjoy Vienna's **cultural life** to the fullest – after all, Vienna is a center for theater and music: in addition to the traditional venues, **musicals**, and **concert stages**, there is a lively alternative scene with numerous cabarets and venues for live music – check out **Jazzland**, **Joe Zawinul's Birdland**, or **Porgy & Bess**.

There's a busy nightlife in the pedestrian zones around Stephansplatz until the early morning hours. No problem finding a nice streetside café or good entertainment in one of the many side streets.

### Day 3: Special Tips

Now that you've seen quite a lot of Vienna already, you should have an opportunity to set your own focus of interest

But before that, a little **tour of the Ringstrasse**:

After breakfast, take your constitutional through the **Burggarten Park** across **Heldenplatz** and into the romantic **Volksgarten Park** where the Art Nouveau memorial to Austria's most famous empress is a must for all fans of "Sisi". Opposite the Volksgarten, there is the **Parliament** with the Athena fountain. Or have a refreshing walk through the cool **Rathauspark** past its many fountains, statues and exotic trees.

Facing the Vienna City Hall, there is the **National Theatre**- its programme is always a controversial discussion matter among the Viennese.

When you walk back to Kolping Wien Zentral on the Gumpendorfer Straße, stop at the famous **Café Sperl** to drink a Melange, Vienna's most popular coffee variation. The Café Sperl is one of the oldest "Kaffeehäuser" (coffeeshops) in Vienna.