

Vienna



Few cities in the world glide so effortlessly between the present and the past like Vienna. Its splendid historical face is easily recognised: grand imperial palaces and bombastic baroque interiors, museums flanking magnificent squares and, above all, the Hofburg – where the Habsburg rulers lived, loved and married into empires.

But this historical aspect often makes us forget that Vienna is also one of Europe's most dynamic urban spaces. Just a stone's throw from Hofburg, the MuseumsQuartier houses some of the world's most provocative contemporary art behind a striking basalt façade. Outside, a courtyard buzzes on summer evenings with throngs of Viennese drinking and chatting. Nearby, restaurants brim with imbibers enjoying the pleasures of wine and food, while across the yard a museum café pulsates with beats.

It is a reminder that the city of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert, Strauss, Brahms, Mahler and Schönberg is also the Vienna of Falco, who immortalised its urban textures in song. It's also a place where sushi and Austro-Asian fusion restaurants stand alongside the traditional *Beisl*. In this Vienna, it's okay to mention poetry slam and Stephansdom in one breath.

Throw in the mass of green space within the confines of the city limits (almost half the city expanse is given over to parkland), the 'blue' Danube cutting a path just to the east of the historical centre and the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods) creating much of Vienna's western border and you also have a capital with a great outdoors.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Scaling **Stephansdom** (p124), Vienna's glorious Gothic cathedral and beloved icon
- Savouring the bombastic pomp of **Schloss Schönbrunn** (p135) and the views from its gardens
- Immersing yourself in Vienna's textures on a night or day ramble along **Gumpendorfer Strasse** (p134)
- Hanging out in the **MuseumsQuartier** (p130), an art space spiked with bars and alive with urban energy
- Being provoked by naked bodies smeared with salad (among other modern art flourishes) at the Vienna's **MUMOK** (p130)



■ POPULATION: 1.54 MILLION

■ AREA: 415 SQ KM

■ HIGHEST ELEVATION: HERMANNSKOGEL 542M

■ AREA CODE: 01

HISTORY

Vienna was probably an important trading post for the Celts when the Romans arrived around 15 BC. They set up camp and named it Vindobona, after the Celtic tribe Vinid. The settlement blossomed into a town by the 3rd and 4th centuries, and vineyards were introduced to the surrounding area.

In 881 the town, then known as 'Wenia', surfaced in official documents and over the ensuing centuries control of Vienna changed hands a number of times, before the Babenburgs gained the upper hand (see p30). The Habsburgs inherited it, but none of them resided here permanently until Ferdinand I in 1533; the city was besieged by Turks in 1529 (p37).

Vienna was a hotbed of revolt and religious bickering during the Reformation and Counter-Reformation and suffered terribly through plague and siege at the end of the 17th century. However, the beginning of the 18th century heralded a golden age for Vienna, with baroque architecture, civil reform and a classical music revolution.

Things turned sour at the beginning of the 19th century – Napoleon occupied the city twice, in 1805 and 1809 (p30). His reign over Europe was brief, and in 1814–15 Vienna hosted the Congress of Vienna in celebration. Vienna grew in post-Napoleon Europe and in 1873 hosted its second international event, the World Fair. The advent of WWI stalled the city's architectural and cultural development and, by the end of the war, the monarchy had been consigned to the past (p32).

The 1920s saw the rise of fascism, and by 1934 civil war broke out in the city streets. The socialists were defeated and Vienna's city council dissolved. Austria was ripe for the picking, and Hitler came a-harvesting; on 15 March 1938 he entered the city to the cries of 200,000 ecstatic Viennese.

Vienna suffered heavily under Allied bombing, and on 11 April 1945 advancing Russian troops liberated the city. The Allies joined them until Vienna became independent in 1955, and since then it has gone from the razor's edge of Cold War to the focal point between new and old EU member nations.

ORIENTATION

Vienna occupies 415 sq km in the Danube Valley, with the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods) forming a natural border to the north and

west. The Danube (Donau) River flows north-east to southwest through the city. Vienna's heart, the Innere Stadt (inner city; 1st District), is south of the river on a diversion of the Danube, the Danube Canal (Donaukanal). It's encircled on three sides by the Ringstrasse, or Ring, a series of broad roads sporting an extravaganza of architectural delights. The Ring is at a distance of between 1.75km and 3km from the Gürtel (literally, 'belt'), a larger traffic artery that is fed by the flow of vehicles from outlying autobahns.

Stephansdom (St Stephen's Cathedral), with its slender spire, is in the heart of the Innere Stadt and is Vienna's principal landmark. Leading south from Stephansplatz station is Kärntner Strasse, an important pedestrian street that terminates at Karlsplatz, a major public transport hub.

The Danube runs down a long, straight channel, built between 1870 and 1875 to eliminate flooding. This was supplemented 100 years later by the building of a parallel channel, the Neue Donau (New Danube), creating the Donauinsel (Danube Island) recreational area. The original Alte Donau (Old Danube) loops north of the Neue Donau to enclose the Donaupark, Vienna International Center (UNO City, home to the UN), beaches and water-sports centres. Squeezed between the Danube Canal and the Danube is the Prater, a large park and playground of the Viennese.

Most hotels, pensions, restaurants and bars are in the Innere Stadt or west of the centre between the Ringstrasse and the Gürtel.

Maps

The free tourist office Vienna map shows bus, tram and U-Bahn routes, has a separate U-Bahn plan, and lists major city-wide sights. It also has a blow-up of the Innere Stadt. For a street index, Freytag & Berndt's 1:25,000 fold-out map (€7.99) is available at most bookshops.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

British Bookshop (Map pp120-1; www.britishbookshop.at; ☎ 9:30am-6:30pm Mon-Fri, 9:30am-6pm Sat) Weihburggasse (☎ 512 19 45; 01, Weihburggasse 24); Mariahilfer Strasse (☎ 522 67 30; 07, Mariahilfer Strasse 4) The largest selection of English novels, guidebooks, reference and teaching books.

Freytag & Berndt (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 86 85; www.freytagberndt.at; 01, Kohlmarkt 9; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri,

9am-6pm Sat) For maps and travel guides; stocks its own and competitors' maps.

Shakespeare & Co (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 50 53; www.shakespeare.co.at; 01, Sterngasse 2; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat) Has a strong range of eclectic, literary, academic and art books; also literary and hard-to-find titles in English. Friendly staff.

Thalia (Map pp116-17; ☎ 595 45 50; 06, Mariahilfer Strasse 99; ☎ 9:30am-7pm Mon-Wed, 9:30am-8pm Thu & Fri, 9:30am-6pm Sat) A good range of travel books, maps and a small range of English fiction.

Emergency

See Quick Reference on the inside front cover for nationwide emergency numbers for ambulance, doctor, fire and police.

Police station (Map pp120-1; ☎ 313 10; 01, Deutschmeisterplatz 3; ☎ 24hr)

ViennaMed hotline ☎ 513 9595; ☎ 24hr Information in English and German on local doctors.

Women's Emergency Line (Frauennotruf; ☎ 71 719; ☎ 24hr)

Internet Access

Vienna has dozens of places offering public access to online services. Free access is available at Flex (p153) and rhiz (p150; free after 9pm), which has a couple of terminals. Bücherei Wien (right) also has free internet access; rock up with your passport and log on.

Internet cafés charging around €2 to €4 per hour include:

BigNet (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 2939; 01, Hoher Markt 8-9; ☎ 9am-11pm) Centrally located in the Innere Stadt.

Speed Connect (Map pp120-1; ☎ 526 60 77; 01, Lerchenfelder Strasse 13; ☎ 10am-midnight Mon-Fri, noon-midnight Sat & Sun) Smoky internet café and call centre.

Speednet Café (Map pp116-17; ☎ 892 56 66; 15, Europlatz, Westbahnhof; ☎ 7am-midnight Mon-Sat, 8am-midnight Sun) Bustling internet café inside Westbahnhof with Skype.

Internet Resources

About Vienna (www.aboutvienna.org) General website with cultural and sightseeing information.

City of Vienna (www.wien.gv.at) Comprehensive government-run website.

Falter (www.falter.at, in German) Online version of the ever-popular *Falter* magazine (right).

Vienna Online (www.vienna.at, in German) Site with info on parties, festivals and news.

Vienna Tourist Board (www.wien.info) The first port of call for any visitor.

Left Luggage

Westbahnhof, Südbahnhof and Franz-Josef-Bahnhof have **left-luggage lockers** (per locker €2-3.50; ☎ 24hr).

Libraries

Bücherei Wien (Map p122; ☎ 4000 84500; www.buechereiwien.at; 07, Urban-Loritz-Platz; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat) The city library, straddling the U6 line.

Nationalbibliothek (Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 10 397; www.onb.ac.at; 01, Josefsplatz 1; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, till 9pm Thu) National library with huge reference and lending sections.

Media

For gay-specific publications see boxed text, p140.

City (in German) Like a downsized *Falter*; weekly paper with entertainment listings.

Falter (www.falter.at, in German) Weekly magazine; best resource for political commentary and entertainment listings in every genre imaginable.

Medical Services

The following *sKrankenhäuser* (hospitals) have emergency rooms open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Allgemeines Krankenhaus (Map p122; ☎ 404 00; 09, Währinger Gürtel 18-20)

Hanusch-Krankenhaus (Map pp114-15; ☎ 910 21-0; 14, Heinrich-Collin-Strasse 30)

Lorenz Böhler Unfallkrankenhaus (Map pp116-17; ☎ 331 10; 20, Donaueschingenstrasse 13)

Unfallkrankenhaus Meidling (Map pp116-17; ☎ 601 50-0; 12, Kundratstrasse 37)

If you require a *Zahnarzt* (dentist) after hours call ☎ 512 20 78 (recorded message in German only); likewise if you need an *Apotheken* (pharmacy) outside shop hours, dial ☎ 1550 (in German only).

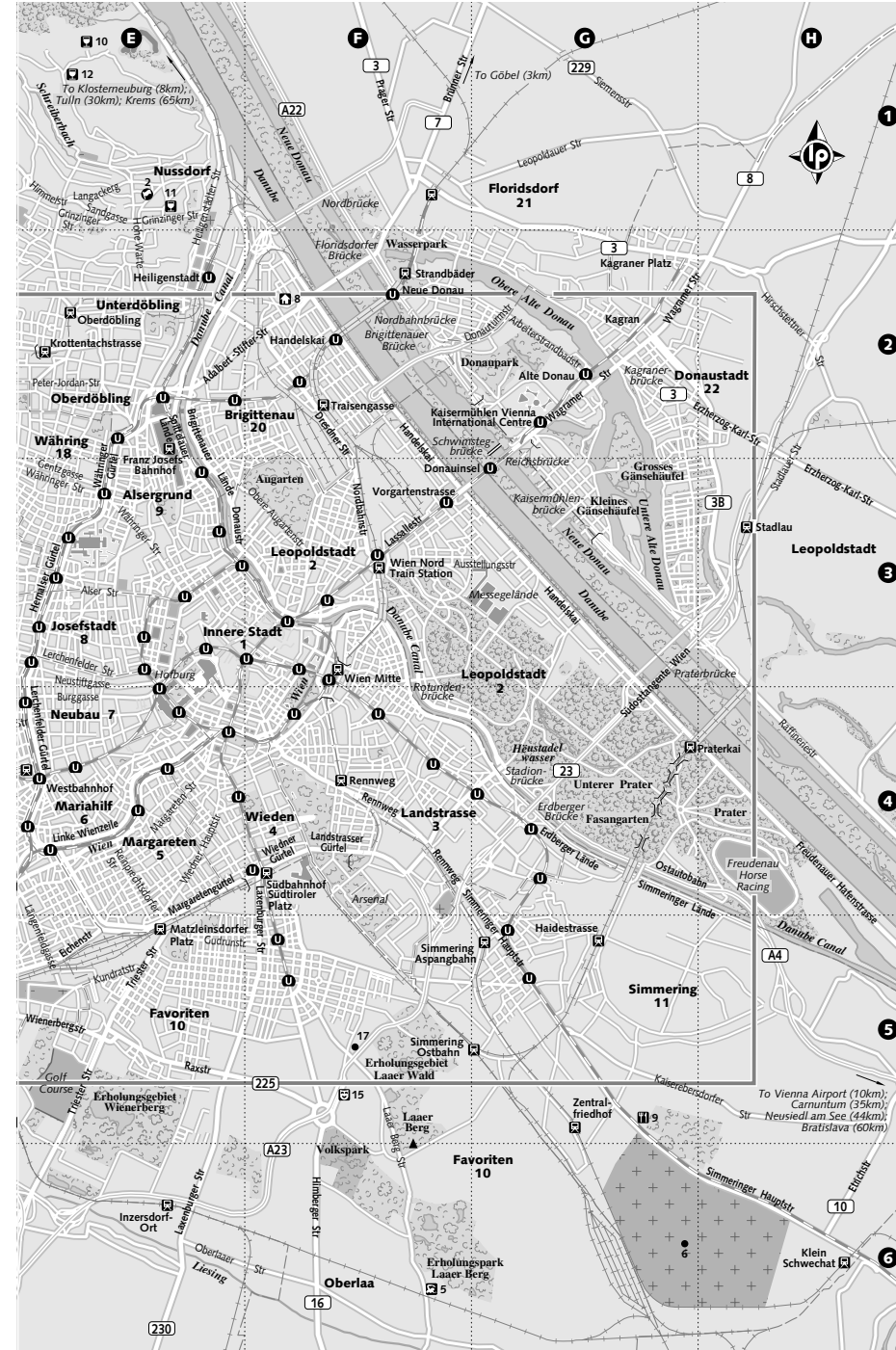
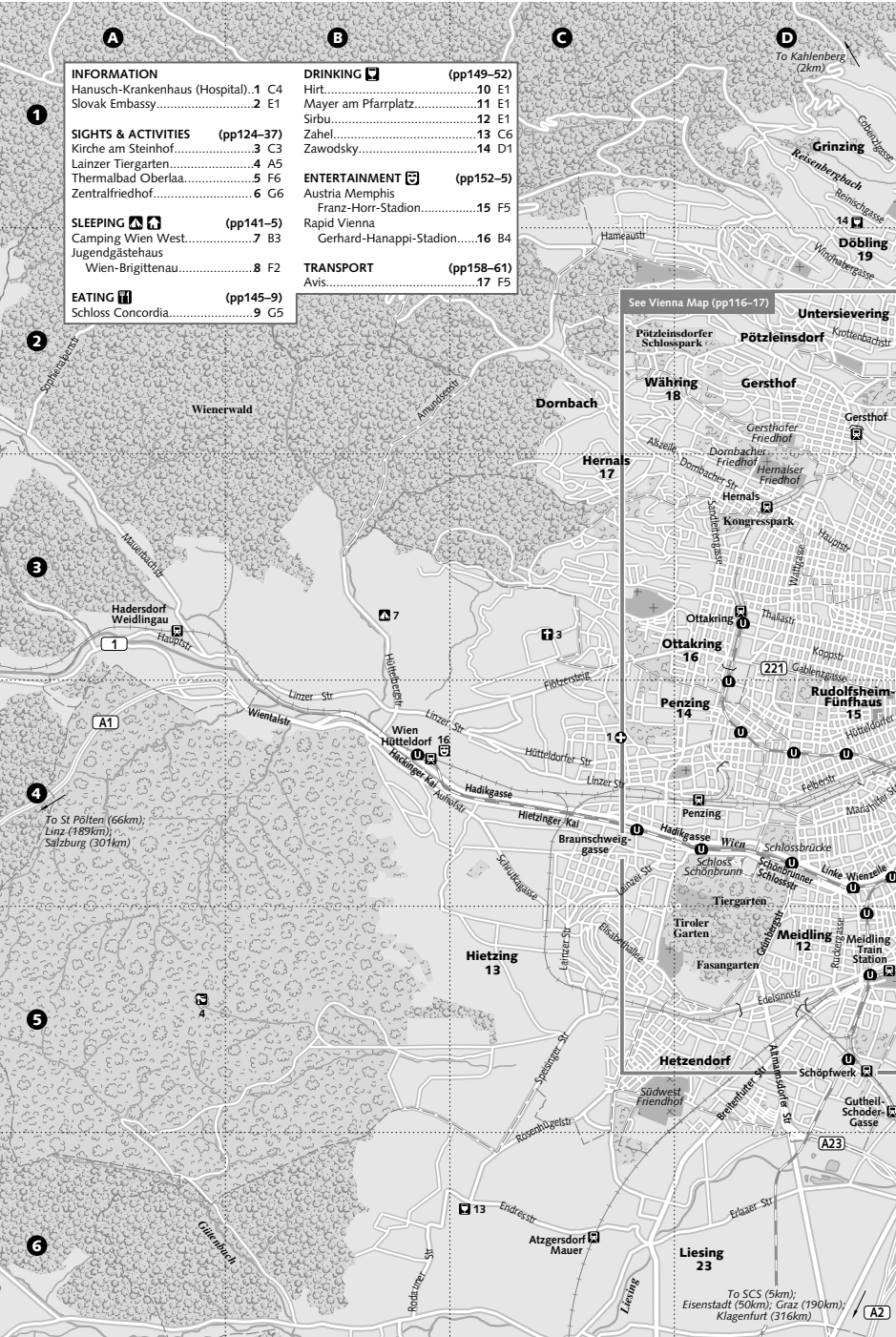
Money

Banks and currency exchange offices are located around town, but compare commission rates before changing money. *Bankomats* (ATMs) are found everywhere, including at the train stations and airport; most shut down at midnight.

The money exchange and banking services office in Westbahnhof keeps hours from 7am to 10pm daily. The bank at Südbahnhof is open 8am to 6pm weekdays and 8am to 4pm Saturday.

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Hungarian Embassy.....		
Inlingua Sprachschule.....		
Irish Embassy.....		
Italian Embassy.....		
Jugendinfo.....		
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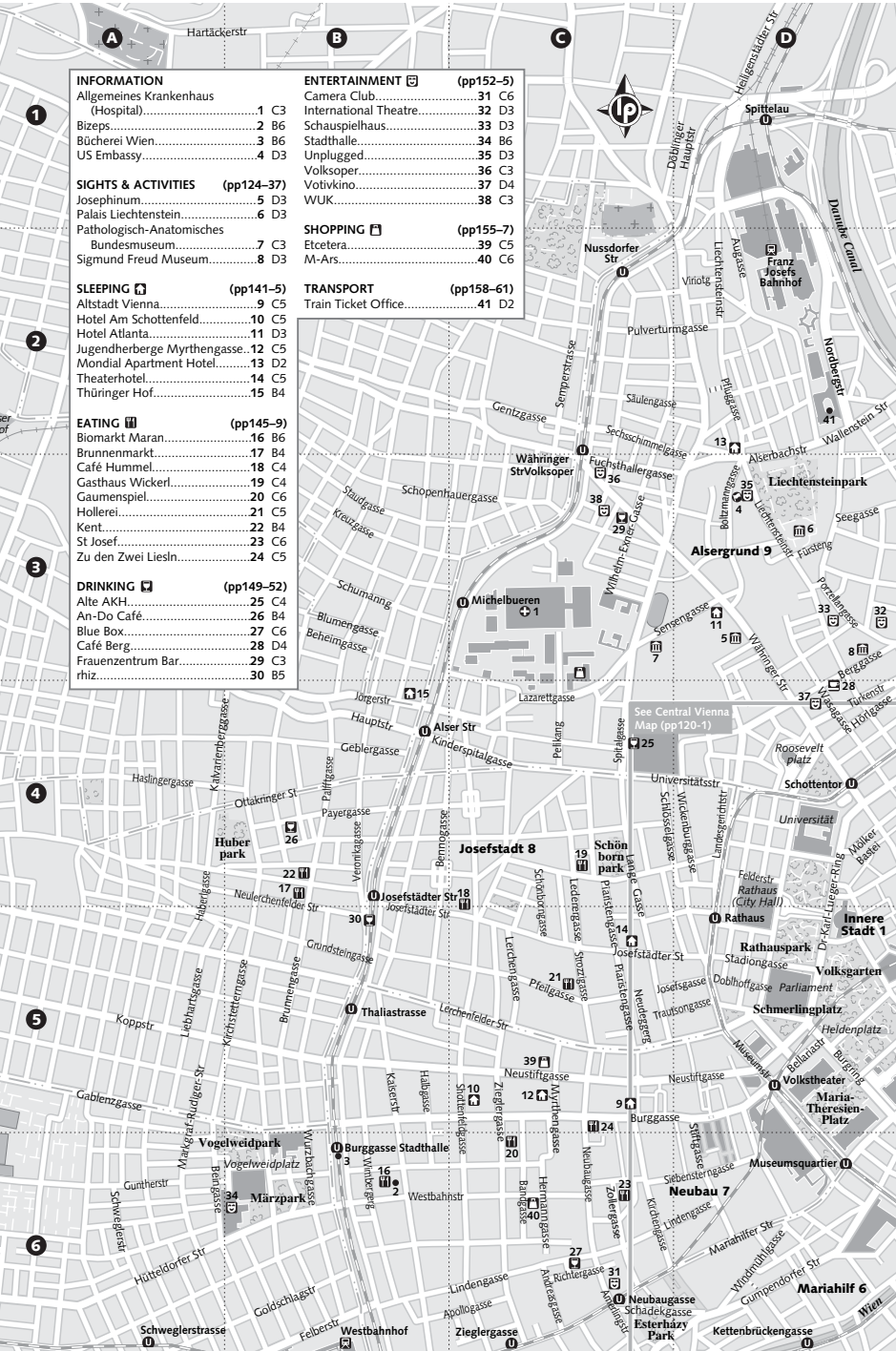
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Commissions on American Express cash and travellers cheque services vary; see the Directory (p389).

Post

Franz-Josefs-Bahnhof Post Office (Map p122; ☎ 0577 677 1090; 09, Althanstrasse 10; 📧 7am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat & Sun)

Main post office (Map pp120-1; ☎ 0577 677 1010; www.post.at; 01, Fleischmarkt 19; 📧 6am-10pm)

Südbahnhof post office (Map pp116-17; ☎ 0577 677 1103; 10, Wiedner Gürtel 1b; 📧 7am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat & Sun)

Westbahnhof post office (Map pp116-17; ☎ 0577 677 1150; 15, Europlatz; 📧 7am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm Sat & Sun)

Tourist Information

Airport Information Office (☎ 6am-11pm) Located in the arrival hall.

ADDRESSES

Vienna is divided into 23 *Bezirke* (districts), fanning out in approximate numerical order clockwise around the Innere Stadt. Note that when reading addresses, the number of a building within a street follows the street name. Any number before the street name denotes the district. The middle two digits of postcodes correspond to the district. Thus a postcode of 1010 means the place is in district one, and 1230 refers to district 23.

City Hall Information Office (Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 50; www.wien.gv.at; 01, Rathaus; 📧 8am-6pm Mon-Fri) Provides information on social, cultural and practical matters, and is geared as much to residents as to tourists.

Jugendinfo (Map pp120-1; ☎ 1799; www.jugendinfo.wien.at; 01, Babenbergerstrasse 1; 📧 noon-7pm Mon-Sat) Tailored to ages 14 to 26; tickets for a variety of events at reduced rates and tips on the young alternative scene in Vienna.

VIENNA IN...

Two Days

Start your day with a *melange* (coffee; specific to Austria) and *butter-semel* (butter-roll) at a traditional Kaffeehaus (coffee house). Jump on tram 1 or 2 and circle the **Ringstrasse** (p128) for a brief but rewarding informal tour of the boulevard's buildings. Get out at Kärntner Strasse and wander towards the heart of the city where the glorious Gothic **Stephansdom** (p124) awaits. Make your way to the **Hofburg** (p125) and its **Prunksaal** (p126) before crossing the Ringstrasse to the **Kunsthistorisches Museum** (p128), home to a breathtaking art collection. Recharge the batteries at one of the many **Innere Stadt restaurants** (p145) before attending a performance at the **Staatsoper** (p152).

Day two could begin with a visit to the imperial palace **Schönbrunn** (p135), before heading to the **MuseumsQuartier** (p130) and its **Leopold Museum** (p130), a treasure-chest of Austrian artists. Take an early dinner at Vienna's celebrated market, the **Naschmarkt** (p149), then cross the city for a ride on the **Riesenrad** (p131) in the **Prater** (p131). Finish the day with local wine and food at a **Heurigen** (p151).

Four Days

After fulfilling the two-day itinerary, start the third day with an exploration of the **Schloss Belvedere** (p132), an unequalled baroque palace, before lunching at **Zu den Zwei Liesln** (p147). Walk off that monstrous Wiener schnitzel in the **Ringstrasse Gardens** (p128) before viewing Klimt's sumptuous *Beethoven Frieze* in the **Secession** (p129). If there's time, make for **Kahlenberg** (p137) to beat the setting sun. End the night in one of the **Gürtel's progressive bars** (p150) or the plethora of night spots in and around the Naschmarkt.

If you're still up for unfathomable art collections in regal surroundings, a visit to the **Albertina** (p127) or **Palais Liechtenstein** (p132) is a must on the fourth day. This is a city where 'macabre' and 'imperial' comfortably exist in the same sentence, so an afternoon trip to the **Kaisergruft** (p127) should follow. Spend your last evening in one of the city's music houses, such as the **Konzerthaus** (p152) or **Musikverein** (p152), experiencing the music of Beethoven or Mozart where it was originally played.

Tourist Info Wien (Map pp120-1; ☎ 211 14-555; www.wien.info; 01, Albertinaplatz; 🕒 9am-7pm) Vienna's main tourist office, with a ticket agency, hotel booking service, free maps and every brochure you could ever want for.

WienXtra-Kinderinfo (Map pp120-1; ☎ 4000 84 400; www.kinderinfowien.at; 07, Museumsplatz 1; 🕒 2-7pm Tue-Thu, 10am-5pm Fri & Sat) This child-friendly tourist office has loads of information on kids activities and a small indoor playground.

Travel Agencies

American Express (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 4004; 01, Kärntner Strasse 21-23; 🕒 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri; exchange office also 10am-1pm Sat) Travel section and financial services, and will hold mail (not parcels) free of charge for up to one month for Amex cardholders.

Österreichisches Verkehrsbüro (Map pp120-1; ☎ 588 00 100; www.verkehrsbuero.at, in German; 04, Friedrichstrasse 7; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Major national agency that sells DDSG boat tickets and organises almost everything under the sun.

STA Travel Call Centre (Map 120-1; ☎ 401 48 60 00; 09, Garnisonsgasse 7; 🕒 8.30am-7pm Mon-Thu, 8.30am-5.30pm Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) Call centre only, with ticket collection.

Travel Shop Rilkeplatz (Map 120-1; ☎ 502 43-0; www.statravel.at; 04, Rilkeplatz 2; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) STA has discounted flights for students and helpful staff that speak English. There are three other shops in the city.

SIGHTS

Most of Vienna's top attractions are inside the Innere Stadt or within 10 minutes' walk of its boundaries. The Innere Stadt is best tackled on foot as it's a maze of narrow one-way and pedestrian-only zones. The rest of the city is easily managed by public transport or, if you're feeling fit, by bicycle.

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

If you're planning on doing a lot of sightseeing in a short period, consider purchasing the **Wien-Karte** (Vienna Card; €18.50), which provides 72 hours of unlimited travel plus discounts at selected museums, attractions, cafés and shops. It comes with an information brochure and is available from hotels and ticket offices.

The Kunsthistorisches Museum and its associated museums are covered by Gold, Silver and Bronze tickets. The **Gold ticket** (€23) allows entry to the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Schatzkammer, Neue Burg museums, Museum für Völkerkunde, Wagenburg in Schönbrunn and the Theaternmuseum. The **Silver ticket** (€21) covers everything the Gold ticket does, minus the Wagenburg. Third place **Bronze** (€19) will get you into the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Schatzkammer, Neue Burg museums and the Museum für Völkerkunde.

The City of Vienna runs some 20 **municipal museums** (www.museum.vienna.at) scattered around the city, all of which are included in a free booklet available at the Rathaus. Permanent exhibitions in all are free on Sunday.

VIENNA'S MUSEUMS

Vienna's top museum spots for:

- Contemporary art and Vienna Actionism – **MUMOK** (p130)
- The dark side – **Pathologisch-Anatomisches Bundesmuseum** (p139)
- European old masters and new – **Kunsthistorisches Museum** (p128)
- Gesamtkunstwerk (quiet gardens, architecture and Austrian art) – **Schloss Belvedere** (p132)
- Children – **Zoom** (p139)
- Treasures and reliquaries – **Schatzkammer** (p126)

Innere Stadt

The Innere Stadt is a timeless and magical place where Vienna's past swirls and eddies in narrow ways and atmospheric cobblestone streets. The city centre district is a Unesco World Heritage site. Though well trodden, it rewards close exploration, and if crowds distract then try exploring the streets at night.

STEPHANSDOM

The most beloved and recognisable structure in all of Vienna is the Gothic masterpiece **Stephansdom** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 515 52-3520; www.stephanskirche.at; 01, Stephansplatz; admission free, guided tours adult/student & child €4/1.50; 🕒 6am-10pm Mon-Sat, 7am-10pm Sun, tours in English 3.45pm Apr-Oct) or Steffl (little Stephen) as the Viennese call it.

The cathedral was built on the site of a 12th-century church, of which the surviving

Riesentor (Giant's Gate), main entrance and Heidentürme (Towers of the Heathens) are incorporated into the present building. These are Romanesque, but the cathedral's most distinctive features date from it being rebuilt in the Gothic style from 1359.

Dominating the cathedral is the skeletal **Südturm** (adult/student & child €3/1; 🕒 9am-5.30pm), rising 136.7m and completed in 1433 after 75 years of work. Negotiating 343 steps brings you to a cramped viewing platform for a stunning panorama of Vienna. Originally this should have been matched on the north side by a **companion tower** (adult/student €4/1.50; 🕒 8.30am-5.30pm Apr-May & Sep-Oct, 8.30am-6pm Jul & Aug, 8.30am-7pm Nov-Mar), accessible by lift, but the imperial purse withered and when the Gothic style went out of fashion its incomplete tower was topped off with a Renaissance cupola in 1579. The **Pummerin** (boomer bell), Austria's largest bell and weighing in at a hefty 21 tonnes, was installed in 1952.

Look closely at decorations and statues on the exterior of the cathedral: at the rear the agony of the Crucifixion is well captured, while the glorious **tiled roof** shows dazzling chevrons on one end and the Austrian eagle on the other.

Taking centre stage inside is the magnificent Gothic **stone pulpit**, fashioned in 1515 by Anton Pilgram. The expressive faces of the four fathers of the church (the saints Augustine, Ambrose, Gregory and Jerome) are at the centre of the design, but the highlight is Pilgram himself peering out from a window below. He also appears at the base of the organ loft on the northern wall, seemingly holding up the entire organ on his narrow shoulders. The baroque **high altar** in the main chancel depicts the stoning of St Stephen; the left chancel contains a winged altarpiece from Wiener Neustadt, dating from 1447; the right chancel houses the Renaissance-style red marble tomb of Friedrich III.

The cathedral's **Katakomben** (catacombs; adult/student €4/1.50; guided tour every 15 or 30min 10-11.30am & 1.30-4.30pm Mon-Sat, 1.30-4.30pm Sun) house the remains of plague victims, kept in a mass grave and a bone house. Also on display are rows of urns containing the organs of the Habsburgs. One of the many privileges of being a Habsburg was to be dismembered and dispersed after death: their hearts are in the Augustinerkirche in the Hofburg and the rest is in the Kaisergruft (p127).

HOFBURG

Nothing symbolises the culture and heritage of Austria more than its Hofburg (Imperial Palace; Map pp120-1). The Habsburgs were based here for over six centuries, from the first emperor (Rudolf I in 1273) to the last (Karl I in 1918). The Hofburg owes its size and architectural diversity to plain old one-upmanship; new sections were added by the new rulers, including the early baroque **Leopold Wing** (Map pp120-1), the 18th-century **Imperial Chancery Wing** (Map pp120-1), the 16th-century **Amalia Wing** (Map pp120-1) and the Gothic **Burgkapelle** (Royal Chapel; Map pp120-1).

The oldest section is the 13th-century **Schweizerhof** (Swiss Courtyard; Map pp120-1), named after the Swiss guards who used to protect its precincts. The Renaissance Swiss gate dates from 1553. The courtyard adjoins a larger courtyard, **In der Burg** (Map pp120-1), with a monument to Emperor Franz II adorning its centre. The palace now houses the offices of the Austrian president and a raft of museums.

Kaiserappartements

The **Kaiserappartements** (Imperial Apartments; Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 75 70; 01, Innerer Burghof, Kaisertor; adult/student/child €9.90/8.90/4.90; 🕒 9am-5pm, 9am-5.30pm Jul & Aug), once occupied by Franz Josef I and Empress Elisabeth, are extraordinary for their opulence, fine furniture, tapestries and bulbous crystal chandeliers; only Schloss Schönbrunn (p135) matches the sheer extravagance of these apartments. The highlight of the adjoining **Hoftafel und Silberkammer** (Court Tableware and Silver Depot), a collection of porcelain and tableware, is a 30m long Mailänder Tafelaufsatz (Milan Table Piece). Admission to the apartments includes an audio guide plus entry to Hoftafel und Silberkammer and Sisi.

Sisi

Occupying the first six rooms of the Kaiserappartements and included in the entry price, **Sisi Museum** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 75 70; 01, Innerer Burghof, Kaisertor; 🕒 9am-5pm, 9am-5.30pm Jul & Aug) is devoted to the life of Austria's Empress Elisabeth, often called 'Sisi'. A reconstruction of the luxurious coach that carried her on many a journey is one highlight, but it's the details that give a feel for the life of the empress: a reconstruction of the dress she wore on the eve of her wedding, plus her sunshade, fans and gloves.

Schatzkammer

The **Schatzkammer** (Imperial Treasury; Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 24-486; 01, Schweizerhof; adult/student/child/family €8.10/7.50/3.50/20; ☞ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) is a spectacular collection of secular and ecclesiastical treasures. The sheer wealth on display is staggering: Room 7 alone contains a 2860-carat Colombian emerald, a 416-carat balas ruby and a 492-carat aquamarine; Room 11 holds the highlight of the Treasury, the 10th-century imperial crown with eight gold plates and precious gems; while Room 8 contains a 75cm-wide bowl carved from a single piece of agate, and a narwhal tusk, 243cm long and once claimed to have been a unicorn horn. The Sacred Treasury tops it off with rare religious relics, and the dubious claim to have fragments of the True Cross, one of the nails from the Crucifixion and one of the thorns from Christ's crown.

Lipizzaner Museum

The **Lipizzaner Museum** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 24-583; www.lipizzaner.at; 01, Reitschulestrasse 2; adult/student & child/family €5/3.60/10; ☞ 9am-6pm) focuses on the famous white stallions of the Spanische Hofreitschule (Spanish Riding School; below). A cross-breed of Spanish, Arab and Berber horses, the Lipizzaner were first imported from Spain (hence 'Spanish') by Maximilian II in 1562, and in 1580 a stud was established at Lipizza (hence 'Lipizzaner'), now in Slovenia. Text is in English, but the content is a little thin. Windows allow a view directly into the stallion stables, albeit obscured by thick glass and fine mesh.

Spanische Hofreitschule

For the real thing, cross the street to the **Spanische Hofreitschule** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 9031; www.srs.at; 01, Michaelerplatz 1; admission €31-165; ☞ performances 11am Sun mid-Feb-Jun & Sep-Dec, extra performances Fri & Sat). These graceful stallions perform an equine ballet to a programme of classical music while chandeliers shimmer from above and the audience cranes to see from pillared balconies. Tickets can be ordered through the website, but be warned that performances are usually booked out months in advance. Unclaimed tickets are sold about two hours before performances, so you might try asking at the office about cancellations. Training or movement programmes are open to the public at various times. The most regular is the 'Morgenarbeit' **Morning Training** (adult/student

& child/family €12/6/24; ☞ 10am-noon Tue-Sat Feb-Jun & mid-Aug-Dec) session. For these, tickets can be bought the same day at gate 2, Josefsplatz in the Hofburg. Queues are very long early in the day, but most people have disappeared by around 11am, when you can often get in quickly. It's a fairly dull affair, and photos aren't allowed at any sessions, so if you want one try waiting to see the horses cross between the school and the **Stallburg** (stables), which usually happens on the half-hour.

Nationalbibliothek

Austria's flagship library, the **Nationalbibliothek** (National Library; Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 10 397; www.onb.ac.at; 01, Josefsplatz 1; adult/student & child/family €5/3/9; ☞ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, till 9pm Thu) contains an astounding collection of literature, maps, globes of the world and other cultural relics; its highlight, though, is the **Prunksaal** (Grand Hall), a majestic baroque hall built between 1723 and 1726. Commissioned by Karl VI (whose statue is under the central dome), it holds some 200,000 leather-bound scholarly tomes. Rare volumes (mostly 15th century) are stored within glass cabinets, with books opened to beautifully illustrated pages of text. The central fresco, by Daniel Gran, depicts the emperor's apotheosis.

Neue Burg Museums

An ensemble of three museums occupy part of the **Neue Burg** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 24-484; 01, Heldenplatz; adult/student & child/family €8/6/16, audio guide €3; ☞ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon). The **Sammlung Alter Musik Instrumente** (Collection of Ancient Musical Instruments) is the best of the bunch and contains instruments in all shapes, sizes and tones. The **Ephesos Museum** features artefacts from Ephesus and Samothrace donated (some say 'lifted') by the Sultan in 1900 after a team of Austrian archaeologists excavated Ephesus in Turkey. Last but not least is the **Hofjagd und Rüstammer** (Arms and Armour), with a fine collection of ancient armour dating mainly from the 15th and 16th centuries.

Museum für Völkerkunde

The **Museum für Völkerkunde** (Ethnological Museum; Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 30-0; www.ethno-museum.ac.at; 01, Heldenplatz; adult/student & child/family €10/7.50/20; ☞ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) has rotating exhibitions while being renovated (expected to finish in 2009). Its permanent collection of folk art from around the world includes an Aztec

feather headdress once worn by Montezuma. (Note that entry to the Neue Burg museums and Museum für Völkerkunde have this combined price during exhibitions.)

ALBERTINA

Once used to house imperial guests, the **Albertina** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 83-544; www.albertina.at; 01, Albertinaplatz 3; adult/student/child €9.50/7/3.50; ☞ 10am-6pm, to 9pm Wed) is now home to an astoundingly rich collection of graphic art. It contains 1½ million prints and 50,000 drawings, including 145 Dürer drawings (the largest in the world), 43 by Raphael, 70 by Rembrandt and 150 by Schiele. There are more by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rubens, Bruegel, Cézanne, Picasso, Klimt, Matisse and Kokoschka, and of course only a fraction of the collection is on display at any one time. Exhibitions, which normally follow a theme or artist, are changed every three months and also feature works from other collections.

HAUS DER MUSIK

The four floors of the **Haus der Musik** (House of Music; Map pp120-1; ☎ 516 48; www.hdm.at; 01, Seilerstätte 30; adult/student & child €10/8.50, half-price 5-9pm Tue; ☞ 10am-10pm) are devoted in one form or another to music. All descriptions are in English and German. The 1st floor pays homage, rather briefly, to the Vienna Philharmonic.

The 2nd floor is where the fun begins; the **Sonosphere** section delves into the physics of sounds and uses touch screens and loads of hands-on displays to explain the mechanics of sound. Here you can test the limits of your hearing and play around with sampled sounds and record your own CD (€0.99 per song, plus €2 for CD and cover). The 3rd floor features the stars of Vienna's classical music – Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Strauss and Mahler all receive a room apiece. Best of all is the 'virtual conductor', where a video of the Vienna Philharmonic responds to a conducting baton and keeps time with your movements. Floor 4 has experimental and electronic music, which you can also modify. Singing trees, sound sticks and beeping buttons are just some of the hands-on 'instruments' at your disposal.

KAISERGRUFT

The high-peaked **Kaisergruft** (Imperial Burial Vault; Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 68 53; www.kapuziner.at/wien; in German; 01 Neuer Markt; adult/student/child €4/3/1.50;

☞ 10am-6pm), beneath the Kapuzinerkirche (Church of the Capuchin Friars), was instigated by Empress Anna (1585-1618), and her body and that of her husband, Emperor Matthias (1557-1619), were the first to be placed here. Since then, all but three of the Habsburg dynasty members found their way here (in bits and pieces), the last being Empress Ziti in 1989. The only non-Habsburg to be buried here is the Countess Fuchs.

The royals' fashion extends even to tombs: those in the vault range from the unadorned to the ostentatious. By far the most elaborate caskets are those in 18th-century baroque pomp, such as the huge double sarcophagus containing Maria Theresia and Franz I. The tomb of Charles VI has been expertly restored. Both were the work of Balthasar Moll (p54).

JÜDISCHES MUSEUM

The **Jüdisches Museum** (Jewish Museum; Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 04 31; www.jmw.at; 01, Dorotheergasse 11; adult/student & child €6.50/4; ☞ 10am-6pm Sun-Fri), taking up three floors of Palais Eskeles, uses holograms and an assortment of objects to document the history of the Jews in Vienna, from the first settlements at Judenplatz in the 13th century up to the present. The ground floor is filled with the Max Berger collection – a rich compilation of Judaica mainly dating from the Habsburg era. Temporary exhibitions are presented on the 1st floor, with the 2nd floor dividing its space between more temporary exhibitions and 21 holograms depicting the history of the Jewish people in Vienna.

A combined ticket of €10/6 for adult/student and child (bring ID) allows entry to the **Stadttempel** (Synagogue; Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 04 31; www.jmw.at; 01, Seitenstettengasse 4; adult/student & child €3/2; ☞ guided tours 11.30am & 2pm Mon-Thu) and the Museum Judenplatz (below).

MUSEUM JUDENPLATZ

The **Museum Judenplatz** (Jewish museum; Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 04 31; www.jmw.at; 01, Judenplatz 8; adult/student & child €4/2.50; ☞ 10am-6pm Sun-Thu, 10am-2pm Fri) focuses on excavated remains of a medieval synagogue (1421) once situated on Judenplatz. The basic outline of the synagogue can still be seen and a small model of the building helps to complete the picture. Documents and artefacts dating from 1200 to 1400 are on display, and spacey interactive screens explain Jewish culture. On Judenplatz is Austria's first Holocaust memorial, the 'Nameless Library'.

This squat, boxlike structure pays homage to the 65,000 Austrian Jews who were killed during the Holocaust.

ANKERUHR

The picturesque **Ankeruhr** (Art Nouveau clock; Map pp120-1; Hoher Markt 10-11) was created by Franz von Matsch in 1911 and commissioned by the Anker Insurance Co. Over a 12-hour period, figures such as Josef Haydn and Maria Theresia slowly pass across the clock face – details of who's who are outlined on a plaque on the wall below. Join the mass of tourists at noon when all the figures trundle past in turn, and organ music from the appropriate period is piped out.

Other interesting sights in the Innere Stadt: **Beethovenhaus** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 89 05; 01, Mölker Bastei 8; adult/student & child €2/1; ☹ 10am-1pm & 2-6pm Tue-Sun) Beethoven's residence from 1804 to 1814 (he apparently occupied some 60 places in his 35 years in Vienna) where he composed Symphonies 4, 5 and 7 and the opera *Fidelio*, among other works. You can listen to works and view some memorabilia.

Mozarthaus Vienna (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 1791; 01, Domgasse 5; adult/student/child €9/7/3; ☹ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) Three floors covering Vienna during Mozart's era, the musician himself and this former residence, where he penned *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Neidhart-Fresken (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 90 65; 01, Tuchlauben 19; adult/child €2/1, free Sun; ☹ 10am-1pm & 2-6pm Tue, 2-6pm Fri-Sun) The oldest extant secular murals in Vienna dating from 1398, retelling the story of the minstrel Neidhart von Reuental (1180–1240) in lively and jolly scenes.

Ruprechtskirche (St Rupert's Church; Map pp120-1; 01, Ruprechtsplatz) The oldest church in Vienna, first documented in 1137. Unfortunately it's rarely open to the public.

Ringstrasse

Emperor Franz Josef was largely responsible for the monumental architecture around the Ringstrasse (Ring). In 1857 he decided to tear down the redundant military fortifications and exercise grounds and replace them with grandiose public buildings in a variety of historical styles. Work began the following year and reached a peak in the 1870s. The stock market crash in 1873 put a major dampener on plans, and other grand plans were shelved due to lack of money and the outbreak of WWI. The Ring is easily explored on foot or bicycle; if you've not the time, jump on tram 1 or 2, both of which run the length of the boulevard and offer a snapshot of the impressive architecture.

PARLAMENT

The neoclassical façade and Greek pillars of **Parlament** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 40 110-2570; www.parlin.kom.gov.at; 01, Dr-Karl-Renner-Ring 3; tours adult/student & child €4/2; ☹ tours 10am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm Mon-Fri, 10am, 11am, noon & 1pm Sat) are the work of Theophil Hansen in 1883 and make a striking impression; it's complemented by the beautiful **Athena Fountain** situated in front of the building. Athena is flanked by statues of horse breaking (though some would say horse punching).

RATHAUS

The neo-Gothic **Rathaus** (City Hall; Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 50; www.wien.gv.at; 01, Rathausplatz; ☎ tours 1pm Mon, Wed & Fri), which was modelled on Flemish city halls, steals the Ringstrasse show. Its main spire soars to 102m, if you include the pennant held by the knight at the top. You're free to wander through the seven inner courtyards but you must join a guided tour to catch a glimpse of the interior, with its red carpets, gigantic mirrors and frescoes.

KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM

The **Kunsthistorisches Museum** (Museum of Fine Arts; Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 240; www.khm.at; 01, Burgring 5; adult/student & child/family €10/7.50/20, audio guides in English €3; ☹ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-9pm Thu) ranks among the finest museums in Europe, if not the world, and should not be missed. The Habsburgs were great collectors, and the huge extent of lands under their control led to many important works of art being funnelled back to Vienna.

Rubens was appointed to the service of a Habsburg governor in Brussels, so it comes as no surprise that the museum has one of the best collections of his works. The collection of paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525–69) is also unrivalled. In the building itself, the murals between the arches above the stairs were created by three artists, including a young Klimt (1862–1918; northern wall), painted before he broke with neoclassical tradition.

See the website for details of free tours on special topics.

Ground Floor

In the west wing is the Egyptian collection, including the burial chamber of Prince Kaninisut and mummified animal remains. The Greek and Roman collection here in-

cludes the Gemma Augusta cameo made from onyx in AD 10.

The east wing contains sculpture and decorative arts covering a range of styles and epochs. This is closed for renovation in 2008 and 2009; when it reopens the collection will include 17th-century glassware, ornaments and lavish clocks from the 16th and 17th centuries.

First Floor

The **Gemäldegalerie** (Picture Gallery) on this floor is the most important part of the museum and features Bruegel, Dürer, Rubens, Rembrandt and many others. All works are labelled in English and German.

The **East Wing** is devoted mainly to German, Dutch and Flemish paintings. The exact locations of paintings change somewhat, but one room is set aside for the Bruegel collection, amassed by Rudolf II. A recurrent theme in Bruegel the Elder's work is nature, as in *The Hunters in the Snow* (1565). A gallery also displays the warm, larger-than-life scenes of Flemish baroque. The motto in *The Celebration of the Bean King* by Jacob Jordaens (1593–1678), a rollicking painting depicting revellers raising their glasses, translates as 'None resembles a fool more than the drunkard'. Works by Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528) feature prominently among the German painters. His brilliant mastery of colour is perhaps best illustrated in *The Adoration of the Trinity*, originally an altarpiece.

The paintings by the mannerist Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1527–93), in rooms dedicated to Italian painting in the 15th and 16th century, use a device well explored later by Salvador Dalí (1904–89) – familiar objects arranged to be perceived in a new light. Dramatic baroque scenes of Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640), who brought together northern European and Italian traditions, are showcased among the 17th-century Flemish painters, and several self-portraits by Rembrandt can be found among the 17th-century Dutch painters.

The **West Wing** contains evocative works by Titian (1485–1576), a member of the Venetian school. Never too far away is *The Three Philosophers* (1508), which is one of the few properly authenticated works by Giorgione (1478–1510). Also part of the 15th- and 16th-century Italian collection is Raphael's (1483–1520) harmonious and idealised *Madonna in the Meadow* (1505) –

its triangular composition and the complementary colours are typical features of the Florentine high Renaissance. It's interesting to compare this with Caravaggio's (1571–1610) *Madonna of the Rosary* (1606), housed in the collection of Italian paintings from the 17th and 18th century, in which the supplicants' dirty feet illustrate a new realism in early baroque. The 18th-century Italian painter Bernardo Bellotto (1721–80) was commissioned by Maria Theresia to paint scenes of Vienna. Several are on show here, and some of these landscapes, such as a view from Belvedere, break away from faithful representation of the landscape.

NATURHISTORISCHES MUSEUM

The **Naturhistorisches Museum** (Museum of Natural History; Map pp120-1; ☎ 52177-0 www.nhm-wien.ac.at; 01, Burg Ring 7; adult/senior/student & child €8/6/3.50; ☹ 9am-6.30pm Thu-Mon, 9am-9pm Wed) is the scientific counterpart of the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Minerals, meteorites and animal remains are displayed in jars, while zoology and anthropology are covered in detail and there's also a children's corner. The 25,000-year-old *Venus of Willendorf* statuette is on display here (her 100th anniversary of discovery was celebrated in 2008), and also in room 11 is her older sister, the 32,000 BC statuette *Venus of Galgenberg* (the oldest figurative sculpture in the world).

AKADEMIE DER BILDENDEN KÜNSTE

The **Gemäldegalerie der Akademie der bildenden Künste** (Academy of Fine Arts; Map pp120-1; ☎ 588 16-0; www.akademiegalerie.at, in German; 01, Schillerplatz 3; adult/student/child under 10 €7/4/free, audio guide €2; ☹ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) has a small picture gallery, the highlight of which is *The Last Judgement* altarpiece by Hieronymus Bosch (1450–1516). Flemish painters are well represented in this building, which itself sports an elegant façade. As fate would have it, this was the academy that turned down would-be artist Adolf Hitler. A statue of Schiller takes centre stage in front of the academy.

SECESSION

The year 1897 was a fateful one for Austrian art. This was the year 19 progressive artists broke away from the conservative artistic establishment that met in the Künstlerhaus art gallery in Vienna and formed their own Secession movement. Their aim was to

present new trends in contemporary art and depart from backward-looking historicism. Among their number were Gustav Klimt, Josef Hoffman (1871–1956), Kolo Moser (1868–1918) and Josef M Olbrich (1867–1908), a former student of Otto Wagner (1841–1918).

In 1898, Olbrich designed the movement's **Secession Building** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 53 07; www.secession.at; 01, Friedrichstrasse 12; admission exhibition & frieze adult/child & student €6/3.50, exhibition only €4.50/3; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-8pm Thu); its most striking feature is the enormous golden sphere (prosaically described as a 'golden cabbage' by some Viennese) rising from a turret on the roof. Above the door are highly distinctive mask-like faces with dangling serpents instead of earlobes. The motto above the entrance postulates: 'Der Zeit ihre Kunst, der Kunst ihre Freiheit' (To each time its art, to art its freedom).

The 14th exhibition held in the building, in 1902, featured the famous *Beethoven Frieze* by Klimt. This 34m-long work was intended only as a temporary exhibit, but has been painstakingly restored and is permanently on show in the basement. The frieze shows willowy women with bounteous hair jostling for attention with a large gorilla, while slender figures float and a choir sings. The ground floor is still used for temporary exhibitions of contemporary art.

MUSEUMSQUARTIER

The **MuseumsQuartier** (Museum Quarter; Map pp120-1; ☎ 523 58 81-173, 0820-600 600; www.mqw.at; 07, Museumsplatz 1; ☎ information & ticket centre 10am-7pm) is a remarkable ensemble of museums, cafés, restaurants and bars inside former imperial stables designed by Fischer von Erlach. This breeding ground of Viennese cultural life is the perfect place to hang out and watch or meet people on warm evenings. With over 60,000 sq metres of exhibition space, the complex is one of the world's most ambitious cultural spaces.

Of the combined tickets on offer, the MQ Kombi Ticket (€25) includes entry into every museum (Zoom only has a reduction) and a 30% discount on performances in the TanzQuartier Wien; MQ Art Ticket (€21.50) gives admission into the Leopold Museum, MUMOK, Kunsthalle and reduced entry into Zoom, plus 30% discount on the TanzQuartier Wien; and MQ Duo Ticket

(€17) covers everything the Art ticket does, minus the Kunsthalle.

Leopold Museum

In 1994 the Austrian government acquired the enormous private collection of 19th-century and modern Austrian paintings amassed by Rudolf Leopold, paying €160 million for 5266 paintings (sold individually, the paintings would have made him €574 million). It then went about building a museum to display this important collection, and the **Leopold Museum** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 70-0; www.leopoldmuseum.org; 07, Museumsplatz 1; adult/child & student €9/5.50, audio guide €3; ☎ 10am-6pm, till 9pm Thu) was born.

Leopold began his art collection in 1950 with the purchase of his first Egon Schiele (1890–1918), so it comes as no surprise that the Leopold owns the largest collection of the painter's work in the world. Most are usually on the ground floor; his *Kardinale und Nonne – Liebkosung* (Cardinal and Nun – Caress) is a delightful oil on canvas depicting the two figures kneeling in furtive embrace, their eyes fixed on the onlooker. Also on the ground floor is a large collection of works by Gustav Klimt; his large *Tod und Leben* (Death and Life) is just one highlight. Simple yet highly emotional sketches by both artists are displayed in the basement.

Other artists well represented include Albin Egger-Lienz (1868–1922), Richard Gerstl (1883–1908) and, arguably Austria's third-greatest painter (after Klimt and Schiele), Oskar Kokoschka (1886–1980). Egger-Lienz had a knack for capturing the essence of rural life; this is seen in his stark *Pietà*, considered by Leopold to be the artist's best work. Some of the most exciting pieces by Kokoschka were done early in his long career; his *Selbstportrait mit ein Hand* (Self-Portrait with One Hand) from 1918 is just one fine example. Works by Hoffmann, Loos, Otto Wagner, Waldmüller and Romako are also housed here.

MUMOK

The dark basalt rock building that houses the **Museum moderner Kunst** (MUMOK, Museum of Modern Art; Map pp120-1; ☎ 525 00; www.mumok.at; 07, Museumsplatz 1; adult/student €8/6.50; ☎ 10am-6pm, to 9pm Thu) is alive inside with Vienna's premier collection of 20th-century art, centred on fluxus, nouveau realism, pop art and photo-realism. The best of expressionism, cubism, minimal art and Viennese Actionism (p54)

is represented in a collection of 9000 works that are rotated and exhibited on themes. On a visit you might glimpse in the following order: a wearily slumped attendant (not part of any exhibit), photos of horribly deformed babies, a video piece of a man being led by a beautiful woman across a pedestrian crossing on a dog leash, naked bodies smeared with salad and other delights, a man parting his own buttocks, flagellation in a lecture hall, and an ultra-close up of a urinating penis. The heavy stuff comes later. Be prepared.

Kunsthalle

The **Kunsthalle** (Arts Hall; Map pp120-1; ☎ 521 890; www.kunsthallewien.at; 07, Museumsplatz 1; Hall 1 adult/student €7.50/6, Hall 2 €6/4.50, combined ticket €10.50/8.50; ☎ 10am-7pm Fri-Wed, to 10pm Thu) showcases Austrian and international contemporary art. Programmes, which run for three to six months, tend to focus mainly on photography, video, film, installation and new media.

MUSEUM FÜR ANGEWANDTE KUNST

The **Museum für angewandte Kunst** (MAK, Museum of Applied Art; Map pp120-1; ☎ 711 36-0; www.mak.at; 01, Stubenring 5; adult/child & student €7.90/5.50, free Sat, tours €2; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Sun, 10am-midnight Tue, tours in English noon Sun) is devoted to craftsmanship and art forms in everyday life. Each exhibition room showcases a different style, which includes Renaissance, baroque, orientalism, historicism, empire, Art Deco and the distinctive metalwork of the Wiener Werkstätte. Contemporary artists were invited to present the rooms in ways they felt were appropriate, the effect of which is eye-catching and unique displays. The 20th-century design and architecture room is one of the most fascinating, and Frank Gehry's cardboard chair is a gem. The museum collection encompass tapestries, lace, furniture, glassware and ornaments, and Klimt's *Stoclet Frieze* is upstairs.

The basement Study Collection has exhibits based on types of materials: glass and ceramics, metal, wood and textiles. Here you'll find anything from ancient oriental statues to unusual sofas (note the red-lips sofa).

OTHER SIGHTS OF RINGSTRASSE

Parks Relax in one of the Ring's three parks; Stadtpark (Map pp120-1; note the gold statue of Johann Strauss), Burggarten (Map pp120-1) and Volksgarten (Map pp120-1). **Postsparkasse** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 53-33088 www.ottowagner.at; 01, Georg-Coch-Platz; museum entry

adult/student & child €5/3.50; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5.30pm Thu, 10am-5pm Sat) Celebrated Post Office Savings Bank designed by Otto Wagner, with a museum giving insight into the building.

Votivkirche (Map pp120-1; 09, Rooseveltplatz; ☎ 9am-1pm & 4-6pm Tue-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun) Commissioned by Franz Josef after he survived an assassination attempt, this neo-Gothic church has an impressive façade but its interior is rather bleak and unwelcoming.

Across the Danube Canal

The districts across the Danube Canal from the Innere Stadt are predominantly residential neighbourhoods, largely bereft of individual sights of interest to the average visitor. But this is Vienna's outdoor playground.

PRATER

This large park encompasses grassy meadows, woodlands, an amusement park known as the **Wurstelprater** and one of the city's icons, the **Riesenrad** (Ferris wheel; Map pp116-17; ☎ 729 5430; www.wienerriesenrad.com; 02, Prater 90; adult/child/family €8/3.20/20; ☎ 9am-midnight May-Sep, 10am-10pm Mar, Apr, Oct, 10am-8pm Nov-Feb). Built in 1897, the wheel is 65m high and takes about 20 minutes to rotate its 430-tonne weight one complete circle, offering great views of Vienna. It achieved celluloid fame in *The Third Man* (p32) in a scene where Harry Lime is confronted by his friend Holly Martins and delivers one of the film's most poignant lines.

DONAUINSEL & ALTE DONAU

Dividing the Danube from the Neue Donau is the svelte **Donauinsel** (Map pp116-17), which stretches some 21.5km from opposite Klosterneuburg in the north to the Nationalpark Donau-Auen in the south. The island features long sections of swimming areas, concrete paths for walking and cycling, and restaurants and snack bars. The **Alte Donau** (Map pp114-15) is a landlocked arm of the Danube, a favourite of sailing and boating enthusiasts, swimmers, walkers, fishermen and, in winter (when it's cold enough), ice skaters.

Inside the Gürtel

The districts that lie inside the Gürtel are a dense concentration of apartment blocks pocketed by leafy parks, with a couple of grand baroque palaces thrown in for good measure.

SCHLOSS BELVEDERE

Belvedere is a masterpiece of total art and one of the world's finest baroque palaces. Designed by Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt (1668–1745), it was built for the brilliant military strategist, Prince Eugene of Savoy, conqueror of the Turks in 1718. The Unteres (Lower) Belvedere was built first (1714–16), with an orangery attached, and was the prince's summer residence. Connected to it by a long, landscaped garden is the Oberes (Upper) Belvedere (1721–23), the venue for the prince's banquets and other big bashes.

The palace is now home to the **Österreichische Galerie** (Austrian Gallery; combined ticket for both sections adult/child/student €12.50/5/8.50), split between the Unteres Belvedere and Orangerie, which combine to house special exhibitions, and the Oberes Belvedere, housing primarily Austrian art from the Middle Ages to the present.

Oberes Belvedere

Pride and joy of **Oberes Belvedere** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 795 57-0; www.belvedere.at; 03, Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 27; adult/student/child/€9.50/6/3; audio guide €3; 🕒 10am-6pm) are its paintings by Gustav Klimt, including his famous *The Kiss* (1908) and *Judith* (1901), which, with their rich gold tones and highly ornamental style perfectly embody Viennese Art Nouveau. Masterpieces by Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka also feature in this collection, while the Viennese Biedermeier school figures strongly through the works of Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller (1793–1865), Friedrich von Amerling (1803–87) and Peter Fendi (1796–1842). The gallery is a staggeringly beautiful who's who of Austrian art, with works by other artists of the calibre of Hans Makart (1840–84), Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928–2000), Fritz Wotruba (1907–75) and many more.

The west wing of Upper Belvedere goes beyond Austria's borders to showcase some stunning late-Gothic sculpture and panels, beginning from 1400 and culminating in the 16th century. Just one highlight here is the 15th-century Znam Altar, probably originating from Znojmo in Czech Moravia.

The baroque era finds expression in the evocative and sometimes disturbing paintings of Johann Michael Rottmayer (1654–1730) and Paul Troger (1698–1762), and the bizarrely grimacing sculptured heads of Franz Xaver Messerschmidt (1736–83).

While visiting the Upper Belvedere, try to see the elaborately stuccoed and frescoed **Marmorsaal** (Marble Hall), offering superb views over the palace gardens and Vienna.

Unteres Belvedere

Construction of **Unteres Belvedere** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 795 57-0; www.belvedere.at; 03, Rennweg 6; adult/child/student €7.50/3/4.50; 🕒 10am-6pm) took from 1714 to 1716 and is remarkable for Prince Eugene's former residential apartment and ceremonial rooms, with grandiose interiors such as in the **Groteskensaal** (Hall of the Grotesque), the **Marmorgalerie** (Marble Gallery) and the **Goldenes Zimmer** (Golden Room). Temporary exhibitions are held in Lower Belvedere and the newly redesigned **Orangerie** (Map pp120-1); the latter has a walkway offering views over Prince Eugene's private garden and to Oberes Belvedere.

Gardens

The long garden between the two Belvederes was laid out in classical French style and has sphinxes and other mythical beasts along its borders. South of the Oberes Belvedere is a small **Alpine Garden** (Map pp116-17; adult/child & student €4/3; 🕒 10am-6pm Apr-Jul), which has 3500 plant species and a bonsai section. North of here is the much larger **Botanischer Gärten** (Map pp116-17; Botanical Gardens; admission free; 🕒 9am-1hr before dusk) belonging to Vienna University.

PALAIS LIECHTENSTEIN

After many years collecting dust in depot vaults, the private collection of Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein is now displayed in the magnificent **Palais Liechtenstein** (Liechtenstein Museum; Map p122; ☎ 319 57 67-0; www.liechtensteinmuseum.at; 09, Fürstengasse 1; permanent exhibition adult/student/child €10/8/5, temporary exhibition €4, audio guide €1; 🕒 10am-5pm). It's a magnificent private collection consisting of some 200 paintings and 50 sculptures, dating from 1500 to 1700.

Built between 1690 and 1712, the palace illustrates the audacious folly and extravagance of baroque architecture. Frescoes and ceiling paintings by the likes of Johann Michael Rottmayer (1654–1730) and Marcantonio Franceschini (1648–1729) decorate the halls, staircases and corridors of this sumptuous palace.

The palace is in four sections. On the ground floor near the western staircase (left as you enter), is the **Gentlemen's Apartment**

Library, a magnificent neoclassical hall containing about 100,000 books, frescoes by Johann Michael Rothmayr and a temple-like empire clock dating from 1795. From the library you can enter galleries I–III, which have changing exhibitions. You can also enter these directly from alongside the eastern staircase (near the cloak room). After that, climb the eastern staircase, which, like its western counterpart, is decorated with Rothmayr frescoes uncovered during restoration work in 2003. Upstairs is the **Herkulessaal** (Hercules Hall) – so named for the Hercules motifs within its ceiling frescoes by renowned Roman painter Andrea Pozzo (1642–1709).

Surrounding the hall on three sides beginning from the eastern staircase (right) and culminating at the western staircase are galleries IV–X with the **permanent collection** of the palace. And what a collection this is! Seven galleries intertwine to provide a trip through 200 years of art history, starting in 1500 with early Italian panel paintings in Gallery IV. Gallery V is dedicated to late-Gothic and Renaissance portraits; Raphael's *Portrait of a Man* (1503) is a highlight here. The centrepiece of the upper floor is Gallery VII, which is home to Peter Paul Rubens' *Decius Mus* cycle (1618). Consisting of eight almost life-size paintings, the cycle depicts the life and death of Decius Mus, a Roman leader who sacrificed himself so that his army could be victorious on the battlefield. Gallery VIII is totally devoted to Rubens and Flemish baroque painting, and even more Rubens are on display in Gallery IX – this time his portraits – alongside Van Dyck and Fran Hals. The sheer exuberance and life captured by Rubens in his *Portrait of Clara Serena Rubens* (1616) is testament to the great artist's talent. Gallery X gives you a soft landing of ivory craftwork and Dutch still life.

From 2008 the palace plans to open only on Sundays, when concerts held between 2pm and 3pm in the Hercules Hall will provide the focal point of a visit to including the galleries. Check ahead for current times.

HEERESGESCHICHTLICHES MUSEUM

The superb **Heeresgeschichtliches Museum** (Museum of Military History; Map pp116-17; ☎ 795 61-60420; www.hgm.or.at; 03, Arsenal; adult/student/child under 11/family €5.10/3.30/free/7.30; 🕒 9am-5pm Sat-Thu) is housed in the Arsenal, a large neo-Byzantine barracks and munitions depot.

Spread over two floors, the museum works its way from the Thirty Years' War (1618–48) to WWII, taking in the Hungarian Uprising and the Austro-Prussian War (ending in 1866), the Napoleonic and Turkish Wars, and WWI. Highlights on the 1st floor include the Great Seal of Mustafa Pasha, which fell to Prince Eugene of Savoy in the Battle of Zenta in 1697.

On the ground floor, the room on the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 – which set off a chain of events culminating in the start of WWI – steals the show. The car he was shot in (complete with bullet holes), the sofa he bled to death on and his rather grisly blood-stained coat are on show. The eastern wing covers the Republic years after WWI up until the Anschluss in 1938; the excellent displays include propaganda posters and Nazi paraphernalia, plus video footage of Hitler hypnotising the masses.

WIEN MUSEUM

The **Wien Museum Karlsplatz** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 505 87 47-0; www.museum.vienna.at, in German; 04, Karlsplatz 5; adult/student & child €6/4; 🕒 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) is the main building of the city museum and illustrates the development of the capital through a blend of art, illustrations and historic objects. Exhibits include maps and plans, artefacts and stunning paintings by Klimt and Schiele, while Biedermeier painters like Waldmüller are worth the entrance fee alone.

KARLSKIRCHE

Southeast of Ressel Park, **Karlskirche** (St Charles' Church; Map pp120-1; ☎ 712 44 56; www.karlskirche.at; 04, Karlsplatz; adult/student/child under 10 €6/4/free; 🕒 9am-12.30pm & 1-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-5.45pm Sun) was built between 1716 and 1739 to fulfil a vow made by Charles VI following the 1713 plague. The twin columns are modelled on Trajan's Column in Rome and show scenes from the life of St Charles Borromeo (who succoured plague victims in Italy), to whom the church is dedicated. The huge oval dome is 72m high and its interior is graced by cloud-bound celestial beings painted by Johann Michael Rottmayer; while the frescoes are being restored, it's possible to take a lift up the scaffolding to the dome for a close-up look (€2).

URBAN RAMBLING ON & OFF GUMPENDORFER STRASSE

Gumpendorfer Strasse is an odd street that is definitely worth exploring to get a feel for Vienna away from Hofburg and the big attractions. A good starting point is from the top end at the Gürtel near the Gumpendorfer U-Bahn station. If you're hungry, you could even begin with a meal 'off-Gumpendorfer' at the Russian restaurant **Wladimir** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 595 25 24; www.wladimir.at; 06, Bürgerspitalgasse 22; mains €9-19; 🕒 5-11pm Tue-Sun), where the homemade Siberian *pelmeni* (ravioli) is the best of its species in town. Two blocks to the east, also off Gumpendorfer, is **Tag/Nachtasyl** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 5969 977; 06, Stumpergasse 53-55; 🕒 8pm-4am) one place in town where you will still hear Bob Dylan's 'Desolation Row' over the PA system and revolution hangs in the air. It grew out of the Charter 77 Czech dissident movement and these days mostly continues the tradition with Czech acoustic acts on stage (or occasional Gothic party).

Back on Gumpendorfer, continue past the small church at Kurt-Pint-Platz. Otto-Baugasse, left off Gumpendorfer, is a weird street with niche stores. Good to his name, **Jimmy Gotik** (Map pp116-17; 06, Otto-Baugasse 21) specialises in Gothic clothing. Jimmy's wife stitches much of it together, and Algerian Jimmy sells it off the racks. **Steman** (p148) and **Café Jelinek** (p151) are also just off Gumpendorfer here.

Going round the bend back on Gumpendorfer, you reach a concrete **flak tower** (*Flakturm*), a relic from WWII that was part of Vienna's defences. Inside this monstrosity is the **Haus des Meeres** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 14 17; www.haus-des-meeres.at; 06, Fritz-Grünbaumplatz 1; adult/student/child €10.30/7.90/4.80; 🕒 9am-6pm, till 9pm Thu), a small exhibition house replete with sea creatures and reptiles. Most interesting are its **piranha-feeding** (🕒 3pm Wed & Sun) and **snake-stroking** (🕒 2pm Wed) sessions. Those inclined towards alpine pursuits can scale a 37m face of the Flakturm, which has a **Kletterwand** (Map pp120-1; www.oaev-events.at/flakturm; adults/child per 2hr €12/8; 🕒 2-10pm Apr-Oct). It's serious climbing with clips, ropes and shoes.

Nearby Barnabitenngasse is a slice of the Mediterranean, with a clutch of average restaurants. At the top of the street, where the arch crosses, is Mariahilfer Kirche. South of Gumpendorfer and along 100m, begins the **Naschmarkt** (pp120-1) and all this eating mile has to offer. Late-night crawlers can drop into the **Café Drechsler** (Map pp120-1), which closes for one hour each day. In Joaneliggasse, you'll find the remarkable **Einhorn** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 586 32 12; 06, Joaneliggasse 7; 🕒 4pm-4am Sun-Fri, 1pm-4am Sat), which used to be a jazz place but is now a relaxed, downbeat hangout with table football downstairs. Continuing along Gumpendorfer for the final leg, you reach **Café Sperl** (Map pp120-1), and across the road **Phil** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 581 04 89; 06, Gumpendorfer Strasse 10-12; 🕒 10-1am Tue-Sun, 5pm-1am Mon), another downbeat bar, also selling books and CDs; later come **Ra'mien** (Map pp120-1) and **Felixa** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 920 47 14; Gumpendorfer Strasse 5; mains €9-15; 🕒 7pm-3am), a mixed hetero and gay bar with a daily menu and some good wines.

Topping off the urban trek is **Top Kino Bar** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 208 30 00; Rahlgasse 1; 🕒 10-2am), which serves the Czech Kozel beer, has small balconies where you can loll in a warm breeze, and is part of an art-house cinema.

KUNSTHAUSWIEN

This **art gallery** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 712 04 91; www.kunsthau.wien.com; 03, Untere Weissgerberstrasse 13; adult/student & child €9/7, incl temporary exhibitions €12/9, half-price Mon; 🕒 10am-7pm) looks like something out of a toy shop. It was designed by Friedensreich Hundertwasser, whose highly innovative buildings feature uneven floors, coloured ceramics, patchwork decoration, irregular corners, and grass and trees on the roof. The permanent collection is something of a tribute to Hundertwasser, showcasing his paintings, graphics, tapestry, his philosophy on ecology, and architecture.

While you're in the area, walk down the road to see the exterior of **Hundertwasserhaus** (Map pp116-17; nr Löwengasse & Kegelegasse), a block of residential flats also designed by the artist. Opposite is the **Kalke Village** (Map pp116-17; 🕒 9am-5pm, 9am-7pm summer), another piece of Hundertwasser handiwork housing cafés and souvenir and art shops.

Other attractions worth sniffing out: **Haydnhaus** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 596 13 07; 06, Haydnngasse 19; adult/student & child €2/1; 🕒 10am-1pm & 2-6pm Wed & Thu, 10am-1pm Fri-Sun) Features a smattering of period furniture and memorabilia from Haydn, who lived here from 1796 till 1809; he composed *The Creation* and *The Seasons* under its roof. There are also rooms devoted to Brahms.

Majolikahaus (Map pp120-1; 06, Linke Wienzeile 40) Art Nouveau masterpiece by Otto Wagner, so named for the majolica tiles used to create the flowing floral motifs on the façade.

Signmund Freud Museum (Map p122; ☎ 319 15 96; www.freud-museum.at; 09, Berggasse 19; adult/student/child €7/4.50/2.50; 🕒 9am-5pm) Former house of the famous psychologist, now housing a small museum featuring some of his personal belongings.

Stadtbahn Pavilions (Map pp120-1; ☎ 505 87 47-84 059; 04, Karlsplatz; adult/student & child €2/1; 🕒 9am-6pm Tue-Sun Apr-Oct) *Jugendstil* pavilions designed by Otto Wagner for Vienna's first public transport system.

Outside the Gürtel

The districts that fall outside the Gürtel are quite an unusual blend. Parts are rather dull and uninviting (by Viennese standards) – in particular towards the south – while others are beautiful beyond belief and home to some of Vienna's greatest treasures.

SCHLOSS SCHÖNBRUNN

The regal rooms of **Schloss Schönbrunn** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 811 13-0; www.schoenbrunn.at; 13 Schloss Schönbrunn; Imperial tour adult/student/child €9.50/8.50/4.90, grand tour €12.90/11.40/6.90; 🕒 8.30am-6pm Jul-Aug, 8.30am-5pm Apr-Jun & Sep-Oct, 8.30am-4.30pm Nov-Mar) are in a league of their own in Vienna; the interior is a majestic conflux of frescoed ceilings, crystal chandeliers and gilded ornaments.

Commissioned by Leopold I, the palace was completed by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach in 1700 but never quite reached the grandeur he originally envisaged; it nevertheless has a startling 1441 rooms, of which 40 are open to the public. The full quota is viewed in the Grand Tour, which takes in the apartments of Franz Joseph I and Empress Elisabeth, the ceremonial and state rooms, and the audience chambers of Maria Theresia and her husband Franz Stephan. The Imperial Tour excludes the chambers of Maria Theresia and Franz Stephan and takes in 22 rooms.

Both tours start in the west wing at the bottom of the **Blauerstiege** (Blue Staircase) and climb to the private rooms of Franz Joseph I and Sisi. The ceremonial and state rooms start with the **Spiegelsaal** (Hall of Mirrors) where Mozart (then six) played his first royal concert in the presence of Maria Theresia in 1762. The pinnacle of finery is reached in the **Grosse Galerie** (Great Gallery), where gilded scrolls, ceiling frescoes, chandeliers and huge crystal mirrors are used to staggering effect.

Numerous sumptuous balls were held here, including one for delegates attending the Congress of Vienna (1814-15).

Near the Great Gallery is the **Round Chinese Room**, which features a hidden doorway and table that can be drawn up through the floor. The Imperial Tour ends with the **Ceremonial Hall**, while the Grand Tour continues onto the **Blue Chinese Room**, where Charles I abdicated in 1918, and the **Million Room**, named after the sum that Maria Theresia paid for the decorations, which comprise Persian miniatures set on rosewood panels and framed with gilded rocaille frames. While not joined to the main set of rooms, the **Bergl Rooms** are worth visiting for the paintings of Johann Wenzl Bergl (1718-89); his exotic depictions of flora and fauna quite successfully bring inside the palace's garden setting.

Gardens

The palace **gardens** (admission free; 🕒 6am-dusk Apr-Oct, 6.30am-dusk Nov-Mar), arranged in the French style, are a symphony of colour in the summer and a fusion of demure greys and browns in winter. The extensive grounds reveal a number of attractions along tree-lined avenues, including fake **Roman ruins**, the **Neptunbrunnen** (Neptune Fountain) and the Classical colonnaded **Gloriette** (adult/student/child €1.99/1.50/1; 🕒 9am-6pm Apr-Sep, till 5pm Oct), offering a stunning 360-degree panorama. The original **Schöner Brunnen fountain**, from which the palace gained its name, now pours through the stone pitcher of a nymph near the Roman ruins.

The **Palmenhaus** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 877 50 87-406; adult/student & child €4/2.80; 🕒 9.30am-6pm May-Sep, 9.30am-5pm Oct-Apr) is a glorious glass and iron construction still housing palms and hot-house plants from around the world. Close by is the **Wüstenhaus** (Desert House; Map pp116-17; ☎ 877 50 87-406; adult/student & child €6/4; 🕒 9am-6pm May-Sep, 9am-5pm Oct-Apr), which makes good use of the Sonnenuhrhaus (Sun Dial House) to recreate arid desert scenes.

Behind both is the world's oldest zoo, **Tiergarten** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 877 92 94; www.zoo.wien.at; 13, Maxingstrasse 13b; adult/student/child €12/5/4; 🕒 9am-6.30pm Apr-Sep, 9am-5.30pm Mar & Oct, 9am-5pm Feb, 9am-4.30pm Nov-Jan). Founded in 1752 as a menagerie by Franz Stephan, the zoo now houses some 750 animals of all shapes and sizes; thankfully most of the original cramped cages have been updated. The **Tirolerhof**, inside

the Tiergarten, is a real highlight both for adults and kids (see p138).

Wagenburg

The **Wagenburg** (Imperial Coach Collection; Map pp116-17; ☎ 877 32 44; 13; Schloss Schönbrunn; adult/student & child/family €4.50/3/9, audio guide €2; ☞ 9am-6pm Apr-Oct, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar) displays carriages ranging from tiny children's wagons up to sumptuous vehicles of state, but nothing can compete with Emperor Franz I Stephen's (1708-65) coronation carriage. Weighing in at 4000kg, it is literally dripping in ornate gold plating and has Venetian glass panes and painted cherubs.

ZENTRALFRIEDHOF

Opened in 1874, the **Zentralfriedhof** (Central Cemetery; Map pp114-15; ☎ 760 41-0; 11, Simmeringer Hauptstrasse 230-244; admission free; ☞ information office 7.30am-3pm Mon-Sat; cemetery 7am-7pm May-Aug, 7am-6pm Mar, Apr, Sep & Oct, 8am-5pm Nov-Feb) has grown to become one of Europe's largest cemeteries – larger than the Innere Stadt and, with 2½ million graves, far exceeding the population of Vienna itself.

It contains the lion's share of tombs of Vienna's greats, including numerous famous composers: Gluck, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Schönberg and the whole Strauss clan are buried here in the cold ground. A monument to Mozart has also been erected, but he was actually buried in an unmarked mass grave in the **St Marxer Friedhof** (Map pp116-17; 03, Leberstrasse 6-8; ☞ 7am-7pm Jun-Aug, 7am-6pm May & Sep, 7am-5pm Apr & Oct, 7am-dusk Nov-Mar). The Ehrgräber (Tombs of Honour) in the Zentralfriedhof are just beyond Gate Two and, in addition to the clump of famous composers, those pushing up daisies include Hans Makart, sculptor Fritz Wotruba, architects Theophil Hansen and Adolf Loos, and the man of Austrian Pop, Falco (Hans Hölzel; see boxed text, p49).

KIRCHE AM STEINHOF

Situated in the grounds of the Psychiatric Hospital of the City of Vienna, **Kirche am Steinhof** (Art Nouveau church; Map pp114-15; ☎ 910 60-11 204; 14, Baumgartner Höhe 1; tours €4; ☞ 3-4pm Sat) is the remarkable achievement of Otto Wagner from 1904 to 1907. Kolo Moser chipped in with the mosaic windows, and the roof is topped by a copper-covered dome that earned the nickname *Limoniberg* (lemon mountain) from its original golden colour. It's a bold statement in

an asylum that has other Art Nouveau buildings, and it could only be pushed through by Wagner because the grounds were far from the public gaze.

ACTIVITIES

With its abundance of parks, waterways and woodlands, Vienna is a great city for fresh air and outdoor fun.

Boating

The Alte Donau is the main boating and sailing centre in Vienna, but the Neue Donau also provides opportunities for boating, windsurfing and water skiing. Places to rent boats include **Hofbauer** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 203 86 80; www.hofbauer.at, in German; 22, Wagramerstrasse 49; ☞ Apr-mid-Oct), which has electric boats for €13.50 for an hour, rudder boats (basically dinghies) for €7, and paddle boats for €11. You can also windsurf down the Danube for €11. The **sailing school** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 204 34 35; www.hofbauer.at; 22, An der Oberen Alten Donau 191; ☞ Apr-Oct) is on the eastern bank of the Alte Donau and has sailing boats for hire, and lessons in English.

Cycling

Vienna's layout and well-marked cycle lanes make cycling a pleasant and popular pastime, especially along the banks of the Danube, in the Prater and around the Ringstrasse. The Wienerwald is also popular for mountain biking; check the websites www.mbike.at and www.mtbwienerwald.at (both in German) for ideas and trails. For bike hire, see p159.

Swimming

The Donauinsel, Alte Donau and Lobau (all free bathing) are hugely popular places for taking a dip on steamy hot summer days. Topless sunbathing is quite the norm, as is nude sunbathing but only in designated areas; much of Lobau and both tips of the Donauinsel are *Frei Körper Kultur* (FKK, nude-bathing areas).

Complementing these natural swimming areas are numerous swimming pools owned and run by the city. In general, entry to these pools costs about €4.50/2.50 for adults/children. Some of the better ones are **Amalienbad** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 607 47 47; 10, Reumannplatz 23; ☞ 9am-6pm Tue & Sun, 9am-9.30pm Wed & Fri, 7am-9.30pm Thu, 7am-8pm Sat, 12.30-3.30pm Mon), a stunning *Jugendstil* bath (Monday sessions for seniors and people with disabilities only); **Strandbad Gänsehäufel** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 269 90 16; 22, Moissiggasse 21; ☞ 9am-

7pm Mon-Fri, 8am-7pm Sat & Sun 2 May-13 May & 27 Aug-16 Sep, 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm Sat & Sun 14 May-26 Aug), occupying a section of island in the Alte Donau; and the lovely **Thermalbad Oberlaa** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 6800 99600; 10, Kurbadstrasse 14; adult/child €9.60/6 for 2½hr; ☞ 8.45am-10pm Mon-Sat, 7.45am-10pm Sun), a large thermal complex with both indoor and outdoor pools.

For a full list of pools call ☎ 60112 8044 between 7.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday or log on to www.wien.at/baeder (in German).

Walking

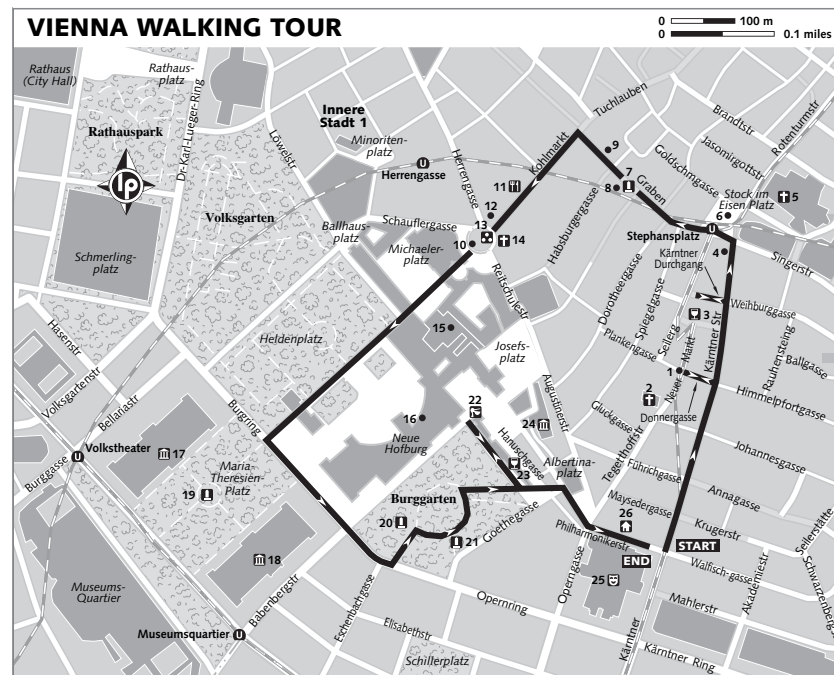
To the west of the city, the rolling hills and marked trails of the Wienerwald are perfect for walkers. A good trail heading in the woods to the north of Vienna starts in Nussdorf (take tram D from the Ring) and climbs Kahlenberg (484m), a hill offering views of the city. On your return to Nussdorf you can undo all that exercise by imbibing at a *Heuriger*. The round trip is around 11km, or you can spare yourself the leg-work by taking the Nussdorf-Kahlenberg 38A bus in one or both directions.

The Prater (p131) also has a wood with walking trails, and the densely forested Lainzer Tiergarten (Map pp114-15) animal reserve, a wild park in the west of Vienna, is perfect for roaming.

WALKING TOUR

This 1½- to two-hour walk (2.5km) takes you through some well-trodden tourist trails in Vienna. Some instantly recognisable sights (Stephansdom and the Hofburg) dominate this quarter of the Innere Stadt while Kärntner Strasse, Graben and Kohlmarkt attract shoppers by the busloads.

Start your walk heading north from the southern end of pedestrian-only Kärntner Strasse, a walkway of plush shops, trees, cafés and street entertainers. Detour left down the short Donnerzgasse to take a peek at the **Donnerbrunnen (1)** in Neuer Markt, a fountain with four naked figures representing the main tributaries of the Danube: the Enns, March, Traun and Ybbs. Across the square is the **Kaisergruft (2)**; p127). Back on Kärntner Strasse, detour left again down Kärntner Durchgang. Here you'll find the **American Bar**



(3; p150), designed in 1908 by Adolf Loos, one of the prime exponents of a functional Art Nouveau style.

From Kärntner Strasse, the street opens out into Stock im Eisen Platz. Note the **nail-studded stump (4)**, said to have acquired its crude metal jacket in the 16th century from blacksmiths banging in a nail for luck when they left the city. Directly ahead is Vienna's symbol, Gothic **Stephansdom (5)**; p124), offset by the unashamedly modern **Haas Haus (6)**. Many Viennese were rather unhappy about this curving silver structure crowding their beloved cathedral, but tourists seem happy enough to snap the spindly reflections of Stephansdom's spire in its rectangular windows.

Leading northwest from Stock im Eisen Platz is the broad pedestrian thoroughfare of **Graben**, another plush shopping street. It's dominated by the knobbly outline of the **Pestsäule (7)**, completed in 1693 to commemorate the 75,000 victims of the Black Death. Adolf Loos had a hand in the Graben's appearance, creating the **Schneidersalon Knize (8)** and the nearby **toilets (9)**. Turning left into Kohlmarkt, so named because charcoal was once sold here, the arresting sight of **Michaelertor (10)**, the Hofburg's north-eastern gate on Michaelerplatz, comes into view. Towards the end of Kohlmarkt, on the right-hand side, is one of the most famous of the Konditorei-style cafés in Vienna, **Demel (11)**; p151).

Reaching Michaelerplatz, keep an eye out for the **Loos Haus (12)**, a perfect example of the clean lines of Loos' work. Franz Josef hated it and described the windows, which lack lintels, as 'windows without eyebrows'. The **excavations (13)** in the middle of the square are of Roman origin. **Michaelerkirche (14)** on the square portrays five centuries of architectural styles, ranging from 1327 (Romanesque chancel) to 1792 (baroque doorway angels).

Cross Michaelerplatz and pass through the imposing Michaelertor and past the **Schweizertor (15)** to Heldenplatz and the impressive **Neue Burg (16)**; p126), built between 1881 and 1908. Continue on past the line of **Fiakers** (horse-drawn carriages), noting the Gothic spire of the **Rathaus (p128)** rising above the trees to the right. Ahead, on the far side of the Ring, stand the rival identical twins, the **Naturhistorisches Museum (17)**; p129) and the **Kunsthistorisches Museum (18)**; p128); between them is a proud **statue**

of **Maria Theresia (19)**, surrounded by key figures of her reign.

Turn left onto the Ring and, once past the Neue Burg, turn left again into the peaceful **Burggarten**, formerly reserved for the pleasure of the imperial family and high-ranking officials. It now contains **statues of Mozart (20)** and **Franz Josef (21)**, the **Schmetterlinghaus (22)**; Butterfly House; ☎ 533 85 70; adult/senior/student/child €5/4.50/4/2.50; ☎ 10am-4.45pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6.15pm Sat & Sun Apr-Oct, 10am-3.45pm Nov-Mar) and the **Palmenhaus (23)**; p150).

Only a hop, skip and a jump from the Burggarten is the newly renovated **Albertina (24)**; p127) on Albertinaplatz. The square is home to a troubling work by sculptor and graphic artist Alfred Hrdlicka (1928-), created in 1988. This series of pale block-like sculptures commemorates Jews and other victims of war and fascism.

From here it's not far down Philharmonikerstrasse to the starting point of this walk. On your way you'll pass the rear of the grand **Staatsoper (25)**; p152) and the frontage of **Hotel Sacher (26)**; p143), a perfect spot to rest those weary legs.

VIENNA FOR CHILDREN

It was once said the Viennese love dogs more than they love children, and while this might be true for some folk, Vienna is actually quite child-friendly. Its museums, attractions and theatres, such as the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Albertina, arrange children's programmes over the summer months.

The **Prater (p131)**, with its wide playing fields, playgrounds and funfair, is ideal for children. **Praterfee (Map pp116-17; ☎ 729 49 99-82; Prater 121, Prater Hauptallee; trampoline per 5 min €5, inflatable mountain €3.50, somersault trampoline €6; ☎ 11am-8pm, depending on weather) has a cool trampoline area where adults can enjoy a drink outside while the kids soar into the sky. One place that is just as fascinating for adults as kids (and adults can also relax here over a drink and sausage while the kids see the animals) is the **Tirolerhof (Map pp116-17)** inside the Tiergarten at Schloss Schönbrunn. Actually an historic farmhouse from Tyrol deconstructed and rebuilt inside the zoo, it holds ancient Noric horses, as well as goats, bulls, chickens and other farm animals. The **Donauinsel (p131)** is another place where kids can run off their energy. Swimming pools, located here and**

throughout Vienna, are free to children under 15 over the summer school holidays.

Aside from summer programmes and parks, two museums are aimed directly at kids. **Zoo (Map pp120-1; ☎ 524 79 08; www.kindermuseum.at; 07, Museumsplatz 1; child €5, accompanying adult free; ☎ 8.30am-4pm)**, next door to the WienXtra-Kinderinfo (p123) in the MuseumsQuartier, is a bonanza for kids, with a craft studio and ocean, lab, science and exhibition sections (some of these multimedia) for exciting sessions of about 1½ or two hours aimed at kids between the ages of zero and 14; book ahead. Schönbrunn's **Kindermuseum (Map pp116-17; ☎ 811 13-239; www.schoenbrunn.at; 13, Schloss Schönbrunn; adult/child/family €6.50/4.50/17; ☎ 10am-5pm Sat & Sun, 10am-5pm during school holidays) focuses quite understandably on the 16 children of Maria Theresa and the kids dress up in costume. But it's not all hob-nobbing – they'll also find out what aspects of life made the right royal Habsburgs different from mere lowlife mortals. The obvious – fortune, fame, pets you can ride – are a start.**

The tourist office publishes a good brochure in English that covers things either of interest to kids or especially for kids – it's called *For heads of families and their parents*.

TOURS

Vienna has everything from bus tours to horse-drawn carriage rides, so if you're looking for a guided tour of the city you'll find something to suit your taste. Bus tours are good if you're very short on time and want to pack in as much as possible, while the walking tours are perfect if you're interested in learning more on a specific topic.

Cityrama (Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 130; www.viennasightseeing.at; 01, Börsegasse 1; adult €17-109, child €7-45) Half- and full-day bus tours of Vienna and attractions within a day's striking distance of the city, including Salzburg, Budapest and Prague. Some tours require an extra fee for admission to sights, such as training at the Spanish Riding School.

DDSG Blue Danube (Map pp120-1; ☎ 588 80; www.ddsg-blue-danube.at; 01, Schwedenbrücke; full-tour adult/child €16.80/8.40, half-tour €12/6, children under 10 free; ☎ 2-5 times daily Apr-Oct) Boat trips circumnavigate the districts of Leopoldstadt and Brigittenau via the Danube and Danube Canal.

Fiaker (20min/40min/1hr tour €40/65/75) More of a tourist novelty than anything else, a *Fiaker* is a traditional-style open carriage drawn by a pair of horses. Drivers generally speak English and point out places of interest en route. Lines of horses, carriages and bowler-hatted drivers can be found at Stephansplatz, Albertinaplatz and Heldenplatz at the Hofburg.

QUIRKY VIENNA

Vienna has an unusually morbid side. Free-wheeling Viennese charm in a wine tavern, one expert on Viennese morbidity tells us, can easily deteriorate into 'profound death melancholia'. Worrying stuff. The abundance of crypts, the creation of the world's first crisis-intervention centre in Vienna – in 1948, incidentally, by a man with the unfortunate moniker Dr Suicide (the Romanian Dr Erwin Ringel, 1921-94) – and even the 'melancholy' waltz are held up as shining examples of Vienna's morbid side. An 'economy coffin' was even invented by Kaiser Joseph II in 1785 that allowed you to drop your relatives through a flap underneath and reuse it. Along with a bell placed inside coffins to alert relatives that your number was not quite up, this contraption and about 600 other exhibits are at the uplifting **Bestattungsmuseum (Undertaker's Museum; Map pp116-17; ☎ 501 95-4227; 04, Goldegasse 19; adult/student & child €4.50/2.50; ☎ by prior arrangement noon-3pm Mon-Fri).**

The **Pathologisch-Anatomisches Bundesmuseum (Pathological-Anatomy Museum; Map p122; ☎ 406 86 72; 09, Spittelgasse 2; admission €2; ☎ 3-6pm Wed, 8-11am Thu), housed in the Narrenturm (Fool's Tower), a former insane asylum, is possibly the most bizarre attraction. It's filled with medical oddities and abnormalities preserved in jars of formaldehyde, and the odd wax model with a grisly disease.**

Also known as the Geschichte der Medizin (Museum of Medical History), the **Josephinum (Map p122; ☎ 4277 63 422; 09, Währinger Strasse 25; adult/student €2/1; ☎ 9am-3pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm 1st Sat every month) features ceroplastic and wax specimen models of the human frame, created over 200 years ago for the Academy of Medico-Surgery to improve the skills of army surgeons. Marginally tamer – until you reach the blow-up photographs of murdered and dismembered corpses – is the **Wiener Kriminalmuseum (Map pp116-17; ☎ 214 46 78; Grosse Spertlgasse 24; ☎ 10am-5pm Thu-Sun), covering all manner of crime in the capital.****

GAY & LESBIAN VIENNA

Vienna is reasonably tolerant towards gays and lesbians, and things get better each year. Even the Vienna Tourist Board does their bit; their *Queer Guide* booklet has listings of bars, restaurants, hotels and festivals, while their *Vienna Gay Guide* is a city map with gay locations marked up. *Xtra* and *Night Life* (www.nightlifeonline.at, in German), two free monthly publications, are additional supplements packed with news, views and listings (in German only).

The best organisation in town is the **Rosa Lila Villa** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 586 8150; www.villa.at; 06, Linke Wienzeile 102), an unmissable pink house by the Wien River. Its **Lesbian Centre** (☎ 586 81 50; lesbenberatung@villa.at; ☎ 5-8pm Mon, Wed & Fri) is on the ground floor, while its **Gay Men's Centre** (☎ 585 43 43; schwulenberatung@villa.at; ☎ 5-8pm Mon, Wed & Sat) is on the 1st floor. **Homosexuelle Initiative Wien** (HOSI; Map pp116-17; ☎ 216 66 04; www.hosiwien.at, in German; 02, Novargasse 40), another helpful organisation, is politically minded and holds regular events.

Events to look out for on the gay and lesbian calendar include the **Regenbogen Parade** (Rainbow Parade), a colourful parade that takes over the Ring and MuseumsQuartier at the end of June, the **Life Ball** (www.lifeball.org), an AIDS-charity event around the middle of May, **Wien ist andersrum** (www.andersrum.at), a month-long extravaganza of gay and lesbian art in June, and **Identities – Queer Film Festival** (www.identities.at), a film festival showcasing queer movies, also in June.

Unfortunately there isn't much in the way of accommodation aimed at gay and lesbians; Hotel-Pension Wild (p143) is one option.

The Scene

Vienna has enough bars and clubs to entertain its gay and lesbian community, while some straight clubs, like U4 (p154), feature gay nights on a weekly basis. **Rainbow** (www.rainbow.at/guide) has a scene guide for large cities.

Café Berg (Map p122; ☎ 319 57 20; 09, Berggasse 8; ☎ 10am-1am) With some of the nicest staff in Vienna, a lovely, open layout and all-round friendly vibe, it's no wonder Café Berg is often full with a gay and straight crowd. Its bookshop, Löwenherz, stocks a grand collection of gay magazines and books.

Café Willendorf (Map pp116-17; ☎ 587 17 89; 06, Linke Wienzeile 102; ☎ 6pm-2am) This is one of Vienna's seminal gay and lesbian bars in Vienna, housed in the pink Rosa Lila Villa.

Frauencafé (Map pp120-1; ☎ 406 37 54; 05, Lange Gasse 8; ☎ 7pm-midnight Tue-Thu, till 2am Sat & Sun) A long-established strictly women-only café/bar.

Frauzentrum Bar (Map p122; ☎ 402 87 54; 09, Währinger Strasse 59; ☎ 7pm-midnight Thu-Sat) Regular clubbing nights and more political events happen here in this lesbian woman-only venue.

Santo Spirito (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 99 98; 01, Kumpfgasse 7; ☎ 6pm-2am) Attracting both a gay and straight crowd, Santo Spirito specialises in classical music at high decibels. In summer, customers spill out onto the cobblestone street to take a break from the noise.

Why Not? (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 11 58; www.why-not.at; 01, Tiefer Graben 22; ☎ 10pm-6am Fri & Sat) Why Not? is small, very central and pops at the seams on weekends, when it fills quickly mainly with young gay guys.

guides and booklets are available between 10am and 7pm from **Musikmeile Wien Servicestelle** (Map pp120-1; ☎ reservations 588-300; 01, Stephansplatz), **Wien-Ticket Pavillon** (Map pp120-1; 01, Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz) and **Theater an der Wien** (Map pp120-1; 01, Linke Wienzeile 6).

Old Timer Trams (☎ 7909-105; www.wiener-tramway-museum.org; adult/child €15/5) On weekends and holidays from May to October, streetcars from 1929 trundle through Vienna on one-hour tours of the city. Departures from Stadt Pavillions at Karlsplatz (Map pp120-1).

Hop On-Hop Off Vienna Line (☎ 712 46 83; www.viennasightseeingtours.com; 01, Opernring; 1hr/2hr/all-day tickets adult €12/15/20, all tickets child €7; ☎ 10am-5pm) Bus tour passing 13 major sights. You can hop on and off the buses as many times as you wish. The main bus stop is outside the Staatsoper.

Music Mile Vienna (www.musikmeile.at; 3hr tour €5, extra hr €1.50) Audio-guided walking tour from Stephansdom to Theater an der Wien past some 70 stars embedded in the footpath commemorating musical geniuses related to Vienna in one way or another. Audio

Pedal Power (Map pp116-17; ☎ 729 72 34; www.pedalpower.at; 02, Ausstellungsstrasse 3; tour with own bike adult/child €19/10, with hired bike €23/12) Half-day bicycle tours in and around Vienna from May to September, starting at 10am. Five unguided tours are offered: Innere Stadt and the Prater; Donau National Park and Lobau; Donauinsel and Klosterneuburg; Donauinsel and the *Heurigen* of Stammersdorf; and Classical Music Memorials and the Zentralfriedhof.

Reisebuchladen (Map pp120-1; ☎ 317 33 84; reisebuchladen@aon.at; 09, Kolingasse 6; tour €24; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm Sat) This travel agency caters mainly for groups but will fit in individuals on alternative bus tours, including tours of Red Vienna, *Jugendstil* architecture and Hundertwasser creations.

Vienna Sightseeing Tours (☎ 712 46 830; www.viennasightseeingtours.com; tour €35) Run by the same company that organises the Hop On-Hop Off tours, Vienna Sightseeing Tours offers a wide variety of half- and full-day bus tours in English with free hotel pick-up.

Vienna Tour Guides (☎ 774 89 01; www.wienguide.at; adult/child €13/6) Group of highly knowledgeable guides who conduct 40 different guided walking tours, 11 of which are in English. Everything from Art Nouveau architecture to Jewish traditions in Vienna is covered; one of the most popular is the Third Man Tour. The monthly *Wiener Spaziergänge* leaflet from the tourist office provides details of all the walks.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Regardless of the time of year, there will be something special happening in Vienna; pick up a copy of the monthly booklet of events from the tourist office. Tickets for many events are available to personal callers at Wien-Ticket Pavillon (Map pp120-1) in the hut by the Staatsoper.

Christkindlmärkte Vienna's much-loved Christmas market season runs from mid-November to Christmas Day.

Donauinselfest Free three-day festival of rock, pop, hardcore, folk and country music on the Donauinsel in June.

Impuls Tanz (☎ 523 55 58; www.impulstanz.com) Vienna's premier avant-garde dance festival attracts an array of internationally renowned troupes and newcomers between mid-July and mid-August.

Jazzfest Wien (☎ 408 60 30; www.viennajazz.org) The major jazz festival, held in June/July.

Jazzwerkstatt (www.jazzwerkstatt.at) Innovative jazz festival organised by a musician collective each March.

Lange Nacht der Museen (www.langenacht.orf.at) On one late-September/October evening some 500 museums nationwide open their doors to visitors between 6pm and 1am. One ticket (adult/child €12/10; available at museums) allows entry to all of them.

Musikfilm Festival (01, Rathausplatz) Screenings of operas, operettas and concerts outside the Rathaus in July and August.

Operball (☎ 514 44-7880; 01, Staatsoper) Of the 300 or so balls held in January and February, the Operball (Opera Ball) is the ultimate. It's a supremely lavish affair, with the men in tails and women in shining white gowns.

OsterKlang Festival (☎ 427 17; www.osterklang.at) Orchestral and chamber music recitals in some of Vienna's best music halls, the highlight of which is the opening concert featuring the Vienna Philharmonic. Held at the beginning of April.

Silvester The Innere Stadt becomes one big party zone for Silvester (New Year's Eve), which features loads of alcohol and far too many fireworks in crowded streets.

Viennale (☎ 526 59 47; www.viennale.at) The country's biggest and best film festival, featuring fringe and independent films from around the world in October.

Volksstimmefest (www.kpoe.at, in German) Communist festival over a weekend around the end of August/beginning of September in the Prater (p131); features some 30 live acts and attracts a bizarre mix of hippies and staunch party supporters.

Wiener Festwochen (☎ 589 22-22; www.festwochen.or.at) Wide-ranging programme of arts from around the world, from May to mid-June.

SLEEPING

Sleeping options in Vienna range from basic youth hostels and student residences to hotels where chandeliers, antique furniture and original 19th-century oil paintings decorate hallowed hallways and rooms. Between these extremes are homy pensions and less ostentatious hotels, plus a small but smart range of apartments for long-term rentals.

Prices given here are for the high season, which is from June to September. Around Christmas and New Year they can rise above this. Except in winter, it's highly advisable to book ahead. Always check for weekend or web deals that might work out cheaper.

There are a handful of campsites on the outskirts of Vienna; all are listed online at www.wiencamping.at. Another cheap option is student residences, which are converted to seasonal hotels between July and September.

Accommodation Agencies

Tourist Info Wein (p124) can arrange accommodation, but charges a small commission per reservation irrespective of the number of rooms booked. Staff can help find private rooms but don't provide lists. They have a *Jugendherbergen* pamphlet detailing youth

hostels and campsites, and a booklet of hotels and pensions.

Viennese looking for apartments rely on word-of-mouth or turn to *Bazar* magazine. It's the paper if you're looking to buy, sell or rent anything, including flats or rooms. The time scale of places on offer may range from indefinite rental to occupation of a flat for a month or so while the resident is on holiday. *Falter*, *Kurier* and *Der Standard* also have accommodation ads.

Some short-term apartment rental outfits:

Appartement Pension Riemergasse (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 72 200; www.riemergasse.at; 01, Riemergasse 8; apartments per night/month from €225/2707) Apartments (five minutes' walk from Stephansdom) all come with a kitchenette, telephone, cable TV, toilet and bath or shower.

Levante Laudon (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 45 1551; 08, Laudongasse 8; apartments per day from €90, or €72 after 22 days) Small selection of fully furnished apartments in various sizes with washing machines and dryers in the basement and cleaning.

Singerstrasse Apartments (Map pp120-1; ☎ 514 49-0; www.singerstrasse2125.at; 01, Singerstrasse 21-25; weekly/monthly apartments from €609/2190, end cleaning €25-50) Apartments come complete with telephone, satellite TV, internet facilities for laptops (bring a network cable) and kitchenette.

Choosing a Location

Prices in the Innere Stadt are often higher than elsewhere; hotels and pensions between the Ring and the Gürtel can be good value but these are less convenient to major sights. If you have a car, leave it out in the suburbs and use public transport rather than pay the high parking fees (anything from €6 to €26).

Innere Stadt BUDGET

Schweizer Pension (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 81 56; www.schweizerpension.com; 01, Heinrichsgasse 2; s €36-65, d €58-87) Cheaper rooms here are without their own bathroom. This small, family-run pension is a superb deal, with homely touches and accreditation for being environmentally friendly. Book in advance, though, as it has only 11 rooms and is popular among those on squeezed budgets.

Pension Nossek (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 70 41-0; www.pension-nossek.at; 01, Graben 17; s/d €73/115) Get in early here, too; Nossek's a strong choice not least because of its great Innere Stadt location, cosy feel and some nice rooms facing a courtyard.

MIDRANGE

Hotel-Pension Suzanne (Map pp120-1; ☎ 513 25 07; www.pension-suzanne.at; 01, Walfischgasse 4; s €78, d €98-119; ☎) One of the nicest among the central places, Suzanne has a high comfort factor and a low-key, downbeat ambience; from here it's just a short hop to the Staatsoper.

Aviano (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 83 30; 01, Marco-d'Aviano-Gasse 1; s €95, d €136-157) Aviano hangs out the window a long way when it comes to style: the precarious cream tones of period furniture and decoration here may not be to everyone's taste, but it rates highly for comfort.

Pertschy Pension (Map pp120-1; ☎ 534 49-0; www.pertschy.com; 01, Habsburgergasse 5; s €90-105, d €133-167) This gem of a pension has a peaceful inner courtyard, spacious rooms and toys for the toddlers. Here the very traditional furnishings of the rooms add nicely to the charm and old-world feel.

Hotel Amadeus (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 87 38; www.hotel-amadeus.at; 01, Wildpretmarkt 5; s €93-129, d €172; ☎) Maybe Wolfgang liked nothing better than a padded surface to bounce about on. Amadeus has carpeting on the ceiling of a lift and on the walls, and a padded lobby ceiling, making it a colourful, warm and very unusual place.

Hotel Austria (Map pp120-1; ☎ 515 23; www.hotel.austria-wien.at; 01, Am Fleischmarkt 20; s €97, d €139-149, apt €189; ☎) Solid wood furnishings set the comfortable standard in this hotel with a summer terrace to the courtyard. The owners are continuously upgrading furnishings in the spacious rooms, some of which are also very quiet.

Hotel Kaiserin Elisabeth (Map pp120-1; ☎ 515 26; www.kaiserinelisabeth.at; 01, Weihburggasse 3; s €122, d €208-230) It's unusual to find a chandelier mounted in a skylight; you'll find one here. The likes of Mozart, Wagner and Liszt graced this hotel where rooms have a turn-of-the-century touch.

Hollmann Beletage (Map pp120-1; ☎ 96 11 960; www.hollmann-beletage.at; 01, Köllnerhofgasse 6; r €140-180; ☎) Book early for this stylish and very popular choice in the Innere Stadt. Rooms have interesting design touches and are decked out in light styles and tones that lift; extras like a guest lounge well stocked with books make the difference.

ourpick **Hotel am Stephansplatz** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 53 405-0; www.hotelamstephansplatz.at; 01, Stephansplatz 9; s €145-165, d €210-305, tr/ste €250/450) Someone has thought very hard about design elements while creating this charming hotel. Most

rooms are lit by pairs of windows, some of these corner windows or ceiling to floor. Here your partner can lie in bed and admire the Gothic elegance of Stephansdom towering to your kneecaps. Rooms are tastefully appointed, quiet and surprisingly spacious for such a central location.

König von Ungarn (Map pp120-1; ☎ 515 84-0; www.kvu.at; 01, Schulerstrasse 10; s €145-165, d €208, apt €290-340; ☎) The King of Hungary pulls off a tough act by balancing class with informality. Its inner atrium sets a wonderful mood, and the rooms, individually decorated with antique furniture, create a homely feel. Unusual and helpful for seniors is that bathrooms have telephones to reception.

Style Hotel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 22 780-0; www.stylehotel.at; 01, Herrengasse 12; r €265-285, ste €420-550; ☎) This hotel lives up to its name admirably with mellow tones, a chilled-out feel and extras like a free minibar re-stocked daily; the sauna and fitness facilities might tip the scales if you find the price daunting.

TOP END

Hotel Ambassador (Map pp120-1; ☎ 961 610; www.ambassador.at; 01, Kärntner Strasse 22/Neuer Markt 5; s €160-210, d €190-266) Prices vary by season and demand, but even in May and September you can find well-priced rooms in the historic Ambassador. Its gourmet restaurant Mörwald im Ambassador is a Vienna treat, making this a wonderful choice for weekend breaks.

Hotel Sacher (Map pp120-1; ☎ 51 456-0; www.sacher.com; 01, Philharmonikerstrasse 4; s €300-550, d €370-600) The elegant Sacher threw open its grand portals in 1876 and is not only home to the world-famous *Sacher Torte* but also revels in the sweet extravagance of the baroque epoch.

Ringstrasse BUDGET & MIDRANGE

Hotel-Pension Wild (Map pp120-1; ☎ 406 51 74; www.pension-wild.com; 08, Lange Gasse 10; s €41-69, d €53-97, tr €90-114) This is a ultra-friendly pension embraces gays and straights alike. Wild, though, is the family name, not a description of the kind of nights you can expect here.

Hotel am Schubertring (Map pp120-1; ☎ 717 02-0; www.schubertring.at; 01, Schubertring 11; s €106-135, d €135-218) What an eccentric fish the graceful old 'Schubi' is! A maze of corridors, Biedermeier or Art Nouveau furnished rooms (some with views over the Vienna's rambling rooftops) and guests are usually

grouped among the warren of wings roughly according to generation.

Hotel Viennart (Map pp120-1; ☎ 523 13 45; viennart@austrotel.at; 07, Breite Gasse 9; s/d/apt €140/200/245; ☎) This four-star art hotel situated close to the MuseumsQuartier and Volkstheater has refreshing styles and a lobby that invites guests to meet and exchange stories. It's a period furnishing-free zone, with 56 ultra-modern rooms with an art edge.

Hotel Regina (Map pp120-1; ☎ 404 460; www.kremslehnhotels.at; 09, Rooseveltplatz 15; s €140, d €180-255; ☎) After you wade through the impressive lobby, the size of the rooms do come as a letdown, but Regina's central location and rich decorative flavours make it a decent and convenient option, directly opposite the Votivkirche.

TOP END

Hotel Maria Theresia (Map pp120-1; ☎ 521 23; www.kkhotels.com; 07, Kirchberggasse 6; s €180-205, d €240-265; ☎) Business travellers with buddies in their accounts department will harbour a soft spot for Maria Theresia. Advantages are its circular lobby bar, facilities that include a network cable for free internet in rooms (or terminals downstairs), a small fitness area and snugly styled rooms to relax in after doing deals.

Hotel Imperial (Map pp120-1; ☎ 501 10-0; www.luxurycollection.com/imperial; 01 Kärntner Ring 16; d €760-860, ste €1460-4950, breakfast extra; ☎ ☎) Originally the palace of the Prince of Württemberg, the Imperial re-invented itself as a hotel for the World Fair in 1873 while retaining the glory and majesty of a residence. It's a truly remarkable hotel: marble bathrooms, antiques and original oil paintings and silver service all help to re-create 19th-century Vienna.

Across the Danube Canal BUDGET

Aktiv Camping Neue Donau (Map pp114-15; ☎ 202 40 12; 22, Am Kleehäufel; campsites per adult/tent €6.90/5.50; ☎) mid-May-Sep; ☎ ☎) This is the closest camping ground to the city centre and very handy to the popular swimming areas of Alte Donau and Donauinsel (p131). Rates subside outside July and August.

Jugendgästhaus Wien-Brigittenau (Map pp114-15; ☎ 332 82 94; jgh.1200wien@chello.at; 20, Friedrich-Engels-Platz 24; dm €17-20) With 410 beds, this is by far the largest of five HI hostels in Vienna. The neighbourhood is unappealing, and it's not really convenient to the Innere Stadt, but the hostel is modern, multi-storeyed and just a

couple of minutes' walk from the Danube and Donauinsel.

Inside the Gürtel BUDGET

Jugendherberge Myrthengasse (Map p122; ☎ 523 63 16; hostel@chello.at; 07, Myrthengasse 7; dm/tw €17/40) This well-run HI hostel on a quiet side street has a high-convenience factor, gets busy and offers daytime check-in. Telephone reservations are strongly advised (only dorms can be reserved).

Pension Kraml (Map pp116-17; ☎ 587 85 88; www.pensionkraml.at; 06, Brauergasse 5; s/d/tr without bathroom €30/50/70, d €60-70, apt €95-125) Rooms are clean, cosy and surprisingly large in this family-run pension whose big plus is a location between Westbahnhof and the centre.

Westend City Hostel (Map pp116-17; ☎ 597 67 29; www.westendhostel.at; 06, Fügergasse 3; s €50, d €59-78, 12-/6-/8-/4-bed dm €18.50/20.50/20.50/22.10; ☑) Handy to Westbahnhof and popular among young backpackers, Westend has very good facilities and offers guests a place to sleep rather than party and drop.

Hotel Fürstenhof (Map pp116-17; ☎ 523 32 67; www.hotel-fuerstenhof.com; 07, Europaplatz/Neubaugürtel 4; s/d without bathroom from €46/65, s €69-94, d/tr/q/ste €110/120/128/132). The Fürsty is a gem. To Vienna what the Chelsea Hotel is (or once was) to New York, it's the first choice for bands and artists. The single occupancy rooms and doubles are large and some are very quiet behind double doors. If you arrive tired, it can be reached almost on your knees from Westbahnhof.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Atlanta (Map p122; ☎ 405 12 30; www.hotelatlanta.at; 09, Währinger Strasse 33; s €79-104, d €89-144) Built in 1895, Atlanta has lost much of its original Art Nouveau sparkle, but brass chandeliers, creaking floors, leadlight windows and spacious rooms do add serious charm. The street is a dull shocker, but the best doubles are high up with bay windows.

Mondial Apartment Hotel (Map p122; ☎ 310 71 80; www.mondial.at/apt; 09, Pfluggasse 1; apt per night €70-110; ☑) This apartment hotel is a very stylish number with a three-day minimum stay (two, they say, when it's really quiet). The atmosphere is ultra-cosy, and helpful staff at reception are available round the clock. The intersection is busy, though, so ask for a room facing Pfluggasse. Monthly rates are significantly lower.

Attaché (Map pp116-17; ☎ 505 18 18; www.bestvienna.hotels.at; 04, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 71; s/d €85/120; ☑) Situated within a reasonable stroll of Naschmarkt, this hotel is clean and well run, with 26 rooms furnished with period furniture, including some in Art Nouveau style.

ourpick Altstadt Vienna (Map p122; ☎ 526 33 99; www.altstadt.at; 07, Kirchengasse 41; s €109-139, d €129-189, ste €209-299; ☑ ☑) Classic rooms or designer rooms tastefully composed by Italian star architect Matteo Thun, the architectural anomaly of a 120 sq metre roof garden attached to one room, and individual design touches are the outstanding highlights here. Altstadt Vienna offers respite in a part of town where the shopping is up-beat, the bars relaxed, and you feel a sense of arrival.

Tyrol (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 54 15; www.das-tyrol.at; 06, Mariahilfer Strasse 15; s €109-209, d €149-259) This boutique hotel has 30 cosy rooms in lovely designs. Staff are friendly and helpful, and the location close to MuseumsQuartier is killer-bee.

Hotel Am Schottenfeld (Map p122; ☎ 526 51 81; www.falkensteiner.com/schottenfeld; 07, Schottenfeldgasse 74; s €133-144, d €169-185; ☑) A sociably circular bar, a garishly coloured reception, but pretty apricot tones in comfortable rooms and very helpful staff – the Schottenfeld ranks highly as an address for business travellers. Add-ons like a fitness room with sauna, steam room and solarium add to its attraction.

Theaterhotel (Map p122; ☎ 405 36 48; whien@cordial.at; 08, Josefstädter Strasse 22; s/d €184/196) Art Nouveau touches and friendly staff make this hotel one of the better 8th-district choices. But rooms are small and somewhat pricey unless you make good use of the kitchen niches.

TOP END

Das Triest (Map pp120-1; ☎ 589 18-0; www.dastriest.at; 04, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 12; s/d/ste €206/265/540) Business visitors will enjoy the enormous 95 sq metre suite with its own garden, while those seeking simple style and comfort will also feel snug in this refreshingly low-key hotel where everything – from the rooms through the lobby to the stairwells – fits effortlessly together in a mix of modern Italian and Viennese style.

Outside the Gürtel

BUDGET

Camping Wien West (Map pp114-15; ☎ 914 23 14; 14, Hüttelbergstrasse 80; campsites per adult/tent €6.90/5.50, 2-/4-person bungalows €27/37; ☑ Mar-Jan; ☑) This camping ground has cooking facilities

and convenient transport from the Innere Stadt; take the U4 to Hütteldorf, then bus 148 or 152.

Wombat's (Map pp116-17; ☎ 897 23 36; www.wombats.at; 15, Grangasse 6; dm/r €21/50; ☑) It's hard to find a more happening hostel than Wombat's – the atmosphere is more Gold Coast Australia than the Capital of Culture, staff are friendly and it's close to Westbahnhof.

Wombat's The Lounge (Map pp116-17; ☎ 897 23 36; 15, Mariahilfer Strasse 137; dm/r €21/50; ☑) Sister hostel to the original Wombat's, it's even closer to the station.

Hostel Ruthensteiner (Map pp116-17; ☎ 893 42 02; www.hostelruthensteiner.com; 15, Robert-Hamerling-Gasse 24; dm/s/d €15.50/30/48; ☑) Facilities at this hostel include a kitchen, laundry and a shady rear courtyard. Dorms range from two- to 10-bed rooms. The hostel is near Westbahnhof, one block south of Mariahilfer Strasse.

MIDRANGE

Altwienerhof (Map pp116-17; ☎ 892 60 00; www.altwienerhof.at; 15, Herklotzgassee 6; s/d/ste €87/129/185) Altwienerhof is a small, family-run, three-star hotel situated a stone's throw from the Gürtel. It offers style without walking all over your wallet in stilettos and is well-served by friendly and welcoming staff.

Thüringer Hof (Map p122; ☎ 401 79-0; www.thue.ringerhof.at; 18, Jörgerstrasse 4-8; s/d €75/99; ☑) The exterior is rather off-putting, and inside the rooms are functional, but this hotel is well run and a good shot during a busy period in Vienna. Rooms to the courtyard are surprisingly quiet. Kids aged six to 12 get a 50% discount and those under six stay free.

Favorita (Map pp116-17; ☎ 601 46; www.austria-trend.at/fav; 10, Laxenburger Strasse 8-10; s/d €120/150; ☑ ☑) You'll find rooms modern and bright behind the striking yet simple façade of Favorita. There's also a sauna and free steam bath where you can rest those weary bones. Breakfast is available (€13).

Parkhotel Schönbrunn (Map pp116-17; ☎ 87 804-0; parkhotel.schoenbrunn@austria-trend.at; 13, Hietzinger Hauptstrasse 10-20; s €70-129, d €129-170; ☑ ☑) Partially built with money from Emperor Franz Josef, who treated it as his private guesthouse, today the four-star Parkhotel Schönbrunn is a more than welcoming abode. The façade is, of course, painted Schönbrunn yellow, the lobby and grand ballroom are opulent and majestic, and many rooms surround a large garden with sun lounges, trees and grass.

EATING

Vienna has thousands of restaurants covering all budgets and styles of cuisine, but dining doesn't stop there. *Kaffeehäuser* (coffee houses) and *Heurigen* (wine taverns; p151) are almost defining elements of the city, and just as fine for a good meal. The humble *Beisl*, Vienna's equivalent of a beer house or tavern, is normally a simple restaurant serving the best of Viennese cuisine in unhealthy portions.

If you've no time to sit around and wait, a *Würstel Stand* will suffice; sausage stands are conveniently located on street corners and squares, ready with sausages, bread and beer. Otherwise you could try the ubiquitous Schnitzelhaus chain, which serves up fast food Viennese-style.

Self-caterers will have no problem stocking up on provisions; Hofer, Zielpunkt, Billa, Spar and Merkur supermarkets are commonplace throughout the city. Some have well-stocked delis that make sandwiches to order – the perfect cheap lunch on the run. The city is also dotted with markets (see p157).

Innere Stadt RESTAURANTS

Pasta...e Basta (Map pp120-1; ☎ 796 65 42; www.pastaebasta.at; 01, Werdtorgasse 10; mains €6-7; ☑ 10am-11pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat) Over 20 different sorts of pasta are made and sold on the premises, and several sorts are served to a loyal following at wooden tables in this stylish pasta house-cum-wine bar.

Figlmüller (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 61 77; 01, Wollzeile 5; mains €7-14; ☑ 11am-10.30pm, closed Aug) Schnitzel of monumental proportions should be on your agenda here. The interior of Figlmüller has the look and feel of a village *Heuriger* and is a Vienna classic.

Rosenberger Markt Restaurant (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 34 58; 01, Maysedergasse 2; mains €10; ☑ 10.30am-11pm, bistro from 7.30am) The meat and veg mains, starters, pulses and desserts are plentiful in this food-hall style place. You pay by plate size, so pack it on without guilt. The amenities are a big plus if you're in for the day or night – it has lockers, and to avoid having to use its nappy room at a later date there are condom machines in both toilets.

Expedit (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 33 13-0; 01, Wiesingerstrasse 6; mains €8-18; ☑ noon-11pm Mon-Fri, 6-11pm Sat) Warehouse shelves, simple furnishing and an open kitchen are part of the elegant flourish of Expedit. The changing menu offers a

delightful mix of Austro-Italian classics like lamb with polenta, plus seasonal dishes.

Café Griensteidl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 26 92-0; 01, Michaelerplatz 2; lunch menu €8-10, mains €11-17; ☎ 8am-11.30pm) Situated in a prestigious corner between the splendour of the Hofburg and the eyebrow-less windows of the Loos Haus (p138), this coffee house crawls unashamedly with tourists but is a nice place to eat, linger and watch the world bustle on by.

Wrenkh (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 15 26; www.wrenkh.at; 01, Bauernmarkt 10; lunch menu from €8, mains €9-16; ☎ lunch & dinner) Wrenkh can be uneven, but there's no denying its creative effort. On a 'miss' day, a gazpacho-like 'power soup' will be superb but a chicken main uninspiring. The creative dishes are complemented by workshops, 'cooking salons' and dashes of experimental group cooking (p64).

Lebenbauer (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 55 56; 01, Teinfaltstrasse 3; mains €11-20; ☎ 11am-3pm & 5.30-10.30pm Mon-Fri) Sleek décor and quality upmarket vegetarian cuisine complemented by fish dishes are the highlights of Lebenbauer. The tables are a quite close together, though; here lone diners may not feel entirely at ease.

Griechenbeisl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 19 77; 01, Fleischmarkt 11; mains €15-24; ☎ 11am-1am) As much a chunky slice of Vienna for tourists as a restaurant, Griechenbeisl has been around since 1447 and was once frequented by musical greats Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms. Choose to dine on Viennese standards in one of the vaulted rooms or in the plant-fringed front garden.

En (Map pp120-1; ☎ 532 44 90; 01, Werdertorgasse 8; lunch menu €7.50-9.50, full meal plus wine about €25; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) This rewarding slice of modern Japan in the back streets of Innere Stadt serves some of the best sushi in town. Its 16-piece flagship 'En sushi' is satisfying, and the atmosphere is relaxed even if you're eating alone.

Haas & Haas (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 26 66; 01, Stephansplatz 4; light meals €8-13, breakfast €7-14; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6.30pm Sat) This tea house has the attraction of hefty breakfasts (served 8am to 11.30am) and a location that's the envy of town: Stephansdom to your left, a tranquil inner courtyard to your right.

QUICK EATS

Gelateria Hoher Markt (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 32 97-1; 01, Hoher Markt 4; ice cream €1.80; ☎ 9am-11.30pm) Forget Zanoni on Rotenturmstrasse and wander a few steps west to this place on Hoher Markt

for 30 varieties of homemade ice cream and a concoction of elaborate sundaes you can enjoy outdoors.

Würstelstand am Hoher Markt (Map pp120-1; 01, Hoher Markt; sausages from €3; ☎ 7am-4am) Possibly the Würstelstand in all of Vienna (which is truly saying something), this one attracts people from all walks of life who flock here for the best of the late-night Wurst.

Trzesniewski (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 32 91; 01, Dorotheergasse 1; breads from €3; ☎ 8.30am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Even Franz Kafka frequented this Viennese deli bar. Choose your bread then select your spread, or pick from the ready-made sandwiches. They're quite tiny, though (two bites and they're gone).

SELF-CATERING

There's an Interspar (Map pp120-1) on the 1st floor on the corner of Rotenturmstrasse and Fleischmarkt, and a Billa (Map pp120-1) on Singerstrasse.

Freyung (Map pp120-1; 01, Freyung; ☎ 9am-6pm Fri & Sat 1st & 3rd weekend of month; U2 Schottentor) market exclusively sells fresh organic produce.

Ringstrasse

RESTAURANTS

Café Prückel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 61 15; 01, Stubenring 24; coffee €1.80-3.60, mains €6-11; ☎ 8.30am-10pm) In the best of Vienna's coffee houses, the past lingers like a stain on your living room carpet that brings back nice memories. Prückel is one of the best. The meals are hearty, the coffee is superb, the cakes irresistible and friendly waiters rule the world from here.

Vapiano (Map pp120-1; ☎ 581 12 12; 06, Theobaldgasse 19; pasta €6-9; ☎ 11am-midnight) Four categories of mains are offered in this cafeteria-style pasta chain whose young staff whip up your dish while you watch. Pick up a card at the door and let the chef swipe it when you order. Hold onto it and pay at the door when you leave. The pasta is made on the premises, and bonuses are its hours and a nappy-changing room.

Kantine (Map pp120-1; ☎ 523 82 39; 07, Museumsplatz 1; daily menu €6, pitta & mains €5-9; ☎ 9-2am Mon-Sat, 9am-midnight Sun) This upbeat café-cum-bar is replete with a disco ball and housed in former stables for the Emperor's horses. If the fresh daily menu – typically an Asian or Viennese dish with a vegetarian or fish choice thrown in – is sold out, settle for salad-filled pita bread.

ourpick Halle (Map pp120-1; ☎ 523 70 01; 07, Museumsplatz 1; lunch menu €7, mains €6-16; ☎ 10am-2am) With tempting food, groovy waiters and a warm, gay-friendly atmosphere, Kunsthalle's restaurant is the best of a good crop in the MuseumsQuartier. The small menu rotates weekly, but look out for its Styrian chicken salad with pumpkin seed oil. Antipasti, salads, pasta and tender meats are possible here, washed down by a good wine.

Una (Map pp120-1; ☎ 523 65 66; 07, Museumsplatz 1; mains €8-14; ☎ 9am-midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-midnight Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) Striking tiled walls, arched ceilings and massive windows complement a menu sporting upmarket salads and pasta through to goulash and seasonal specialities.

Österreicher im MAK (Map pp120-1; ☎ 714 01 21; 01, Stubenring 3-5; lunch menu €6.40, mains €10-19; ☎ 10am-11.30pm) The classic Viennese cuisine with a difference is a treat here. Chef Helmut Österreicher, one of Austria's stars, puts together delicious concoctions such as veal with prawns served on risotto at affordable prices inside the Museum für angewandte Kunst (p131). The garden in summer adds to the delicious pleasure.

Café Restaurant Landtmann (Map p120-1; ☎ 241 00; 01, Dr Karl-Lueger-Ring 4; lunch menu €10, mains €8-20; ☎ 7.30am-midnight) This elegant old dame has sidelong views of the Burgtheater (p153) from its lovely covered outdoor area. Staff bustle about taking orders for classic Austrian cuisine outside or in the lavish wood-paneled interior.

Vestibül (Map pp120-1; ☎ 532 49 99; 01, Dr Karl-Lueger-Ring 2; evening menu €39-45, mains €19-24; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Fri, 6pm-midnight Sat) The menu may be small at Vestibül but flavours run deep in this restaurant, which is very popular for dishes focused mainly on classic meat cuts. The interior is delightful, with marble columns, chandeliers and a mirrored bar; it's situated in the southern wing of the Burgtheater.

Across the Danube Canal

RESTAURANTS

Schöne Perle (Map pp116-17; ☎ 243 35 93; 02, Grosse Pfarrgasse 2; lunch menu €7, mains €6.50-12; ☎ noon-midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-midnight Sat & Sun) Schöne Perle uses organic eggs and cheeses in its delicious breakfasts and mains; the cuisine is Austro-international and you can enjoy it while the kids play with those toys up the front.

Schweizerhaus (Map pp116-17; ☎ 728 01 52 13; 02, Strasse des Ersten Mai 116; mains €10-15; ☎ 11am-11pm

mid-Mar–Oct) It's conceivable that your meal here will do you for three days: the house specialty, roasted *hintere Schweinsstelze* (pork hocks), is sold by the kilogram and you can wash it down with draught Budweiser (the Czech stuff) direct from the barrel while enjoying a rollicking Biergarten atmosphere.

Vincent (Map pp116-17; ☎ 214 15 16; 02, Grosse Pfarrgasse 7; a la carte €12-18, 3-10 course menus €29-98; ☎ 5.30-11.30pm Mon-Sat) There aren't a lot of Leopoldstadt options, but Vincent is a good one: Austrian flavours meet the rest of the culinary world here: *Tafelspitz* or freshwater crayfish in tempura batter; rich décor up the front is balanced by an atrium out the back.

SELF-CATERING

Karmelitermarkt (Map pp116-17; 02, Im Werd; ☎ 6am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 6am-2pm Sat) Karmelitermarkt has fruit and vegetable stalls and butchers selling kosher and halal meats. On Saturday the square features a *Bauernmarkt* (farmers market).

Inside the Gürtel

RESTAURANTS

Aromat (Map pp116-17; ☎ 913 24 53; 04, Margaretenstrasse 52; menus €5-7, mains about €5; ☎ 5-11pm Tue-Sun) Vegetarian and meat dishes are complemented by sweet and savoury crepes and galettes in this relaxed restaurant featuring a rotating menu. Much of it is concocted from whatever the cooks find fresh at the Naschmarkt. It's about the size of a living room, so get in early or reserve.

St Josef (Map p122; ☎ 526 68 18; 07, Mondscheingasse 10; small/large menu €5.80/6.70; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm Sat) This bustling vegetarian eatery is one of Vienna's favourites, and not just among the *Öko* (ecological) crowd. Everyone beats a trail here for a changing menu with 100% organic and vegetarian offerings. The kitchen is open all day. Take a seat upstairs or downstairs or get something to go.

Zu den Zwei Liesl (Map p122; ☎ 523 32 82; 07, Burggasse 63; mains €4.40-8; ☎ 11am-11pm) This thoroughly authentic *Beisl* is among the best in the business and its treed courtyard is a popular spot on warm summer days and evenings. If you're up for vast portions of Wiener schnitzel and drinking a refreshing beer or wine with a young-ish crowd, this is a fine place to do it.

Hollerei (Map p122; ☎ 406 25 69; 08, Pfeilgasse 2; mains €7-11; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri) The sleek wooden interior of Hollerei is the scene of some of the tastiest vegetarian dishes in town. Even the

simple lentil soup is wonderfully spiced and fills a midday hole perfectly. A few tables are lined up outside when weather permits.

Zum Alten Fassl (Map pp116-17; ☎ 544 42 98; 05, Ziegelofengasse 37; lunch menu €5.70-7, mains €7-14; ☎ 5pm-1am Mon-Sat, noon-3pm & 5pm-1am Sun) Behind the unassuming façade on a residential street is one of Vienna's most esteemed *Beisl*. Locals cross town backwards on their knees for the desserts, and its rear garden is an absolute joy: overgrown with vines, you can sample a hidden garden in residential Vienna.

Steman (Map pp116-17; ☎ 597 85 09; 06, Otto-Bauer-Gasse 7; mains €7-13; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Fri) Run by the same people as Café Jelinek (p151), Steman serves traditional food for young and old in a nicely restored and unpretentious interior, with a few tables outside in summer.

Ra'mien (Map pp120-1; ☎ 585 47 98; 06, Gumpendorferstrasse 9; mains €6-15; ☎ 11am-midnight Tue-Sun) Picture a grey-white room, with an open, simple look, full of bright, young, hip things bent over bowls of piping hot noodles, and you have Ra'mien. The menu not only consists of noodles, but covers the spectrum of Asian delights, from Thai to Japanese. Arrive early or reserve a table.

Lux (Map pp120-1; ☎ 526 94 91; 07, Spittelberggasse 3; lunch menu €8.40, mains €8-15; ☎ 11-2am) This rambling restaurant and café-bar uses the French bistro as its role model, right down to the paper tablecloths; the atmosphere is convivial and the menu includes lamb and rabbit as well as vegetarian options.

Chang (Map pp116-17; ☎ 961 92 12; 04, Waagasse 1; mains €6-16; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Noodles – absolutely oodles of them – and a couple of duck dishes are the strength of this eating house, prepared with expertise and flair in a relaxed atmosphere.

Wild (Map pp120-1; ☎ 920 94 77; 03, Radetzkyplatz 1; mains €9-20; ☎ 10am-1am) The building used to be a wine house peddling wares of a dubious quality, but today you can sit indoors or outdoors on Radetzkyplatz while enjoying genuine classics like veal roulade or schnitzel.

Motto (Map pp116-17; ☎ 587 06 72; 05, Schönbrunner Strasse 30; mains €8-21; ☎ 6pm-2am Sun-Thu, till 4am Fri & Sat) The culinary delights of Motto are legendary, right down to the steak with chocolate chilli sauce on mashed potato. If the fusion Asian, Austrian and Italian food doesn't get your pulse racing, linger and enjoy the vibe of the bar or get down at its regular music events. Reserve a table;

entrance is through the forbidding chrome door on Rüdigerasse.

Stomach (Map pp116-17; ☎ 310 20 99; 09, Seegasse 26; mains €10-17; ☎ 4pm-midnight Wed-Sat, 10am-10pm Sun) Stomach's been serving seriously good food for years, and getting better with age. The menu is a healthy mix of meat and vegetarian dishes and features plenty of game during the season. The interior is straight out of rural Austria, with an overgrown garden and cobblestones. Reservations are highly recommended.

Tancredi (Map pp116-17; ☎ 941 00 48; 04, Grosse Neugasse 5; lunch menu €7, mains €12-19; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat) This ex-*Beisl* has stripped-back wooden floors, warm, pastel-yellow walls, fittings from yester-year and a lovely tree-shaded garden; its strengths are regional and fish specialities, organic products and its Austrian wines.

Gaumenspiel (Map p122; ☎ 526 11 08; 07, Zieglergasse 54; mains €15-20, midday menus around €8, full menus €35-42; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat) Small and attracting a faithful following, Gaumenspiel has a bistro feel and serves up delicious Mediterranean-Austrian crossover cuisine – it's all chucked on a blackboard.

Amacord (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 47 09; 05, Rechte Wienzeile 15; breakfast €5-8, mains €8-12; ☎ 10am-2am, breakfast till 6pm) Shoppers on a Saturday morning fill Amacord to bursting point, all fighting for a table and a chance to breakfast. Outside Saturday morning, the pace is more sedate, but the food – a mix of Viennese classics and Italian pastas – is still of the highest quality and the atmosphere is convivial and quirky, if a little smoky sometimes.

Gasthaus Wickerl (Map p122; ☎ 317 74 89; 09, Porzellangasse 24a; menu €5.80, mains €8-16; ☎ 9am-midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-midnight Sat) Wickerl's laurels are excellent Viennese home cooking served in a low-key ambience of bare wooden floors, simple furniture and summer street-side seating.

Scala (Map pp116-17; ☎ 310 20 79; 09, Servitengasse 4; mains €10-18.50; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Sat, 5pm-midnight Sun) Scala is one of those cosy Italian family places that makes for a great refuge on a rainy day for a plate of pasta and glass of wine, though it can get bustling at night for its antipasti, pizza and fish specialities.

Summer Stage (Map pp116-17; ☎ 315 52 02; 09, Rossauer Lände; mains €6-20; ☎ 5pm-1am Mon-Sat, 3pm-1am Sun May-Sep) A diverse range of restaurants set up shop over the summer months at Summer Stage, a covered area overlooking

the Danube Canal near the Rossauer Lände U4 stop.

Amerlingbeisl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 526 1660; 07, Stifftgasse 8; mains €6-9; ☎ 9am-2am) Amerlingbeisl in cobblestoned Spittelberg does a small selection of dishes like roasted pumpkin and salad for a young crowd who nosh from the changing menu. On balmy nights the roof slides back for those who are able to cram into the rear courtyard.

Ubl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 64 37; 04, Pressgasse 26; mains €9-14; ☎ lunch & dinner) Schnitzels as big as your boot and local classics such as *Tafelspitz* are the fare at this Viennese *Beisl* with bite.

Palais Schwarzenberg (Map pp120-1; ☎ 798 45 15-600; 03, Schwarzenbergplatz 9; ☎ closed for restoration until at least 2008) The grand baroque dining room and terrace with sweeping views of an 18-acre garden were being given a face-lift when we last looked in. Watch out for a re-opening, though, as the setting is wonderful.

Café Hummel (Map p122; ☎ 405 53 14; 08, Josefstädter Strasse 66; breakfast €5-10, mains €10-17; ☎ 7am-midnight Mon-Sat, 8am-midnight Sun) Unpretentious Hummel is a true locals' *Kaffeehaus*, with a decent schnitzel and chips, aloof waiters, outdoor seating, a huge range of Viennese dishes, top coffee and homemade cakes.

Café Sperl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 586 41 58; 06, Gumpendorfer Strasse 11; mains €6.50-9; ☎ 7am-11pm Mon-Sat, 11am-8pm Sun, closed Sun Jul & Aug) *Jugendstil* fittings, a cosy atmosphere, an honest goulash reminiscent of your grandmother's, topped off by a billiard table and the *Sperl Torte* – this is definitely one of Vienna's best coffee houses.

Naschmarkt (Map pp120-1; 06, Linke & Rechte Wienzeile; ☎ 6am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 6am-5pm Sat) Vienna's biggest and boldest market is a food-lover's dream come true. Not only are there food stalls selling meats, fruits, vegetables, cheeses and spices, but there's also a wide variety of restaurants. Here's a couple:

Naschmarkt Deli (Map pp120-1; ☎ 585 08 23; 04, Naschmarkt 421; bagels €5, sandwiches €6-8, mains €7-9; ☎ 8am-11pm Mon-Sat) Wraps, baguettes, sandwiches and breakfasts and the perfect place to people-watch; don't turn up at 10am Saturday expecting to find a seat.

Indian Pavillon (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 85 61; 04, Naschmarkt 74-75; mains €7-10; ☎ 11am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat) Serves dishes laden with spices from the subcontinent, including kebabs, samosas and rogan josh.

QUICK EATS

Bagel Station (Map pp120-1; ☎ 208 08 94; 06, Capistrangasse 10; bagels €3.50-4; ☎ 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm

Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) This European chain of bagel shops has garish orange, bright interiors. Another station can be found at Währinger Strasse 2-4.

SELF-CATERING

Biomarkt Maran (Map p122; ☎ 526 58 86-18; Kaiserstrasse 57-59) A whole-food supermarket with inexpensive fruit, vegetables and almost everything else needed to whip up a nutritious meal.

Outside the Gürtel RESTAURANTS

Schloss Concordia (Map pp114-15; ☎ 769 88 88; 11, Simmeringer Hauptstrasse 283; mains €10; ☎ 10am-1am) Concordia's overgrown garden, bare wooden floors, gargantuan mirrors and stained-glass ceiling create a strange but highly appealing interior. The large stone Jesus statue adds to this. With 12 different types of schnitzel, its menu reads like a list from the abattoir; the house specialty – the Concordia schnitzel – is prepared with lentils; truly vegetarian options are also available.

Kent (Map p122; ☎ 405 91 73; 16, Brunnengasse 67; mains €5-9; ☎ 6am-2am) With a huge summer garden, excellent lamb kebabs, and good pizzas and Turkish-style breakfasts, Kent is one of our favourite Turkish restaurants in Vienna; its meats are *halal*.

SELF-CATERING

Brunnenmarkt (Map p122; 16, Brunnengasse; ☎ 6am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 6am-2pm Sat) Brunnenmarkt is Vienna's largest street-market and totally reflects its ethnic neighbourhood; most stall-holders are of Turkish/Balkan decent. On Saturday nearby Yppenplatz features the best *Bauernmarkt* (farmers market) in the city.

DRINKING Bars

Vienna is riddled with late-night drinking dens, but you will find concentrations of pulsating bars north and south of the Naschmarkt, around Spittelberg (many of these double as restaurants) and along the Gürtel (mainly around the U6 stops of Josefstädter Strasse and Nussdorfer Strasse). The Bermuda Dreieck (Bermuda Triangle), near the Danube Canal in the Innere Stadt, also has many bars, but they are more touristy. In summer, beach bars line the banks of the canal (see boxed text, p154).

Also during the summer months, party-goers congregate at Copa Kagrana and Sunken City, an area around the U1 Donauinsel U-Bahn station. It's quite a tacky affair, but it can be a lot of fun. Summer Stage (p148) and the **Alte AKH** (Map p122; ☎ 87 05 04; cnr Alser Strasse & Spitalgasse) also wage war against the threat of melting indoors.

Café Drechsler (Map pp120-1; ☎ 581 20 44; 06, Linke Wienzeile 22; ☎ 3am-2am) This wonderful Vienna institution is a traditional coffee house that was recently refurbished by British architect Sir Terence Conran in an upbeat minimalist style; the food here is very good (€6 to €13), and it's a great place to begin, end or while away the night. At 2am you have to vacate while cleaners go through.

Palmenhaus (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 10 33; Burggarten; ☎ 10am-2am, closed Mon & Tue Jan & Feb) Relax in a splendidly restored palm house, replete with high, arched ceilings, glass walls and tempered steel. A well-to-do crowd eats, grooves and gets loud here till late.

Kleines Café (Map pp120-1; 01, Franziskanerplatz 3; ☎ 10am-2am) What this small café lacks in size it makes up for with an off-beat atmosphere, tasty morsels from the kitchen and wonderful summer outdoor seating on Franziskanerplatz.

rhiz (Map p122; ☎ 409 25 05; www.rhiz.org; 08, Lerchenfelder Gürtel/Stadtbahnbogen 37-38; ☎ 6pm-4am Mon-Sat, 6pm-2am Sun) With exposed brick walls that breathe the vibe and morph with the crowd, rhiz is one place that you can easily grow to love. It's the hippest of the Gürtel's bunch of bars situated inside the vaulting of the overground. Throw in friendly staff, a large outdoor seating area, large doses of electronic music and guest DJs and you've got the makings of a long night with a changing tempo (it shouldn't stop you exploring the other bars in the area, though!).

An-Do Café (Map p122; ☎ 408 15 89 08, 16, Yppenmarkt Stand 11-15; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat, till midnight Sun) Situated on colourful Yppenplatz in a former market stall, this small bar and café has a set of scales on the floor that you walk over to reach the back section; it's a convivial place that fits in well with a visit to the nearby Kent (p149) for an evening of Turkish food and a drink, though it also does its own snacks.

Das Möbel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 524 94 97; 08, Burggasse 10; ☎ 10-1am) Some sit with turbo-laptops free-surfing on wi-fi; others browse a catalogue for locally designed furniture you can sit on while

drinking or breakfasting. Das Möbel is an odd joint much loved by a relaxed crowd that spends the day and night chatting over drinks – sometimes even about furniture.

Purpick Manolos (Map pp120-1; ☎ 526 20 82; 01, Volksgartenstrasse 1; ☎ 6pm-2am Mon-Fri, 6pm-2am Sat) Deep in the shadows of the Natural History Museum, Manolos is a sleek Mexican restaurant and bar (the fusion food is OK, too, incidentally) with an art edge that can kick on in unusual ways. It's tequila selection will startle, and behind the bar a DJ wearing headphones tweaks a CD deck into the wee hours. Everyone rises to the occasion, dances on available surfaces, and one by one they usually fall off them.

Futuregarden Bar & Art Club (Map pp120-1; ☎ 585 26 13; 06, Schadekgasse 6; ☎ 7pm-2am Mon-Sat, 9pm-2am Sun) A 30s to 40s crowd here soaks up the buzzing atmosphere while DJs spin vinyl. This basic bar's one piece of luxury – apart from the occasional art exhibition by local artists – is its rectangular disco 'ball' that floats from the ceiling.

Schikaneder (Map pp120-1; ☎ 585 58 88; 04, Margareten Strasse 22-24; ☎ 6pm-4am) A cinema, club and bar merge in this art-house venue attracting a crowd with energy to burn. Movies are shown most nights.

Tanzcafé Jenseits (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 12 33; 06, Nelkengasse 3; ☎ 9pm-4am Mon-Sat) Rumour has it that Jenseits was formally a brothel, which is highly plausible considering the kitschy red velvet interior. DJs perform most nights and the place attracts a mainly alternative and arty crowd that quickly fills the tiny dance floor.

Blue Box (Map p122; ☎ 523 26 82; 07, Richtergasse 8; ☎ 5pm-2am Mon, 10-2am Tue-Thu, till 4am Fri-Sun) This café and bar tucked away on back-street Richtergasse is enjoying a new lease of life. It has comfortable table seating and the atmosphere morphs at night when DJs take centre stage or events are held.

Volksgarten Pavillon (Map pp120-1; ☎ 532 09 07; 01, Burgring 1; €4-15; ☎ 11am-2am May–mid-Sep) The larger garden of this 1950s-style pavilion is especially popular on warm evenings for stupendous views of Hofburg; events are held nightly, but the most popular is 'Techno Café' held Tuesdays from 7pm.

American Bar (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 32 83; 01, Kärntner Durchgang 10; ☎ noon-5am Tue-Sat, noon-4am Sun-Mon) Designed by Adolf Loos is 1908, the American Bar also goes by the name Loos-Bar. You can't swing a cat in this tiny salon; if the mirrors

don't make you think otherwise, the excellent cocktails might – they're among the best in town.

Aera (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 53 14; www.aera.at; 01, Gonzagagasse 11; mains €7.50-10; ☎ 10am-1am Sun-Thu, 10am-2am Fri & Sat) Aera is gay-friendly and it attracts a mixed art crowd who while away hours eating or drinking. You can descend into the cellar some nights for music and performance – from flamenco guitar to kid's theatre or even Austro-Latino choir sessions.

Coffee Houses & Cafés

The Vienna coffee houses are wonderful places for sipping a tea or coffee, imbibing a beer or wine, and catching up on gossip or news of the world. Most serve light meals, while most cafés have a good cake range.

Café Jelinek (Map pp116-17; ☎ 597 41 13; 06, Otto-Bauer-gasse 5; ☎ 9am-9pm) Walk in from the street here and everyone looks up as if keeping a secret of something shocking that happened 20 years ago. Newspapers fill a ledge near the doorway, the wood oven is fired up in winter and the cigarette smoke clings to you long after you've gone. There's food too, but drift across the street for Viennese nosh at Steman (p148), run by the same people.

Café Bräunerhof (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 38 93; 01, Stallburggasse 2; snacks €3-6; ☎ 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 8am-7pm Sat, 10am-7pm Sun) Not much has changed in this fine Viennese *Kaffehaus* since the late great Thomas Bernhard once hung out here. There's classical music on weekends and holidays from 3pm to 6pm, and UK newspapers alongside Vienna's hallowed press.

Café Hawelka (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 82 30; 01, Dorotheergasse 6; snacks €3-6; ☎ 8am-2am Mon & Wed-Sat, 10pm-2am Sun, closed late Jul-Aug) This is the perfect spot to people-watch and chat to complete strangers. It's a traditional haunt for artists and writers, and attracts the soaring figures of Viennese society; expect to be constantly shunted along to accommodate new arrivals at your table, though.

Café Central (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 37 64-26; 01, Herrengasse 14; cakes €4; ☎ 7.30am-midnight) With its marble pillars, arched ceilings, cast-iron chandeliers, bustling waiters and live piano music from 4pm to 11pm, Central is a fascinating Viennese coffee house and restaurant. Trotsky came here to play chess and the writer-cum-regular Peter Altenberg (1859–1919) is still poised stoically at the entrance.

Café Sacher (Map pp120-1; ☎ 541 56-661; 01, Philharmonikerstrasse 4; Sacher Torte €4.80, food €11-25; ☎ 8am-midnight) Sacher is Vienna's coffee house where you can have your history as cake and eat it too; it is home to the infamous *Sacher Torte*. Meals are served here, borne by a battalion of waiters gliding among opulent furnishings.

Demel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 17 17-0; 01, Kohlmarkt 14; ☎ 10am-7pm) Demel is Sacher's *Torte* rival – the *Crème-Schnitte* here is to die for. You pay for quality, location and elegance.

Café Gloriette (Map pp116-17; ☎ 879 13 11; 13, Gloriette; snacks €6-8; ☎ 9am-1hr before dusk) This pleasant café occupies a neoclassical gem high on a hill behind Schloss Schönbrunn. Its sweeping views of the Schloss and magnificent gardens and the districts to the north make it arguably one of the best places in Vienna for a vista.

Heurigen

Vienna's *Heuriger* (wine tavern) tradition dates back to the Middle Ages. Identified by a *Busch'n* (a green wreath or branch) hanging over the door, many have outside tables in large gardens or courtyards, while inside the atmosphere is rustic. Some serve light meals, which in Vienna can be a hot or cold buffet.

Concentrations of *Heurigen* can be found in the wine-growing suburbs to the north, southwest, west and northwest of the city. Grinzing, in the northwest, is the best-known *Heurigen* area, but it is also the most touristy. It's generally avoided by the Viennese, but if you like loud music and busloads of rowdy tourists, then it's the place for you.

Esterházykeller (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 34 82; 01, Haarlof 1; ☎ 11am-11pm Mon-Fri, 4-11pm Sat & Sun) Esterházykeller is one of the few city *Heurigen* gracing the Innere Stadt. Low ceilings and rural decorations blend to create a magnificent interior. Its wine comes from the Schloss Esterházy estate in Eisenstadt.

Zwölf Apostelkeller (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 67 77; 01, Sonnenfelsgasse 3; ☎ 4.30pm-midnight) Even though Zwölf Apostelkeller plays it up big time to the tourists, it still retains plenty of rustic charm. This is mostly due to the premises themselves – a vast, dimly lit, multilevel cellar.

Hirt (Map pp114-15; ☎ 318 96 41; 19, Eisenhandgasse 165; ☎ 3pm-late Wed-Fri, noon-late Sat & Sun Apr-Oct; noon-late Fri, Sat & Sun Nov-Mar) Hirt is a fantastic little *Heuriger* well hidden among the vineyards of Kahlenberg. Expect superb views,

great food, friendly service and plenty of scrumptious wine.

Zawodsky (Map pp114-15; ☎ 320 79 78; 19, Reinschgasse 3; ☎ 5pm-midnight Mon, Wed & Thu, 2pm-midnight Fri-Sun Mar-Nov) The idyllic orchard and vineyard setting and the small selection of cold and hot meats make this Heuriger a wonderful retreat, far from the madding crowds.

Mayer am Pfarrplatz (Map pp114-15; ☎ 370 1287; 19, Pfarrplatz 2; ☎ 4pm-midnight Mon-Sat, 11am-midnight Sun) Mayer is one of the few gems in Grinzing and also has a place in the history annals – in 1817 Beethoven called it home. Its large garden is particularly pleasant and there's live music from 7pm to midnight daily.

Göbel (Map pp114-15; ☎ 294 84 20; 21, Stammersdorfer Kellergasse 151; ☎ seasonal) About 80% of the output of this stylish Heuriger is red wine, served to complement warm and cold buffet dishes and traditional gourmet cuisine; the building was designed by owner-architect Peter Göbel.

Sirbu (Map pp114-15; ☎ 320 59 28; 19, Kahlenberger Strasse 210; ☎ 3pm-midnight Mon-Sat Apr-mid-Oct) Occupying a quiet spot up high among the vineyards on Kahlenberg, Sirbu is a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Vienna below. Its wines are award-winning, and the garden is perfect for whiling away a sunny afternoon.

Zahel (Map pp114-15; ☎ 889 13 18; 23, Maurer Hauptplatz 9; ☎ 3pm-midnight Tue-Sun) Zahel, housed in 250-year-old premises, is one of the oldest *Heurigen* in Vienna and the best on offer in the Mauer area (in the southwest of Vienna).

ENTERTAINMENT

Vienna is, and probably will be till the end of time, the European capital of opera and classical music. The programme of music events is never-ending, and as a visitor in the centre you'll continually be accosted by people in Mozart-era costume trying to sell you tickets for concerts or ballets. Even the city's buskers are often classically trained musicians.

The city also sports a number of great clubs, jazz bars and live-music venues. The tourist office produces a handy monthly listing of concerts and other events.

Opera & Classical Music

The list of venues below is certainly not complete, and many churches and cafés are fine places to catch a classical concert.

Tickets for the Akademietheater, Burgtheater, Schauspielhaus, Staatsoper and

Volksoper can be purchased from the state ticket office, **Bundestheaterkassen** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 514 44-7881; www.bundestheater.at; 01, Operngasse 2; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun). The office charges no commission and tickets for the Staatsoper and Volksoper are available here one month prior to the performance. Credit card sales can be made by telephone (☎ 513 15 13; ☎ 10am-9pm), where English-speaking operators are available, or over the internet. The box office, **Info unter den Arkaden** (Herbert von Karajan-Platz; ☎ 9am-1hr before performance begins Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat), handles tickets for the Staatsoper and Volksoper.

The **Wien-Ticket Pavillon** (Map pp120-1; 01, Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz; ☎ 10am-7pm) outside the Staatsoper sells tickets for Theater an der Wien, the Raimundtheater and various music acts. **Jirsa Theater Karten Büro** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 400 600; http://viennaticket.at; 08, Lerchenfelder Strasse 12; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon, Thu & Fri, till 1pm Tue & Wed, 10am-1pm Jul & Aug) covers most venues in town.

Staatsoper (Map pp120-1; ☎ 514 44 7880; www.wiener-staatsoper.at; 01, Opernring 2; tours adult/child €5/2; ☎ box office 9am-until 2hr before performance Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat, closed Jul & Aug) This is the premier opera and classical music venue in Vienna. Productions are lavish affairs and the Viennese take them very seriously and dress up accordingly. Standing-room tickets (€2 to €3.50) can only be purchased 80 minutes before the beginning of performances and any unsold tickets are available for €30 one day before a performance (call ☎ 514 44 2950 for more information).

Musikverein (Map pp120-1; ☎ 505 81 90; www.musikverein.at; 01, Bösendorferstrasse 12; ☎ box office 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat, closed Jul & Aug) The Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, is said to have the best acoustics of any concert hall in Austria. The interior is suitably lavish and can be visited on the occasional guided tour. Standing-room tickets in the main hall cost €4 to €6; there are no student tickets.

Konzerthaus (Map pp120-1; ☎ 242 002; www.konzerthaus.at; 03, Lothringerstrasse 20; ☎ box office 9am-7.45pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat, closed Jul & Aug) This is a major venue in classical music circles, but throughout the year ethnic music, rock, pop or jazz can also be heard in its hallowed halls. Regular tickets start at around €15; students can purchase tickets for €12, 30 minutes before the show.

Theater an der Wien (Map pp120-1; ☎ 588 85; www.musicalvienna.at; 06, Linke Wienzeile 6; ☎ box office 10am-7pm)

Once the host of monumental premiers such as Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Strauss Jnr's *Die Feldermaus*, Theater an der Wien now showcases opera, dance and concerts. Tickets start from €7 for standing room, sold one hour before performances.

Volkoper (Map p122; ☎ 514 44 3670; www.volkoper.at; 09, Währinger Strasse 78; ☎ box office 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) This is Vienna's second opera house and features operettas, dance and musicals. Standing tickets go for as little as €1.50, and there are discounts 30 minutes before performances.

Dating back to 1498, the Wiener Sängerknaben (Vienna Boys' Choir) is an institution of the city. The choir sings every Sunday (except during July and August) at 9.15am in the Burgkapelle (Royal Chapel; p125) in the Hofburg. Tickets (€5 to €29) should be booked around eight weeks in advance (☎ 533 99 27), otherwise try your luck for a last-minute ticket at the **Burgkapelle box office** (☎ 11am-1pm & 3-5pm Fri) for the following Sunday or immediately before mass between 8.15am and 8.45am. Standing room is free and you need to queue by 8.30am to find a place inside the open doors, but you can get a flavour of what's going on from the TV in the foyer. The choir also sings a mixed programme of music in the Musikverein at 4pm on Friday in May, June, September and October. Tickets range from €36 to €63, and can be purchased from **Reisebüro Mondial** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 588 04 141; www.mondial.at; 04, Faulmannsgasse 4) and hotels in Vienna.

Theatre & Dance

Theatrical performances in English can be seen at the **English Theatre** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 402 1260-0; www.englishtheatre.at; 08, Josefsplatz 12; tickets €19.50-38; ☎ box office 10am-5pm Mon-Fri) or the smaller **International Theatre** (Map p122; ☎ 319 62 72; www.internationaltheatre.at; 09, Porzellangasse 8; tickets €20-24; ☎ box office 11am-3pm Mon-Fri, 6-7.30pm on performance days).

Of the German theatres around town, the best to visit is the **Burgtheater** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 514 44-4140; www.burgtheater.at; 01 Dr Karl-Leuger-Ring; tickets €1.50-48; ☎ box office 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun). Other theatres include **Schauspielhaus** (Map p122; ☎ 317 01 01-18; www.schauspielhaus.at; 09, Porzellangasse 19; tickets €16; ☎ box office 4-6pm Mon-Fri, 2hr before performances) and **Volkstheater** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 52111-400; www.volkstheater.at, in German; 07, Neustiftgasse 1; tickets €3-40; ☎ box office 10am-performance start Mon-Sat).

In 2001 Vienna opened its first dance institution, the **TanzQuartier Wien** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 581 35 91; www.tqw.at; 07, Museumsplatz 1; tickets €9.50-155; ☎ box office 10am-7pm Mon-Sat). Located in the newly completed MuseumsQuartier, it hosts an array of local and international performances with a strong experimental nature.

Nightclubs

Goodmann (Map pp120-1; ☎ 967 44 15; www.goodmann.at, in German; 04, Rechte Wienzeile 23; €5-10; ☎ 4am-10am Mon-Sat) Who cares that Goodmann keeps the strangest opening hours of any establishment in Vienna? This is where clubbers go when the clubs close; most come for a snack (food is served till 8am) before heading downstairs to dance till closing.

Camera Club (Map p122; ☎ 523 30 63; www.camera-club.at, in German; 07, Neubaugasse 2; €5-10; ☎ 2pm-6am Mon-Sat) Decked out with orange-walled seating inherited from the 1970s, the Camera Club gets Vienna's top DJs and has even morphed into the wintering ground for one of the country's most innovative – DJ Tibcurl and the Icke Micke Club. A live band usually plays the first Wednesday of each month from about 10pm.

Flex (Map pp116-17; ☎ 533 75 25; www.flex.at; 01, Donaukanal, Augartenbrücke; €4-10; ☎ 6pm-4am) Change is afoot at Vienna's most celebrated low-life club, with a new pavilion being built out the front. Flex still looks like a complete dive, but it has one of the best sound systems in Europe, puts on great shows and features the top DJs from Vienna and abroad. The Dub Club on Monday and London Calling (alternative and indie) on Wednesday are among the most popular. Live bands also take the stage, and there's free internet access.

Roxy (Map pp120-1; ☎ 961 88 00; www.sunshine.at; 04, Operngasse 24; €5-10; ☎ 10pm-late Thu-Sat) Roxy's tiny dance floor reaches bursting point when DJs from the electronic scene guest here, though everything from Brazilian to jazzy grooves can be heard.

Volksgarten (Map pp120-1; ☎ 532 42 41; 01, Burgring 1; free-€15; ☎ 8pm-2am Mon-Wed, 9.30pm-late Thu-Sat) This club attracts a well-dressed crowd, keen to strut their stuff and scan for talent from the long bar. The quality sound system pumps out an array of music styles, which changes from night to night.

Ost Klub (Map pp120-1; ☎ 505 62 28; 04, Schwarzenbergplatz 10; price varies; ☎ 7pm-4am Thu-Sat) Ost Klub hooks right into the wave of European

MORE BRACKISH THAN BLUE (BUT WHO CARES?)

Much ado is made about the romantic Danube, but what about its canal? At first glance the Danube Canal seems no great shakes. It slurps through town brown and disturbingly opaque. There's more to its 'flowing upside down' appearance, though. From this small stretch of water you can jump on a boat on a Friday or Saturday summer evening, zip downstream to Bratislava for dinner, and back upstream to Vienna in time for a nightcap or some clubbing (p400; book early though!).

Sometime after 2008 the converted cargo vessel, **MS Supamira** (www.supamira.com), should swing into life as a floating culture platform modelled on similar ships in Paris and Belgrade. Visual arts, film, theatre and performance will be the focus. The idea is that the ship will spend part of the year moored in Vienna and at other times cruise the Danube to culturally hook up cities along the river. Original plans were to moor it in front of Strandbar Herrmann, but that hit a hitch and the location is still undecided.

Speaking of that nightlife devil: **Strandbar Herrmann** (Map pp120-1; www.strandbarherrmann.at, in German; 01, Donaukanal/Wienfluss; ☎ 10-2am May-Sep), regarded as one of the world's hottest venues, looks set to pack up its deck chairs in 2015 (time enough for a few more cocktails, anyway) to make room for some canal construction work. No-one knows where Herrmann will be or what form he'll take after that. There's always space upriver, where a few other beach bars are situated on the canal, a stone's throw from the Bermuda Triangle nightlife zone.

Meanwhile, the club **Flex** (p153) is getting a dazzling glass pavilion and roof terrace that is tipped to attract a less feral clientele. It'll be interesting to see what happens to the grunge when it's exposed to all those rays of light and good manners. The word around town is also that a second Badeschiff (Bathing Ship) with a pool will moor here (run by Flex), so look out for that. The original is the **Badeschiff Wien** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 51307-44; www.badeschiff.at; 01, btwn Schwedenbrücke & Aspensbrücke; €5 for pool; ☎ 11am-midnight), which contains the club **Laderaum** (☎ 10pm-4am Mon-Sat; free or about €5-6) within its bowels, with regular DJs and electronic sounds.

Another new attraction is **Surfwelle** (www.surfwelle.at, in German), a large polystyrene wave with a water film that you can surf on boards. But if hanging 10 in the canal is not your thing, upstream the historic **Otto-Wagner-Schützenhaus** (Map pp116-17; Obere Donaustrasse 59) is getting an overhaul and will be an Art Nouveau café from 2009.

The 'mother of all projects', the **Trialto Bridge** (Map pp116-17; btwn Marienbrücke & Schwedenbrücke) is a new bridge development with shops, restaurants and bars. At the time of publication, though, approval was being held up due to some political issues that need talking through. The year 2011 could be the time for unveiling the new bridge.

clubs with an Eastern European and Balkan flavour; you can see a Georgian choir going through its paces one night and hear klezmer, turbo folk, world music or lounge and electronic the next in a mixture of turntable and live sounds in its 'Klub' and 'Kantine' rooms.

U4 (Map pp116-17; ☎ 817 11 92; www.u-4.at; 12, Schönbrunner Strasse 222; €6-25; ☎ 10pm-late) Once the cutting edge of techno in Vienna, these days U4 pulls a young, studenty crowd – the edge has blunted somewhat but it's still very popular.

Live Music

Porgy & Bess (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 88 11; www.porgy.at; 01, Riemergasse 11; about €15 ☎ 8pm-4am Mon-Sat, 7pm-4am Sun) This is the place to catch home-grown

and international jazz acts. Its jam sessions have recently been revived on Friday night after the scheduled performance.

WUK (Map p122; ☎ 40 121-0; www.wuk.at; 09, Währinger Strasse 59; free-€10) WUK is a space as much as a venue. You can catch Meze Medusa & Tenderboy hip-hopping one night and classical concerts, film evenings, theatre or even children's shows another.

Szene Wien (Map pp116-17; ☎ 749 33 41; www.szene.wien.at; 11, Hauffgasse 26; €8-20; ☎ from 7.30pm) Good things happen in small places – this small venue hauls out a mixed bag that includes rock, reggae, funk, jazz and world music.

Arena (Map pp116-17; ☎ 798 85 95; www.arena.co.at, in German; 03, Baumgasse 80; price varies; ☎ 2pm-late summer, 4pm-late winter) Arena normally hosts hard rock, metal and rock, which is well suited to

its industrial location. The former slaughterhouse also shows films outdoors in summer and it holds once-a-month all-night parties; 'Iceberg', a German/British 1970s new wave bash, is popular.

Jazzland (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 25 75; www.jazzland.at; 01, Franz-Josefs-Kai 29; price varies; ☎ 7pm-2am Mon-Sat) Jazzland has been an institution of Vienna's jazz scene for the past 30 years. The music covers the whole jazz spectrum and the brick venue features a grand mixture of local and international acts.

Unplugged (Map pp120-1; ☎ 5; www.vienna-unplugged.at, in German; 09, Liechtensteinstrasse 61; €2-8; ☎ from 8pm) This live venue has sporadic acts and provides a platform for local bands to perform live. Musos of all styles unpack their instruments here: punk, pop and rock – it's raw, small and back to the roots of the live gig.

Cinemas

Vienna has a fine mix of cinemas, featuring Hollywood blockbusters to art-house films, in both German and English. *Falter*, *City* and *Der Standard* (daily newspaper) all contain film listings. Monday is *Kinomontag*, when many seats are discounted. Expect to pay about €8 for tickets.

Artis International (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 65 70; www.cineplexx.at; 01, Schulerergasse 5) Mainstream films in English.

Breitenseer Lichtspiele (Map pp116-17; ☎ 982 21 73; 14, Breitenseer Strasse 21) Opened in 1905; still contains the original fittings and plays old B&W classics and independents.

Burg Kino (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 84 06; www.burgkino.at; 01, Opernring 19) English films; has regular screenings of *The Third Man*.

English Cinema Haydn (Map pp120-1; ☎ 587 22 62; www.haydnkino.at; 06, Mariahilfer Strasse 57) Features mainstream Hollywood-style films in their original language.

Film Casino (Map pp116-17; ☎ 581 39 00-10; www.filmcasino.at; 05, Margareten Strasse 78) Art-house cinema with a mix of Asian and European independent films.

Österreichische Filmmuseum (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 70 54; www.filmmuseum.at; 01, Augustinerstrasse 1; ☎ Sep-Jun) Monthly retrospectives on directors or genres.

Top Kino (Map pp120-1; ☎ 208 30 00; www.topkino.at; 06, Rahlgasse 1) Cinema showing European independent films. Also hosts the Vienna Short Film Festival each May and has a great bar.

Votivkino (Map p122; ☎ 317 35 71; www.votivkino.at; 09, Währinger Strasse 12) Hollywood and art-house films in their original language.

Sport

Football is easily the largest spectator sport in Vienna. Catch Rapid and Austria Memphis, Vienna's local teams, at the **Austria Memphis Franz-Horr-Stadion** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 688 01 50; 10, Fischhofgasse 12) and the **Rapid Vienna Gerhard-Hanappi-Stadion** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 914 55 10; 14, Keislersgasse 6). International games are normally played at the **Ernst Happel Stadion** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 728 08 54; 02, Meiereistrasse 7).

Stadthalle (Map p122; ☎ 98 100-0; 15, Vogelweidplatz) hosts a diverse array of events, including tennis, indoor football, horse shows and ice hockey.

SHOPPING

Vienna is one place where the glitz and glamour of shops selling high-end brands stand in stark contrast to some weird and idiosyncratic local stores. Specialities include porcelain, ceramics, handmade dolls, wrought-iron work and leather goods, and there are many shops selling *Briefmarken* (stamps), *Münze* (coins) and *Altwaren* (secondhand odds and ends).

The bustling Mariahilfer Strasse and Kärntner Strasse are lined with global High St names and chain stores. Off Mariahilfer Strasse in Mariahilf itself and in Neubau are where some of the more interesting shops are located. Otto-Bauer-Gasse is a freak's paradise, while Neubaugasse is good for second-hand hunters and collectors, and Josefstädter Strasse is an old-fashioned shopping street filled with quaint shops selling anything from flowers to tea. Not to be forgotten, too, is the Flohmarkt (p157).

Antiques

Dorotheum (Map pp120-1; ☎ 515 60-0; www.dorotheum.com; 01, Dorotheergasse 17) Founded in 1707 by Joseph I, the Dorotheum ranks among the largest auction houses in Europe. The range of objects is quite extraordinary, but stick to the categories of art, antiques and collectables. Some of it is reasonably priced, especially household ornaments.

Glasfabrik (Map pp116-17; ☎ 494 34 90; 16, Lorenz-Mandl-Gasse 25; ☎ 2-7pm Tue-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) Glasfabrik specialises in antiques dating from 1670 to 1970, so the range on offer is eclectic to say the least.

Art

M-ARS (Map p122; ☎ 890 58 03; 07, Westbahnstrasse 9) The driving idea is that art can be bought

THE VOLATILE VOLANT – VIENNA DESIGN

Anyone into the international designer scene will be familiar with Vienna design brands like Wendy & Jim and Petar Petrov & Co. In keeping with the times, Vienna's design scene is prickling with talent; here's a few tips. In 2007 **Martina Rogy & Marcel Ostertag** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 532 3054; www.martinarogy.com; 1, Landskrongasse 1-3) released a summer collection with some *volant* designs that would make a sex goddess out of Wilma Flintstone. On a more casual note, **PiaMia** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 890 44 72; www.piamia.at; 05, Schönbrunnerstrasse 65) cuts the stuff for men as well as women in dress-down styles that look smart. **Ninali** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 699 1044 46 41; www.ninali.at; 07, Neustiftgasse 21; ☎ noon-7pm Thu, Fri & Sat) is the label of Nina Kepplinger and Ali Rabbani, whose 2007 women's summer streetwear (it also has men's collections) crossed over into the occasional gather or volant.

without the artist having to sell his or her soul, here in Vienna's 'supermarket' for contemporary art. Some key figures in Austria's art world are behind this project, which got off the ground in 2007.

Ceramics, Glass & Crystal

Woka (Map pp120-1; ☎ 513 29 12; www.woka.at; 01, Singerstrasse 16) Accurate re-creations of Wiener Werkstätte lamps are the hallmark of Woka, using designs from the likes of Adolf Loos, Koloman Moser and Josef Hoffmann.

J&L Lobmeyr (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 05 08; www.lobmeyr.com; 01, Kärntner Strasse 26) Around since the late-19th century and supplying the imperial court with glassware, Lobmeyr now focuses on Werkstätten pieces.

Österreichische Werkstätten (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 24 18; www.oew.at; 01, Kärntner Strasse 6) The best Austrian crafts and design is found upstairs here, including Kisslinger, a family glassware company since 1946, with Klimt- and Hundertwasser-styled designs.

Porzellan Manufacturer Augarten Schloss Augarten (Map pp116-17; ☎ 211 24-200; www.augarten.at; 02, Obere Augartenstrasse 1, Schloss Augarten; ☎ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri); Stock-im-Eisen-Platz (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 14 94; 01, Stock-im-Eisen-Platz 3) Exquisite, albeit very traditional, porcelain ornaments and gifts are sold at the well-established factory and its city outlet.

Clothes, Leather & Jewellery

Kaufhaus Schiepek (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 15 75; 01, Teinfaltstrasse 3) If you're looking for inexpensive, colourful jewellery or beads to create your own, look no further than Kaufhaus Schiepek.

Combinat (Map pp120-1; ☎ 699 1200 8920; 01, Museumsplatz 1; ☎ noon-7pm Tue-Sat) Four designers have pooled resources in this fashion shop and have one guest each month to present

five labels for handbags, textiles and other art or accessories.

Loden-Plankl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 80 32; 01, Michaelerplatz 6) Loden-Plankl is a specialist in *Trachten*, traditional folk wear like *Lederhosen* (leather trousers) and *Dirndl* (traditional women's dress). It's been in operation for over 170 years, but the prices for quality stuff are less folkloric.

Lederwaren-Manufaktur Thomas Hicker (Map pp116-17; ☎ 982 82 06; 14, Schanzstrasse 55) The favoured address of Austria's prominence for briefcases and handcrafted leather accessories for business and the office.

Etcetera (Map p122; ☎ 524 56 37; 07, Neubaugasse 77; ☎ 10am-noon & 3-6pm Mon-Fri, closed afternoon Wed) One of the best secondhand shops in Vienna for women's clothing – lots of retro stuff on the racks here, some of it prestigious labels. Stroll along Neubaugasse for more of this ilk.

See also boxed texts, above and p134.

Confectionary

Altmann & Kühne (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 09 27; 01, Graben 30) Altmann & Kühne have been producing their handmade bonbons for over 100 years using a well-kept secret recipe. The packaging is designed by Wiener Werkstätten.

Demel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 17 17; www.demel.at; 01, Kohlmarkt 14) Demel produces stunning cakes, which are lovingly prepared – and lovingly devoured. Cakes can also be ordered over the internet.

Manner (Map pp120-1; ☎ 513 70 18; 01, www.manner.com; 01, Stephansplatz 7; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Sat) The concept store of Vienna's favourite for sweet teeth since 1898. The peachy pink is hard to ignore, but so too are the confectionery delights available in a variety of packaging and combinations.

Department Stores

Gerngoss (Map pp120-1; ☎ 521 80; 07, Mariahilfer Strasse 38-40) Five floors of shops at Gerngoss cover most shopping genres, although the selection is very mainstream.

Steffl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 514 31-0; 01, Kärntner Strasse 19) Steffl is the most upmarket of Vienna's department stores, filled with designer labels and cosmetics.

Markets

Flohmarkt (flea market; Map pp116-17; 05, Kettenbrückengasse; ☎ dawn-4pm Sat) This atmospheric flea market, in the mould of an Eastern European market, shouldn't be missed, with goods piled up in apparent chaos on the walkway. You can find anything you want (and everything you don't want): books, clothes, records, ancient electrical goods, old postcards, ornaments, carpets...you name it. Bargain for prices here.

From around the middle of November, *Christkindmärkte* (Christmas Markets) start to pop up all over Vienna. Ranging from kitsch to quaint in style and atmosphere, the markets all have a few things in common: plenty of people, loads of Christmas gifts to purchase, mugs of *Glühwein* (mulled wine) and hotplates loaded with *Kartoffelpuffer* (hot potato patties) and *Maroni* (roasted chestnuts). Most close a day or two before Christmas day. Some of the best include:

Freyung market (Map pp120-1) Austrian arts and crafts and an old-worldly feel.

Heiligenkreuzerhof market (Map pp120-1) Oft-forgotten market which is arguably the most authentic and quaint of all the *Christkindmärkte*.

Karlsplatz market (Map pp120-1) Mainly sells arty gifts and is situated close to the Karlskirche.

Rathausplatz market (Map pp120-1) Easily the biggest and most touristy Christmas market in Vienna, held on the square in front of the Rathaus, but most of the Christmas gifts on sale are kitschy beyond belief unfortunately.

Schönbrunn market (Map pp116-17) Circle of upmarket stalls, loads of events for the kids and daily classical concerts at 6pm (more on weekends).

Spittelberg market (Map pp120-1) Traditional market featuring the charming cobblestone streets of the Spittelberg quarter. Stalls sell quality arts and crafts, but not at the cheapest prices.

Music

Black Market (Map pp120-1; ☎ 533 24 58; www.soul seduction.com; 01, Gonzagagasse 9; ☎ noon-7pm Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm Sat) This is Vienna's house, techno

and electronic specialist. The vinyl selection is enormous and the staff are highly knowledgeable.

MP3 (Map pp120-1; ☎ 526 47 15; www.musiktank.stelle.at, in German; 01, Museumsplatz 1; ☎ 1-7pm Tue-Sun) There's only one other place in the world where you'll find another of these – inside the Haus der Musik (p127). Zillions of Austrian pop, rock and electronic beats in one place for downloading. You can listen on the computer and have your selection burnt onto a CD for €0.99 per song plus €2 for the CD.

Rave Up (Map pp116-17; ☎ 596 96 50; 06, Hofmühlgasse 1) Friendly staff, loads of vinyl and a massive collection covering every genre of music in the world makes a trip to Rave Up a real pleasure.

Teuchtl (Map pp120-1; ☎ 586 21 33; 06, Windmühlgasse 10; ☎ 1-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat) This second-hand shop buys, sells and exchanges records and CDs, including rare and discontinued titles.

Photography

Lomoshop (Map pp120-1; ☎ 523 70 16; 07, Museumsplatz 1; ☎ 11am-7pm) What began in the '80s as a bit of fun for a handful of Lomo fanatics in Vienna has now turned into a worldwide cult, and the Lomoshop is considered the very heart of the global Lomo movement. Here you'll find Lomo cameras, gadgets and accessories for sale, including original Russian-made multiple lens and fisheye Lomos.

Wine

Wien & Co (Map pp120-1; ☎ 535 09 16-12; www.weinco.at; 01, Jasomirgottstrasse 3-5) Wein & Co is arguably the best place to buy wine in Vienna; prices are extremely competitive, the selection hard to beat and the concentration of New World wines is impressive.

Berthaler + Berthaler (Map pp120-1; ☎ 216 37 57; 02, Komödiengasse 3; ☎ 3-7pm Tue, Thu & Fri) This small Burgenland winemaker from Gols sells (mostly) his own wines at cellar door prices. Those with a deep appreciation of chocolate will gravitate towards his wine-spiked variety.

Unger und Klein (Map pp120-1; ☎ 532 13 23; www.ungerundklein.at; 01, Gölsdorfasse 2; ☎ 3pm-midnight Mon-Fri, 5pm-midnight Sat) Austrian wines make a great show at this wine bar/shop, with the best the country has to offer – whether expensive boutique varieties or bargain-bin bottles.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Vienna is the main centre for international flights. Flying domestic routes offers few benefits over trains. Although there are frequent flights to Graz, Klagenfurt, Salzburg and Linz with Austrian Airlines from Vienna (from about €78 each way), Innsbruck in Tyrol is the one place where flying is considerably faster than train (from about €93, one hour, five times daily). Book early for the cheapest fares. See p395 for more information.

Boat

Steamers head west (mostly from Krems) and fast hydrofoils head east – see p400 and p164.

Bus

Vienna currently has no central bus station and national Bundesbuses arrive and depart from several different locations, depending on the destination – many routes south (eg Eisenstadt) go from Südtiroler Platz. The Eurolines Bratislava service makes a stop here. For information, call ☎ 711 01 (open 7am to 8pm).

Car & Motorcycle

All the major car rental companies are represented in Vienna.

AVIS (Map pp114-15; ☎ 587 6241; www.avis.at; 10, Laaer-Berg-Strasse 43; 🕒 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat, 8am-1pm Sun)

Denzeldrive (Map pp116-17; ☎ 0501 054190; www.denzeldrive.at; 15, Europlatz (Westbahnhof); 🕒 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat)

Europcar (Map pp120-1; ☎ 714 67 17; www.europcar.at; 01, Schuberting 9; 🕒 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, 8am-noon Sun)

Hertz (Map pp120-1; ☎ 512 86 77; www.hertz.at; 01, Kärntner Ring 17; 🕒 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun)

LaudaMotion (Map pp116-17; ☎ 0900 240 120; www.laudamotion.com; 15, Europlatz; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat, 4-6pm Sun) Cheap deals and (almost) free city sponsor cars.

Train

Vienna has excellent rail connections with Europe and the rest of Austria. Not all destinations are served by one station, and schedules are subject to change. The following stations (except Meidling) have lockers, currency exchange, *Bankomats* and places to eat and buy provisions for your journey.

WESTBAHNHOF

Trains to the west and north depart from Westbahnhof. Hourly services head to Salzburg (€43, 3½ hours) and four travel to Munich (€72, five hours). Seven daily direct trains run to Zürich (€88, six hours), frequent direct trains go to Frankfurt (€112, 7½ hours), one night train goes to Berlin (€155, 12 hours) and six go to Budapest (Keleti; €34, 2¾ hours). Westbahnhof is on U-Bahn lines U3 and U6, and many trams stop outside.

SÜDBAHNHOF

From Südbahnhof trains travel to Italy, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. One direct train leaves each evening for Rome (€100, 13½ hours; via Klagenfurt, Venice and Florence); more services require a change at Venice. Hourly trains go to Bratislava (€13, one hour); there's six a day to Prague (€47, 4½ hours) and one each morning to Berlin (€98, nine hours).

Trams D (to the Ring and Franz-Josefs-Bahnhof) and O (to Wien Mitte and Praterstern) stop outside. Transfer to Westbahnhof in about 20 minutes by taking tram 18, or the S-Bahn to Meidling and then the U6.

FRANZ-JOSEFS-BAHNHOF

This station handles regional and local trains, including to Tulln (p174), Krems an der Donau (p170), and the Wachau region. From outside, tram D goes to the Ring, and tram 5 goes to Westbahnhof (via Kaiserstrasse) in one direction and Praterstern (Wien Nord) in the other.

OTHER STATIONS

The smaller stations Wien Mitte (Map pp120-1), Wien Nord (Map pp116-17) and Meidling (Map pp116-17) all have U-Bahn stops and the former two have connections to the airport.

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

Getting to/from the airport is possible using the following transport options:

Bus Link (☎ 05 17 17, 7007 32300; www.oebb.at; adult one way/return €6/11, child 6-15 €3/5.50, child under 6 free; 🕒 from Westbahnhof every 30 min 5am-11pm, 🕒 from Schwedenplatz 5am-11.30pm, every 20 min (U1 and U4)). The Westbahnhof service takes 35 minutes and calls at Wien Südbahnhof station; the Schwedenplatz service is direct and takes 20 minutes.

OUT FOR THE RIDE

With its network of over 30 tram lines, Vienna is ideal for exploration by tram. Just to spice up one possible ride, here's a 'mystery tour'. Set aside a half day to do it with stops.

Board the tram N at Schwedenplatz going east. After a few stops you cross the lovely bridge of a famous general (p30) who helped keep the Habsburg monarchy in power with a stunning win. Get off here if you like and try something Wild (p148). Look or ask someone for a house where no line runs straight (the boxed text, p53, will help). Board again in the same direction, get out once you've reached the terminus and walk towards the major attraction here. It'll take you about 20 minutes. Along the way, there's a trampoline centre (in good weather). If it's open, tell the person at the booth you've got a brother who weighs 100kg and ask whether that's OK on the trampolines. ('Mein Bruder wiegt Einhundert Kilo, geht das überhaupt?'). There are places to snack, eat or drink all along the way if your brother needs upsizing, or you can rent a bike to downsize him.

Press on until you reach the train station. Jump on tram 5 towards Westbahnhof and immediately look out for the lovely little bar named after a famous 1970s kitsch film (we don't really recommend this one). After a while, you cross the bridge Friedensbrücke. On the right is another masterpiece from our 'Straight is not great' fellow. It was completed in 1971, and our architect wrote a famous manifesto called...? (Time you read that 'Architecture' section, isn't it?) You've crossed the canal now and are weaving towards Westbahnhof through the districts of Alsergrund and Josefstadt (Vienna's smallest district in terms of area). You might get off at Blindengasse to explore the neighbourhood, if it's evening try one of the bars beneath the Josefstädter U-Bahn station, or continue on to Westbahnhof.

C&K Airport Service (☎ 444 44; one way €27) C&K car service is a better and cheaper option than a taxi as its rates are fixed. On arrival at the airport, head to its stand to the left of the exit hall; when leaving Vienna, call ahead to make a reservation.

City Airport Train (☎ 252 50; www.cityairporttrain.com; return adult/child 6-14 €15/free if accompanied by adult; 🕒 5.38am-11.08pm, every 30 min) Departs from Wien-Mitte and takes 16 minutes; luggage check-in facilities and boarding card issuing service.

Schnellbahn 7 (☎ 05 17 17; www.oebb.at; one way €3, with city transport passes €1.50; 🕒 1.09am, 2.09am, 3.09am, 4.32am & 4.56am-11.22pm, every 30 min from Wien-Mitte) Cheapest way to get to the airport; also departs Wien-Nord.

Eurolines buses (see p398) run between Bratislava airport in Slovakia and Schwechat five times daily (departing Schwechat between 8.15am and 8.45pm, departing Bratislava airport between 7.30am and 10.30pm). The trip takes 1½ hours and costs €10 return.

Bicycle

With a cycle track network of over 700km, Vienna is great for a bike ride on a warm day. Bikes can be rented from **Pedal Power** (Map pp116-17; ☎ 729 7234; 02, Ausstellungsstrasse 3; 1hr/half-/full-day rental €5/17/27; 🕒 8am-6pm Mar-Apr & Oct, 8am-7pm May-Sep; bring a passport or credit card) or from **Vienna City**

Bike (☎ 0810-50 05 00; www.citybikewien.at; 1st hr free, 2nd/3rd/4th hr €1/2/4), which has blue and yellow bike racks across the city. International MasterCard or Visa credit cards can be used, but unfortunately only an Austrian bank Maestro card; buying a city bike card is easiest. This is available from some hotels and pensions, or from **Royal Tours** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 710 4606; www.royaltours.at; 01, Herrengasse 1-3; 🕒 8-11.30am & 1-6pm) for €2 per day. But make sure you don't lose the bike, or €600 will be deducted from your card.

Bicycles can be carried on carriages marked with a bike symbol on the S-Bahn and U-Bahn (9am to 3pm and after 6.30pm Monday to Friday, after 9am Saturday, and all day Sunday) for half the adult fare. It's not possible to take bikes on trams and buses.

Car & Motorcycle

Due to a system of one-way streets and expensive parking, you're better off using the excellent public transport system. If you do plan to drive in the city, take special care of the trams; they always have priority and vehicles must wait behind trams when they stop to pick up or set down passengers.

Districts one to nine and 20 are pay zones and display *Kurzparkzone* (short-stay parking zones) where a *Parkschein* (parking voucher) is required. These come in colour-coded

30-/60-/90-minute lots (€0.60/1.20/1.80) and can be purchased from most *Tabaks* (tobacconist shops), banks, train stations and Wiener Linien ticket offices. A free 10-minute voucher is also available. To validate a voucher, just cross out the appropriate time, date and year and display it on your dashboard.

Public Transport

Vienna has one of Europe's best integrated public transport networks. Flat-fare tickets are valid for trains, trams, buses, the underground (U-Bahn) and the S-Bahn regional trains. Services are frequent, and you will rarely have to wait more than five or 10 minutes.

Public transport kicks off around 5am or 6am. Buses and trams finish between 11pm and midnight, and S-Bahn and U-Bahn services between 12.30am and 1am. Twenty-one Nightline bus routes crisscross the city from 12.30am to 5am. Schwedenplatz, Schottentor and the Oper are starting points for many services; look for buses and bus stops marked with an 'N'. All tickets are valid for Nightline services.

Transport maps are posted in all U-Bahn stations and at many bus and tram stops. Free maps and information pamphlets are available from **Wiener Linien** (☎ 7909 100; www.wienerlinien.at; ☎ information line 6am-10pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-4.30pm Sat & Sun), located in nine U-Bahn stations. The Karlsplatz, Stephansplatz and Westbahnhof information offices are open from 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Those at Erdberg, Floridsdorf, Landstrasse, Philadelphiabrücke, Praterstern and Schottentor are closed on weekends.

TICKETS & PASSES

Tickets and passes can be purchased at U-Bahn stations – from automatic machines (with English instructions and change) and occasionally-staffed ticket offices – and in *Tabaks*. Once bought, tickets need to be validated before starting your journey (except for weekly and monthly tickets); look for small blue boxes at the entrance to U-Bahn stations and on buses and trams. Just pop the end of the ticket in the slot and wait for the 'ding'. It's an honour system and ticket inspection is infrequent, but if you're caught without a ticket you'll be fined €60, no exceptions.

Tickets and passes are as follows:

8-Tage-Karte (Eight-day Ticket; €27.20) Valid for eight days, but not necessarily eight consecutive days; punch the card as and when you need it.

24-Stunden Wien-Karte (24hr Ticket; €5.70) Unlimited travel for 24 hours from time of validation.

Die Wien-Karte (The Vienna Card) See p124.

Fahrschein (Single Ticket; €1.70) Good for one journey, with line changes; costs €2.20 if purchased on trams and buses (correct change required).

Monatskarte (Monthly Ticket; €49.50) Valid from the 1st of the month to the last day of the month and transferable.

Streifenkarte (Strip Ticket; €6.80) Four single tickets on one strip.

Wiener Einkaufskarte (Vienna Shopping Card; €4.60) For use between 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday; only good for one day after validation.

Wochenkarte (Weekly Ticket; €14) Valid Monday to 9am Monday.

Children aged six to 15 travel for half-price, or free on Sunday, public holidays and during Vienna school holidays (photo ID necessary); younger children always travel free. Senior citizens (women over 60, men over 65) can buy a €2 ticket that is valid for two trips; inquire at transport information offices.

Taxi & Pedal Taxi

Taxis are reliable and relatively cheap by West European standards. City journeys are metered; expect a flagfall of €2.50 from 6am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and €2.60 any other time, plus a small per kilometre fee. A small tip is expected; add on about 10% to the fare. Taxis are easily found at train stations and stands all over the city, or just flag them down in the street. To order one call ☎ 31 300, ☎ 60 160, ☎ 40 100 or ☎ 81 400. Don't count on taxis taking credit cards.

Pedal taxis (called Faxi) will set you back €2.50 per kilometre if you flag one down. Expect to pay €40 for a short spin of 20 minutes in a *Fiaker* (see p139).

AROUND VIENNA

KLOSTERNEUBURG

Realistically, much of Lower Austria can be visited as a day trip from Vienna. Klosterneuburg, a small town only 12km north of the Innere Stadt, is an easy half-day trip.

Without doubt the biggest attraction is Klosterneuburg's **Stift Klosterneuburg** (☎ 02243-

411 212; www.stift-klosterneuburg.at; Stiftplatz 1, Klosterneuburg; tours adult/student/child/family €7/6/5/4/14; ☎ tours 10am-5pm hourly). Founded in 1114, the abbey's baroque facade didn't begin until 1730, and wasn't completed until 1842. The plans actually called for something much more grand, but fortunately these were not realised, leaving large sections intact in their original medieval style. The abbey's **museum** (☎ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun May-mid-Nov) contains an eclectic mix of religious art from the Middle Ages to the present. It closes in winter to individual visitors, but tours of are conducted almost hourly all year (tours in English require advanced notice). The highlight of the 'Der Sacrale Weg' tour is the **Verdun Altar** in St Leopold's Chapel, an annexe of the church. Made in 1181 by Nicholas of Verdun, it is

an unsurpassed example of medieval enamel work and is gloriously adorned with 51 enamelled panels showing biblical scenes.

Not far from the abbey, but light years away in its displays, is **Sammlung Essl** (☎ 02243-370 50; www.sammlung-essl.at; Kunst Der Gegenwart, An der Donau-Au 1, Klosterneuburg; adult/student & child €7/5/3.50, free Wed 7-9pm; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-9pm Wed). This gallery houses the extensive contemporary art collection of the Essl family, and includes the likes of Gerhard Richter, Hermann Nitsch, Georg Baselitz and Elke Krystufek.

Getting There & Away

Klosterneuburg's on the S-Bahn route from Vienna (Franz-Josef-Bahnhof) to Tulln. The station closest to the abbey is Klosterneuburg-Kierling (€4.40; 15 minutes; every 30 minutes).

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