

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips

INSIDER TIP Main music drag

The "Gürtel" was neglected for a long time but, recently, it has been revitalised to become a suburban boulevard with a real purpose. Now, many mind-blowing locations – such as *Chelsea* – draw in the night owls with their live gigs → p. 46, 82

INSIDER TIP Peering into the city's "cleavage"

Stop for a drink at the rooftop café/bar Bloom on the 9th floor of the *Hotel Lamée* and enjoy the unique view over the rooftops, towers and domes of the Old Town (photo right) → p. 91

INSIDER TIP History in the laundrette

Anyone interested in learning about interwar "Red Vienna" will find fascinating insights in the former communal laundry room of the *Karl-Marx-Hof*, with a particular focus on municipal politics and social housing → p. 58

INSIDER TIP The last synagogue

Hidden behind an unassuming exterior, the *Stadttempel* is Vienna's main synagogue and the only one to have survived the Kristallnacht pogrom → p. 43

INSIDER TIP The plant kingdom

It's amazing what culinary delights you can create with just vegetables! The organic restaurant *St. Josef* is a top destination for hungry vegans and vegetarians → p. 69

INSIDER TIP Career killer

It's scarcely possible to imagine that one of the masterpieces of Viennese Art Nouveau – the beautiful and highly original *Otto-Wagner-Kirche* – marked the end of architect Otto Wagner's career at the imperial court (photo above) → p. 58

INSIDER TIP Scrumptious cinema

Top Kino offers great films and tasty food, while its bar serves drinks until the early hours of the morning → p. 86

INSIDER TIP Beach club beats

In the garden of the stylish *Pratersauna* nightclub you can find the coolest parties in town around the pool during the summer → p. 85

INSIDER TIP Contemporary dance

Every year in the summer, *ImPulsTanz* – Vienna International Dance Festival – plays host to companies and soloists from around the world, offering an overview of the latest developments in dance → p. 118

INSIDER TIP Pay what you want

The Pakistani-Indian restaurant *Der Wiener Deewan* serves a range of delicious stews and curries every day, using a wide selection of different ingredients. The price is up to you – but don't be stingy! → p. 70

INSIDER TIP Dance the night away

Formerly a brothel, the *Tanzcafé Jenseits* is now a cosy bar where the young at heart can let their hair down → p. 84

INSIDER TIP Outdoor dining

A gastronomic idyll after visiting Schönbrunn: enjoy excellent suburban cooking and fine wines in the shade of chestnut trees in the inn *Zum Blauen Esel* → p. 70

INSIDER TIP A refuge run by refugees

The lovingly styled hotel *Magdas* in the Prater boasts an enchanting garden, and is staffed by asylum seekers → p. 94

INSIDER TIP Lunch in the Palace

You can eat well and inexpensively in the historic surroundings of the *Soho* bistro cafeteria in the National Library complex → p. 71

INSIDER TIP Watch out for the wild boar!

No need to panic when you meet one of the many wild animals that roam freely through the *Lainzer Tiergarten* wildlife preserve → p. 61



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● *How about sacred music?*

The beautiful *St Augustin Church* is famous for its solemn masses with music. You can hear festive compositions by Haydn or Schubert performed at a very high musical standard on Sundays and church holidays, and admission is free → p. 35

● *Escape to the island*

The *Donauinsel* is one of the most popular recreation areas in Vienna – mainly because you can play sports, have a barbecue or swim (naked!) all without paying a penny. During the summer one of the biggest festivals in the country, the *Donauinselfest*, offers music, theatre and comedy – also free of charge → p. 57, 118

● *Spectacular view from Schönbrunn Palace Park*

Of course, the palace and its state rooms are the main attraction. But a walk through the wonderful park is also a must and, by contrast, free. Don't miss the view over the western part of Vienna from the top of the hill with the "Gloriette" (photo) → p. 59

● *The most beautiful bathroom in Vienna*

Turn a necessity into a pleasure at the *Öffentliche Bedürfnisanstalt am Graben*, a listed Art Nouveau public toilet bedecked with gold and marble where you will feel like you are visiting a museum – but without having to pay an admission fee → p. 42

● *Melancholic Viennese cemetery*

Where can you find melancholic, morbid Vienna in its purest form? Looking at the weathered gravestones in the atmospheric *St Marx Biedermeier* cemetery, you sense why death is supposed to be a Viennese → p. 58

● *Visit the opera for free*

Mozart, Verdi, Wagner: during the summer, the *Musikfilmfestival* projects famous opera and operetta performances onto a big screen on the Rathausplatz every evening (provided the weather cooperates) → p. 119

●●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY IN VIENNA

Unique experiences

● *In the classical coffeehouse*

They are Vienna's answer to London's pubs and the bistros of Paris. The hundreds of "public living rooms" spread throughout the city are still the epitome of everyday Viennese culture. You can feel this especially well in swanky *Landtmann* (photo) → p. 66

● *Drink wine at a vineyard*

There are many places in Vienna where you can find a decent glass of wine, but *Neustift am Walde* is one of the most beautiful winegrowing districts, with countless small family-run Heuriger wine taverns nestled among picturesque vineyards → p. 58

● *Fiacre ride*

Trotting through the 1st district in a horse-drawn carriage is not only a Viennese cliché and quite expensive but actually a lot of fun → p. 124

● *Watch the world go by*

People-watching is a popular pastime in Vienna, and the many small, good-value bars and cafés on the *Brunnenmarkt* and on the streets surrounding the *Naschmarkt* make excellent venues to sit around for hours and study your surroundings → p. 70

● *Try some Schnitzel*

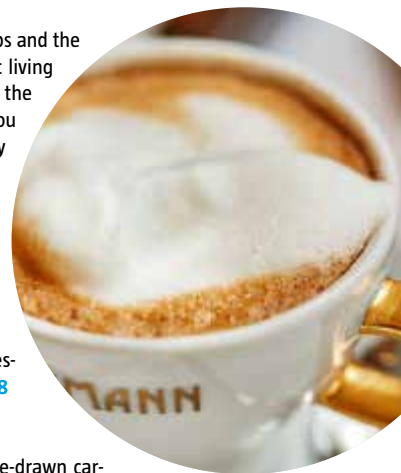
Of course, no visit to Vienna is complete without sampling the famous Wiener Schnitzel (vegetarians excepted). One of the best Schnitzels in town can be found at *Glacis Beisl* in the rear courtyard of the Museumsquartier → p. 69

● *A round on the giant Ferris wheel*

Along with "Steffl" and Schönbrunn, this gigantic steel construction is considered a classic symbol of Vienna. Going for a ride in one of the bright red carriages is a lot of fun especially in spring when – in the words of the song – "the flowers bloom again in the Prater" → p. 57

● *The Burgtheater – a must*

The "Burg", as the famous theatre on the Ringstraße is known, is the flagship of theatrical art in German. No matter whether a classical play or a provocatively modern piece, a visit is always worthwhile → p. 89



ONLY IN



DISCOVERY TOURS

1

VIENNA AT A GLANCE



START: ① Staatsoper

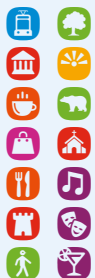
END: ⑭ Loosbar

Distance:

→ 20 km/12.5 miles

1 day

Walking time
(without stops)
6–7 hours



COSTS: Approx. 80 euros per person (public transport day pass, food, admission charges, not including theatre and opera house)

WHAT TO PACK: Wet weather clothing or sunscreen, as appropriate

IMPORTANT TIPS: The start and end points are directly connected to the public transport network, so leave your car at the garage! The last underground (U-Bahn) and tram services depart between 11.30pm and 12.30am on weekdays, and services run through the night at the weekend. Night buses are also available.

① **Staatsoper:** It's a good idea to book tickets in advance!

Would you like to explore the places that are unique to this city? Then the Discovery Tours are just the thing for you – they include terrific tips for stops worth making, breathtaking places to visit, selected restaurants and fun activities. It's even easier with the Touring App: download the tour with map and route to your smartphone using the QR Code on pages 2/3 or from the website address in the footer below – and you'll never get lost again even when you're offline.

TOURING
APP

→ p. 2/3

This tour allows you to appreciate Vienna's full variety – from breakfast in a coffee house and a stroll along the Ringstraße and the Naschmarkt to a performance at the Staatsoper. Along the way you will encounter world-class works by Old Masters, sightseeing and shopping opportunities; and visit Schönnbrunn Palace as well as other magnificent historical buildings, with the Stephansdom forming the highlight.

07:45am It's a good idea to make an early start to **catch the number 1 tram** before rush hour starts. The stop is located diagonally opposite the ① **Staatsoper** → p. 87 – and it's hard to imagine a more beautiful introduction to the

① Staatsoper

