

# VIENNA

MUSIC, ART & HISTORY  
IN THE IMPERIAL CITY

## OVERVIEW

Vienna is city of palaces and gardens, museums and music, tradition and modernity. For more than 400 years it was the jewel in the glittering imperial crown of the Habsburgs.

The city's wealth, at its zenith, is illustrated in its magnificent architecture, extraordinary collections of fine and decorative art, and a musical legacy that included some of the greatest names in classical music. As the Habsburg Empire waned, the city found new energy, embracing modernity in the revolutionary art and architecture of the Secessionists, the municipal socialism of Red Vienna and Sigmund Freud's work in psychoanalysis.

Our 13-day residential tour, in the company of art historian Christopher Menz, explores the city in depth, following in the footsteps of Mozart and Beethoven, Otto Wagner and Gustav Klimt, and ventures into the surrounding countryside as we cruise along the mighty Danube through the beautiful Wachau Valley. Of course, in this city of music, our tour also includes best possible seats to six selected performances.

**This tour is presented in partnership with Australia's leading arts and literary review, Australian Book Review.**



## TOUR LEADER

**Christopher Menz** is a former art museum director and curator and has been leading cultural tours in Europe since 2013. He has considerable expertise and interest in the visual arts and music.

## TOUR DATES

**October 15-27, 2024**

## TOUR PRICE

**\$11,640** per person, twin share  
**\$1,985** single supplement

## TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour. Once the final performance program is announced, an instalment of **\$2,000** will be required.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **20** in group

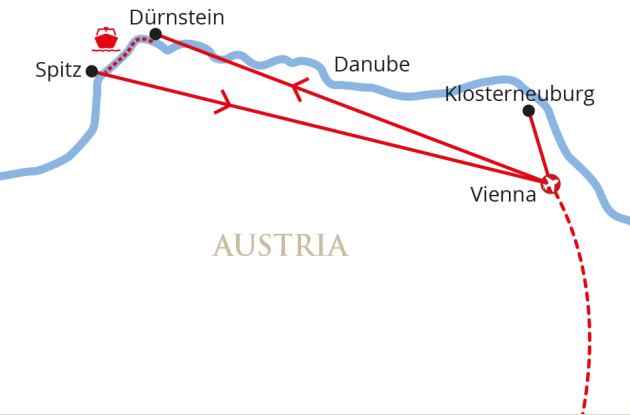
## ITINERARY

Vienna (12 nights)

## INCLUSIONS

**12** nights' accommodation in a centrally located 5-star hotel. All breakfasts, 1 morning tea, 5 lunches and 2 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. Best available tickets to **6** performances. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

VIENNA  
12 nights



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Start & Finish

The tour starts at 4.00pm on Tuesday 15 October, in the lobby of the InterContinental Hotel, Vienna. The tour ends after breakfast on Sunday 27 October, at the InterContinental Hotel, Vienna.

### Performance Schedule

Please note, the listed schedule of performances and venues in the itinerary is to indicate what we hope to include and will be subject to change on confirmation of the selected program.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Imperial glory

Appreciate sumptuous baroque and rococo palaces filled with masterpieces of decorative arts accumulated by the Habsburg dynasty at the height of its Imperial powers.

### Glorious music

Attend six world-class music performances in Vienna's finest venues and explore the world of classical and Romantic Vienna, with visits to sites dedicated to the composers who once lived there.

### A wealth of fine art

Immerse yourself in outstanding collections of fine art from Old Masters to modern masterpieces as we visit Vienna's world-class public and private museums.

### Along the Danube

Enjoy the beautiful Austrian countryside as we cruise along the mighty Danube River past the famous vineyards of the Wachau Valley, followed by a relaxed lunch showcasing the region's specialities.

### Modern Vienna

Discover a city that has embraced a turbulent history of empire, war and occupation, produced extraordinary art and music and is now a vibrant and welcoming destination.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D and MT for Morning Tea.

### Tuesday 15 October

#### Arrival

We gather in our hotel this afternoon to meet and greet tour leader Christopher Menz and fellow travellers before heading out for an orientation walk and introduction to the city of Vienna. Our walk ends at Beim Czaak, a traditional restaurant in the city's charismatic Old University quarter, where we enjoy our welcome dinner. Overnight Vienna (D)

### Wednesday 16 October

#### Habsburg Vienna

Imperial rulers from the 15th century, the Habsburg name is carved deep into the stones of Vienna. This morning, after a talk in the hotel, our walking tour explores the magnificent legacy the Habsburgs bequeathed the city including majestic St Stephen's Cathedral with its colourful tiled roof, and the Imperial Treasury, whose extraordinary collection of sacred and secular objects spans more than a thousand years. After a relaxed lunch together, we continue to the National Library whose extensive and historic collection, housed in a spectacular wing of the Hofburg, began with Albrecht III von Habsburg in the 14th century. Our day ends at the Albertina Museum, a former Habsburg residence which now holds one of Europe's finest collections of graphic art as well as an excellent collection of modern masters. Returning to the hotel, the evening is at leisure. Overnight Vienna (B, L)

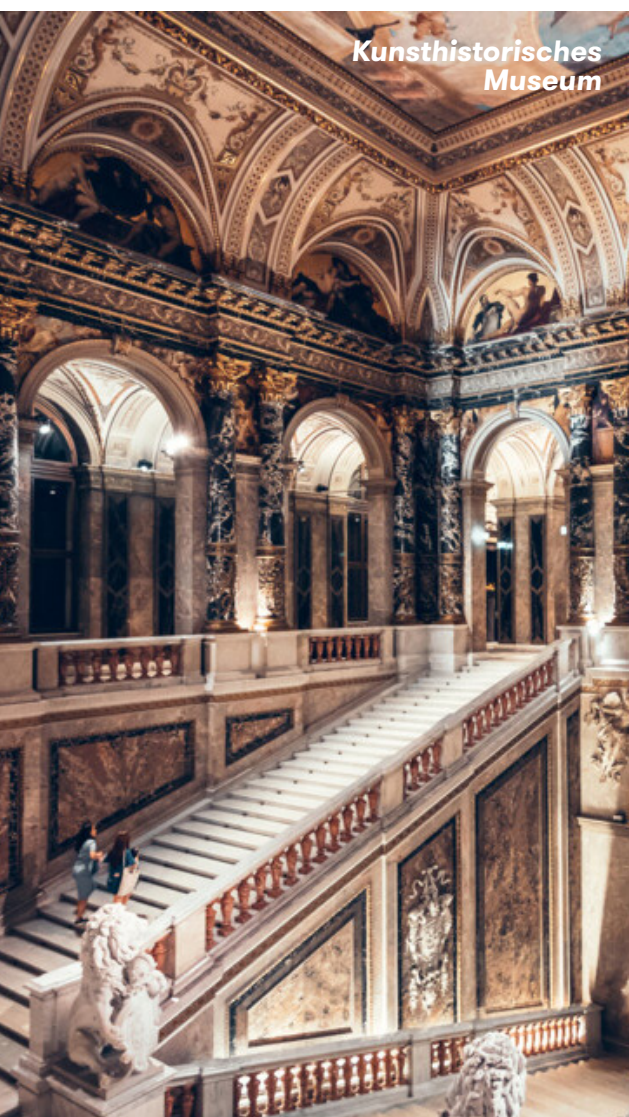
### Thursday 17 October

#### Karlsplatz Treasures | Performance I

The beautiful Karlsplatz, located just off the famous Ringstrasse, is home to an extraordinary collection of historic buildings and sites. We start our day at the Karlskirche,



Vienna State Opera



Kunsthistorisches Museum

the elegant Baroque church built for Emperor Charles VI to commemorate the end of the plague in 1712, then continue to the nearby Wien Museum, founded in 1887 and dedicated to the history and culture of Vienna. After time for lunch in a local café we head to the Albertina Modern, a newly established museum of modern and contemporary art profiling both Austrian and international artists post 1945. Returning to our hotel, there is time to relax before we kick off our performance program in style at the spectacular Vienna State Opera, one of the most important opera houses in the world. Overnight Vienna (B)

#### Performance I

Venue: Vienna State Opera

Program: To be advised

#### Friday 18 October

##### Kunsthistorisches Museum

Today is dedicated to the exceptional Kunsthistorisches Museum, one of several palatial buildings commissioned by Emperor Franz Josef I to accommodate the magnificent Habsburg collections. The building itself is a work of art, with a grand stairway featuring painting by Gustav Klimt, but its collection of Old Masters, including works by Caravaggio, Bruegel, Raphael, Velázquez and more, is considered one of the world's finest. Our morning tour is followed by lunch in the museum's excellent café. The afternoon is yours to explore the collection independently or spend as you wish, with the evening at leisure. Overnight Vienna (B, L)

#### Saturday 19 October

##### Central Cemetery and Heiligenstadt | Performance II

We begin today with a guided visit of the Central Cemetery, whose illustrious residents include Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Johann Strauss and Schoenberg. We then continue to the Beethoven Museum, located in the composer's former residence in Heiligenstadt, once a trendy spa town to which he retreated to contemplate his increasing deafness. After lunch in a local café we visit the Waschsalon, a museum in the Karl Marx-Hof public housing complex commemorating the inter war years when the city was governed by social democrats in a period known as Red Vienna. We return to the hotel with time to relax before this evening's performance in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein, one of Europe's most beautiful concert halls. Overnight Vienna (B, L)

#### Performance II

Venue: Musikverein, Golden Hall

Program: To be advised

#### Sunday 20 October

##### Vienna Boys' Choir | Performance III

In a glorious start to Sunday we make our way to the Hofburgkapelle, the former Imperial Court chapel which traces its history back to the 13th century. Here we enjoy Mass



Klimt's The Kiss



Kirche am Steinhof

sung by the Vienna Boys' Choir with the Hofmusikkapelle, the chapel choir established by Emperor Maximilian I in 1498. Following Mass we take a short walk to Demel, one of Vienna's most famous coffee houses, where we enjoy morning cake and coffee. The afternoon is free to explore Vienna at your leisure. Your tour leader can assist with suggestions for the city's fine museums and world-famous collections to suit your interests. We meet again this evening for a performance at the Konzerthaus – a quintessential experience in the capital of music. Overnight Vienna (B, MT)

### Performance III

Venue: Wiener Konzerthaus

Program: To be advised

### Monday 21 October

#### Klosterneuberg and the Upper Belvedere

After a talk in our hotel this morning we take the short coach trip to Klosterneuberg Abbey. Consecrated in 1136 and rebuilt in the Baroque style, the abbey has survived fire, siege and suppression under the Nazis following the Anschluss of 1938. Our guided tour takes us through the sumptuous imperial apartments, built for Emperor Charles VI, and the Chapel of Saint Leopold where we see the Verdun Altar, a technical masterpiece regarded as one of the most important artworks of the Middle Ages. Returning to Vienna, we have lunch together before visiting the Belvedere Museum, an impressive 18th-century palace whose extensive collection includes works from the Baroque, through to Biedermeier and Secessionist masterpieces, including Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss*. On return to our hotel, the evening is at leisure. Overnight Vienna (B, L)

### Tuesday 22 October

#### Jugendstil Vienna

At the turn of the 20th century, a new generation of artists and architects calling themselves the Vienna Secessionists rejected the dictates of conservative Vienna, breaking with tradition in favour of a new aesthetic which became known as Jugendstil. We explore their influence on our walking tour of Jugendstil Vienna before heading to the Museum of Applied Arts (MAK) whose extensive collection unites tradition and innovation. In the afternoon we visit the Kirche am Steinhof, built as part of the Steinhof Psychiatric Hospital. Commissioned from Secessionist architect Otto Wagner by the Imperial Family, the church's controversial Jugendstil design drew the ire of many conservative Viennese, including Archduke Franz Ferdinand, but today it is regarded as one of the most important buildings of its time. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Vienna (B)

### Wednesday 23 October

#### Schönbrunn | Performance IV

The main summer residence of the Habsburg rulers, the massive palace of Schönbrunn is one of Vienna's most important landmarks. The site originally served Emperor Maximilian as a recreational hunting reserve, but it was Empress Maria Theresa who transformed the original residence into a palace in the



18th century. Our guided visit today includes the Bergl rooms, a beautifully frescoed suite allowing direct access to the garden in the warm summer months. After free time for lunch you may choose to explore the extensive gardens, including the lovely hilltop Gloriette, or join our local guide to tour the Wagenburg, displaying the Habsburg's extraordinary and lavish carriage and sleighs collection. Returning to our hotel, there is time to freshen up this evening before our second performance at the Wiener Konzerthaus. Overnight Vienna (B)

#### Performance IV

Venue: Wiener Konzerthaus

Program: To be advised

#### Thursday 24 October

##### Musikverein and Leopold Museum | Performance V

Fostered by Habsburg patronage and supported by educated and enthusiastic audiences Vienna enjoyed a reputation for music excellence. Dedicated to the promotion of classical music, and with the aid of a land grant provided by Emperor Franz Josef I in 1863, the Wiener Musikverein, or Viennese Music Association, built its grand concert hall in the Neoclassical style in central Vienna. Still dedicated to this same excellence today, the venue is home of the Vienna Philharmonic and our guided tour this morning takes us through the rehearsal rooms, before we return to the sumptuous Golden Hall, followed by the more intimate Brahms Hall where tonight's performance is held. Our focus then shifts to the extraordinary Leopold Museum, holding one of the most important collections of modern Austrian art, including works by Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele. The afternoon is at leisure before we meet this evening, returning to the Musikverein for a performance in the beautiful Brahms Hall, designed to showcase the intimate aspects of classical music. Overnight Vienna (B)

#### Performance V

Venue: Musikverein, Brahms Hall

Program: To be advised

#### Friday 25 October

##### Wachau Valley | Performance VI

The Wachau Valley earned its UNESCO World Heritage listing thanks to its exceptional natural beauty and the importance of its terraced vineyards to the history of wine making in central Europe. Today our coach takes us as far as the picturesque town of Dürnstein, with time to explore this beautiful site overlooked by the ruins of a medieval castle, before we join a river cruise taking us down the Danube to Spitz. Here we enjoy a wine tasting and relaxed lunch showcasing the region's specialities. We return to the hotel by coach and meet this evening for our final performance at the Vienna State Opera. Overnight Vienna (B, L)

#### Performance VI

Venue: Vienna State Opera

Program: To be advised

## HOTELS

### **Vienna, InterContinental Hotel** (12 nights)

Stepping outside your hotel room, this 5-star InterContinental places you in the very heart of Vienna, just moments away from the Vienna State Opera, and stylish shopping are Kaerntner Strasse. Hotel rooms elegantly blend traditional and contemporary furnishings with lovely views of the Stadtpark or Vienna Concert Hall.

[www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)

## WEATHER

October is a perfect time to travel in Vienna, the average temperature range is 12°C at night and up to 24°C during the day. We recommend bringing some light but warm clothing and a coat for the evening performances and dinners.

## FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

### **Grade Two**

This tour is physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-7 kilometres over the day at a moderate pace
- stand and slow walk for up to 90 minutes galleries and museums
- negotiate walking over uneven ground on dirt tracks
- walk up and down steps and slopes
- get on and off a coach with steps unassisted
- move your luggage unassisted

### **Saturday 26 October** **Baroque Vienna**

This morning our walking tour reveals some of the hidden Baroque treasures of Vienna, taking us past the Winterpalais, the beautiful inner-city townhouse of Prince Eugene of Savoy; the Jesuits Church, consecrated in 1631, whose simple exterior reveals a lavish interior with later frescoes by Andrea Pozzo celebrating the Assumption; and the Heiligenkreuzerhof, a charming collection of shops, apartments and small chapel in a hidden courtyard. After a break for lunch we enjoy a private guided tour of the Garden Palace, a fine neoclassical building belonging to the Princes of Liechtenstein, where we view a selection of the family's priceless collection of Old Masters – including works by Rubens, van Dyck and Frans Hals. The later afternoon is at leisure, before we meet for our farewell dinner this evening. Overnight Vienna (B, D)

### **Sunday 27 October** **Departure**

The tour ends this morning after breakfast. Please consult your individual travel documents for your ongoing journey. (B)



## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Lucy Yeates** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

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