

**Handout Vienna Sightseeing City**

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## **Handout Vienna Sightseeing City**

This handout should help you to inform your students about Vienna and some of its sightseeings. Of course you can find much more well known buildings and churches than we mentioned in this paper, but we tried to make tours that includes the most popular buildings in Viennas city.

We wish you nice days in Vienna and hope you'll enjoy our small support.

**Vienna** is the capital of Austria and is also one of the nine states of Austria. Vienna is Austria's primary city, with a population of about 1.7 million (2.3 million within the metropolitan area), it is by far the largest city in Austria, as well as its cultural, economic, and political centre. It is the 10th largest city by population in the European Union, and was listed by Mercer Human Resource Consulting as having the 2nd highest quality of living (as of 2008). Vienna is host to many major international organizations such as the United Nations and OPEC. Vienna lies in the very east of Austria and is close to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. In 2001, the city centre was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in 2005 an Economist Intelligence Unit study of 127 world cities ranked it first equal with Vancouver for the quality of life.

Founded around 500 BC, Vienna was originally a Celtic settlement. In 15 BC, Vienna became a Roman frontier city (Vindobona) guarding the Roman Empire against Germanic tribes to the north.

In the 13th century, Vienna came under threat from the Mongolian Empire, which stretched over much of present-day Russia and China. However, due to the death of its leader, Ogedei Khan, the Mongolian armies receded from the European frontier and were not to return.

During the Middle Ages, Vienna was home to the Babenberg Dynasty, and in 1440 AD, it became the resident city of the Habsburg Dynasties, then it eventually grew to become the capital of the Holy Roman Empire and a cultural centre for arts and science, music and fine cuisine. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Ottoman armies were stopped twice outside Vienna (see Siege of Vienna, 1529 and Battle of Vienna, 1683).

In 1804, Vienna became capital of the Austrian Empire and continued to play a major role in European and world politics, including hosting the 1814 Congress of Vienna. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, Vienna remained the capital of what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During the latter half of the 19th century, the city developed what had previously been the bastions and glacis into the Ringstraße, a major prestige project. Former suburbs were incorporated, and the city of Vienna grew dramatically.

In 1918, after World War I, Vienna became capital of the First Austrian Republic. During the 1920s and 1930s, it was a bastion of socialism in Austria, and was known as "Red Vienna." The city was stage to the Austrian Civil War of 1934, when

Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss sent the Austrian Army to shell civilian housing occupied by the socialist militia. In 1938, after a triumphant entry into Austria, Adolf Hitler famously spoke to the Austrian people from the balcony of the Neue Burg, a part of the Hofburg at the Heldenplatz. Between 1938 (Anschluß) and the end of the Second World War, Vienna lost its status as a capital to Berlin.

In 1945, the Soviets successfully launched the Vienna Offensive against Germans who were holding Vienna. The city was besieged for about two weeks before it fell to the Soviets. After 1945, Vienna again became the capital of Austria, was initially divided into zones by the four powers (or the four prevailing nations), and was governed by the Allied Commission for Austria. The four-power occupation of Vienna differed in some respects from the four-power occupation of Berlin: the central area of Vienna had an international zone in which the four powers alternated on a monthly basis. When the Berlin blockade occurred in 1948, Vienna was even more vulnerable because there was no airport in the western sectors. However, despite fears, the Soviets did not blockade Vienna. Some have argued that this was because the Potsdam Agreement gave written rights of land access to the western sectors, whereas no such written guarantees had been given regarding Berlin. The true reason will, however, always remain a matter of speculation. During the 10 years of foreign occupation, Vienna became a hot-bed for international espionage between the Western and Eastern blocs. The atmosphere of four-power Vienna is captured in the Graham Greene novel *The Third Man* and by the movie which followed.

In the 1970s, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky inaugurated the Vienna International Centre, a new area of the city created to host international institutions. Vienna has regained a part of its former international relevance by hosting international organizations, such as the United Nations (UNIDO, UNOV, CTBTO and UNODC), the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna>

# Sightseeing Vienna City

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Our tour starts at St. Stephen's Cathedral in the center of Vienna.

**St. Stephen's Cathedral** (German: Stephansdom) is the mother church of the Archdiocese of Vienna and the seat of the Archbishop of Vienna, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, OP. Its current Romanesque and Gothic form seen today, situated at the heart of Vienna, Austria in the Stephansplatz, was largely initiated by Rudolf IV and stands on the ruins of two earlier churches, the first being a parish church consecrated in 1147. As the most important religious building in Austria's capital, the cathedral has borne witness to many important events in that nation's history and has become one of the city's most recognizable symbols.



Standing at 136 meters tall (445 ft) and affectionately referred to by the city's inhabitants as "Steffl" (a diminutive form of "Stephen"), St. Stephen's Cathedral's massive south tower is its highest point and a dominant feature of the

#### St. Stephen`s Cathedral 1

Vienna skyline. Its construction lasted 65 years, from 1368 to 1433. During the Siege of Vienna in 1529 and again during the Battle of Vienna in 1683, it served as the main observation and command post for the defense of the walled city, and it even contains an apartment for the watchmen who, until 1955, manned the tower at night and rang the bells if a fire was spotted in the city. At the tip of the tower stands the double-eagle imperial emblem with the Habsburg-Lorraine coat of arms on its chest, surmounted by a double-armed apostolic cross, which refers to Apostolic Majesty, the imperial style of kings of Hungary.



The north tower was originally intended to mirror the south tower, but the design proved too ambitious, considering the era of Gothic cathedrals was nearing its end, and construction was halted in 1511. In 1578 the tower-stump was augmented with a renaissance cap, nicknamed the "water tower top" by the Viennese. The tower now stands at 68 meters tall (223 ft), roughly half the height of the south tower.

#### St. Stephen`s Cathedral 2

The main entrance to the church is named the Giant's Door, or Riesentor, referring to the bone of a mastodon that once hung over it. The tympanum above the Door depicts Christ Pantocrator flanked by two winged angels, while on the left and right are the two Roman towers, or Heidentürme, that each stand at approximately 65 meters (215 ft) tall. The name for the towers derives from the fact that they were constructed from the rubble of old structures built by the Romans during their occupation of the area. Square at the base and octagonal above the roofline, the Heidentürme originally housed bells; those in the south Roman tower were lost during World War II, but the north Roman tower remains an operational bell tower. The Roman towers, together with the Giant's Door, are the oldest parts of the church.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_Stephen%27s\\_Cathedral,\\_Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Stephen%27s_Cathedral,_Vienna)

**The Stephansplatz** is a square at the geographical centre of Vienna. It is named after its most prominent building, the Stephansdom, Vienna's cathedral and one of the tallest churches in the world. Before the 20th century, a row of houses separated Stephansplatz from Stock-im-Eisen-Platz, but since their destruction, the name Stephansplatz started to be used for the wider area covering both.



*Stephansplatz 1*

To the west and south, respectively, run the exclusive shopping streets Graben (literally "ditch") and Kärntner Straße ("Kärnten" is the

German for Carinthia). Opposite the Stephansdom is the Haas-Haus, a piece of striking modern architecture by Hans Hollein. Although public opinion was originally skeptical about the combination of the mediæval cathedral and the glass and steel building, it is now considered an example of how old and new architecture can mix harmoniously.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephansplatz,\\_Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephansplatz,_Vienna)

**The Haas-Haus** is a building in Vienna at the Stock-im-Eisen-Platz opposite the Stephansdom.



*Haas Haus 1*

It's a building in postmodernistic style finished in 1990, designed by the Austrian architect Hans Hollein. It serves as a restaurant. It is controversial because of the big contrast with the historical cathedral in front of it.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haas-Haus>

**The Stock-im-Eisen** ("staff in iron") is located at the corner of Kärntner Straße and Graben. It is a large piece of wood into which hundreds of nails have been hammered, ringed by an iron band which is closed by a large **padlock**. The Stock im Eisen is the subject of a myth wherein a repentant thief is given the power to create unpickable locks by the devil. The Stock im Eisen was first mentioned in 1533.



*Stock im Eisen 1*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephansplatz,\\_Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephansplatz,_Vienna)

**The Graben** (German, literally, "the trench") is one of the most famous streets in Vienna's first district, the city centre. It begins at Stock-im-Eisen-Platz next to the Palais Equitable and ends at the junction of Kohlmarkt and Tuchlauben. Another street in the first district is called Tiefer Graben (deep ditch). It is crossed by Wipplinger Straße by means of the Hohe Brücke, a bridge about ten metres above street level.



*Graben 1*

The Graben traces its origin back to the old Roman encampment of Vindobona. The south-western wall of the settlement extended along the length of the present-day Graben and Naglergasse; before the wall lay a trench (Graben). This trench still stood in front of the medieval city walls. At the end of the 12th century, the city was enlarged by the Babenberg Dukes, using the ransom money for Richard the Lionheart. At this time the trench was filled in and levelled. The Graben thereby became one of the first residential streets in the new section of the city. In this area of the city large unbuilt areas were still available, which probably contributed to the maintenance of the name "Graben" up until the present day.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graben,\\_Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graben,_Vienna)

**The Pestsäule** (German for plague column) is located on Graben, a street in the inner city of Vienna and is one of the most well-known and prominent pieces of sculpture in the city.



**Pestsäule 1**

In 1679, Vienna was visited by one of the last big plague epidemics. Fleeing the city, Emperor Leopold I vowed to erect a mercy column if the epidemic would end. In the same year, a provisional wooden column made by Johann Frühwirth was inaugurated, showing the Holy Trinity on a corinthian column together with nine sculpted angel (for the Nine Choirs of Angels).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pests%C3%A4ule\\_\(Vienna\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pests%C3%A4ule_(Vienna))

**The Peterskirche** (English: St. Peter's Church) in Vienna is a church with a long and eventful history. The Peterskirche was transferred in 1970 by the Archbishop of Vienna Franz Cardinal König to the priests of the Opus Dei.



**Peterskirche 1**

The oldest church building (of which nothing remains today) dates back to the Early Middle Ages, and there is speculation that it could be the oldest church in Vienna (See Ruprechtskirche). That Roman church was built on the site of a Roman encampment.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peterskirche,\\_Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peterskirche,_Vienna)

**The Kohlmarkt** is one of Vienna's pedestrian shopping streets in the first district. It starts at the Graben and ends at the Michaelerplatz. Because of its expensive shops (jeweleries and fashion shops) it is also known as fanciest shopping street of Vienna.



**Kohlmarkt 2**



**Kohlmarkt 1**

On the way to the Michaeler Platz you come along of a lot of expensive shops.



**Kohlmarkt 3**



**Kohlmarkt 4**

On the right side near the Michaeler Platz you find the very well known

**Café Demel**, or simply Der Demel, is a famous chocolatier in Vienna, Austria. It was founded in 1786 on the Michaelerplatz. In 1857, August Dehne (the son of the founder Ludwig Dehne) gave the company to Christof Demel, who moved the bakery to the Kohlmarkt, where the Demel is still today.



**Demel 1**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demel>

At the end of Kohlmarkt, to your right is the Loos Haus

**The Loos Haus** is a wellknown house in Vienna and is one of zentral buildings of the Wiener Moderne. The [Wiener Moderne](#) or Viennese Modern Age is a term describing the culture of Vienna in the period between approximately 1890 and 1910. It refers especially to the development of modernism in the Austrian capital and its effect on the spheres of philosophy, literature, music, art, design and architecture.



**Adolf Loos Haus 1**

The Michaelerplatz in Vienna was planned at 1725 but build at the end of the 19th century.

Around this place are the Loos Haus, the Michaelerkirche and the Michaelertor situated. In the middle of this place are some roman excavations.



*Michaeler Platz 1*

**The Michaelerkirche**, dedicated to the Archangel Michael, is one of the oldest churches in Vienna, Austria, and also one of its few remaining Romanesque buildings. In the course of time, there have been many alterations, resulting in its present day aspect, unchanged since 1792. This church, close to the Michaeler wing of the Hofburg, used to be the parish church of the Imperial Court (it was then called 'Zum heiligen Michael')

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michaelerkirche\\_\(Vienna\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michaelerkirche_(Vienna))

**The Spanish Riding School** (de: Spanische Hofreitschule, the "Spanish Court Riding-School") of Vienna, Austria, is a traditional riding school for Lipizzan horses, which perform in the Winter Riding School in the Hofburg. Not only is it a center for classical dressage, the headquarters is a tourist attraction in Vienna that offers public performances as well as permitting public viewing of some training sessions. The presentation builds on four centuries of experience and tradition in classical dressage.



*Spanish Riding School 1*

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/df/Spanische\\_Hofreitschule1%2C\\_Vienna.jpg/800px-Spanische\\_Hofreitschule1%2C\\_Vienna.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/df/Spanische_Hofreitschule1%2C_Vienna.jpg/800px-Spanische_Hofreitschule1%2C_Vienna.jpg)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish\\_Riding\\_School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Riding_School)

After you passed the Michaeler Tor you come to the

**The Josefsplatzis** a city-centre public square in the city of Vienna, Austria. The Josefsplatz is centred on a full-sized statue and monument of Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor mounted on a horse (1795-1806, by sculptor Franz Anton Zauner).



*Josefsplatz 1*

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josefsplatz>

In the opposite of the statue, even at this place you find

**The Schatzkammer** in German translates as Treasury (Chamber/Vault). In old times, feudal rulers would keep their most precious belongings in a guarded vault, most often in the basement of their castle. Today, the word is used only for museums in German-speaking regions. The Imperial Treasury Schatzkammer in Vienna. Located in the Hofburg Palace, the entrance is at the Schweizer Hof (Swiss Courtyard). The Schatzkammer houses a collection of 1,000 years of treasures.



*Treasury chamber 1*

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/76/Krone\\_Kaiser\\_Rudolf\\_II\\_Kaisertum\\_%C3%96sterreich.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/76/Krone_Kaiser_Rudolf_II_Kaisertum_%C3%96sterreich.jpg)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schatzkammer>

**Hofburg Imperial Palace** is a palace in Vienna, Austria, which has housed some



of the most powerful people in Austrian history, including the Habsburg dynasty, rulers of the Austro-Hungarian empire. It currently serves as the official residence of the President of Austria. It was the Habsburg's principal winter residence, while Schönbrunn Palace was their preferred summer residence. The Palace was the birthplace of Marie Antoinette in 1755.

The Hofburg area has been the documented seat of government since 1279 for various empires and republics.

*Hofburg Imperial Palace 1*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hofburg\\_Imperial\\_Palace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hofburg_Imperial_Palace)

**The Österreichische Nationalbibliothek** (formerly Hofbibliothek),



abbreviated "ÖNB", is the Austrian National Library, and, with 7.4 million items in its collections, the largest library in Austria. It is located in the Hofburg Palace in Vienna; since 2005 some of the collections find themselves in the baroque Palais Mollard-Clary. Founded by the Habsburgs, the library was originally located in the current Prunksaal building and called the Hofbibliothek, changing to its current name after 1920.

*Vienna's National Library 1*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96sterreichische\\_Nationalbibliothek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96sterreichische_Nationalbibliothek)

**The outer Gate** in German, Äusseres Burgtor, was built to a design of Peter Nobile in 1821-1824. He even built the Theseustempel in Vienna in the Burggarten



*Outer Gate 1*

After entering the outer Gate you can see the Ringstrasse and on its opposite you find two museums

### **The Museum of Natural History** of Vienna or NHMW is a large museum



located in Vienna, Austria. The collections displayed cover 8,700 m<sup>2</sup>, and the museum has a website providing an overview as a video virtual tour. The Museum of Natural History in Vienna is one of the important museums of the world, and the earliest collections of artifacts were begun over 250 years ago

#### ***Museum of Natural History 1***

As of 2006, 20 million objects are scientifically maintained.

The museum building opened in 1889 at the same time as the Kunsthistorisches Museum. The two museums have identical exteriors and face each other across Maria-Theresien-Platz. The Museum was built to house the huge collection of the Habsburgs.

Both buildings were built between 1872 and 1891 on the Ringstraße according to plans drawn up by Gottfried Semper and Karl Freiherr von Hasenauer.

The insect collections date from 1793 when Franz I of Austria purchased the scientific collections of Joseph Natterer, Sr. (father of 6-year-old, and later zoologist, Johann Natterer). In 1806 the museum purchased a collection of European insects made by Johann Carl Megerle von Mühlfeld, and Megerle became the first curator of insects. He organised the purchase of the Gudian collection of European butterflies. These old collections with Megerle's specimens were destroyed in October 1848, during a Hofburg fire; however, Johann Natterer's journey to Brazil (1817-1835) had led to an enormous enhancement of the collections: 60,000 insects were a part of the "Brazilian museum" in the "Harrach' house" and escaped the fire.

In 1859, the frigate SMS Novara returned from a world voyage with Georg Ritter von Frauenfeld and Johann Zelebor, and the insects were incorporated in the Vienna collections.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturhistorisches\\_Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturhistorisches_Museum)

Between this Museum and the Museum of Art History ist the

## Monument of Maria Theresa



*Monument of Maria Theresa 1*

[Maria Theresa](#) (German: Maria Theresia, see also names in other languages; May 13, 1717 – November 29, 1780) was the Archduchess regnant of Austria, Queen regnant of Hungary, Croatia and Bohemia, and a Holy Roman Empress by marriage to Francis of Lorraine. She was technically the last member of the House of Habsburg, succeeded by her son Joseph II of the House of Lorraine, the house itself styled as von Habsburg-Lothringen (of Habsburg-Lorraine).

Maria Theresa helped initiate financial and educational reforms, promoted commerce and the development of agriculture, and reorganized the army, all of which strengthened Austria's resources. Continued conflict with the Kingdom of Prussia led to the Seven Years War, (1756 - 1763), and later to the War of the Bavarian Succession. She became, formally, dowager empress after the death of her husband Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor in 1765 and shared the direction of the Empire on the accession of her son Joseph as emperor in 1765.

Maria Theresa criticised many of Joseph's actions but agreed to the First Partition of Poland (1772). A key figure in the power politics of 18th century Europe, Maria Theresa brought unity to the Habsburg Monarchy and was considered one of its most capable rulers. Her 16 children also included Marie Antoinette, queen consort of France, and Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria\\_Theresa\\_of\\_Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Theresa_of_Austria)

To your left is

**The Museum of Art History** in Vienna, housed in its festive palatial building on Ringstraße, crowned with an octagonal dome, is one of the premier museums of fine arts and decorative arts in the world. The term Kunsthistorisches Museum applies to both the institution and the main building. It was visited by 619.318 people in 2007



It was opened in 1891 at the same time as the Naturhistorisches Museum, by Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria-Hungary. The two museums

### ***Museum of Art History 1***

have identical exteriors and face each other across Maria-Theresien-Platz. Both buildings were built between 1872 and 1891 according to plans drawn up by Gottfried Semper and Karl Freiherr von Hasenauer.

The two Ringstraße museums were commissioned by the Emperor in order to find a suitable shelter for the Habsburgs' formidable art collection and to make it accessible to the general public. The façade was built of sandstone. The building is rectangular in shape, and topped with a dome that is 60 meters high. The inside of the building is lavishly decorated with marble, stucco ornamentations, gold-leaf, and paintings, making it a spectacular work of art in its own right.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunsthistorisches\\_Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunsthistorisches_Museum)

**The Volksgarten** is like the Burggarten a landscaped garden. It was created after the destruction of the citywalls by Napoleon, and opened up a space previously occupied by fortifications. Unlike the Burggarten, the Volksgarten was opened to the public soon after its completion in 1820. The formal plantations, especially the splendid rosen gardens, are matched in grandeur by the garden's ornaments, notably the temple of Theseus (1823) by Peter Nobile.

In the middle of the French-style Volksgarten you come across the Theseustempel, a curious classical folly, originally commissioned by Napoleon to house Canova's sculpture of Theseus and the Minotaur. The temple is a replica of the Thesion in Athens and was built in 1820, but the statue is now located beside the main staircase in the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Unsuccessful attempts were made by Jugendstil artist Carl Moll in the 30s to convert the temple into a pantheon to Austrian artists, but today it is merely a pleasant spot to sit and observe the good burghers of Vienna on their Sunday strolls.

<http://vacation.away.com/attractions/travel-ad-cid304301-vienna-attid189316-theseustempel-attraction.html>

After crossing the Volksgarten, and perhaps making a little break enjoying the flowers and roses of the Volksgarten, you come to the world famous Burgtheater.

**The Burgtheater** (en: (Imperial) Court Theatre), originally known as K.K. Theater an der Burg, then until 1920 as the K.K.



*Burgtheater 1*

Hofburgtheater, is the Austrian National Theatre in Vienna and one of the most important German language theatres in the world. The Burgtheater was created in 1741 and has become known as "die Burg" by the Viennese population; its theater company of more or less regular members has created a traditional style and speech typical of Burgtheater performances.

It was created on 14 March 1741 by Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa of Austria to be a theatre next to her palace, and her son, Emperor Joseph II called it the "German National Theatre" in 1776. Three Mozart operas premiered there: Die Entführung aus dem Serail (1782), Le nozze di Figaro (1786) and Così fan tutte (1790). Beginning in 1794, the theatre was called the "K.K. Hoftheater nächst der Burg".

The theatre was moved to a new building at the Ringstraße on 14 October 1888 designed by Gottfried Semper and Karl Freiherr von Hasenauer.

On March 12, 1945 the Burgtheater was largely destroyed in a bombing raid, and, one month later, on April 12, 1945, the Burgtheater was further damaged by a fire of unknown origin. After the war, the theatre was restored between 1953-1955. The classic Burgtheater style and the Burgtheater-German language were trend-setting for German language theaters.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burgtheater>

Just opposite of the Burgtheater, on the other side of the Ringstrasse, is the wellknown new town hall situated.

**The new town hall** was built from 1872 to 1883 instead of the old town hall



*New town hall 1*

(Wipplingerstrasse 8) in the Neo-Gothic style by the architect Friedrich von Schmidt who was chosen for the best design. In the old town hall are nowadays some offices and shops.

The huge tower (100m) is topped by the statue (3m) of a knight in armour with a lance, dominates the front facade. Known as the Rathausmann it was designed by Franz Gastell and made by the wrought-iron craftsman Alexander Nehr.

The new town hall has seven court yards. At the end of the great staircase is the ceremonial hall, that stretches all the length of the building.

Round all four sides of the hall are Neo-Gothik arcades and some statues of honest Austrians such as some Habsburgers. The place in front of the new town hall is used all over the year for some attractions like the Christkindlmarkt – a skating ground or even some concerts during the summer. Sometimes you even can get some culinary highlights there.

Further informations: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rathaus,\\_Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rathaus,_Vienna)

**The Café Landtmann** is a coffee house in the 1st district of Vienna founded by Franz Landtmann in October 1, 1873. The coffee house is known for many meetings weekly of leading industrialists and politicians in Austria.



*Café Landtmann 1*

It was mentioned in Robert Ludlum's novel.

The former and famous head waiter Herr Robert served there for 29 years before retiring in 2006.

Café Landtmann was also the preferred coffee house of Sigmund Freud.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landtmann>

**The University** was founded on March 12, 1365 by Rudolf IV, Duke of Austria and his two brothers, Albert III, Duke of Austria and Leopold III, Duke of Austria, hence the additional name "Alma Mater Rudolphina". After the Charles University in Prague and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the University of Vienna is the third oldest university in Central Europe and the oldest university in the German-speaking world.



*University 1*

The current main building on the Ringstraße was built between 1877 and 1884 by Heinrich von Ferstel. The previous main building was located close to the Stuben Gate (Stubentor) on Ignaz Seipel Square, current home of the old University Church (Universitätskirche) and the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften). Women were admitted as full students from 1897, although their studies were limited to philosophy. The remaining departments gradually followed suit, although with considerable delay: medicine in 1900, law in 1919, Protestant theology in 1923 and finally Roman Catholic theology in 1946. Eight years after the admission of the first female students, Elise Richter became the first

woman to receive habilitation, becoming professor of Romance Languages in 1905; she was also the first female distinguished professor. The first female chair of the university was not awarded until after World War II, to physicist Berta Karlik.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University\\_of\\_Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Vienna)

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/54/Universit%C3%A4t\\_Vienna\\_June\\_2006\\_164.jpg/800px-Universit%C3%A4t\\_Vienna\\_June\\_2006\\_164.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/54/Universit%C3%A4t_Vienna_June_2006_164.jpg/800px-Universit%C3%A4t_Vienna_June_2006_164.jpg)

**The Freyung** became an important market square, where various street artists and entertainers performed for their living. One of these performances was the Wiener Hanswurst (Viennese Fool) by Josef Stranitzky.



*Freyung 1*

The square originally lay outside the Roman fortification walls of Vindabona. In the 12th century, Irish monks arrived by invitation of Duke Henry II of Austria to build a monastery.



*Freyung 2*



*Freyung 3*

The monastery is called Schottenkloster, meaning Scottish Monastery, as Ireland at that time was known as New Scotland. The square around Schottenkloster was known as "bei den Schotten" ("at the Scots"). The name Freyung has its origin from the old German word "frey", meaning "free". Since the monastery had the privilege of freedom from ducal authority, as well as the right to grant protection to fugitives, the square gained its name from its proximity to the Schottenkloster. The priory was added to the monastery in 1773 and became popularly known as Schubladkastenhaus (Shoobox-house) because of its shape.

Since the Hofburg Imperial Palace was not far, in the 17th and 18th centuries many aristocrats established their city residences at the square, as well as the neighbouring Herrengasse.

In 1856, the houses between the Freyung and the adjacent square Am Hof were demolished to broaden the street between them. In the late 19th century banks and other financial houses also moved into the area and established headquarters.

<http://www.planetware.com/vienna/clock-museum-a-w-clock.htm>

**Am Hof** this is the largest enclosed square in Vienna. The Romans established a garnison here and later, the Babenberger ruler Duke Heinrich II Jasomirgott built his castle close to where No. 2 AM Hof stands. In the center of this square you can see the Mariensäule (Column of Our Lady). A monument that commemorates the end of the threat of Swedish invasion during the Thirty Years War.



*Am Hof 1*

Furthermore, the Austria-Brunnen fountain, erected in 1844-1846 by Ludwig Schwanthaler in honour of Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria, sits in the middle of the square.



*Austria-Brunnen fountain 1*

**The Vienna Clock Museum** (Local Name: Uhrenmuseum der Stadt Wien) has been housed since 1921 in the "Harfenhaus" (Harpist's House), one of the oldest houses in Vienna. The collection is on three floors and illustrates the development of clocks from the 15th C. to the present day. The 1,200 or so exhibits include very basic clocks, tower and table clocks, pocket watches, Austrian lantern timepieces of the Biedermeier period, clocks with illustrated faces, wrist watches, and a 1992 computer clock.



*Vienna Clock Museum 1*

Following the rebuilding of the second and third floors more Empire and Biedermeier clocks are exhibited. One room on the second floor contains only clocks with illustrated faces, and on the third floor are electrical wall clocks with regulators.

<http://www.planetware.com/vienna/clock-museum-a-w-clock.htm>

**Judenplatz** is a town square in Vienna's Innere Stadt that was the center of Jewish life and the Viennese Jewish Community in the Middle Ages. It is located in the immediate proximity of Am Hof square, Schulhof, and Wipplingerstraße. It exemplifies the long and eventful history of the city and the Jewish community focused on this place. Archaeological excavations of the medieval synagogue are viewable underground by way of the museum on the square, Misrachi-Haus.



**Judenplatz 1**

Two sculptural works, a carved relief and several inscribed texts are located around the square that all have subject matter relating to Jewish history. One of these sculptures is a statue of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. The other is a memorial to Austrian Holocaust Victims, a project based on an idea of Simon Wiesenthal and unveiled in 2000. Created by British artist Rachel Whiteread, the memorial is a reinforced concrete cube resembling a library with its volumes turned inside out.



**Ephraim Lessing 1**

Inscribed at the base of the memorial are the names of the places where 65,000 Austrian Jews were murdered by the Nazis. With the realization of the Judenplatz Holocaust Memorial, Judenplatz has become a place of memory, but it is also an important center of Austrian law. The Judenplatz is the location of the Constitutional Court of Austria and the Administrative Court of Austria.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judenplatz>

**The old town hall** was originally gothic, but received a baroque façade around 1700. The complex houses the municipal administration until 1888. In the interior courtyard one can admire the Andromeda Fountain from 1741, a creation by the baroque master Georg Raphael Donner. The Salvator Chapel, with its magnificent Renaissance portal from 1360 (Salvatorgasse) was integrated into the complex.



**Old town hall 1**

<http://www.hotels-austria.com/vienna-info/wien-attracaltesrathaus.htm>

**The Anker Clock** is a wellknown musical clock at the building of the Anker Insurance at the Hohen Markt in the historic city of Vienna. It is one of the most famous works of Jugendstil and a favourite tourist attraction. The Ankeruhr is similar like a Bridge which connects both parts of the Ankerhof. The "Clockbridge" is about ten meters long and has a high of 7,5m. The clock has a diameter of 4m. It was built between 1911 and 1917 by the plans of Franz Matsch renowned as a painter in the time of Jugendstil.



**Anker Clock 1**

It is a tribute to twelve wellknown historical figures of the Viennese history: That twelve figures meda of copper have on its head a Roman numeral for the hour, while the minute hand above runs over a horizontal scale.

**Hoher Markt** is the oldest square in Vienna. In the old days of Viennese fish and cloth markets were held here, and sometimes even executions.



**Hoher Markt 1**

In the Center of the square is the Vermählungsbrunnen /Nuptial Fountain or Josefsbrunnen. It was built between 1729 and 1732 by Fischer von Erlach's son Joseph Emanuel.



**Nuptial Fountain 1**

The monument of **Gutenberg** inventor of letterpress



Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg (c. 1398 – February 3, 1468) was a German goldsmith and printer who is credited with being the first European to use movable type printing, in around 1439, and the global inventor of the mechanical printing press. His major work, the Gutenberg Bible (also known as the 42-line Bible), has been acclaimed for its high aesthetic and technical quality.

***Monument of Gutenberg 1***

Among the specific contributions to printing that are attributed to Gutenberg are the invention of a process for mass-producing movable type, the use of oil-based ink, and the use of a wooden printing press similar to the screw olive and wine presses of the period. His truly epochal invention was the combination of these elements into a practical system. Gutenberg may have been familiar with printing; it is claimed that he had worked on copper engravings with an artist known as the Master of the Playing Cards. Gutenberg's method for making type is traditionally considered to have included a type metal alloy and a hand mould for casting type. It should be noted that new research may indicate that standardised moveable type was a more complex evolutionary process spread over multiple locations

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes\\_Gutenberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Gutenberg)

Now we come along, to where we started at the beginning of our tour, but this time at the backside of the St. Stephen's Cathedral.

In this tower of the [St. Stephen's Cathedral](#) is the Pummerin one of the biggest bells of the world.

The **Old Pummerin** was originally cast in 1711 from cannons captured from the Muslim invaders in the Second Turkish Siege of Vienna, and was installed in the high south tower of the cathedral.



A photo of it in place shows that the Old Pummerin was not a swinging bell, and its 22,500 kg (49,600 lb) weight was usually borne by wooden rails on which its lip rested. When it was to be rung, the rails had to be lowered away from it by turning jackscrews, and then eight men pulled on the two ropes attached to its heavy clapper. The bell cost 19,400 florins to cast. Images of St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin as the Immaculate Conception, and St. Leopold adorned the bell.

***Pummerin 1***

These figures bore the arms of Bohemia, Hungary, the Holy Roman Empire, and Austria. On December 15, 1711, Bishop Rumel consecrated the bell, which rang for the first time on January 26, 1712 to mark the return of Charles VI to Vienna from Frankfurt after his coronation as Emperor.

The Old Pummerin last sounded on Easter 1937. A fire caused by looters of near-by shops on April 12, 1945, destroyed the bell. Its wooden cradle burned through and the bell crashed onto the stone floor of the south tower on April 12, 1945.



***Pummerin 2***

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/e/e1/Pummerin\\_Stephansdom\\_Vienna\\_July\\_2008\\_%2814%29.JPG/180px-Pummerin\\_Stephansdom\\_Vienna\\_July\\_2008\\_%2814%29.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/e/e1/Pummerin_Stephansdom_Vienna_July_2008_%2814%29.JPG/180px-Pummerin_Stephansdom_Vienna_July_2008_%2814%29.JPG)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pummerin>

Here we will end with our sightseeing tour of Vienna's city and we hope you enjoyed it. As further information about Vienna see also our tour round the Ringstrasse and its monuments.