

# TRANSPORT

Situated in the centre of Europe, Austria is sandwiched between Eastern and Western Europe. Its train lines fan out in all directions, flight links are plentiful, if Europe-focused, and getting around is a breeze: the central city is easily walkable or bikeable, and swift, reliable subways, trains and those ubiquitous, slow-but-fun streetcars snake their way all over town and into the suburbs. Getting across the centre of town takes less than 10 minutes by subway; factor around 30 minutes by streetcar or bus.

Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/bookings](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/bookings).

## AIR Airports

Located 20km southwest of the city centre is **Vienna International Airport** (☎ 700 72 22 33; [www.viennaairport.com](http://www.viennaairport.com)). Facilities include a handful of restaurants and bars, banks and ATMs, money-exchange counters, a supermarket, a post office, car-hire agencies and a 24-hour left-luggage counter.

Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, only 60km east of Vienna, is a highly feasible alternative to flying into Austria. **Airport Letisko Bratislava** (☎ 0421 2 4857 3353; [www.airportbratislava.sk](http://www.airportbratislava.sk)), serving Bratislava, is connected to Vienna International Airport by seven buses daily ([www.terravision.eu](http://www.terravision.eu); one-way/return €10/16).

## BICYCLE

Vienna is a fabulous place to get around by bike: see [p203](#) for more information about bicycle hire in the city. Bicycles can be carried on carriages marked with a bike symbol on the S-Bahn and U-Bahn from 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. The city also runs a City Bike programme, with bike stands scattered throughout the city; see [p203](#). For information on bike tours, see [p237](#).

## BOAT

The Danube is a traffic-free access route for arrivals and departures from Vienna.

## THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Eastern Europe is the main destination; **Twin City Liner** (Map [pp56-7](#); ☎ 588 80; [www.twincityliner.com](http://www.twincityliner.com); 01, Schwedenplatz; one-way adult/2-12yr from €17/8.50; ☎ 8am-4.30pm) connects Vienna with Bratislava in 1½ hours from March to October, while **DDSG Blue Danube** (Map [pp56-7](#); ☎ 588 80; [www.ddsg-blue-danube.at](http://www.ddsg-blue-danube.at); 01, Handelskai 265; one-way/return €89/109, 2-14yr 50% off; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) links Budapest with Vienna from May to October. DDSG tickets may also be obtained or picked up at Twin City Liner.

The Danube is connected to the Rhine by the River Main tributary and the Main-Danube Canal in southern Germany; imaginatively named ships like the MS *Sound of Music* and MS *River Empress* cruise along this route, from Amsterdam to Budapest, between May and November. Bookings can be made through **Noble Caledonia** (☎ 020-7752 0000; [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)) in Britain and **Uniwold** (☎ 1-800-360 9550; [www.uniworld.com](http://www.uniworld.com)) in the USA.

For boat trips through the Wachau region northwest of Vienna, see the Excursions chapter ([p217](#)).

## BUS

Vienna has no central bus station; your arrival destination will depend on which company you're travelling with.

**Eurolines** (Map [pp104-5](#); [www.eurolines.com](http://www.eurolines.com); ☎ 798 29 00; [www.eurolines.at](http://www.eurolines.at); 03, Erdbergstrasse 202; ☎ 6.30am-8.30pm Mon-Fri, 6.30-11am & 4.30-8.30pm Sat & Sun) has basically tied up the bus routes connecting Austria with the rest of Europe. Its main terminal is at the U3 U-Bahn station Erdberg but some buses stop at the U6 and U1 U-Bahn and train station Praterstern (Map [pp112-13](#)).

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

### Driving

You may consider hiring a car to see the sights mentioned in the Excursions chapter (p217) but in Vienna itself it's best to stick with the excellent public transport system (see below).

### Hire

Car-hire rates start at around €80 per day and all the big names in car hire are present in Vienna (and have desks at the airport). Here are the details for a couple of major companies in the city:

**Europcar** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 714 67 17; www.europcar.at; 01, Schuberting 9; 🕒 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, 8am-noon Sun)

**Hertz** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 512 86 77; www.hertz.at; 01, Kärntner Ring 17; 🕒 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat & Sun)

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Vienna has a comprehensive and unified public transport network that is one of the most efficient in Europe. Flat-fare tickets are valid for trains, trams, buses, the underground (U-Bahn) and the S-Bahn regional trains. Services are frequent and you rarely have to wait more than 10 minutes. From Sunday through Thursday, public transport starts at around 5am or 6am; buses (with the exception of night buses) and trams finish between 11pm and midnight and S-Bahn

and U-Bahn services between 12.30am and 1am. On Friday and Saturday nights the U-Bahn runs through the following morning at a reduced schedule.

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 information line; www.wienerlinien.at, in German; 🕒 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 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Those at Schottentor, Praterstern, Floridsdorf, Philadelphiabrücke and Erdberg are closed at weekends.

### Buses

Buses go everywhere, including within the Innere Stadt, and either have three digits or a number followed by an 'A' or 'B'. Very logically, buses connecting with a tram service often have the same number, eg bus 38A connects with tram 38, bus 72A with tram 72.

### Night Buses

Vienna's comprehensive Nightline service takes over when trams, buses and the U-Bahn stop running. Routes cover much of the city and run every half-hour from 12.30am to 5am. Schwedenplatz, Schottentor and the Staatsoper are starting points for many

## CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

### Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates carbon dioxide (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the USA will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

### Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.