

Alsergrund & the University District

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Feeling the Freud as you explore the elegant rooms of his former **home** (p135), with exhibits providing a tantalising insight into the life and cognitive workings of the psycho-analysis godfather.
- 2 Tiptoeing through the baroque apartments and landscaped gardens of the **Palais Liechtenstein** (p134) on a guided tour.
- 3 Going for an erudite wander through the arcades and courtyards of Vienna's 650-year-old **university** (p134).
- 4 Taking a romp through the one-time abodes of two classical giants: **Beethoven** (p134) and **Schubert** (p134).
- 5 Listening to a pianist play in the vaulted, marble-columned grandeur of **Café Central** (p141).



For more detail of this area see Map p262 →

Explore Alsergrund & the University District

Book-ended by one of Europe's biggest universities, Alsergrund in the 9th district can hold its own in the world's hall of intellectual fame, counting Mahler and Karl Kraus among its alumni. In these elegant streets, Schubert first saw the light of day and Sigmund Freud navigated the unconscious mind's murky depths. The gravitas of such history still seeps through artily shabby cafes and cavern-like bars, where students contemplate life with beer-glass-clinking conviction. University life sits neatly within the framework of this cultured neighbourhood of churches, leafy squares and gardens, such as those framing the baroque Palais Liechtenstein.

Alsergrund spills south into the 8th district, Josefstadt, which moves to a similar cool-but-not-contrived groove and is scattered with boutiques run by nascent designers, cafes and shops. On the western periphery, you slam into the bass-thumping bars and upbeat music haunts hidden under the Gürtel's railway arches. Further west still lies the 16th district, Ottakring, with its ethnically mixed markets breathing new-found trendiness into Brunnengasse and Yppenplatz.

Local Life

➔ **Street Markets** Feel Vienna's multi-ethnic pulse while snacking and strolling around Brunnenmarkt (p138), and find farm-fresh produce at the Bauernmarkt (p138) and Freyung Market (p144).

➔ **Backstreets** This is a terrific neighbourhood for getting off the beaten track. Slip down quiet, tree-lined backstreets to find little-known sights, like the Museum für Volkskunde (p137) and Servitenkirche (p137).

➔ **Cafes** Laid-back Café Florianihof (p142), studenty Café Stein (p142) and Tunnel (p141) all have a loyal local following.

Getting There & Away

➔ **U-Bahn** The closest stops to the centre for reaching Alsergrund and the university district are Schottentor and Rathaus on the U2 line. The U6 line follows the Gürtel further west, with useful stops including Alser Strasse, Josefstädter Strasse and Währingerstrasse-Volksoper.

➔ **Tram** Schottentor is a handy stop on the Ring. Other tram lines serving this neighbourhood include 44, which runs from Schottentor along Alser Strasse to the Hernalser Gürtel, and 5 and 33 which trundle along Josefstädter Strasse.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

This neighbourhood throws itself into a festive vortex from May to September when it plays host to the **Summer Stage**, with food pavilions and stages strung along the banks of the Danube Canal. The mood is incredibly upbeat, and there are regular concerts – some of which are free – reaching from jazz to tango, rock to pop. It's located on Rossauer Lände and is open in the evening between 5pm and 1am from May to September (take the U4 to Rossauer Lände). Visit the website www.summerstage.at for the inside scoop.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Brezl Gwölb (p138)
- ➔ Schnattl (p140)
- ➔ La Tavolozza (p138)
- ➔ Kim Kocht (p141)

For reviews, see p138 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Café Central (p141)
- ➔ Flex (p141)
- ➔ Tunnel (p141)
- ➔ Weinstube Josefstadt (p141)

For reviews, see p141 ➔

Best Entertainment

- ➔ Volksoper (p142)
- ➔ Theater in der Josefstadt (p142)
- ➔ B72 (p142)
- ➔ Miles Smiles (p143)

For reviews, see p142 ➔