

# The Hofburg & Around

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Strolling through the **Hofburg palace complex** (p60), exploring courtyards like the Schweizerhof, and admiring the elegant gates, impressive squares, statues of the Habsburg rulers and monumental architecture.
- 2 Visiting the **Albertina** (p66), with its world-class exhibitions, augmented by

luxurious palace rooms and copies from its collection of original graphics by masters.

- 3 Admiring the **Kaiserappartements** (p60), the Habsburg imperial apartments, with the Sisi Museum dedicated to Empress Elisabeth.

- 4 Catching the famous white Lipizzaner stallions during a performance of the **Spanish Riding School** (p61).

- 5 Revelling in the historical musical instruments and arms and armour exhibited in the **Neue Burg Museums** (p63).



For more detail of this area see Map p254 →

## Explore the Hofburg & Around

The Hofburg is one of the most impressive and attractive palace complexes in Vienna and should not be missed. Although it can be easily approached from the Museums-Quartier by crossing Maria-Theresien-Platz, the best place to start is at the gate on Michaelerplatz, which is where the Habsburgs used to enter. From here you can stroll from one end to the other in about an hour, with stops to admire the architecture. If you plan on visiting several museums, block your calendar for much of the day to do these comfortably. Although tourist groups are almost always walking through, it rarely feels crowded. Plan to spend at least another four hours taking in the most important sights around the Hofburg – the Albertina, Kaisergruft and the Jüdisches Museum. The neighbourhood has some good shopping as well as a handful of excellent eating and drinking options, despite its heavily touristed character; also consider ducking out of the neighbourhood into the close-by MuseumsQuartier to eat.

## Local Life

➔ **Green Spaces** This part of town has some of the prettiest parks in Vienna, with the Volksgarten (p68) flanking one side of the Hofburg and the Burggarten (p68) the other. In summer, these are perfect places to sit and relax.

➔ **Day or Night Haunts** Oddly, a small but legendary collection of places for drinking or clubbing are here, ranging from coffee houses through Loos American Bar (p69) to Volksgarten Pavillon (p70) or Palffy Club (p69).

## Getting There & Away

➔ **U-Bahn** Herrengasse (U3) and Stephansplatz (U1, U3) are closest to the Hofburg, but Museumsquartier (U4) can also be convenient for the Heldenplatz side of Hofburg.

➔ **Tram** Useful for entering from Ringstrasse (D, 1, 2, 71 Dr-Karl-Renner-Ring, Burgring and Kärntner Ring/Oper).

➔ **Bus** Buses 1A and 2A connect Michaelerplatz with Stephansplatz.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Although this neighbourhood is full of iconic sights, it's also a part of town that invites aimless strolling to soak up the atmosphere. The Hofburg is most impressive during the quiet hours of early morning or early evening, whereas the streets between the Hofburg and Stephansplatz have lots of private art galleries. Walk, drop into a few and explore the art.

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Loos American Bar (p69)
- ➔ Villon (p69)
- ➔ Café Leopold Hawelka (p69)
- ➔ Le Bol (p69)

For reviews, see p69 ➔

### Best Places for Free

- ➔ The Hofburg (p60)
- ➔ Dorotheum (p71)
- ➔ Augustinerkirche (p67)
- ➔ Burggarten (p68)

For reviews, see p60 ➔

### Best Places for Children

- ➔ Globenmuseum (p67)
- ➔ Museum für Völkerkunde (p65)
- ➔ Spanish Riding School (p61)
- ➔ Neue Burg Museums (p63)

For reviews, see p66 ➔