

Schloss Schönbrunn & Around

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Living a day in the life of a Habsburg sauntering around the gloriously over-the-top baroque state apartments and fountain-dotted gardens of **Schloss Schönbrunn** (p175).
- ❷ Diving into the sensual, colour-charged imagination of Klimt at his last studio, the **Klimt Villa** (p179).
- ❸ Wandering in Empress Elisabeth's footsteps at the **Hermesvilla** (p180), a 19th-century mansion romantically nestled in woodland.
- ❹ Being amazed by the art-nouveau grace of gold-topped **Kirche am Steinhof** (p181), Otto Wagner's magnum opus.
- ❺ Enjoying the rousing melodies of Strauss and Mozart in the **Orangery** (p181), Schönbrunn's former imperial greenhouse.



For more detail of this area see Map p270 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Because of the popularity of the palace, tickets are stamped with a departure time, and there may be a time lag before you're allowed to set off in summer, so buy your ticket straight away and explore the gardens while you wait. Or skip to the front of the queue by buying your ticket in advance online (www.schoenbrunn.at). Simply print the ticket yourself and present it when you enter.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pure Living Bakery (p180)
- ➔ Quell (p180)
- ➔ Hollerei (p180)

For reviews, see p180 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Café Gloriette (p181)
- ➔ Aida (p181)
- ➔ Reigen (p182)

For reviews, see p181 ➔



Best Places for Children

- ➔ Tiergarten (p176)
- ➔ Technisches Museum (p179)
- ➔ Kindermuseum (p178)

For reviews, see p176 ➔

Explore Schloss Schönbrunn & Around

Few sights in Vienna enthrall like Schloss Schönbrunn. The vision of its imposing baroque facade, glowing like warm butter up on a sunny afternoon, is not one you are likely to forget in a hurry. You can almost picture the Habsburgs swanning around the fragrant rose beds and mythological fountains in the French-style formal gardens, which provide a harmonious backdrop for the baroque palace, a Unesco World Heritage site.

Once a hunting lodge for parties of rambunctious deer-shooting royals, Schönbrunn was destroyed during the Turkish siege of Vienna in 1683. Three years later, Emperor Leopold I enlisted the baroque whiz-kid of the age, Johann Fischer von Erlach, to restore it to its former glory. During Maria Theresia's 40-year rule from 1740 to 1780, Schönbrunn became the centre of court life. The empress' fondness for rococo extravagance still glitters in the palace interiors today.

Schönbrunn is the star attraction and merits at least half a day of your time. The palace is situated in Hietzing, a laid-back neighbourhood with a village feel, which tapers out to the rambling woodland of the Lainzer Tiergarten to the west. The Klimt Villa and Otto Wagner's gracefully domed Hofpavillon are among the district's lesser-known treasures.

Local Life

➔ **Hangouts** Kick back with coffee and cake in the garden of the cute-as-a-button Pure Living Bakery (p180). Or quaff microbrews in the tree-shaded courtyard of Brandauers Schlossbräu (p181).

➔ **Walks** Give the crowds the slip and head west to hike, jog or cycle in the vast, wooded expanse of the Lainzer Tiergarten (p180), where deer can often be spotted darting out of the forest.

➔ **Quiet Moments** Calm the pace with time for quiet reflection at Hietzinger Friedhof (p180), the final resting place of Klimt, Moser and Wagner.

Getting There & Away

➔ **U-Bahn** Schönbrunn is well connected to central Vienna by subway, with the green U4 line stopping at Schönbrunn and Hietzing.

➔ **Tram** Alternatively, tram 58 makes the short hop from the Westbahnhof station to Schönbrunn.