

Stephansdom & the Historic Centre

WEST & NORTH OF STEPHANSPLATZ | SOUTH & EAST OF STEPHANSPLATZ

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Strolling through **Stephansdom** (p75) and admiring the intricate details of Vienna's famous landmark and Austria's best-known Gothic cathedral.
- ➋ Admiring the highlights of the **cathedral treasures** (p76), currently exhibited inside Stephansdom.
- ➌ Wandering through the **historic centre** (p84) of Vienna and exploring the quiet courtyards and lanes.
- ➍ Discovering all about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his epoch on a visit to **Mozarthaus Vienna** (p82).
- ➎ Conducting your own virtual orchestra and engaging with other exhibits at the **Haus der Musik** (p82).



For more detail of this area see Map p252 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Although there are lots of quick-eats places in the historic centre, you can often eat very stylishly and relatively inexpensively (for about €15) by choosing one first-course dish (say, a fish soup with bread) and a drink in all but the very top restaurants. The best places are those with the kitchen open all day; otherwise turn up around 1.30pm. Lunch menus are also great value everywhere.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Motto am Fluss (p85)
- ➔ Griechenbeisl (p85)
- ➔ Meinl's Restaurant (p87)
- ➔ Yohm (p85)
- ➔ Expedit (p86)

For reviews, see p85 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Kruger's American Bar (p88)
- ➔ Kleines Café (p88)
- ➔ Cafe Neko (p90)
- ➔ Café Prückel (p88)
- ➔ First Floor (p89)

For reviews, see p88 ➔



Best Places for Free

- ➔ Stephansdom (p75)
- ➔ Neidhart-Fresken (p79)
- ➔ Bawag Contemporary/ Bawag Foundation (p85)
- ➔ Archiv des Österreichischen Widerstands (p79)

For reviews, see p75 ➔

Explore Stephansdom & the Historic Centre

Vienna's Innere Stadt is compact and easily walked, and this is especially true of the Stephansdom and historic centre. Plan to spend half a day to explore the cathedral properly. The Haus der Musik or Mozarthaus Vienna would fit in better after lunch, especially when it's cold or rainy. The next day would be ideal for a neighbourhood walk, choosing the sights you want to visit along the way or dropping into others close to the route, such as the Museum Judenplatz; none of the sights take more than 30 minutes or one hour to visit. The best place to start is usually Stephansplatz. Simply choose a side of town or series of sights and make a trajectory to it, backtracking or taking different streets to reach the other side of the centre if you wish.

Remember that the historic centre gets very crowded in summer, so early morning or early evening are the best times to stroll around if you don't want to visit specific sights. Late on a warm night can also be a romantic, safe and crowd-free time. One final tip: keep the coffee houses on your radar along the way – these are fine places for resting up.

Local Life

➔ **Quiet Corners** Walking the streets of the centre in summer can sometimes give you the feeling of being on an ant trail. Take side lanes like **Blutgasse** and duck into squares and courtyards along the way. Heiligenkreuzerhof may be parked with cars but despite this it's spacious and very attractive. Streets around it, such as **Sonnenfelsgasse**, **Schönlaterngasse** and Dr-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz (p83), are also quieter parts of town, as are areas around Ruprechtskirche (p79), Maria am Gestade (p79) or between Judenplatz and Am Hof.

➔ **Night Moves** The historic centre can be beautiful when lit up at night. Soak it up the way the Viennese do – change locations by taking a leisurely stroll between restaurant and bar or club on a night out.

Getting There & Away

➔ **U-Bahn** Stephansplatz (U1, U3) and Schwedenplatz (U1, U4) – and to a lesser extent Stubentor (U3), Herrngasse (U3) and Karlsplatz (U1, U2, U4) – are the main stops.

➔ **Tram** Schwedenplatz (1, 2) and Kärntner Ring/Oper (1, 2, D, 71) are the most convenient.

➔ **Bus** 1A links Stephansplatz, Schottentor and Michaelerplatz; 3A links Stubentor with Stephansplatz and Börsenplatz.