

Karlsplatz & Around Naschmarkt

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Karlskirche (p94) Riding the lift (elevator) up to this mesmerising church's elliptical copper dome for a close-up view of the incredible frescoes by Johann Michael Rottmayr.

2 Secession (p97) Contemplating the sensuous shapes, gold mosaics and mythological symbolism of

Klimt's *Beethoven Frieze* at the 1897-designed exhibition centre of the Vienna Secession movement artists.

3 Naschmarkt (p96) Breathing in the heady aromas of spices, olives, oils and vinegars, cheeses, hams, sausages and much more while snacking your way from stall to delectable stall.

4 Akademie der Bildenden Künste (p96) Viewing Bosch's impressive and gruesome *Triptych of the Last Judgment* altarpiece.

5 Staatsoper (p95) Reliving operatic highs with a guided tour of this resplendent gold-and-crystal-adorned opera house.



For more detail of this area see Map p248 ➔

Explore Karlsplatz & Around Naschmarkt

Spreading south of the Opernring is Vienna's cultured 4th district, Wieden. Here days can be spent gazing upon the baroque frescoes that dance across the Karlskirche, Otto Wagner's art nouveau buildings and Klimt's sensual friezes. Nights lift the curtain on high-calibre opera and classical music in some of the world's finest concert halls. Wander west and within minutes you swing from gilded opulence to the multilingual buzz, street-food sizzle and market-stall banter of the Naschmarkt. Amble south of here to the easygoing Freihausviertel and Vienna suddenly shrinks to village scale, with arty cafes, ateliers and food shops run by folk with genuine passion.

North of Wieden is 6th-district Mariahilf. Give the high-street throngs on Mariahilfer Strasse the slip and you soon find yourself in quintessentially Viennese backstreets, home to speciality shops and old-school *Beisl'n* (bistro pubs). On the cutting edge of the city's nightlife and design scene is Gumpendorfer Strasse.

Wedge between Wieden and Mariahilf in the 5th district is Margareten, with few heavyweight sights but strong local flavour, particularly around the increasingly fashionable Margaretenplatz.

Local Life

➔ **Shopping Life** Follow the hungry Viennese to the Naschmarkt (p96) for a world of street food, and scout out delis, design stores and one-of-a-kind boutiques in the artsy **Freihausviertel** and around **Margaretenplatz**.

➔ **Cafe Life** Great cafes here range from boho Café Jelinek (p101) to starkly contemporary Café Drechsler (p102).

➔ **Nightlife** Hang out with a young and up-for-it crowd on Gumpendorfer Strasse, crammed with bars, cafes and lounge-style restaurants, or find a more laid-back scene around Schleifmühlgasse.

Getting There & Away

➔ **U-Bahn** Karlsplatz is well connected to all corners of Vienna, served by the U-Bahn lines U1, U2 and U4. The U4 line to Kettenbrückengasse is handy for Naschmarkt and the Freihausviertel, while the U3 line (Zieglergasse, Neubaugasse etc) is useful for reaching Mariahilfer Strasse. Pilgramgasse (U4) is the most central stop for Margareten, and Taubstummengasse (U1) for Wieden.

➔ **Tram** Key tram routes include Nos 1 and 62, which stop at Karlsplatz and pass through Wieden.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

It's a pleasure simply to wander the backstreets of the Freihausviertel, just south of Naschmarkt. One of the neighbourhood's most elegant streets is Mühlgasse, lined with late-19th-century houses with Juliet balconies and ornate doors in the *Jugendstil* (Art Nouveau) style. Numbers 26 and 28 are fine examples.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Naschmarkt (p96)
- ➔ Said the Butcher to the Cow (p98)
- ➔ Eis Greissler (p98)
- ➔ Vollpension (p98)
- ➔ El Burro (p98)

For reviews, see p98. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Café Sperl (p101)
- ➔ Rafael's Vinothek (p99)
- ➔ Café Rüdigerhof (p101)
- ➔ Juice Deli (p101)

For reviews, see p101. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Beer Lovers (p105)
- ➔ Gegenbauer (p99)
- ➔ Flohmarkt (p99)
- ➔ Käsland (p99)
- ➔ Blühendes Konfekt (p105)

For reviews, see p103. ➔