

The Hofburg & Around

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Hofburg (p60) Strolling through the monumental palace complex, exploring courtyards and admiring the elegant gates, impressive squares, statues of the Habsburg rulers and monumental architecture.

2 Albertina (p66) Viewing world-class graphic arts exhibitions and the gallery's

collection of original graphics by masters within luxurious palace rooms.


3 Kaiserappartements (p60) Touring the Habsburg imperial apartments, the Sisi Museum and the Silberkammer (Silver Depot).

4 Spanish Riding School (p61) Catching the famous white Lipizzaner stallions

during a mesmerising equine ballet performance.

5 Neue Burg Museums (p62) Revelling in the historical musical instruments, arms and armour, and ancient artefacts unearthed during Austrian archaeologists' excavations at Ephesus in Turkey.



For more detail of this area see Map p246 

Explore the Hofburg & Around

One of the most spectacular palace complexes in the Austrian capital, the Hofburg was the seat of the Habsburgs for some six-and-a-half centuries. It can be easily approached from the MuseumsQuartier by crossing Maria-Theresien-Platz, but the the grandest place to start is at the gate on Michaelerplatz, where the Habsburgs used to enter. From here you can stroll from one end to the other in about an hour, with time to stop and admire the architecture. If you plan on visiting several museums, block your calendar for much of the day to see these comfortably. Although visitors 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 graphic-arts gallery, Kaisergruft, where most of the Habsburg royal family are buried, and the Jüdisches Museum (Jewish Museum). The neighbourhood has some good shopping as well as a handful of excellent eating and drinking options, with many more close at hand in the nearby MuseumsQuartier.

Local Life

- ➔ **Park Life** This epicentral part of town has some of the prettiest parks in Vienna, with the Volksgarten (p64) flanking one side of the Hofburg and the Burggarten (p64) the other. Locals flock here in summer to picnic or simply relax.
- ➔ **Snack Life** Join opera-going locals dressed in their finery sipping champagne and tucking into sausages at open-air Bitzinger Würstelstand am Albertinaplatz (p69).
- ➔ **Nightlife** A small but legendary collection of places for drinking or clubbing are here, ranging from coffee houses through Loos American Bar (p70) to Volksgarten ClubDiskothek (p70) and Palffy Club (p71).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **U-Bahn** Herrngasse (U3) and Stephansplatz (U1, U3) are closest to the Hofburg, but Museumsquartier (U4) can also be convenient for the Heldenplatz side of the palace complex.
- ➔ **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, while the streets between the Hofburg and Stephansplatz, with lots of private art galleries, are best explored in business hours.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Blue Mustard (p69)
- ➔ Bitzinger Würstelstand am Albertinaplatz (p69)
- ➔ Meinl's Restaurant (p69)
- ➔ Trzeńiewski (p69)

For reviews, see p69. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Loos American Bar (p70)
- ➔ Café Leopold Hawelka (p70)
- ➔ Meinl's Weinbar (p70)
- ➔ Volksgarten ClubDiskothek (p70)
- ➔ Demel (p71)
- ➔ Palmenhaus (p71)

For reviews, see p70. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ J&L Lobmeyr Vienna (p72)
- ➔ Meinl am Graben (p72)
- ➔ Steiff (p72)
- ➔ Dorotheum (p73)
- ➔ Bonbons Anzinger (p73)

For reviews, see p72. ➔