

Stephansdom & the Historic Centre

WEST & NORTH OF STEPHANSPLATZ | SOUTH & EAST OF STEPHANSPLATZ

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Stephansdom (p76)
Marvelling at the intricate details of Vienna's famous landmark and Austria's best-known Gothic cathedral.

2 Literaturmuseum (p81)
Learning about Austria's literary luminaries and their seminal works from the 18th century to

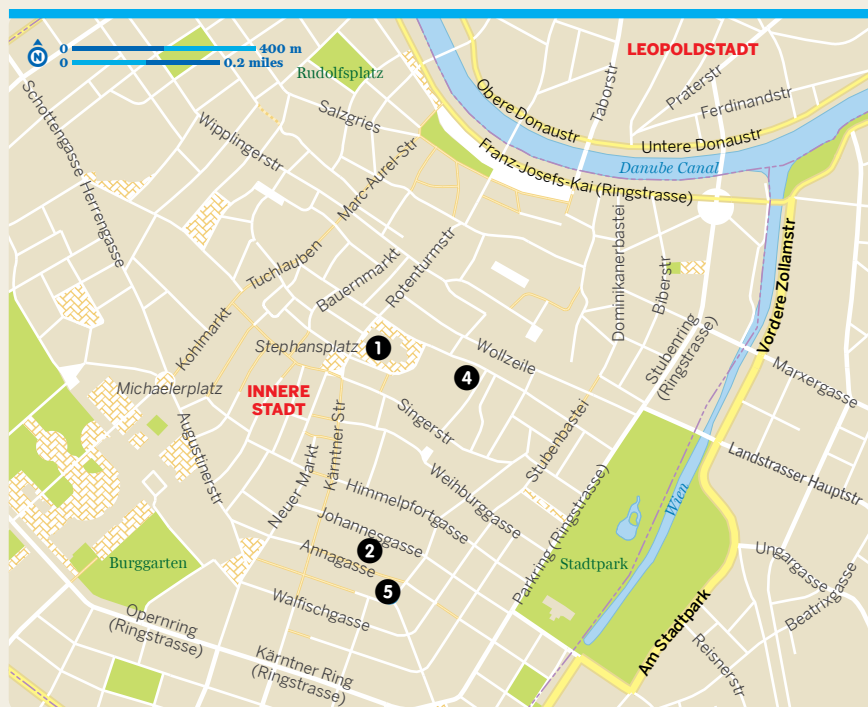
the present day at this new museum dedicated to Austrian writing.

3 Historic centre (p84)
Exploring the quiet courtyards and lanes of Vienna's historic core at your own pace on a self-guided walking tour.

4 Mozarthaus Vienna (p80)
Visiting Wolfgang

Amadeus Mozart's only surviving Viennese home, where he composed *The Marriage of Figaro* during his 2½ years here.

5 Haus der Musik (p80)
Conducting your own virtual orchestra and engaging with other interactive exhibits at this innovative music museum.



For more detail of this area see Map p244 ➔

Explore Stephansdom & the Historic Centre

Vienna's entire Innere Stadt is compact and easily walked – especially its core, the Stephansdom (p76) and historic centre neighbourhood. The city's monumental cathedral makes an ideal starting point; plan to spend half a day exploring it in its entirety, including scaling the south tower's 343 steps for sweeping views over the Innere Stadt's rooftops.

After lunch, head to the Haus der Musik (p80) and Mozarthaus Vienna (p80) to discover the Austrian capital's incredible musical heritage. Other key sights here include the Museum Judenplatz (p78). Keep Vienna's iconic coffee houses on your radar along the way to rest up, rejuvenate and relax into Viennese life.

The historic centre gets very crowded in summer, making early evening one of the best times to stroll around and soak up the atmosphere. After dinner, late on a warm night, is ideal for a romantic stroll through the illuminated streets.

Local Life

➔ **Street Life** Walking the historic centre's main streets in summer can sometimes give you the feeling of being on an ant trail. Take local side lanes like Blutgasse and duck into squares and courtyards along the way. Heiligenkreuzerhof is one of the prettiest. Streets around it, such as Sonnenfelsgasse, Schönlaterngasse and Dr-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz, are also quieter parts of town, as are areas around Ruprechtskirche (p80), Maria am Gestade (p79), and the area between Judenplatz and Am Hof.

➔ **Canal Life** In summer, join locals relaxing along the banks of the Danube Canal, where you'll also find bars, restaurants and the city's oldest jazz club.

➔ **Nightlife** The historic centre is beautiful when lit up at night. Soak it up the way the Viennese do: on a leisurely evening stroll.

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, 8, 71) are the most convenient stops.

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

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The U-Bahn is handy for connecting to outlying neighbourhoods and crossing the historic centre, and the Ringstrasse trams are good for circumnavigating it, but public transport is limited within the centre itself. Taxis are plentiful but costly due to the plethora of one-way streets and slow-moving traffic, so it's best to explore on foot (nothing is more than a 10- to 20-minute walk).

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tian (p87)
- ➔ Plachutta (p87)
- ➔ Griechenbeisl (p85)
- ➔ Wrenkh (p85)
- ➔ Artner (p87)

For reviews, see p85. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Kruger's American Bar (p87)
- ➔ Enrico Panigl (p88)
- ➔ Kleines Café (p89)
- ➔ Vinogin (p88)
- ➔ Sky Bar (p88)

For reviews, see p87. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Wiener Rosenmanufaktur (p91)
- ➔ Wald & Wiese (p87)
- ➔ Runway (p90)
- ➔ Schau Schau (p90)

For reviews, see p90. ➔