

1. Wiener Riesenrad

What is it? Standing proudly at the entrance to Prater amusement park, the Riesenrad ferris wheel is to Vienna what the London Eye is to London. Built in 1897, the landmark starred in 1940s thriller 'The Third Man', and a ride in one of its 15 stately gondolas really feels like stepping back in time.

Why go? There's no better way to see Vienna than from the top of this 200ft-high landmark. After a spin on the Riesenrad, take a stroll through the rather antiquated, not to mention in places rather macabre, historic funfair.

2. Hofburg Palace

What is it? Back in the days of the Austro-Hungarian empire, the ornate Hofburg Palace was its beating heart. Today it's the official residence of the country's president, as well as being home to many of Vienna's top museums, attractions and galleries (and some pretty famous dancing horses, too).

Why go? A walk through the Hofburg offers a potted history of Austria itself. Learn all about the life and macabre death of Empress Elisabeth – the 'Princess Diana' of the Habsburg Empire – at the Sisi Museum, admire the Baroque splendour of the Prunksaal (State Hall) at the Austrian National Library and see where Hitler held his Anschluss speech. Head to the Spanish Riding School to catch the Lipizzaner horses perform their nifty dressage work.

3. MuseumsQuartier

What is it? The MuseumsQuartier, or MQ as it's more commonly known, offers everything from the world's finest Egon Schiele collection, to an array of trendy bars, cafés and restaurants to a sculpture park-cum-mini golf course.

Why go? The Leopold Museum, home to 44 Schiele paintings and various works by Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and members of the Wien Werkstätte movement, is one of Vienna's finest art museums, while the MUMOK boasts the city's premier contemporary art collection, including works by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Even if art's not your thing, it's worth heading to the courtyard to hang out with locals on one of the eye-catching geometric blocks.

4. Palmenhaus

What is it? Taking up most of one side of the pretty Burggarten park by the Hofburg, this might just be the world's grandest greenhouse. Home to towering trees and plants from around the world, the Palmenhaus doubles as a restaurant and bar, serving modern Austrian specialities like Schnitzel as well as lighter Mediterranean bites and cocktails.

Why go? It's super-central, so wherever you're staying this is a great spot for a memorable first-night dinner or drinks. Plus, it's *sehr* photogenic both inside and out.

5. Sigmund Freud Museum

What is it? Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, lived and worked at Berggasse 19 until 1938, when the Nazis' persecution of the city's Jews forced him and his family to flee to England. Today the site is a thoughtfully curated museum where you can watch rare archive footage of Freud, pore over many of his belongings and read about some of his most intriguing patients.

Why go? As well as being a fascinating window on to life during Vienna's intellectual golden age, the Sigmund Freud Museum hosts events and has a very good gift shop.

6. Jewish Museum

What is it? It's never been more important to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. The world's oldest Jewish museum was founded in Vienna in 1895 but was closed and plundered by the Nazis in 1938; many valuable objects are still missing. The present-day Jewish Museum was founded in 1988 and moved to Dorotheergasse in 1993. A second site, above the remains of the medieval synagogue in Judenplatz, was opened in 2000. The two locations tell the story of the city's Jews from the Middle Ages through to the present day.

Why go? As well as preserving the memory of the 50,000 Austrian Jews killed in the Holocaust, the museum showcases the extraordinary contributions made to every aspect of Viennese life by Jewish citizens throughout the ages. A must-visit.

7. Klimt's 'The Kiss' at the Upper Belvedere Palace

What is it? 'The Kiss' is the final painting of Gustav Klimt's Golden Period and forms the centrepiece of the world's largest collection of the artist's works, which is housed in Vienna's beautiful Upper Belvedere Palace. Depicting two lovers locked in an embrace in a meadow of flowers, it stands out thanks to Klimt's use of gold leaf and a background suffused with gold, silver and platinum flakes. Some think it's a representation of the artist himself with life-long partner Emilie Flöge.

Why go? One of the world's most instantly recognisable paintings, 'The Kiss' marked a significant watering down of the erotic intensity Klimt's earlier works had been criticised for. Thousands flock here each year to see this revolutionary work. Make sure you also admire some of the other art on show and take a stroll through the gardens of the Baroque palace complex.

8. Weingut Cobenzl tasting tour

What is it? Did you know there are 700 hectares of vines within Vienna's city limits? Well, you do now. Light, fresh and fruity, Austrian wines are reliably delicious, and you can try Weingut Cobenzl's selection on a special tasting tour. The vineyard is a doddle to get to by tram and bus (so you don't need to worry about who's driving back).

Why go? It's great value for money – €20 gets you a tour of the vineyard, pressing house and cellar, with six generous samples of wine en route. Plus, the views are jaw-dropping: on a clear day you can see the Danube glittering in the distance.

9. Art History Museum Vienna

What is it? The art history museum near the Hofburg was built for the extensive collections of the imperial family. With its collection of important works and the world's largest Bruegel collection, it is now one of the most important art collections in the world.

Why go? Entrance Tickets start at 16€ for a day ticket. With this Ticket you'll be able to visit the Picture Gallery that houses numerous major works of occidental art, including Raphael's "Madonna in the Green", Vermeer's "Painting", the Infanta pictures by Velazquez, masterpieces by Rubens, Rembrandt, Dürer, Titian and Tintoretto.

10. Natural History Museum

What is it? The Natural History Museum preserves, expands, researches and presents its extensive biological, geological, anthropological and archaeological collections in a building designed as a total work of art. It conveys the diversity of nature, the evolution of planet earth and life as well as the associated cultural development of humans and offers an inspiring meeting place where dialogue and exchange between science and society take place.

Why go? The Natural History Museum Vienna, with its 30 million collection objects, is one of the best in the world: highlights such as the Venus von Willendorf, the huge meteorite collection, preparations from extinct animals, models of terrifying dinosaurs and a digital planetarium attract visitors to the Haus am Ring every year.