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Entertainment ■

Entertainment

There's no doubting Vienna's prowess as a classical music mecca, but an electronica centre, a jazz aficionado's haven, a fitness freak's playground? Vienna's entertainment scene is all this and more.

The city has come a long way from the days when a night out meant aperitifs at a stiff bar followed by a performance at the opera. Sure, it's still the place to do just that – the Staatsoper is one of the finest in Europe, the Vienna Philharmonic world renowned, the chorus of classical music concerts unceasing – but now options abound. Live music venues, like Porgy & Bess (p167) and Birdland (p166), attract superb jazz acts year round, while smaller locations cater to an array of local talent. The clubbing scene may be small, but quality over quantity, right? Homegrown DJs, such as Kruder & Dorfmeister and the Sofa Surfers, regularly perform alongside their international counterparts in clubs packed with revellers.

Those looking for fresh air and exercise won't come up short either. The old and new waterways of the Danube are literally made for swimming and boating, and the city is peppered with pools. Green parklands such as the Prater and the Donauinsel (Danube Island) provide plenty of space to stretch the legs, and the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods) on the city's western fringes is a beautiful area to enjoy on foot or by bicycle.

Vienna's weekly rag *Falter* (www.falter.at) is the best entertainment information source; it lists music concerts from every genre, cinema schedules, clubbings, theatre performances, children's events, and sporting fixtures. Both the paper and its virtual version are in German, but they shouldn't take much time to decipher. *City* (www.city-online.at, in German), another weekly events paper in German, is thin on news and topical chat but has basic listings. Local radio station FM4 (103.8FM; fm4.orf.at, in German) provides the lowdown on events in English at various times throughout the day. The tourist office produces a monthly listing of events covering theatre, concerts, film festivals, spectator sports, exhibitions and more; also see its seasonal magazine, *Vienna Scene*.

Vienna is one of the safest cities in the world, so if you have the urge to walk home after a night out don't think twice about it. There are a few places to avoid however; see the Directory chapter (p229) for details.



Dusk view of the Burgtheater (p170)

Tickets & Reservations

BUNDESTHEATERKASSEN Map pp254-5
% 514 44-7880; www.bundestheater.at; 01, Hanuschgasse 3; h 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65

The state ticket office only sells tickets to federal venues: Akademietheater, Burgtheater, Schauspielhaus, Staatsoper and Volksoper. The office charges no commission, and tickets for the Staatsoper and Volksoper are available here one month prior to the performance date. Credit cards are accepted and credit-card purchases can also be made by telephone. Alternatively, tickets for these federal venues can be booked over the internet.

JIRSA THEATER KARTEN BÜRO

Map pp260-1
% 400 600; viennaticket.at; 08, Lerchenfelder Strasse 12; h 9.30am-5.30pm Mon, Thu & Fri, 9.30am-1pm Tue & Wed; j 46, bus 13A
Jirsa is one of the larger ticketing offices in the city (there are around 20 in total). Tickets for a range of performances and venues are sold here, but you might be charged commission (some places add 20% to 30%).

WIEN-TICKET PAVILLON

Map pp254-5
% 588 85; www.wien-ticket.at in German; 01, Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz; h 10am-7pm; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65
This ticket booth, housed in the hut by the Staatsoper, is linked to the city government

TOP FIVE CLUBS

- Flex (p164) – outstanding sound system, top-rate DJs, and no dress code
- Roxy (p165) – progressive sounds, intimate dance floor, and not big enough to lose your friends
- Künstlerhauspassage (p165) – caters to the alternative set with techno DJs and fringe live acts
- Goodmann (p164) – opens its doors as others clubs wind down, and there's food!
- Passage (p165) – Vienna's club of the moment for the well-dressed crowd and after-work clubbers

and charges anything from no commission up to a 6% levy. Tickets for all venues are sold here.

WEBSITES

Austria Ticket Online (www.austriaticket.at in German) Extensive online ticketing agent, covering the whole entertainment spectrum.

ClubTicket (www.clubticket.at in German) Another comprehensive online ticket agent, also with last-minute deals.

CLUBS

The Viennese aren't known for their tarantism ways, which means the clubbing scene in Vienna is relatively small. Small doesn't mean dire though; clubs invariably feature excellent DJs and also a variety of music genres, which means that you'll always find something to fit your tastes. As most local folk detest queuing, crowded dance floors and hefty entry prices, clubs are generally quite intimate, and massive, bombastic venues are rare creatures. Entry prices can and do vary wildly – from nothing to €20 – and depend on who's on the decks.

The dividing line between a club and bar in Vienna is often quite blurred and hard to pick. Most contemporary bars tend to feature DJs on a regular basis and some, such as Europa (p158), Tanzcafé Jenseits (p157), Café Leopold (p155) and Wirt (p158) have small, but well-used dance floors.

AUX GAZELLES

Map pp254-5
% 585 66 45; www.auxgazelles.at; 06, Rahlgasse 5; Club Bar h 10pm-4am Thu-Sat; b U2 Museumsquartier, bus 57A

Aux Gazelles' club bar is beautifully Moorish and suitably filled with beautiful people. The music is an eclectic mix of smooth ethnic sounds, and there are plenty of dim corners and low, comfy couches to escape to if so desired. The rest of this gigantic club venue features a restaurant, bar, deli, and there's even a hammam (oriental steam bath). Aux Gazelles is one of the few clubs in town where a dress code is enforced.

VIENNA'S ELECTRONIC HEARTBEAT

For such a small city, Vienna has an impressive history in the dance music genre. At the forefront of house and techno tunes since the late 1980s/early 1990s, and linked to seminal centres like Detroit and New York, the city's smooth Downtempo sound and harder Techno beats reached heavenly heights and wowed clubbers worldwide in the mid 1990s. Inevitably, the sweet harmonies and catchy licks were ruthlessly commercialised, and by the end of the 1990s were played across the mainstream. Static years followed, but the scene is once more on the move. We asked Sebastian Schlachter-Delgado (www.myspace.com/schlachterdelgado), a well-known DJ who is one of FM4's (fm4.orf.at) resident electronica experts and coproducer of the station's *La Boum De Luxe* show (9.30pm-6am Friday), for his thoughts on Vienna's electronic heartbeat:

Lonely Planet: What is Viennese electronica? How would you class it?

Sebastian: Viennese Electronica was up until now known for two distinct styles, downtempo and techno. Downtempo is laid-back, more mellow, while techno/electro is quite avant-garde, more experimental and serious. Nowadays however the music styles are more and more mixed together. Thanks to the internet, musicians from all over the world and from different genres get together and this symbiosis creates new styles. At the moment a lot of cosmic, electro, disco, dub – but also funk, soul and ambient – is heard in Viennese studios. So you can't really say anymore which styles are typically Viennese.

Lonely Planet: Who are the current movers and shakers in the Viennese scene?

Sebastian: Cheap Records (www.cheap.at) and its founders Patrick Pulsinger and Erdem Tunakan are always worth looking out for. They released 'Waiting for my Love', a single by my band Twinnie. DJ Glow, with his Trust Records label (www.trust.at), is known worldwide for his constant electro movement. Kruder & Dorfmeister's label G-Stone Records (www.g-stoned.com) and artists like Megablaster & Makossa and Stereotype are big names in the business, as is Mego Records, which produces experimental electronica. The Sofa Surfers is a name to look out for, as is the Vienna Scientists, but the latter produces more house compilations. The drum n bass scene is also quite big in Vienna.

Lonely Planet: Which bars and clubs regularly host electronica evenings?

Sebastian: Flex, rhiz, Künstlerhauspassage, Roxy, Fluc, Cabaret Renz, WUK, Elektrogonner. For the bigger parties that attract around 2000 people, and plenty of kids, check flyers around town. Flyers are also good for tracking down one-off parties as people are constantly looking for new locations to host an event.

Lonely Planet: Are there any particular nights people should attend to get a taste of Viennese electronica?

Sebastian: 'Dub Club' on Monday and 'Crazy' on Tuesday at Flex are good, as is 'Techno Cafe' at the Volksgarten Pavillon Tuesday evenings over summer. 'Icke Micke' is an excellent event that also attracts newer and more unknown artists and features plenty of techno and electro. During summer it's usually based at Künstlerhauspassage and in winter at Club Camera on Neubaugasse.

Lonely Planet: Who are your personal Austrian-based favourites?

Sebastian: I'm a fan of Gerhard Potuznik, Patrick Pulsinger and Erdem Tunakan. Christopher Just, I-Wolf, G Rizo, Microthol and all acts on Trust Records and Cheap Records too. Also Stereotype and Megablaster & Makossa. It's difficult to just mention a few, there's a lot of great musicians in Vienna.

ness, and the title of best club in town. The sound system is without equal in Vienna (some would say Europe), entry price generally reasonable and dress code unheard of. The monthly DJ line-up features local legends and international names, and live acts are commonplace. 'Dub Club' on Monday (the night to catch G-Stone DJs) and 'London Calling' (alternative and indie) on Wednesday are among the most popular nights. In summer the picnic tables lining the canal overflow with happy partygoers.

GOODMANN Map pp254-5

% 967 44 15; www.goodmann.at; 04, Rechte Wienzeile 23; h 4am-10am Mon-Sat; b U4 Kettenbrückengasse, bus 59A

A tiny club attracting clubbers who don't want the night to end, Goodmann serves food upstairs (until 8am) and hides its night owls, who are an eclectic mix of old and young (but always in a merry state), downstairs.

KÜNSTLERHAUSPASSAGE Map pp254-5

% 01, Karlsplatz 5; h 9pm-late Thu-Sun Jun-Sep; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65
A glass box beneath the Künstlerhaus, Künstlerhauspassage is a refuge for Vienna's art scene. Spoken word performances, films, live music and DJs take turns entertaining a thoroughly alternative crowd; 'Icke Micke', every Friday night from August to September, tops the bill with progressive techno and electronica from the next big names in the DJ business. The adjoining outdoor amphitheatre is a perfect escape from the sweaty dance floor.

PASSAGE Map pp254-5

% 961 88 00; www.sunshie.at; 01, Babenberger Passage, Burgring 1; h 8pm-4am Tue-Thu, 10pm-6am Fri & Sat; j D, J, 1, 2
Passage is the closest Vienna comes to a megaclub. Its sleek interior, soothing colours and sweaty atmosphere attract the beautiful people of the city, their entourage and plenty of ogglers and barflies. The music is loud (noise from the Ringstrasse traffic directly overhead is easily drowned out) and fairly mainstream, with R'n'B, hip-hop and house nights; 'Disco Fever Tuesdays' draws some of the biggest crowds. Expect lines and black-clad, muscle-bound doormen after 10pm (11pm on Friday and Saturday).

ROXY Map pp254-5

% 961 88 00; www.roxyclub.at; 04, Operngasse 24; h 11pm-late Thu-Sat; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, bus 59A

A seminal club for years, Roxy still manages to run with the clubbing pack, and sometimes lead the way. DJs from Vienna's electronica scene regularly guest on the turntables and most nights it's hard to find a space on the small dance floor. Expect a crowded, but very good, night out here.

TITANIC Map pp254-5

% 587 47 58; www.titanicbar.at in German; 06, Theobaldgasse 11; h 10pm-6am Tue-Sat; b U2 Museumsquartier, bus 57A

This club is old skool, with door check and bouncers (dress reasonably conservative), but once past these party poopers it's time to whoop it up. Two large dance floors soon fill with revellers either looking to pull or dance the night away to mainstream club sounds, R'n'B and '80s classics. Fun, but not to everyone's taste.

U4 Map pp254-5

% 817 11 92; www.u4club.at; 12, Schönbrunner Strasse 222; h 10pm-until late; b U4 Meidling Hauptstrasse, bus 10A

U4 was the birthplace of techno clubbings in Vienna way back when, and its longevity is a testament to its ability to roll with the times. A fairly young, studenty crowd are its current regulars, and while the music isn't as cutting edge as it used to be, it still manages to please the masses.

VOLKSGARTEN Map pp254-5

% 532 42 41; www.volksgarten.at in German; 01, Burgring 1; h 8pm-2am Mon-Wed, 9.30am-late Thu-Sat; b U2, U3 Volkstheater, j D, J, 1, 2
A hugely popular club superbly located near the Hofburg, Volksgarten serves a clientele eager to see and be seen. The long cocktail bar is perfect for people-watching and the music is an every rotating mix of hip-hop, house, salsa and reggae, but is hardly ever challenging. Opening hours are not fixed, and dress well to glide past the bouncers.

WHY NOT? Map pp254-5

% 535 11 58; www.why-not.at; 01, Tiefer Graben 22; h 10pm-6am Fri & Sat; bus 1A, 3A
Why Not? is one of the few clubs focusing its attention solely on the gay scene. The small club quickly fills up with mainly young guys out for as much fun as possible.

LIVE MUSIC

Formerly the end of the line for bands touring Europe, Vienna is now a crossroads for those heading to Eastern Europe. Big-name and new bands regularly perform on the city's stages and the yearly repertoire is a healthy mix of jazz, rock (both alternative and mainstream) and world music. Posters and flyers advertising future concerts are plastered across the city, making lining up concerts a simple task. International names

often sell out, but you should be able to pick up a scalped ticket on the day.

Venues are invariably small and the crowds fairly subdued, making it easy to push your way to the front and not end the night bruised and winded. Concerts can cost as little as €5 for local performers (sometimes free) or €50 for an internationally acclaimed act. In general however, most will set you back €15 to €25.

Bars and clubs, in particular Flex (p164), rhiz (p159), Chelsea (p159) and B72 (p158), also regularly host touring bands. Festivals such as the Donauinsel Fest and Jazz Fest Wien are also excellent places to catch local and international talent (see p9).

ARENA Map pp262-3

☎ 798 85 95; www.arena.co.at in German; 03, Baumgasse 80; h 2pm-late summer, from 4pm winter; b U3 Erdberg

A former slaughterhouse turned music and film venue, Arena is one of the city's quirkiest places to see live acts. Hard rock, rock, metal, reggae and soul (along with cinema) can be seen on its outdoor stage from May to September; over winter bands are presented in one of its two indoor halls. 'Iceberg', a particularly popular German-British 1970s new-wave bash, is held here once a month.

BIRDLAND Map pp254-5

☎ 219 63 93; www.birdland.at in German; 03, Am Stadtpark 1; h 6pm-2am Tue-Sat; b U3, U4 Landstrasse/Wien Mitte

With Birdland, world-renowned jazz musician and local boy Joe Zawinul has created a top-notch bar for discerning jazz fans. The acoustics and ambience are excellent, but then again, with the entry price rarely dropping below €30, they should be. Acts have included The Temptations, Hot Chocolate and Earth, Wind & Fire; quality on most nights is pretty much a given. It's situated below the Hilton Vienna.

CAFÉ CARINA Map pp258-9

☎ 406 43 22; www.café-carina.at in German; 08, Josefstädter Strasse 84; h 5pm-2am; b U6 Josefstädter Strasse, j J, 33
Small, smoky, and pleasantly dingy, Carina is a muso's and drinker's bar. Local bands perform most nights, only a few feet from a normally enthusiastic audience, and the music is invariably folk, jazz or country.

CAFÉ CONCERTO Map pp258-9

☎ 406 47 95; www.caféconcerto.at; 16, Lerchenfelder Gürtel 53; h 7pm-4am Tue-Sat; b U6 Josefstädter Strasse, j J, 33
Concerto is another of the bars on the Gürtel that hosts local live acts. Jazz features heavily on the program (which is also peppered with DJs) and both the cellar and ground-level bar are used for concerts, although the acoustics of the former may leave a little to be desired. Entry is often free.

JAZZLAND Map pp254-5

☎ 533 25 75; www.jazzland.at in German; 01, Franz-Josefs-Kai 29; h 7.30pm-2am Mon-Sat; b U1, U4 Schwedenplatz, j N, 1, 2, 21
Jazzland has been an institution of Vienna's jazz scene for over 30 years. The music covers the whole jazz spectrum, and the brick venue features a grand mixture of local and international acts.

METROPOL Map pp258-9

☎ 407 77 40; www.wiener-metropol.at in German; 17, Hernalser Hauptstrasse 55; box office h 10am-6pm Mon-Sat; j 43

The Metropol is a bit of a musical chameleon: one week might see performances by international acts, the next kitsch musicals, cabaret and folk music. There's plenty of tables and bar stools so there should be no problem procuring a ticket.

MILES SMILES Map pp258-9

☎ 405 95 17; 08, Lange Gasse 51; h 8pm-2am Sun-Thu, 8pm-4am Fri & Sat; j J, bus 13A
One of two bars in town named after leg-end Miles Davis, Miles Smiles is for the discerning jazz fan who likes to see the whites of the artist's eyes. Live acts are irregular but always enthralling, and the atmosphere enthusiastic and energetic.

PLANET MUSIC Map pp258-9

☎ 332 46 41-0; www.planet.tt in German; 20, Adalbert-Stifter-Strasse 73; j N, 31, 33
This dark and divey venue sticks to a program of band contests and international acts sliding off the popularity wagon, but every now and then something intriguing turns up. The acoustics aren't bad and the beer is cheap, but it's located a bit out of the centre.

PORGY & BESS Map pp254-5

☎ 512 88 11; www.porgy.at; 01, Riemergasse 11; h 8pm-4am Mon-Sat, 7pm-4am Sun; b U3 Stubentor, bus 1A
Quality is the cornerstone of Porgy & Bess' continuing popularity. Its program is loaded with modern jazz acts from around the globe, DJs fill spots on weekends, and jam sessions take place after 11pm on Fridays. The interior is dim and the vibe velvety and very grown-up.

REIGEN Map pp260-1

☎ 894 00 94; www.reigen.at in German; 14, Hadikgasse 62; h 6pm-4am; b U4 Heitzing, j 60
Reigen's tiny stage is the setting for jazz, blues, and world music. While most acts won't ring many bells, the likes of Living Colour have made appearances here in recent times. If the music doesn't suit there's an amazing number of bars to escape to.

STADTHALLE Map pp260-1

☎ 981 00-0; www.stadthalle.com in German; 15, Vogelweidplatz 15; b U6 Burggasse/Stadthalle, j 6, 18, bus 48A

Stadthalle is the largest concert venue in the city and usually caters to large, mainstream rock bands and local heroes. Check the posters around town for upcoming shows or check the website.

SZENE WIEN Map pp260-1

☎ 749 33 41; www.szenewien.com; 11, Hauffgasse 26; b U3 Zipperstrasse
Szene Wien tops the list of Vienna's small concert venues. Intimate and friendly, it's a superb place to catch international bands without fighting off the crowds. Concerts cover the music spectrum; rock, reggae, funk, jazz and world music have all been heard within these walls.

WUK Map pp258-9

☎ 40 121-0; www.wuk.at; 09, Währinger Strasse 59; b U6 Währinger Strasse, j 40, 41, 41
WUK (Werkstätten- und Kulturhaus; Workshop and Culture House) is many things to many people. Basically a space for art (government subsidised but free to pursue an independent course), it hosts a huge array of events in its concert hall. International and local rock acts vie with clubbing nights, classical concerts, film evenings, theatre and even children's shows. Wom-

en's groups, temporary exhibitions and practical skills workshops are also on site, along with a smoky café with a fabulous cobbled courtyard.

OPERA & CLASSICAL MUSIC

Vienna is the world capital of opera and classical music. The rich musical legacy that flows through the city is evident everywhere: the plethora of monuments to its greatest composers and its princely music venues easily outnumber those of some countries, let alone other capital cities. A quick walk down Kärntner Strasse from the Staatsoper to Stephansplatz will turn up more Mozart lookalikes than you care to shake a baton at.

With such presence in the city, it should be no problem to catch a concert on your visit. The only stumbling block might be in obtaining tickets in the more salubrious venues, such as the Staatsoper and Musikverein; with these, it's advisable to book well ahead. Otherwise just turn up and enjoy.

Churches and coffee houses make fine venues to enjoy classical music. Augustinikirche (p63), Minoritenkirche (p65) and Burgkapelle (p62) are just some of the city's churches complementing Mass on Sunday morning with a full choir and orchestra, and some have regular evening concerts. Coffee houses featuring live music are mentioned throughout the Drinking chapter (p138), otherwise pick up the handy *Wiener Konzert Cafés* (Vienna's Concert Cafés) brochure from the tourist office.

Festivals (p9) such as the KlangBogen Festival and Vienna Festival are highlights on the music calendar, and the Rathausplatz plays host to a film festival of opera and classical concerts in July and August.

Ticket costs vary greatly. Standing room tickets can go for as little as €2, whereas a prime spot at a gala performance in the Staatsoper will set you back €254. Most venues produce a handy map of the seating layout, which is invaluable in choosing the perfect seat to match your budget.

HOFBURG Map pp254-5

☎ 587 25 52; www.hofburgorchester.at; 01, Heldenplatz; tickets €35-47; U3 Herrergasse, j D, J, 1, 2
The Neue Hofburg's concert halls, the sumptuous Festsaal and Redoutensaal, are

VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR

As with Manner Schnitten, Stephansdom, Lipizzaner stallions, and sausage stands, Vienna wouldn't be Vienna without the Vienna Boys' Choir (Wiener Sängerknaben; www.wsk.at). Now consisting of four separate choirs who share the demanding tour schedule, the original choir was instigated by Maximilian I in 1498. Over the ensuing centuries its ranks have included the likes of Haydn and Schubert.

Catching the choir in concert takes some organisation. Tickets (€5 to €29) for their Sunday performances at 9.15am (September to June) in the Burgkapelle (Royal Chapel) in the Hofburg (p62) should be booked around eight weeks in advance (% 533 99 27; www.bmbwk.gv.at/hmk in German). Otherwise try your luck for a last-minute ticket at the Burgkapelle box office from 11am to 1pm and 3pm to 5pm Friday for the following Sunday or immediately before Mass between 8.15am and 8.45am. Standing room is free, and you need to queue by 8.30am to find a place inside the open doors, but you can get a flavour of what's going on from the TV in the foyer.

The choir also sings a mixed program of music in the Musikverein at 4pm on Friday in May, June, September and October. Tickets range from €36 to €63, and can be purchased from Reisebüro Mondial (Map pp254-5; % 588 04 141, www.mondial.at; 04, Operngasse 20b) and hotels in Vienna.

regularly used for Strauss and Mozart concerts, featuring the Hofburg Orchestra and soloists from the Staatsoper and Volksoper. Performances start at 8.30pm and tickets are available from travel agents, hotels and Mozart lookalikes. It's open-plan seating, so get in early to secure a good seat.

KAMMEROPER Map pp254-5

% 512 01 00-77; www.wienerkammeroper.at; 01, Fleischmarkt 24; tickets €5-48; box office \curvearrowright noon-6pm Mon-Fri; U1, \curvearrowright U4 Schwedenplatz, j N, 1, 2, 21

The Kammeroper ranks as Vienna's third opera house after the Staatsoper and Volksoper. Its small venue is perfect for the unusual and quirky opera productions and over summer the entire company is transported to the Schlosstheater Schönbrunn to continue performances in more opulent surroundings. Students receive 30% discount, children under 14 receive 50% discount.

KONZERTHAUS Map pp254-5

% 242 002; www.konzerthaus.at; 03, Lothringerstrasse 20; tickets €10-100; box office \curvearrowright 9am-7.45pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat; \curvearrowright U4 Stadtpark, bus 4A

The Konzerthaus is a major venue in classical music circles, but throughout the year ethnic music, rock, pop or jazz can also be heard in its hallowed halls. Up to three simultaneous performances, in the Grosser Saal, the Mozart Saal and the Schubert Saal, can be staged; this massive complex also features another four concert halls. Students can pick up tickets for €12 30 minutes before performances; children receive 50% discount.

KURSALON Map pp254-5

% 512 57 90; www.strauss-konzerte.at; tickets €38-90; 01, Johannesgasse 33; \curvearrowright U4 Stadtpark, j 1, 2 Fans of the Strauss family will love the performances at Kursalon, which are devoted solely to the famous dynasty. The repertoire of ballet and operetta is held in the refurbished Renaissance building at either 8pm or 8.30pm, or otherwise stop by for coffee, cake and quartet waltz performance in the garden during the day.

MUSIKVEREIN Map pp254-5

% 505 81 90; www.musikverein.at; 01, Bösendorferstrasse 12; tours adult/child €5/3.50, tickets €4-85; box office \curvearrowright 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat; \curvearrowright U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65 The Musikverein holds the proud title of the best acoustics of any concert hall in Austria, which the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra makes excellent use of. The interior is suitably lavish and can be visited on the occasional guided tour. Standing-room tickets in the main hall cost €4 to €6; there are no student tickets. Smaller-scale performances are held in the Brahms Saal. The Musikverein closes in July and August.

ODEON Map pp254-5

% 216 51 27; www.odeon-theater.at; 02, Taborstrasse 10; tickets €15-40; box office \curvearrowright 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; \curvearrowright U1, U4 Schwedenplatz, j N, 1, 2, 21 This oft-forgotten performance venue looks suitably grand from the outside but unfortunately doesn't quite live up to expectations inside. Anything from classical concerts to raves are held within its walls.

ORANGERY Map pp260-1

% 812 50 04; www.imagevienna.com; 13, Schloss Schönbrunn; tickets €39-55; box office \curvearrowright 8.30am-7pm; \curvearrowright U4 Schönbrunn, bus 10A Schönbrunn's lovely former imperial greenhouse is the location for year-round Mozart and Strauss concerts. Performances last around two hours and begin at 8.30pm daily.

PALAIS PALFFY Map pp254-5

% 512 56 81; www.palais-palffy.at; 01, Josefsplatz 6; tickets €36-43; box office \curvearrowright 1hr before performances; \curvearrowright U3 Herrergasse Another Mozart and Strauss performance venue, this time in Palais Palffy's stunning baroque Figarosaal (Figaro Hall). Mozart himself performed here as a child in 1762, and although the music isn't of the same quality as that of the Philharmonic, it's lively and enthusiastic. Performances start at 8pm daily.

RAIMUND THEATER Map pp260-1

% 599 77; www.musicalvienna.at in German; 06, Wallgasse 18-20; tickets €10-95; box office \curvearrowright 10am-1pm & 2-6pm; \curvearrowright U6 Gumpendorfer Strasse, j 6, 18 The Raimund Theater hosts big, Broadway-style musicals these days, but when it opened its doors in 1893 it produced only spoken dramas. With a seating capacity of more than 1000, obtaining a ticket won't be a problem.

STAATSOPER Map pp254-5

% 514 44-2250; www.wiener-staatsoper.at; 01, Opernring 2; tours adult/senior/child €5/4/2, tour plus Opera Museum €6.50/5.50/3.50; tickets €2-254; box office \curvearrowright 9am until 2hr before performance Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat; \curvearrowright U1, U2, U3 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65 The Staatsoper is the premiere opera and classical music venue in Vienna. Built between 1861 and 1869 by August Siccardsburg and Eduard van der Nüll, it initially revolted the Viennese public and Habsburg royalty and quickly earned the nickname 'stone turtle'. Both architects took it the worst possible way: van der Nüll hung himself and Siccardsburg died of a heart attack two months later. Neither saw the Staatsoper's first staged production. This shocked Franz Josef to such an extent that he kept his official comments from then on to: 'It was very nice. I enjoyed it very much.'



Facade detail of Staatsoper (this page)

Productions are lavish affairs and should not be missed. The Viennese take their opera very seriously and dress up accordingly. Wander around the foyer and refreshment rooms in the interval to fully appreciate the gold and crystal interior. Opera is not performed here in July and August (tours however still take place), but its repertoire still includes more than 70 different productions.

Tickets can be purchased up to one month in advance. Standing-room tickets, which go for €2 to €3.50, can only be purchased 80 minutes before performances begin and any unsold tickets are available for €30 one day before a performance (call % 514 44 2950 for more information). Tour information is available on % 514 44 2606.

THEATER AN DER WIEN Map pp254-5

% 588 30 265; www.musicalvienna.at in German; 06, Linke Wienzeile 6; tickets €23-95; box office \curvearrowright 10am-7pm; \curvearrowright U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz The Theater an der Wien has hosted some monumental premiere performances, such as Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Strauss Jnr's *Die Fledermaus*. These days the theatre is more attuned to popular culture and features musicals such as *Elisabeth* and *Mozart*. Discounts include two-for-one on Tuesdays between 2pm and 6pm, €11 tickets for students on sale 30 minutes before shows, and €2.50 standing tickets available one hour before performances.

VOLKSOPER

Map pp258-9
% 514 44 3670; www.volksoper.at; 09, Währinger Strasse 78; tickets €2-70; box office 11am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun; U6 Währinger Strasse, j 40, 41, 42

The Volksoper (People's Opera) features plenty of kitsch operettas, dance performances, musicals and a handful of operas. Standing tickets go for as little as €1 and, like many venues, there are a plethora of discounts and reduced tickets 30 minutes before performances. The Volksoper closes from July to mid-August.

THEATRE & DANCE

Theatre in Vienna started over 200 years ago with the creation of the Burgtheater, the oldest theatre in the German-speaking world. Today some 50 theatres are thriving in this theatre-loving city, but invariably performances are in German; theatre in English is reserved for the International Theatre and Vienna's English Theatre.

Contemporary dance is centred at Tanzquartier Wien, where it's going from strength to strength. ImPulsTanz (p11), a quality dance festival from mid-July to mid-August, is about the only other option for catching dance performances in Vienna. Traditional ballet features at both the Staatsoper and the Volksoper during the opera season.

BURGTHEATER

Map pp254-5
% 514 44 4140; www.burgtheater.at; 01, Dr-Karl-Lueger-Ring; tours adult/child €4.50/2, tickets €4-48; box office 11am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun; j D, 1, 2

The Burgtheater (National Theatre), one of the prime theatre venues in the German-speaking world. Built in Renaissance style to designs by Gottfried Semper and Karl von Hasenauer, it had to be rebuilt after sustaining severe damage in WWII. The grand interior has stairway frescoes painted by the Klimt brothers, Gustav and Ernst. Tours of the theatre are conducted daily at 2pm and 3pm in July and August and at 3pm daily for the remainder of the year. The Burgtheater also runs the small theatre Kasino am Schwarzenbergplatz (Map pp254-5; 03, Schwarzenbergplatz 1; j D, 1, 2, 71) theatre and the 500-seater Akademietheater (Map pp254-5; 03, Lisztstrasse 1; U4 Stadtpark, bus 4A), which was built between 1911 and 1913.

Tickets at the Burgtheater and Akademietheater sell for 50% of their face-value price an hour before performances, and students can purchase tickets for €7 half an hour before performances. Standing places are €1.50.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE

Map pp258-9
% 319 62 72; www.internationaltheatre.at; 09, Porzellangasse 8; tickets €20-24; box office 11am-3pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat, 6-7.30pm on performance days; j D

The small International Theatre, with its entrance on Müllnergasse, has a mainly American company who live locally. Discounted tickets are available to students and senior citizens (€14). It closes for around five weeks at the beginning of August, and has a linked venue, Fundus, at 09, Müllnergasse 6A.

MARIONETTENTHEATER

Map pp258-9
% 817 32 47; www.marionettentheater.at; 13, Schloss Schönbrunn; tickets full performances adult/child €9-28/6-19, short performances €7/5; box office 11am-5pm Thu-Mon; U4 Schönbrunn, bus 10A This small theatre in Schloss Schönbrunn puts on marionette performances of the much-loved productions *The Magic Flute* (2½ hours) and *Aladdin* (1¼ hours). The theatre also offers 30-minute shows that might be better suited to children.

SCHAUSPIELHAUS

Map pp258-9
% 317 01 01-18; www.schauspielhaus.at; 09, Porzellangasse 19; tickets €20; box office 11am-4pm Mon-Fri, from 5pm Sat & Sun; j D The Schauspielhaus pushes the boundaries of theatre in Vienna with unconventional productions, ranging from ethnic dance performances to political satires. Whatever the theme, you can guarantee it will be thought-provoking. Students and seniors receive a 50% discount.

TANZQUARTIER WIEN

Map pp254-5
% 581 35 91; www.tqw.at; 07, Museumsplatz 1; tickets €11-18; box office 1 hr before performances; U2 Museumsquartier, U2, U3 Volkstheater, bus 2A Tanzquartier Wien, located in the Museums-Quartier, is Vienna's first dance institution. It hosts an array of local and international performances with a strong experimental nature. Performances normally start at 8.30pm.

THEATER IN DER JOSEFSTADT

Map pp258-9
% 427 00 300; www.josefstadt.org in German; 08, Josefstädter Strasse 26; tickets €5-63; box office 10am-performance time Mon-Fri, 1pm-performance time Sat & Sun; j J, bus 13A Theater in der Josefstadt is another theatre in the Volkstheater mould, with an ornate interior and traditional German productions. One hour before performances tickets are available to students and school children for €5; persons with disabilities, and children can purchase tickets for €12 at any time.

VIENNA'S ENGLISH THEATRE

Map pp258-9
% 402 12 60-0; www.englishtheatre.at; 08, Josefs-gasse 12; tickets €19.50-38; box office 11am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, 5-7.30pm Sat & Sun (when performances scheduled); U2 Rathaus, j J Founded in 1963, Vienna's English Theatre is the oldest foreign-language theatre in Vienna (with the occasional show in French or Italian). Productions range from timeless pieces, such as Shakespeare, through to contemporary works. Students, children and people with disabilities receive 20% discount on all tickets; standby tickets for €9 go on sale 15 minutes before showtime.

VOLKSTHEATER

Map pp254-5
% 523 05 89-77; www.volkstheater.at in German; 07, Neustiftgasse 1; tickets €7.50-40; box office 11am-performance Mon-Sat Sep-Jun; U2, U3 Volkstheater, j 49 With a seating capacity close to 1000, the Volkstheater is one of Vienna's largest theatres. Built in 1889, it's no surprise that the interior is suitably grand. Only German-language shows are produced, and unsold tickets go on sale one hour before performances start for €3.60, but only to students.

CINEMA

The Viennese love their *Kino* (cinema) and attend in droves. Both independent art-house films and Hollywood blockbusters are well patronised and unlike Austrian TV, where 99% of movies are dubbed in German, many cinema screenings are subtitled to retain as much of a film's original ambience. The weekly *Falter* (www.falter.at) and daily *Der Standard* (<http://derstandard.at>, in German) papers are the

best sources for listings: *OF* or *OV* following a film title means it will screen in the original language; *OmU* indicates the film is in the original language with German subtitles; and *OmenglU* and *OmeU* signifies it's in the original language with English subtitles. Monday is known as *Kinomontag*, when all cinema seats go for around €6; a normal screening costs anything from €7 to €10.

ARTIS INTERNATIONAL

Map pp254-5
% 535 65 70; www.cineplex.at in German; 01, Schultergasse 5; bus 1A, 2A, 3A Artis has six small cinemas in the heart of the Innere Stadt. It only shows English-language films, invariably straight from Hollywood.

BREITENSEER LICHTSPIELE

Map pp260-1
% 982 21 73; www.bsl.at in German; 14, Breiten-seer Strasse 21; U3 Hütteldorfer Strasse, j 10 This delightful Art Nouveau cinema is an absolute gem. Opened in 1909, it still retains its original wooden seats and carries the atmosphere of a bygone era in cinema history. Films are usually in English with German subtitles, and some are quite risqué.

BURG KINO

Map pp254-5
% 587 84 06; www.burgkino.at; 01, Opernring 19; U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65 The Burg Kino is a central cinema that shows only English-language films. It has regular screenings of the *The Third Man*, Orson Welles' timeless classic set in post-WWII Vienna, at 11pm Friday and Saturday, 3pm Sunday and 4.30pm Tuesday. Cinemas here range from small to extra large.

THE VIENNALE

Vienna's annual international film festival, the Viennale, is the highlight of the city's celluloid calendar. By no means as prestigious as Cannes or Berlin, it still attracts top-quality films from all over the world and is geared to the viewer rather than the filmmakers. For two weeks from mid-October city cinemas continuously play screenings that could broadly be described as fringe, ranging from documentaries to short and feature films. Tickets for the more popular screenings and most evening screenings can be hard to come by. Tickets can be bought two weeks before the festival starts from a number of stands around town. To get a jump on fellow festivalgoers, call % 526 59 47 or check www.viennale.at.

CINEMAGIC Map pp254-5

% 586 43 03; www.cinemagic.at in German; 01, Friedrichstrasse 4; admission €4.70; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65

An initiative of the City of Vienna aimed at entertainment for children, Cinemagic is a cinema totally devoted to the little 'uns. Films come from around the globe and screen every Saturday and Sunday afternoon. In mid-November the cinema, along with three others, hosts a Children's Film Festival (www.kinderfilmfestival.at, in German) showcasing international children's films.

DE FRANCE Map pp254-5

% 317 52 36; www.defrance.at in German; 01, Schottenring 5; b U2 Schottentor, j 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44

De France screens films in their original language, with subtitles, in its two small cinemas. The schedule includes a healthy dose of English-language films.

ENGLISH CINEMA HAYDN Map pp260-1

% 587 22 62; www.haydnkino.at; 06, Mariahilfer Strasse 57; b U3 Neubaugasse, bus 13A

The Haydn is a comfortable cinema screening only mainstream Hollywood-style films in their original language in three cinemas.

FILMCASINO Map pp260-1

% 587 90 62; www.filmcasino.at in German; 05, Margaretenstrasse 78; b U4 Pilgramgasse, bus 13A, 59A

An art-house cinema of some distinction, the Filmcasino screens an excellent mix of Asian and European docs and avant-garde short films, along with independent feature-length films from around the world. Its '50s-style foyer is particularly impressive.

GARTENBAUKINO Map pp254-5

% 512 23 54; www.gartenbaukino.at in German; 01, Parking 12; b U3 Stubentor, U4 Stadpark, j 1, 2

Fortunately the interior of the Gartenbaukino has survived since the 1960s, making a trip to the flicks here all the more appealing. The actual cinema seats a whopping 750 people, which is often packed during Viennale screenings. Its regular screening schedule is full to overflowing with art-house films, normally with subtitles.

ÖSTERREICHISCHE FILMMUSEUM

Map pp254-5

% 533 70 54; www.filmmuseum.at; 01, Augustinerstrasse 1; h Sep-Jun; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65

After a much-needed overhaul that did away with the original arse-numbing seats, the Filmmuseum is now a pleasure to visit. The range of films on show is quite extensive; each month features a retrospective on a group of directors or a certain theme from around the world. Tickets costs €9.50; with a year's membership (€12) this drops to €5.50.

SCHIKANEDER Map pp260-1

% 585 28 67; www.schikaneder.at; 04, Margaretenstrasse 24; bus 59A

Located next to the bar of the same name, Schikaneder is the darling of Vienna's alternative cinema scene. The film subject range is quite broad but also highly selective, and art house through and through. Schikaneder only seats 80 and all screenings are €6.

TOP KINO Map pp254-5

% 208 30 00; www.topkino.at in German; 06, Rahlgasse 1; b U2 Museumsquartier, bus 57A

Part of the restaurant, club and bar arrangement Top Kino, (p158), this cinema offers an ever-changing array of European films and documentaries, generally in their original language with German subtitles. The sloping theatre is good for all cinemagoers.

VOTIVKINO Map pp258-9

% 317 35 71; www.votivkino.at in German; 09, Währinger Strasse 12; j 37, 38, 40, 41, 42

Built in 1912, the Votiv is one of the oldest cinemas in Vienna. It's been extensively updated since then and is now among the best cinemas in the city. Its three screens feature a mix of Hollywood's more quirky ventures and art-house films in their original language. The 11am Tuesday screenings is reserved for mothers, fathers and babies.

WATCHING SPORT

The only spectator sport of note to gain regular – albeit small – audiences is football. Vienna is home to two of the Bundesliga's bigger teams, Rapid Vienna and Austria Memphis, whose rivalry is similar to England's Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur. It may be hard to purchase a ticket

OPEN-AIR CINEMA

Open-air cinema is a growing phenomenon in Vienna. The city hosts at least seven such cinemas across town, the biggest of which is the Musikfilm Festival (p11) on Rathausplatz; Arena (p166) also hosts such a cinema in the summer months. **Kino Unter Sternen** (Cinema Under the Stars; Map pp258–9 % 0800-664 040; www.kinountersternen.at in German; 02, Augarten; j 31, bus 5A) is a highly popular outdoor cinema (when the weather holds) in the shadow of one of Augarten's Flaktürme that shows films from mid-July to mid-August. The selection is an eclectic mix of classics, and films in English are often shown. **Krieau** (Map pp252–3; % 524 68 02; www.krieau.com in German; 02, Nordportalstrasse 247; j 21, bus 80B) features more mainstream films and runs from July to August

for the local derby, but at any other time it won't be a problem. Austria, along with Switzerland, is hosting the 2008 European Championship, at which time the city will be in serious party-mode.

The Stadthalle (p167) is a major player in hosting sporting events. Tennis tournaments (including the Austrian Open), horse shows and ice-hockey games are just some of the diverse events held here. The swimming pool here is a major venue for aquatic events like races, water polo and synchronised swimming.

FOOTBALL**AUSTRIA MEMPHIS FRANZ-****HORR-STADION** Map pp252-3

% 688 01 50; www.fk-austria.at; 10, Fischhofgasse 12; j 67, bus 15A

The home ground of Austria Magna is currently waiting to be finished, but there are still plenty of seats available to catch a game.

ERNST-HAPPEL-STADION Map pp262-3

% 728 08 54; 02, Meiereistrasse 7; j 21, bus 80B
With a seating capacity nearing 50,000, the Ernst-Happel stadium is the largest sporting venue in Vienna and preferred venue for international games.

RAPID VIENNA GERHARD-**HANAPPI-STADION** Map pp252-3

% 914 55 19; www.skrapid.at in German; 14, Keisslergasse 6; b U4 Hütteldorf, bus 147

Hanappi stadium is the home ground for SK Rapid, Vienna's team of the working class. Of the city's two national league teams, Rapid has been the more successful internationally, fighting their way through to the European Cup finals on two occasions.

HORSE RACING**FREUDENAU** Map pp252-3

% 728 95 31; www.freudenu.at in German; 02, Rennbahnstrasse 65; h Mar-Nov; bus 77A
In the southern extremes of the Prater is Freudenu, Vienna's premiere horse-racing track and one of Europe's oldest. Bus 77A doesn't always go as far as the track so you might have to walk from Lusthaus (p128).

KRIEAU Map pp252-3

% 728 00 46; www.krieau.at in German; 02, Nordportalstrasse 274; j 21, bus 80B
Sidling up to the Ernst-Happel-Stadion in the Prater is Krieau, the track where Vienna's trotting meets are held. It's normally only open on Saturday afternoons from September to June. Tickets start at €5.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Vienna is a superb city for outdoor activities. The Wienerwald (Vienna Woods) to the west is crisscrossed with hiking and cycling trails, while the Donau, Alte Donau, Donauinsel (Danube Island) and Lobau to the east provide ample opportunities for boating and swimming (plus cycling and inline skating), and the city itself has hundreds of kilometres of designated cycle paths and is dotted with green parks, some big (the Prater), some small (Stadtspark).

The city's website, www.wien.gv.at, has a rundown on the main outdoor activities available in Vienna, as does *Sports & Nature in Vienna*, a brochure produced by the Vienna tourist board. It can also be downloaded from their website www.wien.info.

BOATING

The Alte Donau is the main boating and sailing centre in Vienna, but the Neue Donau, a long stretch of water separated from the Danube by the Donauinsel, also provides opportunities for boating, windsurfing and water-skiing.

SAILING SCHOOL HOFBAUER

Map pp252-3

% 204 34 35; www.hofbauer.at in German; 22, An der Obere Alte Donau 191; h Apr-Oct; b U1 Alte Donau

Hofbauer rents sailing boats (from €12.50 per hour) and windsurfers (€11 per hour) on the eastern bank of the Alte Donau and can provide lessons (in English) for those wishing to learn or brush up on their skills. Pedal boats are also available for hire.

CYCLING

Vienna's layout and well-marked cycle lanes make cycling a pleasant and popular activity, especially along the banks of the Danube, in the Prater and around the Ringstrasse. The extensive Wienerwald is popular for mountain biking. The Directory chapter (p219) has information on bicycle hire and taking bicycles on public transport, and the Walking & Cycling Tours chapter (p106) provides two cycle-tour suggestions and information on where to pick up maps and which internet sites to hit.

GOLF

Golf clubs in and around Vienna number over a dozen.

GOLF CLUB WIEN

Map pp252-3

% 728 95 64; www.gcwien.at in German; 02,

Freudenau 65A; green fees €70; bus 77A

This 18-hole course in the Prater cuts through part of the Freudenau race course. It belongs to Golf Club Vienna, the oldest club in the country. Only members of a golf club may play here.

HIKING

Hiking is a popular Viennese pastime. Many head for the rolling hills and marked trails of the Wienerwald (p210), but the likes of the Prater (p79), with its small woods and lengthy trails, and the Lainzer Tiergarten (see p99) animal reserve, a wild park located in the west of Vienna, attract plenty of locals looking for fresh air and exercise.

The Walking & Cycling Tours chapter (p112) has a couple of suggestions for walks in the Wienerwald.

ICE SKATING

Most Viennese have ice skates collecting dust in the back of the wardrobe which are dragged out at least once over winter. Along with specialised ice-skating rinks, a number of outdoor basketball courts are turned into rinks during winter. For as little as €1 you can spend the whole day gliding around one of these temporary rinks; 08, Buchfeldgasse 7A (Map pp254-5), 16, Gallitzinstraße 4 (Map pp252-3) and 19, Osterleitengasse 14 (Map pp258-9). When it's cold enough, the Alte Donau is transformed into an ice-skater's paradise, with miles of natural ice.

WIENER EISLAUFVEREIN

Map pp254-5
% 713 63 53; www.wev.or.at in German; 03, Lothringerstraße 22; adult/child €6/5, boot rental €5.50; h 9am-8pm Mon, Sat & Sun, 9am-9pm Tue-Fri Nov-mid-Mar; b U4 Stadtpark

At 6000 sq metres, the Wiener Eislaufverein is the world's largest open-air skating rink. It's close to the Ringstrasse and Stadtpark. Remember to bring mittens and a hat.

WIENER EISTRAUM

Map pp254-5
% 409 00 40; www.wienereistraum.at in German; 01, Rathausplatz; adult/child from €3.50/2.50, boot rental €6/3.80; h 9am-11pm late-Jan-early Mar; b U2 Rathaus, j D, 1, 2

Rathausplatz is transformed into two ice rinks in the heart of winter. It's a bit of a mecca for the city's ice-skaters, and the rinks are complemented by food stands, special events, punch bars and a path that zigzags through the nearby park.

INLINE SKATING

With wide, smooth tar-sealed paths, the Donauinsel and Prater are just made for inline skating. Skates can be rented from a number of places on the island, particularly around the Copa Cagrana area. If you'd like to hook up with like-minded skaters, roll along to Heldenplatz at 9pm on Friday from May to September and join the Friday Night Skating (wien.gruene.at/skater) team on a tour of the city. Participation is free.

SKIING

Yes, there is skiing in Vienna. Only a handful of places offer skiing within the city limits, but if you've come this far and want



Sailing boats docked at Alte Donau (p173)

to go skiing you're much better off heading west and taking advantage of Austria's stunning Alps.

SKIANLAGE DOLLWIESE

Map pp252-3
% 812 12 01; 13, Ghelengasse 44; 10 lift rides €4; h noon-dusk Mon-Fri, 10am-dusk Sat & Sun Dec-Mar; bus 54B, 55B

Edging up to the Lainzer Tiergarten is Dollwiese, supposedly one of Austria's oldest ski slopes. At only 400m long, it's quite short.

SKIANLAGE HOHE WAND

Map pp252-3
% 979 10 57; 14, Mauerbachstraße 172-174; day pass adult/child €13/6; h 9am-9.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-10pm Sat & Sun Dec-Mar; bus 249, 250, 449
The Hohe Wand ski slopes can be used only when there is enough natural snow on the ground to bond with daily layerings of artificial snow. It's quite a way from the city centre, in the Wienerwald.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Like any city, Vienna has plenty of gyms and places to work up a sweat outdoors.

CLIMBING

A few climbing walls are scattered throughout its districts. Most are indoors.

KLETTERANLAGE FLAKTURM

Map pp260-1

% 585 47 48; 06, Esterházypark; 2hr for around €12; h 2pm-dusk Mon-Fri, 1pm-dusk Sat & Sun Apr-Oct; b U3 Neubaugasse, bus 13A, 14A

The stark outside walls of the Flakturm (flak tower) in Esterházypark are used for

climbing exercises organised by the Österreichischer Alpenverein. Twenty routes (gradients four to eight) climb to a maximum height of 34m.

GYMS

Most large hotels have their own fitness centre for guests, but there are plenty of independent centres that provide day passes to visitors.

CLUB DANUBE

Map pp262-3
% 798 84 00; www.clubdanube.at in German; 03, Franzosengraben; 2-hr/day card €14/19; h 7.30am-10pm Mon-Fri, 7.30am-9pm Sat & Sun; b U3 Erdberg

Club Danube has a range of sports and activities alongside its well-appointed gym. There are nine such Club Danube gyms in the city; this one is in the same building as the Erdberg U-Bahn station.

SWIMMING

Swimming is easily the favoured summer pastime of the Viennese. The Donauinsel, Alte Donau and Lobau are often swamped with citizens eager to cool off on steamy hot summer days. Topless sunbathing is quite the norm, as is nude sunbathing but only in designated areas; much of Lobau and both tips of the Donauinsel are FKK (*Freikörperkultur*; free body culture) areas.

Alongside the natural swimming areas are a large number of swimming pools owned and run by the city which open 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 8pm on weekends mid-May to the beginning of September. Entry, including locker rental, costs €4/2 per adult/child, €3.50 for both

after noon and €2.50 for both after 4pm. Amalienbad, Krapfenwaldbad, Strandbad Alte Donau, and Strandbad Gänsehäufel all fall within this category. For a full list of pools call % 60112 8044 between 7.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday, or log on to www.wien.at/baeder.

AMALIENBAD Map pp262-3
% 607 47 47; 10, Reumannplatz 23;

↳ U1 Reumannplatz

This stunning *Jugendstil* bath-house has a range of facilities, including a solarium, steam room, massage, cosmetic treatments and a restaurant. There are separate saunas for men and women, and a unisex one.

KRAPFENWALDBAD Map pp252-3
% 320 15 01; 19, Krapfenwaldgasse 65-73; bus 38A

With its elevated position on the edge of the Wienerwald, Krapfenwaldbad has the best views of the city. Many who frequent the baths aren't too interested in the cityscape (or the two small pools) however, but rather their fellow bathers. Even though there are plenty of grassy areas, it's often full to overflowing.

STRANDBAD ALTE DONAU Map pp252-3
% 263 65 38; 22, Arbeiterstrandbadstrasse 91;

↳ U1 Alte Donau, bus 91A

This bathing area makes great use of the Alte Donau during the summer months. It's a favourite of the working class and gets extremely crowded on weekends during summer. Facilities include a restaurant, beach volleyball court, playing field, slides and plenty of tree shade.



Swimming pool at Amalienbad (this page)

STRANDBAD GÄNSEHÄUFEL Map pp252-3
% 269 90 16; 22, Moissigasse 21; bus 90A, 91A, 92A
Gänsehäufel occupies half an island in the Alte Donau. It does get crowded in summer, but there's normally enough space to escape the mob. There's a swimming pool and FKK area.

THERMALBAD OBERLAA Map pp252-3
% 6800 996 00; www.oberlaa.at in German; 10, Kurbadstrasse 14; day card €18; thermal bath
↳ 8.45am-10pm Mon-Sat, 7.45am-10pm Sun; j 67
In the southern reaches of Vienna is Oberlaa, a large thermal complex with both indoor and outdoor pools. It often stages concerts and theatrical performances and runs a wellness centre.

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