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Nomad

IDEAS, ADVENTURES AND UNIQUE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

ADVENTURES IN VIENNA

Make the most of Austria's winter
wonderland with our 48-hour itinerary

ISSUE 01

SHORT-HAUL HIDEAWAYS ■ DREAMY DAY SPAS

SUITCASE ESSENTIALS ■ STYLISH STAYCATIONS

48 HOURS IN... VIENNA

Feeling festive? The sparkling winter wonderland of Vienna might be one of Europe's most popular seasonal city break destinations, but that needn't mean sticking to the tried and tested tourism hotspots. We've consulted the experts at Story Unheard to create a 48-hour itinerary to take you well and truly off the beaten track

48 HOURS IN VIENNA

TAKE ME THERE



02

DAY ONE

If you're arriving on Emirates evening flight, you'll want to head straight to bed –but if you're getting in on the afternoon flight there's definitely time for some exploring

3pm

Make your way straight to the jewel in Vienna's artistic crown, the Kunsthistorisches Museum at Maria-Theresien-Platz. Head to the Picture Gallery and spend the afternoon in the thrall of its Old Masters – don't miss Pieter Bruegel's *The Tower of Babel*. khm.at

4.30pm

Get your bratwurst and bubbly fix at the insanely good Bitzinger Würstelstand bitzinger-wien.at

5pm

After all that magnificence, it's time to hit your first Viennese Christkindlmärkte, and there's



03



04

01. St Stephen's Cathedral 02. Kunst Haus Wien
03. Konstantin Filippou Charcuterie
04. Portrait Gallery, Hotel Sacher

no better time than dusk for a waltz through the authentic cultural and Christmas market at Schönbrunn Palace. Grab yourself a mug of steaming weihnachtspunsch and a bag of maroni roasted chestnuts as you gaze upon its traditional Christmas gifts and decorations. Get there earlier if you fancy a peek inside the palace itself – it closes at 5pm. weihnachtsmarkt.co.at

8pm

Head for dinner at Freyenstein, a cosy gourmet 'gasthaus' loved by locals. Every two weeks, Chef Meinrad Neunkirchner changes up this tavern's five-course degustation menu. For a more informal meal, local favourite Gasthaus Pöschl is famed for its wiener schnitzel, tafelspitz and rindsgulasch beef goulash. freyenstein.at

Photos: Shutterstock and supplied.



04

10pm
Not ready to call it a night quite yet? Take a taxi to the charming third district, home to some of the city’s most interesting inner suburbs. The popular haunt Miranda Bar in Mariahilf serves long-forgotten vintage cocktails that change seasonally, but if you’re looking to mingle with the cool kids, the stylish bar at The Motto in nearby Margareten is arguably the city’s most happening spot right now. Order the beef tartare for a cheeky late-night snack while taking in the live DJ sets.
[mirandabar.com](#)
[motto.wien](#)



05



06

04. The Motto 05. Karmeliter Markt
06. Labstelle

NOMAD TIP

What to pack
Comfortable boots, thermals, hat, scarf and gloves, warm socks and a coat that will keep out the cold. The weather is chilly but dry, so be sure to take a good moisturiser.

DAY TWO

10am
Wander over to one of the world’s most magnificent baroque palaces, Schloss Belvedere, home to the Gustav Klimt collection. Built as a summer residence for Prince Eugene of Savoy, this 18th century masterpiece houses two palaces, Oberes and Unteres Belvedere, as well as beautifully landscaped French-style gardens. Make sure not to skip Upper Belvedere with its frescoed and marble halls, replete with works by Egon Schiele and Klimt’s *The Kiss* and *Judith*.
[belvedere.at](#)

Noon
Time for lunch and a little Christmas market shopping. With sweeping views of Vienna’s sparkly skyline, the Christmas Village at Belvedere Palace in front of the Upper Belvedere palace won’t fail to impress. Sip on glühwein, or its virgin sibling kinderpunsch, and gorge on bauerngröstl or a baked potato as you rifle through the pretty Christmas trinkets. The markets serve their punch in collectible mugs, and each market has a unique design. You pay a deposit when you order, so if you want to keep the mug, you just lose the deposit.
[weihnachtsmarkt.at](#)

2pm
Enjoy a dash of window-shopping back in the Innere Stadt as you stroll along the elegant streets of Kohlmarkt, Graben and the exclusive Goldenes Quartier. Need a quick pick-me-up or an edible gift for loved ones? Pass by the legendary pastry shop Demel and treat yourself to its famous hot chocolate with

cardamom or chilli. If you have some energy to spare pop into Stephansdom, or the St Stephen’s Cathedral, and climb the 343 steps to the top of the south tower for one of Vienna’s most extraordinary views.
[stephanskirche.at](#)
[demel.at](#)

4pm
For a true Viennese kaffeehäuser experience, saunter over to the iconic Café Sacher Wien – the originators of the iced-chocolate cake Sacher torte – via Kärntner Strasse for a taste of the Viennese cappuccino with a swirl of whipped cream known as mélange, with a slice of the famous torte itself. Not a chocolate fan? The delicious wiener apfelstrudel and kaiserschmarrn pancakes with sweet plum compote are also must tries. Linger a little longer and catch the live daily piano performance from 5pm.
[sacher.com](#)

TOP TIP

Street food is the name of the game, but it can get messy, so be sure to keep some hand wipes in your bag.

07. Gegenbauer
08. Café Sacher



07



08

Where to stay

Our favourite boutique beds

Grand Ferdinand
Three modern restaurants and a cool rooftop bar, all housed in a beautiful 1st district building dating back to the 1950s, make this a coolly elegant choice for boutique hotel lovers
[grandferdinand.com](#)

The Guest House
What was once a hostel is now a beautiful design hotel in a prime 1st district location with its own in-house bakery.
[theguesthouse.at](#)

Hotel Daniel
Stay in a sleek silver trailer in the garden or book the room with a hammock in this quirky 3rd district hideaway. The shabby-chic vibe (there’s a boat hanging off the roof) belies the fact this guesthouse has all the essentials an urbanite traveller actually needs
[hoteldaniel.com](#)

This is Not a Hotel
On the hunt for the next authentic hot thing? Step forward this boutique B&B built in a 1970s milk shop in the 2nd district. Each of the three suites has a separate entrance from the street and interiors decorated with flea-market furniture and vintage finds.
[thisisnotahotel.at](#)

grätzlhotel
Break from the norm and stay in one of three former shops transformed into hotel rooms in three different 4th district locations: Karmelitermarkt, Belvedere and Meidlinger Markt. Each one tells its own story and is named according to their former uses, hence ‘the cobbler’, ‘the lamplighter’ and ‘the vinyl dealer’.
[graetzlhotel.com](#)

Gegenbauer
There are just five rooms in this 10th district historic industrial building run by a famous Viennese vinegar maker (yes really), each featuring suspended power sockets and exposed brick walls. Don’t miss the homemade bread with honey from the rooftop hive.
[gegenbauer.at](#)



09

6pm

Amble along the grand boulevard of Ringstrasse from Vienna State Opera to Rathausplatz for Christkindlmarkt, arguably the grandest of Vienna's winter fairs and definitely one to be discovered during the early evening when the magical fairy lights come out to light proceedings. Pick up a couple of schaumrollen cream or meringue-filled pastries before taking to the ice at the open-air ice rink Wiener Eistraum, where a live DJ will help put the swing in your skate as you zigzag through the park and around the square.

christkindlmarkt.at
wienerestraum.com

8.30pm

Soak up the festive cheer pre-dinner at one of the evening advent concerts or choir recitals. Stephandsdom holds an advent concert from November 24 to December 23 where you can listen to works by Mozart, Schubert and Bach as well as

traditional Christmas carols sung by the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. For a night to remember, dine at Vestibül. This opulent brasserie, which once served as the emperor's carriage vestibule to the Burgtheater, is headed up by one of Austria's most talented chefs, Christian Domschitz. For something a little more intimate and casual, the creative bistro O'Boufés – sister to Michelin-starred Konstantin Filippou – serves incredible but simple dishes.

vestibuel.at
konstantinfilippou.com

11pm

End the night at the fashionable Botanical Garden, where you sit beneath the very herbs and spices used in the bar's epic homemade infusions. Still going? Get lost in the faceted ceiling of the über-trendy bar, If Dogs Run Free, adored for its innovative cocktail menu of classic drinks at affordable prices.

ifdogsrunfree.com
botanicalgarden.at

THE FINE PRINT

Emirates flies directly from Dubai to Vienna Airport, situated 18km southeast of the city centre, twice daily. From the airport, the express City Airport Train to Wien-Mitte central station runs every half hour, takes 16 minutes and costs €11 one way. Taxis cost around €25 to €45. A Vienna City Card costs €21.90 for 48-hours and can be picked up at the airport, or at the main Tourist Office behind the State Opera House at Albertinaplatz Wien, which is open daily from 9am to 7pm.
cityairporttrain.com
viennacitycard.at

FINAL DAY**10am**

Kick off with a stroll along the canal to marvel at Kunst Haus Wien's checkered facade and technicolor mosaic tilework. Walk on to the wacky HundertwasserHaus to glimpse the work of Vienna's radical architect, before warming up with a coffee at Balthasar in Leopoldstadt, one of Vienna's hippest districts.

kunsthauswien.com
balthasar.at

Noon

Enjoy a leisurely lunch at Labstelle, which is creating quite the stir in Vienna – with its honest farm-to-table approach it's become one of city's coolest places to eat.

labstelle.at

2pm

Wind down your trip with strawberries dipped in hot chocolate at the sophisticated Christmas market in Spittelberg, in the 7th district, which winds its way through narrow streets and courtyards.

spittelberg.at



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09. HundertwasserHaus
 10. Hotel Sacher

Itinerary by Story Unheard
storyunheard.com