

The Imperial Palace Vienna at a Glance

Imperial Palace Vienna

Since its creation in the 13th century, the Imperial Palace Vienna has been subject to constant modification. As a consequence, it has become a reflection of the many cultural, political, social, and economic developments throughout Austria's history.

Today, the Swiss Yard (Schweizerhof) represents the oldest part of the building complex. It dates back to the time of Emperor Frederick II of the House of Hohenstaufen. Over the centuries, the rectangular palace of the Late Medieval Period was reconstructed, adapted, expanded, and connected to its adjacent buildings until it eventually became the building complex that, today, constitutes the Imperial Palace Vienna.

Dreaming of an Imperial Forum, Emperor Franz Joseph I initiated the last large extension in the second half of the 19th century. However, his dream never fully came true. Only **Maria-Theresien Square** (Maria-Theresien-Platz) with its two world-famous museums, the youngest wing of the Imperial Palace Vienna – **New Castle** (Neue Burg) – and **St. Michael's Gate** (Michaelertor) with its sumptuous cupola were to be completed.

In its present form the Imperial Palace Vienna, which is situated in the heart of the city, covers an area of more than 300,000 m² and fulfils a wide array of roles.



Hofburg Info Center



The recently created Hofburg Info Center nestles between the youngest wing of the Imperial Palace Vienna – New Castle (Neue Burg) – Weltmuseum Wien and the Austrian National Library. Its aim is to provide visitors with all the information they need about the institutions located in the area as well as its history.



It serves as residence, office area, and cultural centre. It also is an urban recreation site – notably thanks to its vast green spaces that make up more than one third of the entire area. Furthermore, the Imperial Palace Vienna provides more than 4,000 jobs and is a visitor magnet, with over 25,000,000 visiting the complex every year and more than 6,000,000 annual visitors to the museums situated on the premises.

The museum collections comprise major archaeological finds, natural history collections as well as one of the richest collections of Antique documents, and unique collections of paintings, drawings and graphic art.

The area of the Imperial Palace Vienna is mostly used by cultural institutions and the federal government. The offices of the Federal President might be the most prominent example. They have been located in the former imperial apartments of Empress Maria Theresa in the palace's Leopoldine Wing (Leopoldinertrakt) since 1946.

Some offices of the Federal Chancellery are situated in Amalia's Wing (Amalienstrakt). Also, the federal office for the protection of monuments of historic significance (Bundesdenkmalamt) and (Burghauptmannschaft Österreich) which have their offices in the Swiss Yard (Schweizerhof) should be mentioned in this regard. The Palace's Visitor Centre, which is housed in the Corps de Logis on the south-western corner of Heldenplatz Square, serves as first point of contact and orientation for visitors from all over the world. It provides information on the Palace's history and upcoming events.

European Heritage Label



The Imperial Palace Vienna, imperial residence and legacy of the Habsburgs until 1918, was awarded the **European Heritage Label** in 2015. As a consequence, it figures among the list of Europe's most significant cultural heritage sites.

Burghauptmannschaft Österreich

The Imperial Palace Vienna is owned by the Federal Republic of Austria. It is being administered by Burghauptmannschaft Österreich, a subordinate department of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs.

Following a legal amendment in the year 2000, the properties inside and outside of Austria which constitute Austria's historic heritage were transferred to Burghauptmannschaft Österreich. In Vienna, this comprises the **Imperial Palace Vienna**, the **Federal Chancellery**, **Belvedere Palace**, **Augarten Park** as well as the government building at Stubenring (former imperial war ministry) and a number of other palaces. In the other provinces, this extends to the **Imperial Palace Innsbruck**, **Ambras Castle** as well as the memorial sites at the former concentration camps of **Mauthausen**, **Gusen**, and **Ebensee**.



The objects and properties transferred to Burghauptmannschaft Österreich are characterised by their limited scope of use, the application of international and legal provisions, or their use for political or sovereign purposes by the supreme bodies of the Republic.

The body's core activities comprise the sustainable conservation, management and organisation of cultural and tourism activities in the properties that constitute Austria's cultural heritage.

The authority has been headed by Reinhold Sahl since 2010.



Bundesdenkmalamt (Federal Monuments Authority Austria)



The primary aim of the authority is to preserve in an authentic way Austria's cultural heritage which is an irreplaceable capital for the future. The Federal Monuments Authority is also a service agency. It has a legal mandate to protect and preserve our heritage, conducts research, and is active in teaching and dissemination of knowledge.

bda.gv.at

Bundesgärten (Austrian Federal Gardens)



The secondary school for horticulture, HBLFA für Gartenbau Schönbrunn und Österreichische Bundesgärten, is a competence centre, which is geared towards teaching and research in the field of historic gardens. Its aim is to preserve and promote plant diversity. In total, Vienna and Innsbruck count seven historic gardens which are under federal control. They have all been listed.

bundesgaerten.at

OSCE (The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)



With 57 participating States in North America, Europe and Asia, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organisation. Through its headquarters in Vienna and its large network of institutions and field operations, the OSCE works for stability, peace and democracy.

osce.org

Austrian Parliament



The Austrian Parliament is the democratic heart of Austria. The historic building that houses the Parliament was built between 1874 and 1883. At present, it is in need of fundamental and sustainable refurbishment. Parliamentary business has, therefore, been relocated to different places: Together, they form the coherent area of DemocracyQuarter between the Imperial Palace Vienna and Ring Road. parlament.gv.at

Offices of the Federal President



The entrance to the offices of the Austrian Federal President is situated in the heart of the government quarter – at Ballhausplatz Square in Vienna: The Leopoldine Wing (Leopoldinertrakt) of the Imperial Palace Vienna combines Austria's historic heritage with the highest rank in the Republic of Austria: the democratically elected Federal President. bundespraesident.at

Albertina Museum



Located at the heart of Vienna, Albertina Museum combines imperial glamour with great art. The state rooms do not only present the Habsburg way of living, also they are situated in one of the most beautiful palaces in the whole of Europe. The exhibition “From Monet to Picasso” gives a unique overview of the last 130 years of art history: from French Impressionism to Modern Art.

albertina.at

Augustinian Church



The Church of Saint Augustine (founded in 1327) was the representative church of the Habsburg family. It was entrusted to the Augustinian monks. The Hearts Crypt in the Loreto chapel protects the hearts of 54 members of the Imperial House of Habsburg. Today, the church is best known as the minster of the Augustinian monks, as a parish church of a vivid fold and for its church music and classic high masses on Sundays at 11 am.

augustinerkirche.augustiner.at/

Imperial Chapel



Austria's oldest musical institution, the court music orchestra Wiener Hofmusikkapelle, which the Imperial Chapel is home to, goes back to Habsburg ruler Albrecht I. The ensemble consists of the Vienna Boys Choir, members of the Vienna State Opera's men's choir and members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Together, they perform mass at the Imperial Chapel every Sunday from September to June featuring the First Viennese School.

hofmusikkapelle.gv.at

HOFBURG Vienna – Staterooms Congress & Event Center



Situated in the middle of the city of Vienna, the international event centre turns the city into the perfect meeting place. With over 35 state rooms the imperial residence is Europe's first address for high-level conferences and galas: It provides a unique flair, glamorous glass architecture and state-of-the-art technology.

hofburg.com

Imperial Treasury Vienna



The Imperial Treasury Vienna in the Imperial Palace Vienna showcases the unique treasures of the House of Habsburg, among them the imperial crown of Austria and the imperial treasures of the Holy Roman Empire, including the Imperial Crown of the Holy Roman Empire and the Holy Lance. Other highlights include the treasure of the Order of the Golden Fleece and objects from the magnificently rich collection amassed by the Duke of Burgundy in the 15th century.

kaiserliche-schatzkammer.at

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna



Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (KHM) was built under Emperor Franz Joseph I. Its splendid architecture and vast collections at both sides of Ring Road make it one of the most significant museums in the world. Its collections and artefacts, which date back up to 5,000 years and feature objects from Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece to the end of the 18th century, testify to the Habsburg's passion for collecting.

khm.at

MQ – Museumsquartier



Enjoy culture, relax, find inspiration and meet interesting people at the MuseumsQuartier Wien (MQ). With its 90,000 m² and 60 cultural institutions, it is one of the largest areas dedicated to contemporary art in the world and an oasis of rest situated directly in the heart of the city. The **MQ Dragonfly**, which is situated on the roof of the Leopold Museum, offers one of the most striking views across the inner city of Vienna.

mqw.at

Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna



Dedicated “to the realm of nature and its exploration” Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna takes you on a journey through evolution: from the planet’s history and its dinosaurs to human life, encompassing everything from protozoas to animals. This expedition to discover both the world and the outer space takes 40 halls. A variety of temporary exhibitions is dedicated to topical issues and research.

nhm-wien.ac.at

Austrian Film Museum



If you enter the film museum you will not believe your eyes. Instead of exhibition rooms you will “just” find a cinema. That’s the idea: the exhibitions are on the screens. Simply showing films, however, does not make a museum. Therefore, the museum does not only present films to the public, but it also collects, conserves, and distributes them as well as conducts research. There is a new programme every day, and the films are presented in their original language.

filmmuseum.at

Austrian National Library



The Austrian National Library is not only the largest library in Austria, but it also is one of the most renowned ones in the entire world. The State Hall (Prunksaal), which represents the former Habsburg Court Library, constitutes its historic heart. Along with the five library museums this Baroque gem fascinates hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world every year.

onb.ac.at

Imperial Butterfly House



Situated right in the centre of the city, the Imperial Butterfly House invites its visitors to delve into its fantastic world of animals, plants, giant trees and waterfalls all year round and regardless of outdoor temperatures, rain and snow. All of its free-flying butterflies have been exclusively bred in tropical butterfly farms. They are not listed as endangered species. Furthermore, the Imperial Butterfly House, which is situated in the public park Burggarten, exclusively uses biological pest control.

schmetterlinghaus.at

Sisi Museum Imperial Appartements, Silver Collection



The museum dedicated to Empress Elisabeth, the Imperial Appartements, and the Silver Collection take their visitors on a tour through Vienna's imperial past. While the Silver Collection displays the most glamorous gems of the imperial household, the Sisi Museum offers very personal insights into the eventful life of the empress. The tour culminates in a stroll through the 19 original apartment rooms of the imperial couple.

hofburg-wien.at

Spanish Riding School



The Spanish Riding School is a significant part of Austrian cultural heritage. Founded 455 years ago by the Habsburg dynasty, it is not only the world's oldest riding academy, it is also the only place where up to this day the High School of Classical Horsemanship has been maintained in its purest form."

srs.at

Weltmuseum Wien



In the galleries of the permanent exhibition of Weltmuseum Wien, over 3000 ethnographic objects are ambassadors from all continents. They all tell stories of their original owners and the circumstances under which they found their way into the museum. The most prominent object is the only surviving Aztec feather headdress.

weltmuseumwien.at

"Airborne Austria's Cultural Heritage from Above"



A change of perspectives might point you to what is usually hidden from your eyes: Baroque gardens, which look like fine tapestries from high up in the air, or extraordinary roofscapes, which testify to this country's impressive history. Stefanie Grüssl's spectacular aerial photos depict historic monuments and landscapes from all of Austria's nine federal provinces: Among others, Schönbrunn Palace, Melk and Admont Abbey, Semmering Railway, Lake Hallstättersee, and the area around Mount Grossglockner are testimony to Austria's rich and multifaceted culture.

Available in selected museum stores.

"The Vienna Hofburg Six Centuries as a European Power"



The Imperial Palace Vienna is one of the largest historical residential complexes in Europe. This magnificent volume about the Palace summarises in an unparalleled and compact way the latest findings about its history, from when the complex came into being in the 13th century up to the present day, and contains opulent illustrations.

Available in selected museum stores.

”DKT Imperial Palace Vienna”



This special edition of the famous board game DKT is set against the background of the Imperial Palace Vienna, which has been awarded the European Heritage Label. Each player becomes an entrepreneur, and, as such, may rent space at one of Vienna’s finest addresses and occupy event locations, such as museums. The player who seizes the opportunity and invests at the right time will eventually win the game. For generations now, DKT – an Austrian board game boosting your economic skills – has thrilled its players.

Available in selected museum stores.

”European Heritage Memo”



This memory game revolves around sites awarded the European Heritage Label and is an initiative founded by the European Union. Discover the sites that symbolise our way to unity, or our fight for peace. Heritage sites that represent our hunger for knowledge or testify to Europe’s historic legacy. The game contains 72 cards with 36 images and an information folder, which will give you more information on the European Heritage Sites.

Available in selected museum stores.

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Imperial Palace Vienna – Area



- 1** In der Burg, Michaelerkuppel
Sisi Museum · Kaiserappartements
Silberkammer
Spanische Hofreitschule
- 2** Schweizerhof, Schweizerhof-Trakt
Kaiserliche Schatzkammer Wien
Hofburgkapelle – Wiener Hofmusik-
kapelle · Bundesdenkmalamt
Burghauptmannschaft Österreich
- 3** Josefsplatz, Redoutensaaltrakt
Österreichisches Parlament
Redoutensäle: Sitzungssaal
Nationalrat und Bundesrat
- H** Pavillon Hof (Bibliothekshof)
B Pavillon Burg (Heldenplatz)
R Pavillon Ring (Heldenplatz)
- 4** Josefsplatz, Prunksaaltrakt
Prunksaal,
Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
- 5** Josefsplatz, Augustinertrakt
Augustinerkirche
- 6** Stallburgtrakt
Stallburg
- 7** Albertinaplatz, Albertinatrakt
Albertina Museum
Österreichisches Filmmuseum
- 8** Burggarten, Palmenhaus
Schmetterlingshaus · Palmenhaus
- 9** Burggarten
Mozartdenkmal
- 10** Heldenplatz, Festsaaltrakt
HOFBURG Vienna · Festsäle
Kongress- & Veranstaltungszentrum
OSZE – Organisation für Sicherheit
und Zusammenarbeit in Europa
- 11** Heldenplatz, Neue Burg
Lesesäle
Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
Papyrusmuseum
Ephesos-Museum
Haus der Geschichte Österreich
- 12** Heldenplatz, Corps de Logis
Weltmuseum Wien
Hofjagd- und Rüstkammer
Sammlung alter Musikinstrumente
- 13** Maria-Theresien-Platz
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien
- 14** Maria-Theresien-Platz
Naturhistorisches Museum Wien
- 15** Heldenplatz
Äußeres Burgtor
- 16** Volksgarten
Theseustempel
Sisi Denkmal
- 17** Museumsplatz,
MQ – MuseumsQuartier Wien
Kunsthalle Wien
Leopold Museum
mumok – Museum moderner Kunst
Stiftung Ludwig Wien