

THE WALTZ KING – JOHANN STRAUSS (1825-1899)

A SELF GUIDED CITY WALK BY TITA BÜTTNER

Ask your hotel or at the Tourism Information Office on Albertinaplatz (open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Jan. 15 to Mar. 1: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or at Vienna Main Station (open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) or at Vienna Airport (open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) for a free city map (also available online at: www.vienna.info) and the Vienna Tourist Board's Calendar of Events which gives a run-down of what's on.

The Vienna City Card. The official City Card is also a useful companion. More than 210 discounts at museums and sights, theatres and concerts, in shops, cafés, restaurants and free travel on Vienna's public transport system (or by choice including Hop On Hop Off with Big Bus Vienna or airport transfer) for 24, 48 or 72 hours - with the benefit card starting from €17.

WALKING TIME (EXCLUDING MUSEUM VISITS, STOPS AND EXTRA TOURS) APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR 30 MIN.

Start at the underground station U1 "Nestroyplatz". A few steps from the station you find the

Johann Strauss Wohnung (Appartement)

2., Praterstraße 54, daily exc. Mon, www.wienmuseum.at, Vienna City Card

The Waltz King and his wife "Jetty" lived in this apartment for several years. Great works were composed here, including the world-famous "Blue Danube Waltz". Many personal effects of Johann Strauss are on display and his wonderful music can be listened to on the headphones.

A few steps from here – at Praterstrasse 72 – a commemorative plaque signs the birth house of **Max Steiner** (1888 Vienna – 1971 Hollywood), a most successful Hollywood film music composer ("Gone with the Wind" etc.). Now you can either take a 30 minutes walk into the city center or you take the underground line U1 at nearby Praterstern. Get off at station "Stephansplatz". Then walk along Kärntner Strasse; turn left into Annagasse, which leads to Seilerstätte. At a corner on number 30 you find the ...

House of Music (Haus der Musik)

1st district, Seilerstätte 30, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily, www.hdm.at, Vienna City Card

Covering four floors, this theme world treats you to fascinating and unique listening experiences, from simple sounds through to the music of the future. Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert, Mahler, Schoenberg and, of course Johann Strauss, are entertainingly presented. Here, music is not only for listening to: in the House of Music, you can also see, feel and even create the sounds and noises yourself. Computer installations are your tour guides. Families with kids will also have a lot of fun and entertainment.

Check out the activities during **Beethoven Year 2020** (250th birthday of the great composer): Themed tours and a "Beethoven Path" with 15 stations, the sound installation "Inside Beethoven" (June 10 - August 10), special exhibitions in the courtyard, concerts, guided tours.

Go along Schwarzenbergstrasse, then turn left on Schubertring, until you reach Stadtpark with the famous ...

Golden Johann Strauss Statue

1st district, Stadtpark

Surrounded by dancing and floating figures, the Waltz King is shown with his violin posed, ready to play. The musical genius wrote approx. 500 works, among them the unforgettable "Blue Danube" and "Emperor" waltzes and the operetta "Die Fledermaus" ("The Bat"). This is one of the world's most photographed monuments:

Here at Stadtpark you will find **memorials to the famous Austrian composers** Anton Bruckner, Franz Lehar, Robert Stolz and Franz Schubert, too.

After your stroll through the park leave it near the Underground station "Stadtpark", walk along Lothringer Strasse (where you pass by the Wiener Konzerthaus – walk in and take a look at the Jugendstil interieur) until Schwarzenbergplatz. Continue the same direction, soon – at Musikvereinsplatz – you reach the

Vienna Musikverein (Wiener Musikverein)

1st district, Musikvereinsplatz 1, www.musikverein.at, guided tours also in English

The **Golden Hall** of the Vienna Musikverein is probably the world's most famous concert hall, thanks to the worldwide broadcast of the Vienna Philharmonic's annual traditional **New Year's Day Concert** Johann Strauss composed the waltz "Freut Euch des Lebens" for the opening ball in January 1870. (The Waltz ist part of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage!)

Walk through the underground passage to the "Secession" and this brings you to Linke Wienzeile. There you find yourself right in the middle of the

"**Naschmarkt**" (market) and its exotically aromatic, colourful "Standln" (Viennese for stands) where you can also sit down, relax, have a delicious little snack, and catch a glimpse of several art nouveau facades. Here is the

Theater an der Wien

6th district., Linke Wienzeile 6, www.theater-wien.at

After Mozart's death in 1791 it was built in 1801. The theater opened with **Mozart's "Zauberflöte"** ("The Magic Flute"). Since then it was viewed as the most important Vienna stage for operas, operettas, Singspiele, plays and concerts of all kinds. **Beethoven's** opera "Fidelio" had its premiere here, and almost all operettas by Johann Strauss – the most famous: "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat) and "Der Zigeunerbaron" ("The Gipsy Baron"). Later, the theater played full houses with musicals like "Mozart", "Elisabeth" and "Cats". Since 2006 it has been rededicated to its original use as an opera house, focusing on innovative productions of Mozart operas, baroque and modern works.

At the Kettenbrückengasse underground station take the U4 in direction Hütteldorf until station:

Schönbrunn

www.schoenbrunn.at, Vienna City Card

Enjoy the wonderful walk past the Orangerie at Schönbrunn Palace. In this magnificent setting concerts by Strauss and Mozart are performed every evening (www.imagevienna.com).

Continue your walk to the **Palace of Schönbrunn** and through the **Park** and its many attractions. Leave the Park at the gate of "Hietzing".

To your right you see the **Parkhotel Schönbrunn**. Until 1908 a magnificent entertainment establishment with luxurious ballrooms stood on this place, called Dommayer's Casino. Here the forefathers of the Viennese waltz, **Johann Strauss father** and his partner **Josef Lanner**, were cheered by the crowd until 15th October 1844. On that day a new "Waltz King" presented himself for the first time: the 19 year old Johann Strauss junior! And "Schani" – as the Viennese called their new idol – had conquered their hearts by storm. But this was only the beginning: Soon his unique music and his fame spread all over the world.

Johann Strauss SENIOR and Johann Strauss JUNIOR: the similarity of name between the two waltz legends often causes confusion. To make things worse, papa Strauss also had two other musical sons, Josef and Eduard. And then there is Richard Strauss and Oscar Straus, neither of whom is related to "the Strausses". Here a few facts to clear up any confusion:

Johann Strauss SENIOR, 1804 – 1849, compositions include the "Radetzky March"

Johann Strauss JUNIOR, 1825 – 1899, the "Waltz King", works include the "Blue Danube Waltz", "Die Fledermaus" and "The Gypsy Baron".

Josef Strauss, 1827 – 1870, the second son, wrote "Dorfschwalben aus Österreich" (Austrian Village Swallows), "Sphärenklänge" (Sounds of the Spheres) etc.

Eduard Strauss, 1835 – 1916, the third son, wrote around 300 dances

Richard Strauss, 1864 – 1949, not related to any of the above composers, works include "Der Rosenkavalier", "Die Frau ohne Schatten", "Also sprach Zarathustra" etc.

Oscar Straus, 1870 – 1954, also no relation to any of the above musicians, composed "Ein Walzertraum" etc.

*On **Maxingstrasse 18** you can see the house where Johann Strauss lived and composed his famous operetta "Die Fledermaus" ("The Bat") in only six weeks time (it is a privately owned house and cannot be visited inside).*

*A few steps further on (corner Auhofstrasse and Hietzinger Hauptstrasse), **Café Dommayer** (www.dommayer.at) offers excellent coffee and cakes, and during summer the shady outdoor area is a nice place to chill out.*

Extra tip: Strauss Museum Vienna

9th district, Müllnergasse 3, www.strauss-museum.at, Wed-Sat 2 pm- 6pm and after prior request. Near Underground U4, station "Roßauer Lände". Vienna City Card

The Museum of the Johann Strauss Dynasty, opened in 2015, is the first museum in the world to present the family history and creative works of the entire Strauss family. Waltz king Johann Strauss,

as well as his eponymous father and his brothers Josef and Eduard, have conquered the world with their music - until today.

In this museum, music lovers will find an opulent wealth of original historic pictures and documents from the period of the Viennese Biedermeier to the Ringstrasse era of the late nineteenth century. Several audio stations offer undisturbed, high-quality musical enjoyment. Take your time there!

Extra tour: Central Cemetery (Zentralfriedhof)

11th district, Simmeringer Hauptstrasse 234, May-August 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., March, April, September, October 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., November-February 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., www.vienna.gv.at

Take the no.71 tram directly to the main gate (Tor 2) of Vienna's Central Cemetery. Staff will be able to provide you with a map of the cemetery, listing all the tombs of honor.

You really should allow plenty of time for this cemetery. The Karl Borromäus Church is also well worth a visit. There is hardly anywhere else where you will find so many honorary graves in one place.

The composers Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johann Strauss senior, Johann Strauss junior, his brothers Eduard and Josef, Josef Lanner, Carl Michael Ziehrer, Johannes Brahms, Christoph Willibald Gluck, Antonio Salieri, Arnold Schoenberg, Robert Stolz, Emmerich Kálmán, Hugo Wolf, Franz von Suppé and Karl Millöcker are all buried here and there is a monument to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Also buried here in this 2.7 km² cemetery are the popular actors Hans Moser and Paul Hörbiger, film-legends Curd Jürgens and Theo Lingen, pop star Falco, Udo Jürgens, playwright Johann Nestroy as well as the authors Arthur Schnitzler and Friedrich Torberg.

Tita Büttner is a native of Vienna who has lived abroad for many years. She worked in fashion, marketing and tourism, and is also a freelance journalist.

Last Update: January 2020

Beethoven 2020: 250th anniversary of the birth of a musical genius

Visit www.wien.info/en/music-stage-shows/beethoven-2020 for details of Beethoven-related events in the city (exhibitions, concerts etc.).

Viennese by choice - like Beethoven

Interviews with Billy Joel, Hans Zimmer, Yuja Wang, Juan Diego Flórez, Valentina Naforniță, Julian Rachlin, Rebekka Bakken, Joshua Bell, Walter Werzowa and Aleksey Igudesman.

What they think of Vienna and Beethoven: music2020.vienna.info