

# 48 hours in Vienna

Somehow, travel-hungry Australian blogger and tour guide **Carly Hulls** came to rest in the Austrian capital. Here, she shares her favourite haunts for a whistlestop break.



PHOTOGRAPH BY WIEN TOURISMUS / CHRISTIAN STEMPER

## Don't miss ...

**OUTDOORS** Start your explorations of Vienna's stunning architecture with **Discover Vienna Bike City Tour** (+431 920 6265; [discoverviennatours.com](http://discoverviennatours.com)), taking in hotspots such as the Expressionist apartment complex Hundertwasserhaus. You'll marvel at the wide boulevards while burning calories – an incidental benefit in this city filled with *strudel*, *schnitzel* and sweets galore. If cycling isn't your thing, take a wander through the **Lainzer Tiergarten**, a former hunting ground of Habsburg nobility. There are hiking paths, kids' play areas, a classical café and Princess Sisi's own **Hermesvilla** (Lainzer Tiergarten 1130; [hermes-villa.at](http://hermes-villa.at)). Known as the Palace of Dreams, it was built to lure the wanderlust princess to Vienna more often.

**INDOORS** Should the weather turn on you, there's no better refuge than one of Vienna's renowned museums. Start at the rowdy **Haus**



**der Musik** (Seilerstätte 30, +431 513 4850; [hausdermusik.at](http://hausdermusik.at)), an immersive and interactive delight, where you can conduct a virtual Philharmonic Orchestra and playfully discover sound. Next, head to the **MuseumsQuartier** (Museumsplatz 1, +431 523 5881; [mqw.at](http://mqw.at)), a buzzy square guaranteed to suit any interest; dance, architecture, art – there's even a children's museum. Top pick here is the **Leopold Museum** (+431 525 700; [mqw.at](http://mqw.at)), above, where you can ogle the masterpieces of Klimt and Schiele.

Viennese whirl – top, the Volksgarten leading to the MuseumsQuartier and parliament building. Above, the Leopold Museum.



## Eat at ...

**SNACK** You've not truly enjoyed bread until you try it at **Joseph Bistro** (Landstraßer Hauptstraße 4, +431 710 2881; [joseph.co.at](http://joseph.co.at)), a bakery and café that has re-invented the humble loaf using all organic ingredients and hand-made baking. Their small snacks and breakfast options will have you hooked. Cake and pastry fans should uncover **Café Central** (Herrengasse 14, +431 533 3763; [palaisevents.at](http://palaisevents.at)) – a true Viennese coffee house, above, complete with luscious desserts, beautiful architecture and mildly rude Viennese waiters (don't be offended, that's their style!).

**AUSTRIAN CUISINE** There are many places to enjoy *schnitzel* in Vienna, but few do it as well as **Blauer Esel** (Hadikgasse 40, +431 895 5127; [blauer-esel.at](http://blauer-esel.at)). Hidden just across from Schonbunn Palace, this local institution has been serving exceptional Austrian cuisine since 1848. If you're searching for the best *tafelspitz* (traditional Viennese boiled beef), the answer is **Plachuttas Grünspan** (Ottakringer Straße 266, +431 480 5730; [plachutta.at](http://plachutta.at)), where you'll also find the freshest Ottakringer beer, direct from the brewery just around the corner.

**TASTING** The cosy restaurant **1070** (Gutenberggasse 28, +43 676 566 1774; [restaurant-1070.com](http://restaurant-1070.com)) takes the hard work out of ordering. With no menu, you simply advise the host of your allergies and food dislikes, then sit back while the kitchen delivers course after course of small plates with surprising variety and combinations – no chance of food envy or regret here.