

Vienna for Bright People Wienfuehrung DDr. Anna Ehrlich

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Here you can find the summaries of the best Wienfuehrung Tours. They are available as Private Tours in English, French, Italian and Spanish, please contact us! office@wienfuehrung.at

The Secrets of the Imperial Palace

History of the various buildings and stories about its residents. A visit to the Imperial Appartements or to the Treasury can be included. Just tell us! The tour is highly recommended for school classes.

The buildings of the Hofburg include more than 2.600 rooms. In the course of history the residential area was continuously enlarged, each ruler left his or her traces.

To understand the complex layout of today a comparison with old pictures is essential. The original castle was built as a stronghold. However, the architecture is predominantly Baroque or neo-classical and since the Baroque period the main purpose of the buildings was one of representation. The Hofburg was winter residence and seat of government and still is a governmental building containing many offices of the civil service. Our Federal President resides in the former appartements of Maria Theresia and her son Joseph II. A number of museums and the National Library are located in the Hofburg. The world famous Vienna Boys' Choir and the Lippizaners belong to the 'living' inventory.

On several occasions fires menaced the Hofburg, the last one in 1992. Traces are still visible. The Lipizzaners which you can see in their stables also were in great danger. An insight into the cellars offers the opportunity of learning about the Hofburg as an economic enterprise. Information is given on running new discoveries of old secrets within the area of the Burg.

On Tortuous Paths through the Old City - get acquainted with the Soul of Vienna

The most beautiful spots of the old parts of the city. Stories and legends which enable an amusing insight.

Vienna at its best: the multicultural tradition of the city. In a humorous way you will be informed about the roots and the mentality of the Viennese. Old Vienna is revived - a city populated by musicians, students, Jews and monks, victorious against the sieges of the Turks and surviving the menaces of the plague.

Although you might think to have covered quite a distance on your walk you will find yourself almost at the same spot where you started - the paths are tortuous. Just like on a string of pearls you will discover the most attractive picture postcard sights along your way. Hear about the manifold denominations in our city which live and practice peacefully in close vicinity to each other.

The tour will make you acquainted not only with the historical development of one of the most glorious cities of the past, but also with the charm of this mixture of a population which has preserved its 'Gemuetlichkeit' up to the present day.

Murder, Witchcraft, Hangmen - Justitia Viennensis

History of Criminal Justice. A Walk through the Old City with Pictures.

For school-classes an easier version is offered.

The Monument against War and Fascism drastically demonstrates that there were times when justice has been in service of injustice. The next stop on the tour is Lobkowitzplatz as a former place of execution - a Viennese mayor was beheaded there.

For the Augustinian monks in their nearby monastery this was most disturbing. Passing the house of a mass murderess you arrive at a square where a pillory once stood. To be put in the pillory was one of the public penalties as well as a popular spectacle for the local population.

The hangman was resident in Rauhensteingasse where prisoners on remand were tortured. Now you follow the 'path of the poor sinners' until the spire of St. Stephan's cathedral comes in sight. A little later you arrive at the square where the former court house was situated. At the site of the present fountain executions took place on the gallows.

In 1421 the Jews of Vienna fell prey to arbitrary justice. A strange relief tells the story of this appalling event of Judenplatz. The tour continues past the witch house and ends at the Platz Am Hof the site of mass executions, tournaments and court festivities.

Reminiscences of the last Imperial hangman will conclude two hours of crime, horror and justice.

Love Affairs and Immorality:

"Josefine Mutzenbacher, a historic review on the morals of Vienna."

A humorous walk through the old city with many pictures.

Not suitable for children under 14.

Josefine Mutzenbacher was a Viennese prostitute in the second half of the 19th century who most successfully made her way up by love and lust. Her 'memoirs' were written in the old Cafe Griensteidl by Felix Salten (author of worldfamous "Bambi") and are still on the list of bestsellers in the field of erotic literature.

On a humorous walk you will be shown the streets and places in the old city where Josefine and her 'Co-sisters' found their customers giving you an insight into the morals of the respective period.

Piquant and amusing stories about prostitution in Roman, medieval and modern times and a description of the situation nowadays will help the participants of the tour to become real 'sex-experts' of Vienna.

After 2 hours the tour ends in Baeckerstraße, a famous meeting point, then and now.

Eros and the Habsburgs - Forgotten Court Scandals

Frivolous stories of the Imperial dynasty.

Mistresses and homosexual relationships. Secret walks within the area of the Hofburg.

Topic: Unknown and notorious scandals and lovestories of the Imperial family are told on a walk in the Hofburg area and the close vicinity. Not suitable for children under the age of 14.

The Habsburg dynasty - on the one hand focus of admiration and most noteworthy attention, on the other without a substantial mission fenced into a golden cage with hardly any personal liberties. Still, even the Habsburgs were men and women with quite ordinary demands and desires.

There were but few who were able to fulfill their pretensions. In general they were not permitted to follow their hearts but to yield to what the head of the family expected them to do. Even the Emperor and the Empress had to submit to the laws of the house.

Ghosts, Hauntings and Vampires - Spooky Vienna

Special youth version of this tour available on request!

In two thousand years of history, many things have occurred in Vienna that cannot be explained by traditional science. Strange silhouettes can sometimes be seen in some places, spooky voices from underground can be heard in others. Objects fly through the air, diseases are mysteriously cured and people are bitten by nightly hunters emerging from their graves. In three chapters we talk about "common" ghosts and ecclesiastical supernatural phenomena, "imperial" ghosts and Viennese vampires and try to approach the truth behind legends in an amusing but nevertheless scientifically documented manner. You will learn on this Vienna ghostwalk why the first vampire was a Habsburg, what makes the difference between a black and a white ghost, which are the reasons for spooky voices on cemeteries and what you should never do when meeting a real ghost. Book this tour immediately - Vienna's ghosts are dying to meet you!!!

History of Medicine in Vienna

Part I: Barber-surgeons, Physicians and Quack-doctors in Old Vienna

The subject of the walking tour is the history of the old medical science in Vienna

Language: German. Available as private tour in English, French, Italian and Spanish.

The book (in German) by Anna Ehrlich on the above subject as well as the guided walking tour are dealing with health, fear of life, illness and hope for healing, doctors and non-medical practitioners and their therapies, religious faith in God and the consequences of the period of Enlightenment. You will be informed about methods of treatment for common people, the cures of orthodox medicine and quackery.

Up to the 19th century doctors and patients were almost helpless when confronted with illness or injuries irrespective of academically trained healers or non-medical practitioners.

The situation changed with modern achievements in medicine such as antibiotics, narcosis and aseptics. It had been a long way to go. Follow us on this road and learn about an aspect of Vienna's history which so far has been reprehensibly neglected.

Part II: From the Plaque Hospitals to the Modern Clinics

This tour is a supplement of Part I. and covers the period of medical history from Emperor Joseph II onwards. He was the founder of the Old General Hospital in the 9th district, traditional location of “hospitals” in the old sense, cemeteries and clinics. Hear about famous doctors of the Vienna Medical School such as Brambilla, Billroth and Semmelweis and the problems of being a patient in days gone by. We also will introduce you to the treatment of psychological diseases up to Freud’s psychoanalysis.

We will, however, not leave out a development which resulted in dreadful practices: the criminal misuse of medical science and its gradual yet slow verification. Meanwhile Austria has brought forth a number of doctors of international reputation.

Bus Tours:

We are also available for a Medical history tour by coach. A visit to Steinhof will be included – the site of the clinics and gardens of the mental hospital.

Vienna at first glance.

After a brief introduction to the general history of Vienna we will take a walk through the southern part of the inner city, looking at the State Opera House, the Hotel Sacher, the Albertina, the imperial palace Hofburg, the Heroes square (Heldenplatz), the museums of fine arts and natural history, the parliament, the town hall, the national theatre, the Roman excavations on St. Michaels square, the Demel pastry shop, the Graben, St. Peters Church, the trinity column and finally the cathedral of St. Stephen (Stephansdom). We will talk about music, architecture, art, history and everyday life of Vienna and get to know famous Viennese symbols as Sacher Cake, Mozart, Beethoven, Vienna Boys Choir, Lipizzan horses and Spanish Riding school, Crown-Prince Rudolf, Emperor Frances Joseph, Empress Elisabeth ("Sissi").

This tour is the perfect introduction to the city center of Vienna!

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