

VIENNA TRANSPORTATION TIPS

One Day in a City

Thanks for downloading these printable transportation tips! Hope you find them useful. Stay tuned to your email for more helpful travel tips coming soon. Happy Travels!
-Gina

GETTING INTO VIENNA

A key to making the most of your day in Vienna is getting into the city center as quickly as possible. Most people arrive to Vienna via three different methods:

By Air

Vienna International Airport (VIE) is located 10 miles east of the city center. The fastest economical way to get into the city from Vienna International Airport is to take the 16-minute City Airport Train (CAT) to the Wien Mitte/Landstraße stop in the city center. This train operates into the city from 6:05 a.m. to 11:35 p.m. and returns to the airport from Wien Mitte/Landstraße between 5:38 a.m. to 11:08 p.m. It departs every 30 minutes. The cost is €11 for one way or €17 for roundtrip and you can buy your ticket when you arrive from ticket machines or the tourist information desk at the airport. From Wien Mitte/Landstraße you can jump on the U-Bahn metro to your hotel or starting point for the day. You can also take a bus into the city center: Postbus line 1185. This bus service runs daily from the airport between 4:50 a.m. and 1:20 a.m. with departures every half hour on the 20 minute and 50 minute mark. The bus takes around 22 minutes to reach the city center and costs €8 one way. Another quick way - which may be faster as it alleviates having to switch onto the U-Bahn - but more expensive is to take a taxi. A taxi into the city center from Vienna International Airport takes roughly 35 minutes and costs around €40-50, though if you book your transportation in advance you can get a special airport tariff rate that may save you €5 to €10.

By Train

Vienna's main train station is Westbahnhof Station, which services domestic and international arrivals and departures and is located just west of the city center. A convenient aspect of Westbahnhof Station is that it's adjacent to the city metro (Lines U3 and U6 run directly through Westbahnhof) so as soon as you arrive, you're set to immediately begin exploring Vienna. Westbahnhof Station has multiple connections from large European cities such as Hamburg, Germany, and Zurich, Switzerland.

By Car

Vienna can be a headache to get to by car if you're staying in the city center. If you are staying in the city center and driving there, check if your hotel has a parking lot and how far it is from the hotel. Also, ask if there is a daily fee to use the parking lot (there most likely is). Once you've arrived and settled into your hotel, driving around the city center is more of a hassle than it's worth since you'll have to pay for parking – if you can find some. Walking or using the metro instead can easily get you most everywhere you want to go. Plus, there are many one-ways that are sometimes confusing for visitors, so if driving around the city, keep a careful eye out for such streets.

GETTING AROUND VIENNA

Metro

Vienna's underground metro, called the U-Bahn, is convenient and fairly cheap to use, plus it takes credit cards which makes it much faster and easier to buy tickets, especially if you arrive in Vienna without a surplus of Euros. If you're short on time, the U-Bahn is your best option as it is usually faster than using the trams or buses you'll see navigating the city. The U-Bahn has five lines (U1, U2, U3, U4, U6) which intersect all over Vienna's city center and also out to the city's suburbs. A single ticket costs €2.20 while a 24-hour ticket will run you €7.60. The U-Bahn starts running (depending on the station) at 5 a.m. and ends around midnight, though on Friday and Saturday, it runs through the night.

Walking

The central area of Vienna's historic downtown can be easily walked; however, not all of the city's sites are clustered together, so just planning on walking the city isn't very practical. However, there are several sites that can easily be walked between and it's a great way to experience the ambiance of Vienna.

METRO STOPS FOR VIENNA'S TOP SITES

Schönbrunn Palace: Schönbrunn (U4 Line)
Rathaus: Rathaus (U2 Line)
Spanish Riding School: Herrengasse (U3 Line)
Hofburg Palace: Herrengasse (U3 Line)
Vienna State Opera: Karlsplatz (U1, U2, or U4 Line)
Mozart House: Stephansplatz (U1 or U3 Line)
MuseumsQuartier: Museumsquartier (U2 Line)
St. Stephen's Cathedral: Stephansplatz (U1 or U3 Line)
Belvedere: Hauptbahnhof (U1 Line)

ONE DAY TIP: SHORT ON TIME SHORTCUT

Take public transportation as opposed to walking to get to your starting point for the day in order to save time – the metro is easy and inexpensive to use. Also, plan out your day before departing and check out how far apart each site is. If it's more than a few metro stops, it will save you time to jump on the metro instead of walking to the next site.

This transportation content is a snippet from my Vienna guidebook. For many more Vienna travel tips, purchase my Vienna guidebook, available in an easy-to-travel-with eBook form. Learn more here:
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