

Austria's Historical Sights

This presentation is made for a short information for other students and for our eTwinning partner as a common class work during the eTwinning activity in our project "Discover Europe" – by students from the HTL Rankweil, teacher Hubert Winkler.

The Historical places in Austria and Europe can be watched in the map, as a result of a transnational work from all eTwinning school partners, where we filled in some historical places.

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Here you will get information about some historical attractive places in Austria.

Vienna, capital of Austria

Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna

The Habsburgs' summer residence is Austria's most popular tourist attraction. Take a guided tour through the Imperial ceremonial rooms or stroll through the freely accessible gardens. Nearby, you can visit Schönbrunn Zoo, the oldest zoo in the world. The former summer residence of the Habsburgs impresses with imperial ceremonial rooms and magnificent gardens. Maria Theresa, Emperor Franz Joseph, Empress Elisabeth and others once resided at Schönbrunn Palace.

Schönbrunn Palace is one of Europe's most beautiful Baroque complexes and has been in the possession of the Habsburgs since 1569. The wife of Emperor Ferdinand II, Eleonore von Gonzaga, had a pleasure palace built on the site in 1642 and called the property "Schönbrunn" for the first time. The palace and garden complex created from 1696 onwards following the siege of Vienna was completely redesigned under Maria Theresa after 1743. Today, due to its historical significance, its unique layout and magnificent furnishings, the palace is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

1,441 rooms for Emperor Franz Joseph and "Sisi":

Emperor Franz Joseph was born in Schönbrunn Palace in 1830. The monarch spent the last years of his life here in their entirety. Schönbrunn Palace has a total of 1,441 rooms, 45 of which can be visited. The interiors are in the Rococo style. Mozart made music in the mirrored hall of Schönbrunn Palace as a six-year-old prodigy. In the Round

Chinese Cabinet, Maria Theresa held her secret conferences with State Chancellor Prince Kaunitz. Napoleon held conferences in the Vieux Lacque Room. And in the Blue Chinese Salon, Emperor Charles I signed his renunciation of government (end of the monarchy). The Millions Room, paneled with rosewood and decorated with valuable miniatures from India and Persia, ranks amongst the most beautiful Rococo rooms in existence. The Congress of Vienna convened in the Grand Gallery in 1814/15.

From hunting grounds to Baroque garden

Schönbrunn Palace park is open to visitors free of charge all year round and is home to impressive fountains, statues, monuments, trees and flowers as well as the magnificent Gloriette. The Imperial Carriage Museum, Crown Prince Garden, Orangery Garden, Maze & Labyrinth, Zoo, Palm House and Desert Experience House are also part of the palace parc.



Ringstrasse in Vienna

Vienna's Ringstrasse (ring road) circles the city's first district and is home to some of the most grandiose buildings Austria's capital has to offer. The State Opera, Parliament, City Hall, the university and more can all be seen by taking a stroll along Ringstrasse or boarding a tram.

The most beautiful boulevard in the world is home not only to many of Vienna's best-known sights, such as the Imperial Palace, the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Natural History Museum, the Vienna State Opera and Parliament. Magnificent palaces, extensive parks and important monuments also line the "display window" of the former Danube monarchy.

Vienna's Ringstrasse is 5.3 kilometers long. Long enough to provide space for numerous monumental buildings, which were built during the period of Historicism in the 1860s to 1890s. Today, the buildings that stand there – from the Vienna State Opera to the Museum of Fine Arts – are among the most important sights in the city of Vienna.

"It is my will..." - with these words, Emperor Franz Joseph ordered the building of the Ringstrasse in 1857. Nobles and rich citizens hurried to build pompous palaces along this magnificent boulevard. Many of these former private homes can still be admired today (mostly, however, only from the outside). The style in which the buildings were built went down in history as the Ringstrasse style (a type of Historicism). It is marked by a pluralism of styles: numerous architectural forms of previous epochs were imitated.







The most noteworthy buildings are not the palaces, but rather the large buildings such as the State Opera (built in the style of the Neo-Renaissance), the Parliament, City Hall (Flemish Gothic), the Burgtheater (New Baroque), the university (Neo-Renaissance), the Museum for Applied Art, the Vienna Stock Exchange, and the Votive Church (New Gothic), which were all constructed in the second half of the 19th century. Especially worth seeing are also the Museum of Fine Arts and the Natural History Museum, both of which were built in the Neo-Renaissance style. They not only hold awesome art and natural treasures, but are also architectural masterpieces.

Master builders such as Theophil von Hansen, Karl Freiherr von Hasenauer, Gottfried Semper, Heinrich von Ferstel, and Friedrich von Schmidt shaped the image of the Ringstrasse. At the end of the 19th century, following the time of the Ringstrasse architecture, came Viennese Art Nouveau, which turned away from the ostentatious pomp and splendor.

Museumsquarter:

Spread over 90,000m² in central Vienna and encompassing 60 cultural institutions, the MuseumsQuartier Wien is one of the largest districts for contemporary art and culture in the world. Nothing is off limits at the MuseumsQuartier. Historic architecture meets contemporary design. High culture meets subcultures. The spectrum ranges from fine art, architecture, music, fashion, theater, dance, literature, children's culture, game culture, and street art to design and photography.



The ART History Museum

The Art History Museum was built in 1891 near the Imperial Palace to house the extensive collections of the imperial family. With its vast array of eminent works and the largest Bruegel collection in the world, it is considered one of the most eminent museums in the world.

Numerous major art works of European art history, among the Raphael's "Madonna in the Meadow", Vermeer's "The Allegory of Painting", the Infanta paintings by Velazquez, masterworks by Rubens, Rembrandt, Dürer, Titian and Tintoretto are housed in the paintings gallery.

In the Collection of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, one finds rarities from the former art collections of the Habsburgs, and in the Egyptian and Near Eastern Collection there are many treasures of important ancient cultures.

The architectural mirror image of the Museum of Fine Arts in the Museum of Natural History on the opposite side, which was also built according to designs by Gottfried Semper and Karl von Hanseauer.



Natural History Museum in Vienna



The Natural History Museum Vienna preserves, expands, researches and presents its extensive collections covering biology, earth sciences, anthropology and archaeology in a building designed as a total work of art. It conveys the diversity of nature, the evolution of Planet Earth and life, and the related cultural development of humankind.

Furthermore, it serves as an inspirational meeting place for dialogue and exchange of ideas between the scientific community and the general public.

The Natural History Museum aims to make a significant contribution to sustainable development in Austria, Europe and the world. We strive to achieve this goal through our excellent disciplinary, interdisciplinary and participatory research, by opening up our collections to a wider audience using digital technology, by employing innovative, inclusive and inspiring approaches to teaching science, and by becoming a fully carbon-neutral museum by 2030.

The Natural History Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts were commissioned by Emperor Franz Joseph I (1830 – 1916) and designed by the architects Gottfried Semper (1803 – 1879) and Carl Hasenauer (1833 – 1894). The two museums have identical exteriors and face each other. They were originally designed to be part of a much larger project – an Imperial Forum – which was never realized in full. Work on the Natural History Museum lasted from 1871 until 1881. On August 10, 1889 Emperor Franz Joseph I himself officially opened the museum. Its façade, designed by Gottfried Semper, shows figures and statues representing progress in the field of natural sciences and the power of nature. Below the dome, the imperial dedication in golden letters reads: “To the realm of nature and its exploration”.

Belvedere:



The Belvedere is not only a magnificent Baroque palace but also houses one of Austria's most valuable art collections – with key works by Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka.

Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736), successful general and art connoisseur, had Belvedere garden palace built by Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt as his summer residence – at the time it was still outside the gates of the city.

This baroque architectural jewel consists of two palaces (Upper and Lower Belvedere), which today house Austrian art from the Middle Ages to the present day.

Upper Belvedere - World's biggest Klimt collection and "The Kiss"

The heart of the Belvedere collection is formed by the 24 paintings of Gustav Klimt with his golden images "The Kiss" and "Judith". Klimt's "The Kiss" in particular is world-famous. The 180 x 180 cm painting was created in 1908/09 and shows Klimt and his friend Emilie Flöge as a couple in love. "The Kiss" is probably Austria's most famous work of art. Klimt's portraits of women also impress and be marveled at in the Upper Belvedere.

The permanent exhibition at the Upper Belvedere was completely redesigned at the beginning of 2018: a total of 420 works can be seen in seven themed rooms spread over three floors. Thematically, the tour starts with the history of the Belvedere. In the other rooms, works of art from the Middle Ages, Baroque, Classicism and Biedermeier periods are shown. A separate, large area on the first floor is naturally dedicated to Vienna Modernism and the art of 1900, where Klimt's "Kiss" has found its new home. Finally, the art of the inter-war and post-war periods is shown on the second floor.

Stephansdom Cathedral





The Stephansdom (St. Stephen's Cathedral) in Vienna has survived through many wars and has become a symbol of Vienna's freedom. The Gothic cathedral was first built in 1147 AD and its most recognizable characteristic, the diamond-patterned tile roof, was added in 1952.

The first church to occupy the site of St. Stephan's Cathedral was a Romanesque church, which was replaced by a larger Romanesque basilica in 1147. A major fire in 1258 destroyed the basilica and construction on the present Gothic cathedral began in the early 14th century.

The cathedral suffered damage during the Turkish siege of 1683 and again in the closing days of World War II, when fire from streetfighting leapt to the rooftop. The cathedral was reopened in 1948; the roof was repaired and decorated with ceramic tiles donated by Viennese citizens in 1950.

Among the important events that have occurred at St. Stephen's are Mozart's wedding in 1782 and his funeral in December 1791.

The cathedral is an impressive Gothic edifice of dark stone with a colorful tiled roof and a north tower rising to 450 feet (135m) named Alter Steffl, "Old Steve." Originally built between 1359 and 1433, it was reconstructed after severe war damage. A climb of 343 spiral steps provides sweeping view of the city from the top.

Giant Ferris Wheel in Vienna





1897

The Giant Ferris Wheel was built to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Emperor Franz Josef I.



1898

To draw attention to the poverty surrounding her, her husband and others in the city, Viennese woman Marie Kindl hangs on to a rope she held between her teeth outside of one of the cabins during a ride.



1914

Madame Solange d'Atalide, the successful circus director and rider, completes a full rotation of the Giant Ferris Wheel on a horse standing on the roof of one of the cabins as part of a film.



1944

The Giant Ferris Wheel is burned down.



1945

The Wheel is rebuilt, at the same time as St. Stephen's Cathedral, the State Opera House, and the Burgtheater.

Vienna Opera House





Wiener Staatsoper is one of the leading opera houses in the world. Its past is steeped in tradition. Its present is alive with richly varied performances and events. Each season, the schedule features 350 performances of more than 60 different operas and ballets. Every night, you can witness world-class artists alongside the permanent ensemble members on the stage and at the conductor's desk, accompanied by a unique orchestra: the orchestra of Wiener Staatsoper, whose members at the same time make up the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Built in 1869, Wiener Staatsoper looks back on a past that is steeped in tradition and takes pride in a richly-varied offer today.

The opera building at Ringstrasse boulevard, an architectural gem which dates from the era of Emperor Francis Joseph I.

Spanish Riding School in Vienna ("Spanische Hofreitschule und Lippizaner")



The world-famous performances by the Lipizzans – the Ballet of the White Stallions – take place in the unique, baroque Winter Riding School at Hofburg Palace, built under Charles VI.

These performances are the result of years of training for the rider and their Lipizzans.

From the young, boisterous stallions to the fully trained School Stallions, they enchant the audience with their performance in the School Quadrille, in the Schools on and above the ground and on the Long Rein. This atmosphere and the accompanying classical Viennese music make the wonderful presentation by the rider and their Lipizzans even more enjoyable.

Salzburg

Hohensalzburg Fortress in Salzburg

First built in 1077, Hohensalzburg Fortress stands high above the city of Salzburg, a short (but steep) walk from the city centre. Inside, you will find the Princes' Chambers with furnishing that have not been changed since the early 1500s, as well as a museum showcasing ancient suits of armour and a historic marionette museum.



Mozart's Birthplace in Salzburg

Mozart's birthplace at no. 9. After all, it's one of the most popular museums in the world nowadays, showcasing the original rooms and Mozart's musical instruments.

W. A. Mozart was born in 1756 in the "Hagenauer Haus" at No. 9 Getreidegasse in Salzburg. Today, Mozart's Birthplace is one of the most visited museums in Austria and is an absolute highlight, above all for Mozart fans. Famous residents of the "Hagenauer House": The Mozarts

One certain house in the Getreidegasse always draws particular attention: No. 9, the house in which Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born. Salzburg's most famous son came into this world on 27 January 1756. His family actually lived here for 26 years, from 1747 on, occupying an apartment on the third floor. With parents Leopold and Anna Maria as well as sister "Nannerl", Mozart spend his childhood and much of his youth there. In 1773, the family moved to the house we know today as the "Mozart Residence", on the Makartplatz Square.



Salzburg Cathedral



Salzburg Cathedral dominates the historical centre of the city with its prominent, two-towered facade and mighty structure. The baroque sites that surround it form a unique stage used for festivals and recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Today's cathedral had two medieval predecessors, the remains of which can be viewed in the crypt. The first cathedral was consecrated by St Vergilius in 774. The building was expanded under Archbishop Hartwik (991-1023). Archbishop Konrad I (1106-1147) added two west towers.

In 1167, the cathedral, which was still primarily Carolingian, burned down. Archbishop Konrad III (1177-1183) then had a vast Romanesque basilica with five towers built that was 110m long and which was similar in appearance to the cathedrals in Mainz and Worms. After a fire, it too was demolished in 1598.

The cornerstone of the existing baroque cathedral was laid in 1614. In 1628, the cathedral was consecrated by Archbishop Paris Lodron. About forty years later, the towers and surrounding squares were completed.

The baroque building has impressive clear-cut forms, unique decor and a bright facade made of local marble. The architect, Santino Solari, came from Italy. He created the most important church edifice of his time north of the Alps and influenced the architecture throughout Austria and southern Germany. The cathedral destroyed in 1944 and was rebuild.

Graz in Styria

Schlossberg Hill & Clocktower in Graz, Styria

A must-do for every first-time visitor to Graz is climbing Schlossberg hill and seeing the city's famous clocktower up close. If you don't feel up to climbing the 260 stairs, simply take the lift (located inside the actual hill) or the Schlossbergbahn funicular. Up top, you can treat yourself to a coffee with fantastic views over the city.



Kunsthaus Art Museum in Graz, Styria

The Kunsthaus in Austria's second city, Graz, attracts visitors not just with its modern art exhibitions, but with its unusual architecture: Opened in 2003, it is said to look like a "friendly alien" in the midst of Baroque architecture. With its large, tube-like "nozzles" for windows that stick out from the curved roof and its computerized lighting system, it's a true eye-catcher in Graz's city centre.



Graz Clocktower



A tower on this spot of the hill was first mentioned in the 13th century. When the fortress was reconstructed in the middle of the 16th century, the tower was given its present shape.

The Schlossberg (Castle Hill), at 473 meters (or 1552 feet) above sea level, is a tree-clad hill, and the site of a fortress, in the centre of the city of Graz, Austria. The hill is now a public park and enjoys extensive views of the city. It is the site of several entertainment venues, cafés and restaurants, and is managed by Holding Graz, the city owned utility company.

Innsbruck in Tyrol





Golden Roof in the old city of Innsbruck, Tirol

Located in the midst of the old town, Innsbruck's Golden Roof is perhaps the city's most famous landmark. Built in the 15th century at the behest of Kaiser Maximilian I, its 2,657 gilded shingles shine as bright as ever.



Ambras Castle in Innsbruck



Ambras Castle is situated upon a rock ca. 100 meters above the valley floor created by the River Inn. News of Ambras, spelled “Amras” or “Omras,” has come down to us from as early as the 10th century. Long before Innsbruck became a city, it achieved more than just local importance as the established seat of the Counts from the House of Andechs, whose original lands lay in Upper Bavaria.

There remains nothing of the original Andechs castle, which was destroyed in 1133. The castle later passed by inheritance from the Andechs family into the possession of the Prince of Tirol. The only evidence of this early, medieval period can be seen in some of the materials that were used to build the Upper Castle.

The Castle of Archduke Ferdinand II

Born the son of the future Emperor Ferdinand I, Archduke Ferdinand II (1529–1595) was a member of one of the most important ruling dynasties of Europe. Initially, the Habsburg Archduke was entrusted with the governorship of the kingdom of Bohemia in his father’s place, residing in Prague from 1547. After moving to Innsbruck in 1567, he steered the ship of state of the County of Tyrol and in Further Austria for a period of around thirty years. Ferdinand II raised both the courts where he held political office to remarkably high levels of cultural attainment and excellence, and as an outstanding humanist ruler made an essential contribution to the spread of Renaissance culture in Central Europe.

Ferdinand rebuilt the remains of the medieval fortress into a Renaissance palace, which he gave to his beloved first wife Philippine Welser. The Spanish Hall, built 1570–72, is among the most beautiful hall structures of the later Renaissance.

Swarovski Crystal Worlds in Wattens, Tirol

25 minutes outside of Innsbruck, a world of crystals awaits that has to be seen to be believed: There are 17 separate “crystal chambers”, including a giant crystal dome and an “infinity mirror room” featuring a revolving chandelier. There are stunning crystal exhibits and installations by the likes of Andy Warhol, Jean-Paul Gaultier, and Keith Haring. And outside, a cloud made out of 800,000 crystal rivals the starry night sky.



Linz in Upper Austria

Ars Electronica Center in Linz, Upper Austria

Talk to an android on the phone, pet a robot seal, or clone your favourite plant: The Ars Electronica Center in Linz is a unique interactive museum which lets you experience science, technology, and art up close. Its 5,100 m² (56,000 sqft) LED façade right next to the Danube continuously changes colours, making for a nightly spectacle.



The center – old town of Linz

Melk in Lower Austria

Melk Abbey

Melk Abbey (Stift Melk) is a Benedictine abbey above the town of Melk, Lower Austria, Austria, on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube river, adjoining the Wachau valley. The abbey contains the tomb of Saint Coloman of Stockerau and the remains of several members of the House of Babenberg, Austria's first ruling dynasty.

The abbey is part of Wachau Cultural Landscape, a World Heritage Site.

The abbey was founded in 1089 when Leopold II, Margrave of Austria gave one of his castles to Benedictine monks from Lambach Abbey. A monastic school, the Stiftsgymnasium Melk, was founded in the twelfth century, and the monastic library soon became renowned for its extensive manuscript collection. The monastery's scriptorium was also a major site for the production of manuscripts. In the fifteenth century the abbey became the centre of the Melk Reform movement which reinvigorated the monastic life of Austria and Southern Germany. Today's Baroque abbey was built between 1702 and 1736 to designs by Jakob Prandtauer. Particularly noteworthy are the abbey church with frescos by Johann Michael Rottmayr and the library with countless medieval manuscripts, including a famed collection of musical manuscripts and frescos by Paul Troger.

