

[Vienna] Top Five Places

Vienna is a tourism hotspot. But the city, situated on the western edge of the Vienna Basin, in the foothills of the Alps, also offers the Vienna Woods, designated a biosphere reserve by UNESCO. And when Vienna is drowning under a sea of tourists and busy locals, says Jelena Dacic, LES at Canada's Delegation to the OSCE, "almost every corner, every café, every street offers a little oasis of peace and tranquility. You just have to look for it."



photo: WienTourismus/Popp & Hackner

BRUNNENMARKT

Head for breakfast or brunch in Vienna's colourful, newly fashionable district of Ottakring. Adding a little Southern European flair in the heart of Central Europe, the Brunnenmarkt has a strong Turkish flavour. Numerous young artists have set up shop in the surrounding area, making the market and nearby Yppenmarkt among the most electric neighbourhoods in the city.

Jelena Dacic is the LES program coordinator for the Delegation of Canada to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.



photo: WienTourismus/Günther Etschl

OPEN-AIR EVENTS

From January to March each year, the fabulously illuminated façade of Vienna's Rathaus (City Hall) is the backdrop for a 600-metre-long skating rink, curling lanes and a large heated marquee filled with Austrian goodies. In summer, the park is transformed into an open-air cinema and stage. In summer you can also enjoy an urban beach holiday by the Danube Canal.



photo: WienTourismus/Popp & Hackner

HIKING

Staying more or less within the city limits, you can hike through the Vienna Woods, up the surrounding hills and along the Wine Trail. The hiking is not too strenuous, and you can always take a bus to the top and slowly make your way back to the city centre. Sipping outstanding wines and enjoying the breathtaking views are what it's all about. The 10-km trail through the vineyards is dotted with scenic outlooks over the city and the Danube.

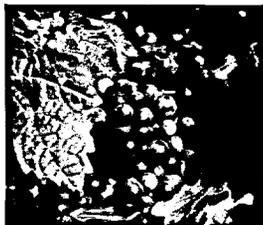


photo: WienTourismus/Heinz Angermayr

HEURIGER WINE TAVERNS

While hiking through the vineyards surrounding Vienna, stop in at the Grinzing Heuriger and have a glass of wine from the current Viennese vintage, along with a fitting culinary accompaniment. Heuriger wine taverns combine the conviviality of the city with the rural ambiance of the vineyards. They are as much a Viennese landmark as the Prater Ferris Wheel, Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna Boys Choir and Lipizzaner Stallions.



photo: Jazz Fest Wien

VIENNA JAZZ FESTIVAL

Vienna is more than waltzes, opera and classical music. A great event that always creates a buzz is the annual Vienna Jazz Festival, which is held throughout the summer. Performances take place at various venues and outdoor spaces around the city, including the wonderful Vienna State Opera House.