

Vienna – Enjoy Quality Of Life

Life is good in Vienna. What the Viennese have long known to be true has also been officially confirmed several times: In 2022, the renowned British news magazine “Economist”¹ voted Vienna the world’s most livable city for the third time. In 2019, the Mercer Study voted Vienna the world’s most livable city for the tenth year in a row. Vienna also took first place for the second time in the 2019 “Smart City Strategy Index” of the analyst Roland Berger. In 2020, the consultancy group “Resonance Consultancy” voted Vienna the “world’s greenest city”.

The reason for this outstanding quality of life? Vienna has more green space than virtually any other. It is a place where you can relax – there are even parks in the heart of the city – or enjoy sport. And the green offering is constantly being expanded: Since 2010, 204 parks have been remodeled or created from new – that’s equivalent to one new park for Vienna every 18 days². The Austrian capital also has excellent infrastructure and is one of the safest major cities on earth.

From decorative flowerbeds to unspoiled nature – there is plenty to discover in green Vienna. It comes as no surprise that the Vienna Woods on the city’s western fringes are referred to as the lungs of the city. This 1,350 square kilometer UNESCO biosphere reserve provides a unique habitat for countless plant and animal species. When taking a stroll in the Lainz Game Reserve you shouldn’t be surprised if a wild boar crosses your path. The Lainz Game Reserve is also home to the largest number of different bat species in Europe.³ Vienna is, after all, a habitat for people and animals: 456 species of wild bee⁴ make Vienna Europe’s bee capital. In summer, an additional 200 million honeybees buzz around the city. At Schönbrunn Zoo you will also encounter more exotic animals, with the baby polar bear girl Finja having been born there in 2019, who was joined in 2020 by the koala baby Millaa. The treetop trail gives excellent views of the enclosures. A forest adventure trail here also makes the many facets of the forest an exciting and varied experience. There are countless vantage points elsewhere in the city including the Danube Tower, Kahlenberg and Cobenzl, all of which can be easily reached using public transportation.

Mountain bikers, cyclists, ramblers and cross country skiers love the range of signposted routes. The paths take in all kinds of terrain including steep hills and flat stretches along the Danube. For anyone with more time and energy there is the Rundumadum hiking trail (120 km) which lets you circle the city on foot. Or on one of the 12 hiking trails⁵. The latest addition to the hiking trail network in and around Vienna is the Wienerberg city hiking trail. Vienna’s waterbodies also enrich the urban landscape. The New Danube with its large recreation area and leisure paradise on Danube Island as well as the Old Danube draw people outdoors. People swim and sail, and also cycle, jog, and skate here in summer. The Danube Canal cuts through the center of the city and is transformed into a

¹ https://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIQ-438/images/liveability-index-2022.pdf?mkt_tok=NzUzLVJJUS00MzqAAAGFLaGY28X2I2SbofHQ43staEthPACxdCYu0eHZuYumBdbjnGYqzxHyZJkVG1WQxZAx_Gu5vIvK2vQ7J7rgoUSQVG-Jc5gJzdNayQHmmEU2ImdQDQ

² www.wien.gv.at/presse/2020/07/31/sima-park-erfolgsbilanz-alle-18-tage-ein-neuer-park-fuer-wien

³ Source: www.derstandard.at/story/2000127568453/warum-es-im-lainzer-tiergarten-bald-keine-hirsche-mehr-gibt

⁴ Source: Vienna is Europe’s stronghold for wild bees www.wienerzeitung.at/nachrichten/chronik/wien/2069017-Wien-ist-Europas-Wildbienenhochburg.html

⁵ www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/wald/freizeit/wandern/wege/

stretch of bars and restaurants each summer. The area is home to the Badeschiff (Pool Boat). You can swim in the Danube here in summer and chase the curling sticks over the ice in winter. Further along the Danube Canal you will come to the Prater, a green space covering six million square meters, which was given to the Viennese by Emperor Joseph II. and is one of the most beautiful city parks in the world. Highlights include the 4.5 km long Hauptallee and the famous Wurstelprater amusement park. Vienna's trademark Giant Ferris Wheel is also impossible to miss and is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2022. Farther east is the Lobau, a wetland wilderness in the Donau-Auen National Park.

Vienna's green cityscape is shaped by around 580 agricultural businesses⁶ with an area under agricultural use of approx. 5,700 hectares, of which 35 percent are organically managed⁷, as well as numerous vineyards. These can best be discovered on the hiking trails. Vienna's vineyards are prized for their internationally acclaimed wine. No trip to the capital would be complete without a trip to a wine tavern where you can sit and leave your cares behind you while enjoying a drop of fine wine. Viennese drinking water has a particularly crisp and refreshing taste. This healthy spring water is yet another reason why Vienna is the world's true number one when it comes to quality of life. The water playgrounds at the Wasserturm (water tower) and on Danube Island offer fun as well as interesting facts about Viennese water. The water playground on Danube Island even happens to be the largest in Europe.⁸ www.vienna.info

⁶ Source: Statistik Austria 2020

⁷ Source: Statistik Austria 2020

⁸ Source: www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20040705_OTS0052/europas-groesster-wasserspielplatz-auf-der-donauinsel

Facts and figures “Green Vienna”

- “World’s greenest City 2020” from Resonance Consultancy (Source: www.bestcities.org/news/2020/04/22/the-worlds-greenest-cities/)
- 456 species of wild bee live in Vienna (Source: www.wienerzeitung.at/nachrichten//chronik/wien/2069017-Wien-ist-Europas-Wildbienenhochburg.html)
- Vienna is home to 17 species of amphibian and 9 species of reptile (source: <https://wien.orf.at/stories/3134794/>)
- 53% of the urban area is green (Source: www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20190502_OTS0046/sima-53-wiens-sind-gruenraum)
- 990 parks and green spaces (Source: www.wien.gv.at/statistik/pdf/wieninzahlen-2019.pdf)
- 400 varieties of rose in the Volksgarten (Source: www.wien.gv.at/video/645/Serie-Gruenoasen-Volksgarten)
- Prater: 6 million m² in area; almost twice the size of Central Park in New York (Source: www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/parks/anlagen/prater.html)
- Prater Hauptallee: 4.5 km long; Vienna’s biggest four to six-row, white-flowering chestnut boulevard (Source: www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/parks/anlagen/prater.html)
- Alpine Garden: 4,000 alpine species of plant; oldest alpine garden in the world (Source: www.bundesgaerten.at/belvederegarten/alpengarten.html)
- Botanical Garden: 11,500 species of plants from six continents (Source: www.botanik.univie.ac.at)
- Vienna Woods Biosphere Park: 1,057 km² of habitat for 2,000 plant species, 150 species of breeding birds and many endangered animals (Source: www.bpww.at/de/themenseiten/region)
- Donau-Auen National Park: more than 9,600 hectares, of which approx. 65% riparian forest, 15% meadows and approx. 20% water bodies; more than 30 species of mammals and 100 species of birds of prey, 8 species of reptiles and 13 species of amphibians, around 60 species of fish (Source: www.donauauen.at/der-nationalpark/zahlen-daten-fakten/)
- Donau-Auen National Park: biggest continuous, mostly ecologically intact and near-natural watermeadow landscape of its kind in Central Europe (Source: www.donauauen.at/der-nationalpark/zahlen-daten-fakten/)

- Danube Island: 42 kilometers of beach in total (i.e. both banks together) (Source: www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/gewaesser/donauinsel/)
- 829 bridges (twice as many as Venice) (Source: www.wien.gv.at/verkehr/brueckenbau/fakten.html)
- Agricultural area: 14% of the entire area, around 5,700 hectares (Source: Vienna Agriculture Report 2017. The next Vienna Agricultural Report will be prepared in 2022. It will cover the years 2017 to 2021 and will probably be available from January 2023)
- Around 580 Viennese farmers (Source: Statistik Austria 2020)
- 35% of the agricultural land in Vienna is organically managed, ranking Vienna among the country's leading provinces (Source: Statistik Austria 2020)
- More grain for bread is produced in Vienna than in Salzburg, the Tyrol and Vorarlberg combined (Source: Annual Activity Report 2018 of the Vienna Chamber of Agriculture)
- Vienna produces only about 1% of all wine in Austria. In contrast, the proportion of organic wine in Vienna measured against the total organic volume is 2.2%, i.e. more than double (www.stadtlandwirtschaft.wien/)
- Cucumber capital: 65% of all cucumbers in Austria come from Vienna, that's 29,270 tons (Source: www.wien.gv.at/statistik/wirtschaft/tabellen/gemueseernte-anbauflaeche.html)
- Lainz Game Reserve: the most different species of bat in Europe live here in one place (Source: www.derstandard.at/story/2000127568453/warum-es-im-lainzer-tiergarten-bald-keine-hirsche-mehr-gibt)
- Six museums in Vienna have been awarded the environment mark: (Source: www.umweltzeichen.at/de/tourismus/museen)
 - KUNST HAUS WIEN
 - MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna
 - Austrian National Library
 - Vienna Museum of Technology with Österreichische Mediathek
 - Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna
 - Jewish Museum Vienna