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#### Publication details

Published by: Vienna Tourist Board, 1030 Vienna  
Editor: Robert Seydel  
Design: seite zwei – branding & design  
Layout: Christian Eckart  
No liability accepted for errors or omissions.  
Content subject to change without notice.  
Printed in Austria by  
AV + Astoria Druckzentrum GmbH  
Copy deadline: October 2018

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Dear reader,

the colors of our city's coat of arms may well be red and white, but in reality Vienna is a lot more colorful – as colorful as a rainbow, in fact. Vienna is the Central European hotspot for members of the worldwide LGBT community. The Austrian capital was voted Destination of the Year in the 2018 Australian LGBTI Awards. And GayTravel.com, one of the world's largest LGBT travel platforms, voted Vienna its top international destination. Two awards that we are very proud of – and come as a welcome endorsement of all our hard work. Vienna offers something unique for the community, and there are a variety of factors behind these awards. Only in Vienna will you find the Rainbow Parade, our very own Christopher Street Day, which takes a lap of the world's most beautiful boulevard: the Ringstrasse. It is only in Vienna that an HIV/AIDS charity like the Life Ball at City Hall could take place under the patronage of the mayor. And only here will you find a traditional ball attended by members of the LGBT community dressed up in tails, tuxedos or ball gowns: the Rainbow Ball. EuroPride 2019 in Vienna – exactly 50 years after the heavy handed raids targeting the community at the Stonewall Inn in New York – and the opening up of the institution of marriage to everyone on January 1, 2019 make the city the

definitive destination for LGBT visitors from all over the world.

The LGBT scene is growing all the time. The motto: no weekend without a party. And like everything else in the city, the parties are in a class of their own. Have you ever danced the night away in an old slaughterhouse, or a building created Otto Wagner? Numerous cafés and bars catering to the community are clustered around Naschmarkt, close to the historic first district. There is something to suit every taste.

There is never a dull moment in Vienna, as the city offers much more than a thriving LGBT community. In summer 2018 it was named the World's Most Liveable City following a study by the UK's The Economist magazine – making it the first European city to receive this honor. One of the main reasons behind the decision was that the city is exceptionally safe. And then there is its cultural life, which is second to none. It bears repeating: there really is something to suit every taste. In addition to classics by great artists such as Bruegel, Caravaggio, Klimt, Schiele and their peers, Vienna is home to a flourishing contemporary art scene. More and more events are taking place in the city, more and more galleries are setting up shop here, and the art scene is booming. Street art is as much a part of the look and feel of the city these days as St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Giant Ferris Wheel. The Vienna State Opera, Musikverein and Konzerthaus are all bastions of musical excellence. And then there is Viennese wine and our world-famous Viennese cuisine. In short: Vienna is synonymous with a unique blend of historic splendor and contemporary openness. A lust for life and a passion for enjoyment run through the city's DNA – and that of the people who call it home.

Come and see what we mean! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Norbert Kettner  
Managing Director, Vienna Tourist Board



# LGBT

# Vienna

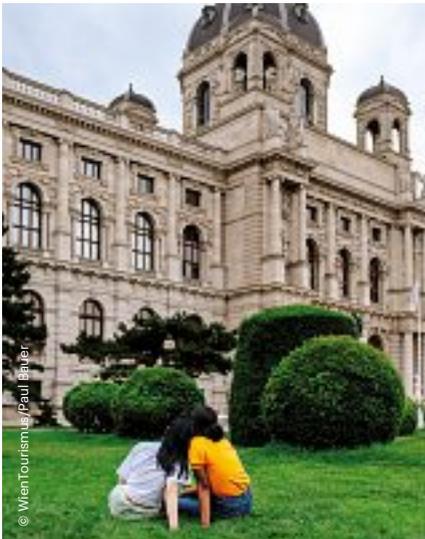
Vienna is firmly planted on the global LGBT map: the world's most livable city's stand-out features include a thriving scene as well as brimming with art, culture and enjoyment.

Relaxed, friendly, romantic and open: Vienna never fails to cast its spell on visitors. LGBT travelers are always made to feel especially welcome in the former imperial city. As is normally the way in a small country, the capital city – population 1.8 million, rising to 2.3 million once the greater metropolitan area is included – is also the center of LGBT life in Austria. Vienna is home to countless international organizations including the UN, OPEC, OSCE and UNIDO which have many LGBT and lesbian employees from all over the world, making the community even more diverse.

## VIENNA AWARDED TITLE OF BEST DESTINATION

Vienna's status as a top LGBT destination is official – the city now has awards confirming it. In March 2018 the Austrian capital saw off serious competition from locations such as New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas to take the title of Destination of the Year in the Australian LGBTI Awards. And in early January 2018 GayTravel.com – one of the largest platforms catering to LGBT travelers – crowned Vienna its Best International Destination. In 2017 the Vienna Tourist Board was identified in the UN World Tourism Organization's Second Global Report on LGBT Tourism as a best practice destination and named as an "iconic destination for LGBT travelers":

As you would expect in a cosmopolitan city like Vienna, LGBT couples can freely walk hand-in-hand in the capital.



© WienTourismus/Paul Bauer

Vienna has always played a pioneering role in Austria when it comes to promoting LGBT equality. This can be seen in the well-established key events for the community, such as the Life Ball and Vienna Pride which take place inside and in front of City Hall. And then there are the breakthroughs in society that the city has fought so hard to achieve: when civil partnerships were introduced on January 1, 2010, Vienna City Council opened up all of the venues available for heterosexual weddings to LGBT couples.

2019 will finally give everyone the freedom to marry in Austria, making the capital the ideal wedding and honeymoon location.<sup>1</sup>

The municipal anti-discrimination agency for same sex and transgender lifestyles (WAST) supports NGOs and projects aimed at improving equality and visibility for gays, lesbians, and transgender people. WAST provides support and advice in discrimination cases, runs education and awareness programs, is politically active, initiates projects and events at home and abroad and participates in various Austrian and global networks. It serves as an interface between the LGBT community, policymakers and the authorities, and supports grassroots projects.

The City of Vienna is a founder member of the international Rainbow Cities Network. The network is made up of cities that actively defend and promote the rights of LGBTIQ people. And Austria's first rainbow family center is located in Vienna's fifth district. It offers advice and information and a space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex and transgender parents and their children to get to know one another, as well as homosexual people looking to start a family.

#### TECHNO AND WALTZ

Vienna's LGBT scene has something for everyone. The motto: no weekend without a party. Two to three different club nights is the bare minimum. The music can be anything from chart toppers to indie rock, electronic, techno or Balkan pop. Venue-wise, Vienna also has all the bases covered, with locations as varied as an old slaughterhouse



Life Ball on Rathausplatz

and one of Otto Wagner's ornamental Art Nouveau pavilions. Partying all night long couldn't be easier in Vienna, starting with a gentle warm up at one of the capital's numerous LGBT bars. Anyone looking to really work up a sweat should head for one of the saunas. The city's LGBT scene is clustered around Naschmarkt, with the Türkis Rosa Lila Villa at its heart. Occupied by activists in 1982, the property now hosts various advice centers, as well as Café Willendorf in its laid-back, leafy courtyard.

Cafés, bars, clubs, fetish hangouts and saunas stay open round the clock in some cases, adding variety to any trip. The majority of them are clustered around the part of the sixth district between Naschmarkt and Mariahilfer Strasse, with another hotspot to be found on the other side of Naschmarkt in the fifth district. While quite compact, the

<sup>1</sup> At the time of going to print (October 2018) the law opening up marriage for everyone had yet to enter into force. However, on December 4, 2017 the Austrian Constitutional Court passed a resolution lifting the restrictions that had previously prevented same-sex couples from marrying. The court based its decision on anti-discrimination law and the principle of equality of all citizens. The restrictions are due to be lifted at midnight on December 31, 2018.



Each year the Rainbow Parade draws around 200,000 visitors.

capital's scene is still big enough to offer something for everyone. As community stalwart and drag queen Tiefe Kümmernis confirms: "There is a thriving LGBTIQ scene, which is not too wild." She adds: "The scene in Vienna is big enough that it can diversify, which creates space for lots of different groups. But it is also small enough that people actually interact with each other on a meaningful level. I think that's important, and I like it."

#### HAVING A BALL

Many of the returning LGBT events on the calendar cannot be found anywhere but Vienna: the Life Ball, for example, is the world's most spectacular HIV/AIDS charity event. Not just the message, but the location – City Hall – is unique. And the Rainbow Ball is also a uniquely Viennese experience: in tails, tuxes or suits and ball gowns, visitors dance the night away to waltzes, foxtrots and polkas. Our CSD event is known as the Rainbow Parade. Each year a constantly growing caravan of carnival floats and groups on foot complete a lap of the world's most beautiful boulevard, the Ringstrasse. A fetish week in spring and another in fall, the city's own Boylesque festival, the Rosa Wiener Wiesn-Fest and the biennial identities queer film festival complete the picture.

Vienna also has an impressive choice of LGBT shopping options, chief among them the Löwenherz book store which stocks a huge choice of specialist literature. Meanwhile, the Goldenes Quartier in the historic first district has a seemingly endless range of possibilities for that new wardrobe back home.



The grounds of Schönbrunn Palace

## SISI AND VIENNESE WINE

We've barely scratched the surface when it comes to Vienna's LGBT attractions – in the former hub of the Habsburg empire there is a lot to explore. With 190 palaces, mansion houses and stately homes dotted throughout the capital, reminders of the city's imperial past are around virtually every corner. And there are more than 100 museums packed with artworks from the Stone Age to the present day. Offering somewhere in the region of 120 theaters and concert venues and more than 15,000 concerts each year, Vienna fully deserves its status as a world cultural capital. The Prater, Schönbrunn Palace, Hofburg, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna State Opera, the world's largest collection of works by Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele, and icons such as Empress Elisabeth make the Austrian capital truly shine.

Museums such as the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (where Tiefe Kümmeris offers drag tours), the Leopold Museum and the Belvedere (home to the world's largest collections of works by Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt) and the mumok – Museum of Modern Art Ludwig Foundation all have world-class collections on show. The Austrian capital is also home to one of the world's greatest orchestras: the Vienna Philharmonic. Added to that are two theatres



© WienTourismus/Peter Rigaud

## Schönbrunn Palace

specifically for musicals. Numerous art festivals and galleries as well as a world-class auction house (the Dorotheum) set contemporary art fans' pulses racing.

Home to some of the world's best restaurants, as well as simple eateries, the city's culinary scene has all the bases covered – from Viennese cuisine to international flavors. Viennese wine is definitely worth a try – with the famous Wiener Gemischter Satz, a blended wine, definitely recommended. The capital's parks provide the perfect opportunity to take time out and watch the world go by. Almost half of the city's footprint is accounted for by green space. And in the summer, sun worshippers will be spoiled for choice with the numerous lidos and riverside beaches on the Neue and Alte Donau.

So Vienna is the perfect destination for getting a taste of everything: fantastic sight-seeing, excellent food, great shopping destinations and the center of a flourishing scene that offers something for everyone. What are you waiting for? We can't wait to see you here!

For more information on LGBT Vienna, visit [LGBT.vienna.info](http://LGBT.vienna.info) or [www.facebook.com/LGBTVienna](https://www.facebook.com/LGBTVienna).



© WienTourismus/Peter Rigaud

## Leopold Museum

# EuroPride 2019 in Vienna



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EuroPride will take place in Vienna for the second time from June 1–16, 2019 – 50 years after the Stonewall riots in New York, which marked the birth of the LGBT movement.



2019 is a special year for the global LGBT community: 50 years ago – on 28 June 1969 – a raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York triggered a series of protests sending out shockwaves that continue to make themselves felt to this day. They sparked the ongoing struggle for equal rights for the LGBT community, which is marked all over the world in June each year with numerous pride events.

2019 will also be a very special year for the Viennese LGBT community, as EuroPride will be returning to the Austrian capital for the first time since 2001. Between June 1–16 more than a million visitors are expected to come to Vienna to participate in a packed program of art, culture, info and discussion events as well as countless parties, transforming the city into the center of the LGBT community for two weeks. EuroPride reaches a crescendo with the Rainbow Parade (Vienna's CSD march) on the Ringstrasse boulevard on June 15, when almost two hundred thousand people descend on the world's most beautiful boulevard to stand alongside over 60 groups dedicated to promoting equal rights and tolerance, adding their voice to the struggle against homophobia and marginalization.





The EuroPride Village between the Burgtheater and City Hall will be the central meeting place for the LGBT community.

“The Rainbow Parade is the centerpiece of the LGBTIQ year. It is important for the city and the community alike,” explains drag queen Tiefe Kümmernis, who never fails to raise an eyebrow with her drag tours of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna. After all, “Visibility is extremely important.” She can’t wait for EuroPride to arrive: “Most of all I’m looking forward to all the guests that EuroPride will bring to Vienna. For me, it’s a real source of inspiration to get to know artists and performers from all over the world. Despite all of our differences, we all share one common denominator: our passion for the LGBTIQ+ community.”

#### PRIDE VILLAGE AND PRIDE PARK

Once again, Rathausplatz will be at the heart of EuroPride. This square directly in front of the capital’s main local government building – which also hosts the Life Ball – will be home to the EuroPride Village, a tent city brimming with highlights for visitors during the day. Concession stands and info booths run by NGOs, LGBT organizations and businesses compete for space. For the first time this year, the event will spill over into the Rathauspark to the left and right of the main square, giving visitors the chance to enjoy one of the city’s numerous green spaces. The giant stage in front of Rathaus (City Hall) with a range of live music acts, shows and DJs every day will provide a memorable atmosphere. Held directly after the Rainbow Parade, the EuroPride closing rally will also take place here on June 15, 2019, with a host of top international acts already lined up.

Meanwhile, the Pride Park in Sigmund Freud Park in front of the Votive Church will offer a lower-octane alternative to the carnival atmosphere on Rathausplatz. Just a few hundred meters from Rathausplatz, it will have its own stage with an alternative music line-up featuring newcomer bands and young artists ready to steal the limelight. Visitors in Pride Park won’t miss any of the action from the main event in the Pride Village on Rathausplatz after the Rainbow Parade, thanks to a live broadcast on a giant LED wall.

#### PACKED PROGRAM

It goes without saying that the two weeks leading up to the Rainbow Parade are overflowing with events: a Pride Beach on the Danube Canal will create seaside vibes in the heart of the city, a Pride street festival at the Prater will transform Vienna’s legendary amusement park into an LGBT hotspot, and at the now well-established Pride Day at Schönbrunn Zoo visitors can see the meerkats, anteaters, pandas, elephants and other animals at close quarters. Pride Run, which took place on Prater Hauptallee (the main boulevard running through the leafy Prater park) for the first time in 2018, will take in the most attractive section of the Ringstrasse leading up to Rathausplatz as part of the EuroPride festival.





For two weeks in 2019 life in Vienna will be all about EuroPride.

LGBT film nights and Pride tours of the capital's top museums complete the picture. Talking of films, hosted every two years, the identities LGBT film festival will be coming to screens all over the city during EuroPride in 2019. This year it features a special series of exhibitions, screenings and discussions. Inspired by the motto of Stonewall 50, the focus will be on the struggle for equal rights.

For two whole weeks, Vienna will be the place to be for LGBT people and their friends. 50 years after the Stonewall riots, the fight for equal rights is far from over. But we can still look back with pride over half a century's worth of successes for the LGBT community's equality campaign. And we know how to party! Here in Vienna.

For program details and regular details check [europride2019.vienna.info](http://europride2019.vienna.info) and [www.europride2019.at](http://www.europride2019.at).

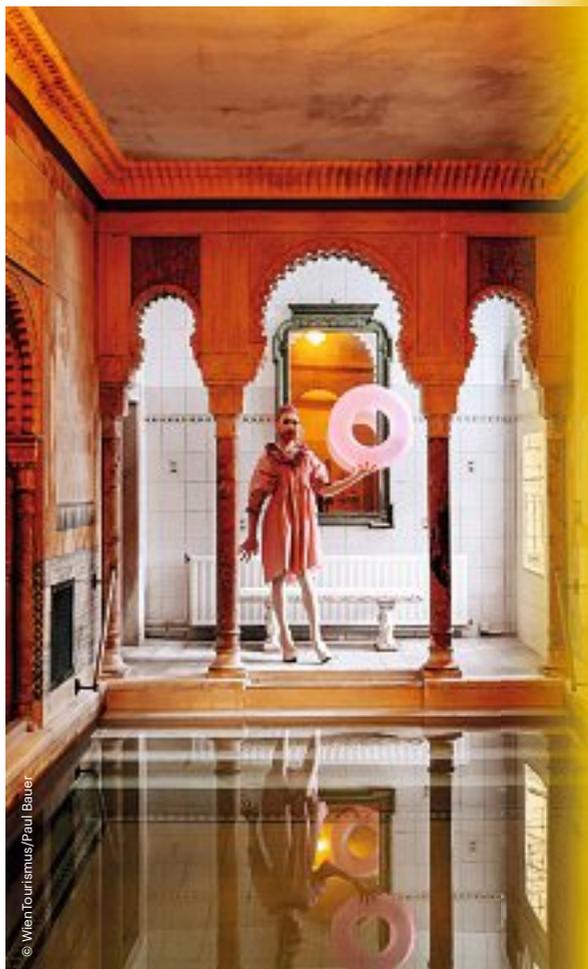


Rainbow Parade

Tiefe Kümmernis has to be Vienna's most unusual drag queen. On top of giving art fans tours of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, she treats us to a personal tour of her city. Our capital.

# „Vienna is the perfect city for me.“

We are waiting patiently in front of the Kaiserbründl men's sauna at around midday, one day in May. A bit of an odd time to go to the sauna. And if that wasn't enough, it is knocking on 30 degrees Celsius outside – a bit of an unusual temperature for a trip to the sauna, too. But drag queen Tiefe Kümmernis insisted on meeting here. This historic sauna in the center of Vienna is the first stop on her tour of Vienna, which takes in her leading LGBT locations. “Every corner of this gay sauna is full of history. It was here that Archduke Luziwuzi, gay younger brother of Emperor Franz Joseph, was given a clip round the ear for flirting with a man. Visitors can still lose themselves and enjoy themselves in this labyrinth for hours on end today.



© WienTourismus/Paul Bauer

Kaiserbründl men's sauna

A particularly attractive feature: the erotic neo-Baroque wall paintings by Stefan Riedl and the historic nineteenth-century atrium," she enthuses, listing the extensive complexes best features. Tiefe Kümmernis is wearing a pink dress, and her hair and beard are also dyed pink. Her vertiginous heels are like something Tina Turner would strut her stuff in. Quite an unusual outfit, given the location.

For three years now Tiefe Kümmernis has been a key part of the city's LGBT scene. In 'real' life she is a he, and an art dealer. Her drag queen tours of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna always sell out quickly. Her name refers to her passion for art: "Heilige Kümmernis' was a minor saint in

the Catholic church, who was meant to be married off to a heathen king against her will," she says, explaining the origins of her name, while allowing her gaze to rest on a wall painting featuring naked men. "Over-night she sprouted a beard, leading the king to reject her and have her crucified instead." She continues: "Kümmernis [sorrow/grievance] is just such a fantastically old-fashioned name. But I'm certainly no saint. Which is why I wanted something a bit tongue-in-cheek – that's where Tiefe Kümmernis [deep sorrow] comes from."

"THERE IS STRENGTH  
IN SOLIDARITY."

It is now far too hot in the sauna building. And at 2pm it opens its doors to paying guests, for whom discretion is the order of the day. The same cannot be said for us as we make our way to our next location, walking along Kärntner Strasse, bound for the heart of the old town. All eyes are on Tiefe Kümmernis, and we are causing a major stir: "Mainly people are just interested, but sometimes they are confused and surprised when they see me." Today is no different. We find ourselves the center of attention once again at our next destination – the Memorial against War and Fascism on the square in front of the Albertina. This walk-through memorial was completed in 1988. It is set on the location of a mid to late-nineteenth

century apartment building which was destroyed in a bombing raid in March 1945. Hundreds of people who had sought shelter in its cellar were killed. The bodies of only a fraction of those who lost their lives were recovered. Coming here is important for Tiefe Kümmernis: "This monument reminds us that the annual Pride event is not just a big party, but an important cause: saying no to oppression and violence. Unlike in Berlin, there is no dedicated monument to the homosexuals persecuted under National Socialism. Perhaps we will bring that about though at some point in the future. Until then I am

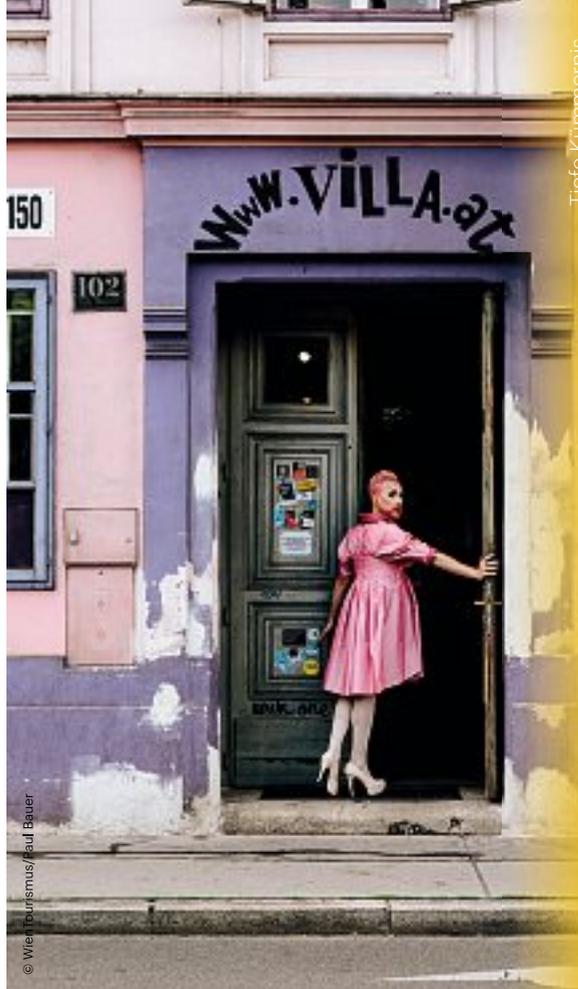


comforted by the thought that all of the different victim groups are united in this monument. There is strength in solidarity.” A nice thought.

Talking of Pride and the Rainbow Parade (as our CSD is known): “The Rainbow Parade is the centerpiece of the LGBTIQ year. It is important for the city and the community.” After all, “Visibility is extremely important. We are still discriminated against and are fighting for equality before the law.” Which is what the people who work at the Türkis Rosa Lila Villa on Wienzeile are also doing. “Since it was occupied by activists back in 1982, this building has been the go-to institution for the politically-active queer community. In addition to two advice centers, the Freiräumchen space hosts events, courses, and sometimes parties too. The successful Queer Base society, which helps LGBTIQ refugees, operates from the villa,” explains Tiefe Kümmernis. “And then there is Café Willendorf, which serves delicious food, and has a beautiful courtyard!”

#### COMMUNITY HOTSPOT CAFÉ SAVOY

For many members of the community in Vienna, the villa is heart and soul of LGBT life in the city. It is also an important location for Tiefe Kümmernis, but she qualifies this: “For me, no one single place is that important. The entire area of the sixth district between Karlsplatz and Pilgramgasse is the center of the community, in my eyes. It has a lot to offer. Everything is close at hand and each location caters to different interests. It is in this LGBT neighborhood, just a short distance from the Villa, that the legendary Café Savoy can be found. An absolute must for any trip to Vienna. “It is one of the prettiest cafés the city has to offer. The huge mirror adorning the wall inside was made in Belgium in the nineteenth century, and is said to be the biggest in Europe anywhere outside the Palace of Versailles. There is nowhere more stylish to enjoy a coffee or spritzer. “Café Savoy has been an important meeting place for members of the Viennese LGBT community for decades,” Tiefe Kümmernis confirms between bites of Black



© WienTourismus/Aud Bauer

Türkis Rosa Lila Villa

“The Rainbow Parade is the centerpiece of the LGBTIQ year. It is important for the city and the community.”



© WienTourismus/Paul Bauer

Café Savoy



Rathauspark

© WienTourismus/Paul Bauer

Forest gateau, as she enjoys a short break during our tour of Vienna. Talking about the LGBTIQ community, she continues: “The scene in Vienna is big enough that it can diversify, which creates space for lots of different groups. But it is also small enough that people actually interact with each other on a meaningful level. I think that’s important, and I like it.”

A special kind of exchange takes place at our next location, mainly when night falls: Rathauspark. “Interestingly, the southern half of the park in front of City Hall, right in the heart of the city, is still one of the city’s leading cruising zones to this day. Today, as before, men looking for a certain thrill come to the area as soon as night falls. During the day you can clearly see the tracks through the undergrowth.”

## EMPRESS SISI AND THE ROSES

As it's the afternoon there is nothing going on here, so we continue our tour. Our route takes us along the Ringstrasse into one of the city's most attractive parks, the Volksgarten. Opened to the general public in 1823, it is famous for its amazing roses, which burst into color each spring: 3,000 bushes and more than 200 varieties await visitors. Originally it was laid out as a private garden for the imperial family to enjoy. One of the Habsburgs is still here: Empress Elisabeth, aka Sisi – in the form of a monument. Tiefe Kümmernis is full of rapturous praise: “This tucked-away corner of the Volksgarten where Sisi's statue stands is one of the most beautiful and romantic spots in the whole city. When it comes to Sisi, she knows her stuff: “For many, the empress is the embodiment of a grandiose, imperial, romantic fantasy. Others see her as a modern, self-determined woman. Perhaps you can also see here, in a kind of gay and camp aesthetic,

as a precursor to twentieth century icons – in the same vein as Marlene Dietrich, Elizabeth Taylor and Princess Diana.”

Passing beautiful rose bushes in full bloom, we head for the last stop on our unusual tour of Vienna: the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Not only one of the world's top museums and home to the largest collection of works by Bruegel, it is also Tiefe Kümmernis' workplace: “I started giving regular tours of the museum in drag two years ago. I like to coax information out of the collections about queer people in days gone by that could easily go unnoticed at first glance. Passing Cellini's Saliera in the Kunstskammer and works by Caravaggio, Titian, Tintoretto, van Dyck, Dürer and Cranach in the Picture gallery, she suddenly stops: “Here's a picture that I particularly like, even if it has no relation to queer lifestyles: the Feast of Venus by Peter Paul Rubens, which dates back to 1636/37. The large-format late work was extended twice at the sides by the

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (in the background):  
The Feast of Venus by Peter Paul Rubens)





© Wien Tourismus/ Paul Bauer

Sisi memorial in the Volksgarten

“I chose this city  
because I find  
its history  
so fascinating.”

artist. The painter overwhelms us visually with a surfeit of moving bodies, fruits, plants, sculptures and lots of exposed skin. It doesn't get much more Baroque than that!” And she continues to enlighten us. The longer we listen, the more obvious it is why she chose this career: it is her passion in life. She is just fascinated by art.

“VIENNA HAS A GOOD  
LGBTIQ SCENE”

She is also a big fan of Vienna, where she has been working and living in for three

years now. “I chose this city because I find its history so fascinating. And because I'm captivated by its beauty.” She continues to lavish praise on her new home: “And then you can add the high quality of life: Vienna is affordable, there are lots of green spaces to relax in, and the cityscape is highly attractive. I couldn't think of a better place to live right now. Vienna is the perfect city for me.” She adds: “There is a thriving LGBTIQ scene which is not too wild.”

After almost six hours, our time together draws to a close. The storm clouds brewing above call time on our meeting and we head our separate ways after a successful day. It was great to spend so much time with Tiefe Kümmeris, who not only shared her favorite spots with us, but left a lasting impression with her knowledge, charm, humor and candor.

PS: Before we go, Tiefe Kümmernis recommends a special bar to us: Lazy Life. "In the short time it has been around, the three young people behind it have managed to attract a really nice, open clientele who all get on brilliantly. The atmosphere is great. There is a different event to look forward to each week: pub quizzes, poetry readings, mini concerts or maybe film screenings. I love it!" she gushes.

### Lazy Life

Burggasse 44, 1070 Vienna  
www.lazylife.at

## TIEFE KÜMMERNIS' FAVORITE LOCATIONS AT A GLANCE

### Kaiserbründl men's sauna

Weihburggasse 18  
1010 Vienna  
www.kaiserbruendl.at

### Memorial against War and Fascism

Helmut-Zilk-Platz  
1010 Vienna

### Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

Maria-Theresien-Platz  
1010 Vienna  
www.khm.at

### Café Savoy

Linke Wienzeile 36  
1060 Vienna  
www.savoy.at

### Rathauspark

Ringstrasse/City Hall  
1010 Vienna

### Volksgarten

Ringstrasse between  
Heldenplatz and  
Burgtheater  
1010 Vienna

### Türkis Rosa Lila Villa

Linke Wienzeile 102  
1060 Vienna  
www.dievilla.at



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