LGBTIQ+ Vienna

Vienna has a rich and varied LGBTIQ+ history – visitors can learn about the gay military commander Prince Eugene, Empress Sisi and Emperor Franz Joseph's gay brother here. The city has also become a major community hotspot in Central Europe, offering not only imperial flair and world-famous art but also stylish parties and great venues for members of the LGBTIQ+ community and their friends.

The baroque Belvedere Palace is a must-see for all LGBTIQ+ visitors to Vienna. Not simply because Gustav Klimt's world-famous painting, "The Kiss," can be admired there, but also because it was the summer residence of the gay military commander Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736). From here, there is a magnificent view over Vienna and its imperial center: the Hofburg (with the Sisi Museum), the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the MuseumsQuartier, the State Opera, the Albertina, the Parliament, City Hall, the Burgtheater and St. Stephen's Cathedral bear witness to the imperial splendor of bygone times. Visitors seeking an even more opulent experience must not miss Schönbrunn Palace. It was here that the Habsburgs resided, especially in summer, enjoying the adjoining park and founding the world-famous zoo. The Vienna Prater, the emperor's former hunting ground, is the perfect place to relax. And a ride on the Giant Ferris Wheel is a must for every visitor to Vienna.

LGBTIQ+ life in Vienna is concentrated around the Naschmarkt in the fifth and sixth districts. Qwien (www.qwien.at) is the center for queer culture and history in Vienna. Research into queer history is conducted at its new location in the 5th district, which opened in 2025. Exhibitions are also held there regularly. There are plenty of gay bars in the 6th district, such as the Village and The Hive, which are perfect for relaxing with a drink or two in the evening. A classic choice for both daytime and evening visits is the charming and historic Café Savoy near the Naschmarkt, which continues to embody Viennese coffee-house culture in a cosy atmosphere to this day. The most famous gay sauna in Vienna is the Kaiserbründl. This is where "Luziwuzi," the gay brother of Emperor Franz Joseph, was once slapped in the face for touching an officer inappropriately.

Café Flinte (formerly the Frauencafé), located on Lange Gasse in the 8th district, has been a tried-and-tested favourite amongst lesbians since 1977. Founded in the 1970s by a feminist collective, the small but classy women-only (transgender welcome) café is run by a committed group of lesbians.

Every year in June, Vienna's LGBTIQ+ community flies the flag at the Rainbow Parade. Around 300,000 people march along Vienna's Ringstrasse to demand full equality and protest against discrimination. Fetish enthusiasts look forward to the Vienna Fetish Spring each year and in the fall to Wien in Schwarz – Vienna Fetish Week. The Diversity Ball takes place every September at Vienna City Hall. In winter, the Rainbow Ball features traditional waltz dancing.

Anyone wanting to turn night into day will find what they are looking for at the numerous parties for gays and lesbians: people party until the early hours of the morning to house, techno, electronic,

chart hits, Balkan pop or disco classics in Art Nouveau buildings, modern clubs or former slaughterhouses.

A new drag scene has also been emerging at a lively pace in Vienna in recent years. Numerous queens shake things up in the city and regularly bring new events to Vienna's stages. Organized by Grazia Patricia and Metamorkid (runner-up in the first season of "Drag Race Germany"), Club Couleur is a monthly highlight. Queens with catchy names such as Ryta Tale, Sassica Rabbit, and Candy Licious are permanent fixtures of Vienna's drag scene.
A short documentary paints a portrait of three Vienna drag queens, Grazia Patricia, Matamorkid and Ryta Tale, following them through their performances but also in more private moments:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OijnXoUmB-Y

And an LGBTIQ+ guide in the award-winning ivie app takes visitors to the city's most important LGBTIQ+ venues – from the Kaiserbründl and the Löwenherz bookshop to the iconic Village bar:
www.wien.info/de/ganz-wien/schwul-lesbisch/LGBTIQ+-guide-fuer-ivie-425260

LGBT.wien.info