The Imperial Collections of the Habsburgs
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The building of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna on Vienna’s Ringstrasse was planned and built specifically as a museum designed to house the Imperial Collections of the Habsburgs. In the late 19th century Emperor Franz Joseph created a magnificent setting for the treasures collected over 600 years by the emperors and other patrons of the House of Habsburg.

The stunning entrance hall with its grand staircase welcomes our guests and is the starting point for an experience of artworks spanning five millennia.

People all over the world appreciate our Museum and its unique art treasures as an imperial Gesamtkunstwerk.

The Kunsthistorisches Museum also comprises the Weltmuseum Wien on the opposite side of Vienna’s Ringstrasse as well as the Imperial Treasury Vienna and the Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna.

Austria’s favourite museum
The Picture Gallery at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna ranks among the most significant collections of Old Masters anywhere in the world. With such highlights of art history on show, browsing these rooms is an intellectual delight guaranteed to appeal to all the senses.

Thanks to the outstanding expertise and profound passion for collection of major patrons of the House of Habsburg, the Picture Gallery in Vienna now boasts the world’s largest collection of works by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Indeed, the *Tower of Babel* and the *Peasant Wedding* are must-see highlights of any visit.

With their sheer expressive force the large-format altarpieces by Peter Paul Rubens are utterly compelling. Other unique Flemish paintings by Anthony van Dyck and Jacob Jordaens offer an impressive insight into the diversity of the artistic output in the 17th century.

Dutch painting, too, is exquisitely represented, with the large self-portrait by Rembrandt and Jan Vermeer’s *The Art of Painting* particularly worthy of mention. The harmonious interplay of space, light and colour is unmatched and certain to enthral your guests, too.

Albrecht Dürer’s portrait of Emperor Maximilian I and his Landauer Altarpiece featuring the *Adoration of the Trinity* are impressive demonstrations of the high quality of German painting in the Renaissance.

A thousand masterpieces tell a thousand stories
The foundations for the Italian collection were laid in the mid-17th century. With some 400 masterpieces the Picture Gallery comprises one of the world’s most extensive and important collections of Venetian painting. With its atmospheric mood and multilayered narrative Giorgione’s *Three Philosophers* remains just as stunning today. Titian is represented with works dating from each of his main creative phases, with Bellini, Tintoretto and Veronese rounding off the Venetian School.

Raphael’s iconic devotional *Madonna in the Meadow* is sublimely touching in its tranquility and harmony. Giuseppe Arcimboldo’s allegorical cycles on the seasons and the elements depict captivating fantasy worlds all of their own.

The collection of works by the Caravaggisti is also second-to-none, with Caravaggio himself represented with one of his best works, *The Crowning with Thorns*. And, not least, Canaletto’s views of Vienna render life in the city in the 18th century in all its vivid vibrancy.

Nor should you miss Diego Velázquez’s moving portraits of the Infanta Margarita Teresa. His brilliant brushwork was certainly unique in its day.

A who’s who of Old Masters
The Habsburgs ruled in Austria for more than 600 years – and for most of that time they were also Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. Some were successful warlords. Others were successful politicians. Other still were successful marriage candidates. But (nearly) all were passionate collectors. They collected curiosities, exotic items from distant climes and cultures, mystical-magical objects, and the most wonderful artworks of their time.

The Saliera, or salt cellar, by Benvenuto Cellini, is arguably the most famous work at the Kunstkammer Vienna.

As you enter the Egyptian burial chamber recreated for the Egyptian and Near Eastern Collection, you discover a delightful blue hippopotamus among the burial gifts. This fine specimen is set among 6 m high stone columns in the shape of papyrus scrolls, mummies, and stone sarcophagi.

The Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities reflects three thousand years of artefacts ranging in origin from Cyprus to Greece and Ancient Rome and the territory of present-day Austria in Roman times. Feast your eyes on unique antique cameos such as Gemma Augustea, treasure troves dating from the period of the great migrations and Late Antiquity, and the collection of antique vases and Roman handicraft.

Located on the Museum’s second floor is the Coin Collection, featuring coins from the early days of monetary exchange right through to the present as well as precious medals and orders. With more than 700,000 exhibits the collection is among the five largest of its kind anywhere in the world, guaranteeing an exciting journey through (monetary) history.

Art from five millennia – from Ancient Egypt to the late 18th century
The origins of the Weltmuseum Wien’s present-day collections date back to the 16th century when Habsburg Archduke Ferdinand II of Tyrol incorporated treasures from all over the world into his own collections, including the now world-famous Mexican feather headdress. Austrian Emperor Francis I, for his part, showed great interest in voyages around the world. Indeed, in the early 19th century, he purchased the collection of legendary navigator James Cook and, on the occasion of his daughter’s betrothal to the Brazilian Crown Prince, financed an expedition to Brazil. Owning a private museum was also the life dream of Archduke Ferdinand, the last heir to the throne in the 20th century. He kept the countless treasures he purchased on his travels around the world in the *corps de logis* at the Hofburg, where the collections are still housed to this day.

The redesigned showcase collection went on display in 2017 and features fourteen distinct exhibition rooms that explore supra-regional issues in greater depth. The focus is on the unique cultural treasures from all over the world and the stories they have to tell. This glittering array, arranged like a dazzling string of pearls, now enjoys a contemporary interpretation.

The magnificent Columned Hall, a listed building, is the very core of the Weltmuseum Wien. It is open to the public, inviting visitors to spend time there and enticing them to visit the Museum itself. It also functions as a setting for the Museum’s own programmes and corporate events. What’s more, the new ‘cook café & bistro’ boasts particularly stunning views of the Columned Hall.
Vienna's Imperial Armoury is one of the best of its kind anywhere in the world, showcasing the age of chivalry and knighthood and, more specifically, the attires that knights wore in battle and at jousts and tourneys. Magnificent suits of armour, the most costly variant of fashionable clothing, decorative weapons, and tourney outfits that incorporate sophisticated technology attest to the luxury of the age and are reminders of important occasions at court: coronations, weddings, Imperial Diets, and military campaigns. A separate section is entirely given over to hunting as an important aspect of courtly life and to falconry in particular.

Across twelve showrooms, each one dedicated to a specific period in the history of Austrian music and a particular musical personality, the Collection of Historic Musical Instruments features the world of music with the internationally most renowned inventory of Renaissance and Baroque instruments. Audio guides give an impression of what these historic instruments might have sounded like, with numerous pieces of performed works. Various replicas of original instruments are also on display for visitors to play.

Entertainment at the Habsburg court: hunting, tourneys and music
In the year 800 Charlemagne was crowned the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, an empire modelled on the tradition of the Caesars in ancient Rome that was to last for more than a thousand years. As a leading ruling dynasty of the Christian Occident the Habsburgs retained the title of Holy Roman Emperors the longest. It was only in 1806, under Napoleon’s pressure, that the Empire collapsed. With commendable foresight the ruling emperor at the time, Francis II/I, founded the Austrian Empire in 1804. The Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy established in 1867 lasted until 1918.

The Imperial Treasury located in the Swiss Wing, the mediaeval section of Vienna’s Hofburg Palace, bears witness to all these events that shaped Europe into what it is today. It houses the crown jewels and insignia of these empires. The Imperial Crown, Sword, and Sceptre and other insignia constitute the most powerful symbols of the Christian Occident. And the crown of the Austrian Empire, commissioned by Emperor Rudolf II as the dynasty’s private crown around 1600, represents the imperial splendour of the Habsburg Monarchy in the 19th century.

Other highlights include the treasures of the Order of the Golden Fleece, exhibits from the Burgundian Inheritance dating back to the 15th century, and the golden throne cradle of Napoleon’s son. Also on show are delightful pieces of jewellery belonging to the Habsburg empresses and princesses, and some of Empress Elisabeth’s original jewellery. You will also be able to admire legendary treasures such as the Holy Lance dating from the 8th century, the largest polished agate bowl in the world long regarded as the Holy Grail, and the horn of the mythical ‘unicorn’.

These unique artefacts and insignia of power make the Imperial Treasury Vienna the most important treasury of its kind in the world.
The exquisite fleet on display at the Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna located in the grounds of Schönbrunn Palace is an opportunity to travel through both time and Austria’s history. Join such illustrious personalities as the Empress Maria Theresa, Napoleon and the Emperor Franz Joseph and journey through their eventful life as illustrated by their state coaches and carriages.

The prize exhibit is undoubtedly the baroque Imperial Carriage, surrounded by the Habsburgs’ other exquisite carriages, comfortable touring coaches, and quirky children’s carriages. One of the highlights is our ‘Sisi Trail’, which features not only the Empress’s own carriages but also exceptional cult objects such as her only preserved saddle, her ‘riding chapel’, and magnificent original dresses.

The coaches and carriages of emperors, and the gowns and dresses of empresses
Combine traditional Viennese coffee-house culture with a special art experience

The café-restaurant in the cupola hall of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna is one of the most beautiful in the world. The atmosphere of this magnificent imperial architecture is certain to work its magic!

Stroll through the unique collections of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna and take in the famous Saliera at the Kunstkammer or the world's largest collection of Bruegel paintings in the Picture Gallery.

Then enjoy a tasty treat at the magnificent Gallery Restaurant and savour a speciality of Viennese coffee-house culture.

The Museum’s exceptional atmosphere with its vast and valuable art treasures provides the setting for a delightful evening surrounded by breathtaking architecture.

The stylish restaurant in the cupola hall of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna welcomes you every Thursday for an exquisite evening buffet. In-between your menu’s individual courses, seize the opportunity to stroll through the Museum’s collections. If you so wish, why not take part in a guided tour and discover the world of the Imperial Collections of the Habsburgs.
Who better to mediate and educate about the Museum and its countless stories than our very own art historians? They will take you through the Museum’s highlights and divulge their exciting context.

We are also happy to organise an individual guided tour for your guests, customised to suit their preferences, or select special topics that might be dear to their hearts.

- The Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna and the Habsburgs
  Overview tour
- The world’s largest collection of Bruegels
  Picture Gallery at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
- The Habsburgs in private
  Kunstkammer at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
- The crowns and jewels of the Habsburgs
  Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna
- The coaches and carriages of emperors, and Sisi’s gowns
  Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna

We are proud to be world leaders with our selection of guided tours on offer to the blind and the visually impaired.

All the museums offer age-appropriate theme-based tours for children. They can easily be combined with hands-on experiences in our Workshops on request.

If you’re looking to harness your own creative energies, then we recommend the courses at our Workshops. An extensive programme is also on offer for children and teenagers.

Audio guides in several languages are available at all the museums and collections of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna. They provide our guests with extensive information about the art treasures of the Habsburgs, their history, and also the architecture of the Museum itself. Enclosed in the supplement is a list of the language combinations available at the individual museums of the KHM-Museumsverband.

Seeing is good; experiencing is better
Looking to add to the content of your event and surprise your guests with something truly special? If so, we are happy to open up our collections for your own exclusive use, before 10 a.m. or after 6.30 p.m.: specifically, the Picture Gallery, the Egyptian and Near Eastern Collection, the Kunstkammer, and the Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities in the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna as well as the Imperial Treasury Vienna with its famous crowns and insignia in the Hofburg. The Anthropological Ethnographic Collection of the Weltmuseum Wien with its world-famous quetzal feather headdress. Or suits of armour and historical weapons in the Imperial Armory. Also available for an exclusive guided tour are the Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna in Schönbrunn with its carriages, sleighs and sedan chairs, and the Theatermuseum featuring Klimt’s Nuda Veritas.

Invite your guests to an exclusive evening in Austria’s largest museum. With such wonderful premises and such a magnificent setting your event is certain to be a memorable experience. We are happy to fulfill all your event wishes, from a gala dinner in the imperial surroundings of the Weltmuseum Wien to concerts in the exceptional atmosphere of the Theatermuseum to receptions in the ‘walk-in work of art’ that is the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna.

So whether it’s a talk attended by an audience of 50 or a cocktail reception for 700 guests, we offer outstanding event spaces, culinary treats, and a customised programme of art and culture. Gala dinners, product launches, concerts, workshops, seminars, readings, press conferences – even civil weddings can all be held on our premises.

Events
The site is located at the very heart of Austria’s historical centre. Rarely will you experience elsewhere such a concentration of political, administrative and cultural institutions as those of Vienna’s Hofburg. Begin your visit of the Hofburg site (and sights) at the Hofburg Info Center on Heldenplatz. Here you will find out all there is to know about the wealth of buildings, treasures and exhibits that reflect Vienna’s imperial past as well as the taste and excellence that characterised imperial collecting activities.

The new Imperial Shop Vienna at the Hofburg on Vienna’s Ringstrasse offers select souvenirs and articles by former purveyors to the royal and imperial (‘k.u.k.’) court as well as traditional Viennese manufactories.

All these articles are distinctive in their Viennese charm, outstanding quality and long tradition, select products that appealed erstwhile to emperors and kings. They are designed in Austria, meticulously handcrafted to Austrian quality standards, and showcased in the imperial setting of Vienna’s Hofburg Palace. From classics to contemporary design, from bijou keepsakes to quality gifts – a little piece of Vienna to take back home with you.

The main starting point for your tour through Vienna’s Hofburg
How to find our museums

PARKING FOR BUSES AND COACHES
Drop-off and pick-up point directly in front of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna.
2-minute walk to the Weltmuseum Wien;
7-minute walk to the Imperial Treasury Vienna.

Parking bays for buses and coaches 10 minutes away on Bellariastrasse and at Schmerlingplatz. For more information: www.busguide.at

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT
By U-Bahn (underground railway): U2, U3 Volkstheater, U2 Museumsquartier, U5, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, U3 Herrengasse
By tram: D, 1, 2, 46, 49, 71, Vienna Ring Tram
By Bus: 1A, 2A, 37A

ADDRESS
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien
Maria-Theresien-Platz, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Weltmuseum Wien
Heldenplatz, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Hofburg Info Center & Imperial Shop Vienna
Hofburg, Heldenplatz, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Kaiserliche Schatzkammer Wien (Imperial Treasury Vienna)
Hofburg, Schweizerhof, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Barrier-free access is available at all the museums of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna. Complimentary wheelchair hire. See full details on our homepage www.khm.at. We’re happy to advise you!

For more information: www.busguide.at

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