

(Read download) The Rough Guide to Vienna

## The Rough Guide to Vienna

*Rob Humphreys*

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#1481104 in Books Rough Guides 2011-06-20 2011-06-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.81 x .64 x 5.131, .76 #File Name: 1848366817300 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Rob Humphreys : The Rough Guide to Vienna** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Vienna:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. VIENNA TRIPBy Thomas ErdmanI ALWAYS RELY ON A ROUGH GUIDE. IT AND A COPY OF THE DK EYEWITNESS TRAVEL GUIDES ARE MY CONSTANT SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON MY EUROPEAN TRIPS.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The best for up to 5-6 day long tripsBy A. GOLDBERGI had an opportunity to compare Rough guides to single cities

(Vienna, Prague) with others, like Fodor's, 10 things to, Lets go etc. Rough guides are most consciously written and give the best understanding of what one is looking at. The guide has excellent maps and directions on how to get to the places of interest. I won't trust too much in its restaurant guide, but that is true for any guide book. Perhaps if one has more than a week to explore a city there might not be enough information in this guide, but for anything less than that the guide has you covered. Initially rated 5\* but found such an incorrect recommendation so had to take 1\* off.

"Walkingtours" recommended in the book is a rare wastage of time and money. I got on "Jews in Vienna" tour and that was a terrible disappointment. Total walked distance was approximately 1 city block, all the history of Jews was shortened to second world war and aftermath and the the whole 2 hours were dedicated to whitewashing the role of Austria and Austrians during the war. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Informative, fun, and opinionated. By A Customer I found this book to be highly valuable in my trip to Vienna. I found the restaurant and hotel descriptions, short, useful, and (at least for the restaurants that I went to) spot-on. The guides to the various sites (Belvedere, Schoenbrunn, etc.) are also informative, and somewhat opinionated, which different readers will find either useful or irritating. All in all, definitely worth the money.

"The Rough Guide to Vienna" is the ultimate guide to one of Europe's most elegant and civilised capital cities. From the world-class art galleries and museums full of Art Nouveau and Modernist pieces to getting off the beaten track and exploring the narrow, cobbled backstreets of the Innere Stadt or the lively cafes and bars of the Naschmarkt area, this guide covers it all. Frank, incisive reviews take you straight to the best of the city's coffee houses, restaurants and nightlife venues, from the minimalist to the magnificently traditional, while tell-it-like-it-is listings help you find the right accommodation for your budget, whether that's a boutique hotel off Karlsplatz, a grand classic on the Ringstrasse, or just a perfect budget hideaway. With inspirational photography, neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood accounts and detailed, up-to-date maps, "The Rough Guide to Vienna" is the perfect companion for a weekend away or a longer city break. Make the most of your holiday with "The Rough Guide to Vienna".

The holiday-makers' favourite guidebook series The Sunday Times Travel Magazine About the Author Rob Humphreys first wrote for Rough Guides in 1989 and has since written guides to Prague, London, Czech and Slovak Republics and Moscow. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction Most people visit Vienna with a vivid image of the city in their minds: a monumental vision of Habsburg palaces, trotting white horses, old ladies in fur coats and mountains of fat cream cakes. And they're unlikely to be disappointed in this city that positively feeds off imperial nostalgia – High Baroque churches and aristocratic piles pepper the old town or Innere Stadt, monumental projects from the late nineteenth century line the Ringstrasse, and postcards of the Emperor Franz-Josef and his beautiful wife Elisabeth still sell by the sackful. Just as compelling as the old Habsburg stand-bys are the wonderful Jugendstil and early modernist buildings, products of fin-de-siècle Vienna, when the city emerged as one of Europe's great cultural centres. This was the era of Freud, Klimt, Schiele, Mahler and Schönberg, when the city's famous coffeehouses were filled with intellectuals from every corner of the empire. In a sense, this was Vienna's golden age, after which all has been in decline: with the end of the empire in 1918, the city was reduced from a metropolis of over two million, capital of a vast empire of fifty million, to one of barely more than one-and-a-half million, federal capital of a small country of just eight million souls. Given the city's twentieth-century history, it's hardly surprising that the Viennese are as keen as anyone to continue plugging the good old days. This is a place, not unlike Berlin, which has had the misfortune of serving as a weather vane of European history. Modern anti-Semitism as a politically viable force was invented here, in front of Hitler's very eyes, in the first decade of the century. It was the assassination of an arrogant Austrian archduke that started World War I, while the battles between Left and Right fought out in the streets of Vienna mirrored those in Berlin in the 1930s. The weekend Hitler enjoyed his greatest electoral victory in the Reichstag was the day the Austrians themselves invented Austro-fascism. In 1938, the country became the first victim of Nazi expansion, greeting the Führer with delirious enthusiasm. And after the war, for a decade, Vienna was divided, like Berlin, into French, American, British and Soviet sectors. The visual scars from this turbulent history are few and far between – even Hitler's sinister Flacktürme are confined to the suburbs – but the destruction of the city's once enormous Jewish community is a wound that has proved harder to heal. Vienna's Jewish intellectuals and capitalists were the driving force behind much of the city's fin-de-siècle culture. Little surprise then, that the city has since struggled to live up to its glorious past achievements. After the war Vienna lost its cosmopolitan character and found itself stuck in a monocultural straightjacket. Since the end of the Cold War, however, this has begun to change, with a second wave of immigrants from the former provinces of the old empire. Whether Vienna will learn to accept its new, multicultural identity remains to be seen. For all its problems, Vienna is still an inspiring city to visit, with one of the world's greatest art collections in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, world-class orchestras, and a superb architectural heritage. It's also an eminently civilized place, clean, safe (for the most part) and peopled by a courteous population who do their best to live up to their reputation for Gemütlichkeit or cosiness. And despite its ageing population, it's also a city with a lively nightlife, of late opening Musikcafés and drinking holes. Even Vienna's traditional restaurants, long famous for quantity over quality, have discovered innovative methods of cooking and presentation, and are now

supplemented by a wide range of ethnic restaurants. When to go Lying at the centre of Europe, Vienna experiences the extremes of temperature typical of a continental climate with hot summers and correspondingly cold winters. In terms of weather, therefore, late spring and early autumn are by far the best times to visit. There are other reasons, too, for avoiding July and August in particular, as this is when many of the city's theatres and concert halls close down. Sure, there's enough cultural activity to keep the tourists amused, but the Viennese tend to get the hell out. In contrast, Christmas and New Year are peak season in Vienna. Not only does the city look great in the snow – and you can be sure that the Viennese are very efficient about keeping the paths clear – but also the ball season, known as Fasching, gets underway, along with the glittering Christmas markets, and, of course, the world-famous New Year's Day concert.