

CONNECTION

This English Section appears bi-weekly Edited by : Wendy Y.C. Yeh

Profile

Fall in Love with Vienna (2)



Vienna has stood for centuries as the easternmost city of the West. The beautiful city of Vienna used to be the capital of the once-spectacular Habsburg Empire. For a tourist like me, this city is the sum of its illustrious past culturally and historically. Its grandness and elegance is as fascinating as Beijing, Paris, London, and Rome.

When I was strolling between the city's four most important landmarks: St. Stephen's Cathedral, Hofburg Imperial Palace, Schonbrunn Palace, and the Vienna State Opera, I was intrigued by the different styles of architecture. It also helped me to witness how the old meets the new.

The Vienna State Opera was originally called Vienna Court Opera. This project started in 1861 and the building was completed in 1869. Its Neo-Renaissance style is both classic

and modern.

Vienna's Hofburg Imperial Palace is one of the biggest palace complexes in the world. The oldest parts date back to the 13th century, with construction having continued into the 20th century. The Palace was the residence and seat of government of the Habsburg emperors until 1918. Today, it is home to several museums, a congress center, and the seat of the Austrian Federal President.

Schonbrunn Palace is a former imperial summer residence in Vienna. The baroque details of the 1,441-room palace were amazing to see.

Travelling on the tram, bus, and train are pleasant and easy ways to get around Vienna. Known as the S-Bahn, the Schnellbahn (Fast Train) is recognizably its blue and white logo.

Churches have been a significant presence in Austria. St. Stephen's Cathedral is located right at the center of Vienna. It was built around the year of 1,300. According to the medieval vision of its creators, this cathedral stands like a giant jewel, offering praise to God from the center of

the city. Its place in Viennese history is as significant today as it was in centuries past. St. Stephen's Cathedral and its towers, especially the 450-foot south tower, give the city its most iconic image.

The impressive exterior and its colorful roof are among its most important highlights. The frilly, skyscraping spire of this massive Gothic church is hard to be missed. The cathedral has survived Vienna's many wars and today symbolizes the city's spirit and love of freedom.

A trip to Vienna is a journey into the human heart and mind. Every town offers insight into ancient cultures and exquisite artistic talents. Not only could I see iconic masterworks hanging inside galleries and museums, but I could actually visit the places that inspired the artists' works.

The best part of traveling to Vienna is "everything." As I learn about its story, I fall in love with the elegant Vienna. And then, too soon, I am on my way back home until next trip, that is.



▲ St. Stephen's Church gives Vienna its most iconic image



▲ the most recognizable sculpture at the Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna



▲ in front of the magnificent Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna, Austria



▲ arriving at the Vienna International Airport

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