



CICERONI
T R A V E L

THE HABSBURGS ART & MUSIC IN VIENNA

SUNDAY 24 – SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2027 (7 DAYS)

LECTURERS: TOM DUNCAN & INGRID SAWERTHAL

£3435

- **Comprehensive introduction to one of Europe's most important cities**
- **Comfortable 4* hotel in historic centre within easy walking distance of museums**
- **Guided visits of the fabled Kunsthistorisches Museum**
- **Private visit to the Lichtenstein Collection**
- **Opportunity to attend Opera, Ballet & Concert performances**



Bruegel the Elder, *The Hunters in the Snow*, Vienna KHM

OVERVIEW

During the course of more than three centuries Vienna was the capital of one of the great European empires, that of the Austrian Habsburgs. Austria had long been their home, yet the family acquired land throughout Europe, partly through conquest but more cunningly through dynastic connections and inheritance. One 16th century diplomat put it succinctly: “You, Oh France, may acquire lands through war but the Habsburg territories grow through Love!”

When the Emperor Charles V split the family territories into two great entities in 1556, governed separately from Madrid and Vienna, the future for this Austrian city was assured as it became the heart of the Habsburg Holy Roman Empire. As the focus of Imperial patronage, the city grew rapidly, reflecting an elegant mixture of architectural styles. These drew on the influence of nearby Italy whilst retaining a faint air of eastern mystery, reflecting both the brooding threat from, and the equal attractions of, the Ottoman Turks.

Our six-day visit will be the ideal introduction to Vienna, concentrating on its evolution as an Imperial capital through an exploration of its architecture, art collections and musical culture. The visit will be jointly led by one of Vienna's most experienced (and charming) English-speaking guides, Ingrid Sawerthal, and Tom Duncan.

We shall stay at the comfortable 4* Hotel Ambassador, located within the historic centre and a short walk from both St Stephen's Cathedral and the Staatsoper. Given that almost all the sites we shall visit are close to our hotel, most of our time will be spent either on foot or using the excellent tram system, and **not** in a coach.

Music will play an integral, though optional, part of this visit and we have left most evenings free so that participants can enjoy the city's rich musical life. The Vienna State Opera will include a solo recital by world renowned Tenor/Baritone, **Jonas Kaufmann**, Verdi's *Don Carlos* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Day 1: Sunday 24 January – We fly from Heathrow with BA and on arrival in Vienna we will be met by our local guide, Ingrid Sawerthal. There will be an orientation tour of the city along the **Ringstrasse** ending at our hotel close to the Staatsoper. There will be a group dinner that evening – wine, water and coffee are included with group lunches and dinners.

Day 2: Monday 25 January – We begin at the **Capuchin Crypt** which holds the tombs of many generations of the Habsburg family. This mausoleum for the Austrian branch of the family will be an apt introduction to the family after which we continue to the nearby **Hofburg** - an enormous complex of buildings occupying much of the old city centre. The earliest section is the **Alte Burg**, begun in 1275 as a fortress. The main sites here are the **Burghapelle**, built in the mid 15th century, much altered.

There is also the **Sacred and Secular Treasures** which contains many of the jewelled treasures of the Habsburgs. After a group lunch we visit the next section of the Hofburg, **In der Burg** to visit the **Imperial Apartments**, now given over to mementoes from the later Habsburgs. We return to our hotel via the **Spanish Riding School** for a guided tour (but not a performance) and the evening will be free.

Day 3: Tuesday 26 January – We walk to the **Cathedral of St Stephen**, a magnificent example of medieval architecture. We continue to the **Ringstrasse** to visit the **Karlskirche**, one of the city's fine Baroque churches by Fischer von Erlach. We end the morning at the famous **Secession Building**, erected in 1898 by Joseph Olbrich, which contains Klimt's famous frieze celebrating Beethoven. After a pause for a group lunch, we visit the **Kunsthistorisches Museum** for our first of three visits. This is undoubtedly one of Europe's finest art galleries and we begin with the recently restored **Kunstammer**, which contains the personal collections of the family, the perfect introduction to generations of avid art collectors. We return to our hotel and the evening will be free. Tonight's performance at the Vienna State Opera will be a solo recital by world renowned tenor/baritone, **Jonas Kaufmann**.

Day 4: Wednesday 27 January – This morning we take a tram to visit the **Belvedere Palace**, a stunning Baroque ensemble built in two stages for Prince Eugene of Savoy by the greatest architect of the day, Lucas von Hildebrandt. We concentrate on the Upper Belvedere Palace with its commanding views of the city, now the home of the **Österreichische Galerie**. It contains a marvellous collection of paintings by Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and their contemporaries. We return to the **Kunsthistorisches Museum** for a group lunch, after which we continue our tour of the collection, and we concentrate on the Italian paintings. These are *exceptionally* good and many of the "plums" were once owned by Charles I and some of his courtiers. Dispersed after the Civil War, they were purchased by the then Governor of the Spanish Netherlands, Archduke Leopold von Habsburg and subsequently incorporated into the Imperial collections. We return to the hotel and the evening will be free. Tonight's performance at the Vienna State Opera will be Verdi's **Don Carlos**.

Day 5: Thursday 28 January – We start our day at the **Lichtenstein Palace Museum**. The Lichtenstein princes have always owned vast properties in Austria. At the outbreak of World War II the family secretly removed their famous paintings collection to Vaduz, nestled amidst the Swiss/Austrian Alps. Many of these have been returned to Vienna and we have arranged for a private tour of the palace and its collections. Late morning we return to the **Hofburg** to visit the **Imperial State Library**, also by Fischer von Erlach. Lunch is not included today and the afternoon and evening will be free for independent exploration, perhaps to **Schönbrunn Palace**, the summer residence of the Habsburgs? Tonight's performance at the Vienna State Opera will be Mozart's **Don Giovanni**.

Day 6: Friday 29 January – We walk the short distance to the little known **Gemäldegalerie** of the Fine Art Academy. This is a small collection but it contains masterpieces by Bosch, Van Dyck and many others. We continue to the nearby **Kunsthistorisches Museum** for our final visit, concentrating on the non-Italian schools. The undoubted highlights will be the famous landscapes by Brueghel (including *Hunters in the Snow*) and very fine works by Rubens, Van Dyck and Rembrandt. There will be time for lunch in the museum (not included) and later that evening we have a group dinner in a restaurant close to our hotel.

Day 7: Saturday 30 January – After a leisurely check out we depart for the airport for our return flight to Heathrow.

Opera in Vienna: If you would like to attend the Vienna State Opera for one of the performances mentioned above, please contact the office as soon as possible and we shall endeavour to hold tickets for you.

PRACTICALITIES

Price £3435 **Price without flights** £3235 **Deposit** £495 **Single Supplement** £535 (Double for Sole Use)

Hotel 6 nights with breakfast at the 4* Hotel Ambassador. DSU Classics & Couples/Two sharing in Business Rooms

Flights British Airways

Outward: **BA694** Depart London Heathrow (Terminal 3) **1025** arrive Vienna **1345**

Return: **BA695** Depart Vienna **1450** arrive London Heathrow (Terminal 3) **1615**

Price includes 2 dinners & 3 lunches with wine, water & coffee, all local transfers, entry fees & gratuities, services of Tom Duncan & Ingrid Sawerthal

Not included Travel to/from Heathrow, 4 dinners & 3 lunches, Opera, Ballet & Concert Tickets



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