

9.00AM

Walking in the shadows of the spires and steeples of the famed **St Stephen's Cathedral** (Stephansplatz 3 **Opens** 6am-10pm, Mon-Sat; 7am-10pm, Sun www.stephanskirche.at), famous for its classical music concerts, is the perfect way to start your Viennese day. It's a Gothic masterpiece sure to whet your appetite for the regal architecture of the city.

Tackling the 343 steps of the **Südturm** (South Tower) to the viewing platform is also rewarding; this has uninterrupted views across the vivacious heart of Vienna. Inside the church itself, the Gothic and Baroque artwork is astounding but perhaps not more so than the cathedral's gem, the **Catacombs** (**Opens** 10am-5pm daily).

10.30AM

A mere two-minute walk east of St Stephen's Cathedral is the **Mozarthauss** (Domgasse 5 **Opens** 10am-7pm daily www.mozarthaussvienna.at), the only one of Mozart's residential apartments in Vienna still in existence today. The charming residence houses a museum dedicated to showcasing the composer's lifestyle between 1784 and 1787. The collection also aims to give a thorough overview of his music and times, with exhibits spread out over three floors.

12.00PM

Vienna's chicest pedestrian thoroughfare is **Kärntnerstrasse**, heading south from St Stephen's Cathedral, where

you will witness the Viennese at play in their natural habitat. Pull up a seat at the stately **Gernster Café** (www.gernster.at). Munch on gorgeous apple strudel, then enjoy a typically Viennese cheese Danish accompanied by an *einspänner*, a double mocha topped with a healthy layer of whipped cream. Wander down the heart of Kärntnerstrasse for a spot of people watching and shopping in the chain stores and quirky boutiques of Vienna.

1.30PM

Vienna is synonymous with the melodic styling of many of the world's most revered composers such as Mozart and Schubert, and it would be a sin to leave the city without revelling in its



(Clockwise from left)
The Vienna State Opera;
a statue of Johann
Strauss; apple strudel



Venerable Vienna

Spend a day in this European capital of music and indulge in all things dedicated to classical compositions, stately churches and an iconic dessert.

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musical history. Not far from the end of Kärntnerstrasse is the Hofburg and its collection of ancient musical instruments at the famed **Sammlung Alter Musikinstrumente** (**Opens** 10am-6pm, Tues-Sun; until 9pm on Thurs; closed Mon www.khm.at). Appreciate the extensive collection of instruments of all shapes and sizes, arranged in rooms themed according to various composers, and marvel at instruments once played by the likes of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven.

3.00PM

The rest of the stately **Hofburg Palace** (**Opens** 9am-5.30pm daily www.hofburg-wien.at) is a must-see. It is a building of mythic proportions built progressively from the 13th to 20th centuries and was the home of the Habsburgs for most of that time. The architecture is a testament to the riches of the Austrian monarchs and their predisposition to decadence of untold magnitude. Dedicate a few hours to the Palace in order to do it justice, and plan to return on a Sunday morning for the Vienna Boys' Choir services in the Royal Chapel.

5.30PM


Head north and delve into the complicated relationship between Beethoven and his beloved Vienna. Though not born in Austria, he spent a whopping 35 years in the city and it is said he moved apartments around 70 times. One of those, which he occupied for a full eight years, is the **Beethoven Pasqualatihaus** (**Opens** 10am-6pm, Tues-Sun; closed Mon www.wienmuseum.at). It was here that he composed his 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th symphonies. The museum contains the composer's personal artefacts and documents as well as what is perhaps the most famous portrait of him, dating from the early 1800s.

7.00PM

The State Opera (Opernring 2 www.wiener-staatsoper.at) reinforces Vienna's status as being at the forefront of imperial architecture and has hosted some of the most magnificent concert performances in the city. Enjoy a Mozart concert here and marvel at the simply mind-boggling circular interior, with its multiple levels and sense of intimacy.

9.00PM

Dine at a local institution, the **Zum Weissen Rauchfangkehrer** (Weihburggasse 4 **Opens** Daily for lunch and dinner, except Tues-Wed for dinner only www.weisser-rauchfangkehrer.at), one of the oldest restaurants in Vienna. It was once owned by Franz Sacher, the creator of the infamous Viennese Sacher torte, a staple desert consisting of dense layers of chocolate and a layer of apricot jam. The atmosphere evokes a sense of old Vienna, with wooden wall panels and dim lighting. The menu changes often and, at times, the Sacher torte is removed for want of variety. If so, finish off your meal with the gorgeous chestnut parfait with sour cherry ragout. After your meal, head to the dubiously named **Bermuda Triangle**, an area around Schwedenplatz full of chic bars, live music haunts and trendy nightclubs. ☑

 Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur (KUL) to Vienna (VIE) via codeshare flights from Rome (FCO)

