



VIENNA, AUSTRIA HISTORIC TRAIL



FIELD GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Field Guide contains information on the Vienna Historical Trail designed by a members of Troop 427 of Vienna. The guide is intended to be a starting point in your endeavor to learn about the history of the sites on the trail. Remember, this may be the only time your Scouts visit Vienna in their life so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to Admin@tac-bsa.org or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/>.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover: MariaTheresienplatz

Front Cover Inset: Staatsoper (State Opera House)



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GETTING PREPARED.....	4
WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL.....	5
HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE.....	6-15
TRAIL MAP.....	16-17
QUICK QUIZ.....	18
B.S.A. REQUIREMENTS.....	19
NOTES.....	20-23



GETTING PREPARED

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.

1. Review this Field Guide in detail.
2. Check local conditions and weather.
3. Study and Practice with the map and compass.
4. Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.
5. Take plenty of water.
6. Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.
7. Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."
8. Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.
9. Ensure Two-Deep Leadership at all times.
10. Check the Quick Quiz and keep it with you on the trail.



WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

While much has happened in Europe since the original Vienna Historic Trail was established by Troop 427 in 1989, the city of Vienna still maintains its old fashioned charms and history. No longer is Vienna along the Iron Curtain, now it sits in a central location making it a great destination for visitors from all around Europe.

Although there are numerous places to visit in Vienna, one "must" which is not part of this historical trail is the Schönbrunn Palace – a magnificent creation of Fischer von Erlach. It is accessible easily by Vienna's excellent public transportation. (Take the subway from any station along the Ring -- the U2 line -- and transfer at Karlsplatz to the U4-Hütteldorf line, exiting at the Schönbrunn Station). Allow at least a half day for the guided interior tour of the palace and a brief stroll in the formal gardens and/or the palace zoo.

We hope you enjoy this trail and don't forget to try an original Wiener Schnitzel at one of the many restaurants along the way!

Gute Reise! – Have a nice trip!



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Hike

Where and How to Start

Gruß Gott! The hike starts at the Rathaus Park in downtown Vienna and wanders through the historic center of Vienna. Take the U2 subway line to the Rathaus Station. Meet on the square in front (east side) of the Vienna City Hall. A more precise meeting point is in front of the "Rathausman", a replica of the figure atop the bell tower which was produced by Alexander Nehr in 1882.

Distance and Time

This hike measures about 6 km in distance. Experienced adult hikers completed the route in about three hours, stopping at each location to view the site. Younger and less-experienced hikers, and those who wish to take more time, will take longer, perhaps a half-day or more. Take the time to learn and enjoy the hike. The goal is the trail, not the finish.



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

START – Rathausplatz (City Hall Square)

The **square** in which you now stand is often the site of festive occasions, including the famous Christmas market, the Spring city festival, flower shows, summer concerts, and sports rallies.

The **Neue Rathaus** (new city hall) was constructed between 1872-1883 and its neo-Gothic construction was designed by architect Friedrich Schmidt. Schmidt named his project “Saxa loquuntur” (“Stone will speak”). The Rathaus was opened in 1883, the 200th anniversary of the last Turkish Siege.

48°12'36.4"N 16°21'30.7"E – Rathausplatz 1, 1010 Wien

Go to the north end of Rathaus Park, the opposite side of where the "Rathausman" is standing. Walk down the lane which opens between two half circles of benches.

Checkpoint #2 – Scout Plaque

A plaque, entitled "Altpfadfinder Welttreffen 1973", commemorates a world gathering of Scouts. Located in the north section of Rathaus Park, this small monument was placed by one of the national Scouting organizations in Austria.

48°12'43.0"N 16°21'35.3"E – Rathausplatz, 1010 Wien

Walk to the center of the Rathausplatz, facing the Ringstraße (ring street), the busy street separating City Hall from the National Theater. Note: The Ringstraße is dedicated to different people and monuments. This segment is named Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring.



HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #3 – Hofburgtheatre (National Theater)

The **Hofburgtheater**, designed by Gottfried Semper and Karl von Hasenauer, was completed in 1888 and partially reconstructed, due to bombardment, at the end of World War II. Standing opposite the theater, you can see the names of the foremost Austrian, German, and other European playwrights. The Austrians are Hebbel, Grillparzer, and Friedrich Halm; the Germans are Lessing, Goethe, and Schiller. Other Europeans depicted are Calderon, Shakespeare, and Molière. This theater is known throughout Europe for its important presentations of German-speaking dramatic arts.

48°12'37.4"N 16°21'39.0"E – Universitätsring 2, 1010 Wien

Turn right, walk south along the Ringstraße. This segment is named Dr. Karl Renner-Ring.

Checkpoint #4 – Parliament

Completed by Theophil Hansen in 1883, the Parliament represents Greek Revival architecture. The centerpiece of the beautiful fountain, by Karl Kundmann in 1902, is the statue of Athena – the Greek goddess of wisdom. Parliament houses the National Council (the lower house of elected representatives) and the Federal Council (the upper house of regional delegates).

48°12'28.5"N 16°21'35.0"E – Dr.-Karl-Renner-Ring 3, 1017 Wien

Continue south along the Ringstraße, crossing the streetcar lane at the southern end of the Parliament. At the tip of a small park, you will see a memorial with three statues.



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #5 – Founding Fathers Memorial

This **memorial**, founded on 12 November 1918, is dedicated to the founders of Austria's First Republic: Jakob Reumann, Viktor Adler, and Ferdinand Hanusch. The First Republic reigned from 1918 through 1938.

48°12'25.4"N 16°21'33.6"E – Schmerlingplatz, 1010 Wien

Continue south along the Ringstraße, which will soon change its name from Dr. Karl Renner-Ring to Burgring.

Checkpoint #6 – Maria Theresienplatz

The woman who you see sitting on a grand pedestal is **Maria Theresa** (1740-1780), the only female monarch to rule Austria. To her left (your right) is the Natural History Museum. To her right is the Fine Arts Museum. Between 1872 and 1881, Semper was in charge of the exterior design; von Hasenauer, the interiors. Both museums are well worth your visit, time permitting. Allow at least two hours for each visit (art lovers can spend an entire day in the Fine Arts Museum). Group rates are available upon request.

48°12'16.5"N 16°21'39.3"E – Burgring 5, 1010 Wien

Turn your back to the statue of Maria Theresa and look across the Ringstraße (facing north-east) to the grand Hofburg Palace. Cross the Ringstraße at the cross-walk and walk to the Burgtor.

Checkpoint #7 – Burgtor (Palace Gates)

Although this majestic entrance resembles a Roman ruin, the Burgtor was built only in 1824 in honor of Emperor Franz I.

48°12'20.0"N 16°21'45.0"E – Heldenplatz 21/4, 1010 Wien

Walk through the Burgtor into Heldenplatz.



HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #8 – Heldenplatz

To the right is the newest wing of the Hofburg Palace, referred to as NeueBurg. This wing, part of which is open to the public, houses one of the most important collections of armor and medieval weapons in the world. The balcony of this wing became famous after Adolf Hitler delivered an address to the Austrian population on 15 March, 1938. You will see two equestrian monuments in **Heldenplatz**. One depicts Prince Eugene of Savoy astride a horse. Across the road, Archduke Karl riding a horse. But notice -- this is the only equestrian monument in the world, of like material, which is supported only by two hind legs (and not the tail of the horse)!

48°12'23.4"N 16°21'48.6"E – Heldenplatz, 1010 Wien

Continue through the passage (north-east) under the Hofburg Palace into Franzenplatz. Here is a monument to Emperor Franz II, behind which you will see a sundial, hour clock, and lunar clock. (There are public restrooms in this square if needed.)

Checkpoint #9 – Schweizer-Hof (Swiss Door)

To the right, you will see one of the oldest sections of the palace, called the Swiss Gate. Named for the Swiss Guards who protected the royal family centuries ago, it was built in 1553. Through this gate, you may visit the palace chapel where the Vienna Choir Boys sing early Sunday mornings, as well as the Imperial Treasury. Tickets must be purchased in advance for entrance to the chapel, but the Treasury is open to the public and is highly recommended. Among the treasures are the famous jeweled imperial crowns of the Holy Roman Empire which dates back to the year 962!

48°12'25.4"N 16°21'55.4"E – In der Burg, 1010 Wien

Returning to Franzenplatz, continue through the passage under the Hofburg Palace (always north-east) until you enter a large rotunda.



HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #10 – Imperial Apartments

On either side of this rotunda are entrances to the **Imperial Apartments**, where the emperors of the Austrian Empire resided. A visit to at least one set of the apartments -- which display the daily life of Emperor Francis Joseph and his wife Empress Elizabeth is recommended and group rates are available on request. The ticket office of the Spanish Riding School is also located in this rotunda.

48°12'27.4"N 16°21'57.5"E – Michaelerkuppel, 1010 Wien

From the rotunda, leave the Hofburg Palace (walking, as before, north-east) to enter Michaela-Platz. You have now entered the historical center of Vienna and should be standing in front of St. Michael's Church, which was the church used by the Court members other than the Imperial family.

Checkpoint #11 – Michaelskirche (St. Michael's Church)

St. Michael's Church is older than the Chapel of the Imperial Chapel. Parts of the church were constructed as early as 1327. Lorenzo Mattielli sculpted the powerful St. Michael on top of the entrance. There are also catacombs in the basement of the church.

48°12'29.2"N 16°22'01.0"E – Michaelerplatz 4-5, 1010 Wien

From Michaelerplatz, walk (north-east) up Kohlmarkt. This street, named after the former coal market, is one of the oldest streets in Vienna. You will see Demel's, an historic coffee house which may too tempting to pass! At the end of Kohlmarkt, turn right (south-east) into Graben towards the Plague Memorial. You will pass by St. Peter's Church.



HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #12 – Pestsau (Plague or Trinity Column)

Approximately 100,000 citizens of Vienna died during the Black Plague in 1679. As a monument to the victims, Emperor Leopold I commissioned Burnacini and other leading artisans to sculpt this **70-foot stone column** in the Baroque style between the years 1682 and 1693.

48°12'31.5"N 16°22'11.2"E – Graben 27, 1010 Wien

Continue up the Graben to Stephansplatz. Before entering St. Stephen's Cathedral, descend into the Stephansplatz U-Bahn (subway) Station and proceed to the early Gothic Virgilkapelle (St. Virgil's Chapel). The underground ruins of a crypt which was buried over 200 years ago and the small adjoining museum give an historical perspective of this area.

Checkpoint #13 – Stephansplatz (St. Stephen's Square)

The construction of **St. Stephen's Cathedral** began in the 12th century, before the birth of the Habsburg reign. During the closing days of World War II, bombs destroyed the original roof and fire gutted the cathedral. All of Austria sent contributions (including a new bell for the capped North tower from Upper Austria) and the cathedral was reopened in 1948.

At the right, rear corner outside of the cathedral, you can enter the Turmbesteigung (South Tower), which was completed in 1433. From the tower, you will have a fantastic view of Vienna. The climb consists 343 steps and takes about 30 minutes. The price per person is under a dollar and group rates are available on request. The North Tower, which houses the largest bell in Austria, also has an observation platform and is accessible by elevator.

If you want to take a meal break at this time, many small restaurants, sausage stands and coffee houses are available in this pedestrian district. (continued on next page)



HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #13 – Stephansplatz (cont.)

48°12'30.5"N 16°22'20.4"E – Stephansplatz 1, 1010 Wien

Leaving the tower of the St. Stephen's, walk along Churhausgasse, and then turn left immediately into Singerstraße. Several historic buildings are located on Singerstraße: Deutschordenskirche (Church of the Teutonic Order) – a 13th century house of the Order of Teutonic Knights; the Neupauer-Breuner Palace, built in 1716; and the Rottal Palace, constructed around 1750.

Continue all the way along Singerstraße, which turns slightly onto Seilerstätte and Liebenberggasse, to the Ringstraße – named, at this point, Parkring. Turn right, walk up to the Marriott Hotel (which, by the way, houses the U.S. consulate offices), cross Parkring, and enter the Stadtpark (City Park).

Checkpoint #14 – Stadt Park (City Park)

This is an excellent location to relax and to enjoy lunch if you carried a brown bag. The **park** is famous because of the Johann Strauss Memorial – a perfect spot for a photograph of your group. From Easter until October, you can enjoy sounds of Johann Straus and a cup of "mélange" (coffee and cream) at the attractive café, Hübner's Kursalon.

48°12'13.3"N 16°22'41.4"E – Johannesgasse 33, 1010 Wien

Leave the park and return to Parkring. Proceed up the ring (south-west) which becomes Schubert ring – until you reach a busy intersection on Schwarzenbergstraße. As you cross onto the island in front of McDonald's Restaurant, look to your left. You will see the Russian War Memorial, a monument protected by the State Treaty of 1945. Behind the memorial is the Schwarzenberg Palace which today houses one of the most expensive hotels in Europe. (continued on next page)



HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #14 – Stadt Park (City Park) (cont.)

The Ring now turns to the right (north-east). Take a left on the first street after Schwarzenbergstraße, on the street named Canovergasse. You will walk past the Imperial Hotel (Vienna's equivalence of Washington DC's Blair House, where visiting presidents and kings are lodged), and the Musikverein (designed by Hansen), where the famous Vienna Philharmoniker performs. Cross a dual-lane road, Friedrichstraße, and proceed alongside the bicycle path to Karlsplatz.

Checkpoint #15 – Karlsplatz (St. Charles' Square)

You will notice immediately the impressive Karlskirche (Church of St. Charles Borromeo). Another memorial to those who died in a plague (this epidemic in 1713), this Baroque church was begun by the renown Fischer von Erlach in 1716. There is a Henry Moore sculpture in the reflecting pool in front of the church.

48°11'57.1"N 16°22'16.5"E – Karlsplatz, Resselpark, 1010 Wien

From the front staircase of Karlskirche, look straight out toward the Otto Wagner Pavilion (a Karlsplatz street car stop – an example of this architecture's 19th Century "Art Deco" creation.) Under the pavilion is an underground opening. Walk past this opening to the next, known as the Opernpassage. Enter the underground shopping mall and continue all the way to the other end under the Ring.

This is a good location to have a cup of coffee, shop for postcards, buy a hot dog, purchase theater tickets, make a phone call, or simply get out of the rain.

At the opposite end of the long Opernpassage, ascend the escalator under the sign "Opernring." Surface at the Opera House.



HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Checkpoint #16 – Staatsoper (State Opera House)

The **opera house** was designed by August von Siccardsburg and Eduard van der Nüll. It was inaugurated in 1869 with a performance of Mozart's "Don Giovanni". Partially destroyed by bombs during World War II, the Opera opened once again in 1955, with Beethoven's "Fidelio." Directors of this opera house have included: Gustav Mahler, Richard Strauss, and Lorin Maazel. Every, year at the end of "Carnival" (pre-Lent), this house is the host of the famous Opera Ball.

NOTE: If this is the "royal tour" (and you are carrying enough Euros!) you may want to stop at the Hotel Sacher (located directly behind the Opera House) for a piece the world-known "Sachertorte."

48°12'09.7"N 16°22'09.8"E – Opernring 2, 1010 Wien

From the front of the Opera House, walk up the Ring, this section appropriately named Opernring (north-west). You will pass three important monuments in this direction: a sitting statue of Goethe -- the foremost German-language author; a statue of Schiller facing Goethe across the Ring in front of the Academy of Fine Arts; and a superb memorial to Mozart -- another fantastic group-photograph opportunity.

Final Checkpoint #17 – Mozart Memorial

The **Mozart statue** is located in the Burggarten where you will see, once again, the huge Imperial Palace (Hofburg). This statue was sculpted by Viktor Tilgner in 1896.

48°12'14.6"N 16°21'53.0"E – Josefsplatz 1, 1010 Wien

If you continue up the Ringstraße, you will recognize the Burgtor (Stop #7) and, across the Ring, Maria Theresien Platz (Stop #6). If you haven't already, this is a chance to visit any of the museums previously mentioned in this area. The Ring will bring you back to the starting point on Rathausplatz. We who live in Vienna hope that you've had a delightful taste of this city's history, activity, and charm.





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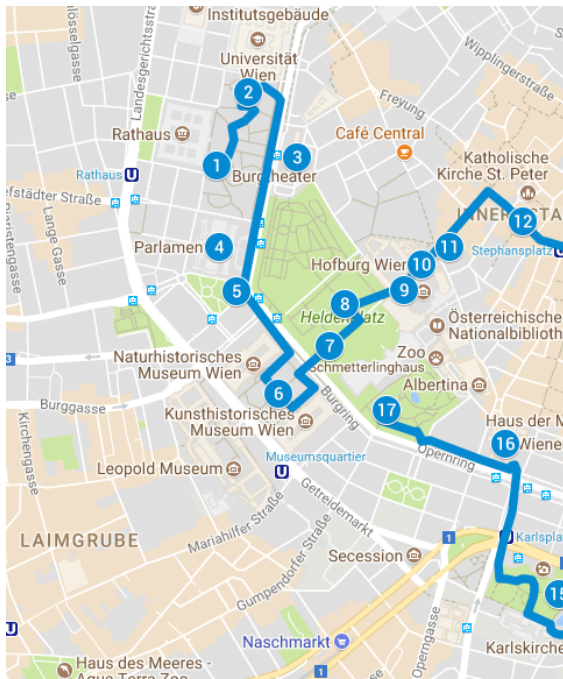
4



5



6



7



8



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

TRAIL ROUTE MAP



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

HISTORIC TRAIL QUIZ

1. The Rathaus (City Hall) was opened in 1883 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of which event? _____
2. The names of many playwrights are written on the walls of the Hofburgtheatre. How many can you remember? _____
3. What Greek goddess is represented in the beautiful fountain in front of Parliament? _____
4. For how long did Austria's First Republic reign? _____
5. Who was the only female monarch to rule Austria? _____
6. Can you remember the names of the two men on the equestrian monuments located in Heldenplatz? _____
7. Which famous group sings in the chapel of the Hofburg Palace on Sunday mornings? _____
8. The Pestsau (Trinity Column) was erected in the center of Vienna to memorialize the victims of which tragic event in 1679? _____
9. Construction of St. Stephen's Cathedral was begun during which century? _____
10. A memorial to which musician is displayed prominently in the Stadtpark (City Park)? _____
11. The Staatsoper (State Opera House) was inaugurated in 1869 with a performance of which opera? _____
12. What is the capital of Austria, in the German language? _____
13. What is the name of Vienna's major river? _____
14. How many of the nine provinces of Austria can you identify? _____
15. Which nations border Austria? _____

Answers on page 23



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

BSA REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the Vienna Historic Trail may complete the following Requirements:

Cub Scouts:

Tiger:

My Tiger Jungle
Tigers in the Wild
Tiger Tales

Req 1
Req 1, 2, 4
Req 7

Wolf:

Paws on the Path
Finding Your Way

Req 1-5
Req 4

Bear:

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns
Paws for Action

Req 1
Req 2B

Webelos:

Webelos Walkabout

Req 1-6



Scouts BSA:

Tenderfoot:

Req 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c

Second Class:

Req 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 6c

First Class:

Req 4a, 4b



*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
HISTORIC TRAIL

NOTES



[illegible]

[illegible]

NOTES

Quiz Answers: 1) Turkish Siege. 2) The Austrians are Hebbel, Grillparzer, and Friedrich Halm; the Germans are Lessing, Goethe, and Schiller. Other Europeans depicted are Calderon, Shakespeare, and Moliere. 3) Athena. 4) 20 years, from 1918-1938. 5) Maria-Theresa. 6) Prince Eugene of Savoy and Archduke Karl. 7) Vienna Choir Boys. 8) Black Plague. 9) 12th Century. 10) Johann Strauß. 11) Mozart's "Don Giovanni." 12) Wien. 13) The Danube. 14) Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg Province, Styria, Tirol, Vorarlberg, and Vienna. 15) Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, and Slovenia.



This Historic Trail was put together by Troop 427, Vienna, Austria in 1989.

Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org> or by scanning the QR Code below.



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