

LGBT Vienna

Vienna can look back on a diverse LGBT history: visitors can find out about the gay general Prince Eugen, the beautiful Empress Sisi and the gay brother of Emperor Franz Joseph. The city has also evolved into an important community hotspot in Central Europe, which impresses not only with imperial flair and world-famous art but also with cool parties and excellent establishments for LGBT people.

The Baroque Belvedere Palace is a must-see destination for all gay and lesbian visitors to Vienna. Not only because Gustav Klimt's world-famous painting the "Kiss" can be marveled at there but also because it was the summer residence of the gay field marshal Prince Eugen of Savoy (1663-1736). There is a fantastic view of Vienna with its imperial center from here: the Imperial Palace (with Sisi Museum), Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, MuseumsQuartier, Vienna State Opera, Albertina, Parliament, City Hall, Burgtheater, and St. Stephen's Cathedral bear witness to the imperial glory of times gone by. Those seeking something even more ostentatious should head straight for Schönbrunn Palace. The Habsburgs resided here mostly during the summer months, enjoyed the adjacent park, and established the world-famous zoo. The Prater, the Emperor's former hunting ground, is the perfect place to relax. And a ride on the Giant Ferris Wheel is a must for every visitor to Vienna.

LGBT life in Vienna is concentrated around the Naschmarkt in the fifth and sixth districts. At its center is the Turquoise Rosa Lila Villa: institutions supporting LGBT rights have been housed here for more than 40 years. Numerous gay bars, such as the Village, Felixx, the Mango Bar and The Hive have opened nearby. A classic is the beautiful and historic Café Savoy near the Naschmarkt, which practices Viennese coffee house culture in a cozy atmosphere to this day. The most famous gay sauna in Vienna is the Kaiserbründl. "Luziwuzi", the gay brother of Emperor Franz Joseph, was once given a dressing down here for inappropriately touching an officer. A fabulous drag scene with varied shows has also established itself in Vienna in recent years.

The PINKED events and g.spot lesbian clubs are a great place for fun-seekers in the LGBTQ scene to party the night away. The Café Flinte (previously the Frauencafé) on Lange Gasse in the 8th district has been a popular and much-frequented venue since 1977. Founded in the 1970s by a feminist collective, the small but classy women-only (transgender welcome) café is run by a committed group of lesbians.

Each year in June, Vienna's LGBT community flies the flag at the Rainbow Parade, which processes along the historic Ringstrasse. Fetish fans look forward to the Vienna Fetish Spring in the spring and to Vienna in Black in the autumn – Vienna Fetish Week. And in the winter, the classic waltz is danced at the Rainbow Ball.

Those who want to turn night into day will get their money's worth at the numerous parties for gay and lesbian patrons: people dance to House, Techno, Electronic, Charts, Balkan-Pop or Disco classics until the early morning hours in Art Nouveau buildings and modern clubs.

A new drag scene has also been emerging at a lively pace in Vienna in recent years. Numerous queens shake things up in the city and regularly bring new events to Vienna's stages. The Club Couleur organized by Grazia Patricia and Metamorkid (a participant in the first series of Drag Race

Germany) every month is always a highlight. Queens with catchy names such as Ryta Tale, Sassica Rabbit, and Candy Licious are permanent fixtures of Vienna's drag scene. A short documentary paints a portrait of three Vienna drag queens, Grazia Patricia, Matamorkid and Ryta Tale, following them through their performances but also in more private moments: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OijnXoUmB-Y

The EuroGames will take place in Vienna from July 17 to July 20, 2024. Around 3,000 participants from all over the world will compete for victory in around 30 sports. The competitions will take place in sports venues all over Vienna - from the Old Danube (rowing) to the legendary Sophiensäle (dancing) to the Prater Hauptallee (running). Both the opening and closing events will be celebrated in the EuroGames Village. There will be plenty of partying and fine dining in between: www.eurogames2024.at

And a new LGBT guide in the award-winning app ivie leads visitors to the most important LGBT locations in the city – from the Kaiserbründl via the Türkis Rosa Lila Villa and the Löwenherz bookstore to the cult venues Motto and Village: www.vienna.info/en/all-of-vienna/gay-lesbian/lgbt-guide-for-ivie-425416

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