

**the unlike guide to**

# **vienna**

Michael Dürr

custom tour

compiled by

**Unlike Media, Ltd.**

# Michael Dürr

Despite a lot of international travel, Vienna is still my favorite city in Europe. As a Viennese, I can say that in order to develop—both professionally and personally—you have to leave the city and explore other places. But if you really want to fall in love, come back to Vienna. Here you'll find simply the best places to hang out with the most lovable people.

# Villa Aurora

## Nostalgia trip



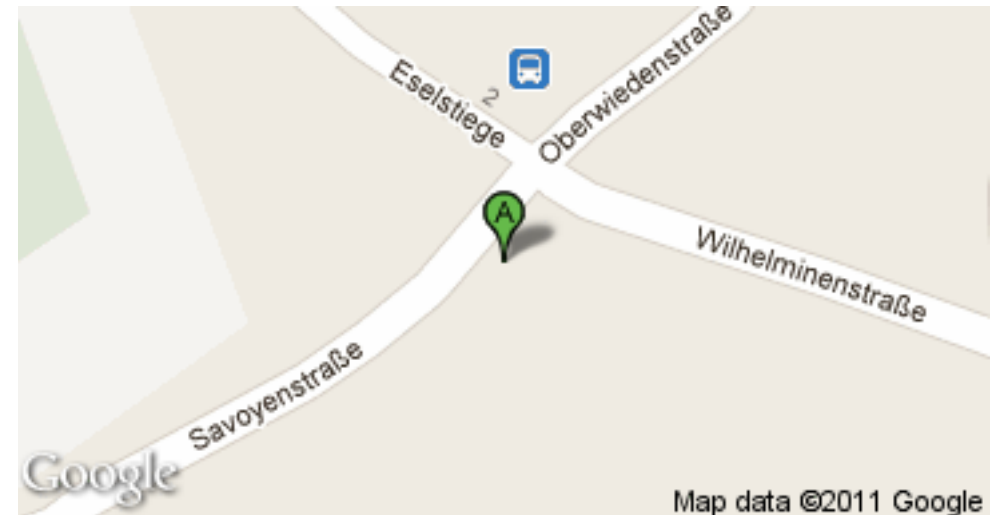
Villa Aurora, built in 1785, is a quirky house perched on a hill on the edge of the Viennese woods. Spend a few relaxed hours in this nostalgic spot with a park-like garden and a dining terrace with panoramic views. One could imagine fin-de-siècle bourgeois families making this day trip.

In the winter, there is a natural ice-skating rink and wood-burning ovens heat the villa's cozy dining rooms. The menu boasts a large selection of unusual Schnitzel variations and their desserts are well-deserved after a hike in the Vienna woods. In the summer time, have a hassle-free picnic in the hills: just call the restaurant 2 days ahead, pick up the basket and enjoy.

There are many idiosyncratic things to discover, like a huge empty painting frame propped up in the garden so you can take a "framed" photo of Vienna. Kids love climbing the "Arche Aurora," a transplanted old fishing trawler. Other houses in the premises are the garden house "Flora" and the old mountain farm house "Wolkenkuckucksheim"

## Escapism | Währing

Daily, 10:00 24:00



with a bowling alley.

*“Take the romantic route: walk around the Steinhofgründe and then play the mini-golf course as the sun sets right next to the Wilhelminen Mountain castle. Finally, indulge in a piece of millirahmstrudel (a warm strudel in vanilla sauce) at the Villa Aurora—über romantic—it’s candle-lit!*

*The first kiss is in the making!”*

### Villa Aurora

Wilhelminenstraße 237

, 1160 Vienna  
T: +4314893333

Transport:  
[U3] at Ottakring; [Bus]46B at Predigtstuhl; [Bus]146B at Predigtstuhl

**view**  
**kids**  
**picnic**  
**garden**  
**dining**  
**ice**  
**skating**  
**wienerwald**

photo © Clemens Sokol

# Flein

## Franco-Austro détente



## Food | Alsergrund

Mon Fri, 11:30 15:00 & 17:30 23:30



You are now officially on French territory—Flein is situated in the expansive garden of Clam-Gallas palace, now the French Cultural Institute. The restaurant occupies the free-standing former palace kitchen. The old wood burning ovens from aristocratic times add to its charm and the garden has a relaxed heurige-in-the-city vibe.

Flein serves consistently good food with Franco-Austro-Mediterranean touches at reasonable prices. Try the braised rabbit in dijon sauce or the dreamy crema catalana. Caveat: 1) the mosquitos on summer are vicious but repellent is on the house, 2) reservations recommended for a garden table, 3) no credit cards, and 4) no dogs.

*“Highly recommended for first dates, for couples and the more seriously style-minded. With luck, you may be seated amongst celebrities—if you like people-watching, this is the place for you.*”

*In the summer, you can sit in the garden and, in the winter, make sure to sit by the wood-burning oven. After a visit, you’ll be qualified for a French movie night especially when it’s stormy outside. My suggestion: The Man Who Loved Women (1977) by Francois Truffaut.”*

### Flein

Boltzmannngasse 2, 1090 Vienna  
T: +4313197689

### Transport:

[Tram] 37, 38, 40, 41 at  
Sensengasse; [Tram] 5, 33, 37,  
38, 40, 41 at  
Spitalgasse/Währingstrasse

**Mediterranean  
French-Austrian  
garden  
dining**

# Geymüller Schloß

Secret garden

Art | Währing

May 4 November 20: Sun, 11:00 18:00



This magnificent but little-known mansion is only tram ride away to Pötzleinsdorf, one of Vienna's outer suburbs.

Built in 1808 by the banker Johann Jakob Geymüller, it is a true gem of the Biedermeier period, demonstrating an elegant pastiche of Gothic, Arabesque and Indian motifs. In the late 1880s, Isidor Mautner, a leading textile industrialist in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, acquired the mansion and adjoining gardens. The Mautner family lived here until the "Anschluss" in 1938, when the Nazis seized Geymüller Schloß and put up its furnishings for public auction.

The Austrian state acquired the mansion in 1948, granting Austrian collector Franz Sobek life tenancy of the estate. In exchange, Sobek made a bequest to the state of his precious collection of old Viennese clocks and Biedermeier furniture and arranged for its permanent display in the mansion.

In the 1960s, Geymüller Schloß was ceded to the MAK (Austrian Museum of Applied Art). The interior was painstakingly

renovated in recent years and furnished to recapture the spirit of the Biedermeier. In the gardens, installations by contemporary artists James Turrell and Hubert Schmalix give a welcome relief to the at times heavy Biedermeier aesthetic.

*"The place to be for young lovers: summer Sundays in Vienna!"*

*Have a picnic between two works of art—one by James Turrell (Skyspace), the other by Hubert Schmalix (11h-18h). Dine on the lawn with a blanket and picnic basket full of breakfast goodies."*

**Geymüller Schloß**  
Khevenhüllerstrasse 2 , 1180  
Vienna  
T: +4314793139  
W. [www.mak.at/...](http://www.mak.at/)

Transport:  
[Tram]41 at Pötzleinsdorf;  
[Bus]41A at Khevenhüllerstraße

**museum**  
**exhibitions**  
**design**  
**public**  
**park**  
**park**

photo © Michael Dürr

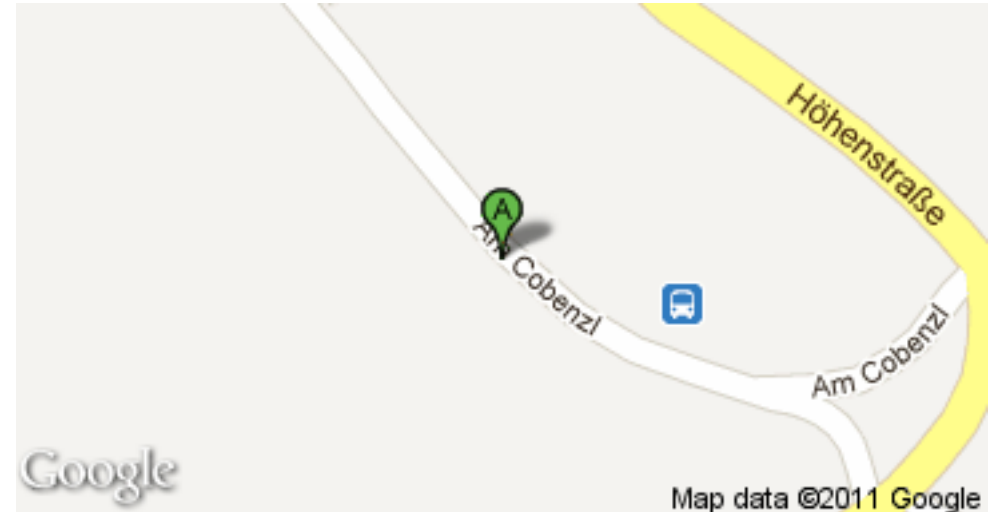
# Cafe Cobenzl

Panoramic rondeau cafe



## Cafe | Döbling

Daily, 10:00 22:00



This cafe high above the city in the Vienna Woods is a beloved local institution. Large contingencies of seniors, occasionally with their progeny in tow, have made Cafe am Cobenzl a fixture in their leisure-time program, while weekend hikers make a pit stop here for cake and coffee. Built in the '80s, proprietor Olaf Auer designed the circular building after '50s and '60s design, replete with plush upholstery and flocked wallpaper that have already seen better days. Meanwhile, the kitchen churns out democratic Viennese comfort food: schnitzel, sachertorte and everything in between—sweet or greasy appear to be the only two requirements.

Cobenzl's main draw is the scenic panoramic view of Vienna, best enjoyed from the terrace shaped like a half-moon. It's easy to be taken in by Cafe am Cobenzl's strange charm—a likable mixture of homeyness, kitsch, romance and nostalgia. For a similar (albeit more bombastic) experience, visit the adjacent Schloss Cobenzl.

*“Europe’s best city view: floating in gondola in Venice, ascending the stairs of the Eiffel Tower...Okay. But the mecca that is most beloved in Europe is—and stays—Cobenzl hill with Olaf Auer’s rondo cafe and the legendary park with the best view of Vienna.”*

*Buy (or just rent) an old school convertible, take your hats and head scarfs off, put Peter Alexander’s greatest hits on, ride up the Cobenzl hill at 30km/hour with a grin on your face and later, when the moon rises and the Vienna buildings float away and the light of Vienna’s apartments glitter, you will have a moment where you think to yourself, anything is possible.”*

### Cafe Cobenzl

Am Cobenzl, 1190 Vienna  
T: +431 3205120  
E. olaf.auer@cobenzl.com  
W. www.cobenzl.com

Transport:  
[Bus]38A at Cobenzl Parkplatz

**The View**  
**wanderlust**  
**nature**  
**cafe**  
**Viennese**  
**cuisine**  
**wienerwald**

photo © Michael Dürr

# Hotel Sophienalpe

The great outdoors

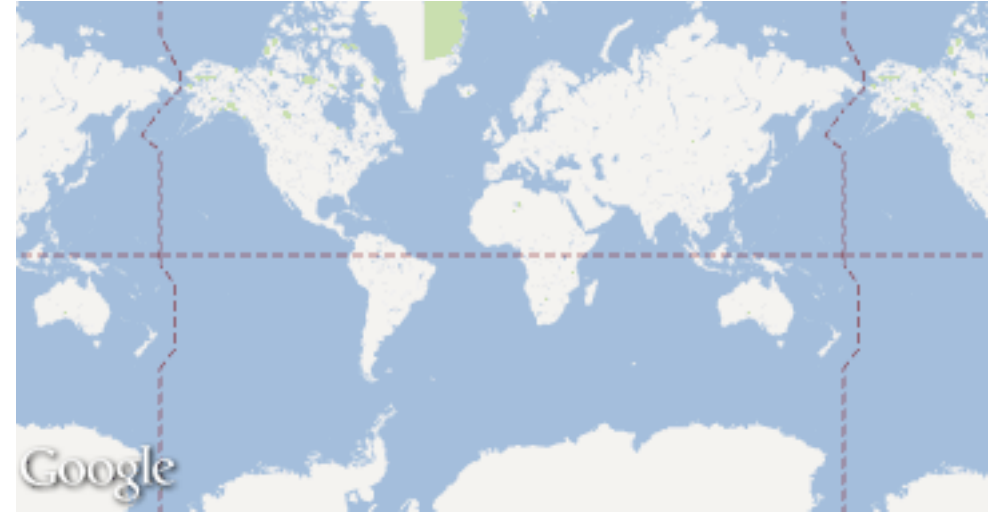


Hotel Sophienalpe was originally built by King Franz Josef for his mother Sophie as a summer residence. By the end of the 19th century, the grounds were converted into a rest-stop for tired travelers or those in need of a retreat. Easily accessible via tram—it is situated in one of the Viennese hills—the "Reststop Inn and Dairy Farm Sophienalpe" quickly became a favorite escape for the Viennese.

Enjoyed by nobility and citizens alike, Sophienalpe was ravaged by a fire which destroyed many buildings including the glass palace. But given the special place it held in the hearts of the Viennese, it was quickly rebuilt and in 1912 reopened to a crowd of happy vacationers.

Today it is still a beloved escape for those who want to spend the day or weekend enjoying the outdoors (biking, swimming, hiking anyone?) but don't want to stray too far from the city.

Escapism | Penzing



*"Hotel Sophienalpe was originally built by King Franz Josef for his mother Sophie as a summer residence. It's a great place to start the day for those couples who are more athletically inclined: ideal for tandem mountain biking, horseback riding (bareback in the evening light towards Hütteldorf), romantic hikes, carving your initials into the old trees, swinging, illegal camping and so much more. For those less fond of camping, don't forget the hotel with an indoor swimming pool."*

**Hotel Sophienalpe**  
Sophienalpenstraße 113, 1140  
Vienna  
T: +4314862432  
E. [office@sophienalpe.at](mailto:office@sophienalpe.at)  
W. [www.sophienalpe.at](http://www.sophienalpe.at)

Transport:  
[Bus]243 [Bus]443

**nature**  
**wanderlust**  
**skiing**  
**outdoor**

photo © Michael Dürr

# Autokino

## At the drive-in



One wouldn't expect the region of Groß-Enzersdorf to be able to brag about being number one, but their drive-in movie theater is the most modern in Europe. The screen is a whopping 525 square meters—to put that in perspective, that's the size of a single-family home with garden. The theater also has two smaller screens, meaning that they can have three simultaneous screenings.

Our favorite perk: because the audio is transmitted through a private radio station, one can choose between the German or the English version by simply switching the frequency on one's car radio. During the colder months they provide mobile heaters so car batteries (and car owners) don't suffer. Bygone technology and nostalgic leanings with modern accessories, who can refuse an open-air night?

## Escapism | Surroundings

Varies, Check Website For Screening Times



*“Also for the passionate bike rider or walker: the drive-in theater in Gross-Enzerdorf has simple charm. You should should visit this place, whether newly in love or happily settled. A 525 meter long screen, sound from the car radio: here it feels a little like Los Angeles. Over the course of the evening, when your passenger becomes more interesting than the film, that's okay as well...pull the hand break!”*

### Autokino

Autokinostraße 2, 2301 Vienna  
T: +4315851874  
E. office@autokino.at  
W. www.autokino.at/...

Transport:  
[Bus] 26A at Stadtgrenze

**open**  
**air**  
**cinema**  
**drive-in**

photo © Michael Dürr

# Schlosspark Laxenburg

Castles, churches and celluloid



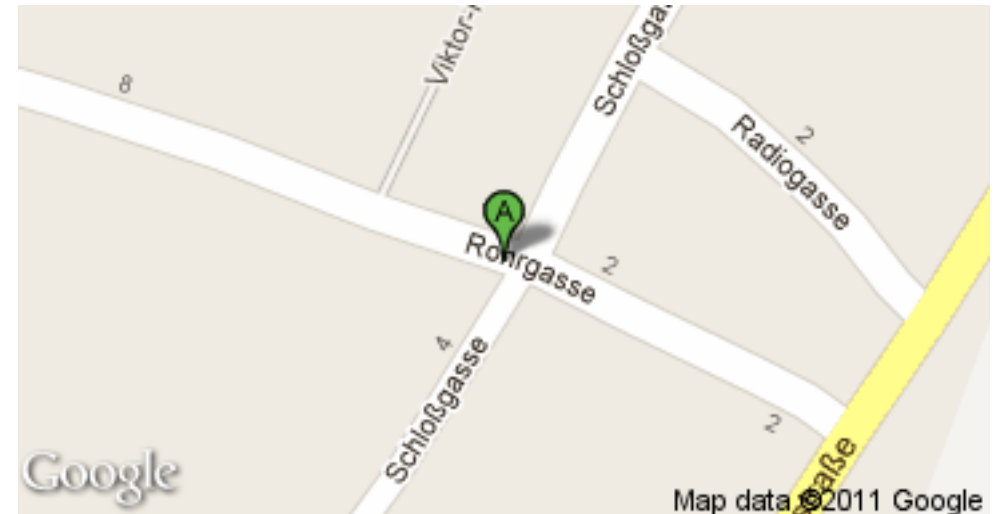
While the Schlosspark Laxenburg is a lovely grassy knoll to spend the afternoon prancing about on, the castle at Laxenburg is the real appeal here. As one of the most impressive castles in Europe, its grounds boast classic 18th and 19th-century gardens that woo any who doubt the virtues of visiting historical sites. Perhaps most impressive is the "Franzenburg," a castle commissioned by Emperor Franz II in the 19th century and includes an artificial island and a complete reproduction of a medieval knights' castle. Today the castle also houses a museum of some of the treasures found on the premises.

Make sure to check out the Kaiserbahnhof ("emperors' train station") which was built in 1850 and is the only train station in Europe built in the Biedermeier style.

Last, but not least, Laxenburg houses one of the largest and most modern film archive in Europe. With over 70,000 reels on location, make sure to plan your visit around one of their many exhibitions, festivals or film retrospectives.

## Escapism | Surroundings

Film Archive: Mon Fri, 8:00 17:00



ectives.

*"Nestled within 280 hectares of forest and meadowland, the biggest castle-pond (around 25 hectares) sits in the Laxenburg park (south of Vienna), with plenty of room for lovers or loved ones...and places for weddings as well. You can reach it on the foot path or by row boat. Or, whoever is pretty sure of themselves can take the helm of a rented motorboat. Take a break at the castle's restaurant or in the theater on the castle's island."*

**Schlosspark Laxenburg**  
Schlossplatz 1

, 2361 Laxenburg Vienna  
T: +432236712260  
W.

<http://www.schloss-laxenburg.at/>;  
[http://www.filmarchiv.at/show\\_content.php?](http://www.filmarchiv.at/show_content.php?)

Transport:  
[Bus] ÖBB-Postbus 566, [Bus]  
ÖBB-Postbus 215 at Laxenburg  
Franz-Joseph-Platz

**wanderlust**  
**boat**  
**rental**  
**movies**  
**castle**  
**public**  
**park**  
**outdoor**

photo © Michael Dürr

# Augarten

## Porcelain and anti-aircraft towers

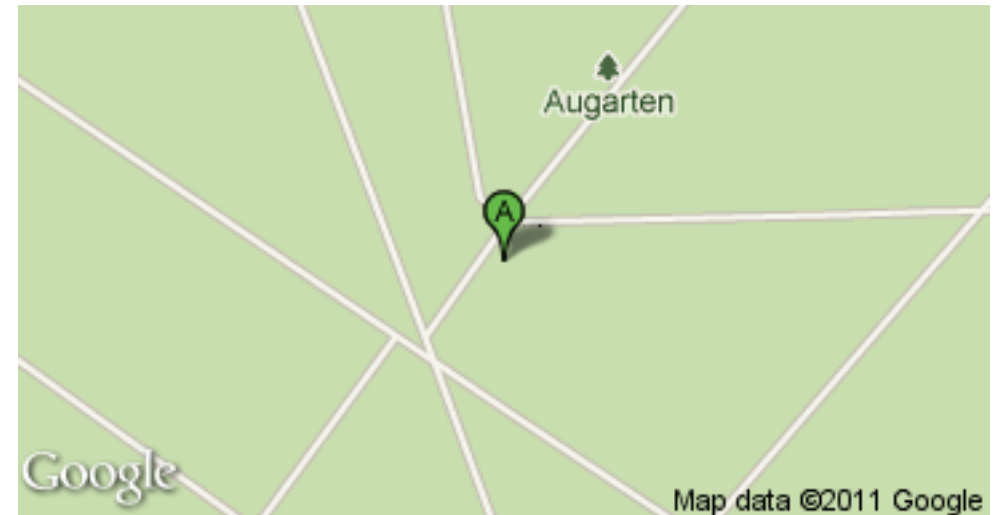


It is the contrast of extreme opposites that makes the Augarten so attractive. At this park are massive indestructible flak towers, a world-famous porcelain producer, a similarly renowned boys' choir, a palace, an open air cinema and tranquil green expanses.

Originally opened to the public in 1775, the former hunting grounds of the imperial family now houses the Augarten porcelain manufacturer. Another building within the palace complex is home to the Vienna Boys' Choir. Impossible to overlook are the two anti-aircraft artillery towers—legacies of World War II. In summer months, tourists and locals alike flock to the Augarten. Don't forget your hammock: you'll find hundreds of trees planted just the right distance apart.

## Escapism | Leopoldstadt

Apr 1 Oct 31, 6:00am 21:00 Nov 1 Mar 31, 6:30am 17:30 Check At Entrance  
For Closing Times As They Differ According To Season



*“A movie theater under the stars near a bocci party on a gravel yard. You should take a break on Kastanienbaum-Allee near the theater for delicious culinary offerings (from Indian to French) and then buy tickets for Vienna’s best open-air cinema. Starting time is sundown...but, take note, Vienna’s summer nights can get cool. You can rent blankets from the theater’s concession stand and cozy up for a romantic evening with your date.”*

**Augarten**  
Obere Augartenstrasse 1, 1020  
Vienna

Transport:  
[U2] Taborstraße

**public  
park  
sights**

photo © peter paltinger

# Vienna Basics

## All You Need To Survive

### WELCOME

... to a city of polarized opposites. Beneath Vienna's sugary surface, creative tension has always simmered between avant-garde restlessness and venerated tradition. Modern masterpieces defy imperial palaces. The most DJs per capita in the world sprout from the capital of classical music. In Helmut Lang's hometown, 200-year-old bespoke clothiers still reign supreme. Experience Freud's 21st-century legacy and let us guide you through its winding cobble-stoned streets at its best.

### ARRIVING

#### Vienna International Airport

Vienna International Airport (German: Flughafen Wien-Schwechat), is located in Schwechat roughly 18 kilometers (11 miles) southeast of central Vienna and is the busiest and largest airport in Austria. It is often referred to as Schwechat, the name of the nearby town. There are several means of transportation.

#### Bus/Shuttle Service:

Vienna International Airport has shuttle buses on site for your transportation needs from/to the centre of Vienna (Schwedenplatz/

Morzinplatz) and other destinations in Vienna. Time of travel: approx. 25 - 35 min. Limousines are available from RCV ( Radio Car Vienna ) ( +43 1 7007 33340 ).

#### City Airport Train:

City Airport Train (approx. 16 min.) takes passengers non-stop from the City Air Terminal ( located at Bahnhof Mitte, 2nd district ) to Vienna International Airport and back; trains leave every 10 minutes. Daily service is provided from 5:38a to 11:38p ( City Air Terminal ), and from 6:05a to 12:05a ( VIA ). From the City Air Terminal, located 1.2 miles from St. Stephan's Cathedral, you have easy access to public transportation.

#### Taxi:

Taxi Services can be reached via the airport's taxi stand, located north of the arrival hall.

#### Vienna International Airport ( VIE )

+43 1700 701 300

<http://www.viennaairport.com/>

### FACTS & FIGURES

Founded: around 500 BC

Population: 1.7 million (city), 2.3 million (metropolitan)

Average Temperature: January -1C/31F; July 20C/68F

Time Zone: +1 GMT

Electricity:

# Vienna Basics

## All You Need To Survive

220 V, 50 Hz, standard two pin plugs

Country Dialing Code: +43

Area Code: 01

Website: <http://www.wien.gv.at/english/>

## TRANSPORTATION

### Public Transport

Wiener Linien ( +43 1 79090 / <http://www.wienerlinien.at/> ) is Vienna's public transport company. There are five lines with individual routes that operate throughout Vienna. However one of the lines ( U5 ) is nowhere to be found. Plans to start construction exist, however, building measures have been postponed for years. Existing lines are therefore: U1, U2, U3, U4, and U6.

### Car

Traffic in Vienna is comparable to any other metropolitan city: Hectic drivers, on-coming trams, confused pedestrians, and expensive parking. On top: parking in Vienna isn't just expensive, it's also very tricky. Make sure you know where parking time is limited. Restrictions for street parking vary from district to district, even though there are no specific signs put up. In districts 1 through 9, and also the 20th district, only short-term parking

( 2h, Mo-Fr 9a-10p ) is allowed. Before 9a and after 10p, paying a fee is not required. In some areas of the 15th district, short-term parking is restricted to 2h ( Mo-Fr 6p-11p ) from September 1st to June 30th. However, there are a number of parking garages located in the city center.

### Taxi

Various taxi stands are scattered throughout the city. Here is just a small selection of the different companies on offer:

Taxi 40 100 Taxifunkzentrale GmbH ( +43 1 614550 / <http://www.taxi40100.at/> )

31300 Funk Taxi ( +43 1 313000 / <http://www.taxi31300.at/> )

Taxi-Funk 81400 ( +43 1 814000 )

WIHUP Taxiservice ( +43 1 601600 )

Eurotaxi ( Franz Reithmayr ) ( +43 1 3282963 )

A & B Taxi GmbH ( +43 6641 410698 )

