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OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Belvedere Palace

Vienna · From 23€

<https://belvedere.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Imperial Palace to Art Temple

GOOGLE **4.7** ★★★★★ 89 045 reviews

TIQETS **4.6** ★★★★★ 4 980 reviews

The story of the Belvedere begins in **1714**, when Prince Eugene of Savoy commissioned Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt to build a summer residence. Originally conceived as a Baroque masterpiece, the palace was designed to showcase the Prince's immense wealth and political power within the Habsburg Empire. The complex consists of two distinct palaces: the Lower Belvedere, built first, and the Upper Belvedere, completed later on higher ground. This architectural duality reflects the grandeur of the early 18th century, where gardens served as vital connectors between structures.

Over time, the function of these opulent buildings evolved dramatically. After Prince Eugene's death, the palaces passed through various hands, including military use during the Napoleonic Wars. It was not until **1903** that the Austrian government acquired the site to establish a museum for modern art. This transition marked a pivotal moment, shifting the focus from imperial luxury to cultural preservation. The decision to house contemporary works here signaled Vienna's ambition to become a global center for artistic innovation.

The true transformation occurred with the acquisition of Gustav Klimt's **The Kiss** in 1907. This iconic painting became the centerpiece of the collection, drawing millions of visitors eager to witness Viennese Modernism at its peak. The museum expanded its holdings to include works by Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka, creating a powerful narrative of artistic rebellion against traditional norms. These artists challenged societal conventions, using their canvases to explore sexuality, psychology, and identity in ways previously unseen.

Today, the Belvedere stands as a bridge between eras. While the architecture remains a testament to **Baroque elegance**, the collections inside tell a story of radical change. The juxtaposition of ornate stucco ceilings with provocative modernist paintings creates a unique dialogue between past and present. Visitors walk through halls that once hosted royal balls, now silent witnesses to the intense emotional landscapes depicted by the masters of the Secession movement.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into the Upper Belvedere feels like entering a sanctuary of light and gold. The morning sun filters through high windows, illuminating the intricate details of the Baroque interiors while casting a warm glow on the artworks. There is a palpable sense of reverence in the air, broken only by the soft footsteps of fellow admirers. The space is designed to slow you down, encouraging contemplation rather than hurried observation.

As you approach the gallery housing **The Kiss**, the atmosphere shifts from historical curiosity to intimate awe. The golden hues of Klimt's masterpiece seem to vibrate with life, inviting you to lean in closer. Here, amidst the silence, you are not just viewing art; you are participating in a centuries-old conversation about love, desire, and human connection. The experience is both visually stunning and emotionally resonant, leaving an indelible mark on your memory.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

1st District · Metro: Burgring (U3) or Kärntner Straße (U2, U4), 5 min walk.

OPENING HOURS

Open daily from 9 AM to 5 PM. Extended hours until 7 PM in July-August. Please check time slots when booking.

PRICING

Free for children under 19. Discounts for students and seniors. Online ticket recommended.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 1h30 to 2h to comfortably explore the Upper Belvedere and admire the permanent collection without rushing, including Klimt's The Kiss.

PHOTOS

Photography allowed without flash or tripod in the permanent galleries. Please respect silence guidelines and distance requirements set by guards.

AUDIENCE

Ideal for art lovers and couples. Smart casual attire required: no short shorts or bare feet. Wheelchair access available.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

**Metro**

: Weyringergasse — 9 min à pied

Vienna, Vienna Rennweg (train) (7 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (8 min)

**Bus**

: Argentinierstraße — 6 min à pied

Vienna, Vienna Rennweg (train) (10 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (12 min)

**Car**

Vienna, Vienna Rennweg (train) (5 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (6 min)

**Bike**

Vienna, Vienna Rennweg (train) (5 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (6 min)

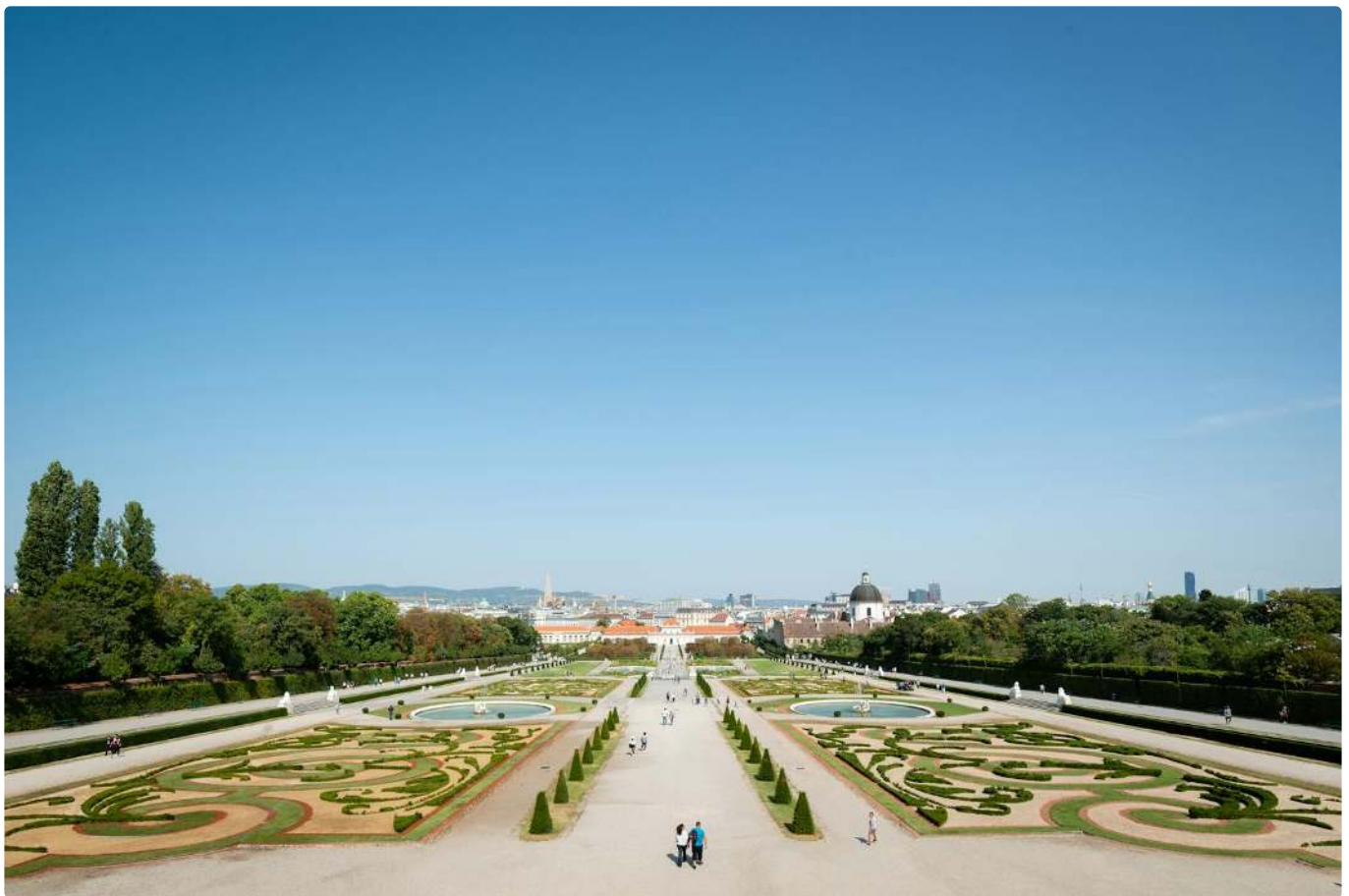
LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Belvedere Palace ?



📍 Prinz Eugen-Straße 27 — 1030 Vienna

🌐 48°11.489' N, 16°22.856' E



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Palatial Layout

Ground Floor (Entrance & Context)

Upon entering the Upper Belvedere, you begin on the ground floor which houses introductory exhibits and temporary displays. This level sets the stage for the permanent collection above, providing context on the history of the building and the era of Viennese Modernism. Allow yourself time to orient with the map and audio guide before ascending.

First Floor (Permanent Collection)

This is the heart of the museum, home to the world-renowned collection of Austrian Modernism. Here you will find Gustav Klimt's **The Kiss** along with other masterpieces like 'Hope I' and 'Judith'. The galleries also feature significant works by Egon Schiele, whose raw and expressive style contrasts sharply with Klimt's decorative richness. Take your time to absorb the symbolic depth of each piece.

Upper Level & Garden Terrace

After exploring the galleries, head outside to the terraces overlooking the Baroque Gardens. This area offers breathtaking views of the Lower Belvedere and the city skyline. It is an ideal spot for photography and reflection, allowing you to appreciate the architectural harmony of the entire complex. The open-air spaces provide a refreshing contrast to the indoor galleries.

ACCESSIBILITY

**Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Full access to main buildings with elevators. Verification recommended for steep gardens.

**Families**

Family-friendly with accompanied children. Audio guides available to make the visit interactive.

**Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish

Must-sees

SELECTION

Masterpieces of Viennese Modernism

01 GUSTAV KLIMT Gallery 25

The Kiss

This iconic painting is the crown jewel of the Belvedere. Depicting a couple embracing in a golden embrace, it symbolizes the union of male and female principles. Observe the intricate patterns and the way light seems to emanate from the figures themselves. It is a masterpiece of **Viennese Secession**.

💡 Klimt originally intended this work for a private villa, but it was purchased by the state shortly after completion. Its fame has since made it one of the most photographed artworks in the world.

02 GUSTAV KLIMT Gallery 26

Death and Life

A haunting counterpart to 'The Kiss', this large-scale painting depicts skeletons looming over a group of living figures. It explores themes of mortality and the fragility of existence. The contrast between the skeletal forms and the vibrant, patterned clothing of the survivors is striking. A powerful reminder of **memento mori**.

💡 Completed in 1915, this work was influenced by the outbreak of World War I, adding a layer of tragic relevance to its depiction of death.

03 EGON SCHIELE Gallery 30

Portrait of Wally

Schiele's distinctive style is evident in this angular and emotionally charged portrait. The subject, Walburga 'Wally' Neumann, was a model and muse for many artists of the time. Schiele captures her intensity and vulnerability with bold lines and vivid colors. Essential for understanding **Expressionist portraiture**.

💡 This painting was famously looted by the Nazis and returned to the heirs of its original owner in 2006, highlighting the complex restitution history of art.

04 EGON SCHIELE Gallery 31

The Embrace

Unlike Klimt's romanticized couples, Schiele's embrace is raw and almost desperate. The figures are contorted, emphasizing psychological tension over physical beauty. This work challenges conventional notions of intimacy and love. A key piece for fans of **modernist angst**.

💡 Schiele often used his own body and those of close friends as models, blurring the lines between art and personal life.

05 GUSTAV KLIMT Gallery 24

Hope I

A pregnant woman stands alone, surrounded by swirling patterns of hope and uncertainty. The gold leaf background connects it stylistically to 'The Kiss', but the mood is more introspective. It represents the anxieties and aspirations of motherhood. A beautiful example of **symbolic femininity**.

💡 This painting was part of a series exploring different aspects of female life, showcasing Klimt's versatility beyond erotic themes.

06 EGON SCHIELE Gallery 32

Self-Portrait

Schiele's self-portraits are numerous and varied, each revealing a different facet of his psyche. This particular version shows him in a stark, unflinching gaze. The use of color and line conveys a sense of isolation and self-awareness. Crucial for understanding the artist's **inner turmoil**.

💡 Schiele produced over 100 self-portraits throughout his short career, making himself the central subject of his artistic exploration.

07 GUSTAV KLIMT Gallery 23

Water Nymphs

An earlier work showing Klimt's transition towards his mature style. The figures emerge from water, adorned with floral motifs. It demonstrates his fascination with mythology and nature. A precursor to the golden phase that would define his legacy. Important for tracing his **artistic evolution**.

💡 This painting was created during a period when Klimt was experimenting with new techniques and subjects, moving away from academic traditions.

08 JOHANN LUKAS VON HILDEBRANDT Outdoor Area

Baroque Gardens

While not a painting, the gardens are a masterpiece of landscape design. The terraced lawns, fountains, and statues create a harmonious setting for the palaces. Walking through them offers a glimpse into the leisure activities of the aristocracy. A serene complement to the **intense art** inside.

💡 The gardens were restored in the 20th century to reflect their original 18th-century glory, preserving their historical significance.

TIPS

Essential Tips for a Smooth Visit

TIMING

Arrive exactly at **9:00 AM** when the doors open. Queues for 'The Kiss' grow massive after 10:30 AM. Early arrival ensures a calm, contemplative experience with fewer crowds.

PARCOURS

Start directly with '**The Kiss**' upon entering the first floor. Then proceed chronologically through the Klimt and Schiele galleries. End with the garden terrace for a relaxing conclusion.

PAUSE

Visit the **Schlosscafé Belvedere** after your tour. Enjoy a coffee or cake on the terrace while digesting the art. It offers stunning views of the gardens and city.

AUDIOGUIDE

Rent the **audio guide** for a deeper understanding of the symbolism in Klimt and Schiele's works. It decodes hidden motifs and provides essential context that enhances the visual experience.

BILLET

Book your ticket **online in advance**. This allows you to skip the ticket office queue entirely. Choose a specific time slot to guarantee entry, especially during peak season.

PHOTO

Photography is allowed without flash or tripod. Use natural light and avoid obstructing other visitors. The best photo opportunities are in the **garden terraces** and less crowded galleries.

ENFANTS

Children under 19 enter free. Use the **audio guide** to keep them engaged with stories behind the artworks. The gardens are also great for letting kids stretch their legs.

CONFORT

Wear **comfortable, closed-toe shoes**. The palace floors can be slippery, and the gardens are sloped. Avoid high heels. Smart casual attire is required; no short shorts or bare feet.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book my ticket to see The Kiss?

Yes, booking is highly recommended to guarantee your entry to the Upper Belvedere. This allows you to choose a specific time slot and access directly via QR code scan. Without a ticket, expect long queues, especially dur

Does the ticket include temporary exhibitions?

It depends on the type of ticket purchased. The standard 'Upper Belvedere' ticket covers only the permanent collection. To also access the Lower Belvedere and Belvedere 21, opt for the Gold Pass. Check the details carefu

How far in advance can I cancel?

Most online tickets allow free cancellation up to 24h before the visit date. Consult the specific conditions of your ticket upon confirmation. This flexibility is useful if your plans change suddenly.

Is there a current promotion?

Discounts are available for young people under 19 years old (free), students, and seniors. Group offers sometimes exist. Keep an eye on the official website for seasonal promotions or annual memberships if you are stayin

Where exactly is Klimt's The Kiss located?

The Kiss is located exclusively in the Upper Belvedere (Hofburg), on the first floor, in the permanent collection. Do not go to the Lower Belvedere or Belvedere 21 for this artwork. Frequent confusion among tourists, so

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

The Secession Icon

The Belvedere is synonymous with the **Vienna Secession** movement. This group of artists broke away from traditional academic art to embrace modern styles. Klimt and Schiele were key figures, challenging norms with their bold use of color and form. Their work here defines an era of artistic revolution.

Three Palaces, One History

The complex includes the Upper Belvedere, Lower Belvedere, and **Belvedere 21**. Each serves a different purpose: permanent collections, temporary exhibitions, and contemporary art respectively. Together, they offer a comprehensive view of Austrian art history from the Baroque to today.

Van Gogh in Vienna

While known for Klimt, the Belvedere also holds significant works by **Vincent van Gogh**. These pieces are part of a broader collection linking Flemish masters to modernism. Don't miss the opportunity to see Van Gogh's influence on European art in this unique setting.

UNESCO-listed Gardens

The Baroque gardens connecting the two castles are listed for their exceptional design. They offer a peaceful retreat from the city bustle. The **French-style layout** and panoramic views make them a must-visit spot for photography and relaxation after viewing the intense collections.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Belvedere is situated in the heart of Vienna's First District, offering easy access to other cultural landmarks. Just downhill lies the **Imperial Hofburg**, where you can explore the Sisi Museum or the Imperial Apartments for a dose of Habsburg history. For art enthusiasts, the Leopold Museum near Naschmarkt provides a complementary experience with its extensive collection of Egon Schiele's works. After your visit, relax at the **Schlosscafé Belvedere**, nestled within the UNESCO-listed Baroque Gardens. Enjoy a coffee on the terrace while admiring the panoramic views of the city. The gardens themselves offer a peaceful escape, perfect for a leisurely stroll before heading back into the bustling city center.



Visiting the Belvedere is more than seeing famous paintings; it is immersing yourself in the soul of Vienna. From the grandeur of the Baroque gardens to the intimacy of Klimt's brushstrokes, every detail invites reflection. Leave with a deeper appreciation for how art can transform history into emotion. Let the golden light of **The Kiss** guide your thoughts long after you depart.