

Austria Hotel Collection: Winter City and Culture Breaks

Christmas market hopping, cultural break, foodie experiences or a mix of all – Austria’s cities are just made for maximising short stays, and their hotel options accommodate every type of winter city breaker – from connoisseurs looking for a little luxury in the centre of it all to those seeking a sophisticated downtown hideaway.

Get inspired by the city edition of this year’s [Austria Hotel Collection](#), a carefully selected group of premier accommodations that promise an unforgettable urban getaway.

A charming symbiosis of architectural heritage and modern design, the 5-star luxury [Almanac Palais Vienna](#) sits on the Ringstrasse in the heart of Vienna's historic centre, making it a sumptuous starting point from which to explore the famous 1st district. Established in 1990 by Austrian entrepreneur and former basketball player Herbert Hasselbacher, the Almanac brand is renowned for crafting iconic hotels in historically significant locations, with curated design and personal touches. Guests at the Vienna hotel can start their day with a nourishing Austrian alpine-inspired “plant-forward” breakfast, then return to a spacious wellness area that includes a 14 m long indoor pool, sauna, gym and steam room after a long day exploring the capital.

Insider tip: From November through February, guests can book the [“A Night at the Ball”](#) package, including two hotel nights, ball tickets, a private dance class, pre-ball dinner, cocktails and champagne, and a soothing massage the day after.

Opened in 1898, the [Ambassador Vienna](#) is as classy as its name suggests. The hotel is one of the most history-filled buildings in the city, seamlessly blending traditional ambience with modern spirit and 19th century elements with the latest amenities. From Mozart to Mark Twain, many of the world’s greats have spent time here, and the hotel bar is a truly iconic place to unwind over a cocktail, cup of Viennese coffee or glass of champagne to this day. Make the most of the Ambassador’s prime location on the exclusive Kärntner Strasse shopping street with St Stephen’s Cathedral, the State Opera, Imperial Palace and Spanish Riding School in the immediate vicinity.

Insider tip: The [Christmas market at St Stephan’s Cathedral](#) is just a 5-minute-walk from the hotel. It has roughly 40 stalls and is a great place for traditional Austrian crafts, mulled wine and seasonal snacks.

Looking for maximum independency rather than a hotel, plus the feeling of living like a local? The serviced apartments of [Singerstrasse 21/15](#) are the epitome of urban living in the centre of Vienna, just 300 m from St Stephen’s Cathedral. The fully equipped, modern units with kitchen, bathroom, dining area and walk-in wardrobe feature Art Nouveau elements. Optional extras such as a generous breakfast buffet, laundry room and on-site garage make

Singerstrasse a great choice for those looking for even more convenience throughout their stay.

Insider tip: Climb the 343 steps of the South Tower of St Stephan's Cathedral – or take the lift up the North Tower – and marvel at the Christmas lights and the market in front of the cathedral from above.

Trusted hospitality in the centre of Vienna – the [Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof](#) does not disappoint. 196 elegant rooms and comfortable suites promise all the comforts of the Steigenberger brand, whilst the hotel restaurant takes care of the Austrian flavours, serving Viennese specialities made with produce sourced from local suppliers and excellent wines. With many of the city's famous sights and the Kohlmarkt and Graben shopping streets within walking distance, the 250 m² hotel spa is a great place to unwind at the end of the day. Head to the sauna and then stretch out on a comfortable lounge in the elegant relaxation room or send that step count through the roof with a workout in the gym.

Insider tip: Celebrate Christmas or New Year's Eve at their in-house [Béla Béla restaurant](#) and enjoy a 6-course dinner including aperitif, wine, and coffee/tea.

Tucked away in the trendy Servitenviertel, dotted with hip cafés and eateries, the [Harmonie Vienna](#) lies off the beaten path, yet just a few minutes' walk from the Ringstrasse, home to many of the capital's most famous sights and museums, and the Jewish quarter with the Jewish Museum and Sigmund Freud Museum. The hotel is housed in the former historic Harmonie Theater, and owner Sonja Wimmer has fittingly turned it into an artistic place inspired by the city's dance tradition. A highlight is the "Signapura" project by Peruvian artist Luis Casanova Sorolla, whose works depict the dance movements of soloists from the Vienna State Opera. The hotel is committed to ensuring all guests have a relaxing stay and holds certificates for sustainability, allergy-friendliness and organic produce.

Insider tip: The [Altwiener Christkindlmarkt](#), one of Vienna's oldest Christmas markets dating back to 1772, is only 800 m away. A local favourite, it is known for traditional crafts, nativity displays and a quieter atmosphere than the larger markets.

The [Sans Souci Vienna](#) is a luxury haven around the corner from MuseumsQuartier, housing a private collection of world-famous Roy Lichtenstein artworks and an impressive 20 m pool lit by crystal chandeliers! Champagne fans will love the complimentary glass for breakfast, the more than 100 different types to choose from at the hotel bar and the private tasting opportunities. All rooms and suites were individually designed by Philippe Starck's studio YOO with unique character and maximum comfort in mind. The same charming spirit adds a special touch to the Veranda Bar & Brasserie and the gorgeous Sans Souci Spa.

Insider tip: Sans Souci guests are offered an exclusive tour of hotel owner and pop art collector Norbert Winkelmayer's private collection of Roy Lichtenstein works.

Salzburg's oldest guesthouse is now one of the historic city's most stylish places to stay! Located close to Mozart's birthplace and opposite the Festival Hall, [Arthotel Blaue Gans](#) is decorated with no less than 120 original artworks. Being a building with a mediaeval structure, no one room is like the other, but all have been furnished with natural materials and excellent craftsmanship. The historic restaurant sports vaulted ceilings and dark wooden beams, offering Austrian cuisine with a Mediterranean touch. Head chef Max Sampl combines top-notch products from the Alps with the lightness of the south, which makes his cuisine very Salzburg-esque. And then there's Campari: celebrating the centuries-old trade routes between the Mozart town and Venice, it is served all day long at the hotel bar.

Insider tip: Salzburg's main [Christmas market on Domplatz and Residenzplatz](#) is only 500 m away. Heading there, you'll pass famous Getreidegasse and Mozart's birthplace.

Innsbruck has no shortage of accommodation options, but trendy [NALA individuellhotel](#) stands out from the crowd. It has been transformed from a 1950s establishment into a modern city escape with colourful rooms and apartments, all individually designed in line with their quirky names and mountain views. Both the city centre and the nearest cable car are within walking distance. NALA is dedicated to sustainability, running on 90% green energy and using eco-friendly cleaning products, cosmetics and pillows as well as organic ingredients for the breakfast buffet.

Insider tip: NALA sits in the Wilten district, a hipster hotspot which has still managed to retain its village character. Its small [Christmas market at Wiltener Platzl](#) is a local favourite where you can find everything from handmade gifts to regional and international food.

For further information, please contact pressuk@austria.info.