

# MAGIC

The Gathering

## GRAND PRIX VIENNA

### Travel Guide



Contact info (and written by)

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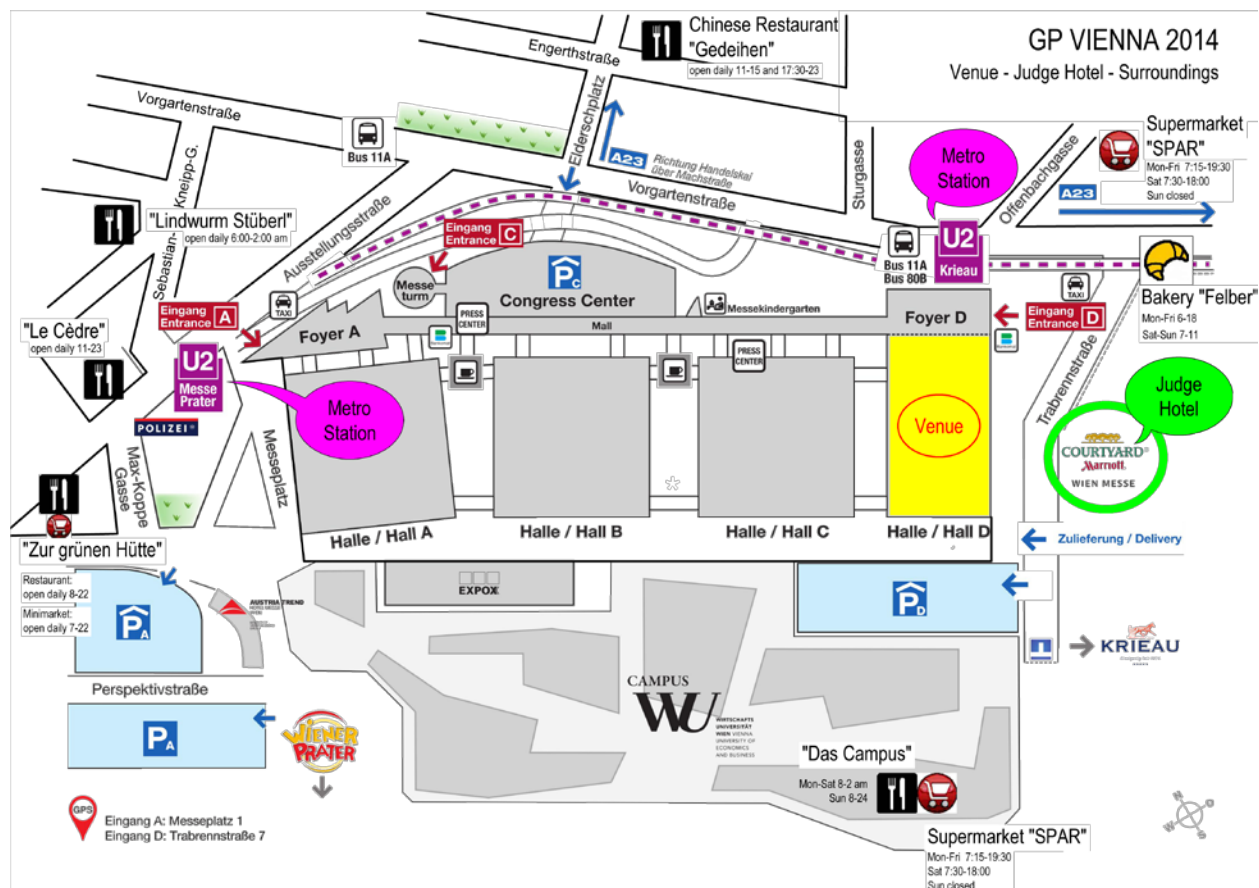
With contributions from Martin Golm.

## INDEX

1. Venue address.....	3
More maps .....	3
2. How to get to Vienna .....	4
By car .....	4
By train or bus .....	4
By plane .....	4
3. From Vienna International Airport (VIE) to the venue .....	5
4. Public transportation in Vienna.....	6
5. Hotel options .....	6
Staff hotel .....	6
Other options .....	6
6. Food & Drink .....	7
Near the venue .....	7
In town .....	7
Supermarkets .....	8
Bakeries .....	8
7. Sightseeing .....	9
Old town .....	9
Ringstrasse .....	10
Schloss Schönbrunn ( <i>U4 Schönbrunn</i> ) .....	11
8. Insider tips .....	11
9. Tips for safety .....	12
10. Local game stores.....	12
11. Drinking water.....	12

## 1. Venue address

Messe Wien  
 Reed Messe Wien GmbH  
 Congress Center  
 Messeplatz 1  
 A-1021 Wien  
<http://www.messe.at/en/>



### More maps

We have created a special Google Map with all the sites and sights mentioned in this travel guide. If you click the icons you'll find additional information like opening hours and more. You can find it here: <http://bit.ly/GPViennaMap>

## 2. How to get to Vienna

### By car

Your best bet is to use Google Maps and print out the route, or use your smartphone and follow the friendly voice. If that's not an option, some amount of driving directions can also be found [on this website](#).

If you use Austrian motorways don't forget to buy a toll sticker! It's € 8,30 per car (valid for 10 days).



Most parts of Vienna (this includes the surroundings of the venue and staff hotel) are part of a [short-term parking zone](#) (*Kurzparkzone*). These zones have traffic signs only at their borders, so you probably won't realize them. For main streets and shopping streets in these districts there are separate short-term parking times indicated on the white additional signs as pictured left. In this example the maximum admissible parking duration (*Parkdauer*) is two hours, and the times of chargeable short-term parking are Monday to Friday (weekdays), 9 am to 10 pm. (These times are also true for the surroundings of the venue and staff hotel!)

To pay for the parking fee you need [prepaid parking vouchers](#) (€ 2 per hour), which can be purchased at tobacconists, ticket machines at all Vienna public transport underground stations, some petrol/gas stations, and cigarette vending machines.



### From Friday 10 pm until Monday 9 am car parking is free.

For further information follow the links above or ask us or your hotel.

### Parking garages nearby:

Courtyard Vienna Messe (staff hotel) - parking fee is € 2 hourly or € 18 daily.

Reed Messe Wien (venue) - parking fee is € 3 per hour.

WU Campus (Trabrennstraße 5, beside the venue) - first hour free, then € 2 hourly or € 20 daily

### By train or bus


All major train and bus stations are connected to the metro and/or local train (Schnellbahn). To get to the venue/staff hotel find the purple metro line **U2** and get out at *Krieau*.

### By plane

Fly to Vienna International Airport (VIE), which is about 45 mins from the venue/staff hotel. Austria is part of the EU, so you probably won't even need a passport to fly here. Please make sure you are following all visa instructions if you are arriving from outside the EU. More info can be found on the Austrian government website: [visainformation](#)

### 3. From Vienna International Airport (VIE) to the venue

There are several options: taxi, bus (1183), train (S7), and expensive train (CAT)

- Your cheapest and probably preferred option is the **S7 train**, which leaves approx. every 30 mins from the train terminal underneath the airport. It is a little bit tricky to locate, because all the signs lead you to the much more expensive CAT train (see below). Here is how to find it: once you leave the customs/security doors after the baggage claim area and enter the main arrival hall, turn left and head down the ramp that leads into the airport's underbelly. If you see the train company logo (just like the one here), follow it. Buy a ticket at one of the red vending machine on the platform (2 zones = € 4,20) which is valid for the whole trip to the venue/staff hotel. Hop on the train to Vienna (direction *Floridsdorf*) and get out at *Praterstern*. Change to the **U2** metro (purple line), direction *Seestadt* and go 2 stops (*Krieau*). This trip will take approx. 45 mins. The first train from the airport leaves at 4:53, the last train at 00:17.
 
- **Taxis** from the airport to any location in Vienna cost about € 40. You can save money by arranging a pick up in advance. Send an email with your name and flight information at least 24h in advance to [office@vienna-airport-cab.at](mailto:office@vienna-airport-cab.at), they should charge no more than € 30 for the trip from the airport to the venue. They speak English.
- The Vienna Airport Line offers a **bus service** from VIE into the city. You need No. 1183 (direction *Kagran*), which leaves every 60 mins from 7:10 to 20:10 from bus terminal 9. Tickets are € 8 for a single trip, or € 13 for a round trip (buy it directly on the bus, make sure you have cash ready).

Get off at the first stop, which is *Donaumarina*, go to the metro station, buy a ticket for the metro (€ 2,10 for single trip, see section below), hop on the **U2** metro (direction *Karlsplatz*) and go 2 stops to *Krieau*, which is directly at the venue and staff hotel. This trip will take approx. 25 mins.

More info: [http://www.postbus.at/en/Airportbus/Vienna\\_AirportLines/Kagran/index.jsp](http://www.postbus.at/en/Airportbus/Vienna_AirportLines/Kagran/index.jsp)

- It's hard to miss the big, flashy and green signs to the **CAT** (City Airport Train), but don't let them fool you. This train is expensive (€ 12, plus the ticket for within Vienna) and goes straight from the airport to metro station *Landstraße/Wien Mitte* which is not very practical if you want to get to the venue or staff hotel. In case you still choose this option, here is how you get from the CAT to the venue: get off at *Landstraße/Wien Mitte*, change to **U4** metro (direction *Heiligenstadt*). At *Schottenring* (2 stops) change to the **U2** (direction *Seestadt*) and go 4 stops to *Krieau*.
- On the other hand on your way back home the **CAT** might be an option, as certain airlines offer a check in at *Landstraße/Wien Mitte*. This saves you some time on the airport and lets you visit the city without your luggage. (Best you check this option beforehand with your airline, further information is available also [here](#).)

## 4. Public transportation in Vienna

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Public transport is awesome in this city. The metro network (U) connects all major parts of the city, and above ground there are scores of buses, trams and trains.

Transit information is not available on Google Maps, which is why we recommend downloading the free app Quando (available for Android and iPhone) for directions.

Tickets are valid in all lines (except CAT and Airport bus) and are pretty expensive (€ 2,10 for a single trip, lots of other options available). You can buy tickets in every metro and train station (via the red touch screen vending machines) or online at <https://shop.wienerlinien.at> (for self-printout). Tickets must be stamped at the entrance of the station (for metro or train) or on the bus/tramway for them to be valid.

If you plan a longer stay, there are multi-day tickets, and there's a tourist ticket which grants discounts on museums and other places. You can find all available options in the [online shop](#).

## 5. Hotel options

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### Staff hotel

Courtyard Vienna Messe

Trabrennstrasse 4

1020 Vienna

<http://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/viefg-courtyard-vienna-messe/>

### Other options

Vienna is not a very big city, and any location between **U2** metro stations *Karlsplatz* and *Aspernstrasse* should be reasonably close to the venue (15 mins, plus walking).

### Ibis Wien Messe and Ibis Budget

Lassallestrasse 7

1020 Vienna

<http://www.ibis.com/en/hotel-2736-ibis-wien-messe/index.shtml>

<http://www.accorhotels.com/en/hotel-7098-ibis-budget-wien-messe-ex-etap-hotel/index.shtml>

### Booking.com

Your best option to find a hotel that is close and within your price range. <http://www.booking.com/>

### AirBnB

Private apartments/rooms/sofas. Some judges prefer private accommodation via AirBnB over hotels when staying in foreign cities for events. Friendly and helpful people, you have a kitchen, etc. Great search options. <https://www.airbnb.com/>

### Wombats – The City Hostel

Their Naschmarkt location, called „The Nasch“ is close to the **U2** metro line (station *Karlsplatz*) which directly connects it to the venue. Web: [wombats-hostels-vienna](http://wombats-hostels-vienna)

## 6. Food & Drink

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### Restaurants near the venue

**Le Cèdre** (Lebanese Restaurant, 2 minutes from entrance A) - open daily 11:00 to 23:00

Address: Austellungsstraße 51 , 1020 Wien - phone +43 676 5638501

**Lindwurm Stüberl** (Austrian Restaurant, 3 minutes from entrance A) - open daily 6:00 to 2:00

Address: Stuwertstraße 47, 1020 Wien - phone +43 676 6361705

**Himmelreich** (Beer and food, 5 minutes from entrance A) - 13:00 to 24:00, closed on Sundays

Address: Prater 74, Straße des 1.Mai, 1020 Wien - phone +43 1 7294999

**Estancia Santa Cruz** (Spanish food, 12 minutes from entrance A) - open daily 16:00 to 23:00

Address: Prater Hauptallee 8 , 1020 Wien - phone +43 1 7280380 - Free WiFi

**China Restaurant Gedeihen** (5 minutes from entrance D) - open daily 11-15 and 17:30-23:00

Address: Engerthstrasse 237, 1020 Wien - phone +43 1 7283715

**Das Campus** (Restaurant, 5 minutes from entrance D) - open daily 8:00 to 2:00, Sun until 24:00

Address: Campus WU, Welthandelsplatz 1 , 1020 Wien - phone +43 1 7297420

### Restaurants in town

There are too many places with very good food, to pick out a single one, but don't leave Vienna without visiting one of the [Coffeehouses](#) in or [around the Old City](#). [Café Central](#) ([U3 Herrengasse](#)) is probably the most beautiful, but also don't miss the [Demel](#) ([U3 Herrengasse](#)), where they have some of the best pastries in the world.

If you prefer Wiener Schnitzel (or just don't know it but want to taste some), try the famous [Figlmüller](#) in the very center of the city ([U1 U3 Stephansplatz](#)). It's a bit hidden in a passage between *Wollzeile* and *Lugeck*.

*Naschmarkt* is another excellent location with different kind of food. Within the area of Vienna's largest open air market (a great place to visit on its own) there are many Restaurants and Bars, e.g. [Neni](#), [tewa](#), [Orient Occident](#) (these web pages are German only, sorry. But if you're there, you'll find your way!) *Naschmarkt* is at the [U4](#) metro line (between the stations [U1 U2 U4 Karlsplatz](#) and [U4 Kettenbrückengasse](#)).

If you're willing or interested to go a bit outside the city center you can find the typical Viennese vine taverns - "*Heurige*". The oldest one (and very nice) is [10er-Marie](#) ([U3 Ottakring](#)), but my personal favorite is [Sissi Huber](#) (15 min. walk from [U3 Ottakring](#) or Tramway **10** or **44**). And of course there are many [more](#).

## Supermarkets

Opening hours of Supermarkets differ a bit but they are usually open weekdays from before 8 am until 7ish pm and Saturday until 6 pm. **They are closed on Sundays!**

Exceptions are Supermarkets on the airport and in larger railway stations. At **U2 Praterstern** (two metro stations from the venue) there is one:

**BILLA** am Praterstern

open daily 6:00 to 22:00

Another possibility to buy snacks and drinks on Sundays is the minimarket/kiosk

**Zur Grünen Hütte** (at the back side of the restaurant)

open daily 7:00 to 22:00

This one is in walking distance from the venue (entrance A), see map.

Close to the venue (entrance D) there is a supermarket with "normal" opening hours:

**SPAR**

Mon - Fri 7:15 to 19:30

Saturday 7:30 to 18:00

closed on Sunday

## Bakeries

Very different opening hours (but usually from early in the morning), some are open on Sundays, some are not. In many Metro stations you can find kiosks/bakeries.

At the metro station *Krieau*, very close to the venue (entrance D) there the bakery

"Bäckerei **Felber**"

Mon - Fri 6:00 to 18:00

Sat - Sun 7:00 to 11:00



## 7. Sightseeing

Vienna is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, so we recommend spending a few days. It would be impossible to give you a full list of stuff to see, so here is a list of must-see sights that are especially nice at this time of the year.

### Old town

Don't leave Vienna without a walk through the center, the old town. It reminds you of the old times, when Vienna was the seat of the Roman emperor. It is chock full of palaces, museums, galleries, and of course the traditional Viennese coffee houses. A full list would be impossible, but we have come up with a great tour through the town

From the opera ([U1 U2 U4 Karlsplatz](#)) and the tourist info, the pedestrian shopping street *Kärntner Straße* runs towards Vienna's prime landmark, *St. Stephen's Cathedral* ([U1 U3 Stephansplatz](#)), almost continually under construction since 1147. The north tower still remains unfinished, but the views from the south tower are well worth the wearisome climb. The catacombs in the basement contain the innards of 56 royals and several infants.



Behind the cathedral, in *Domgasse 5*, you will find the *house where Mozart lived* (open daily 10:00 am – 7:00 pm), and also lots of tiny streets and shops.

On the other side of *Stephansplatz* is the *Graben* boulevard with the *Plague Monument* at its center.

In *Dorotheergasse*, one *Graben's* side streets, you will find the famous *Café Hawelka* and the *Jewish Museum*. The end of *Graben* is crossed by *Kohlmarkt* to the left – if you walk there, you will get to the most expensive shops, the famous *Café Demel* with its delicious pastries and it ends at *Michaelerplatz* with its ancient Roman ruins, leading straight to the impressive gates of the Emperor's palace, the *Hofburg* ([U3 Herrengasse](#)).

If you walk right from the *Graben*, into *Tuchlauben*, you will get to the former Jewish Quarter with its charming small streets. If you walk straight on into *Naglergasse*, it will lead you to the impressive *Am Hof* square and the *Freyung* square, and finally to the *Votivkirche* ([U2 Schottentor](#)), the step child of the *Stephansdom* and constantly under heavy repairs due to erosion, the northern most point of the *Ringstrasse*.

## Ringstrasse

Some 150 years ago, Vienna's (=the Old Town's) enormous city walls and bastions were replaced by the wide and tree-lined Ring Road, now circling the historical centre. Along the Ring Road are the reminders of former Austro-Hungarian grandezza, including (from north to south): *Votivkirche*, University (both **U2** *Schottentor*), *Burgtheater*, City Hall, Parliament, *Volksgarten Park* (all **U2** *Rathaus*), the ginormous *Hofburg Palace* (between **U3** *Herrengasse* and **U2 U3** *Volkstheater*) (also housing the Spanish Riding School, the Vienna Boys' Choir, the National Library, seven museums, the president's office, an OECD dependence and a conference centre), the Art & Science history museums (and a little further away, the bustling *Museumsquartier* with its restaurants and art museums, and the beginning of *Mariahilferstraße*, Vienna's top shopping street), the *Burggarten Park* with the emperor's palm house (now a very popular restaurant, and a butterfly house) (all between **U2 U3** *Volkstheater* and **U2** *Museumsquartier*), and finally the magnificent *State Opera* (especially gorgeous at night, when it is illuminated, and you can sometimes watch the live opera from an enormous screen in front of the building) and, hidden behind the opera, the *Albertina* museum (both **U1 U2 U4** *Karlsplatz*).

We highly recommend walking so you can really marvel at the lovely buildings and the parks, but in case your feet hurt from the event, there's also a tramway that loops around the Ring (daily from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, every 30 minutes). Buy your ticket directly on the *Bim* (original Viennese phrase for tramway) – one round costs 6€ and lasts for 30 mins, or buy a 24h combi-ticket for 14€ for public transport and the Ring-Round, which lets you hop on and off the tram at the stops.

## Schloss Schönbrunn (U4 Schönbrunn)

If you have more time to spend, the Baroque summer residence of the Austrian emperor is well worth the visit. Take a tour through the palace (tickets from 12 €) and then go for a walk through the gorgeous, historically accurate park which contains fake Roman ruins, an obelisk, and a lovely coffee house on top of the hill, in the so-called *Gloriette* (you can see it in the back of the picture). The park also contains Europe's oldest zoo (separate ticket needed)



The best and cheapest way to purchase tickets is online at his web: [schoenbrunn-palace](http://schoenbrunn-palace)

## 8. Insider tips

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*Franziskanerplatz* is a place in the city center, which is not very crowded. Only few tourists find their way there, even it's just 2 or 3 minutes from *Stephansplatz* (U1 U3 *Stephansplatz*). You can take a rest at the *Kleines Café* and then explore some tiny old streets which you can enter through a hallway in house no. 5.



## 9. Tips for safety

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Vienna is said to be one of the safest cities in the world, so you don't need to be afraid of robbery at night, etc. That said, it's always wise to make sure you have your wallet in a safe place, especially in crowded places.

If you need a police station, there is one close to the venue. Leave at entrance A and just pass the metro station. In the next block is a police station (*Polizei*). Emergency call is 133 or 112.

## 10. Local game stores

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Here is a list of game stores in Vienna, all are within 20-30 mins from the venue by public transport.

### **Spielraum Wien** (*U3 Zieglergasse*)

Address: Otto-Bauer-Gasse 17, 1060 Wien

Contact: +43 1 8900 884 or [wien@spielraum.co.at](mailto:wien@spielraum.co.at)

Open daily from 11-19:00 (or until all tournaments are finished)

On their website you will find a calendar with all their events:

<http://www.spielraum.co.at/de/turniere/spielraum-wien-magictermine.aspx>

### **Magic Corner** (5 min. walk from *U6 Nußdorfer Straße*)

Address: Newaldgasse 3, 1090 Wien

Contact: (+43) 1 2765632 or [office@magiccorner.at](mailto:office@magiccorner.at)

Open daily from 13-19 (or until tourneys are finished), **closed on Monday**

Event calendar: <http://www.magiccorner.at/index.php?nav=turnier&page=turnier>

### **Fantasy Flagship** (*U3 Schweglerstraße, U6 Burggasse-Stadthalle*)

Not really a Magic store, but a paradise for LARPerS

Address: Vogelweidplatz 2, 1150 Wien

Contact: +43 (0)1 890 5 890 890 or [infox@hephaistos.com](mailto:infox@hephaistos.com)

Open daily except Sundays from 10-19:00 (Saturdays until 18:00)

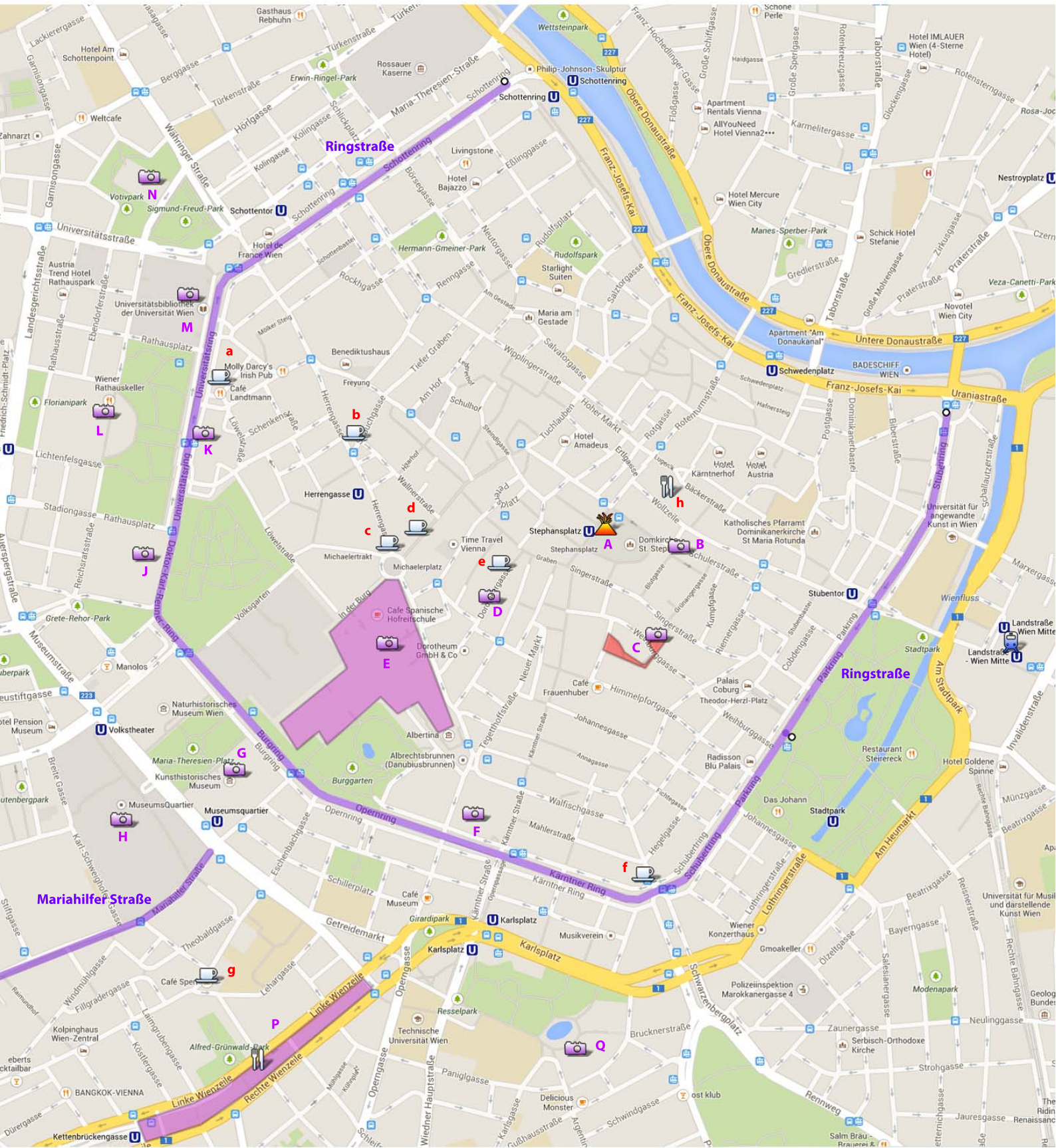
## 11. Drinking water

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Viennese tap water is drinking water. It is of excellent quality and better than most of the bottled stuff you get to buy. In the city you can even find water posts (*Trinkbrunnen*) where you get water for free. If any water is not drinkable, there will be a sign which says "*Kein Trinkwasser*".

# Vienna City Center

Map to the famous GP Vienna Travel Guide



- A ... St. Stephen's Cathedral**
- B ... Mozart's Apartment**
- C ... Franziskanerplatz (insider tip)**
- D ... Jewish Museum**
- E ... Hofburg Palace**
- F ... Opera**
- G ... Art & Science History museums**



- H ... Museumsquartier**
- J ... Parliament**
- K ... Burgtheater**
- L ... City Hall**
- M ... University**
- N ... Votivkirche**
- P ... Naschmarkt**
- Q ... Karlskirche**

- a ... Café Landmann**
- b ... Café Central**
- c ... Café Griensteidl**
- d ... Café Demel**
- e ... Café Havelka**
- f ... Café Schwarzenberg**
- g ... Café Sperl**
- h ... Restaurant Figlmüller**

