



## What to do with children in Vienna?

Of course it all depends on the age of your children, what they generally like to do, and on the weather... still, here a few ideas:

### Schönbrunn Palace and Vienna Zoo

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#### Schönbrunn Palace ([www.schoenbrunn.at](http://www.schoenbrunn.at))



The Schönbrunn Palace was the summer residence of the emperors. There is a special museum for children, so they get to know how life was for the princes and princesses (with costumes!).

The easiest way to reach the Zoo and the Schönbrunn Palace is by underground: take the U4 (the green one) until 'Schönbrunn'.

#### Vienna Zoo ([www.zoovienna.at](http://www.zoovienna.at))

The Zoo is in the (very vast!) gardens of the Schönbrunn palace. It was opened in 1752 and that makes it one of the oldest zoos in the world. Many of the old historical buildings are still there, coupled with new buildings to ensure that the animals are happy! Two years ago even the Great Panda had a baby! The zoo also has a huge, wonderful play ground for the little children. Take the U4 until 'Hietzing'.



If you're visiting the zoo or the Schönbrunn Palace, you might as well visit some of the other attractions. In the gardens (outside of the zoo), I recommend the maze and labyrinth. Right next to them there are a few other interactive games.



### Island in the Danube (Donauinsel)

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If it is hot, I recommend the artificial island (18 km long!) that was built in the Danube to protect Vienna from floods. As a result, in Vienna, the Danube is divided in 3 streams (the 'Danube', 'new Danube', and 'old Danube'... not very original names!!). The 'old Danube' is not directly connected to the river. This means that the water rather quiet and of high quality, i.e. you can swim wherever you want (the current is too strong to swim in the Danube itself). The island It is now a very popular recreation place (esp. for cycling, inline skating, sun bathing and swimming, renting a boat; no entrance fee). It can be reached easily with the U1.

You can rent bicycles, tandems, in-line skates, etc.: Take the U1 until 'Donauinsel' and take the exit 'Hubertusdamm'. You'll see a building on your left, where you can rent various sports equipment.

There is a lovely, very large and diverse water-playground for young children. Take the U1 until 'Donauinsel', take the exit 'Donauinsel' and walk some 500m downstream.





For older children (over 9-10) and adults (!), I recommend the climbing park... that is if you have no fear of heights. Take the U1 until 'Donauinsel', take the exit 'Hubertusdamm' and turn right, walk along the water for some 500 m... can't miss it!

<http://donauinsel-kletterpark.somersault.co.at/>



You can also go to one of the baths at the Danube.. the 'Angelibad' is especially children-friendly. Take the U6 until 'Neue Donau' and you have to walk a bit.



On Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> (11:00-19:00) is the first day of the "**ferienspiel/familientage**" in Vienna, with all sorts of funny activities and sports for the age group 6-13. It is at the "Donaupark", which you can reach it by U1 (get off at 'Alte Donau'). (see: [www.familientage.at](http://www.familientage.at))

## The Prater

The Prater is a great place for kids: it's an amusement park (entrance is free, you pay for each ride) with all sorts of fun rides: roller coasters, bumper cars, etc. The giant ferris wheel, one of the symbols of Vienna, is also at the Prater. The easiest way to get there is by using the Underground U1 (the red one, get off at the "Prater" stop, then walk for 5 minutes... can't really miss it as you see the giant ferris wheel).



## City centre (i.e. 'first district')



If horses mean anything to you, of course you shouldn't miss the **Lipizzaner** at the **Spanish Riding School** ([www.srs.at](http://www.srs.at)). You might want to see a 'full show', but probably the 'morning work' does fine (from 10:00-12:00 hrs). You can also visit the horses in their stables.

The one thing NOT to miss is taking an **ice cream** at the Schwedenplatz: it is the best ice cream of Vienna, and definitely worth it! The Schwedenplatz is in the first district (= heart of town) and the U1 and U4 stops there (it is the ice cream parlour in the middle of the Schwedenplatz, not the one at the corner to the 'Kärtnerstrasse'!)

If you want to learn more about **Empress Sissi**, there is a **museum** dedicated to her at the Hofburg (the winter palace of the emperors). It's all in walking distance within the first district, so take the U1 or U3 until 'Stephansplatz' and it's a 5-10 min. leisurely walk through the pedestrian zone



If you are into music, you might want to visit the '**Haus der Musik**' at the heart of town, which has many interactive features for children of all ages (<http://www.hausdermusik.com/>).



You reach it easily with the U1 or U3 to Stephansplatz, then walk a bit to the street address: Seilerstätte 30.

For those who just want to go **shopping**, the best places are the pedestrian zones in the first district (Kärtnerstrasse, Graben, Kohlmarkt, take the U1 or U3 till 'Stephansplatz' and you're in the middle of it!). If you want to do some fashion-shopping, try the Mariahilferstrasse (take the U3 till 'Neubaugasse' and you're in the middle of it).

There are **boat trips** (approx. 3 hrs long) on the Danube, which start at the Schwedenplatz (where the good ice cream is!). You go through ship locks to cover differences in heights... nice for those children who want to see how these work!

### **Zoom Children's museum ([www.kindermuseum.at](http://www.kindermuseum.at))**

The Zoom is called a 'museum' but I think that is just because it is at the 'Museums Quartier' (MQ), since it has nothing of a museum. A great place e.g. if it rains, they offer various, very hands-on activities for children of all ages (i.e. from 0 to 14 years).

The MuseumsQuartier has a huge courtyard and is a great place to relax if you're in town (esp. if you went shopping in the Mariahilferstrasse!).



### **Movies**

During the Summer there are **open air movie** shows in a park (the 'Augarten'), and most of the movies are either in original language (if it's English) or original language with subtitles (eg. if the movies are in French). The movies always start at 21:30 hrs, either open air or under a tent if the weather is nasty (see: [www.kinowienochnie.at](http://www.kinowienochnie.at)). There the programme for the days of the IFSA 2010:

Sat. 3 July: blue Velvet (USA, 1986, by David Lynch)

Sun. 4 July: Near dark (USA, 1987, by Kathryn Biegelow)

Mon. 5 July: AU hazard Balthazar (F, 1966, by Robert Bresson)

Tue., 6 July: The botany of desire (USA, 2009, by Michael Schwarz)

Wed. 7 July: Maculin feminine – 15 faits précis (F, 1966, by Jean-Luc Godard)

Thur. 8 July: Metropolis (D, 1927, by Fritz Lang)

You can reach the Augarten either by taking the U2 until 'Taborstrasse' or by taking the Tram number 2 from Schwedenplatz (where the U4 and U1 go) until 'Taborstrasse'

There are several **movie theatres** that show movies in English, e.g. the 'Artis' (in the first district, Schultergasse 5) and the 'Haydn' on the Mariahilferstrasse (main shopping street).



As you can see there are many things you can do with children in Vienna, I am sure they'll have a great time and will want to come back soon!