



VISIT GUIDE 2026

Schönbrunn Zoo

Vienna · From 29€

<https://zoo-schonbrunn.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From the Imperial Menagerie to the Modern Zoo

GOOGLE **4.7** ★★★★★ 62 096 reviews

TIQETS **4.8** ★★★★★ 3 732 reviews

The history of Schönbrunn Zoo begins on **31 July 1752**, when Emperor Francis I opened his private menagerie on the castle grounds. Modeled after the prestigious royal menagerie at Versailles, this initial collection was reserved for a privileged elite, reflecting the absolute prestige of the Habsburg imperial court. This place was not yet a zoo in the modern sense, but rather a showcase of natural curiosities intended to dazzle aristocratic visitors.

The decisive transformation took place in **1779**, when the menagerie was opened free of charge to the Viennese public. This decision marked the beginning of a long tradition of cultural and natural accessibility that continues to this day. The site then went through historical upheavals, coming under the control of the Republic of Austria in 1919 following the end of the monarchy, before adopting its current name, Tiergarten Schönbrunn, in 1926 to signify its evolution into a scientific zoological garden.

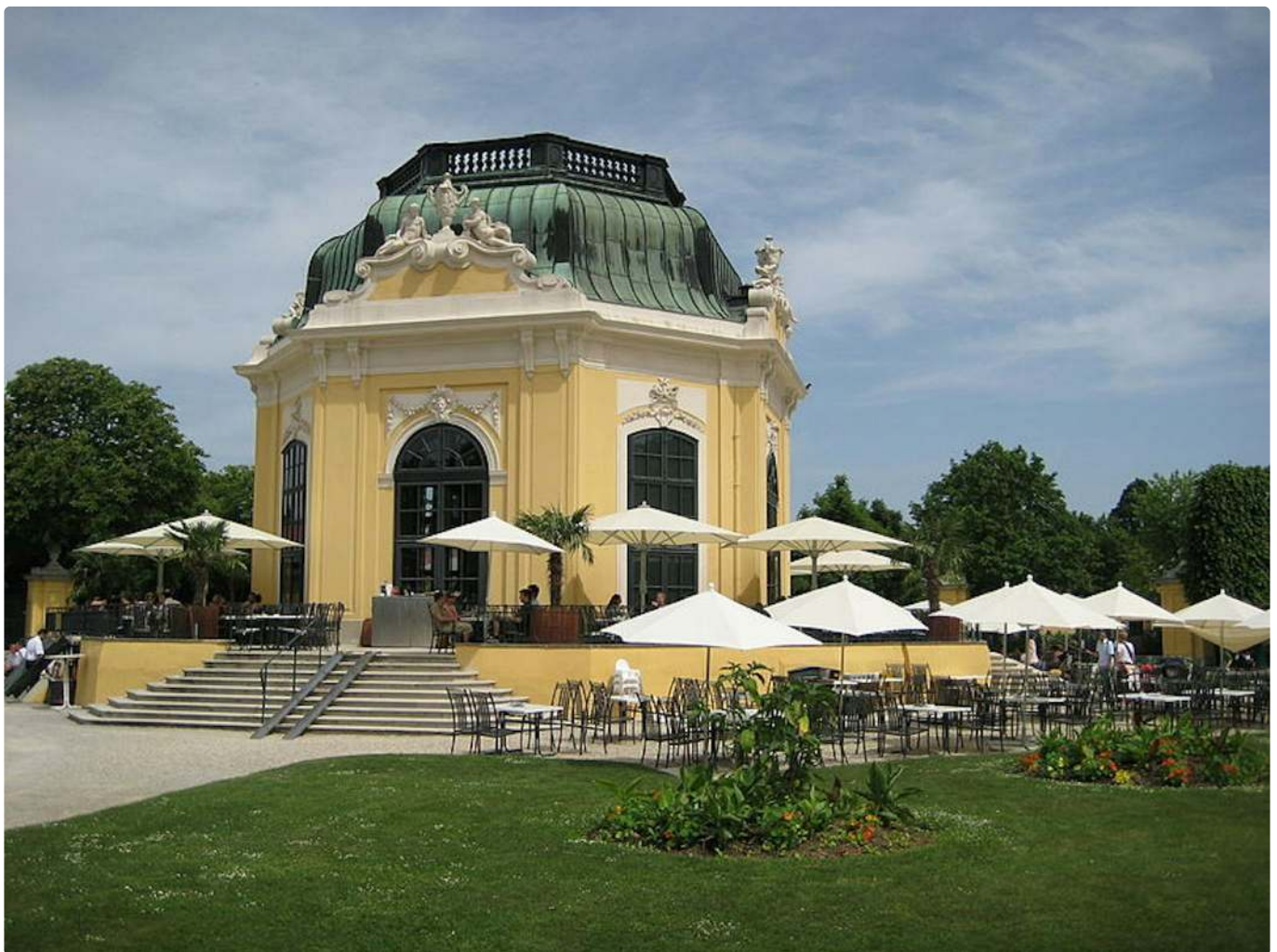
In the twentieth century, the zoo established itself as a major hub for European biological research. In **2002**, to celebrate its 250th anniversary, Austria issued a 5-euro silver collector's coin, a rare gesture that underscores the site's heritage significance. This uninterrupted longevity of over two centuries makes this park the world's oldest active zoo, a unique title that testifies to its resilience and constant adaptation to the demands of conservation.

Since 1992, management has been handled by the private company Schönbrunner Tiergarten - GesmbH, ensuring modern operations while respecting the historical legacy. Under the direction of zoologist **Stephan Hering-Hagenbeck** since 2020, the zoo continues its mission with increased scientific rigor, combining public education and the preservation of endangered species within a UNESCO-listed architectural setting.

THE EXPERIENCE

As soon as you cross the gates of Maxingstraße, you are immediately immersed in an atmosphere where Baroque elegance meets wild vitality. The architecture of the imperial pavilion, with its majestic columns, harmoniously contrasts with the lush greenery of the 17-hectare gardens. Daylight filters through the foliage, creating plays of shadow that invite silent contemplation of the animals in their carefully designed habitats.

The experience is one of a simultaneous temporal and geographical journey. You move from the polar ambiance of the penguin enclosures to the tropical warmth of the Palm House, all without leaving Vienna. Each path tells a story of conservation, and every animal observed becomes a living testament to global biodiversity. It is a complete sensory immersion, where the sounds of birds and the wind rustling through the trees compose a soothing symphony, far removed from the hustle and bustle of city life.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

District 10 · Metro: Hietzing (Line U4) or Schönbrunn (Lines U4, tram 10/60), 5 to 10 min walk depending on the chosen entrance.

OPENING HOURS

Hours vary by season; occasional winter closures may apply. Please check exact dates before your visit.

FARES

Free child entry based on age (check variants). {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow a minimum of 2 to 3 hours to calmly explore the various habitats, from the Arctic to the Tropics, without missing any feeding times.

PHOTOS

Personal photography is allowed throughout the park. Avoid intense flashes near sensitive enclosures and respect 'no-photo' zones if indicated during care sessi

AUDIENCE

Ideal for a cultural and family audience seeking an enriched heritage experience combined with nature. Biology enthusiasts will appreciate the scientific rigor

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

**Metro**

: Hadikgasse — 8 min à pied

West Station (13 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (19 min)

**Bus**

: Tiroler Gasse — 4 min à pied

West Station (20 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (29 min)

**Car**

West Station (13 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (20 min)

**Bike**

West Station (16 min) · Vienna Main train station (Südtiroler Platz) (26 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve Schönbrunn Zoo ?



📍 Maxingstraße 13B — 1130 Vienna

🌐 48°10.925' N, 16°18.167' E



ORGANIZATION

Strategic Route and Thematic Zones

North Zone (Arctic & Large Mammals)

This zone features vast outdoor spaces dedicated to elephants and large herbivores. The enclosures are expansive and landscaped, allowing the animals to move freely. You will also find facilities dedicated to cold-climate species, offering a striking contrast with the rest of the park.

Historical Center (Imperial Pavilion & Pandas)

The beating heart of the zoo, centered around the original imperial pavilion. This is where the giant panda enclosure is located, accessible via a panoramic terrace offering a direct view of the animals. Its proximity to the castle creates a unique and picturesque setting in Europe.

South Zone (Tropics & Greenhouses)

This section is dedicated to hot and humid climates. It includes the Wüstenhaus (Desert House) and the Vogelhaus (Bird House), as well as the outdoor tropical areas. The atmosphere here is dense and lush, with a high concentration of endemic species from Asia and Australia.

ACCESSIBILITY



Disabled Access

Main route accessible by wheelchair with adapted facilities.



Families

Ideal for families with children thanks to the animations and the little train.



Audio guide

French, English, Spanish, German



Must-sees

SELECTION

Must-See Attractions of the Zoological Park

01

Imperial Pavilion Terrace

Giant Panda Enclosure

This is the zoo's main attraction, home to the couple Yang Yang and Lang Hui, as well as their cub Fu Hu. The terrace offers an unobstructed view of the pandas in their natural habitat, allowing visitors to observe their feeding and social behaviors. The presence of these rare species has given the site international renown.

💡 **Fu Long**, born in 2007, was the first panda born through natural insemination in Europe, marking a historic turning point for the conservation of the species.

02

North Zone

Tirolerhof (Elephants)

A vast space where elephants live in a semi-natural environment. Visitors can observe these giants in conditions close to their original habitat, with bathing and resting areas. The immensity of the enclosure inspires admiration for the park's spatial management.

💡 The enclosures at Tirolerhof were designed to maximize animal welfare, integrating renovated historical architectural elements.

03

South Zone

Desert House

A greenhouse specializing in desert fauna and flora. It features reptiles, camelids, and succulent plants adapted to arid environments. The atmosphere is unique, with a controlled temperature simulating conditions found in the Sahara or Arabia.

💡 This facility allows visitors to observe species such as fennecs and oryx, which are difficult to maintain outdoors in Vienna's climate.

04

South Zone

Vogelhaus (Bird House)

An impressive covered aviary housing a spectacular diversity of tropical birds. The vibrant colors of the plumage and the varied songs create an intense visual and auditory experience. It is one of the most photogenic spots in the zoo, despite frequent queues.

💡 The aviary is regularly updated with new species, actively contributing to captive breeding programs.

05

Tropical Zone

Australian Koalas

Schönbrunn is one of seven European zoos to house koalas, a rarity that attracts many enthusiasts. These Australian marsupials are presented in a habitat replicating the eucalyptus trees of their native continent. Their presence underscores the zoo's international commitment to conservation.

💡 The presence of koalas in Vienna is the result of close scientific collaborations with Australian institutions.

06

Arctic Zone

Humboldt Penguins

Although not arctic, these penguins are presented in a cold-water zone. Their social behavior and interactions with the water offer a constant spectacle. The enclosures are designed to allow clear observation of their swimming and resting activities.

💡 Humboldt penguins are particularly popular with children due to their small size and visual accessibility.

07

Tropical Forest

Bornean Orangutans

Orangutan individuals move through a complex arboreal structure that mimics the forest canopy. Their agility and intelligence can be observed during feeding times. This species is crucial for Asian primate conservation programs.

💡 The orangutans of Schönbrunn participate in behavioral studies that enhance our understanding of cognition in great apes.

08

North Zone

Siberian Tigers

These majestic felines are presented in a spacious enclosure adapted to their need for movement. Their thick fur and piercing gaze captivate visitors. The presence of white tigers or breeding tigresses adds an important genetic dimension to the collection.

💡 The genetic monitoring of Siberian tigers at Schönbrunn contributes to maintaining the diversity of the European population.

TIPS

Tips for an Optimal Visit

TIMING

Arrive right at opening time at 9:00 AM to enjoy the quiet enclosures before the influx of school groups and avoid crowds at hotspots like the pandas.

TICKET

Check if your Vienna PASS includes zoo access, as this represents a significant saving. Otherwise, book online to benefit from skip-the-line access, especially during peak season.

TOUR

Start with the North Zone (elephants), then head to the center for the pandas, and finish at the tropical greenhouses. This avoids backtracking and follows a logical climate progression.

PHOTO

Use the terrace of the imperial pavilion to photograph the pandas with the castle in the background. Avoid using flash near sensitive enclosures and respect the designated 'no-photo' zones.

BREAK

Take a break at the Tirolerhof restaurant to taste local cuisine, or enjoy a coffee in the neighboring park. Plan for regular breaks as there is significant walking across the 17 hectares.

CHILDREN

The panoramic mini-train is an excellent way to reduce children's fatigue and discover the vast areas of the zoo. The shows and feeding times are very popular with young visitors.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in French and is worth the cost to understand the site's history and the biological specifics of the animals. It significantly enriches the visit beyond simple observation.

COMFORT

Wear comfortable shoes as the main route involves a lot of walking. Check the weather forecast, as some secondary access points may be closed due to bad weather.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I really need to book in advance?

Yes, booking in advance is strongly recommended, especially during peak season (June to September) and on weekends. This guarantees you skip-the-line access and avoids long queues at the turnstiles. In low season, buying

Is the Castle + Zoo combo ticket still available?

This option is often offered but subject to strict validity conditions. Make sure both sites are open on the same day when purchasing. Separate tickets remain a flexible alternative if your schedule changes.

Is there a current promotion?

Temporary offers appear regularly on ticketing platforms. Check the fares section to see current discounts. The Vienna PASS can also be advantageous if you are visiting multiple attractions in Vienna.

Can I cancel my ticket?

It depends on the option chosen at purchase. Some tickets are flexible and refundable up to 24h before, while others are not. Carefully read the specific terms associated with your ticket before confirming.

How long does the visit take?

Allow 2 to 3 hours for a complete exploration of the main habitats. If you wish to attend specific animal feedings, such as the pandas, plan extra time as schedules vary by season.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

One-of-a-Kind Collectible Coin

To mark its 250th anniversary in 2002, Austria minted a **silver 5 euro coin** specifically dedicated to the zoo. This monetary gesture symbolizes the site's cultural and historical importance in Austrian national identity, far beyond its zoological function.

Versillais Heritage

The original menagerie, opened in 1752, was built directly on the model of the **royal menagerie at Versailles**. This French influence is visible in the initial architecture and in the curatorial approach to the collections, anchoring the zoo in a tradition of European prestige.

Late Public Opening

Reserved for the privileged for 27 years, the menagerie only became freely accessible to the Viennese public in **1779**. This slowness reflects the social evolution of the time, when access to nature and animal curiosities was a marker of social status before becoming a cultural right.

Modern Private Management

Since 1992, the site has been managed by the private company Schönbrunner Tiergarten - GesmbH. This structure ensures the continuity of operations with modern standards, led by zoologist **Stephan Hering-Hagenbeck** since 2020, guaranteeing a highly scientific approach to conservation.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The zoo enjoys an exceptional location within the vast Schönbrunn estate, offering enriching opportunities before or after your visit. Right next to the main entrance is the **Palmenhaus**, a renowned tropical greenhouse that extends the botanical experience with its exotic flora. For an authentic gastronomic break, the traditional inn **Tirolerhof**, located near the zoo entrance, offers Austrian specialties in a warm atmosphere. If you wish to admire the panorama of Vienna, the **Gloriette**, a belvedere situated at the top of the hill, provides a breathtaking view ideal for a photo stop. Finally, Schönbrunn Palace itself, a UNESCO-listed imperial residence, shares the same grounds and allows for a complete immersion in Habsburg history, perfectly complementing your cultural and natural day out.



Leaving the Schönbrunn Zoo means taking with you far more than a souvenir: it is keeping in memory the **animal dignity** and the timeless beauty of this historic place. Whether you are fascinated by pandas or amazed by imperial architecture, this visit offers a deep connection with nature and history. Come back often, for each season reveals a different face of this Viennese jewel, always as captivating as it is inspiring.