

Conference Venue

Vienna, an imperial city with global reach

Located at the heart of Europe, Vienna is a remarkable blend of beauty, civilised manners and modernity. Its proximity to the capital cities of the European continent and the high quality of its infrastructures make it a natural venue for conferences and meetings on major European and global issues.

Founded by the Celts over 2,500 years ago, the Roman empire's "white city" turned in the Middle Ages into the capital of the Habsburg dynasty, whose influence extended across the entire Holy Roman Empire from their headquarters in the imperial city symbolised by a black eagle. Because of its influence, the Austrian city hosted the Congress of Vienna (in 1814) and, to this day, thanks to Austria's status as a neutral power, it is home to major international organisations such as the OSCE, OPEC, the Vienna International Centre (UNO) and the International Press Institute. It has also remained as a favoured location for signing important agreements, such as the Vienna Conventions.

In the same way as the Danube river flows across the European continent, Vienna has travelled down the ages, preserving the best memories of the past in the form of world-famous museums (the Fine Arts museum and the Museum of Modern Art), but also architectural marvels such as the Opera House, the splendid Belvedere park, the famous Graben street and, last but not least, the Hofburg palace, where this year's World Policy Conference will be held.

As the world capital of music, Vienna breathes music more than preserving it as a traditional heritage. Indeed, Vienna's exceptional heritage has been the driving-force of its day-to-day dynamism and of the persistence of its influence.

Hofburg, the imperial palace

For centuries the Hofburg palace housed the centre of power in Vienna, making it one of the most prestigious districts of the city in more ways than one. Because of its size, it has become a small town within the city. It is also outstanding because of the beautiful blend of many different styles and because of what it symbolises. Just as in imperial days the presence of the palace stimulated the construction of new buildings all around it, today its existence helps to build our world by hosting international conferences in its congress centre.

This comfortable and radiantly beautiful palace is therefore the ideal venue for the next World Policy Conference.