

Historic Walking Tour Vienna – Die Durchhäuser

Classic Multi-Cache, highly recommended for tourists

Distance: approx. 1.5 km. Almost no steps. It is recommended to visit the stages during daylight.

Duration: less than an hour (without any mistakes. ;-)

Version 1.01: text slightly adapted

Version 1.1: I've made a few major changes, but the variables and the final location didn't change.

Introduction

A "*Durchhaus*" is a house between two streets, with one or more quiet courtyards connected by a thoroughfare for pedestrians, basically a shortcut between the two streets, going right through the house.

This cache is part of a series of touristic walking tours in the centre of Vienna. The caches can be found on [this list](#). The caches focus on little-known, but nevertheless very interesting places, that are not normally on tourists' must-see-lists. The questions should be quite easy to answer.

It is highly recommended to visit the stages during daylight in order to avoid disturbing the neighbours. Most of these public courtyards should be accessible during the night as well, however, some doors may be closed at night.

The Walking Tour

Starting Point: N 48° 12.474 E 016° 22.305

You are standing at „**Stock im Eisen**“ (part of a tree trunk held in by five iron bands. You can see it behind glass at the corner of the "Palais Equitable"). On the other side of the street a very popular pastry shop can be found, which shares its name with a famous Verdi opera. Pass by the pastry shop going east into Singerstraße.

On the house locating the pastry shop you can see the words "Zum goldenen Becher" (to the golden cup) above a balcony directly above a niche. There is quite a bloody story behind it, that has nothing to do with a drinking cup: a young protestant

grabbed the ostensory from the bishop during a Corpus Christi procession in 1549 and threw it away, cursing like a sailor. Today this would not raise anyone's eyebrow, but back in those days the poor fellow "lost" his tongue and his hand. And as if that had not been enough already – he was burnt alive after that. A memorial plaque at this place served as a warning for people.

Follow Singerstraße and look left at the next corner. This spot provides a marvelous view of Saint Stephen's roof and the old Austrian coat of arms with the two-headed eagle. Go a few steps further along Singerstraße and you will see an open gate at N 48 12.454, E 016 22.388: **Haus des Deutschen Ordens**. (*House of the teutonic knights*, a German medieval military order, that became in modern times a purely religious Catholic order). Enter the building and find out until when Mozart lived in this building. The day is the variable for T, the month is the variable for M.

The teutonic knights were the first order that the Nazis forbade. It was founded during the crusades in the Holy Land and came to Vienna in 1210. In its church service is held also in Hungarian.

Unfortunately, you can no longer go through here (please respect this!), so you'll need to turn back and head out onto Singerstraße again. Follow this road eastwards and turn left at N 48 12.443 E 016 22.420.

Walk past the barrier and, after a few metres, turn left into the archway. You can find a **plaque** "Träger der Mozart-Medaille der Mozartgemeinde Wien" (*owners of the Mozart medal of the Mozart town Vienna*). The Vienna Philharmonics (*Wiener Philharmoniker*) are also on this list. Take the number to their left and calculate the double digit cross sum P.

Now turn around, leave the archway again in the direction you came from, and pause briefly in the middle of the yard: in front of you you will see two signs with Roman numerals; subtract the number of the *Stiege* from the *Hof* – this gives you the variable Z.

Now leave this courtyard, going left would lead us back to Stephansplatz, therefore we go to the right, which leads us back to Singerstraße. Going further East you reach the **Blutgasse** which we pass by for now; we'll be coming to that in a moment. Instead, we follow Singerstraße for a few more metres until we reach the entrance marked 'Singerstraße 11' at N 48 12.432 E 016 22.444. We go in and carry on until we find ourselves in a courtyard.

Right in the middle of the yard you can see a nature-protected 250 year old tree, an oriental plane. And we get to know some „quirks“ of the Viennese dialect...

Opposite the tree you can see a sign, which points to a special „room“. In German this word sounds very elegant, but the purpose of this room is not at all elegant – it is where the garbage cans are stored... Count the letters on the sign for the variable K.

This house is one of the many „Durchhäuser“ in Vienna: You go in somewhere and leave it elsewhere. This is not to be confused with the many backyards in Germany, which have only one entrance/exit.

You don't go back, but search for another exit instead. Some steps up, then some steps down and you reach an iron gate: Now go upstairs on the left side.

This leads you to a beautiful „Pawlatschenhof“ (the word origins from the Czech language and means „access balcony“. Enjoy the quiet atmosphere – you wouldn't think that you are still right in the middle of a big city.)

Go straight ahead and leave the „Pawlatschenhof“, back into Blutgasse. Turn around and jot down the **house number** of the house, you just left. This is the variable L.

Follow the Blutgasse in direction Northeast until you reach the Domgasse. At N 48 12.485, E 016 22.491 you see a striking house, which invites you to come in. The plaque left and right from the entrance shows a red head. Beneath the head is a word with six letters. Convert the first letter of the word in the third line of the text, to the right of the header, using the usual method (A=1, B=2, ...) into a number that gives you the value variable R.

Attention coffee lovers: Franz Kolschitzky lived and died in the house Domgasse 8. During the Siege of Vienna by the Ottoman Empire in 1683, Kolschitzky had to smuggle himself behind enemy lines and get in contact with the army liberating Vienna. He succeeded and was awarded some bags of beans, that the Ottomans had left behind. With these Turkish coffee beans he founded the first Viennese coffeehouse and sweetened the drink with milk and sugar, thus inventing a signature drink of Vienna. What a nice story, isn't it? The only problem is: It is not true... The first Viennese coffee house was founded by an Armenian several years earlier at the address Rotenturmstraße 14.

Go left and then immediately right to Schulerstraße, cross Schulerstraße towards the North. The Strobelgasse leads you to **Wollzeile**, one of the oldest street names in Vienna. Go West and after about 50 meters at N 48 12.546, E 016 22.473 you will find the entrance to the house „Wollzeile 5“. Right at the entrance there are some vertical, longish signs for a well-known restaurant. The background colour of the sign is: Red, then S=4; Green, then S=5; Blue, then S=7 or Black, then S=8.

In this small alley we pass by one of the most famous restaurants in Vienna, where the „Wiener Schnitzel“ are usually even bigger than the plates.

On the other side of the alley is a square, called Lugeck. Pass it behind the back of the statue of Johannes Gensfleisch (also known as Gutenberg) and go into the Köllnerhofgasse to the North.

The Kölnerhof (home of the merchants from Cologne (Köln, in German)) was located here until 1792. Why there is now a second “L” in the name of the street remains unclear.

Follow Köllnerhofgasse until you reach Grashofgasse on the right, follow Grashofgasse until House number 3 at N 48 12.604, E 016 22.572. Go through the house and you will reach **Heiligenkreuzer Hof**.

This building belongs to the Cistercians, who used to sell their own products (wine, shoes etc.) here. Nowadays this is a place of wonderful quietness, especially during the weekends.

Walk to roughly the middle of the courtyard and look to your left at the statue of the saint. Take the first two digits of the year as variable V. Then we cross the courtyard and reach Schönlaterngasse.

House number 7 shows a rather strange text and an even more disturbing picture: It is the so called „Basiliskenhaus“. A Basilisk is some kind of genetically altered medieval horror animal, a mixture of a toad, a rooster and a snake with poisonous, deadly breath. While it is true that lots of people died, it was rather due to poisonous natural gases – but the story with the basilisk sounds much more interesting. ;-) Take a look at the beautiful lantern at house Nr. 6, the street is named after it (Schönlatern = beautiful lantern).

Continue your walk to the South West and turn left into Sonnenfelsgasse. After a few meters you will reach the very old Dr.-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz at N 48 12.529, E 016 22.649.

This was the location of the old university for almost 500 years, today the Austrian Academy of Sciences is still located here. The most prominent building on the square is however the Jesuitenkirche. The Jesuits had a big influence in the 17th century and even appointed the professors at the university. They probably had a large network – maybe it was named “Faithbook”?! Should the door to the church be open, go inside and look at the cupola – it is not real and a masterpiece of trompe l’oeil architecture.

At the facade of the Jesuite church, you can read how long it took to build it. Take the duration as variable H.

Cross the square diagonally and follow Bäckerstraße bearing southeast, cross Postgasse and go to Karl-Lueger Platz at N 48 12.460 E 016 22.752 where you find a small model of the church where we started our walk.

Walk towards the small model, then turn to your left; there you should see three bronze plaques. Take a closer look at the one on the left and take the last two digits of the second date; this will give you the variable W.

Now it is time to search for the cache. Sit down on one of the benches and start calculating. Luckily, you don't have to be fluent in Math, simple subtraction will do.

Should the coordinates point to a final several kilometers away, they are definitely wrong. You will have to walk a little bit to the final and prove your courage once there – but if you made it there, you will make it anywhere. ;-)

T =

M =

Z =

P =

K =

L =

R =

S =

V =

H =

W =

A = W - P - S - Z

B = K - T

C = K - H - T

D = V - M - H

E = R - K - L

F = Z - L

Find the cache here: **N 48° 12.ABC E 016° 22.DEF**

If you find that you have more variables than you actually need for your calculation – keep them because they may be useful for this bonus cache (<http://coord.info/GC3QQXY>).

Hint:

Jesuitenkirche: even number.

Final: all beginning (=“ANFANG” in german) was difficult, wasn't it?