

# Joining Instructions for Apartment Number 43, 32 Novaragasse, Vienna

Revised Joining Instructions (Revised October 2006)

## Flights to Vienna

From Vancouver there are no direct flights to Vienna. Most flights go through London, Frankfurt or Amsterdam. Most of those destinations are about 8 to 9 hour flights from Vancouver and then it is a 1 to 2 hour hop to Vienna.

## From the Airport to the apartment

The Vienna Airport is smaller than the Vancouver Airport and I have always found it to be fast and efficient. After arriving you have two options to get to the apartment. Train or Taxi. Train will cost approximately 3 Euros and the Taxi will cost approximately 30 Euros. They both take about the same amount of time. 20 minutes. The train journey however will involve a 5 minute walk from the station at the other end, Wien Nord, to our place. So if you have a ton of luggage and are exhausted from the flight the taxi may be a more viable option. Also if you are arriving in the dark, it may be best to take a cab. But for the most part I highly recommend taking the train. With the money you save you can buy yourself a vienerschnitzel dinner.

## By Taxi to 32 Novaragasse

Easy-peasy. There are lots of cabs in a row out in front of the airport. Just ask one to take you to 32 Novaragasse. Most drivers, unless they just fell off of a turnip truck, should know where it is. If they need prompting tell them it is in the Second District. If they need more prompting tell them it is off of Pratterstrasse. If they need more prompting, get into another cab.

## By Train from Airport to Wien Nord (Vienna North Train Station)

Your destination from the airport is the Wien Nord station. Wien Nord is one of four main train stations in Vienna and easy to get to. Wien Nord of course means Vienna North in German. . **Don't take the CAT train.** Take the OBB train. After you get out

of the baggage reclaim area at the airport and through the doors into the main hall look for a back lit yellow illuminated sign with a train emblem on it. This will lead you to the downstairs train platform. An escalator, stairs or an elevator all lead there. Once you arrive downstairs at the OBB Train platform there is an automated ticket machine on this level. Don't worry if you don't have your Euros yet because it takes credit cards. Press the English icon on the computer and it will walk you through the steps to purchase a one way ticket to Wien Nord. There are several other options on the menu including a 72 hour travel card or an eight day card that you may want to consider to save money. (these cards give you unlimited subway and bus access for the their duration).

Board the train when it comes. Make sure you get on the train going in the right direction, it is marked Floridsdorf. Then get off at Wien Nord. See I told you it was simple - Wien Nord is the 9<sup>th</sup> stop from the airport. Getting from Wien Nord to 32 Novaragasse is easy too, although it involves a few more steps, both literally and figuratively.

When you have gotten off the train here are the directions from the train station to our apartment:

As you get off the train you will turn right and go down the stairs to the street level lobby. When you reach the bottom of the stairs turn right and exit the station through the main doors. Once you are outside stop and look around for a large statue with a man standing on top of it with a saber. It's a huge old tall column and fountain, you can't miss it from in front of the train station doors. Walk over to that statue which is about 75 yards away. Walk in front of the statue and stand in front of the statue-man with the saber, who is way above your head. Position yourself as if he was going to stab you in the back. (Don't worry he can't stab you because he is way too high up and he is made of granite and can't move). In this position you should be looking down Pratterstrasse, which is a main road. Obeying the traffic light, cross the first cross walk in front of you, then cross the second cross walk which will be to your right. Then turn left and walk 40 yards down Praterstrasse to Novaragasse Street. When you get to Novaragasse street turn right and go for three blocks till you get to our street address - 32 Novaragasse Street. You will notice the numbers getting smaller as you get closer. Also just to reassure you that you are on the right track you will go by a white sign on your left for a Ballet School. Our apartment is on the corner of Novaragasse and Zirkusgasse.

*Additional update – I was in Vienna in August of 2006 and Wien Nord was under construction. The train stopped 500 meters away from the described point of disembarkment.*

**Location** 32 Novaragasse is located in the second district of Vienna. It is 5 or 6 blocks from on of the most famous and easy to find landmarks in the city, the Riesenrad. The Riesenrad is a gigantic 100 year old Ferris wheel and is to Vienna what the Eiffel tower is to Paris. 32 Novaragasse is between two main streets, Taborstrasse and Praterstrasse. It is also located just a few blocks from two of the biggest parks in Vienna,

The Prater which is Vienna's main huge central park, and the Augarten, a smaller but just as important park.

The center of Vienna's tourist district is the Stephanplatz where you will see a huge, old and famous Cathedral called St. Stephens which is located in Stephenplatz. You can see the Stephanplatz steeple from just down the street from the apartment. 32 Novaragasse is less than a 20 minute walk from Stephanplatz. Or if you prefer it is a 2 subway stop ride, or a 6 Euro cab fare from Stephanplatz.

The apartment is in a working class neighborhood. It is a bit rough around the edges and gritty. You will see the occasional "women of the night" after dark. At night time be careful and aware and you should be OK.

**Transportation in Vienna** Vienna has a wonderful subway system. 32 Novaragasse is located a few blocks away from the Nestroyplatz subway stop on the U1 line. This subway stop is on Praterstrasse next to the McDonald's. Or if you walk to Taborstrasse or Praterstrasse it is fairly easy to flag down a cab.

### **The Building**

After coming through the front door walk to the end of the lobby and turn right. At the end of that hall is a small elevator. The apartment is on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. On the elevator button panel you need to press "D" which is short in German for "Dach Boden" or top floor. If you prefer to walk up a winding staircase is next to the elevator. If you arrive at night the lights in the lobby and hallway to the elevator will be turned off. There are some obvious illuminated red light switches on the wall after you enter the door that will turn the lights on when you touch them. The lobby is pretty austere and old. Don't be fooled though, the apartment is modern.

Both the door from the outside and the one into the apartment require you to turn the key in a clockwise motion to open them. Be aware on the outside door on Novaragasse Street that you are trying to open the smaller door.

**There is no.....** Phone, internet hook up, laundry, or television. There are phone booths on the busy streets just down the block. A really good internet café is about four blocks away toward the Ferris Wheel (Reisenrad) on Hedwigasse. When you are in the square near the Ferris Wheel look up and there is a big sign on top of one of the buildings pointing to the internet café. As far as a good laundry mat goes the bulletin board in the kitchen and the guest books have tips on places to go to get your laundry done.

**What to do** In the apartment you will find 5 different guide books. There are lots of maps and brochures and tips in the apartment too. About a week in Vienna would give you enough time to see most of the important attractions. You'll love it!

What to do if you lose the key? Don't lose the key! But we do have a friend in Vienna that we have given an extra set of keys to. She doesn't speak that much English and may be hard to get a hold of so don't lose the key. But just in case her name is Hanni Schweiger:

Home: 967 6525

Work: 604 2366 local 11

Mobile: 0699 1 967 6526

**Please take care of the place** When you leave it is really important to take the garbage out. The next people who are our guests may not be arriving for a long time. We have no one to clean the place. There are garbage bins in the outside courtyard on the main floor opposite the entrance doors. Also if you could just generally tidy up I know our next guests would appreciate it. There are cleaning supplies under the sink and mops and brooms in the room next to the shower.

If you have been staying for more than a day or two it will be necessary for you to take the bed sheets into the laundry too.

Also if there is any mail please pick it up off the floor and bring it back to Vancouver for us.

To make sure you have done everything when you leave I have left a simple check-list up on the bulletin board. Don't forget to sign the guest book too..

Have a great Stay.....

Dave

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