Each World Heritage Site consists of a core and a buffer zone. The nominated area of the historical centre of Vienna comprises a core zone of about 3.7 km² featuring some 1,600 objects and a buffer zone, covering appr. 4.6 km² with about 2,950 objects. From a historical point of view the core zone covers:

- the heart of the city dating back to the Middle Ages, i.e. the city nucleus that was built on the Roman city structure;
- the large building complexes of the Baroque with the radiating city axes that are still characterised by former summer residences and their gardens (Belvedere, Schwarzenberg and the monastery of the Salesian Sisters);
- the restructured urban development of the city during the second half of the 19th century (the Viennese Ringstrasse) with the world-famous buildings that heralded the beginning of Modernism.

The inclusion of the historical centre of Vienna on the World Heritage List was based on three criteria:

1. The urban and architectural qualities as witnesses to a continuing interchange of values throughout the second millennium.
2. The urban and architectural heritage illustrating three key periods of European cultural and political development – the Middle Ages, the Baroque and the Gründerzeit.
3. The city's universal recognition as the musical capital of Europe.

THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF VIENNA

World Heritage Vienna, core zone and buffer zone

Former Court Library, Josefsplatz

Ferstel Palace, Freyung Town Hall

Postsparkasse, Georg-Coch-Platz

Palm House, Burggarten

Chapel of the Hofburg Palace

St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Choir

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© Wiener Hofmusikkapelle

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