

Mayors Forum of the World Cities 2025 Site Visits

Site Visit 1: Affordable Housing – [Karl-Marx-Hof](#) Housing Estate

Karl-Marx-Hof is a prominent example of early 20th-century social housing in Vienna, Austria. Completed in 1930, it was one of the largest housing complexes of its time and remains a significant architectural and historical landmark.

Karl-Marx-Hof was constructed as one of the flagship projects of Vienna's ambitious "Red Vienna" housing programme, which aimed to provide affordable and high-quality housing to the city's working class. This programme was driven by the Socialist government, reflecting its commitment to improving living conditions for its citizens.

Beyond providing affordable apartments, municipal housing facilities included elements of social infrastructure. As the poster child of municipal housing, Karl-Marx-Hof featured a wide range of social amenities, including a library, washhouses, and kindergartens. Additionally, its expansive green spaces underscore the symbolic significance of the facility, creating an almost palace-like atmosphere.



Karl-Marx-Hof © Wiener Wohnen/Alexandru Ilisei



Additional Info:

- This is an outdoor site visit; delegates may consider bringing along a bottle of water and using light sun protection such as sunscreen or a hat. Umbrellas will be provided in case of light rain.
- As the weather is generally warm with the occasional rainfall, delegates may wish to dress in casual clothing suitable for hot weather and comfortable footwear for walking. Singlets and flip-flops/slippers are not recommended.
- In the event of thundery showers, some portions of the site visits may not be accessible, and the visit may be shortened to ensure the safety for all.

Site Visit 2: Vienna From Past to Present – [Wien Museum](#) (Vienna Museum)

The Wien Museum (Vienna Museum) is a cultural institution dedicated to showcasing the rich history and culture of Vienna through a variety of permanent and temporary exhibitions. Its diverse collections feature historical artifacts, fine art, and items from everyday life, reflecting the city's evolution from its Roman origins to its contemporary status. Housed in a historic building, the Wien Museum is not only an architectural gem but also a vital resource for understanding Vienna's cultural legacy and ongoing transformation. It is conveniently located in the heart of the city, making it easily accessible for both locals and tourists. Admission to the permanent exhibition is free for everyone.



© Wien Museum

Additional Info:

- This is a mostly indoor activity; however, delegates may consider bringing along a bottle of water.
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Site Visit 3: City of Tomorrow – [Seestadt Aspern](#)

Seestadt Aspern is one of Europe's largest urban development projects whose design is centred around a water body. Located in Vienna's fast-growing 22nd district in the north-east of the city, a new urban centre is taking shape – a smart city with a heart, designed to accommodate the whole spectrum of life. A multi-phase development through to the next decade will see the creation of high-quality housing for over 25,000 people and, eventually, thousands of workplaces. Built on a foundation of innovative concepts and forward-looking ideas, this city-within-a-city combines high quality of life with economic drive and offers something for everyone. Diverse, open and planned for the future, with excellent transport links – Seestadt Aspern is a business hub of international calibre and a living environment with a high feel-good factor.



Seestadt Aspern © City of Vienna / Fuerthner

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Site Visit 4: From Brownfield to Mixed-Use Neighbourhood – [Nordbahnhof Quartier](#)

An urban development area for 20,000 people has emerged at Vienna's North Station, which is leading the way with modern examples of affordable housing. This is an approximately 85-hectare freight yard area of the former North Railway Station, which is no longer required by the ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways) for rail operations, and on which a new district has been gradually being built since the 1990s. "Bike City", "Living at the Park" and "Bike & Swim" are some of the programmes that have been implemented here.

In addition to the already built-up area around Rudolf-Bednar-Park and the Austria Campus, the last development areas "Wohnallee mit Bildungscampus" (Residential Avenue with Education Campus) and "Freie Mitte – Vielseitiger Rand" (Free Center – Versatile Edge) will be realized by 2026. The heart of the Nordbahnhofviertel is the "Freie Mitte" as a tangible urban wilderness – the central so-called "Gstett'n", in which nature has regained its freedom between old track systems and historical buildings.



Nordbahnhof © GB*

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Site Visit 5: Flood Protection and Inner-City Recreational Area – [Danube Island](#)

The 21-kilometer-long Danube Island is not only the favourite recreational region of the Viennese, but it also functions as the city's flood mitigation system. The Danube Island can be reached from the city center in just a few minutes via the subway lines U1 and U6. An expansive network of trails invites the athletically inclined to hike, jog, cycle and skate. Bathing areas with flat beaches as well as natural bathing sites, a water slide, a surfing school, a water ski lift and a boat rental service offer plenty of opportunities for fun on and in the water.



Danube Island © WienTourismus/Gregor Hofbauer

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