

Vienna's Ice Dream celebrates its 25th birthday and Mayor Michael Ludwig was the first to give his congratulations

- **25th Vienna Ice Dream from 22nd January to 1st March 2020**
- **Opening: Wednesday 22nd January with free ice skating for all from 7pm**
- **Enjoy 9,000 m² of skating fun on two levels with the SKY RINK on the 1st floor**
- **Vienna's Ice Dream honoured as an eco-event**

(Vienna 15th January 2020) It has now been 25 years or a quarter of a century since Vienna's Ice Dream was first launched. What started off "small" in 1996 with 1,800 m² has developed into a major event during the winter months in every respect and has become an integral part of the cityscape and the hearts of the Viennese people. Once again this season, visitors can look forward to fresh, unique ideas on the ice rink. We haven't moved a single millimetre away from last year's innovations and so once again you can enjoy great fun on an ice rink extended over 9,000 m² – from the extensive area on the Rathausplatz to the romantic dream paths in the park and up to the first floor, to the 880 m² SKY RINK ice terrace. The event will open on 22nd January with a huge ice skating show.

Mayor Michael Ludwig visited the large construction site on the Rathausplatz today. "It really is impressive what can be moved here in such a short space of time and what great recreational facilities are being created right in the heart of the city", said the Mayor, who was impressed but also proud. "With the Ice Dream, Vienna has achieved a milestone in urban recreational activities that is unrivalled worldwide. It is a winter fairy tale with the Vienna City Hall as the magnificent backdrop, which has enchanted its guests for a quarter of a century now. Tens of thousands of visitors who have never once been disappointed throughout the entire 25 years are probably the best birthday present for the event", said Mayor Ludwig and added: "I wish all of the employees who are involved in the construction here every strength and success – and I am already looking forward to the opening. Vienna's Ice Dream is sure to shine in all its glory so make sure you avail of the opportunity to skate in the centre of the city by 1st March".

Innovations are completed

After the year of innovation we had in 2019 with the spectacular SKY RINK on the first floor, Vienna's Ice Dream is set for completion in 2020. In the anniversary year, the spectacular innovations receive their finishing touches. For example, the 120 m long driveway to the ice terrace will be partially roofed and be illuminated with impressive light effects after dark, which will increase the experience value of the event. The free children's area will be enlarged and upgraded with additional seating facilities. What's more, this season there are new lockers installed, four additional ticket machines as well as an additional collection window for renting ice skates. These significant investments in the service area reduce waiting times and make the experience at Vienna's Ice Dream even more convenient for visitors.

Honoured as an eco-event

Vienna's Ice Dream sets standards not only in terms of its appearance but also in environmental awareness. We owe it to the reusable crockery, organic food and culinary offers from domestic production, a responsible waste management system and much more – for many years, the Rathausplatz has been demonstrating how major events can be organised in an environmentally friendly way. In 2020, Vienna's Ice Dream was awarded the coveted "ÖkoEvent" certificate for this.

Private chalet with own curling lane

In addition to the already well-known and popular elements of the Ice Dream world on the Rathausplatz, such as the new ice terrace, the dream paths, the free practice areas or the coveted curling lanes, there is another attractive offer this year: A chalet with its own curling lane located discreetly in the Rathauspark, which can be rented exclusively including culinary accompaniment. The sophisticatedly equipped alpine lodge has ample space for around twenty people and is predestined for unforgettable private and corporate events.

Visit <https://kolarik.at/places/kolariks-almhutte/> to book

Free skating fun for children from Viennese schools and kindergartens

Once again this season, the city of Vienna is inviting all Viennese kindergartens, schools and daycares in the schools association to take part in free ice skating at Vienna's Ice Dream. This "school offer" is valid on school days from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. Tickets are available without prior registration at the ticket office, upon completion of a confirmation of receipt. As part of this school offer, ice skates are also available to hire at a reduced rate.

40 days of pop up paradise for foodies

Hearty or sweet, indoor or outdoor – every culinary taste is catered for at Vienna's Ice Dream. This year, the selection of high-quality organic food and drink has been greatly expanded once again.

So for the first time the "Kolariks" alpine lodge will be providing a range of food and drinks sourced entirely from organic farms. The traditional inn "Gelbmanns" spoils its guests with tenderly cooked Kavalierspitz (boiled beef with trimmings) or hearty, organic roast pork of the highest quality. Fluffy pancakes are tossed and served with love at "Nigls Gastwirtschaft" and light Kaiserschmarrn pancakes are caramelised in the giant pan until golden brown. A passionate fan base now has the hut decorated with the colourful Lebkuchen hearts and freshly roasted almonds in over 25 flavours, which are also available in organic quality. And if you haven't tried the so-called Gebackene Mäuse (baked mice) dessert, then you don't know what Vienna tastes like. At the "15 sweet minutes" stand, curd cheese dough balls are freshly baked and filled with vanilla cream, hazelnut cream or with a jam plum spread known as powidl, if desired.

If your mouth is watering at the sound of these culinary delights, you can enjoy the entire variety from the Ice Dream dinner pot, even far away from the Rathausplatz. For a deposit of €6, visitors can take three tiers full of treats back home, to work or to share with friends – the perfect indulgence for on-the-go!

There is a 10 % discount in the online shop for ice skating fans

You can skip the queue and purchase your tickets conveniently at www.wienereistraum.com, where you can even pay for your skates as well as services such as edge grinding and lockers. You can then collect your tickets from the ticket machine with your booking code. This not only saves time, but also money as the online shop even offers a 10% discount.

Plenty of wood and a lot of nimble hands

Hundreds of employees are currently still working at full speed to make sure that the huge ice landscape is of perfect quality. They not only ensure that everything is completed on time, but also that a large amount of material is installed competently and safely. And there is currently a lot going on at the Rathausplatz:

- 300 tonnes of high-grade chippings for levelling the square
- 50 low-loader trucks for wooden flooring and 25 trailer trucks for substructures
- 22 semi-trailer trucks for ice technology
- 400,000 metres of cooling hoses for almost 9,000 m² ice
- 7,000 m² isolation for the ice on the asphalt
- 1,700 cubic metres of wood and 5,500 m² wooden platform
- 5 gastro lodges, 2 alpine lodges and 1 chalet with own curling lane
- 60 containers and 400 m² covered area
- 4 cash desks, 6 automatic pay stations, 4 online ticket collection machines
- 12 turnstiles for entering and exiting the ice rink
- 900 lockers and over 2,000 pairs of ice skates
- 3 LED walls (120 m², 26 m² and 21 m²)

Opening on 22nd January: Huge ice skating show followed by "free ice skating for all".

Traditionally, Vienna's Ice Dream is kicked off with an opening show and so this year, too, an impressive performance of acrobatic skill and imaginative costumes will be presented on 22nd January at 7pm. Austrian professional figure skater Jasmine Wallner and her team "Inspiration Ice Shows" (an ensemble of experienced international figure skaters, soloists, specialists and a synchronised skating group at world championship level) will be there to celebrate the 25th anniversary with us. The ladies from the ice hockey team "EHV-Sabres" round off the opening evening with their incomparable girl power.

But only when Mayor Michael Ludwig speaks the legendary words "Eis frei" (to the ice) does it really start. Then 9,000 m² of ice adventure will be waiting to be inaugurated by skating fans with free admission.

Vienna's Ice Dream

22nd January 2020 from 7 to 10pm (free ice-skating!)

23rd January up to and including 1st March 2019 from 10am to 10pm

www.wienereistraum.com

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www.stadtwienmarketing.at