



Death in Vienna - Curiosities and Oddities from the Realm of the Dead

The Viennese have always had a strange preoccupation with death. This is reflected both in pompous funeral rites and elaborate burial sites. On this illustrated walk we introduce you to four very different ones. The medieval Chapel of St. Virgil's next to St. Stephen's Cathedral was originally built for Austria's first patron saint (of Irish descent!). In the majestic burial vault of the Church of the Capuchin Friars the remains of more than 150 members of the Habsburg dynasty were laid to rest in the most elaborate sarcophagi designed by the greatest artists of their time.

After a visit to the unique "Heart Crypt" at St. Augustine's we descend into the burial crypt of St. Michael's, the former court parish church. Its painted baroque coffins, mummified corpses and the newly restored sarcophagus of Pietro Metastasio, author of Mozart's opera seria, 'La Clemenza di Tito', also give us a vivid insight into the sepulchral history of Vienna. The tour ends on Graben where the plague epidemic of 1679 is commemorated by the Trinity Column at its centre.

Meeting Point:

1., Michaelerplatz 5, in front of St. Michael's Church

Attention:

- Additional entrance fees
- Interior visits may be subject to opening times

