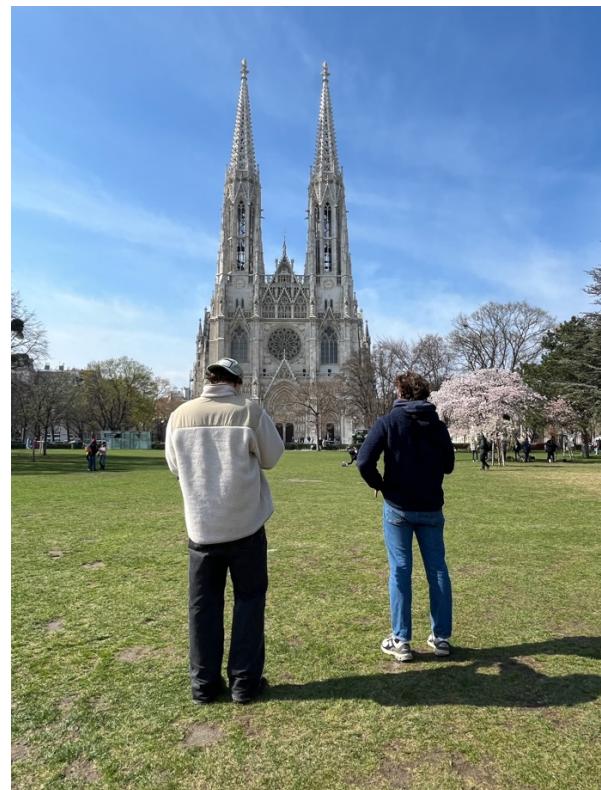


Hugo Levisse

Blog Post #3 – Budapest

Headline: Weekend Escapes: Exploring Vienna and Bratislava with Friends

This month, my roommates and I decided to take advantage of being able to travel to other European cities so easily from Budapest. Our first stop was Vienna for a weekend getaway, and despite some rainy weather, it turned out to be a great trip with a lot of memorable moments.



On Friday and Saturday, the weather wasn't exactly on our side, it rained most of the time, but we didn't let that stop us from exploring. We visited Belvedere Palace and Schönbrunn Palace, both absolutely stunning even in the grey weather. St. Stephen's Cathedral was another highlight, with its tall spire and colorful tiled roof. The city felt grand and full of history, and even though we were a bit soggy, we were happy we pushed through.

Luckily, Sunday brought sunshine and a surprise. We came across a traditional spring festival called Steiermark, with food stands, people in traditional outfits, live music, and dancing. The atmosphere was super lively, and it felt like a perfect way to experience a more local, festive side of the city. After two days of umbrellas and wet shoes, the sunshine made everything feel even better. I definitely want to come back when the weather's nicer and spend more time getting to know the city.



The following weekend, I took a trip to Bratislava with my friend Etienne. We met up with some fellow ESAIP students, some who are studying there and others who came for the weekend to support friends running in the Bratislava Marathon. It was nice to catch up and explore a new place together.

We spent most of our time in the old town, which was charming and super walkable. One of my favorite stops was the Blue Church, which honestly looks like it's straight out of a fairytale. We also visited Slavin, a Soviet military memorial up on a hill that gave us a great view over the whole city. Bratislava is smaller than other capitals, but that made it perfect for a relaxed weekend trip. We saw a lot without feeling rushed.

Getting to visit Vienna and Bratislava back-to-back was a great way to make the most of our weekends. Each place had something unique to offer, and I'm already looking forward to the next adventure.

