

Farm Tour

Departure 7:45 am at the University campus, see Campus Plan

Return to Vienna: 4:00 pm

Arrival in Vienna: approx. 5:30 pm

For individuals, an early return to the airport can be arranged. Furthermore, one of the busses will go directly from the VetFarm to the airport. Should you wish to use this service, please contact the service desk on Tuesday or Wednesday.

The Farm tour takes you to the VetFarm, the teaching and research farm of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. On the farm, which is located about 40 km south of Vienna, dairy cows, pigs, sheep and horses are kept.

After the introduction to the research activities of the Vetmeduni by the Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations Otto Doblhoff-Dier, there will be the possibility for the participants to visit the pig or cattle husbandry (unfortunately, a visit to both facilities is not possible due to time constraints). We would therefore like to ask the participants of the farm tour to register for either the cattle or the pig tour. You will receive further information on this during the conference.



Behind the historic front of the barn building at the 'Kremesberg' site, which was completely renovated in 2009, about 100 Simmental cows and their offspring are kept under modern housing and feeding conditions. The pig housing facilities at 'Medau' were opened in 2013. It serves as a research and teaching farm in the field of modern pig production. Currently, approx. 80 sows and fatteners (capacity ~500 rearing places) are kept at the site on a total of 4500 m².

During the guided tour through the barns and housing areas, you will receive information on current research topics. The use of prototypes and practical equipment will be demonstrated on site by the staff of the Vetmeduni and cooperation partners from science and industry.

With the visit to the 'Haidlhof Research station', both excursion groups have the opportunity to dare a look beyond the horizon: The field station houses 3 aviaries for corvids (ravens, crows) – altogether about 680 m² – and one large aviary for parrots (keas) of about 520 m², all are connected with each other via wire mesh alleyways as well as with a multifunctional test compartement for behavioural and acoustic tests. Additionally there are paddocks for temporary housing of large mammals (deer, pigs, sheep, horses).

The main building of the Haidlhof estate contains a bioacoustic lab (with x-ray video, ultrasound, endoscopy, electroglottography, and excised larynx facilities), stalls for temporary housing of diverse vertebrate subjects, offices, a workshop, and a food preparation kitchen.



Professor Ludwig Huber and his team at the Messerli Foundation (Interdisciplinary Institute of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, the Medical University Vienna and the University of Vienna) will report on findings from more than 20 years of research activities in comparative cognitive science, evolutionary epistemology, learning psychology, and ethology.

We wish you an exciting and eventful day during the farm tour!