



# The Salzkammergut

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Goldenes Schiff (p203)
- » Balthazar im Rudolfsturm (p206)
- » Restaurant-Pizzeria Simmer (p208)
- » Balthazar (p209)
- » Landhotel Grünberg am See (p212)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Seehotel Grüner Baum (p205)
- » Heritage.Hotel Hallstatt (p205)
- » Schlosshotel Freisitz Roith (p212)
- » Im Weissen Rössl (p214)
- » Gjaid Alm (p207)

## Why Go?

The Salzkammergut is a spectacular region of alpine and subalpine lakes, picturesque valleys, rolling hills and rugged, steep mountain ranges rising to almost 3000m. Much of the region is remote wilderness, and even in those heavily visited parts such as the Wolfgangsee and Mondsee, you'll always find isolated areas where peaceful, glassy waters provide limitless opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing or just sitting on the shore and chucking stones into the water. The popular Hallstätter See, flanked by soaring mountains that offer great hiking, is arguably the most spectacular of the lakes. Salt is the 'white gold' of the Salzkammergut, and the mines that made it famous now make for an interesting journey back in time to the settlers of the Iron Age Hallstatt culture, and to the Celts and Romans.

## When to Go

The mountain lakes can be chilly or cold outside July to early September, so go during those months if lake swimming is your passion. The Wolfgangsee and Mondsee are warmer. The shoulder season (spring and autumn) has changeable weather, and in midsummer short, sudden rain showers are not unusual. There's good skiing on the Dachstein Mountains once the snow settles, from December to March, and with the experience, right equipment and maps you can ski to the Schladming side of the range on a cross-country trail.



## Salzkammergut Highlights

- 1** Reeling from views at the **5Fingers platform** (p207) in the Dachstein Mountains
- 2** Hiking around the **Hallstätter See** (p204) from Obertraun to Hallstatt and cooling off in the crystal waters between trails
- 3** Exploring the Wolfgangsee and the remarkable pilgrimage church in **St Wolfgang** (p214), filled with priceless works of art
- 4** Strolling through the **Kaiservilla** (p202), Franz Josef's summer residence in Bad Ischl
- 5** Plunging into the chilling depths to masterfully illuminated towers of ice in the **Dachstein Caves** (p206)
- 6** Finding the toilet in Gmunden's **K-Hof museum** (p210) – a museum with a sanitary objects section for whenever nature calls
- 7** Winter skiing on the 11km downhill piste from **Krippenstein** in the Dachstein Mountains (p207)