



Austria

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Pension Sacher (p66)
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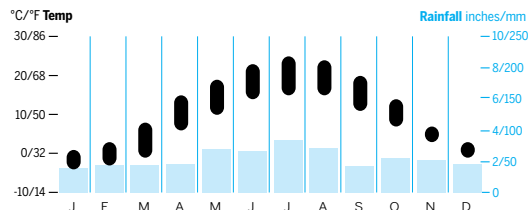
Why Go?

For such a small country, Austria has made it big. This is, after all, the land where Mozart was born, Strauss taught the world to waltz and Julie Andrews grabbed the spotlight with her twirling entrance in *The Sound of Music*. This is where the Habsburgs built their 600-year empire, and where past glories still shine in the resplendent baroque palaces and chandelier-lit coffee houses of Vienna, Innsbruck and Salzburg. This is a perfectionist of a country and whatever it does – mountains, classical music, new media, castles, cake, you name it – it does exceedingly well.

Beyond its grandiose cities, Austria's allure lies outdoors. And whether you're schussing down the legendary slopes of Kitzbühel, climbing high in the Alps of Tyrol or pedalling along the banks of the sprightly Danube, you'll find the kind of inspiring landscapes that no well-orchestrated symphony, camera lens or singing nun could ever quite do justice to.

When to Go

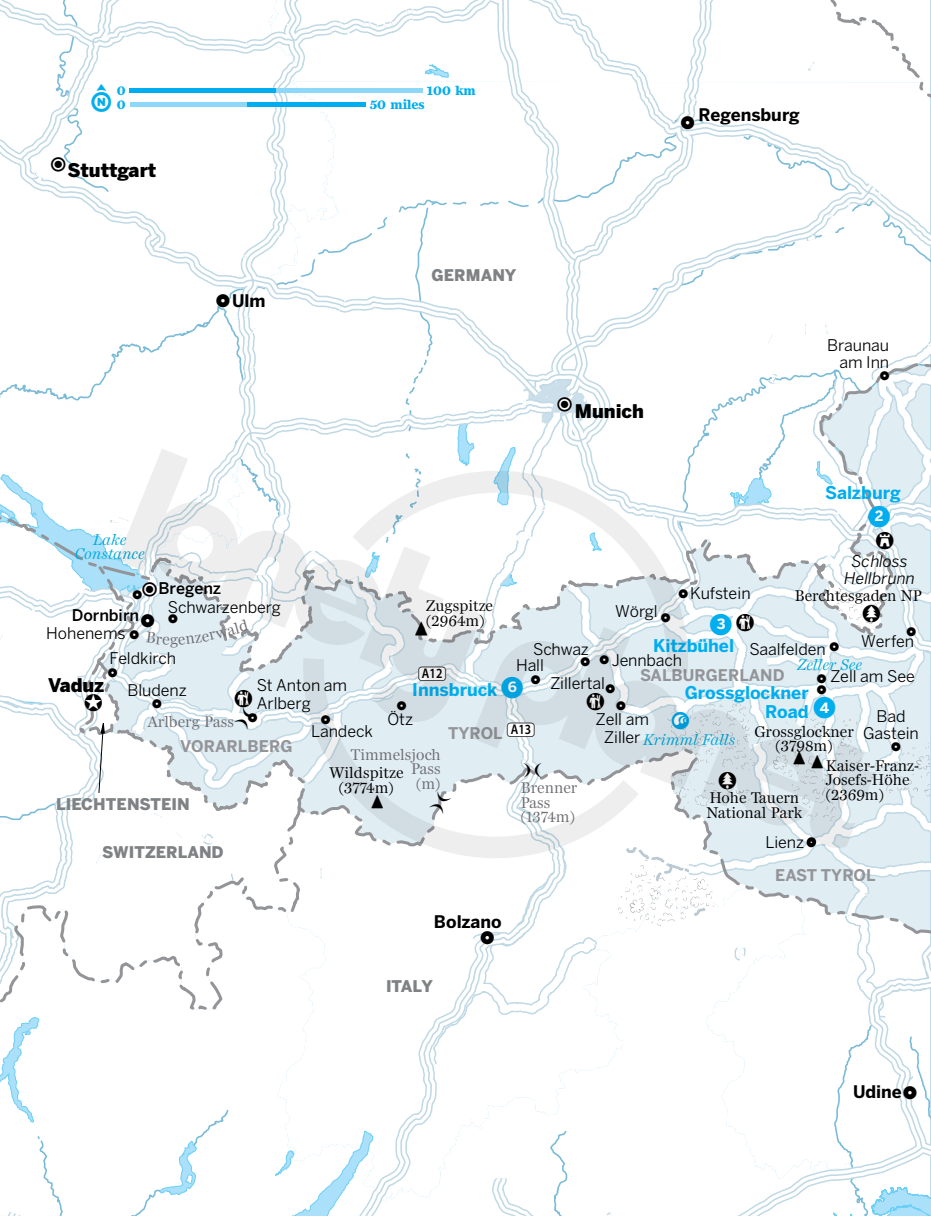
Vienna



Jul & Aug Alpine hiking in Tyrol, lake swimming in Salzkammergut and lots of summer festivals.

Sep & Oct New wine in vineyards near Vienna, golden forest strolls and few crowds.

Dec & Jan Christmas markets, skiing in the Alps and Vienna waltzing into the New Year.



Austria Highlights

- 1 Discover the opulent Habsburg palaces, coffee houses and cutting-edge galleries of **Vienna** (p60).
- 2 Survey the baroque cityscape of **Salzburg**

(p75) from the giddy height of 900-year-old Festung Hohensalzburg.

- 3 Send your spirits soaring from peak to peak hiking and skiing in **Kitzbühel** (p85).

- 4 Buckle up for a roller-coaster ride of Alps and glaciers on the **Grossglockner Road** (p86), one of Austria's greatest drives.