



# Salzburg & Around

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## Best Places to Eat

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- » Gasthof Schloss Aigen (p203)
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## Best Places to Stay

- » Haus Ballwein (p200)
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## Why Go?

One of Austria's smallest provinces, Salzburgerland is proof that size really doesn't matter. Well, not when you have Mozart, Maria von Trapp and the 600-year legacy of the prince-archbishops behind you. This is the land that grabbed the world spotlight and shouted 'visit Austria!' with Julie Andrews skipping joyously down the mountainsides. This is indeed the land of crisp apple strudel, dancing marionettes and high-on-a-hilltop castles. This is the Austria of your wildest childhood dreams.

Salzburg is every bit as grand as you imagine it: a baroque masterpiece, a classical music legend and Austria's spiritual heartland. But it is just the prelude to the region's sensational natural beauty. Just outside of the city, the landscape is etched with deep ravines, glinting ice caves, karst plateaux and mountains of myth – in short, the kind of alpine gorgeousness that no well-orchestrated symphony or yodelling nun could ever quite capture.

## When to Go

In January orchestras strike up at Mozart's birthday bash, Mozartwoche. Providing you've booked tickets months ahead, you can partake in the colossal feast of opera, classical music and drama that is the Salzburg Festival from late July to August. Jazz festivals get into full swing in October. Snow lures downhill skiers to the surrounding Alps in winter, while summer is ideal for Alpine hiking and evenings spent lingering in tree-canopied beer gardens. Come in spring or autumn for few crowds, mild days and seasonal colour.

## ROCK ME, AMADEUS

Nobody ever rocked Salzburg quite like Mozart. See where the city's most famous son lived, loved and composed on our Mozart walking tour.

## Natural Icons

- » The limestone turrets and pinnacles of the Tennengebirge (p212).
- » The frozen sculptures of Eisriesenwelt (p212).

## Fairytale Castles & Palaces

- » Salzburg's cliff-top Festung Hohensalzburg (p189), an archetypal fortress with a turbulent 900-year history
- » Medieval Burg Hohenwerfen (p212) on its postcard-pretty perch above Werfen
- » Whimsical 17th-century palace Schloss Hellbrunn (p210), a summertime escape of the prince-archbishops

## Resources

- » Salzburg Tourism ([www.salzburg.info](http://www.salzburg.info))
- » Salzburgerland ([www.salzburgerland.com](http://www.salzburgerland.com))
- » Salzburger Verkehrsverbund ([www.svv-info.at](http://www.svv-info.at))
- » Salzburg Museum ([www.salzburgmuseum.at](http://www.salzburgmuseum.at))

## Alpine Escapades

Julie Andrews was wrong – these aren't hills, they're mountains; and they aren't alive with the sound of music, but with the sound of footsteps, bicycle bells and swishing skis.

A little preplanning helps whether you plan to freewheel along the Salzach River in Salzburg, rattle along mountain-bike trails threading through Salzburgerland's heights, or flirt with mountaineering in the otherworldly limestone peaks of the Tennengebirge. Salzburg's twin peaks, Gaisberg and Untersberg offer high-altitude escapades such as hiking, biking and paragliding in summer, and modest snow-related fun in winter.

When the flakes start falling, surrounding slopes are given over to cross-country and downhill skiing and tobogganing. Visit [www.salzburgerland.com](http://www.salzburgerland.com) or local tourist offices for details on activities, equipment rental and maps.

## MUSICAL LEGENDS

Salzburg is a force to rival Vienna when it comes to classical music and musical classics. This is, after all, the birthplace of such musical royalty as Mozart and Herbert von Karajan; the city that inspired the carol *Silent Night* and Julie Andrews' high-octave vocals.

While you'll need to book tickets weeks ahead for the venerable Salzburg Festival in summer, music fills this city 365 days a year – and we're not talking second-rate stuff. Beyond the obvious, you can watch marionettes perform opera, dine to Mozart's symphonies and attend a chamber concert in Schloss Mirabell's exquisite baroque Marble Hall. The lowdown and ticket agency details are available on [www.salzburg.info](http://www.salzburg.info).

Less high-brow is Salzburg's *Sound of Music* obsession. Twirl in Maria's footsteps on a guided tour, create your own tour of the film locations, or even stay the night at *the Villa Trapp* for the all-singing truth behind the Hollywood legend.

## Top Cultural Highs

- » The palatial state apartments and Old Master paintings at the Residenz (p193), once home to Salzburg's powerful prince-archbishops.
- » The Keltenmuseum (p210) in Hallein, tracing regional heritage through Celtic artefacts and the history of salt extraction.
- » Salzburg's Altstadt (p189), an early baroque masterpiece and Unesco World Heritage site, often hailed the 'Rome of the North'.
- » The avant-garde art and architecture of Museum der Moderne (p193) atop Mönchsberg's cliffs.
- » Salzwelten (p211) near Hallein, a cavernous salt mine that once filled Salzburg's princely coffers with 'white gold'.