



Salzburg & Salzburgerland

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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.

Best Places to Eat

- » Obauer (p245)
- » Alter Fuchs (p234)
- » Afro Café (p235)
- » Riedenburg (p235)
- » Bistro Barock (p243)

Best Places to Stay

- » Haus Reichl (p231)
- » Villa Trapp (p233)
- » Arte Vida (p231)
- » Haus Wartenberg (p232)
- » Bio-Hotel Hammerhof (p246)

When to Go

In January orchestras strike up at Mozartwoche in Salzburg and hot-air balloons glide colourfully above Filzmoos' summits. 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. Beds are like gold dust at this time. Come in winter for fine downhill skiing in the south of the province, and in summer for trekking in the limestone pinnacles of the Tennengebirge and Dachstein ranges.

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** (p228) in Salzburg, mountain bike the challenging 182km **Dachstein Tour** (p245) through Salzburgerland, or flirt with mountaineering in the otherworldly limestone peaks of the **Tennengebirge**. Visit www.salzburgerland.com or local tourist offices for details on activities, equipment rental and maps.

Come winter, the Southern Salzburg Province becomes a skiing wonderland, with resorts like Filzmoos and Radstadt forming part of the gargantuan **Salzburger Sportwelt** (www.salzburgersportwelt.com); see the website for piste maps and details on lift passes, and to order brochures online.

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 months ahead for the venerable **Salzburg Festival** (www.salzburgerfestspiele.at) 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. See p238 for the low-down and find ticket agency details on www.salzburg.info.

Less high-brow is Salzburg's *Sound of Music* obsession. Twirl in Maria's footsteps on a guided tour (see p228), fine-tune your own tour of the film locations (p231), or even stay the night at *the Villa Trapp* (p233) for the all-singing truth behind the Hollywood legend.

Top Cultural Highs

- » The palatial state apartments and Old Master paintings at the Residenz (p223), once home to Salzburg's powerful prince-archbishops
- » The Keltenmuseum (p242) in Hallein, tracing regional heritage through Celtic artefacts and the history of salt extraction
- » Salzburg's *Altstadt* (p221), 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 (p223) atop Mönchsberg's cliffs
- » Salzwelten (p243) near Hallein, a cavernous salt mine that once filled Salzburg's princely coffers with 'white gold'

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 (p229).

Natural Icons

- » The jaw-dropping Liechtensteinklamm (p245)
- » Filzmoos' distinctive Bischofsmütze (p245) peaks
- » The frozen sculptures of Eisriesenwelt (p244)

Three Fairytale Castles

- » Salzburg's cliff-top Festung Hohensalzburg (p222), an archetypal fortress with a turbulent 900-year history
- » Medieval Burg Hohenwerfen (p244) on its fairy-tale perch above Werfen
- » The whimsically turreted 13th-century Burg Mautern-dorf (p247), a favourite of the prince-archbishops

Resources

- » Salzburgerland (www.salzburgerland.com) Accommodation, regional activities and events, up-to-date weather reports.
- » Salzburger Verkehrsverbund (SVV; www.svv-info.at) Travel planning.
- » Lonely Planet.com (www.lonelyplanet.com/austria/salzburg) Planning advice, author recommendations, traveller reviews and insider tips.