



# MY EUROPEAN FAVOURITES



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Salzburg, Austria



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Salzburg is one of my favourite mid-sized cities in Europe. It is Austria's fourth largest city, with only about 150,000 residents. Geographically, it lies at the foot of the Eastern Alps, close to the German border and is bisected by the Salzach River. The compact old town, with medieval and baroque architecture is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is easy to explore on foot. Salzburg is visited annually by millions of tourists from around the world and our Azorcan tour groups often list it as a favourite stop.

## 5 FUN FACTS

Salzburg literally means "**Salt Fortress**." The reigning Prince-Archbishops, the city and the region became wealthy mainly from the salt mines in the area, trade and some gold mining. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a salt mine in the area to learn more about the extraction of the "white gold."

The 11<sup>th</sup> century **Hohensalzburg** is one of the largest and best preserved medieval fortresses in Europe. You can walk up the path to the fortress or you can take the Festungsbahn funicular railway located just off the Kapitelplatz. From the fortress, you can enjoy some of the best views of the city and the surrounding area.

Composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** was born on January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, and you can visit his birthplace which is also a museum. You can't miss the bright yellow building at No. 9 Getreidegasse with



*Hohensalzburg, Mozart's birthplace and the wrought iron signs on the Getreidegasse.*

“Mozart’s Geburtshaus” in gold letters on the façade. The Getreidegasse is a pedestrian street with shops and restaurants. The ornamental wrought iron signs on the building facades harken back to medieval times. The Schlosserei Wieber shop on the Getreidegasse is a traditional metalworking shop that also continues to make these signs. The city celebrates Mozart Week festival in January around his birthday. A friend once joked that “Mozart was my favourite composer, now he’s my favourite decomposer.” The famous **Salzburg Festival**, established in 1920 and which features some of Mozart’s works, is held each summer for five weeks starting in late July. With approximately two hundred drama, concert, and opera events and a quarter of a million visitors, it is a huge undertaking and an important driver of the local economy. The festival celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 but unfortunately plans had to be scaled back due to the corona virus pandemic.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, “**The Sound of Music**,” about the Von Trapp family was set in Salzburg and movie fans love to search out film locations in the city. Some of the most popular places to seek out are St. Peter’s cemetery, the Mirabell Palace and gardens with the Pegasus fountain, the Horse Pond, the Residence Square with it’s baroque fountain, Schloss Leopoldskron and the Nonnberg Abbey. The Rock Riding School, which was initially built to be a cathedral but was changed to a riding school by the Prince-Archbishop, later became Salzburg’s favourite concert venue. This is where the real Von Trapp family won the 1936 Salzburg Music Festival. There are other film locations located in the surrounding areas and there are tours that focus on the Von Trapp’s and the movie.



*Mirabell gardens, the Makartsteg Bridge and the view from the museum cafe on the Monchsberg.*

## 4 POINTS OF INTEREST

A walking tour of Salzburg usually starts at the **Mirabell Palace** gardens. The Palace was built by a Prince-Archbishop in 1606 and has a grand marble hall that is popular for weddings. The view from the

palace's gardens to the Hohensalzburg fortress in the summer when the geometrically laid flowers are in bloom is amazing. The Grand Fountain in the centre of the garden with four mythological statues representing the elements (Fire, Air, Earth, Water), the Dwarf Garden, and the Pegasus Fountain are popular photo stops. The best way to cross the Salzach river to the old town from the Mirabell gardens is the pedestrian Makartsteg Bridge which is usually adorned with numerous "love locks." The locks are inscribed with the lovers initials, attached to the fencing and the key thrown into the Salzach.

As you cross the river to the old town (Altstadt), go to the right and you will find the **Monchsberg** lift which takes you up to the Museum of Modern Art (Museum der Moderne). The café at the museum is a great place to have a cappuccino and cheese strudel as you admire the view of the old town. The Monchsberg, which was named after the Benedictine monks, is one of five mountains or hills in Salzburg. The Monchsberg plateau has a hiking path through the forest that you can take and enjoy scenic views all the way to the Hohensalzburg fortress. The city has a mountain inspector's office (Bergputzer) to check the mountain for possible falling rocks. In 1669, an avalanche of rock landed on the city below and killed over 200 people.



*A pretzel vendor on University Square, the Residence Square and the Salzburg Dom.*

On the **University Square** (Universitatplatz), you will find the Grünmarkt or green Market that goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The farmers market still has vendors selling fruit, vegetables, cheeses, meats, breads and pastries. It's a great place to sample local products, or grab a quick lunch or a pretzel. The Kollegienkirche or University church dominates the square, and there are several historic buildings surrounding the lively square.

A short walk from the University Square will take you past the Alter Markt square with the St. Florian Fountain and into the expansive **Residence Square** (Residenzplatz). The square has a magnificent baroque fountain decorated with four horses snorting water, giants, dolphins and a triton. Here is where you can find horse drawn carriages to enjoy the city centre at a leisurely pace. The Residence museum on the square is a testament to the immense wealth and political power of the Prince-Archbishop's of Salzburg. The lavish state rooms and painting collection make it a top attraction. The 17<sup>th</sup> century baroque Salzburg Cathedral or Dom on the square is connected to the Residence. The Cathedral has religious relics of St. Rupert, an impressive pipe organ, plus an ornate ceiling and dome. The baptismal font is the same one used to baptize Mozart.

### 3 INTERESTING ACTIVITIES

To fully understand the significance of salt to the fortunes of Salzburg take a short trip to the **Salzbergwerk Dürrnberg**, which is located on the Dürrnberg above the town of Hallein. After supplying you with miner's overalls, you will go by rail deep into the mountain where you will walk through the

tunnels, go down two long slides and take a raft trip across an underground salt lake. The very informative tour explains the history of the mine from the age of the Celts to modern mining methods. After the tour be sure to visit the SALINA Celtic village to see how life was 2,600 years ago.



*Entering the salt mine by rail, a Red Bull concept race car and the inside of the Red Bull Hanger 7.*

The **Red Bull Hanger 7** at the Salzburg Airport is an impressive glass structure that houses the Flying Bulls historical airplane and helicopter fleet plus a collection of Formula 1 race cars. Austrian Red Bull founder and billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz is the owner of the hanger and the collection. If you like cars or planes, this is a must stop when you visit Salzburg or have a layover at the airport.



Hohenwerfen Castle from the lower courtyard, the interior courtyard and a falconer with an eagle.

The imposing 900 year old medieval **Hohenwerfen Castle**, surrounded by the Berchtesgaden Alps, is located about 40 km south of Salzburg and overlooks the town of Werfen. A funicular takes you from the parking area up to the castle's interior courtyard. The castle has an extensive weapons exhibit. The main event is a birds of prey demonstration from the Salzburg Falconry Center in the exterior courtyard with falcons, kites, vultures, and eagles. Some of these birds are huge and have no problem walking amongst the spectators. Be sure to check the daily times of the demonstrations in advance.

## 2 LOCAL DISHES TO ORDER

**Tafelspitz** is a popular Austrian dish of slowly simmered veal and vegetables.. The broth is served separately as a first course then the veal and vegetables are accompanied by apple-horsradish and chives.



The impressive Salzburg Nockerl, the Augustiner Brewery and the brewery's beer garden.

**Salzburger Nockerl** was invented in Salzburg in the 17th century. Nockerl are vanilla flavoured dumplings dusted with powdered sugar and served with fruit jams or sauces. The warm dumplings arrive in three mounds to represent the three hills that surround Salzburg.

## 1 BEVERAGE TO ENJOY

There are eleven breweries in Salzburg, and the city is known as Austria's beer capital. The Stiegl brewery has been privately owned since 1492. The **Stieglkeller**, located below the Hohensalzburg fortress, is a restaurant and beer garden that offers great views of the old town.

Established in 1621, the **Augustiner Brau** brewery and tavern is the biggest in Austria with indoor seating and a beer garden. In addition to great beer, you can purchase traditional dishes from food stands located inside the hall or the brewery.

Salzburg is a great destination at any time of the year and is well worth being added to any central European vacation itinerary.

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## **TOURISM LINKS**

[Austria Tourist Board](#)

[Salzburg Tourist Board](#)

[Visit Salzburg](#) - webpage written by locals

[Salzburg Pocket Guide](#) - the nice app and webpage

[Sound of Music](#)

[Mozart Museum](#)

[Salzburg Modern Museum](#)

[Salzburg Residence](#)

[Salzburg Dom](#)

[Hohensalzburg Fortress](#)

[Hohenwerfen Castle](#)

[Salzbergwerk Durrnberg](#)

[Red Bull Hanger 7](#)

## **FOOD & DRINK LINKS**

[Stieglkeller](#)

[Augustiner Brau](#)

[Tafelspitz](#) - about and recipe

[Salzburger Nockerl](#) - about and recipe. Try it at [Cafe Mozart](#) in Salzburg.

[Mozart Balls](#) - the original by Furst

[Mozart Balls](#) - by Mirabell

## **MAPS**

[Salzburg - Interactive google map](#)

Below find the following maps:

Salzburg city centre

Hohensalzburg Fortress plan

Salzburg Cathedral plan



# Salzburg

Plan der Altstadt  
 Map of the Old Town  
 Piantina del centro storico

18 HELLBRUNN  
 UNTERSBERG  
 BERCHTESGADEN

