

## The arrival of spring in Salzburg – Gardens, Customs and Festivals

***In keeping with its reputation as a festival town, Salzburg is offering top-class events for Easter and Whitsun in spring 2023. The extensive programme, however, is aimed not only at classical music fans: modern dance, traditional Easter customs and plenty of nature experiences await.***

Spring is when the magnolia trees on Makartplatz blossom, creating a magnificent backdrop for photos of the Holy Trinity Church and *Caldera*, an artwork by Anthony Cragg – this is the perfect metaphor for the beauty of Salzburg. The blend of nature and culture, of tradition and modernity lend the town on the river Salzach its characteristic charm.

### **Festivals in spring: musical highlights**

Spring in Salzburg brings with it a wealth of first-rate musical events. The Easter Festival was founded by Herbert von Karajan in 1967. Its recently appointed artistic director, Nikolaus Bachler has taken the Salzburg Festival in a new direction. This year at Whitsun, the Salzburg Festival celebrates a milestone – the Whitsun Festival was founded exactly 50 years ago, also by Herbert von Karajan. Since 2012, this four-day event has been in the capable hands of artistic director Cecilia Bartoli.

- Salzburg Easter Festival, 1 to 10 April 2023, [www.osterfestspiele.at](http://www.osterfestspiele.at)
- 50th anniversary of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival, 26 to 29 May 2023, [www.salzburger-festspiele.at](http://www.salzburger-festspiele.at)

### **Cultural (insider) tips: customs meet performance dance**

A good part of Salzburg's flair lies in its authenticity, which shows in its customs, for instance. Easter is an example of the strong ties to traditions, some of which are centuries old. *Antlasseier*\* are sold at the Easter markets, Easter Palm flower arrangements are made at the Salzburger Heimatwerk and the Easter processions around Salzburg Cathedral are colourful with dirndls and lederhosen alongside the splendid robes of Salzburg's Archbishop and his entourage. The *International Easter Dance Days* and *PERFORMdANCE #33*, workshops organised by the *Tanzimpulse* association with dance classes in modern ballet, hip-hop, butoh and ideokinesis – to name but a few – are just as colourful as the Easter eggs. As part of the programme, *PERFORMdANCE* – in cooperation with *ARGEkultur* – presents national and international dance and performance art.

- Easter market at the Salzburger Freilichtmuseum, 1 and 15 April 2023, [www.freilichtmuseum.com](http://www.freilichtmuseum.com)
- Easter dance days and *PERFORMdANCE #33*, 31 March to 6 April 2023, [www.tanzimpulse.org](http://www.tanzimpulse.org)

\* *Antlasseier* are chicken eggs laid on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday and are believed to bring protection and blessing.

[www.salzburg.info](http://www.salzburg.info)

### **A splendid synergy – nature blossoms against a backdrop of baroque opulence**

Apart from the magnolia trees on Makartplatz – a particular highlight on Instagram – the Mirabell Gardens also display unmistakable signs of nature coming back to life. At the beginning of April, the tireless team of the municipal parks department bring the world-famous gardens out of hibernation. The likes of forget-me-nots and pansies are planted, the Pegasus fountain is polished, and the park benches are set up. In Hellbrunn, in the Palace grounds surrounding the former pleasure palace of Prince-Archbishop Markus Sittikus, doors and gates are opened – both the palace with its permanent exhibition *SchauLust* and the trick fountains resume their summer schedule on 31 March. The panoramic speedboat *Amadeus Salzburg* and Austria's only amphibious bus/boat are also operating again from 1 April.

- Hellbrunn Palace and Trick Fountains, 31 March to 1 November 2023, [www.hellbrunn.at](http://www.hellbrunn.at)
- River Cruise in Salzburg, from 1 April to 29 October 2023, [www.salzburghighlights.at](http://www.salzburghighlights.at)
- These offers are included in the Salzburg Card, [www.salzburg.info/salzburgcard](http://www.salzburg.info/salzburgcard).

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