

The town of Salzburg: a brilliant composition

Appreciating architectural and cultural classics in 2024

Majestic churches and monasteries, spacious squares and splendid palaces: Salzburg is one of the finest baroque towns in the world. The outstanding architecture dates back to the centuries-long reign of the prince-archbishops, who turned the wealth accumulated through salt, ores and precious stones into magnificent architecture, and laid the foundation for Salzburg to develop into a town of music, art and culture.

The rich architectural and cultural legacy of the prince-archbishops' reign, which lasted until 1803, still remains evident in Salzburg. The churches, palaces and squares built during that time offer the perfect setting for top-class musical and cultural events. Traditional businesses, local coffee-house culture and beer breweries have their origins in the era of the prince-archbishops. In 2024, Salzburg takes an appraising look back at these roots, at the same time following the inherent spirit of creative freedom and constant renewal.

Salzburg's architectural legacy from the prince-archbishops

Over four centuries, the prince-archbishops brought Italian architects and artists to Salzburg, in order to shape a town centre modelled on that of Rome. It was Prince-Archbishop Wolf Dietrich who brought the baroque style to Salzburg, building spacious squares like the Residenzplatz, grand streets like the Hofstallgasse, and the Old Residenz with its magnificent state-rooms. This is the starting-point for a tour of the DomQuartier, which includes Salzburg Cathedral (with its 1,250-year history), the Long Gallery and St Peter's Museum. The unique building complex, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2024, offers an authentic experience of the grandeur of that era, impressively reflected in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. A further occasion for celebration is the 450th birthday of Prince-Archbishop Markus Sittikus, who gave today's Mirabell Palace its name, had the Cathedral rebuilt after it was burned down in 1598, and built the garden palace of Hellbrunn with its fountains and park, where the Museum of Folk Culture in the "Monatsschlössl" will be 100 years old in 2024.

- DomQuartier Salzburg, www.domquartier.at
- Salzburg Cathedral, www.salzburger-dom.at
- Hellbrunn Palace & Fountains, www.hellbrunn.at
- Museum of Folk Culture, www.salzburgmuseum.at/volkskundemuseum

Salzburg's development into an outstanding musical centre

Besides its distinctive architecture, Salzburg's status as a World Heritage Site is based on the musical achievements due substantially to the committed efforts of the prince-archbishops, who created impressive venues and brought to the court talented composers and musicians, such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791) a native of Salzburg. The cultured Prince-Archbishop Markus Sittikus is regarded as the principal pioneer in establishing music and theatre in the town. In 1614, the first opera performance north of the Alps was given in the

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Carabinieriisaal in the Old Residenz. Salzburg's major music events are still held in outstanding venues created in that era: the Cathedral, which offers sacred music all year round, the Collegiate Church, St Peter's Church, the Felsenreitschule, the main hall of the University, Mirabell Palace and Hohensalzburg Fortress. Over time, further notable venues were added: the Festival Halls and the Mozarteum.

Musical highlights in 2024

- **Mozart Week, 24 January - 4 February 2024:** Since 1956, the International Mozarteum Foundation, established in 1880, has organised the annual Mozart Week, the principal Mozart festival worldwide. From 2024, the concerts, operas, plays and films are no longer devoted exclusively to Mozart, but also to other famous composers; this year is the turn of Antonio Salieri. www.mozarteum.at
- **Easter Festival, 22 March - 1 April 2024:** Intendant Nikolaus Bachler takes audiences on a musical journey to Italy. The Orchestra dell' Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, from Rome, opens the festival with a new production of Amilcare Ponchielli's opera *La Gioconda*, the principal roles sung by international stars such as Anna Netrebko and Jonas Kaufmann. www.os-terfestspiele.at
- **Whitsun Festival, 17 - 20 May 2024:** In the Whitsun Festival, established in 1973 by the famous Salzburg conductor Herbert von Karajan, artistic director Cecilia Bartoli presents a brilliant programme. Now, for the first time, with *Tutto Mozart*, she focuses the festival on the famous Salzburg composer: www.salzburgerfestspiele.at
- **Salzburg Festival, 18 July - 31 August 2024:** This is the 104th year of the Festival. The new drama director is theatre-maker and playwright Marina Davydova. Besides world-famous operas and the annual highlight, Hugo von Hofmannsthal's *Jedermann* in the Cathedral Square, the lesser-known *Ouverture spirituelle* is an exceptional cultural experience, focusing during the first week of the Festival on sacred music and interreligious dialogue: www.salzburgerfestspiele.at

Salzburg's diverse stages

With an annual total of 4,500 cultural events, Salzburg is regarded as a world stage. Besides performances in historic venues and churches, the entire town is a gigantic open-air stage for concert and drama – a 2024 highlight being the 111th anniversary of the Salzburg Marionette Theatre. Since 2016, its unique puppetry technique has been included in the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list. This year's programme includes Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* and Mozart's *Magic Flute*. The musical *The Sound of Music*, set in Salzburg, continues its highly successful run in the Marionette Theatre, and also returns to the Landestheater, where the season's thrilling premières include Peter Shaffer's play *Amadeus* as part of the Mozart Week. The two-week SZENE summer festival, which combines dance, theatre and performance, is well-known as an artistic reflection of multifaceted realities of life.

- Salzburg Marionette Theatre, www.marionetten.at
- Salzburg Landestheater, www.salzburger-landestheater.at
- Sommerszene Salzburg, 3 - 15 June 2024, www.szene-salzburg.net/sommerszene

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Salzburg's Advent and Christmas markets in a baroque setting

During Advent, Salzburg's baroque Old Town, shaped by the prince-archbishops, provides a spectacular setting for enchanting Christmas markets with a long tradition. The 500-year-old Christkindlmarkt on the Cathedral and Residenz Squares has existed in its current form for 50 years. Some 100 rustic wooden stalls display hand-made gifts and local delicacies. Festive lights glow in the inner courtyard of Hohensalzburg Fortress, which opens its gates at Advent weekends, welcoming visitors to the magical ambience of its Christmas market. The markets on the Mirabellplatz and in Hellbrunn are imbued with the palatial ambience of their setting. At the Salzburg Adventsingen, evocative sounds fill the Large Festival Hall, the site of the former court stables. Advent marks a further date: the Christmas Museum, now open all year, celebrates its tenth anniversary. This collection, unique in Europe, reflects cultural history through objects from Southern Germany and Austria, ranging from the origins of the Advent calendar to the history of Christmas decorations. The objects – which include pieces from the *Wiener Werkstätte* [Vienna Workshop] and the Erz mountains – date from the years between 1840 and 1940, and will delight young and old alike.

- **Salzburg Christkindlmarkt on the Cathedral- and Residenzplatz**, 21 November 2024 - 1 January 2025, www.christkindlmarkt.co.at
- **Salzburg Festungsadvent (Fortress)**, 22 November - 23 December 2024, www.salzburgurgen.at
- **Hellbrunn Adventzauber**, 21 November - 24 December 2024, www.hellbrunneradventzauber.at
- **Christmas market on the Mirabellplatz**, 21 November - 24 December 2024, www.weihnachtsmarkt-salzburg.at
- **Salzburg Adventsingen in the Large Festival Hall**, 1 - 17 December 2024, www.salzburgeradventsingen.at
- **Salzburg Christmas Museum**, www.salzburger-weihnachtsmuseum.at

Mindful moments in Salzburg

This small town of international status is truly captivating, with its symbiosis of princely architecture, history, culture and nature. It is exactly the right size for exploring on foot at one's own pace – as for instance on a walk over the Mönchsberg at sunrise, then following the aroma of freshly-baked bread to St Peter's bakery. Themed town walks are offered, combining exercise with pleasure and culture. Bicycle tours along the River Salzach or the Almkanal have a relaxing effect and show Salzburg at its greenest, with drinking-fountains along the way. The WasserSpiegel [water level] Experience in the Mönchsberg and the Hellbrunn fountains are creative features encouraging appreciation of water, the elixir of life. The all-inclusive Salzburg Card gives visitors free access to all cultural attractions and museums, as well as use of public transport. The Salzburg Card for 48 or 72 hours is the perfect offer for all those wishing to stay a little longer in order to appreciate Salzburg to the full.

- **Salzburg town walks**, www.salzburg.info/stadtwandern
- **All-inclusive Salzburg Card for 24, 48 or 72 hours**, www.salzburg.info/salzburg-card

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Salzburg's traditional businesses and genuine handcrafts

Some of Salzburg's existing traditional handcraft and food and beverage businesses were established during the reign of the prince-archbishops. Today's shopping streets with nostalgic appeal, such as the Goldgasse, Judengasse or the famous Getreidegasse with its guild signs and typical passageways, originate from that time. The townscape is still characterised by traditional family-run businesses, manufactories and workshops. On the Rathausplatz, the Sperl family-run textile specialist shop has been tending to customers in its stylish vaulted interior for the past 460 years. A short walk away, the Höllrigl bookshop – the oldest in Austria, with the original vaults and ceiling frescos – has invited people to browse its shelves since 1594. Salzburg's coffee-house culture also has a long tradition; in 2024, the Fürst café and cake shop, where the "Original Salzburg Mozartkugeln" have been hand-made since 1890, celebrates its 140th birthday. A new kind of palatable beverage was developed during the reign of the prince-archbishops, when the first commercial breweries were established in Salzburg towards the end of the 14th century. Today, Salzburg is regarded as the secret beer capital of Austria: in rustic inns, trendy pubs and hospitable beer gardens, the finest beer varieties combine with tasty specialities for an altogether pleasurable experience.

- **Traditional businesses in Salzburg**, www.salzburg.info/traditionsbetriebe
- **Pubs in Salzburg**, www.salzburg.info/bierkultur

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