

Highlights 2026: Salzburg Celebrates Mozart, World Heritage and Musical Excellence

Salzburg has much to celebrate in 2026. The city will mark the 270th birthday of its most famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with a wide range of events honouring his life and work. At the same time, Salzburg will welcome two major new cultural institutions: the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in the Mirabell Gardens and the new museum dedicated to the Hollywood classic *The Sound of Music*. In addition, Salzburg's world-renowned festivals – the Salzburg Festival as well as the Easter and Whitsun Festivals – will once again offer an exceptional programme of musical highlights.

Operas, Concerts and Exhibitions for Mozart's 270th Birthday

In 2026, Salzburg will be firmly in the spotlight as the city of Mozart. A vibrant mix of concerts, opera productions, exhibitions and themed city tours will pay tribute to the great composer. The celebrations begin with Mozart Week (22 January to 1 February 2026), featuring a new production of *The Magic Flute* staged by Artistic Director Rolando Villazón. Looking ahead with excitement, Villazón says: "We will present Mozart's most beloved opera as a homage to our dear Wolfgang Amadé."

Salzburg's famous Marionette Theatre will also regularly perform its own version of *The Magic Flute* throughout the anniversary year. At the Museum der Moderne Rupertinum, the exhibition *Under the Spell of The Magic Flute* will be on view until 14 June 2026. Combining music and visual art, it explores how Mozart's opera has inspired generations of artists, with works by Oskar Kokoschka, Max Slevogt and Wolfgang Hutter, among others.

One of the world's oldest and most prestigious chamber orchestras, Camerata Salzburg, will celebrate Mozart with a three-part festival at the Great Hall of the Mozarteum Foundation on 19 and 28 June 2026. Rudolf Buchbinder will conduct and perform three of his favourite piano concertos: E-flat major K. 271, D minor K. 466 and C major K. 503.

More information:

<https://www.salzburg.info/en/salzburg/mozartstadt>

UNESCO World Heritage Centre Opens in the Mirabell Gardens

Since 1997, Salzburg's historic Old Town has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city's uniqueness, its prince-archbishops' architecture, its importance as a centre of music and its role as the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were key factors in this designation. To give this distinction a permanent home, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will open in mid-2026.

Martin Hochleitner, Director of the World Heritage Centre, explains its mission: "This is not intended as a tourist information centre, but as a place for communication and education – especially for children and young people." The new centre for art, culture and world heritage will be housed in the Orangery in the south-eastern part of the Mirabell Gardens, currently undergoing renovation.

The venue will bring together the richness of Salzburg's UNESCO World Heritage and the famous Salzburg Panorama by Johann Michael Sattler. This monumental oil painting, over

www.salzburg.info

25 metres long and almost five metres high, depicts the city of Salzburg as seen from Hohensalzburg Fortress in 1825.

More information:

<https://www.salzburgmuseum.at/museumsprojekte/bauprojekt-orangerie-salzburg-panorama-welterbe/>

Festival Season Enthralled with the Berlin Philharmonic and a New “Buhlschaft”

Salzburg is Europe’s festival city par excellence – captivating culture lovers three times a year. The festival season begins with the Salzburg Easter Festival from 27 March to 6 April 2026, which will see a spectacular return: from 2026 onwards, the Berlin Philharmonic will once again host its prestigious Easter Festival in Salzburg, where Herbert von Karajan founded it in 1967.

Kirill Petrenko will conduct *Das Rheingold*, the first part of Wagner’s *Ring of the Nibelung*, directed by Kirill Serebrennikov. The programme also includes concerts featuring Haydn’s *The Creation* conducted by Daniel Harding, Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique* with Tugan Sokhiev, and Mahler’s *Symphony of a Thousand*, once again under the baton of Kirill Petrenko.

At the Salzburg Whitsun Festival (22–25 May 2026), Artistic Director Cecilia Bartoli invites audiences on a musical journey under the theme *Bon Voyage*. Highlights include Rossini’s *Il viaggio a Reims*, featuring Bartoli herself, and Monteverdi’s *Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria*. The Hamburg Ballet, choreographed by John Neumeier, will present a new interpretation of Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Little Mermaid*.

The Salzburg Festival from 17 July to 30 August 2026 will once again present outstanding music and international stars. Asmik Grigorian will appear in Bizet’s *Carmen* conducted by Teodor Currentzis, while Elīna Garanča will sing in Richard Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos*. The theatre programme will include two world premieres by Elfriede Jelinek and Peter Handke. In addition, Philipp Hochmair’s *Jedermann* will be joined by three new actresses as the Buhlschaft: Daniela Ziegler, Sylvie Rohrer and Roxane Duran.

More information:

<https://www.salzburg.info/en/events/highlights>

New “Sound of Music Salzburg” Museum in Hellbrunn

The Hollywood classic *The Sound of Music*, starring Oscar winner Julie Andrews, is as closely associated with Salzburg as the famous Mozart chocolate. Filmed here in 1964, many original locations – such as the Mirabell Gardens – can still be visited today. Visitors can explore the film’s legacy through guided bus, bike or horse-drawn carriage tours, walking tours, baking “Fräulein Maria’s apple strudel”, or attending a *Sound of Music* performance at the Salzburg Marionette Theatre.

In mid-2026, the new *Sound of Music Salzburg* Museum is set to open in Hellbrunn. The ensemble of historic buildings at the entrance to the park – including the former coach house and gamekeeper’s residences – is currently being restored for this purpose. The exhibition will not only explore the film as a cultural and tourism phenomenon, but also tell the true story of the von Trapp family. The neighbouring pavilion, an original filming location, will also be part of the future museum.

More information:

<https://www.salzburg.info/en/salzburg/the-sound-of-music>

80 Years of Salzburg Advent Singing

Salzburg's baroque Old Town provides a magical setting for Christmas and Advent markets. The famous Christkindl Market on Cathedral and Residence Squares has existed in its present form for more than 50 years, with origins dating back to 1491. With around 100 traditional wooden stalls offering handcrafted gifts and seasonal delicacies, it is considered one of the most beautiful Advent markets in Europe.

Festive lights also illuminate Hellbrunn Palace, where the fairytale-like Hellbrunn Advent Magic takes place and the palace façade is transformed into a giant Advent calendar.

Highlights of the pre-Christmas season include the traditional Salzburg Tower Blowing and the Salzburg Advent Singing at the Great Festival Hall, which will celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2026.

More information:

<https://www.salzburg.info/en/salzburg/advent-silent-night>

Further information:

Tourismus Salzburg
Auerspergstraße 6, 5020 Salzburg, Austria
T +43 662 88987-0 | F +43 662 88987-32
www.salzburg.info | #visitsalzburg
Legal notice: www.salzburg.info/presse

Press contact:

Andrea Minninch
T +43 662 88987-302
presse@salzburg.info

Status: December 2025