

Salzburg & Salzburger Land



Close your eyes, picture Austria and nine times out of 10 it will be the Salzburger Land of childhood that pops to mind. Before most people have set eyes on Salzburg, their heads spin with the sound of Maria belting her heart out as she skips down the Alps, or Mozart's enchanting *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*. Little wonder, then, that this chocolate-box land of edelweiss-clad slopes, towering peaks and medieval fortresses comes back to spark the imagination years later – inviting exploration.

Let's start at the very beginning. Salzburg, to the north of the province, is a mere snowball throw from Germany. Built high on the riches of salt, today its Unesco World Heritage centre blends glorious baroque architecture with modern art galleries and musical prowess. Scratch beneath the surface and you'll discover the city's youthful streak: retro cafés with not a strudel in sight and riverside bars oozing urban cool offer a taste of a 21st-century city in the making.

Trace the Salzach River south and the vista shifts from gently undulating alpine pastures to brooding limestone turrets. The chiselled pinnacles of the Tennengebirge are the place to work up a sweat hiking – cliffhanger-style – before shivering in subzero temperatures within the world's biggest accessible ice caves in Werfen. Most travellers don't venture further, but dig a little deeper and you'll unearth offbeat treasures: from the yawning Liechtensteinklamm (Liechtenstein Gorge) to the high moors surrounding Mauterndorf, where the music is the sound of silent hills.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Roaming the clifftop ramparts of **Festung Hohensalzburg** (p271) to see Salzburg spread out beneath you
- Getting drenched by the trick fountains at **Schloss Hellbrunn** (p283), a palace fit for mischievous bishops
- Donning a boiler suit to venture to the bowels of the earth at Hallein's salt mine, **Salzwellen** (p284)
- Gawping at the sheer scale of the 300m-high chasm, **Liechtensteinklamm** (p286)
- Standing in awe of sparkling ice sculptures in the teeth-chattering confines of **Eisriesenwelt** (p285) ice caves in Werfen



■ POPULATION: 529,000 ■ AREA: 7154 SQ KM ■ HIGHEST ELEVATION: GROSSVENEDIGER 3674M

History

Salzburg has had a tight grip on the region as far back as Roman times, when the town Juvavum stood on the site of the present-day city. This Roman stronghold came under constant attack from warlike Celtic tribes and was ultimately destroyed by them or abandoned due to disease.

St Rupert established the first Christian kingdom in this part of Austria in about 696. As centuries passed, the successive archbishops of Salzburg gradually increased their power and eventually were given the grandiose titles of princes of the Holy Roman Empire.

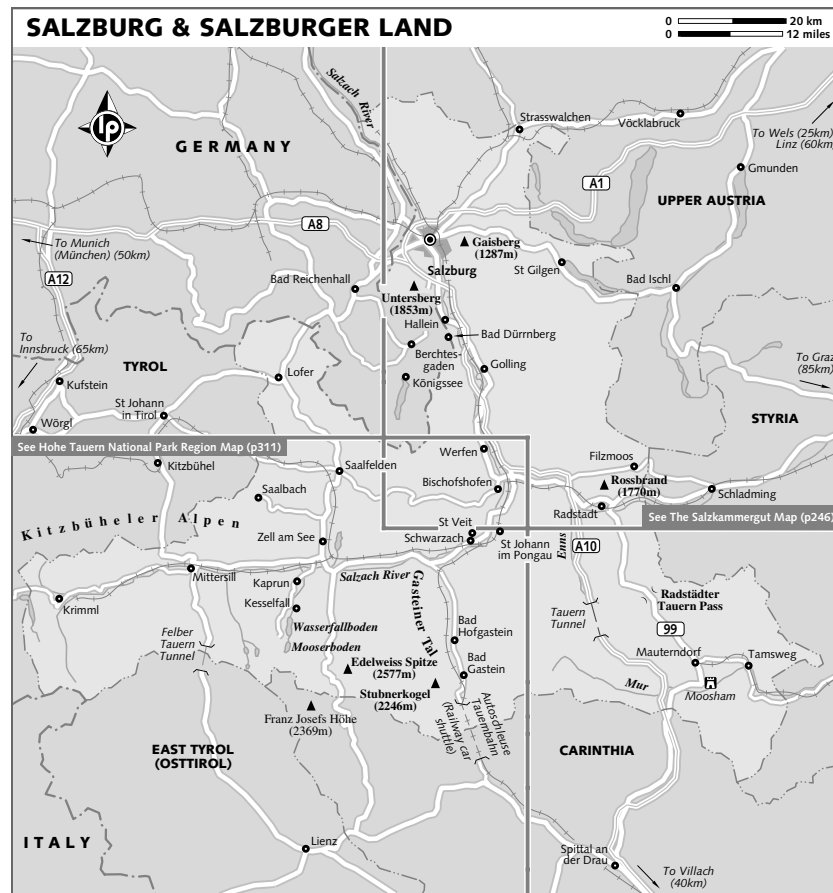
Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau (1587–1612), one of Salzburg's most influential archbishops, instigated the baroque reconstruction

of the city, commissioning many of its most beautiful buildings. He fell from power after losing a dispute over salt with the powerful rulers of Bavaria and died a prisoner.

Another of the city's archbishops, Paris Lodron (1619–53), managed to keep the principality out of the Europe-wide 'Thirty Years' War. Salzburg also remained neutral during the War of the Austrian Succession a century later, but bit by bit the province's power gradually waned; during the Napoleonic Wars Salzburg came under the thumb of France and Bavaria. It became part of Austria in 1816.

Climate

Average temperatures in Salzburg range from 23°C in July and August to -1°C in January. In



the mountains winter brings heavy snowfalls and much lower temperatures, with cooler but sunny days in summer. Spring is the wettest time, with an average of 13 rainy days per month.

National Parks

A large part of the high-altitude Hohe Tauern National Park lies within Salzburg province. This area is covered separately (p310).

Getting There & Away

Salzburg is well connected to the rest of Austria by public transport, with excellent rail and road connections to neighbouring Salzkammergut and down into Hohe Tauern National Park. Salzburg's *Hauptbahnhof* (main train station) has good connections to Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic.

By road, the main routes into the region are the A8 from Munich and the A1 from Linz. To enter Salzburg Province from Carinthia and the south, you can use the A10 from Spittal an der Drau or the Autoschleuse Tauernbahn south of Bad Gastein.

Both scheduled and no-frills flights from Europe and the USA serve Salzburg airport (p395), a half-hour bus ride from the city.

Getting Around

Salzburg's efficient bus and train network makes it easy to reach even the province's smaller villages. Salzburg itself is compact enough to negotiate on foot but also has a network of city buses and trains (see p282). Tourist offices in the province sell the **Salzburgerland Card** (www.salzburgerlandcard.com), which provides discounts on attractions in the province (six-day card adult/child €39/19.50).

SALZBURG

☎ 0662 / pop 145,800

A shrine to Mozart's melodies? A *Sound of Music* stage? A Disneyfied city with scrumptious cakes, sugar-coated mountains and one helluva fortress? Yep, Salzburg is undeniably touristy and theatrical, yet still it's a composition that takes some beating: from Festung Hohensalzburg atop Mönchsberg to the baroque splendour of Residenzplatz and the slender spires that crowd the skyline.

This is a city where kitsch and class walk hand in hand. If Maria is just itching to get out, take her on a warble-as-you-pedal tour of

the sights; if Wolfgang is more your cup of tea, join the well-heeled crowd at Schloss Mirabell to hear the maestro's symphonies. Whether it's to be a shopping spree on Getreidegasse to find lederhosen that fit, or a horse-drawn carriage ride through the cobbled centre, in Salzburg embracing the clichés is positively encouraged. And why not? It's fun.

When the overload of Mozart and Miss Andrews gets too much to handle, Salzburg's lesser-known corners offer blissful respite. The contemporary contours of Museum der Moderne, the chilled bars lining the right bank and the solitude of Kapuzinerberg are the perfect remedy for an overkill of the obvious. Sitting on the banks of the fast-flowing Salzach as the sun sinks over the city, it becomes clear that this place still rocks. Even without Amadeus.

Orientation

Salzburg is split in two by the Salzach River. The compact, pedestrianised *Altstadt* (old town) is on the left bank. Rising above the city, Festung Hohensalzburg clings to cliffs of Mönchsberg. Stepping over the river, the right bank is home to Schloss Mirabell, Kapuzinerberg, and numerous entertainment venues, hotels and restaurants. About 10 minutes' walk further north is the *Hauptbahnhof* and bus station.

MAPS

The tourist office and most hotels hand out free maps of the city centre. Many bookshops and souvenir kiosks also sell city maps.

Information BOOKSHOPS

Motzko (Map p269; ☎ 88 33 11; Elisabethstrasse 1) Stocks English-language books.

Motzko Reise (Map p269; ☎ 88 33 11-55; Rainerstrasse 24) Across the road from Motzko; sells maps and guidebooks.

News & Books (Map p269; *Hauptbahnhof* platform 2a) International newspapers and magazines.

EMERGENCY

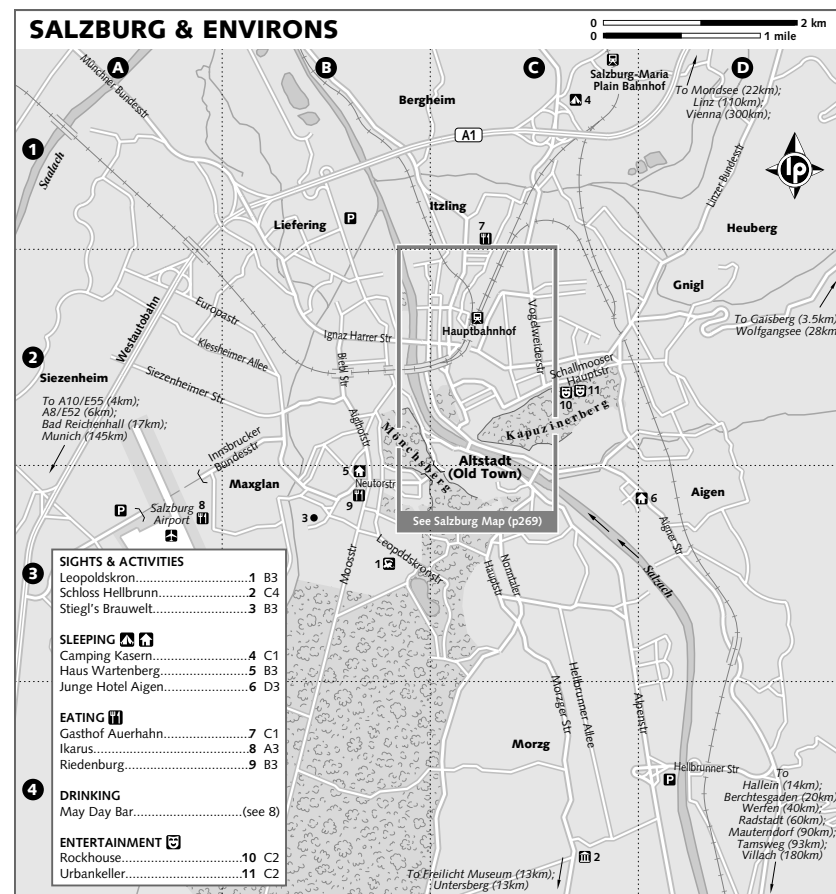
Ambulance (☎ 144)

Hospital (Landeskrankenhaus; Map p267; ☎ 44 82; Müllner Hauptstrasse 48) Just north of the Mönchsberg.

Police headquarters (Map p269; ☎ 63 83; Alpenstrasse 90)

INTERNET ACCESS

Internet cafés are scattered all over Salzburg; those near the train station are much cheaper than those in the *Altstadt*.



International Telephone Discount (Map p269; ☎ 88 31 99; Kaiserschützenstrasse 8; per hr €2; ☎ 8.30am-10pm Mon-Sat) Also has cheap international telephone calls.

Salzburg Internet Café (Map p270; ☎ 84 20 63-0; Gstättengasse 3; per hr €2; ☎ 10am-10pm) Skype and discount international calls available.

LAUNDRY

Norge Exquisit (Map p270; ☎ 87 63 81; Paris-Lodron-Strasse 16; self-service wash €10; ☎ 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat).

MONEY

Bankomaten (ATMs) are all over the place. **Amex** (Map p270; ☎ 84 38 400; Mozartplatz 5; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun) Next to the tourist office. Amex travellers cheques are cashed free of charge.

Western Union (Map p269; ☎ 93 00 03-162; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-4.30pm Sat) Changes money at its branch in the *Hauptbahnhof*. Exchange booths are open all day every day at the airport. There are also plenty of exchange offices downtown, but beware of high commission rates.

POST

Main post office (Map p270; Residenzplatz 9; ☎ 7am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 8-10am Sat)
Station post office (Map p269; Südtiroler Platz 1; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri)

TOURIST INFORMATION

The main **tourist office** (Map p270; ☎ 889 87-330; www.salzburg.info; Mozartplatz 5; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Sat Jan-Apr & mid-Oct-Nov, 9am-7pm May-mid-Oct & Dec)

has plenty of information about the city and its immediate surrounds. There's a ticket booking agency in the same building. For information on the rest of the province, contact **Salzburgerland Tourismus** (☎ 66 88-0; www.salzburgerland.com).

Salzburg Information (☎ 88 98 70; www.salzburginfo.at) is the head tourism office for the region. Advance **hotel reservations** (☎ 88 98 73 14) placed through this office are free. The office also deals with marketing inquiries and sends out tourist brochures; however, for in-person inquiries go to the Mozartplatz office.

It's worth investing in the **Salzburg Card** (low/high season 24hr-card €21/23, 48hr €29/31, 72hr €34/36) for free entry to all major sights and reduced entry to a further 24 attractions, plus free public transport for the duration. The free *Salzburg Card* booklet details opening hours and entry fees for important sights.

TRAVEL AGENCIES

STA Travel (Map p269; ☎ 45 87 33-0; www.statravel.at; Rainerstrasse 2) Student and budget travel agency.

Sights

Salzburg's star attractions cluster around the *Altstadt*, a Unesco World Heritage site dominated by the hilltop Festung Hohensalzburg on Mönchsberg. Many sights extend their opening hours during the Salzburger Festspiele (p274) in August. The hours given here are for non-festival times.

SALZBURG MUSEUM

Salzburg's new flagship attraction is **Salzburg Museum** (Map p270; ☎ 62 08 08-700; Mozartplatz 1; www.smca.at; adult/student/child €7/6/3; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun, to 8pm Thu). Housed in the sublime Neue Residenz palace, the museum sheds light on Salzburg's rich heritage with its hands-on exhibits. A visit starts beneath the cobbled courtyard in the impressively illuminated **Kunsthalle**, which presents rotating exhibitions of contemporary art. On the 1st floor, **Salzburg Persönlich** offers fascinating insight into the characters that have shaped the city's history, including the alchemist Paracelsus and performer Richard Mayr; kids love to watch the birdie-style camera that takes nostalgic portrait shots you can send home by email. Upstairs, prince-archbishops glower down from the walls at **Mythos Salzburg**, which celebrates the city as a source of artistic and poetic inspiration over the ages. Be sure to glimpse Carl Spitzweg's re-

nowned **Sonntagsspaziergang** (Sunday Stroll) painting and the home-videos of Asian tourists giving their unique take on Salzburg.

RESIDENZ STATE ROOMS & GALLERY

The **Residenz** (Map p270; ☎ 80 42-26 90; Residenzplatz 1; adult/child €8.20/2.60; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) was the not-so-humble dwelling of the archbishops until the 19th century. An audio guide tour takes in the unashamedly opulent state rooms, festooned with tapestries and frescoes by Johann Michael Rottmayr (p52), and the Konferenz Saal, where Mozart gave his first public performance (Violin Concerto No 5 in A Major) at the ripe old age of six.

The admission covers the **Residenz Galerie** (☎ 84 04 51; www.residenzgalerie.at; Residenzplatz 1; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun), which features a superb collection of Dutch and Flemish works, including a clutch of masterpieces from the likes of Rembrandt and Rubens.

MOZART'S HOUSES

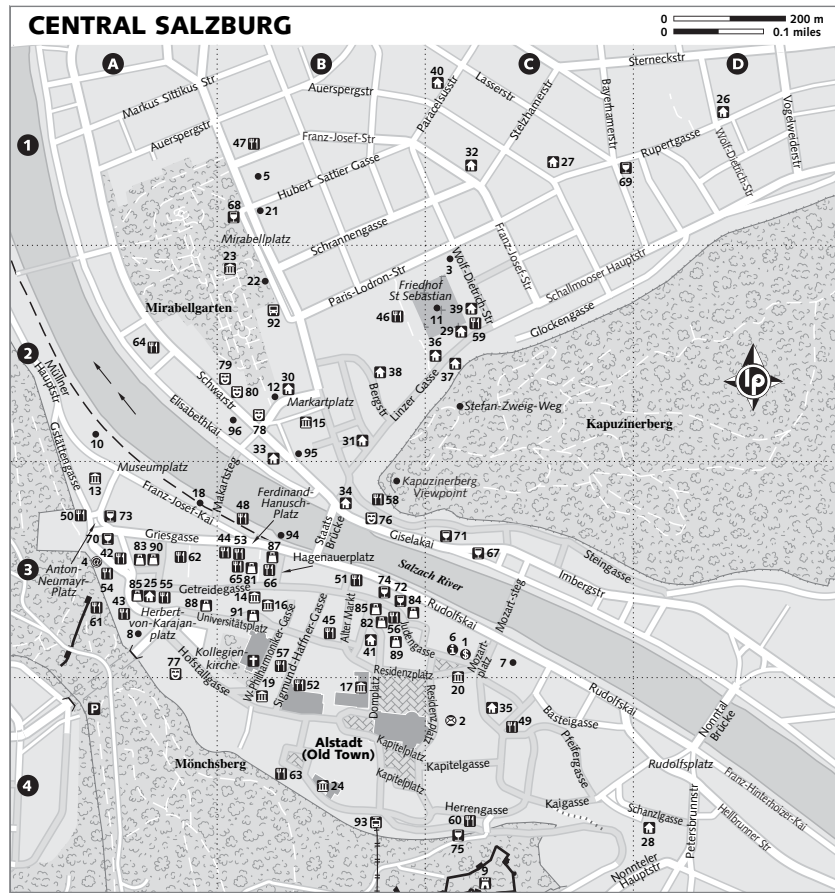
Mozart fans won't want to miss out on the two museums dedicated to the great man. Both cover similar ground, displaying musical instruments, sheet music and memorabilia.

Mozarts Geburtshaus (Mozart's Birthplace; Map p270; ☎ 84 43 13; www.mozarteum.at; Getreidegasse 9; adult/

ROCK ME AMADEUS

- Aged two, Mozart identified a pig's squeal as G sharp. He gave his first public recital aged five.
- Aged 23, Mozart fell in love with the soprano Aloysia Weber. When she rebuffed him, he promptly married her sister.
- When not composing, Mozart enjoyed billiards, heavy drinking sessions and teaching his pet starling to sing operettas.
- A boy once asked Mozart how to write a symphony. He replied that a symphony was too difficult at such a young age. 'You wrote symphonies at my age!' exclaimed the boy. 'But I didn't have to ask how,' replied Mozart.
- Modern psychologists believe that Mozart suffered from Tourette's Syndrome, a disorder leading to uncontrolled outbursts of swearing and obscene behaviour.





child €6/1.50; ☎ 9am-7pm Jul & Aug, 9am-6pm Sep-Jun) is where Mozart spent the first 17 years of his life. In the first room, the holy Wolfgang is shown as a babe beneath a fluorescent blue halo. Other curiosities include the mini-violin that Amadeus played as a toddler, plus a lock of his hair and buttons from his jacket.

The **Mozart-Wohnhaus** (Mozart's Residence; Map p270; ☎ 87 42 27-40; www.mozarteum.at; Makartplatz 8; adult/child €6/2; ☎ 9am-7pm Jul & Aug, 9am-6pm Sep-Jun) takes a more hi-tech approach, with an audio guide giving the low-down on the Mozart family and serenading you with opera excerpts. Under the same roof is the **Mozart Ton- und Filmmuseum** (Map p270), a film and music archive of interest to the ultra-enthusiast.

RUPERTINUM

The sister gallery of the Museum der Moderne (p272), the **Rupertinum** (Map p270; ☎ 84 22 20-451; Wiener-Philharmoniker-Gasse 9; adult/child €6/4; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-9pm Wed) is devoted to rotating exhibitions of modern art, with a strong emphasis on graphic works and photography. See www.museumdermoderne.at for up-to-date listings of exhibitions.

SCHLOSS MIRABELL

The 17th-century **Schloss Mirabell** (Map p270) was built by Prince-Archbishop Wolf Dietrich for his mistress Salome Alt, who bore the archbishop at least 10 children (sources disagree on the exact number – poor Wolf was presumably too distracted by

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spiritual matters to keep count himself). The best way to experience the Mirabell magic is to attend a lunchtime or evening concert (see p279) in the palace's magnificent Marble Hall, which boasts chandeliers and wall reliefs.

If you fancy skipping through gardens von Trapp-style, there's no better place to act out those fantasies than the manicured **Mirabellgarten**, where the young scallywags practised singing *Do-Re-Mi* around the Pegasus statue. The neat lawns, rose gardens and tree-fringed avenues are less overrun first thing in the morning and early evening. The Tanzerin sculpture is a great spot to photograph the gardens with the fortress as a backdrop.

FESTUNG HOHENSALZBURG

Rising like a vision above Salzburg, this mighty 900-year-old **fortress** (Map p270; ☎ 84 24 30-11; Mönchsberg; adult/child €10/5.70; ☎ 9.30am-5pm Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec, 9am-6pm May-Jun & Sep, 9am-7pm Jul-

Aug) is one of the biggest and best-preserved in Europe. It's easy to spend a half a day up here, roaming the ramparts for far-reaching views over the city's spires, the Salzach and surrounding Alps. The fortress is a steep 15-minute jaunt from the centre, or a speedy ride in the glass **Festungsbahn funicular** (included in the ticket price).

The imposing fortress bears witness to the power of the prince-archbishops. As you stroll around, keep your eyes peeled for **turnips** (there are 58 in total). Rumour has it that Leonard von Keutschach, archbishop of Salzburg from 1495 to 1519, used to squander money, so his uncle flung a turnip at his head to (literally) knock some sense into him. Ironically, the turnip became a symbol for Leonard's new-found wisdom. Other highlights include the **Golden Hall** with its gold-studded ceiling imitating a starry night sky; the **Eiserner Wehrmann** soldier encrusted with 328,000 iron nails (a creative means of raising money for war victims); and the spine-tingling **torture chamber**.

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

The crowds on Getreidegasse and the zillionth souvenir shop selling Mozart paraphernalia are part and parcel of Salzburg. Yet this city has plenty of lesser-known, quiet nooks off the well-trodden tourist track. Here is a rundown of peaceful retreats to help you keep your cool:

- The narrow, cobblestoned **Steingasse** was first a Roman road, then home to tanners and potters during the Middle Ages. It's particularly beautiful in the late morning sun when diffused light casts soft shadows across its medieval façades.
- Take a breather by kicking back with a picnic or beer on the banks of the meandering **Salzach River**. Grab a spot to admire the city's skyline from a different angle on tree-lined promenades such as Elisabethkai and Josef-Mayburger-Kai.
- Festung Hohensalzburg is not the only highlight on **Mönchsberg**; wander a little further at the top to find crumbling, overgrown fortifications and snatch glimpses of Salzburg's rooftops through the trees.
- A few paces from the hubbub of Linzer Gasse, the cloisters of **Friedhof St Sebastian** (Map p270) are an oasis of calm. Amid the sea of iron and stone crosses, pick out the graves of Mozart's wife (Constanze) and father (Leopold). At the centre of the cemetery stands Gabrielskapelle, Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau's elaborate mausoleum.
- Stefan-Zweig-Weg climbs up towards the peace of **Kapuzinerberg**, passing through shady beech forest and emerging at a viewpoint with wide-screen views of Salzburg. It's a great vantage point to take photos of the dramatic fortress, Hohensalzburg.

MUSEUM DER MODERNE

Perched atop Mönchsberg, this white-marble, oblong-shaped **museum** (Map p270; ☎ 84 22 20-403; adult/child €8/6; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 10am-9pm Wed) stands in stark contrast to the fortress. The futuristic glass-and-concrete reels in art aficionados with its rotating exhibitions of 20th- and 21st-century works. While you're up here, enjoy an espresso and fabulous views on the panoramic terrace of **M32** (☎ 9am-1am Tue-Sat, 9am-6pm Sun), or nip into James Turrell's cylindrical **Sky Space** to while away the hours gazing up at the sky.

STIEGL'S BRAUWELT

Beer lovers should check out Austria's largest private **brewery** (Map p267; ☎ 83 87-14 92; Bräuhausstrasse 9; adult/child €9/4; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Sun Jun-Sep), where a tour runs through the different stages of the brewing process and includes a peek at the world's tallest beer tower. For those who would rather quaff brews than learn about them, a free Stiegl beer and pretzel are thrown in for the price of a ticket. Take bus 1 or 2 to Bräuhausstrasse.

Activities

The old town is squeezed between Kapuzinerberg and Mönchsberg, both of which are crisscrossed with excellent **walking** trails. There is a

viewpoint (Map p270) at the western end of the Kapuzinerberg, with ramparts built during the Thirty Years' War; the climb up from Linzer Gasse takes 10 minutes. On Mönchsberg, the stroll from Festung Hohensalzburg to Augustiner Bräustübl (p279) is scenic. There is also a great network of **cycling routes**; bikes are available for hire in various places in Salzburg (see p282).

The incredibly popular **River Cruises** (Map p270; ☎ 82 58 58; www.salzburgschiffahrt.at; adult/child €12/7, to Schloss Hellbrunn €15/10; ☎ Apr-Oct) are a leisurely way to see the sights. Cruises depart from Makart bridge and take about an hour, with some of them chugging on to Schloss Hellbrunn (p283; the ticket price does not cover entry to the palace).

Walking Tour

Start this leisurely two- to three-hour walk by absorbing the bustle of **Domplatz (1)** and the adjoining **Kapitelplatz (2)** and **Residenzplatz (3)**. The hubbub from the market stalls lining these broad squares competes with the clip-clop of horses' hooves and the backbeat of buskers. On Residenzplatz, listen out for the chime of the **Glockenspiel (4)** at 7am, 11am and 6pm.

Soaring skywards, the 15th-century **Dom (5)**; cathedral, Domplatz) features three bronze doors symbolising – left to right as you face them –

faith, hope and charity. Its striking cupola was rebuilt after being destroyed by a bomb in 1944. Step inside to see the dome and the Romanesque font where Mozart was baptised. The adjacent **Domuseum** (☎ 84 41 89; adult/child €5/1.50; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun) is a treasure-trove of baroque art, lavish goldwork and tapestries.

Turning left at the first courtyard off Franziskanergasse brings you to the marvelously ornate **Stiftskirche St Peter (6)**; St Peter Bezirk). Beneath a green stucco ceiling lit by chandeliers, the walls are smothered with religious art and baroque swirls. Look out for the dramatic statue of the archangel Michael shoving a crucifix through the throat of a goatly demon. The graveyard is home to the so-called **catacombs (7)**; Katakomben; ☎ 84 45 78-0; adult/child €1/0.60; ☎ 10.30am-5pm daily May-Sep, 10.30am-3.30pm Wed & Thu, 10.30am-4pm Fri-Sun Oct-Apr), cave-like chapels and crypts hewn out of the cliff face.

Back on Franziskanergasse, your gaze is drawn to the slender spires of the **Franziskanerkirche (8)**; ☎ 84 36 29-0; Franziskanergasse 5; ☎ daylight), housing a baroque altar surrounded by five pillars.

WALK FACTS

Start Domplatz

Finish Residenzplatz

Distance 1.5km

Duration Two to three hours, including stops



The western end of Franziskanergasse opens into Max-Reinhardt-Platz, where you'll see the back of Fischer von Erlach's baroque **Kollegienkirche (9)**; Universitätsplatz; ☎ daylight).

Stroll left to reach Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz and the **Pferdeschwemme (10)**; horse trough), a rather elaborate drinking spot for the archbishops' mounts. Created in 1700, this is a horse-lover's delight, with rearing equine pin-ups surrounding Michael Bernhard Mandl's statue of a horse tamer.

Head right around the corner and you'll join the bustling crowds beneath the wrought-iron shop signs along **Getreidegasse (11)**. Turning right down Alter Markt brings you back to Residenzplatz.

Salzburg for Children

With marionettes galore, sticky chocolate balls and a *big* fairytale-like fortress, Salzburg is truly a kid-oriented city. If the crowds prove unbearable with tots in tow, take them to let off steam at the city's adventure **playgrounds** (there are 80 to pick from); a great choice is the one on Franz-Josef-Kai (Map p270). In summer, little 'uns love to splash in shallow pools and whiz down the slides at Austria's largest outdoor pool, **Leopoldskron** (Map p267; ☎ 82 92 65; Leopoldskronstrasse 50; adult/child €3.80/1.80; ☎ 7am-7pm May-Sep), just south of the centre.

Salzburg's sights are usually half-price for children and many are free for under-six-year-olds. Plenty of galleries, museums and theatres also have dedicated programmes for kids and families. These include the **Museum der Moderne** (opposite), which has Saturday art workshops for over-fives and guided tours for over-10s (€2), and the matinee performances at the enchanting **Salzburger Marionettentheater** (p280). The **Salzburg Museum** (p268) has plenty of hands-on displays, from coin rubbings and puzzles to a practice bar for budding ballerinas.

Aside from the above, the **Haus der Natur** (Map p270; ☎ 84 26 53; www.hausdernatur.at; Museumsplatz 5; adult/child €5/3; ☎ 9am-5pm) has a massive aquarium with Nemo-style clown-fish and coral reefs, and a reptile enclosure teeming with snakes and crocs. Shark feeding time is 10.30am on Mondays. Near Untersberg, the open-air **Freilicht Museum** (Map p267; ☎ 85 00 11; Hasenweg; adult/child €7/3.50; ☎ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun Mar-Nov) steps back in time and back to nature. There are 60 traditional Austrian farmhouses to explore, tractors to clamber over, goats to feed and a huge adventure playground to run around in.

Tours

The following companies offer broadly the same *Sound of Music* tour; all last from three to four hours and cost around €40. They take in major landmarks featured in the film and include a visit out into the Salzkammergut countryside for more movie locations. You'll see the Nonnberg Abbey, the church in Mondsee used for the wedding scenes, and Liesl's gazebo, now relocated to the gardens of Schloss Hellbrunn (p283). The soundtrack to the film is played in the buses as they bowl merrily along. It can be a real scream if you're with a lively crowd who are prepared to get into the whole thing by singing along and acting out scenes from the film.

Bob's Special Tours (Map p270; ☎ 84 95 11; www.bobstours.com; Rudolfskai 38) Also offers a *Sound of Music* tour in a light aircraft.

Salzburg Panorama Tours (Map p270; ☎ 87 40 29; www.panoramatours.com; Mirabellplatz) Boasts the 'original *Sound of Music* Tour' with letters from Maria von Trapp to prove it. Tours booked through YOHO youth hostel are 10% cheaper.

Salzburg Sightseeing Tours (Map p270; ☎ 88 16 16; www.salzburg-sightseeingtours.at; Mirabellplatz 2) This company claims one of their buses was used in the film.

If you'd rather pedal around town warbling songs from the film, opt for **Fräulein Maria's Cycling Tours** (Map p270; ☎ 342 62 97; incl bike hire €22; ☎ 9.30am May-Sep). These freewheeling tours last a leisurely three hours and take in the main film locations along the route. No advance booking is necessary, so you can just turn up at the meeting point at the entrance to Mirabellgarten.

Festivals & Events

The **Salzburger Festspiele** (Salzburg Festival) is the annual summer bash, which brings world-class opera, classical music and drama to stages across the city from late July to August. This is the zenith of Salzburg's cultural calendar, a time when the city takes on a new vitality, and a few thousand extra tourists, too.

Prices stretch from €5 to €250; the cheapest prices are for standing-room tickets. Under-26 year olds are eligible for reduced-price deals for two or more events (€15 to €22). Most tickets sell out months in advance but try checking for cancellations – inquire at the **ticket office** (Map p270; ☎ 80 45-500; info@salzburgfestival.at; Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz 11; ☎ 9am-start of last performance of the day). You can see the programme as early as the pre-

vious November on the festival's website, www.salzburg.festival.at.

Held in late January, the **Mozartwoche** (Mozart Week; www.mozarteum.at) is a nod to Salzburg's most famous son, while Easter is yet another excuse for a mammoth music festival, the **Osterfestspiele** (www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at). Salzburg leaps back into the 21st century at the **Sommerzene** (www.sommerzene.at), hosting cutting-edge dance, theatre and music performances from mid-June to mid-July. In the city where *Silent Night* was composed, it's little wonder that Advent is a big deal; the **Christmas Market** on Domplatz is a festive highlight, with carol singers and the obligatory stalls offering gingerbread and mulled wine.

Sleeping

Salzburg has long been known for its pricey accommodation, but that's starting to change. Spearheading the city's style revolution, sleeping spots are revamping the old and ringing in the new: from boutique hotels with baroque finery to funky backpacker digs. If you're on a budget, the right bank is probably your best bet. Prices skyrocket during the Festspiele, when you'll need to book well ahead. For a list of private rooms, check www.salzburg.info or inquire at the tourist office.

BUDGET

Camping Kasern (Map p267; ☎ 45 05 76; www.camping-kasern-salzburg.com; Carl-Zuckmayer-Strasse 26; campsites per adult/child/tent €6/3.50/3; ☎ ☎) Just north of the A1 Nord exit, this tree-shaded campsite offers internet access, a laundry and minimarket. Hop on bus 21 from Paris-Lodron-Strasse to Jagerwirt.

YOHO Salzburg (Map p269; ☎ 87 96 49; www.yoho.at; Paracelsusstrasse 9; 8-/6-bed dm €17/18, per person s/d/tr/q €29/22/20/19; ☎ reception 24hr; ☎ ☎) If you just wanna have fun, this hip hostel is the place to meet like-minded backpackers. There's a daily happy hour at the bar and *The Sound of Music* is blasted out at 10.30am (bring your earplugs or join in the singsong). Other perks include free wi-fi and lockers, plus a 10% discount on Panorama tours. You can book adventure sports here such as rafting (€40) and canyoning (€49).

Junge Hotel Aigen (Map p267; ☎ 62 32 48; www.lbsh-aigen.at; Aignerstrasse 34; per person dm/s/d/q €15/31/23/19; ☎ ☎) Set in parkland, this HI hostel south of Kapuzinerberg in Aigen offers excellent facilities including a common room, table tennis

and dining hall. Family rooms are also available. It's 15 minutes' walk from the old town or take bus 49.

Jugendgästehaus Salzburg (Map p269; ☎ 84 26 70; www.jgh.at; Josef-Preis-Allee 18; per person dm/q/d €15.50/20/37.50; ☎ ☎) Head to this popular hostel for prime views of the fortress, bike rental and discounts on Salzburg Sightseeing Tours. Half and full board are also available.

Institut St Sebastian (Map p270; ☎ 87 13 86; Linzer Gasse 41; www.st-sebastian-salzburg.at; dm/s/d €19/38/62) Tucked behind Sebastianskirche, this peaceful hostel oozes monastic charm with its high vaults, polished stone floors and roof terrace. The dorms are clean and well kept. Ring the bell if reception is unstaffed.

Sandwirt (Map p269; ☎ 87 43 51; Lastenstrasse 6a; s/d/tr €23/44/57; ☎ ☎) Facing the train tracks, the location of this guesthouse is hardly picturesque, but it's handy if you need to be near the station and like gnomes – the garden is full of 'em! Rooms are crying out for a lick of paint, but still offer good value. The chirpy landlady will let you use her washing machine and kitchen.

Junger Fuchs (Map p270; ☎ 87 54 96; Linzer Gasse 54; s/d/tr without bathroom €28/44/55) Despite being above a kebab shop (handy for late-night munchies), the wood-floored rooms in this conveniently located pension on the right bank are clean and spacious.

Hinterbrühl (Map p270; ☎ 84 67 98; hinterbruehl@aon.at; Schanzlgasse 12; s/d without bathroom €42/54) Part of the original city walls, this 14th-century guesthouse is a bargain given its old-town location. The '70s-style rooms are basic but clean. Try to get room 14 – it's the biggest and has a balcony, private bathroom and lounge area.

MIDRANGE

Trumer Stube (Map p270; ☎ 87 47 76; www.trumer-stube.at; Bergstrasse 6; s €56-89, d €89-103; ☎ ☎) Silvia and Giovanni will make you feel at home at this pretty little pension. Its rooms have an old-world feel – think pastel shades, squishy beds and floppy fabrics.

Bergland Hotel (Map p269; ☎ 87 23 18; www.berglandhotel.at; Rupertgasse 15; s/d/ste €63/93/135; ☎ ☎) This peach-fronted hotel attracts creative souls who appreciate Mr Kuhn's brushwork – his fabulous paintings are hung all over the walls. The homy rooms in warm hues display – you guessed it – more art, while the suite is festooned with Austrian straw bonnets. Other

pluses include free parking and wi-fi. Bike hire costs €6 per day.

Lasserhof (Map p269; ☎ 87 33 88; www.lasserhof.com; Lasserstrasse 47; s/d €69/109; ☎ ☎) Smack between Mirabellgarten and the station, this family-run hotel is not a bad deal, but choose your room wisely. The nicer ones have Venetian chandeliers and ceramic stoves, but others are plain and on the poky side.

Hotel Hohenstauffen (Map p269; ☎ 87 21 93; www.hotel-hohenstauffen.at; Elisabethstrasse 19; s/d €80/109; ☎ ☎) It may not be in the swishest part of town, but this friendly hotel near the station is well set up for cyclists with a garage for repairing punctures – ring the bicycle bell at reception for service. The rooms are a tad dated, but comfy and quiet.

Hotel Wolf (Map p270; ☎ 84 34 53-0; www.hotelwolf.com; Kaigasse 9; s/d €80/110; ☎ ☎) Pass through a Hobbit-like door into this lovingly converted town house in a quiet corner of the old town. The 15th-century hotel exudes an historic feel with its uneven stone staircases and antique furnishings. The light, parquet-floored rooms range from modern to rustic.

Hotel Mozart (Map p269; ☎ 87 22 74; www.hotel-mozart.at; Franz-Josef-Strasse 27; s/d €90/110; ☎ ☎) Just like Amadeus, this central hotel rocks. The antique-filled lobby gives way to tidy rooms with mod cons such as wi-fi, gleaming bathrooms, and plump beds that will have you creating a snoring symphony. If you want breakfast, though, you'll have to shell out an extra €10.

ourpick Haus Wartenberg (Map p267; ☎ 84 84 00; www.hauswartenberg.com; Riedenburgstrasse 2; s/d €55/128; ☎ ☎) Hemmed in by trees, this gorgeous 400-year-old country cottage just minutes from the old town is a real find. Bedecked with geranium-filled flowerboxes and family heirlooms, the green-shuttered cottage borders a shady garden. Smooth stone steps lead up to light-flooded rooms, which are befitting of this rustic hideaway with their chunky pinewood furniture, floral curtains and stripy bedspreads.

Zur Goldenen Ente (Map p270; ☎ 84 56 22; www.ente.at; Goldgasse 10; s €75-82, d €125-150) Bang in the heart of the *Altstadt*, this 700-year-old town house has oodles of charm – some rooms have four-poster beds, while Emperor Franz Josef guards over others. The sunny terrace overlooks the rooftops of the old town.

Wolf Dietrich (Map p270; ☎ 87 12 75; www.salzburg-hotel.at; Wolf-Dietrich-Strasse 7; s/d €81/129; ☎ ☎) Central and friendly, this hotel's fabulous

facilities include a pool, sauna and solarium. The swanky rooms are heavy on the floral fabrics and chandeliers and the breakfast buffet is 100% organic. There's also a fabulously over-the-top suite based on Mozart's *Magic Flute*, featuring a star-studded ceiling and freestanding bathtub.

Hotel Amadeus (Map p270; ☎ 87 14 01; www.hotelamadeus.at; Linzer Gasse 43-45; s/d €88/170; 📍) Situated on the right bank, this three-star hotel has a boutique feel, with personal touches such as free afternoon tea. The airy rooms are decorated in vibrant colours; some are kitted out with wrought-iron four-poster beds and chandeliers.

TOP END

Arthotel Blaue Gans (Map p270; ☎ 84 24 91-50; www.blauegans.at; Getreidegasse 43; s €99-119, d €135-185; 📍) An extreme face-lift has propelled this 650-year-old hotel into the 21st century. The revamped inn now brims with abstract artworks and modernist furnishings. Clean lines, wooden floors and flat-screen TVs spruce up the whiter-than-white rooms. The centuries-old vaults harbour the excellent Blaue Gans Restaurant (p278).

Hotel Stein (Map p270; ☎ 87 43 46-0; www.hotelstein.at; Giselakai 3-5; s €99-125, d €140-165, ste €220-275; 📍) This funky design hotel on the banks of the Salzach is no wallflower. The rooms are jazzed up with splashes of purple or ruby red, black leather chairs and zebra-print bedspreads; many also feature marble bathrooms.

Das Auersperg (Map p269; ☎ 88 94 40; www.auersperg.at; Auerspergstrasse 61; s €95-105, d €145-185, ste 205; 📍) This charismatic villa fuses late-19th-century elegance with contemporary design. The modern rooms have free wi-fi and guests can kick back in the serene garden, centred on a lily pond, or in the rooftop sauna. Free bike hire is an added bonus.

Hotel Gablerbräu (Map p270; ☎ 889 65; www.gablerbrau.com; Linzer Gasse 9; s/d €102/148; 📍) This swish hotel has been around since 1429. Expect contemporary, high-ceilinged rooms with parquet floors, comfy beds and spotless bathrooms. The vaulted restaurant (mains €8 to €15) has a seasonal menu with vegetarian options.

Hotel Sacher (Map p270; ☎ 88 97 70; www.sacher.com; Schwarzstrasse 5-7; s €149-265, d €220-390; 📍) Down by the river, this turn-of-the-century hotel is pure class with its glittering chandeliers and posh piano bar. The opulent rooms feature antiques, oil paintings and shiny mar-

ble bathrooms. Tom Hanks, the Dalai Lama and Maria herself (Julie Andrews) have all snoozed here.

Goldener Hirsch (Map p270; ☎ 80 84-0; Getreidegasse 37; s €204-376, d €274-538; 📍) A skylight illuminates the arcaded inner courtyard of this 600-year-old hotel in the *Altstadt*. The rustic, low-ceilinged rooms are pretty plush with lots of polished wood and sparkly pink-marble bathrooms. Queen Elizabeth and Pavarotti top the list of famous guests. Downstairs are two award-winning restaurants: S'Herzl (opposite) and Restaurant Goldener Hirsch (p278).

Hotel Bristol (Map p270; ☎ 87 35 57; www.bristol-salzburg.at; Makartplatz 4; s/d/ste €289/340/581; 📍) Emperor Franz Josef and Sigmund Freud felt at home in this elegant hotel on the square, just around the corner from Mirabellgarten. The plush pad has palatial rooms with five-star luxuries that come with their hefty price tag.

Schloss Mönchstein (Map p269; ☎ 84 85 55-0; www.monchstein.at; Mönchsberg Park 26; d €335-445, ste €475-1195; 📍) Nestled in acres of grounds, this gabled medieval castle on Mönchsberg is fairy-tale stuff. The sumptuous rooms have all the trimmings: Persian rugs, antiques, oil paintings and Calcutta-marble bathrooms are standard. If you have money to burn, you can even rent the whole castle.

Eating

Schnitzel with noodles and crisp apple strudel may have been Maria's favourites, but there's a whole lot more to Salzburg's gastro scene, ranging from African restaurants with attitude to nice-and-spicy vegetarian places. If you're seeking classics – and let's face it, they taste pretty good – the wall-to-wall *Gasthölzle* (inns) in the old town won't disappoint.

RESTAURANTS

Budget

Mensa Toscana (Map p270; ☎ 80 44 69 09; Sigmund-Haffner-Gasse 11; lunch €4-4.70; 📍) With its old town location, sunny terrace and (surprisingly) good food, the Toscana is no cookie-cutter *Mensa* (university restaurant).

Fisch-Krieg (Map p270; ☎ 84 37 32; Ferdinand-Hansch-Platz 4; mains €4-7; 📍) 8.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-1pm Sat) The fish that lands on your plate at this cheap-and-cheerful place is as fresh as it comes. Take a seat on the riverside terrace to chomp on fish kebabs, octopus and paella.

Il Sole (Map p270; ☎ 84 32 84; Gstättengasse 15; mains €5.50-8.50; 📍) lunch & dinner) The wood-fired pizza

at this authentic trattoria is delicious. The smiley Italian owner starred on the German TV series *Das Traumschiff* (Love Boat), and the evidence is plastered all over the walls in the entrance.

SKS Spicy Spices (Map p270; ☎ 87 07 12; Wolf-Dietrich-Strasse 1; mains €6; 📍) lunch & dinner) 'Healthy heart, lovely soul' is the philosophy of this Indian vegetarian restaurant with an ethnic atmosphere and cheerful staff. A few euro buys you a slap-up samosa feast or fiery curry. The organic juices and lassis pack a vitamin punch.

Wilder Mann (Map p270; ☎ 84 17 87; Getreidegasse 20; mains €6.50-8.50; 📍) lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Creaking with age, this cosy Austrian tavern in the *Altstadt* dishes up dumplings, fried sausages and other light and airy fare at rock-bottom prices.

Stadttalm (Map p270; ☎ 84 17 29; Mönchsberg 19; mains €7-12.50; 📍) lunch & dinner mid-May–mid-Sep) Affording sweeping views over Salzburg, the cosy Stadttalm on Mönchsberg has a hearty menu with lashings of goulash and *Tafelspitz* (boiled beef with apple and horseradish sauce).

St Paul's Stub'n (Map p270; ☎ 84 32 20; Herrengasse 16; mains €7-14; 📍) 5pm-1am Mon-Sat) Set in a quiet corner of town, this small, wood-paneled restaurant has a good-value menu stretching from *risotto nero* (risotto made with cuttlefish ink) to roast suckling pig. There's a lovely garden for warm evenings.

Shrimps Bar (Map p270; ☎ 87 44 84; Steingasse 5; mains €7-18; 📍) dinner) Luminous butterflies, tangerine walls and modern art give this bar a funky twist. The shrimps baguette slathered in cocktail sauce is a lip-smacking speciality (both hands required), but you can also sink your jaws into a shark steak.

Sternbräu (Map p270; ☎ 84 21 40; Griesgasse 23; mains €8-16, set menu €16.50-18.50; 📍) lunch & dinner) The tree-shaded courtyard is the big draw at this rustic restaurant. House specials such as venison stew and trout are accompanied by copious amounts of Sternbräu beer. *The Sound of Music* dinner show takes place here (see p279).

Saran Essbar (Map p270; ☎ 84 66 28; Judengasse 10; mains €9-13; 📍) lunch & dinner) Superfriendly Mr Saran uses the freshest ingredients in his tasty Indian dishes. Savour a Bengali fish curry or wok-fried vegetables beneath medieval vaults or on the pavement terrace. If you've room, finish off with a slice of Zaga's homemade strudel.

Midrange

Nagano (Map p270; ☎ 84 94 88; Griesgasse 19; mains €10-18; 📍) lunch & dinner) Hidden in the cobbled Artis Hof courtyard, this unassuming Japanese restaurant pushes the right buttons with fresh sushi, tempura and sashimi.

Ourpick Afro Café (Map p270; ☎ 84 48 88; Bürgerspitalplatz 5; mains €10-20; 📍) 9am-midnight Mon-Sat) This eye-catching African café ventures into Salzburg's wackier waters. The retro design is pure genius: a blend of hot-pink walls, butterfly-shaped chairs, plastic palms and artworks sculpted from junk gathered on the beach. The menu takes some beating too – try the sticky ostrich kebabs or coconutty Zanzibar salad with Algiers ginger punch.

Alt Salzburg (Map p270; ☎ 84 14 76; Bürgerspitalgasse 2; mains €10.20-25.80; 📍) lunch & dinner Tue-Sat, dinner Mon) Tucked into a cobblestone courtyard at the base of the Mönchsberg, this cosy restaurant has prim-and-proper service and a meaty menu featuring specials such as venison and veal knuckle.

S'Herzl (Map p270; ☎ 80 84-0; Getreidegasse 37; mains €11-19; 📍) lunch & dinner) Dark wood beams, arched windows and low lighting create a cosy feel in this tavern, housed in the Goldener Hirsch (opposite). It's a fine place to snuggle up in winter over calorie-rich treats such as sausages and sauerkraut or scrumptious puddings.

Stiftskeller St Peter (Map p270; ☎ 84 12 68-0; St Peter's Bezirk 1-4; mains €11-21.50; 📍) lunch & dinner) Set around a vine-clad courtyard by Stiftskirche St Peter, this restaurant comprises a string of wood-paneled rooms that roll out Austrian fare such as wild boar and roast pork with sauerkraut. It's well known for its Mozart dinner concerts (see p279).

Zum Eulenspiegel (Map p270; ☎ 84 31 80; Hagenauerplatz 2; mains €11-23; 📍) lunch & dinner) There's a gingerbread feel about this restaurant, with its fairy lights, wonky walls and low beams. Stone steps twist up to intimate cubbyholes (some just big enough for four people), where you can savour 650 years of history, prime views of the square and flavours such as stroganoff and sander fillet.

Gasthof Auerhahn (Map p267; ☎ 45 10 52; Bahnhofstrasse 15; mains €13-22; 📍) lunch & dinner Tue-Sat, lunch Sun) It's off the beaten track, but that doesn't stop foodies from making the pilgrimage to Auerhahn. This award-winning restaurant serves specialities such as clams in lime froth and fluffy *Topfenknödel* (sweet

dumplings). The chestnut-tree-shaded garden is popular when the sun's out.

Pan e Vin (Map p270; ☎ 844 666; Gstättengasse 1; mains €15-30; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, trattoria closed Mon) This cheery place comprises a smart trattoria and Mediterranean restaurant. As well as antipasti and pasta just like *mamma* used to make, the chef excels in the art of preparing shellfish.

Blaue Gans Restaurant (Map p270; ☎ 84 13 17-54; www.blauegans.at; Getreidegasse 43; mains €16-20; ☺ lunch & dinner Wed-Mon) In the historic vaults of Arthotel Blaue Gans (p276), this smart restaurant is prized for fresh, locally sourced fare like tender Pinzgauer lamb. Dwarfed by the cliffs of Mönchsberg, the palm-shaded terrace is wonderful when the sun's out.

Top End

Schloss Restaurant (Map p269; ☎ 84 85 55-0; Mönchsberg Park 26; mains €20-30; ☺ lunch & dinner) This grand restaurant in Schloss Mönchstein dishes up a right royal feast, from tender loin of lamb to herb-crustéd sole. Service is (as befits a castle) impeccable.

Restaurant Goldener Hirsch (Map p270; ☎ 80 84-0; Getreidegasse 37; mains €21-27; ☺ lunch & dinner, closed Sun in winter) Vaulting and polished wood set the scene for gourmet flavours at this well-heeled restaurant in the Goldener Hirsch (p276). The chef has won awards for signature dishes such as venison saddle with cabbage and dumplings.

Riedenburg (Map p267; ☎ 83 08 15; www.riedenburg.at; Neutorstrasse 31; lunch €18, mains €26-35; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) Pop art adds a splash of colour to this sleek Michelin-starred restaurant. The chef presents delicacies such as crayfish on Riesling risotto, with a razor-sharp eye for detail. The pavilion in the garden is a romantic hideaway in summer.

Hangar-7, the spacey complex at Salzburg airport, shelters the exclusive **Ikarus** (Map p267; ☎ 21 97-77; www.hangar-7.com; set menu €85-110; ☺ lunch & dinner) restaurant, where each month different celebrity chefs are invited to put their creative stamp on the menu. Be sure to head for some after-dinner drinks in the Hangar-7's hi-tech May Day Bar (opposite).

QUICK EATS

Icezeit (Map p270; ☎ 84 33 73; www.icezeit.at; Chiemesegasse 1; scoop €1-1.30; ☺ 11am-9pm) The snaking queue speaks for the quality of the homemade ice cream at this hole-in-the-wall

gelateria. Refresh with zingy varieties such as choco-chilli, ginger and lemon-pepper.

Indigo (Map p269; ☎ 87 08 62; Auerspergstrasse 10; light meals €2.50-6; ☺ 10am-10pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat) Salads by the scoopful, sushi and vegetarian curries feature on the healthy menu at this gallery-style café, decked out with wicker chairs and vibrant art.

Capp&ccino (Map p270; ☎ 87 55 45; Linzer Gasse 39; snacks €3-9, lunch €6.90; ☺ 8am-11pm) Capp&ccino is the right bank's coolest café with its high ceilings, laid-back terrace and lounge music. The moreish *tramezzini* (small Italian tea sandwiches) and free wi-fi access add to its popularity.

Coffee Shop (Map p269; ☎ 89 07 73; Franz-Josef-Strasse 3; bagels €3; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Based on Ayurvedic principles, this Zen-like café is a temple of calm and healthy living. The all-vegetarian menu includes a superb selection of bagels, salads and freshly squeezed juices.

Café Tomaselli (Map p270; ☎ 84 44 88; Alter Markt 9; pastries €4; ☺ breakfast & lunch) If you like your service with a dollop of Viennese grumpiness and strudel with a dollop of cream, this grand, wood-panelled coffee house in the centre is just the ticket.

Scio's Specereyen (Map p270; ☎ 84 16 38; Sigmund-Haffner-Gasse 16; mains €5.50-11, snacks €2.20-4.90; ☺ 10am-8pm) Breathe in as you enter this pint-sized bistro, which bursts at the seams at weekends. No wonder, with a menu starring tasty morsels such as blinis with trout caviar. Don't leave without sampling the divine chestnut-and-nougat *Venusbrüstchen* (Venus breasts).

Vegy Vollwertimbiss (Map p270; ☎ 87 57 46; Schwarzerstrasse 21; lunch €8; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri) Helga has been dishing up wholesome vegetarian food to Salzburg for more than 25 years. Try the tasty soups and honey-sweetened cake.

SELF-CATERING

If a picnic on the banks of the Salzach appeals, stock up on cheese, bread and honey at the market (Map p270) on Universitätsplatz.

There are several supermarkets for self-caterers, including **Billa** (Map p270; Griesgasse 19). The **Shell** (Map p269; St Julien Strasse 33) garage has a shop open 24 hours, with snacks, provisions and alcohol.

Drinking

Salzburg is starting to shake off its purely traditional image with some trendy bars sprouting up by the Salzach. You'll still find the

beer-and-pretzel type places that have been around for donkey's years, but they are making space for a new generation of lounge bars and clubs that keep party-goers on their toes till the sun rises.

Humboldt Stub'n (Map p270; ☎ 84 31 71; Gstättengasse 4-6; ☺ noon-4am) This bar has an upbeat, pre-clubbing vibe. Cartoons deck the walls and a nail-studded Mozart punk guards the bar. Speaking of Mozart, there's even a cocktail dedicated to the virtuoso here (a sickly sweet composition of liqueur, cherry juice, cream and chocolate). Wednesday is student night, with beers a snip at €2.50.

Republic (Map p270; ☎ 84 16 13; Anton-Neumayr-Platz 2; ☺ 8am-1am Sun-Thur, 8am-3am Fri & Sat) Opposite Humboldt Stub'n, this café is defined by high ceilings and neon lighting. By night it morphs into one of the city's trendiest haunts when DJs spinning house, salsa and electro attract a 20-something, daiquiri-sipping crowd.

Die Weisse (Map p269; ☎ 87 22 46; Rupertgasse 10; ☺ 10.30am-midnight Mon-Sat) The cavernous brewpub of the Salzburger Weissbierbrauerei, this is the place to guzzle cloudy wheat beers beside shiny copper vats. Choose from the wood-floored pub, the industrial-style bar or the shady beer garden out the back.

Living Room (Map p270; ☎ 87 73 61; Imbergstrasse 2a; ☺ 10am-2am Sun-Thur, 10am-4am Fri & Sat) Hugging the banks of the Salzach, this avant-garde newcomer combines a lounge-style bar with a decked terrace. Sink into a wicker armchair to admire the illuminated fortress and listen to mellow grooves. Meals are also served (€8.90 to €11.80).

Baboon Bar (Map p270; ☎ 88 59 32; Imbergstrasse 11; ☺ 7pm-4am Mon-Sat) Look out for the funky monkey at this hip riverside bar, playing '70s and '80s classics and acid jazz. The garden is popular on warm summer evenings.

Augustiner Bräustübl (Map p269; ☎ 43 12 46; Augustinergerasse 4-6; ☺ 3-11pm Mon-Fri, 2.30-11pm Sat & Sun) With swinging steins and pretzels a-plenty, this monk-run brewery proves that quaffing clerics can enjoy themselves. Fill your huge stone mug from the pump in the foyer, visit the snack stands and take a pew beneath the chestnut trees in the 1000-seat beer garden.

Bellini's (Map p270; ☎ 87 13 85; Mirabellplatz 4; ☺ 9am-1am Mon-Fri, 11am-1am Sat & Sun) This Italian job next to Mirabellgarten is a cool, lively bar with a cobbled terrace, great cocktails and tasty *tramezzini*.

StieglKeller (Map p270; ☎ 84 26 81; Festungsgasse 10; ☺ 11am-11pm) Beneath the fortress, this Munich-style beer hall (it shares the same architect as the Hofbräuhaus) has an enormous garden above the city's rooftops. Beer is cheapest from the self-service taps outside.

Shamrock (Map p270; ☎ 84 16 10; Rudolfskai 12; ☺ noon-2am Sun, 3pm-2am Mon, 3pm-3am Tue & Wed, 3pm-4am Thu, noon-4am Fri & Sat) This spit-and-sawdust Irish pub screens big sport events. There's live music daily from 9pm and Guinness on tap.

O'Malley's (Map p270; ☎ 84 92 65; Rudolfskai 16; ☺ 6pm-2am Mon-Thu & Sun, 6pm-4am Fri & Sat) Shamrock's more laid-back twin is run by the same people and centres on a bar built from the timber of a 300-year-old Irish church.

ARGEkultur (Map p269; ☎ 84 87 84-0; www.argekultur.at; Josef-Preis-Allee 16; ☺ 9.30am-1am Mon-Fri, 6pm-1am Sat) Students and arty types hang out at this alternative haunt, which is a bar, a bistro and a small-scale performing arts venue rolled into one. Expect an eclectic line-up of concerts and parties.

May Day Bar (Map p267; ☎ 21 97 www.hangar-7.com; ☺ 5.30pm-2am Sun-Thu, 5.30pm-3am Fri & Sat) After-dinner drinks are served at this bar in the hi-tech Hangar-7 complex, where Flying Bulls aircraft zip around the glasses and virtual bar staff interact with guests.

Entertainment

CLASSICAL MUSIC & MUSICALS

Schloss Mirabell's baroque Marble Hall (p270) sets the scene for **Schlosskonzerte** (☎ 84 85 86; www.salzburger-schlosskonzerte.at; tickets €8-31), Mozart recitals given by international soloists and chamber musicians.

The **Mozarteum** (Map p270; ☎ 87 31 54; Schwarzerstrasse 26-28; tickets €15-60) stages the works of Mozart and other classical composers. More light-hearted are the **Mozart dinner concerts** (☎ 84 12 68-0; tickets €45; ☺ dinner) held by candlelight and starring performers dressed in period costume at Stiftskeller St Peter (p277). **Mozartconcerts** (www.mozartfestival.at), some with dinner, are also held at the Festung Hohensalzburg (p271).

If you're lucky enough to be in Salzburg during the Festspiele, and try to get tickets for concerts, operas and plays at the **Festspielhaus** (Map p270; ☎ 84 45-579; Hofstallgasse 1), which is built into the sheer sides of the Mönchsberg.

If the above options sound too highbrow, the **Sound of Music Show** (☎ 82 66 17; with/without dinner €45/29; ☺ nightly May-Oct) at the Sternbräu

(p277) might appeal. You'll feast on Maria's favourite things as performers bash out much-loved hits from the musical.

ROCK & JAZZ

Rockhouse (Map p267; ☎ 88 49 14; www.rockhouse.at, in German; Schallmooser Hauptstrasse 46; admission €10-20; 🕒 6pm-2am Mon-Sat) Playing to a young crowd, the Rockhouse is Salzburg's premier venue for rock and pop bands – check the website for details of what's on. There's also a tunnel-shaped bar that has DJs (usually free) and live bands.

Szene (Map p270; ☎ 84 34 48; www.szene-salzburg.net; Anton-Neumayr-Platz 2; tickets €10-45) Next to Republic, this venue hosts everything from DJs to cutting-edge dance productions and jam sessions. Visit the website for details of the line-up.

For live jazz, check out **Jazzit** (Map p269; ☎ 87 68 91; www.jazzit.at, in German; Elisabethstrasse 11), which stages regular gigs, or **Urbankeller** (Map p267; ☎ 87 08 94; Schallmooser Hauptstrasse 50; 🕒 5pm-1am), host to live jazz, blues, rock and funk.

THEATRE & CINEMA

Das Kino (Map p270; ☎ 87 31 00; www.daskino.at, in German; Giselakai 11; tickets €8) Independent and art-house films are screened in their original language at this small cinema. It's also a good place to pick up fliers for clubs and happenings around town. The Latin American Film Festival takes place here in March.

Landestheater (Map p270; ☎ 87 15 12-0; www.theater.co.at, in German; Schwarzstrasse 22; tickets €5-42) This leading performing-arts venue offers a varied programme of musicals, ballets, plays and operas (mostly in German).

Salzburger Marionettentheater (Map p270; ☎ 87 24 06-0; www.marionetten.at; Schwarzstrasse 24; tickets €18-35; 🕒 May-Sep, Christmas, Easter & Mozart Week in Jan) Who says puppetry is just for kids? This traditional marionette theatre stages a repertoire of well-known operas – from *Bastien* and *Bastienne* to *The Magic Flute* – in a gorgeous baroque auditorium. The talented puppeteers (see boxed text, below) perform with grace

VOICES: GRETL AICHER, SALZBURGER MARIONETTENTHEATER

Tension is mounting behind the scenes at the Salzburger Marionettentheater (above): puppeteers take their positions, the music strikes up and the curtain rises on Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. The granddaughter of the theatre founder, Gretl Aicher, is there; her silhouetted hands fluttering as marionettes glide gracefully across the stage. She grew up with the theatre and has been puppeteering since she was 15. After the performance, she takes time out to answer a few questions:

How did the theatre rise from its humble beginnings? My grandfather was a sculptor and started the marionette theatre in a gym in 1913. He gave it to my father as a wedding present in 1926, who developed techniques and expanded the repertoire to include Mozart operas, fairy tales and, of course, the much-loved *Salzburger Kasperl* [an impish character like Punch]. We've been touring worldwide since 1932.

What is the fascination of performing with marionettes? Puppetry is perfecting the art of illusion. We try to make the marionettes lifelike with natural movements and the effect upon audiences is hypnotic. Each one is like a magical instrument that unleashes hidden emotions and desires. After a while, the technique becomes second nature and you just slip into the characters – they are my alter ego.

Which effects are achievable with marionettes that aren't possible on a 'human' stage? I love the fact you can make marionettes fly, take them apart, even swap their heads. These are tricks that actors can only achieve with complex special effects.

Why is Mozart's music such an inspiration to you? I can't name any composer that can breathe such life into marionettes as Mozart. His operas are joyful, playful, indescribable. They are the perfect companion for puppeteers.

How do you feel about the new Sound of Music production? Excited! It's challenging new territory for us, as it will be the first time we've ever staged a musical. It debuts in Salzburg in May 2008 and, from the look of things, is set to be an evocative and fascinating production.

TOP TEMPLES OF KITSCH

- **Miracle's Wax Museum** (Map p270; Getreidegasse 7) is the place to sniff out Mozart eau de toilette (€15), pocket a pair of yodeller's lederhosen (€13) or snap up a gorgeous Sissi bust (€10) to grace your mantelpiece.
- **Residenzplatz** (Map p270) brims with high-quality kitsch – is it to be that sexy feathered alpine hat (€19.90), the stylish edelweiss neckerchief (€5) or child prodigy, Mozart, captured forever in a snow globe (€5.50)?
- **Gifts & Things** (Map p270; Judengasse 6) isn't cheap, but who can resist the gem-encrusted Fabergé egg playing The Blue Danube (€65) or the won't-stop-whistling marmot (€8)?
- **Candela** (Map p270; Getreidegasse 24) is a must if you've always wanted a metallic German Christmas pickle (€3.50 to €10) to hang on your tree. Glittering papayas and gaudy carrots complete your festive fruit-and-veg collection.
- **Perfect** (Map p270; Universitätsplatz 4) has the solution to carry your kitsch home. Whatever your favourite pet – poodle, Pekinese or Siamese puss – this boutique has a bejewelled purse (€12) or bag (€40) to suit.

and gusto to create the illusion of life-sized performers on a miniature stage.

Shopping

You can souvenir-shop for everything from tight-fitting dirndls to cuckoo clocks in the *Altstadt*, particularly on bustling Getreidegasse and Judengasse, but should be prepared to pay over the odds – this is firmly tourist territory. Design divas with bulging bank balances head for boutique-lined Linzer Gasse and Griesgasse.

Salzkontor (Map p270; Waagplatz 6) The shelves in this tiny shop are stocked with mineral-rich Salzkammergut salt, ranging from herby concoctions to bath crystals scented with lavender and citrus.

Kaslöchl (Map p270; ☎ 84 41 00; Hagenauerplatz 2) There's no room to swing a cat in Salzburg's smallest cheese shop. Squeeze in to buy delicious organic, locally sourced cheeses such as creamy Voralberger or fresh cheese with basil.

Stiftsbäckerei St Peter (Map p270; Mühlenhof; 🕒 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-noon Sat) Right next to the monastery, this 900-year-old bakery still bakes tasty loaves in a wood-fired oven.

Drechserei Lackner (Map p270; ☎ 84 23 85; Badergasse 2) The hand-carved nutcrackers, nativity figurines and filigree Christmas stars are the real deal in this traditional craft shop.

Fürst (Map p270; ☎ 84 37 59; Getreidegasse 47) The *Mozartkugeln* (Mozart balls) at this speciality chocolate shop are based on Paul Fürst's original 1890 recipe. The chocolate-coated nougat and marzipan treats cost €0.90 per mouthful.

Easter in Salzburg (Map p270; ☎ 84 17 94; Judengasse 13) It's impossible to pass this shop without gawping: an incredible 150,000 real, hand-painted eggs are spread over two glittering floors. Prices range from €2 for a modestly painted hen's egg to €146 for an ostrich egg bearing a portrait of Mozart.

Christmas in Salzburg (Map p270; ☎ 84 67 84; Judengasse 10) Just opposite Easter in Salzburg, this five-floor shop puts Santa's grotto to shame. Here, gold cherubs, stockings and delicate baubles replace the eggs. Just, for goodness' sake, don't trip...

Getting There & Away

AIR

Salzburg airport (Map p267; ☎ 85 80-0; www.salzburg-airport.com), half an hour by bus from the city centre, has regular scheduled flights to destinations all over Austria and Europe. Low-cost flights from the UK are provided by **Ryanair** (☎ 0900 210 240; www.ryanair.com). Other airlines flying into Salzburg include **British Airways** (☎ 0179 567 567; www.britishairways.com) and **KLM** (☎ 858 09 69; www.kl.m.com).

BUS

Buses depart from just outside the *Hauptbahnhof* (Map p269) on Südtiroler Platz, where timetables are displayed. Bus information and tickets are available from the information points on the main concourse.

Hourly buses leave for the Salzkammergut between 6.30am and 8pm – destinations include Bad Ischl (€8.70, 1¼ hours), Mondsee

(€5.40, 50 minutes), St Wolfgang (€7.90, 1½ hours) and St Gilgen (€5.20, 50 minutes). All prices are for one-way trips. Return tickets include travel on the local city-bus network. For information on bus travel further afield and an online timetable see www.postbus.at.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Three motorways converge on Salzburg to form a loop around the city: the A1 from Linz, Vienna and the east; the A8/E52 from Munich and the west; and the A10/E55 from Villach and the south. The quickest way to Tyrol is to take the road to Bad Reichenhall in Germany and continue to Lofer (Hwy 312) and St Johann in Tyrol.

TRAIN

Salzburg is well served by InterCity (IC) and EuroCity (EC) services. For train information call ☎ 05-1717 (8am to 8pm daily), or visit the office in the *Hauptbahnhof*. Tickets (no commission) and train information are also available from **Salzburger Landesreisebüro** (Map p270; ☎ 87 34 03; Schwarzstrasse 11).

Fast trains leave from the *Hauptbahnhof* hourly for Vienna's Westbahnhof (€43.40, 3½ hours), travelling via Linz (€19.90, 1½ hours). The two-hourly express service to Klagenfurt (€31.70, 3¼ hours) runs via Villach.

The quickest way to Innsbruck is by the 'corridor' train through Germany; trains depart at least every two hours (€33.80, two hours) and stop at Kufstein. Trains to Munich take about two hours and run every 30 to 60 minutes (€27); some of these continue to Karlsruhe via Stuttgart.

If you hop on the train in Salzburg you can also hop off in Berlin (€119, eight hours), Budapest (€70.60, seven hours), Prague (€55.40, seven hours), Rome (€90, 10½ hours) or Venice (€50, 6½ hours).

Getting Around

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Salzburg airport is less than 4km west of the city centre at Innsbrucker Bundesstrasse 95. Bus 2 (€1.80, 25 minutes) departs from outside the terminal roughly every 10 minutes and terminates at the *Hauptbahnhof*. This service operates from 5.30am to 11pm and doesn't go via the old town, so you'll have to take a local bus from the *Hauptbahnhof* once you arrive, or walk (15 to 20 minutes).

A taxi between the airport and the centre costs about €15.

BICYCLE

Salzburg has an excellent cycling network and hiring your own set of wheels is a carbon-neutral, hassle-free way of exploring the city and its surrounds. Next to the *Hauptbahnhof*, **Top Bike** (☎ 06272-46 56; www.topbike.at; Südtiroler Platz 1; ☎ 10am-5pm Apr-Oct, 9am-5pm Jul & Aug) rents bikes for around €15 per day (half-price for kids). The Salzburg Card (see p268) offers a 20% discount off these rates.

BUS

Bus drivers sell single (€1.80), 24-hour (adult/child €4.20/2.10) and weekly tickets (€11.70). Single tickets bought in advance from *Tabak* (tobacconist) shops are cheaper (€1.60 each) and are sold in units of five. Children under six years travel free.

Bus routes are shown at bus stops and on some city maps; buses 1 and 4 start from the *Hauptbahnhof* and skirt the pedestrian-only old town.

BUS TAXI

'Bus taxis' operate from 11.30pm to 1.30am (3am on weekends) on fixed routes, dropping off and picking up along the way, for a cost of €3.50. Ferdinand-Hanusch-Platz is the departure point for suburban routes on the left bank, and Theatergasse for routes to the right bank.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Parking places are limited and much of the old town is only accessible by foot, so it may be better to avoid taking your car in – there are three park-and-ride points to the west, north and south of the city. The largest car park in the centre is the Altstadt Garage under the Mönchsberg. Expect to pay around €14 per day; some restaurants in the centre will stamp your ticket for a reduction. Rates are lower on streets with automatic ticket machines (blue zones); a three-hour maximum applies (€3 or €0.50 for 30 minutes) 9am to 7pm on weekdays.

Car rental offices include:

Avis (Map p269; ☎ 87 72 78; Ferdinand-Porsche-Strasse 7)

Europcar (Map p267; ☎ 87 16 16; Gniglerstrasse 12)

Hertz (Map p269; ☎ 87 66 74; Ferdinand-Porsche-Strasse 7)

FIACRE

A *Fiacre* (horse-drawn carriage) for up to four people costs €33 for 25 minutes. The drivers line up on Residenzplatz. Not all speak English, so don't expect a guided tour.

TAXI

Taxi fares start at €3 plus around €2 per kilometre. To book a radio taxi, call ☎ 81 11 or ☎ 17 15. There's a huge taxi rank outside the main train station.

AROUND SALZBURG

HELLBRUNN

An archbishop with a wicked sense of humour, Markus Sittikus built the yellow-painted **Schloss Hellbrunn** (Map p267; ☎ 82 03 72-0; www.hellbrunn.at; Fürstenweg 37; adult/child/family €8.50/3.80/21.50; ☎ 9am-4.30pm Apr & Oct, 9am-5.30pm May & Jun, 9am-10pm Jul & Aug) in the 17th century as a pleasure palace and an escape vault from his functions at Residenz. The Italianate villa became a wild retreat for rulers of state who flocked here to eat, drink and generally be merry. It was a Garden of Eden to all who beheld its exotic fauna, citrus trees and trick fountains – designed to sober up quaffing clerics without dampening their spirits. Domenico Gisberti, poet to the court of Munich, once penned: 'I see the epitome of Venice in these waters, Rome reduced to a brief outline.'

Today, Hellbrunn attracts the giggling tourist masses in summer; most are here for the fabulously eccentric Wasserspiele (trick fountains). Be prepared to get *very* wet as you wander past stone lions, cherubs and statues that drench you with water when you least expect it. For a right good soaking, step inside the mother-of-pearl Neptune Grotto or gaze up to admire the 200 limewood figurines at the water-driven Mechanical Theatre. Tours run every 30 minutes. To lose the crowds, take a stroll along the broad oak-lined avenues in the glorious Schloss gardens; these are open year-round till dusk.

Getting There & Away

Hellbrunn is 4km from Salzburg. Bus 25 stops directly outside the Schloss every half-hour (€1.70) – city passes are valid. Catch the bus from the *Hauptbahnhof* or Rudolfskai in the old town.

UNTERSBERG

Rising above Salzburg, 1853m-high **Untersberg** (Map p265) affords a spectacular vista of the surrounding Alps. In winter, skiers swoosh down the 7.5km piste, while in summer the mountain is a magnet for hikers, rock climbers and paragliders. A cable car to the top (up/down/return €11/9.50/18) runs every half-hour year-round except for two weeks in April and six weeks from 1 November. Take bus 25 or 16 from Salzburg *Hauptbahnhof* to St Leonhard to the valley station.

GAISBERG

Follow the road that snakes up to **Gaisberg** peak (Map p265; 1287m) and you'll find there's a tremendous panorama of Salzburg and the Salzkammergut from the 5km Gaisberg Rundwanderweg, which follows a balcony trail. Unless you have your own transport, the only way up is to take bus 151 (€2.60 return, 30 minutes), departing four or five times a day in summer from Mirabellplatz (Map p270). From November to March the bus only goes as far as Zistelalpe, about 1.5km short of the summit.

HALLEIN

☎ 06245 / pop 18,900 / elev 460m

Often eclipsed by its big brother, Salzburg, Hallein (Map p265) has industrial outskirts that belie its well-preserved medieval core: a warren of narrow streets and inner courtyards peppered with art workshops, boho cafés and pastel-hued town houses. Tie that with a strong Celtic heritage and must-see salt mine and you're looking at a place that merits at least a day of your time.

Orientation & Information

The train station is east of the Salzach River: walk ahead, bear left and turn right to cross the river for the town centre (five minutes). The post office is opposite the train station. The **tourist office** (☎ 853 94; www.hallein.com; Mauttortpromenade 6; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri) is on the narrow Pernerinsel island adjoining the Stadtbrücke.

Sights

KELTENMUSEUM

Recently brought bang up to date with an all-glass façade overlooking the Salzach, the **Keltenmuseum** (Celtic Museum; ☎ 807 83; Pfliegerplatz 5; adult/child €6/2.50; ☎ 9am-5pm) runs chronologically

through the region's heritage in a series of beautiful vaulted rooms. It begins with a fine collection of Celtic artefacts including Asterix-style helmets, an impressively reconstructed chariot and a selection of bronze brooches, pendants and buckles. The 1st floor traces the history of salt extraction in Hallein, featuring high points such as a miniature slide and the mummified Mannes im Salz (man in salt) unearthed in 1577. There is a pamphlet with English explanations (€2.50).

SALZWELTEN SALZBURG

Austria's biggest show-mine, **Salzwelten Salzburg** (☎ 06132-200 2400; www.salzwelten.at/Ramsaustrasse 3; adult/child/family; €16.50/9.90/34.70; ☎ 9am-5pm Apr-Oct, 10am-3pm Nov-Mar) pays tribute to the salt that filled Salzburg's coffers during its princely heyday. Visitors don an Oompa Loompa-style boiler suit to descend to the bowls of the earth and board a rickety train. The tour passes through a maze of claustrophobic passageways, over the border to Germany and down a 27m slide – don't break, lift your legs and ask the guide to add wax for extra speed! After crossing a salt lake on a wooden raft, a 42m slide brings you to the lowest point (210m underground) and back to good old Austria. Guided tours depart every half an hour. Bus 41 (€1.80, 12 minutes) runs from Hallein train station hourly on weekdays, less often at weekends.

KELTENBLITZ

Bad Dürrenberg's family-friendly summer toboggan run, **Keltenblitz** (☎ 851 05; Bad Dürrenberg; adult/child €8.80/6; ☎ 11am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-5pm Sat & Sun May-Jun & Oct, 10am-6pm daily Jul-Sep) is ideal for those who want to pick up speed after visiting the show-mine. A chairlift whisks passengers to the top of Zinken mountain, where they board little wheeled bobsleds to race 2.2km downhill around hairpin bends. The thrill is over in a flash and affords fleeting views of the Salzach Valley.

Festivals & Events

First-rate musicians and artists draw crowds to the two-week **Halleiner Stadtfestwoche**, which takes place from June to July each year. The festival is one of the headliners on the summer events programme in Salzburgerland, with a line-up spanning everything from classical concerts to live jazz, theatre, comedy acts, readings and ex-

hibitions. For more details, see www.forum-hallein.at (in German).

Sleeping & Eating

Hallein can be visited on a day trip from Salzburg, but there are plenty of value-for-money places to stay if you'd rather base yourself here. The tourist office helps book private rooms.

Pension Sommerauer (☎ 800 30; www.pension-hallein.at; Tschustistrasse 71; s/d €37/57; ☎) Housed in a 300-year-old farmhouse, the rustic rooms at this guesthouse are a bargain. There's a heated pool and conservatory, plus lots of kiddie stuff including a playroom, sandpit and swings.

Pension Hochdürnberg (☎ 751 83; Rumpelgasse 14; d/tr €52/60; ☎) Surrounded by meadows, this lovely farmhouse in Bad Dürrenberg offers country-style rooms decorated with warm pine and crisp white linen. The furry residents (rabbits, sheep and cows) keep children amused.

Hotel Auwirt (☎ 804 17; www.auwirt.com; Salzburgerstrasse 42; s/d €52/84, campsites per adult/child/tent €5.20/4/3.50; ☎) The light-filled rooms at this three-star hotel are simple but comfy (ask for one with a balcony). It makes a great base for families with its tree-shaded garden and adventure playground. Freshly squeezed juice and homemade jam are served at breakfast.

Koi (☎ 741 08; Schantplatz 2; lunch €6.90-7.90; ☎) 9am-11pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) Buddha welcomes you to Hallein's hippest café. The design is industrial cool with Asian overtones – from chocolate-coloured leather benches to giraffe-print cushions. The menu tempts with fresh-from-the-wok noodles and crunchy bean sprout salads, washed down with organic juices. There's a cool breeze to be had on the raised terrace by the stream.

Café Barock (☎ 806 86; Gollinger-Tor-Gasse 1; lunch €6.90; ☎) lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Tucked down an alleyway, this little bistro is bedecked with eye-catching modern art. When the sun's out, its cobbled square framed by tall town houses is a popular lunch spot. The chalked menu-board includes lots of pasta, focaccia and vegetarian options.

Stadtkrug Hallein (☎ 830 85; Bayrhamerplatz 10; lunch buffet €6.90, mains €7-10.50; ☎) lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sun) Tables fill quickly during the midday rush at this bustling, wood-beamed restaurant in the centre. If it's warm, pull up a chair beside the trickling fountain on the square to refuel with an enormous schnitzel or plate of goulash.

Getting There & Away

Hallein is 25 minutes south of Salzburg by bus or train with departures roughly every 30 minutes (€3.70). The main train station in Salzburg sells the Salz Erlebnis Ticket (€22), which covers the train to Hallein, a bus transfer and entry to the salt mine.

WERFEN

☎ 06468 / pop 3200 / elev 525m

For a village of small proportions, Werfen has some real stunners: the world's largest accessible ice caves, the soaring limestone turrets of the Tennengebirge and a medieval fortress lordling it over the valley are just the tip of the iceberg. Little wonder, then, that this scenic setting is where the famous picnic took place in *The Sound of Music* – the hills here are definitely alive and kickin'.

Orientation & Information

The town hugs the northern bank of the Salzach River, five minutes' walk from the train station. The friendly **tourist office** (☎ 53 88; www.werfen.at; Markt 24; ☎) 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Sep-Jun, 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 5-7pm Sat Jul & Aug) hands out information and maps.

Sights

BURG HOHENWERFEN

Location, location... On its fairy-tale perch above Werfen, **Burg Hohenwerfen** (☎ 76 03; adult/child/family €13/7/30; ☎) 9am-6pm Jul & Aug, 9am-5pm May, Jun & Sep, 9am-4.30pm Apr & Oct, closed Mon in Apr) has one to rival the best. Set against the backdrop of the glowering Tennengebirge range, the fortress was built in the 11th century to guard the valley and Salzach River below, but its current appearance dates to 1570. Highlights include the 16th-century belfry that commands far-reaching views over Werfen and the dungeons that display the usual nasties such as the iron maiden and thumb screw. The entry fee also covers the spectacular falconry show in the grounds (11am and 3pm), where falconers in medieval costume release eagles, owls, falcons and vultures to wheel in front of the ramparts. There is a commentary in English and German.

Both the fortress and the ice caves can be squeezed into a day trip from Salzburg if you start early; visit the caves first, and be at the fortress for the last falconry show. The stiff walk up from the village takes a brisk 20 minutes. For taxis, call ☎ 52 93.

EISRIESENWELT

Billed as the world's largest accessible ice caves, **Eisriesenwelt** (☎ 52 48; www.eisriesenwelt.at; adult/child €8/4, with cable car €17/8.50; ☎) 9am-4.30pm Jul & Aug, 9am-3.30pm May, Jun, Sep & Oct) is a glittering ice empire that spans 30,000 sq m and comprises 42km of narrow passages burrowing deep into the glacial heart of the mountains. It may feel warm outside, but temperatures plummet to subzero as soon as you enter the crevice in the cliffs; similar to the blast of cold air that hits you upon opening the freezer. Be sure to pack sturdy footwear and warm layers.

Taking a tour through these Narnia-like chambers of shimmering blue ice is an extraordinary experience. As you climb wooden steps and duck down pitch-black passages, with carbide lamps aglow and fingers frozen, otherworldly ice sculptures, columns, walls and lakes emerge from the shadows. Among these fantastical formations are Frigga, the polar bear, and Odin, the elephant, named after gods in Norse mythology. A high point is the 42m *Eispalast* (ice palace), where the frost crystals twinkle when a magnesium flare is held up to them. A womblike tunnel leads to a flight of 700 steps, which descends back to the entrance.

In summer, minibuses (single/return €2.80/5.60) operate every 20 minutes between Eisriesenstrasse in Werfen and the car park, which is a 15 to 20-minute amble from the bottom station of the cable car. The last bus departs at 7pm. Allow roughly three hours for the return trip (including tour). You can walk the whole route, but it's a challenging four-hour ascent, rising 1100m above the village. To discover the magnificent scenery that lies above the ground, consider hiking the tough but incredibly rewarding Tennengebirge Circuit (see p97), which starts just before the caves.

Sleeping & Eating

Most of Werfen's sleeping and eating options are lined up along the village's main street, Markt. The tourist office will make bookings for no commission.

Camping Vierthaler (☎ 565 70; www.camping-vierthaler.at; Reitsam 8, Pfarwerfen; campsites per adult/child/tent €4.40/1.70/4.80, bungalows d/tr/q €23/30/37; ☎) Apr-Sep) This lovely campsite on the bank of the Salzach River has a back-to-nature feel.

Facilities feature a snack bar and playground. Bungalows with kitchenettes, patios and barbecue areas are also available.

Weisses Rössl (☎ 52 68; Markt 39; s/d €30/50) This marshmallow-pink guesthouse in the centre is a good budget deal, offering basic but spacious rooms with sofas and cable TV. The rooftop terrace has amazing views of the fortress and Tennengebirge.

Pension Obauer (☎ 522 40; Markt 36; s/d €35/64; P) Not to be confused with the swish restaurant below, this place runs rings around most of Werfen's pensions. The rooms are immaculate with wooden floors, comfy beds and scatter rugs. The family runs the deli next door, so you'll sample their cheese and homemade sausages at breakfast.

Obauer (☎ 521 20; www.obauer.com; Markt 46; mains €24-48, set lunch/dinner €35/50; ☎ lunch & dinner) Karl and Rudi Obauer cook up a storm in this Michelin-starred restaurant. Everything here strikes the right chord, from the sleek design to the creative cuisine and locally sourced ingredients (most of the fruit and herbs are grown in the garden). Signature dishes include tender Werfen lamb, trout strudel and catfish with capers.

Getting There & Away

Werfen can be reached from Salzburg by Hwy 10. Trains from Salzburg (€7.10, 50 minutes) run approximately hourly.

SOUTHERN SALZBURG PROVINCE

Many of the blockbuster sights in Southern Salzburg Province are covered in the Hohe Tauern National Park Region chapter (p310), but the following places are definitely worth a look. If you're driving to Radstadt or Mauterndorf in the remote Lungau region, keep an eye out for the original Roman milestones that punctuate the Tauern Pass.

LIECHTENSTEINKLAMM

One of the deepest and longest ravines in the Alps, the **Liechtensteinklamm** (Liechtenstein Gorge; ☎ 06412-60 36; adult/child €3.50/2.20; ☎ 8am-6pm May-Sep, 9am-4pm Oct) is off the beaten track but well worth the detour. The jaw-dropping chasm was carved out during the last Ice Age and takes its name from Johann II, Prince of

Liechtenstein, who poured plenty of money into making the gorge accessible in the 19th century. Following raging waters flanked by vertical 300m-high cliffs, the footpath crosses bridges and passes through tunnels gouged into slate cliffs veined with white granite. The mossy boulders and crags glisten with spray from the water, which is at its most striking in the late afternoon when the sunlight turns it opal blue. The trail culminates at a spectacular 50m waterfall. Allow at least an hour to walk the gorge.

Buses operate frequently between Werfen and St Johann im Pongau (€2.80, 30 minutes), which is a 4km walk from the gorge. Free parking is available.

FILZMOOS

☎ 06453 / pop 1400 / elev 1055m

Dwarfed by the shimmering glaciers of the Dachstein massif and fringed by rolling pastures, Filzmoos is an unspoilt village that despite its growing appeal as a ski resort has managed to preserve its rural charm and family-friendly atmosphere. The centrally located **tourist office** (☎ 853 94; www.filzmoos.at; Filzmoos 50; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri) provides stacks of information on activities in the region and will help book accommodation.

Activities

In winter, Filzmoos is a top **ski resort** for novices, with gentle and uncrowded slopes that are easily accessed from the centre. Overshadowed by the distinctive peak of Bischofsmütze (2454m), shaped like a bishop's mitre, the village shares 32km of downhill slopes with its neighbour, Neuberg, and is crisscrossed with 50km of serene **winter walking** trails. The nursery slopes, floodlit **toboggan run** and central ski schools make it an ideal resort for families.

When the weather warms, Filzmoos morphs into prime **hiking** territory. Avid walkers keen to trek among the 2000m-high limestone pinnacles should consider tackling the two-day Gosaukamm Circuit (see p95). Equally popular summer activities include **Nordic walking** on marked trails in the surrounding hills and **mountain biking** the challenging and scenic Dachstein Tour (see p79).

Mountain bikes, skis, snowshoes, sledges and cross-country equipment are available for hire at **Intersport Flory** (☎ 82 82; www.flory.at; Filzmoos 103); prices are given online.

Sleeping & Eating

Filzmoos has a smattering of modestly priced chalets, private rooms and hotels, though in the high winter season you should expect rates to be roughly 50% higher than those quoted in the following reviews.

Jugendgästehaus Aumühle (☎ 82 46; Filzmoos 26; dm €24; P) Backing onto forest, this darkwood chalet is five-star 'roughing it' with spacious four-bed dorms, convenient access to the slopes, a common room and garden. It's five minutes' walk into town.

Landhaus Elisabeth (☎ 83 36; www.landhaus-elisabeth.com; Filzmoos 137; s/d €43/72; P ☎) This inviting chalet offers snug rooms with balconies or verandas. The sauna, sunny garden and free bike hire are extra perks. Delicious cakes make mouths water and waistlines expand in the café.

our pick Bio-Hotel Hammerhof (☎ 82 45; www.hammerhof.at; Filzmoos 6; s/d €73/130; P ☎) Set in a beautifully converted 400-year-old farmhouse, this ecofriendly hotel is a gem. The light-filled rooms are decorated with plenty of natural wood and country touches; some have balconies and tiled ovens. The restaurant cooks with home-grown organic produce. Unwind in a herbal bath at the beauty centre or saddle a horse to canter off into the hills (the owner, Matthias, is a riding instructor and arranges tours).

Fiakerwirt Mandlinghof (☎ 82 09; Filzmoos 23; mains €5.50-11; ☎ lunch & dinner) This rambling farmhouse and beer garden serves hearty fare such as schnitzel and pork roast. Kids love the pet goats, ducks and ponies. In winter, horse-drawn sleighs depart from here (€14 to €17 per person).

Getting There & Away

Filzmoos is a 10km detour from the A10/E55 Tauern-Autobahn motorway. Several buses operate daily between Salzburg **Hauptbahnhof** and Filzmoos (€11.90, 1½ hours), but most require a change at Bischofshofen.

RADSTADT

☎ 06452 / pop 4800 / elev 856m

Radstadt has an attractively walled town centre, with round turrets and a **Stadtpfarrkirche** (town parish church) that is a potpourri of Gothic and Romanesque elements. Most

people, however, come for the fantastic skiing and snowboarding in the region, which forms part of the huge Salzburger Sportwelt skiing area. Around 100 lifts provide access to 300km of pistes geared mostly towards intermediates and beginners, plus several snowboard parks and high-altitude cross-country trails. For information, contact the **Salzburger Sportwelt Tourist Office** (☎ 06457-29 29; www.sportwelt-t-amade.com).

The same mountains attract active types in summer, too, with more than 1000km of walking trails and opportunities for canyoning, climbing, white-water rafting and mountain biking.

Getting There & Away

Radstadt is on the route of two-hourly IC trains running between Innsbruck and Graz, both about three hours away. Zell am See (€13.10, 80 minutes) and Bruck an der Mur (€24.30, 2½ hours) are on this route. From Radstadt, Hwy 99 climbs to the dramatic Radstädter Tauern Pass (1739m), then over to Carinthia. Just to the west is the A10/E55, which avoids the high parts by going through a 6km tunnel.

MAUTERNDORF

☎ 06472 / pop 1685 / elev 1122m

The sleepy village of Mauterndorf is postcard-perfect Austria; its narrow streets are dotted with candy-coloured houses and fountains. While the surrounding high moors and exposed bluffs are set up for walking and skiing, its remote setting in the Lungau region detracts the masses. The centerpiece of the village is medieval **Burg Mauterndorf** (☎ 74 26; adult/child €8/5; ☎ 10am-6pm May-Oct). Dominating a rocky outcrop, this 13th-century castle was built by the archbishops of Salzburg on the site of a Roman fort. The castle now houses a regional museum and provides the backdrop for various cultural events. It is believed that in the Middle Ages the main road passed directly through the castle courtyard and tolls were extracted from road users.

Getting There & Away

Mauterndorf is on Hwy 99. Bus 780 runs from Radstadt to the Mauterndorf post office (€7.10, 50 minutes, three times daily).

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