



SJSU SALZBURG PROGRAM



Salzburg Travel Guide

(4/12/15)

General Highlights

The following recommendations are primarily intended for SJSU Salzburg Fellows and Scholars, but they are relevant for anyone who is interested in traveling to Salzburg, Austria. In addition, we suggest that you consult travel sites like rick.steves.com and tripadvisor.com for general advice about international travel. Another useful aide is Travel & Leisure magazine's summary of [12 Tips to Make International Travel Easier](#) that includes helpful advice on cell phone usage and other matters infrequent travellers often overlook. Finally, you should always check the [Traveler's Checklist](#) prepared by the US Department of State that identifies important steps to ensure a safe trip anywhere outside the United States.

Salzburg Global Seminar

The [Salzburg Global Seminar](#) has been one of the world's leading forums for dialogues about important international concerns since it was established by three Harvard students in 1947 when Margaret Mead chaired Session #1. Each year the Seminar offers a variety of sessions that encourage the free exchange of ideas, diverse viewpoints, and common understandings in a neutral cross-cultural environment. These include sessions of the [Global Citizenship Program](#) (GCP), which was established in 2004 by the Salzburg Global Seminar to strengthen the ability of colleges and universities for educating global citizens. SJSU Salzburg Scholars attend GCP student sessions in early June and SJSU Salzburg Fellows attend faculty-admin sessions in mid-July, both of which are intensive week-long experiences where participants work with leading experts on global affairs and higher education to develop the competencies needed to live and work in a complex rapidly-changing world.

Most sessions are held at the Seminar's home in historic [Schloß Leopoldskron](#), a magnificent 18th-century rococo Palace that is nestled at the foot of the Austrian Alps and within easy walking distance of the city of Salzburg. Originally commissioned by the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Count Leopold Anton von Firmian, in the 1730s and used as a summer residence before passing into private hands in the early 1800s, the Schloß is familiar to many as the setting for the Von Trapp family home in the *Sound of Music*. The estate also includes the

Meierhof, the former stables of the Schloß. Some sessions are also held nearby at other local sites in Salzburg, including [Schloßwirt zu Anif](#).

Salzburg | General

There are numerous places of interest in [Salzburg](#) and in the surrounding region. A majority are located in the [Altstadt](#), which is the old historic center of the city (UN World Heritage Site, birthplace of Mozart, and home to the world-renowned Salzburg Music Festival). Bounded on one side by the Mönchsberg and on the other side by the Salzach River, it is a small intimate area where everything is within easy 15-minute walking distance from the [Salzburg Global Seminar](#). Many of the sites there and elsewhere in region appear throughout the *Sound of Music* (if you're familiar with the movie or want to check it out again before you visit). For local information, check out the [Salzburg City Website](#) for suggestions and links for everything about this beautiful area. For a more personal introduction, check out the brows-able and editable Google map of the [Salzburg Region](#) that Andy Wood (2010 Salzburg Fellow) prepared when he was Faculty Advisor for the SJSU Salzburg Scholars in 2012, which should give you a spatial and visual sense of what to see and do on your trip.

[Bike Rides](#). While most attractions are within easy walking or taxi distance of Schloß Leopoldskron, Salzburg is one of the most bike-friendly cities in the world. Bikers can explore aspects of the city and parts of the region that are inaccessible by car and/or too distant to be feasible for convenient walk. Bikes can be rented at the Schloß, as well as at several other locations in the city, and often enable visitors to experience Salzburg in a unique way.

Salzburg | Inside the Altstadt

[Festung Hohensalzburg](#). Impressive medieval fortress dating from 1077 located on top of the Mönchsberg, it dominates everything in Salzburg with marvelous views of the entire city and surrounding region, as well as an expansive courtyard and interesting interiors. It's well worth walking around the heights and even planning lunch or dinner there, if that works, but taking the funicular up/down makes it a more enjoyable visit.

[Dom](#). Cathedral located below the Festung between the Residenzplatz (Residence Plaza) and the Kapitelplatz (Capital Plaza) with restored interiors and exteriors. Be sure to check out the interesting visual effect in front of the cathedral by standing in the opposite archway directly across the Domplatz (Cathedral Plaza) and viewing the top of the St. Mary statue as it lines up with her gold crown on the cathedral itself.

[Stift St. Peter](#). This historic abbey is the oldest monastery in German-speaking lands, founded in 696. The current Romanesque church dates from 1147 and is located near the base of the Mönchsberg, a few minute's walk from the Dom, with impressive interiors and lots of history.

[St. Peter Stiftskeller](#). Historic restaurant originally established by monks at the Abbey, located in the base of the Mönchsberg next to Stift St. Peter. Oldest continuously-operating eatery in the world (Charlemagne ate there in 803) and well worth dining, whether for lunch in the cave or for an evening dinner in one of the traditional dining rooms.

[Stieglkeller](#). Historic city beer garden operated by the Stiegl brewery, which is the oldest in the region and was founded in 1492. Located midway up the Mönchsberg just below the Festung, it overlooks the Domplatz and offers the most beautiful views of the Altstadt – especially from the outside patio, which is covered by spreading chestnut trees.

[Schloß Mönchstein](#). Small luxury castle-hotel located on northern crest of the Mönchsberg, overlooking the Altstadt and accessible by elevator at the end of the Getreidegasse. Very beautiful place to stay with nice views and superb meals, if you can get reservations.

[Getreidegasse](#) Main Street of the Altstadt, parallel to the Salzach River, and quaintest venue in the city. Always the most crowded part of the city, but worth wandering as you see fit.

[Mozart's Birthplace](#). The original family home on the Getreidegasse has been transformed into a museum dedicated to one of the most significant and beloved composers to have ever lived. It showcases intimate details about Mozart and his family, as well as insights into the Austrian history and culture of his time. You may also want to visit **[Mozart's Residence](#)**, which is a brief walk or taxi ride to the other side of the Salzach River.

[Café Tomaselli](#). Historic café located on the corner of the Alter Markt (Old Market) a minute's walk from the Dom, a meeting place for Salzburgers since 1703. Very nice place with outdoor seating to have afternoon snack, while viewing the city sights and soaking up the city life. Likely to be crowded during the day and into the evening.

[Residenzbrunnen](#). The largest Baroque fountain in the world, located near the Dom in front of the Alte Residenz. It is likely to be crowded during the day and evening, especially in summer.

Salzburg | Near the Altstadt

[Schloß Mirabell](#). Majestic baroque palace dating from 1721 near the magnificent Mirabell Gardens, which had been redesigned in the 1690s. Located a short walk across the Makartsteg bridge from the Altstadt, currently housing the offices of the city's mayor and municipal council, the palace and gardens offer superb views of the Altstadt/Festung across the river.

[Schloß Hellbrunn](#). Whimsical baroque palace located several kilometers outside the Altstadt, within a short taxi ride or easy bike ride along the most beautiful pathway in the city – the tree-shaded **[Hellbrunner Allee](#)**. Commissioned in 1613 by Marcus Sittikus, the Prince-Archbishop of

Salzburg at the time, it reflects his sense of humor and features a beautiful garden with hidden fountains that shocked the Archbishop's guests and continue to delight visitors today.

Salzburg | Vicinity

Untersberg. Northern-most peak in the Austrian Alps and the major mountain that dominates southern views from Salzburg (backdrop to Maria and the kids when they fell in the lake outside Schloß Leopoldskron in the *Sound of Music*). There are breathtaking views of the city and the entire region from the top of the Untersberg, which can be easily accessed by the Untersbergbahn cable car or climbed in a single day via several routes (some of which are for experts only, so be sure to get good directions before heading up the mountain).

Salt Mines. Salzburg has been a center of the salt trade for millennia, much of it deriving from its proximity to extensive salt mines in the nearby Alps. There are two major entrances to these mines, two sides of the same mountains – both about 20 km from Salzburg. One is the **Salt Mine Hallein** in the Austrian Alps; while the other is the **Salt Mine Berchtesgaden** in Germany's Bavarian Alps. Visitors dress like miners and explore the caves, which have been worked by local miners day-in and day-out for centuries, via guided underground tours that feature an electric train ride, two sets of long wooden slides, and a boat ride across a glassy underground lake. Once inside the caves, knowledgeable miner-guides regale visitors with tales about the history of the salt – why it was so valuable and how it was mined, transported, and used.

Eagles Nest. Hitler's former mountain retreat, a gift to him on his 50th birthday from Martin Bormann and the Nazi Party is located at the top of the Obersalzberg overlooking the lovely alpine town of Berchtesgaden at the end of a long winding road that hugs the steep north side of the Kehlstein. Long considered an impressive feat of engineering, the Eagle's Nest offers visitors a glimpse into the Third Reich and breathtaking panoramic views of Berchtesgadener Land (weather permitting, since the top is often obscured due to its high elevation).

Festung Hohenwerfen. Rustic medieval fortress towering high above the Salzach River Valley about 35 miles south of Salzburg, between the Tennengebirge and Hagengebirge mountain ranges. Founded 900+ years ago, the fortress guarded the southern approaches to the city for centuries and was the site for movie *Where Eagles Dare* (with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood). Adventurers and culture buffs will find exactly what they're looking for at the fortress – including a major weapons exhibit, romantic castle tavern, and daily falconry flight demonstrations in front of the looming Teggengebirge.

Eisriesenwelt. Largest ice caves in the world, located high above Festung Hohenwerfen in the high reaches of the Tennengebirge, with a system of caverns that stretches more than 42 km into the depths of the mountain. Visitors can visit the 1st kilometer into the caves, where they can see gigantic ice formations and ice palaces.

[Schafberg](#). Central peak looming over the Wolfgangsee with panoramic views of the romantic Salzkammergut Lake District southeast of Salzburg and the Dachstein massif. Adventurous visitors can climb to the top of mountain, but most ride up and down on the steepest rack railroad in Austria covering 5.85 km in a picturesque 90-minute trip that includes ample time to hike around the peak and enjoy a relaxing lunch.

Lodging Options

There are numerous lodging options in Salzburg, which is the major tourist region in Austria. A good general source for a comprehensive access to the widest variety can be found on the *Accommodations* portion of the [Salzburg City Website](#), which includes detailed access to [hotels](#) and [hostels](#). There are also the generic websites that provide similar comparative information about lodging options in the city, although some don't allow you to cancel a reservation without a penalty, so be careful when making arrangements. The following recommended options are sorted by location and type in a variety of price ranges.

Salzburg | Inside the Altstadt

All of these places are located in the Altstadt and provide an ideal base to easily explore the heart of old Salzburg with maximum convenience and authenticity.

[Hotel Goldener Hirsch](#). Historic 600-year-old hotel on the Getreidegasse in the heart of the Altstadt, a stone's throw from the famous Festspielhaus (Festival Hall) and down the street from Mozart's birthplace. Expensive and full of antiques, it is a unique base for experiencing the essence of Salzburg. \$\$\$\$

[Hotel Elefant](#) (Best Western). Traditional hotel in historic building on a quaint narrow street right off the Getreidegasse, in the heart of the Altstadt. \$\$\$

[Altstadthotel Goldene Ente](#). Traditional hotel in the Altstadt, near the Salzach River and close to the Mozartplatz. \$\$\$

Salzburg | Near the Altstadt

All of these places are located just outside the Altstadt, but within easy walking distance.

[Hotel Josefa](#). Traditional Austrian gasthof located just down the street from Schloß Leopoldskron. \$\$

[Hotel Astoria](#). Small family-owned gasthof close to the Altstadt, a recently-renovated establishment on the west side of the city. \$\$

[Hotel Hoelle](#). Traditional Austrian gasthof located on southeast side of the city. \$\$

[Hotel JUFA Salzburg](#). Modern hostel catering to students, families, and groups located in the Nonntal area of the city near the Salzach River, a 5-minute walk to the Altstadt and a 15-minute walk to Schloß Leopoldskron. \$

[Yoho International Youth Hostel](#). Modern hostel catering to students, families, and groups centrally located in the city near the train station, a 10-minute walk to the Altstadt and a 25-minute walk to Schloß Leopoldskron. \$

[Meininger Hotel City Center](#). Modern hotel catering to inexpensive urban travellers centrally located in the city near the train station, a 10-minute walk to the Altstadt and a 25-minute walk to Schloß Leopoldskron. \$

Salzburg | Vicinity

All of these places are within 10-minute drive of the Schloß and the Altstadt, accessible by public transportation, which will give you a real taste of high-quality authentic hospitality.

[Gasthof Grünauerhof](#). Traditional family-owned inn with superb facilities, including gorgeous dining rooms & tree-covered outside eating areas with a nice view of the Untersberg. Located west of the city. \$\$\$

[Gasthof Mostwastl](#). Traditional family-owned inn with gorgeous restaurant facilities and the best view of the Untersberg across open fields. Located south of the Altstadt. \$\$

[Gasthof Schorn](#). Also a traditional family-owned inn with gorgeous restaurant facilities inside and outside. Located south of the city, close to the base of the Untersberg. \$\$

Travel Options

Salzburg

Salzburg is an international city and popular destination that attracts many tourists, but it is not a significant airline hub that can be directly reached from the United States. The primary entry point for most non-local visitors is the regional [Salzburg Airport](#) (Flughafen), which is located on the western edge of the city. Many major and regional airlines provide regular service to and from the city, usually via major cities like Frankfurt, London, Paris, Rome, and Zurich. The other entry point for many local travellers is the [Salzburg Train Station](#) (Bahnhof), which is located in the central business district of the city. Both of these entry points are within a short and fairly inexpensive taxi ride of each other as well as to Schloß Leopoldskron, Schloßwirt zu Anif, the Altstadt, and other locations in the region.

Munich

Salzburg is also routinely serviced by the [Munich Airport](#) (Flughafen), which travelers often find to be a more convenient and less expensive option than flying directly into Salzburg from the United States. The Munich Airport is north of the Bavarian capital, about 2 hours drive west of Salzburg, and can be accessed via several transportation options. For local information, check out the [Munich City Website](#) for suggestions and links for everything about this beautiful area.

The most convenient option is the [Salzburger Mietwagen Service](#), which provides door-to door shuttle service between the Munich Airport and Schloß Leopoldskron or any other location in, around, or en route to Salzburg. The service is reasonably priced and can be booked one-way or round-trip. Contact SMS via email (sms@flughafentransfer.at) to book a reservation. Since the shuttles are usually an 8-person minibus, be sure to let them know how much luggage you'll be bringing so there won't be any space issues.

Many travelers also enjoy taking the train between Munich Airport and the Salzburg Railway Station, via a single train change at the Munich Railroad Station. [Deutsche Bahn](#), Germany's public railway company offers a special [Bayerticket](#) that allows 1-5 people to use all regional trains (RE) in Bavaria (including a trip to Salzburg) for one day at a joint low price (\$50-\$60, depending on current exchange rates). This ticket cannot be used for Intercity (IC) or Eurocity (EC) trains. Travelers can also book a single reservation for a regular ticket between the Munich Airport and the Salzburg Rail Station for about the same price as the *Bayerticket*, but without the restrictions on trains.

Important Travel Tips

Passports & Visas

Austria is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Convention, which eliminated border controls between most EU countries and Switzerland. Non-EU visitors to Austria (and other Schengen countries) must present a current passport, *valid for 6 months beyond the length of stay and issued within the past 10 years*, which permits them to visit for 90 days (but not work). General information about obtaining US passports and visas can be found on the [US Department of State](#) website. Visitors from the United States and many other countries must also have a return ticket, but they usually don't need a visa. Travellers from other countries (primarily Africa, Asia, and the Middle East) may need one or more visas, however, so you should check with the [Austrian Foreign Ministry](#) or other reputable sources like [Learn4Good](#) or the [World Travel Guide](#) to determine your own needs if you are not travelling on a US passport. It is also important to note that securing the proper visas generally cannot be handled via email or correspondence, but often requires a personal trip to the Austrian consulate in Los Angeles with the submission of numerous documents to confirm your personal status as well as the purpose of your trip.

Important Documents

Make hard copies and electronic copies of all important documents (passports, visas, IDs, driver licenses, medical insurance, list of medicines, travel itineraries, debit cards and credit cards, etc). Carry a copy of all the documents with you and send hard or soft copies to family and/or trusted sources in case anything critical goes wrong.

Financial Matters

Tell the banks and/or other financial institutions issuing your debit and credit cards that you are leaving the country, how long you will be gone, and where you will be traveling. Otherwise, they may freeze your accounts due to “potentially fraudulent activity.” Note that the exchange rate varies on a daily basis, depending on which countries you are visiting and which currencies they use. Note also that many debit cards and credit cards charge a processing fee for every transaction, based on a percentage of the total transaction. Be prudent and monitor both so you don’t accidentally run out of money or spend more than you have planned.

Cell Phone Matters

Check with your cell phone carrier about international roaming charges, which can easily lead to exorbitant charges for data use if you’re using a smart phone and aren’t very careful. Travel sites like [Fodor’s Travel](#) provide general guidelines for different options to minimize excessive cell phone costs while travelling abroad, but your carrier is the best source of information for your phone. Most carriers offer special reduced rates for such situations, but they have to be arranged prior to leaving the country.

Medicine & Health Care

Prepare a list of your prescription drugs and other medicines (including over-the-counter meds like aspirin, Tylenol, or Advil) that you’ll need while travelling. Bring all of them in their original containers – in part so you can verify what you are carrying in case the authorities ask and in part so you can easily replace them if necessary. Note that there are generally no big chains like CVS or Walgreens where you can walk in and find what you need. Most drugs and over-the-counter meds are dispensed by small pharmacies, many of which follow normal business hours and don’t stay open late.