

# Salzburg

## The heart of Austria

>Salzburg - Motaz Othman

Salzburg a city of great beauty and tranquility, with clean and pure air, is difficult to describe in words. Even photographs do not do it justice: it is a city that should be visited so its splendid nature can be enjoyed.

Salzburg is the birth place of the world-renowned musician; Mozart. There he composed his masterpieces, the "Magic Flute", "Le Figaro," and "Dona Giovanni," which can be heard everywhere in this city and around the world.

The film the "Sound of music" was shot in this city and you can participate in the tour the "Sound of music," while taking souvenir photos at the site where he it was shot.

You can also attend the music festivals in summer, which are world-famous. The history of music in Salzburg goes back more than 1200 years.

I arrived in the afternoon by train from Vienna, which took three hours. The railway station is well organized, linking all cities in Austria, and even Europe, because of its central location. Taxis await tourists: they total eight million and come from all corners of the world. I stayed in the hotel New Tower which is located in the old part of the city. The population of the city is around 150 thousand. Salzburg relies on tourism throughout the year, and has 10 thousand beds in hotels of various categories as well as apartments that can be rented in summer. In 1997, Salzburg was included in the World Heritage list.

Walking in the clean streets of Salzburg is very pleasant, so much so that some voices are calling for the city to be tobacco free. Its architecture dates back 500 years or more. The law prohibits the destruction of old buildings and mandates their preservation. It is a city with a history: the ▶



The travel guide Ms. Martina Gyuroka at the location where the Sound of Music was filmed

المرشدة السياحية مارتينا جيروكا في المكان الذي صور فيه فيلم "صوت الموسيقى"



A model of the Sound of Music

نموذج لمسرحية "صوت الموسيقى"

buildings include the date of their foundation and restoration.

Car traffic is prohibited during the day, to allow pedestrians to walk freely and safely. All makes and brands are found in the shops targeting wealthy tourists.

Salzburg is also famous for the heavy use of bicycles. Entire families can rent bicycles, as well as the services of a guide. Given the importance attached to the use of bicycles, there are special roads for cyclists to ensure their safety.

You can also take carriages drawn by horses: those reserved for newlyweds are drawn by white horses.

The city is bisected by the river Salzach that separates the old part from the new. Roads along the river are reserved for walking. Salzburg is surrounded by mounds which are covered with trees, hence the pure air.

In winter, you can ski in a station only 30 minutes from the city. The cable cars offer a beautiful view of nature at 1800 m above sea level. In summer, you can visit the nearby villages, such as Heilbrunn and Zeil am Inn, while enjoying lakes, water sports and river boats on the river Salzach. In addition, many museums, castles, palaces and the zoo can be visited throughout the year.

The Salzburg Marionette theatre has everything to offer - not only the best-known Mozart operas, but also plays and operettas,



The writer holding a spices bouquet

الكاتب يحمل باقة التوابل

presented realistically and with great virtuosity by ten puppeteers. From May 2008, for the first time in Salzburg, there will be a production of "The Sound of Music". The Marionette Theatre has adapted this true and touching story of the Trapp Family from the world-famous Broadway musical. An American team of stage director, set designer and costume designer has staged a brilliant show and created a marvellous illusion of reality and dreams. A musical for eyes, ears and hearts for young and old alike. One of the greatest gifts that can be purchased in Salzburg is a set of spices in the form of a

bouquet of flowers, whose main characteristic is their smell that lasts longer than five years. Another feature is the "Salzburg card" that can be purchased to allow you to visit the many museums and take buses and other means of transport for free. People here are very trusting, sincere, good natured, peaceful and welcoming towards visitors. There is nothing strange in all this because you are in Austria; one of the most beautiful countries in the world; and among its hospitable and well mannered people. Indeed, we are in Salzburg, in the heart of Austria. ■



ساحة موزارت حيث يلعب الشطرنج في الهواء الطلق  
Mozart square with chess played in the open air



Shopping street

شارع في السوق



Mozart Museum

متحف موزارت