

Salzburg

After a wonderful coach ride through Bavaria with a stop along the way at Schlosse Herrenchiemsee (beautifully described in our itinerary), we will stop for a welcome dinner and our first overnight stay in Salzburg. Our hotel is within walking distance of the old city which will allow us all to enjoy the sights and sound of this historic town.

Salzburg, voted the third prettiest city in Europe, is the birth place of Mozart and there you will find everything Mozart! We will visit Mozart Square which is dominated by the statue of Mozart by Ludwig Schwanthaler and Mozarts Geburthaus, the place of his birth on January 27, 1756. His birthplace now houses a museum which exhibits his childhood violin, his concert violin, clavichord, pianoforte, family portraits and correspondence. The family lived here from 1747-1773. We will also visit the Dom du Salzburg, a beautiful cathedral originally built starting in 767AD where Mozart was baptized and later became the court organist and concert master. This cathedral has been rebuilt and renovated numerous times over the centuries due to fire damage and the ravages of many wars. It is here that we will sing our afternoon recital on 10 July.

In Salzburg we will have the opportunity to visit the Hohensalzburg Fortress built in 1077. It is the largest, fully preserved fortress in Central Europe. We will ride the funicular up the mountainside and tour the Fortress. There are plenty of photo ops within and the views of the city below are spectacular! Also included on our morning tour is a visit to Mirabel Palace and its splendid gardens where, from the Sound of Music movie, Maria sang the Do-Re-Me song with the von Trapp children. If you are a Sound of Music fan, during your free time in this city, stop by the Felsenreitschule where the von Trapp family performed its final concert and St. Peter's Cemetery where the dramatic flight scenes were filmed.

Also, you may want to stroll the Getreidegasse, Salzburg's most famous shopping street. There you can window shop for trachten or traditional costumes. Find a confectionary shop to buy the "Original Salzburg Mozartkugel" a chocolate praline candy. Visit an open air market and, in Mozart Square, view the handiwork created by local artists.

Or, you can relax in a street café or biergarten enjoying the view and the passersby. There you can have your lunch. Soups are a favorite often made with spaetzle (tiny dumplings), mehlkloBe (filled dumplings) or nudeln (noodles). Think goulash or schnitzel when ordering your main course. These dishes are made with veal (kalbfleish), pork (schweinefleisch) or beef (rindfleisch) and served with kartoffel (potatoes) and cabbage