

Salzburg Summer 2026: Culture, History, and Musical Delight

In summer 2026, Salzburg transforms once again into a vibrant center for music, art, and culture. The Mozart city invites visitors to celebrate a special anniversary year: 270 years of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 30 years as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and 10 years of the Salzburg Marionette Theatre recognized as Intangible UNESCO Heritage. Guests can look forward to world-class festivals, captivating performances, interactive museums, and historic concerts—a unique opportunity to experience Salzburg’s rich cultural heritage in all its facets.

270 Years of Mozart: Music, History, and Living Traditions

In 2026, Salzburg celebrates 270 years of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, highlighting the city as the musical heart of Europe. Traces of his life can be found everywhere: from Mozart’s birthplace to his residence with the fascinating “Magic Flute” exhibition, to interactive experiences such as the Mozart Ball Workshop, visitors can explore his life and work up close and even get creative themselves.

His music resonates throughout the city: for 30 years, the Mozart Dinner Concerts have combined culinary delights with Baroque music, while Fortress concerts high above the Old Town and Mirabell concerts in magnificent Baroque settings bring classical music to life in unforgettable atmospheres.

A special highlight is the Salzburg Marionette Theatre, celebrating its 10th anniversary as Intangible UNESCO Heritage in 2026. The Old Town stage comes alive with a charming production of *The Magic Flute*, presenting Mozart’s masterpiece in a delightful and lively way.

- Mozart City of Salzburg
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30 Years as a UNESCO World Heritage Site: Experiencing Salzburg

Since 1996, Salzburg has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage list as Austria’s oldest Baroque city, home to around 1,000 protected monuments. Historic squares, Salzburg Cathedral, Hellbrunn Palace, and the Mirabell Gardens showcase the grand urban planning of the Prince-Archbishops, whose Baroque architecture and dense landscape of churches earned Salzburg the nickname “Rome of the North.”

Baroque in Salzburg is not only grandiose—it can be playful and whimsical: dwarf statues in Mirabell Gardens caricature court dwarfs, Hellbrunn’s trick fountains delight guests, while emotional music and strictly geometric gardens capture the era’s ambivalence.

To mark the 30th anniversary of its World Heritage status, the newly renovated Orangerie Salzburg in Mirabell Gardens will open a new World Heritage Center in June 2026. Visitors can explore Salzburg’s history interactively and gain insight into the city’s cultural diversity, complemented by Johann Michael Sattler’s 200-year-old panoramic view, which depicts the Old Town in a single breathtaking vista.

- Orangerie Salzburg Panorama | World Heritage
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Salzburg Festival: Classics and Premieres

From July 17 to August 30, 2026, Salzburg once again becomes a stage of world-class performance. The festival combines great music with innovative productions and top-tier artists. Asmik Grigorian will take the central role of the passionate outsider in Georges Bizet's *Carmen*. Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* will be reimagined on Mars, giving the story an extraordinary new context. Meanwhile, Philipp Hochmair returns as *Jedermann*, whose life is now profoundly influenced by three new female characters. The program also features world premieres by contemporary literary icons, including the latest works of Elfriede Jelinek and Peter Handke.

- Salzburg Festival
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When Contemporary Art Expands Consciousness

The Museum der Moderne Salzburg presents three high-profile exhibitions in summer 2026, inviting visitors to immersive art experiences. From May 1 to September 13, the focus will be on the iconic designs of Charlotte Perriand, including her world-famous chaise lounge. Simultaneously, the museum will showcase the large-scale, material-rich sculptures of Neo-Avantgarde artist Stano Filko (April 2026 – February 2027). The summer program is complemented by works from internationally renowned artist Georg Baselitz, addressing contemporary social and political themes.

- Museum der Moderne Salzburg
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More Event Highlights

Sommerszene Festival: Avant-Garde in the Heart of the City

From June 9 to 20, 2026, the Sommerszene Festival turns Salzburg into an open art laboratory. Interdisciplinary performances, dance, and theater use public spaces as stages, bringing a progressive and creative energy to the city.

- Sommerszene Festival

Gaisberg Race: Experiencing Historic Automobiles

From June 4 to 6, 2026, vintage and classic cars race over Salzburg's local mountain, the Gaisberg. The three-day event combines motorsport, tradition, and culinary delights against a Baroque backdrop.

- Gaisberg Race

Electric Love Festival: Electronic Energy at the Salzburgring

From July 9 to 11, 2026, the Electric Love Festival transforms the Salzburgring racetrack into a spectacular open-air event. Light shows, pyrotechnics, and electrifying beats make the festival a must for fans of electronic music.

- Electric Love Festival
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More Information

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