# Markets, music and folk traditions:

# The shining stars of Advent in Salzburg

***Salzburg in Advent – a harmonious mixture of Advent markets, beloved traditions and top-notch events. In the city where the Christmas song “Silent Night” was born, the run-up to Christmas becomes the fifth season. Highlights include the Christkindlmarkt on Cathedral and Residenzplatz Squares, Advent Singing in the Grosses Festspielhaus, and an array of folk customs that include Krampus parades and wind music performed from towers high above the city.***

Stellar Advent Markets

Christkindlmarkt on Cathedral and Residenzplatz Squares: the heart of Advent in Salzburg

Known as the *Salzburger Christkindlmarkt*, this Christmas market held on the squares next to the Cathedral and the Residenz (21 November until 26 December 2019) is famous far beyond Austria’s borders for its Christmas romance and a perfect Advent atmosphere. With a history that spans many years as well as a focus on regional traditions and craftsmanship, this market is a real favorite with the public. The Christkindlmarkt has existed in its current form since 1974, though its roots extend all the way back to the late 15th century. The roughly 100 market stands offer beautiful items to enhance the Christmas festivities, gift ideas and an array of Austrian delicacies. Over 250 illuminated Christmas trees and chains of lights more than 3000 m in length frame the market perfectly. Add to that the daily choir concerts in front of the cathedral, wind music performed every Thursday and Saturday for the enjoyment of listeners far below, along with popular folk traditions that include Krampus and Perchten parades, and visits by Saint Nick and Christkind. [www.christkindlmarkt.co.at](http://www.christkindlmarkt.co.at)

**Other Advent markets in and around Salzburg:**

* Hellbrunn Advent Magic, 21 November until 24 December 2019 – Once again this year, Salzburg zoo will be a part of the Advent market, free admission daily Monday through Thursday
* Christmas market on Mirabellplatz, 21 November until 24 December 2019 (daily)
* Stern Advent with winter market, 21 November 2019 until 6 January 2020 (daily)
* Salzburg Fortress Advent, 29 November until 22 December 2019 (Friday to Sunday)
* Advent market at the Franziskischlössl in Salzburg, 30 November until 22 December 2019 (Saturday and Sunday)
* St. Leonhard Advent Market, 23 November until 22 December 2019 (Saturday, Sunday, public holidays)
* Glanegg Farmers’ Market, 1 until 15 December 2019 (Saturday and Sunday)

**Stellar Musical Events**

**“The Star Watcher” at Salzburg Advent Singing in the Grosses Festspielhaus**

Back in 2014, “Der Sterngucker” conjured up a perfect Advent atmosphere during Salzburg Advent Singing at the Grosses Festspielhaus. This year (29 November through 15 December 2019) it returns in a new production with a new cast. The touching story of a lonely old outsider and a small child is embedded, as is typical of Advent Singing, in a composition of folk songs, Alpine melodies and popular traditions. Advent Singing was founded in 1946 by Tobi Reiser Sr. and is attended today by around 36,000 guests annually. [www.salzburgeradventsingen.at](http://www.salzburgeradventsingen.at)

**Other Musical Events in Advent:**

* Salzburger Advent ® at the church of St. Andrä, 30 November until 15 December 2019
* Salzburger Hirtenadvent in the University Great Hall, 6 until 15 December 2019
* “A b’sondere Zeit” in the Great Hall of the Mozarteum Foundation, 7 until 15 December 2019
* Salzburg Advent Serenades, Gothic Hall of St. Blasius, 30 November until 22 December 2019

**Stellar Folk Traditions**

**Eerie creatures – Krampus and Perchten**

Saint Nicholas has traditionally been the bringer of gifts to children since the 16th century. Since the 17th century, Saint Nick has also had a scary assistant at his side in the form of **Krampus**. Wrapped up in a shaggy pelt, their faces hidden behind a scary mask, bells dangling from their belts, a rod and chains in their hands, and a basket on their backs in which they are reputed to stuff disobedient girls and boys, they prowl through the streets of Salzburg. In contrast to Krampus, the **Perchten** are out and about in winter on the nights known as the *Raunächte*. In Salzburg, that is mainly on 21 December, the longest night of the year and the first official *Raunacht*. Perchten are fearsome creatures indeed, very similar to Krampus. They wear elaborately carved masks and animal pelts in all different colors. Their most important “accessories” are big bells and animal tails, with which they are said to drive out the spirits of winter.

*Krampus parades: on and around December 5, Perchten parades on the Raunächte. All dates can be found online at* [*www.salzburg.info/advent*](http://www.salzburg.info/advent)

**Stellar Exhibitions**

**Advent traditions from A to Z: Interesting facts about Christmastime**

The **Salzburg Christmas Museum** is open year-round and is a true oasis of knowledge and history. Lovingly collected pieces document the beginnings of the Advent calendar and the background of Christmas decorations. Centrally located on Mozartplatz, right in the heart of all the Advent goings-on, this valuable cultural and historical exhibition entitled “Christmastime – festivities between Advent and New Year’s in southern Germany and Austria 1840 – 1940” includes Christmas decorations from the Erzgebirge region as well as the Vienna Workshops. [www.salzburger-weihnachtsmuseum.at](http://www.salzburger-weihnachtsmuseum.at)

Other Exhibitions during Advent:

* Exhibition of Nativity scenes at Salzburger Heimatwerk, 15 November 2019 until 4 January 2020
* AIKO Nativity scene at No. 35 Steingasse, 20 November 2019 until 2 February 2020
* Christmas exhibition at the DomQuartier, 21 November until 19 December 2019

Additional Advent Offers:

* Salzburg Christmas Tour, 25 November until 23 December 2019
* “Turmblasen” – wind music performed at the Residenzplatz, 30 November until 22 December 2019, Thursdays and Saturdays
* Special tours of the DomQuartier with festive wind music and delicious treats from the Christkindlmarkt, every Thursday during Advent

Complete details can be found at [www.salzburg.info/advent](http://www.salzburg.info/advent)

**Further Information:**

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