# Summer in Salzburg: the center of something special

Max Reinhardt once observed about Salzburg: “The whole city is a stage” – and that is never truer than during the summer months. The Salzburg Festival, perhaps more so than any other festival on the planet, manages to enthrall the entire city. Outside the sphere of opera, concerts and theater, Salzburg is also very conscious of its identity as a city of creative art and as an invigorating counterpoint to the world of high culture. With the help of new theme paths, visitors now have intriguing opportunities to explore Creative Salzburg unlike any they have seen before.

Festival City and City of Music

Salzburg Festival 2019: the myths of antiquity

199 performances in 43 days at 16 venues – in summer 2019 (20 July through 31 August, 2019), the Salzburg Festival will once again shape life both on and off the stages of our city. The opera program includes 5 new productions; highlighted by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “Idomeneo” produced by Teodor Currentzis and Peter Sellars. Other premieres to be celebrated include George Enescu’s “Œdipe”, Luigi Cherubini’s “Médée”, Giuseppe Verdi’s “Simon Boccanegra” and Jacques Offenbach’s “Orpheé aux enfers”. Cecilia Bartoli reprises the title role of Alcina in the opera by George Frederick Handel, which will already have been seen during the Whitsun Festival, while Franz Welser-Möst will conduct the Vienna Philharmonic in a return of Richard Strauss’s “Salome” to the Felsenreitschule.

Other highlights during this year’s festival: The dramatic program features 14 performances of “Jedermann” with Tobias Moretti in the lead role and Valery Tscheplanowa as the new Paramour. This summer’s Ouverture spirituelle is dedicated to pain and lamentation as so movingly depicted in the epic theater of antiquity, while Riccardo Muti commemorates the 30th anniversary of the death of Herbert von Karajan († 16 July 1989) in a performance of Giuseppe Verdi’s “Messa da Requiem” [*www.salzburgerfestspiele.at*](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

Creative Salzburg

*Sommerszene 2019: avantgarde dance and theater*

From 17 to 29 June 2019, the festival city shows off its more modern side: Before the cavalcade of international opera guests arrives, the red carpets are rolled out and the biggest event locations are simmering with excitement, Sommerszene focuses on the extravagant and discursive manifestations of the performing arts. Dance, theater and performance are mixed with installations, films and concerts, reflecting a contemporary and interdisciplinary approach to the arts as a whole. The program comprises around 15 Austrian and international productions at different venues in Salzburg, also not shying away from public spaces. This same approach which Sommerszene has followed consistently since the 1980s has made it one of the focal points of the European festival calendar. [*www.szene-salzburg.net*](http://www.szene-salzburg.net)

Theme paths leading to modern and contemporary art

With the help of three new theme routes, Salzburg visitors have the opportunity to explore the creative side of this Baroque city. The “New-City Route” runs from the main station, past Mirabell Gardens to the Staatsbrücke bridge; the “Panorama Route” takes you across the Mönchsberg to the Festival District, while the “Promenade Route” leads along the banks of the River Salzach to the south side of the historic district. Along the way, you will discover modern architecture, art in public spaces and galleries somewhat removed from the well-trodden tourist paths. Photo points and artsy cafés do their part to add to the appeal of these routes for art-loving visitors. [www.salzburg.info/creative-salzburg](http://www.salzburg.info/creative-salzburg)

City of Culture

Hohensalzburg Fortress with a fresh new appeal

The Fortress Museum was opened in 1952 in the so-called “Hoher Stock”. Today, it is part of the Salzburg Museum and is one of the most-visited museums in Austria. The museum was last remodeled back in the year 2000 and was awarded the Austrian Museum Prize in 2001. In June 2019, the freshly reconceived Fortress Museum will once again open its gates, exhibiting select objects from the medieval collection of Salzburg Museum. An oversized media installation provides insights into the history and function of the fortress. A tour through 12 different rooms conveys various aspects of medieval life, shedding light on people and events that shaped the history of Salzburg. [www.salzburgmuseum.at](http://www.salzburgmuseum.at)

Fly me to the Moon – 50 years since the moon landing

On 21 July, the world celebrates 50 years since the moon landing. Museum der Moderne Mönchsberg has been inspired by this anniversary to host a special exhibition. In “Fly me to the Moon” (20 July to 3 November 2019), this epoch-making event is viewed from an art perspective – suddenly, humanity’s view of the Earth took on a whole new dimension and, for the first time, we were able to view the blue planet “from the outside looking in”, so to speak. The exhibition represents a journey through several centuries of fascination with the moon, from Galileo Galilei and the invention of the telescope to multimedia installations. [www.museumdermoderne.at](http://www.museumdermoderne.at)

Salzburg Museum times 3

In collaboration with the DomQuartier, from 2 June 2019 to 6 April 2020, key works of the Baroque era will be displayed in the North Oratory: “From Bernini to Rubens. Roman art in the Rossacher Collection” presents the works of Gianlorenzo Bernini along with those of his rival Alessandro Algardi. Peter Paul Rubens is also represented, the man who brought the Baroque to northern climes.

Continuing a tradition of close collaboration with acclaimed European museums, Austria’s Belvedere Gallery will be making a guest appearance in Salzburg in 2019. “Faistauer, Schiele, Harta & Co. Painting unites” (12 July to 13 October 2019) shows works from the collections of both museums. The exhibition is subdivided into 5 thematic chapters: Travel, Private, Nature, Friends and the group “Der Wassermann”.

In her video series “moving portraits” (20 July to 6 October 2019), Düsseldorf photo and video artist Gudrun Kemsa will depict interesting Salzburg cultural figures, accompanying, for example, the president of the Salzburg Festival as well as the director of the Mozart museums in their respective institutions. [www.salzburgmuseum.at](http://www.salzburgmuseum.at)

**Further Information:**

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