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PRESS RELEASE

Fortress Hohensalzburg: The landmark at the heart of Mozart's home town

You haven't really seen Salzburg if you haven't visited Fortress Hohensalzburg! The 1,000-year-old fortress is considered *the landmark in Mozart's home town*. Once essential to the power of the Salzburg prince-archbishops, the fortress now invites visitors to enjoy an exciting and entertaining journey through Salzburg's history. There's so much to explore here, high above the rooftops of the UNESCO-protected old town, from the famous state rooms, to the panorama tour – a journey to the highest point in the city. Hohensalzburg Fortress has always been the most popular destination in Salzburg, especially for families and young adults.

Explore Salzburg's no.1 landmark! Never once destroyed in a whole millennium!

Hohensalzburg Fortress is one of Europe's largest 11th century castle complexes. Never once destroyed in its entire eventful history, it provides visitors with unique historical insights dating back to the Middle Ages. The high castle keep and its magnificent state rooms are particularly impressive. The 'Golden Hall', and the 'Golden Chamber' with its elaborately-designed tiled stove, belong to some of the most beautiful late Gothic secular rooms in Europe. In the lovingly-crafted Magic Theatre, visitors to the state rooms embark on a fascinating journey through time in the footsteps of the venue's initiator, Leonhard von Keutschach. Music, light effects and video installations make it a fascinating multi-sensory experience for children and adults alike.

Special tours and events for families

There's an impressive range of family-friendly special tours and events at Hohensalzburg Fortress. Private family tours in German and English are perennial favourites, and can be booked at any time. Enjoy fascinating views across the city and discover secret, closed-off areas of the fortress. In addition, public family tours are offered regularly. During the carnival season the fortress is a great place to make masks with paper, cardboard and paint (7 February). Again, this year, on the 29th and 30th August we will be hosting our popular Medieval Festival. From 10.00 to 18.00 each day, children and adults can enjoy a family festival with traditional crafts, skilful fencing demonstrations, a varied programme of activities for kids – and much

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more. During **Halloween**, the fortress hosts a creative pumpkin carving competition (29 October) and spooky pocket torchlight tours (30 & 31 October) for the whole family. The St. Martin's **lantern procession** (7 November) sees guests ascend to the fortress with homemade lanterns. During the Christmas season, an exploration of Fortress Hohensalzburg can be particularly atmospheric on magical **Advent tours for families** (on Advent Sundays). Moreover, the fortress museum offers a range of special educational programmes for school classes of all ages.

Exclusive tours for small groups

Our **exclusive private tours for small groups (2-10 people)** in German and English are ideal for those looking for something special! Follow an aperitif with a tour that includes the magnificent state rooms – as well as many areas of the fortress not normally open to the public. Savour the unforgettable and breath-taking panoramic view from one of the towers, made all the more tasty with a Mozartkugel chocolate. This is the first time visitors have been able to make such an extraordinary exploration of the fortress.

Special tours: From Hohensalzburg snacks to sword fighting workshops

Salzburg residents in particular have many opportunities to visit *their* fortress for special events. One such new feature is the **Hohensalzburg snack**. These are special tours dedicated to various themes: knights and armour (7 March), the restoration of the state rooms (3 June) or the magnificent coats of arms (5 September). Dance and music enthusiasts can learn medieval dances in a fitting atmosphere at our **medieval dance workshop** (18 March & 13 October), while fans of historical combat techniques have the opportunity to try their hand at **sword fighting workshops** (29 May & 20 November). The wide range of special tours is rounded off by new and familiar formats such as the atmospheric **evening tours** (every second Thursday in July & August), the **summer solstice tour** (20 June) and the **Raunacht tour of the fortress** (27 December).

Entertaining fun for the whole family: Let the Hohensalzburg Fortress Games begin!

The **fortress games** are all about *fun, games and history*. This is an interactive adventure tour for visitors of all ages. There are lots of tricky tasks to be solved, and **seven game stations** requiring skills and brainpower – from a duel with the blacksmith and hoop throwing, to a Salzburg Bull tug of war. Just pick up the game set in the garden of paradise from Peter, the armoury keeper, and set off on the trail of the 'Golden Turnip'. Let the fortress games commence!

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Art & Advent: Event highlights at the fortress

Of course, guests can look forward to many popular annual highlights, including performances of **Everyman in the castle courtyard** (July & August), the **fortress concerts** (daily) and **exhibitions** in the Hödlmoseratelier as part of the 'Art at the Fortress' cultural initiative (May to July). The **Salzburg Fortress Advent** (28 November to 20 December, Friday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on 7 and 8 December) is extremely popular with locals and visitors alike. The authentic Christmas market offers Salzburg handicrafts, regional delicacies and a traditional Christmas atmosphere on Advent weekends. There's also a chance for visitors to enjoy the magnificent view across the roofs of Salzburg's old town with a mug of mulled wine or punch. All dates and special tours can be found at www.festung-hohensalzburg.at.

Interactive panorama tour: exciting insights and views

A highlight of any visit to the fortress is the varied panorama tour. This interactive tour includes a breath-taking view from the top of the observation tower, the late medieval dungeon, the monumental model of the fortress and Salzburg's old town – hewn from rock salt, and an acoustic installation that allows visitors to play the melodies of the Salzburg Bull. The panorama tour is complemented by attentively-crafted mechanical peep-boxes that enable children to playfully explore the history of castle construction, and the legends of Salzburg.

Museums at the fortress

In addition to the above highlights, Hohensalzburg Fortress is home to a whole range of fascinating museums, such as the **Rainer Regiment Museum**, and the **Fortress Museum** – the latter offering an extensive collection of medieval art. The **exhibition in the historic armoury** sheds new light on the fortress's defensive structures, and tells the stories of the cannons, armour and hand weapons at the fortress, enabling visitors to get involved in person.

The right ticket for every occasion

Over 1.4 million visitors every year make Salzburg's Hohensalzburg Fortress the most popular tourist attraction in the region. In order to best meet the needs of all visitors, various ticket options are available: The **all-inclusive ticket** is the best choice for those aiming to enjoy everything this landmark has to offer. The very affordable **Panorama Ticket** is an option for those in a hurry. During the summer months, it is available from 8.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is targeted specifically at guests primarily here to take in the view and enjoy the wonderful morning and evening atmosphere (1 May to 30 September). The Panorama Ticket includes an ascent and a descent with the fortress funicular, plus a visit to the castle grounds, the

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courtyards and bastions, and the Panorama Tour. The Fortress Hohensalzburg **online ticket** is a great way to avoid queues at the ticket office.

General information for visitors to Fortress Hohensalzburg

Fortress Hohensalzburg is open 365 days a year, except from 9 to 13 November. The **fortress funicular railway** runs up and down every 10 minutes, and it takes around 20 minutes to walk up to the fortress through the archway guard stations, the Mayor's Gate and the outer courtyard. Guests are treated to culinary delights in the **fortress restaurant** and the **Burgschenke tavern restaurant**, which can also be booked for celebrations. Fortress concerts are held in the 'Golden Hall' of the state rooms. Fortress Hohensalzburg can be visited free of charge with the Salzburg Card. Visitors benefit from free WLAN and an informative website with a 'Comic & Guide'.

OPENING HOURS

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| January to April & October to December | Daily, 09.30 – 17.00 |
| May to September | Daily, 08.30 – 20.00* |
| 24 December | 09.30 – 14.00 (indoor areas) |
| Easter & Advent weekends | 09:30 – 18.00 |
| *Museums | 09:00 – 19.00 |
| 9 – 13 November | Closed |

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