

Press release

Hohensalzburg Fortress - Salzburg's landmark - high above the towers of Mozart's city

The 900-year-old Hohensalzburg Fortress, the city's landmark, is Europe's largest and best-preserved fortification. Built by Archbishop Gebhard during the investiture disputes in 1077, the fortress served to protect the clergy and the population. Hohenwerfen Fortress in the Salzach Valley was built at the same time and for the same reason.

The Fortress is accessed from Kapitelplatz through the Festungsgasse, from where visitors can take the funicular, departing every 10 minutes. The walk takes about half an hour on foot. Once up at the Fortress, visitors can enjoy a magnificent view over the city and province of Salzburg. Beautiful courtyards, inviting terraces and the castle fountain let visitors feel a touch of the Middle Ages.

Guests can enjoy the entire visitors' program with the Fortress Card since February 1st 2005. A tour with the modern audio guide (in eight languages) lets visitors explore the unique royal apartments, the "Salzburger Stier" (a 500-year-old mechanical organ), battlements, the torture chamber and the fortress chapel, also available for wedding ceremonies. The Fortress and Rainer Regiment Museum, an impressive multimedia show and a Marionette Museum round off the visitors' program. The Romanesque lower chapel (11th century) has been open to the public since 2005.

After the tour, the fortress restaurant with 2 shady el fresco dining areas and a wonderful view of Salzburg's historic city center invite visitors to linger.

The ever-popular Fortress Concerts are held in the elegant ambiance of the royal apartments.

Hohensalzburg Fortress

open all year round

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