

# VISITING AUSTRIAN SALZBURG

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**Abstract** The article talks about my own travel experience, which happened last year in the winter holidays in advent time. My boyfriend and I visited Salzburg with a Tourist Agency for the first time. It was a one-day trip by bus. It was a pleasant experience. We had a great time there regardless of the low temperature. We saw many sights and interesting points and learnt something new about Salzburg. We got to experience the city in the night-time and the Christmas market happening as well. What we noticed about this trip is that Salzburg was not so decorated in advent time when comparing it with Vienna, which was our previous trip. We found out through the whole time that there was enormous crowd of people present. Because of the crowd we had to supply our own food and drinks, because restaurants were all full. We had to keep an eye on our personal items as well. Despite this, I would recommend Salzburg because of soaking up the Christmas atmosphere and experiencing the city's energy.

**Keywords:**

advent,  
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## Introduction

Holidays in December: Advent, Christmas and New Year's Eve were not so long ago, so let's talk about past winter holidays. Let me introduce you to my tourist experience that happened during this time. I'm going to introduce you to an Advent trip to the city of Mozart - Salzburg in Austria.

My boyfriend and I again had the idea of visiting some places in advent time like we had done for the previous three years. This was our second advent trip, and we decided to go with an agency. We travelled to Vienna in December 2018 and it was a pleasant experience. Therefore, our next trip would also be in Austria, and this time we chose Salzburg. Neither of us has ever been there, and we expected it would be historical, cultural and decorated like the capital. We decided to travel with an agency because it's better to travel with an organised group. Usually, everything is already arranged, so travellers have no worries about driving and thinking about tickets, famous spots and how to satisfy their basic needs. That's why we booked a trip with the Tourist Agency Supra Travel.

On Saturday, 7. 12. 2019, it was the time for the start. We woke up early in the morning, about 3 a.m., then got dressed in warm clothes and got ready. I did not forget necessary equipment for this winter weather: A hat, scarf and some gloves, even a spare pair of socks in case they were going to be needed. Later, it turned out that they were useful, because I already had to put them on inside the bus. The previous day we bought some sandwiches, something to drink and a few sweets as well, because we knew it was going to be a long day with a lot of walking.

At about four o'clock we travelled by car from Sevnica to Celje, where the departure place was. The ride was smooth, with almost no traffic because of the early hour. The meeting point in Celje was in front of the sport's hall Zlatorog. The instructions were to be there ten minutes before leaving, that meant 4.50 a.m. When we arrived at the right time at Zlatorog hall, we realised that our bus was not going to be the only one that day. There were probably about four buses waiting in the line. They were for different travel agencies, each travelling to different cities for advent time. There was a crowd of people waiting for groups to form together. I noticed one group which were carrying suitcases, obviously they were going for a two-day trip with a night stay. I could not catch the exact location of their travel. I

decided I would go the next December for a two-day trip to have the opportunity to explore more of the city and to have a rest between see sightings compared to the one-day trip.

Nonetheless, we waited there in front of the Zlatorog Hall until the time was right, until our bus arrived, and our representative of the Tourist Agency appeared. Luckily it wasn't so cold while we were standing there. When the representative came, we stepped forward. He checked us on the passenger list, and we were able to sit in the bus wherever we wanted, because there was no sitting order. We chose a place somewhere in the middle. When we boarded the bus we noticed that there were already a few passengers sitting, because the bus had had a stop in Ljubljana. I liked that the bus was still half empty. I hoped that it would be like that all the way to Salzburg, that the trip was not completely sold out. It was nicely quiet. Well, we undressed and put some of the food and drink in the locker above our heads. The representative seated the last passenger, then greeted us by microphone. Next, he introduced himself and the two bus drivers. The older one was already sitting by the steering wheel, preparing to start the ride. Because of the long ride and the number of kilometres expected to be made, there had to be two drivers to take turns.

We left on time and joined the motorway.. We stopped in Slovenska Bistrica and Maribor, to pick up passengers and for a toilet break. In Maribor we stopped in front of the railway station, and there came most of the passengers, so the bus became completely full with every seat taken. The group contained passengers of all ages; some teenagers, students, some older, middle aged, and families as well. When we left Maribor, we joined the motorway again, and after a short time we crossed the border and arrived in Austria.

During the ride through Austria we took two shorter stops for toilet breaks and snacks. Each time in the shops and restaurants there were crowds of people waiting in queues. While we were driving and moving closer to the destination, the guide told us about our plan for the day, what we were going to see, and some important facts and interesting things about Austria in general. He explained some history of Salzburg and some features as well, for example, typical food, famous personalities who had lived in Salzburg... I like the fact that the guide focused on the important things that were worth mentioning, and that he wasn't too long or too boring during his talk. He told us some jokes and funny anecdotes.

After few hours, we finally arrived in Salzburg, directly into the city centre. We had to step off the bus, and started walking for the whole day. It was quite cold outside while we were walking, and it even started raining for a while. Luckily, I had taken my folding umbrella with me. Next on our programme of sightseeing were all the important sights of Salzburg. At the start of the line was our guide, who was our representative of the agency who led us around the town. He showed us all the spots and said a few things about each of them, so important and well known historical and cultural sights, that were worth mentioning. I will highlight here some of the sights that we had seen in about three hours. From the Square of Mozart where his monument stands, the Baroque minster, the Mirabell park, Festival House, the birth house of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the famous composer – we only saw its exterior. For a look inside it would cost us 10 euros per person.

After that, we looked at the decorated heart of the old town with many mansions and palaces. We had the option to visit the Salzburg Fortress Festung as well, which is the symbol of Salzburg. From there you can have a perfect view of the city. Tourists can enjoy a ride with the cable railway to the top of the hill. My boyfriend and I did not go up there, we preferred to explore the streets and the Advent Fair. We documented all the beautiful sights and events by taking loads of pictures, and videos as well. If one wanted, he/she had always the option to leave the group and organise sightseeing. One could discover the town on their own. Another option was to visit a small village, Oberndorf, with guidance. It is located near Salzburg, and it is famous for the birth of the song well known at Christmas time, Silent night. The chapel of the Silent night stands on the place where the song was versed for the first time.

After the organised sightseeing, we had a free afternoon till the evening to spend it however we wanted to, maybe for an individual tour, to get something to eat, or doing some shopping. We stopped by one of the Fairs, near the church, and we were told to be there in the evening at 7 pm. At first, we thought we had plenty of time, however, that was not so. We started looking around. First, we needed some coffee and some place to go inside to warm ourselves up. Many cafés were so full, it was quite hard to find a free space. We later found one, took a seat, and ordered cappuccinos and the famous Sahar cakes. There was a special offer in this café, a special discount if you ordered coffee and the Sahar cake together. The cake was delicious, but it could not even compare with the texture and the taste of those cakes

made in Slovenia. After that, we walked around the town again, on streets with many different small shops and storefronts, where they sell from different brands of clothes to jewellery, to restaurants and many more cafes. While walking, I noticed the city itself has a lack of lights and decoration compared to Vienna or Zagreb. There was also a large crowd of people, and it was sometimes difficult to get through the crowd. It would be hard facing that every day.

After walking around, at about 3 p.m., we decided it was time to have some lunch. Finding an empty place was quite a hard task, and we searched many restaurants. It happened that we checked in many restaurants for free seats in vain because everything was so full. In some places we could not even get pizza, and in some we would wait too long to order. So, we ended up at the first place. They had a rope placed inside, where you had to wait for a free seat to appear. After some waiting, we at last found a space for two. After that, we continued with walking around the city. We went to the edge of the city, near a bridge over the river, and we crossed it to have a look on the modern part of Salzburg. We didn't want to go too far in this direction, and we quickly figured it out that there it was a peaceful side of the city, with no stands and Christmas markets. So empty, compared to the other side, so we rather retraced our steps.

Later in the afternoon, after it was already getting dark, we took a walk around some Christmas market areas. There were many stands, decorated with lights and Christmas trees, and an unbelievable crowd of people around each of them, it was hard to imagine. Many different items were being sold there, from souvenirs to pieces of clothing like hats, scarves and gloves, from drinks like mulled wine, punch and beer, and typical Austrian dishes like sausages, some liquid foods like goulash, stew, to some contemporary food like hot dogs and hamburgers. There were many kinds of sweets: Marshmallows with chocolate and coconut, lollipops, different kinds of chocolate candies, different kinds of fruit pieces, placed on sticks and covered by white or milk chocolate... The place was loud, with people rushing around and the scent of all those dishes... Of course, I had to taste one of the desserts at the market. I chose banana and strawberry pieces on a stick, covered by milk chocolate. Later, we decided to taste the mulled wine. When you bought it, you had to pay 3 euros caution money for the cup. You had the option to return the cup later or take it with you. We decided to take them home. The taste of wine was strong, too strong for my taste.

After that, my boyfriend decided to visit one of the small shops that was on the street. There was a big supply of different souvenirs, from cups to keychains, and from hats and t-shirts to magnets, and all of those items had pictures and prints of Salzburg and its sights. He bought one of the magnets. I did not buy anything there, because I already have loads of souvenirs at home from different trips and destinations.

Soon, the time for leaving arrived, so we headed to the meeting place. We left at 7 p.m. and the ride was smooth, with only one stop after two hours. We all were tired and sleepy, so the bus was quiet. The guide gave us crosswords about trips to motivate us for another trip with them. To finish we answered a questionnaire about the satisfaction with this trip and their service. He told us about their next destinations and possibilities. We were delighted and gave him a big round of applause.

We arrived in Celje at midnight, And we still had to travel to Sevnica by car. We were tired, sleepy, however, satisfied with our trip to see something new away from our homeland and familiar things, and, of course, with a nice touch of history and culture.