



MUSIC, THEATRE AND TRADITIONS IN SAALFELDEN LEOGANG

A hotspot for arts and culture in the heart of the mountains

Saalfelden Leogang is not only famed for its mountains and Alpine pastures. The most contrast-rich region in the Alps is the perfect place for those interested in culture. In addition to the famed International Jazzfestival Saalfelden, there are several other music events in various stylistic directions, in addition to arts exhibitions and workshops, theatre performances and of course plenty of traditional culture events.

40 years of the International Jazzfestival

Musicians from around the world turn Saalfelden into the coolest music city in the mountains

When the legendary International Jazzfestival Saalfelden celebrates its 40th birthday in 2019, contemporary, experimental and familiar saxophone, piano and clarinet sounds will fill the air again. The variety of jazz styles, performed to perfection this year in the total of 55 concerts, is extremely diverse. The musicians perform both indoors, for example at the Congress or Kunsthau Nexus and various other locations in the city, and on open-air stages. The outdoor concerts, which take place at the town hall square and in the town park, as well as at the surrounding mountain inns on Saturday and Sunday – over 30 in total – are all free of charge. The new Artists in Residence projects, featuring Maja Osojnik and Lukas König this year, can be experienced in Buchbinderei Fuchs and Saalfelden District Court. All-in-all, the programme for the anniversary year is looking like the best ever.

Klezmer, Classic, Folk Music – TONspuren am Asitz

Music is the central theme in Saalfelden Leogang's Culture Summer. The 'TONspuren am Asitz' concerts also take place in the open air and on the mountain. The Asitz is Leogang's local mountain and plays host to a total of five concerts of very different styles between June and August. Among others in 2019, the 'Well-Brüder aus'm Biermoos', successors to the famous Biermösl Blosn, will perform; trumpeter and composer Thomas Gansch will present his latest project, 'Hit Therapy'; and 'Kainrath, Hojsa, Havlicek' will be bringing their fusion of traditional Viennese songs with Jazz and Blues to the festival.

ALM:KULTUR – Arts and culture in the mountains

The so-called 'ALM:KULTUR' is a special and unusual event series. From the beginning of July to the beginning of September, hikers gather to meet various artists and creative types every Friday at the mountain huts. There will be concerts, storytelling and interactive workshops. Everything is done according to the motto: "Tradition meets modernity." The best part: In order to participate in the events, you don't have to register or pay anything. Only the hike to the Alpine pasture is necessary. More than a few guests simply show up by chance and are treated to the pleasure of a great cultural offering.

Theatre for all

When it comes to theatre, Saalfelden Leogang has plenty to offer. Founded in 2014, the Freiraum cultural association and the ecce theatre will for the third time stage the VolXommer Saalfelden Leogang theatre festival. Visitors will be treated to performances, theatre in a circus tent, VolX theatre at the Kunsthau Nexus, acrobatics and great acting.

Treasure hunt in the show mine and Gothic effigies of saints

Those with an interest in cultural history and the visual arts are in for a treat in Saalfelden Leogang. During exciting city tours, participants can visit the late Gothic forge, where a number of Gothic cultural artefacts can be admired. Meanwhile, at the Leogang show mine, visitors will discover how ore, silver and copper were once mined and how difficult the life of a miner truly was back then. During a treasure hunt, younger participants can playfully discover how tunnels were once constructed.

The venerable Mining and Gothic Museum in Leogang was recently expanded with the addition of neighbouring Thurnhaus, a fortified residential tower from the Middle Ages. The additional space hosts two new temporary exhibitions. The museum is known for its stunning Gothic effigies of saints, boasting a collection of these priceless figurines and panel paintings that is the only one of its kind worldwide. As a result, one of the new temporary exhibitions is dedicated to the subject: 'Beautiful Madonnas from Salzburg. Stoneware around 1400' was developed in cooperation with Prague National Gallery.

Schloss Ritzen is one of four castles in Saalfelden. The museum, which is housed inside, harbours one of the largest and most significant nativity-scene collections in Austria. In addition to Baroque church nativities there is also a large oriental nativity and the local Saalfelden nativity made by the famous nativity-scene builder Alexander "Xandi" Schläffer from Saalfelden. The Kunsthau Nexus has been an integral part of the Pinzgau culture scene since 2002 and features diverse offerings for young and old.

Customs and tradition: 'Hoagascht', Bauernherbst fall celebrations, and the Leonhardiritt procession

Guests can learn all about local customs with all their traditions during various events: Five times per year during, the so-called summer Hoagascht, a farmers' market with local products, music and traditional events like "schuhplatteln" dancing or "schnalzen" whip performances, take place. On 22 June, during the summer solstice, Pinzgau residents light small fires in the mountains as they have done since the 14th century. The contours of the Leoganger Steinberge mountains and the Steinernes Meer plateau shine bright and forms and symbols in fire light up the mountain ridges. During the Bauernherbst event, many customs are celebrated. There are markets and performances of old handcrafts. In 2019, Saalfelden Leogang is even hosting the official opening of SalzburgerLand's Bauernherbst autumn festival. One of the highlights of this event will be the procession of groups in traditional costume and marching bands on 31 August. The Leonhardiritt procession on horseback, which traditionally takes place on 6 November, is another interesting highlight. During 'ranggeln' on the Spielberg, participants measure their strength during this ancient martial art, which was once practiced by indentured farmhands.

Excerpt from the 2019 Culture Highlights in Saalfelden Leogang

- 25 May 2019 Opening of Thurnhaus, the extension of the Mining and Gothic Museum
- 22 June 2019 Mountain bonfires, solstice bonfires and the annual solstice singing event in Leogang
- 16 June 2019 Regionalism fair
- 27 June -15 August 2019 TONspuren am Asitz (every second Thursday)
- 5 July – 6 September 2019 ALM:KULTUR (every Friday)
- 8 July – 5 August 2019 Summer Hoagascht market (every Monday)
- 6 July 2019 Stadtbeben Saalfelden event
- 1–18 August 2019 VolXommer theatre and musical event
- 14 August 2019 Spielbergranggeln mountain wrestling
- 18 August 2019 Musician and "schuhplatter" dancers meet-up on the Huggenberg mountain
- 22–25 August 2019 40th International Jazzfestival Saalfelden
- 24–25 August 2019 Musikhof festival put on by the Eisenbahner Stadtkapelle band at the Vorderkühbühelhof farm
- 31 August 2019 Official statewide opening of Bauernherbst farmer's autumn
- 8 August 2019 'Schuionfong' on the Huggenberg and the Leogang fall farm fest (Bauernherbstfest)
- 15 September 2019 Hoffest Saalfelden farm festival
- 29 September 2019 Monument day at the Mining and Gothic Museum in Leogang
- 5 October 2019 Honkey Tonk Saalfelden
- 6 November 2019 Leonhardiritt procession

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