

■ Roman City

The oldest traces of human habitation of what is now the City of Salzburg date from the Middle Paleolithic period. By 15 B.C., the Celtic settlements atop the city's hills were deserted and detailed plans were being drawn up for construction of an extensive Roman community: Iuvavum. At around 45 A.D., Iuvavum was a largely self-governing municipality; the outlying territory under its jurisdiction far exceeded the contemporary Province of Salzburg. After Rome pulled out in 488, most of the remaining populace settled on Festungsberg and Nonnberg, the heights on which the fortress and convent now stand.

■ City of Dukes and Bishops

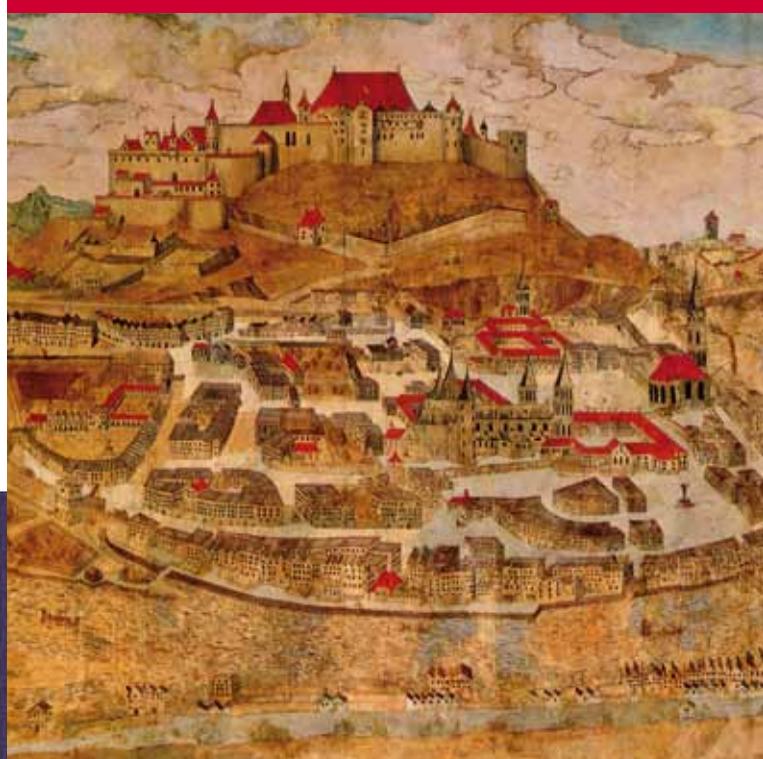
Bavarian Duke Theodbert resided in Salzburg from the late 7th century until at least 716. Bishop Rupert, Salzburg's patron saint, came to Salzburg from Worms in 696 and built the first cathedral here. In 713-15, the Nonnberg convent was established by the Agilolfinger ducal line. In 739, Salzburg was raised to the status of a diocesan town; in 798, Bishop Arno was made the first archbishop and simultaneously elevated to metropolitan of the Bavarian ecclesiastical province. The first document containing the German name *Salzpurc* is dated 755.

■ City of Prosperous Burghers

The cathedral monastery, St. Peter's Church and Nonnberg dominated the cityscape into the 11th century. Commercial and financial privileges granted to the archbishop by Emperor Otto III in 996 delivered the impetus for the emergence of a flourishing community of affluent citizens. It all began with the long-distance traders and merchants who set up shop on Waagplatz, Salzburg's oldest market square. The first written mention of Hohensalzburg Fortress was in 1077. The first city walls were constructed in the late 11th and early 12th centuries, also the date of the first reference to municipal citizens and a city magistrate. Salzburg had thus become a city in a formal, legal sense. The oldest city seal, the Seal of the Citizens of Salzburg, dates back to 1249; the oldest legal code was enacted in 1287.



Salzburg in 1460, Schedelsche Weltchronik



Salzburg in 1553

■ Capital and Residence

Following the separation from its motherland, Bavaria, in the 14th century, Salzburg was the capital of an archbishopric, a small state within the Holy Roman Empire, and residence of the archbishop who was simultaneously the head of government of this city. Citizen autonomy was limited. The court was the most important employer. Merchants who grew wealthy doing business with Venice became benefactors who subsidized various social welfare facilities and also demanded a say in how the city was being run. The relatively extensive legal autonomy that had been granted to the city (as documented in 1368-71) was subjected to massive restrictions time and time again. In 1403, citizens of the Province of Salzburg's cities joined together with local nobles in a protective alliance in opposition to the arbitrary, dictatorial tactics of the archbishopric's administration – but without success. In 1407, the city government acquired the house of a burgher family and converted it into City Hall.

■ City of Princes

Salzburg briefly enjoyed autonomy and self-administration after Emperor Friedrich III issued a charter permitting the free election of a city council and mayor in 1481, but Archbishop Leonhard von Keutschach used force to have it annulled in 1511. Cardinal Matthäus Lang further expanded the position of archbishop to one of absolute power over the city. In 1524, he decreed the Municipal & Police Regulations that essentially governed judicial and administrative affairs in Salzburg until the end of ecclesiastical rule in 1803. During the Peasant War of 1525, there was an unsuccessful siege of the archbishop holed up in the fortress. One of the city's residents at the time was Theophrast von Hohenheim, the man known as Paracelsus. He spent the last years of his life in Salzburg, dying here in 1541.

■ Baroque City: “The German Rome”

As a wholehearted proponent of absolutism, Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau wielded his power despotically and arbitrarily. In 1588 in conjunction with the Counter-Reformation, he expelled Pro-

testant citizens from the city. It was also during his reign that Salzburg was transformed from a Medieval to an Early Baroque city. Private homes were razed to make room for prestigious architecture and spacious squares meant to display the archbishop's wealth and status. Wolf Dietrich and his successors hired Italian artists to realize these projects. An artistic reorientation took place at the turn of the 18th century under Johann Ernst von Thun, who brought the great Austrian architect Fischer von Erlach to Salzburg. The edifices, domes and spires he built in Austrian Baroque style are still the highlights of the city's skyline. Salzburg would now come to be dubbed the German Rome.

■ Fortress and University City

While Salzburg was being given a Baroque makeover since the late 16th century, Archbishop Paris Lodron was also busy constructing extensive ramparts to fortify the city during the time of the 30 Years War. Salzburg turned into a virtually impregnable citadel. The new emplacements considerably expanded the area of settlement, as wetlands on the outskirts of town were drained and developed. In 1622-23, Paris Lodron founded the Benedictine University, whose attendance was at times among the largest of any such facility in German-speaking Europe until its closure in 1810. It reopened as a state university in 1962.

■ The City of Mozart

Salzburg's most famous son, Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, was born in the building at Getreidegasse 9 in 1756. He spent his childhood here; from 1772 to 1781, he held the positions of concertmaster of the court orchestra as well as court and cathedral organist. The intense veneration of Mozart, who had died in Vienna in 1791 – occasionally assuming cult-like proportions – actually began with the erection of the Mozart monument here in 1842. Under Mozart's employer, Hieronymus Count Colloredo, the last reigning prince-archbishop and thus the last ecclesiastical head of the municipal government, Salzburg became a center of the Catholic Late Enlightenment and the publishing activities associated with it.





Salzburg in 1850



Salzburg in 1905



Salzburg today

■ County Seat and “Beautiful City”

The Archbishopric of Salzburg was secularized in 1803 as an upshot of the Napoleonic Wars. At first, it was merged with Berchtesgaden, Passau and Eichstätt into an electorate with Salzburg as its capital. The demise of this entity in 1805 deprived the city of its function as residence of a head of state. Finally in 1816, after five regime changes, the Province of Salzburg was annexed by Austria and the city was demoted to the level of a county seat. Romantic artists were attracted by the city’s old-fashioned charms. Thus began in the Biedermeier years the proliferation of the “Beautiful City” mystique that established the basis of modern tourism in Salzburg.

■ Province Capital and Vacation Destination

In 1861, Salzburg was granted its own provincial legislature. The city became the seat of the province government; the municipal statutes of 1869 provide for the functions of a district administrative center. Engineering the course of the Salzach River and tearing down many of the city’s fortifications triggered a building boom. With the opening of the central railway station in 1860, tourism increased significantly and Salzburg developed into a major holiday destination. New hotels were constructed and downtown transportation infrastructure expanded. During the era of rapid economic growth in the late 19th century, numerous major municipal projects were completed – for example, schools, a poorhouse, spa, slaughterhouse, municipal cemetery and electrical generating plant.

■ A City of Festivalgoers and Tourists

The idea that culminated in the Salzburg Festival originated as Mozart concert events staged in the 19th century. The Festival Hall Association was founded in 1917, and the Festival commenced in 1920 with the world premiere of von Hoffmannsthal’s “Everyman”. Initially, performances were staged in what had been the prince-archbishop’s stables, which were completely renovated in 1926 and 1937 by architect Clemens Holzmeister. In 1960, the Great Festival Hall opened; the Easter Festival was launched in 1967. The conversion of the Small Festival Hall into the House for Mozart was completed in the Mozart Year 2006. Two million overnight stays per year attest to cultural tourism’s tremendous economic importance to the city.

■ Nazi Administrative Center

The first municipal annexations of surrounding villages occurred in 1935 during the time of Austria’s authoritarian corporative state. A second phase was carried out in 1939 after the “Anschluß” that made Austria a part of Nazi Germany. These incorporations increased the city’s population from 40,500 to 77,000. The takeover by the Nazi regime also meant the beginning of racial and intensification of political persecution. Slave laborers and prisoners of war were put to work in order to keep the economy running and carry out major infrastructure projects like revamping the main bridge over the Salzach. During World War II, the city was the target of 15 American aerial bombing raids that claimed 547 lives. Approximately 40% of all buildings – including the Cathedral and Mozart’s residence – were damaged, many severely.

■ Metropolis

Tens of thousands of refugees crowded into postwar Salzburg. Due to the tremendous influx, the city’s population first exceeded 100,000 in 1950. Salzburg was becoming a big town. The need for good, affordable housing led to the construction of major municipal housing projects in various neighborhoods. The Festival Halls, the Convention Center, the indoor swimming pool, spa and health complex, and other buildings went up. In 1967, the historic Old City was placed under the protection of architectural preservation legislation, the first of its kind in Austria.

■ A Place of Education, Sports and Tourism

Since the reestablishment of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg in 1962, the city has steadily expanded this educational institution. In 1998, the Mozarteum Conservatory was upgraded to the university level; the Paracelsus College of Medicine was founded in 2003. Sporting highlights have included hosting the 2005 Cycling World Championship and the Euro 2008 football tournament. The Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg was added to the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list in 1996. Salzburg’s status as one of the world’s foremost capitals of culture is attributable not only to its tradition, but also to numerous institutions, initiatives and persons active in the cultural sphere. Culture, education, sport and tourism are the most important providers of direct and indirect employment to the population of Salzburg, and are essentially responsible for the city’s prosperity.

Credits: Proprietor and publisher: The City of Salzburg MA 2/01 – City Archives and Department of Statistics, Glockengasse 8, 5020 Salzburg, Telephone: 43 662/8072-4701; Text: Peter F. Kramml and Sabine Veits-Falk; Translation: Mel Greenwald; Illustrations: Stadtarchiv Salzburg, Info-Z, Salzburg Museum (mosaic, Archbishop Wolf Dietrich); Graphics: CCM Salzburg; Printing: Neumarkter Druckerei Ges. m. b. H.



City of Salzburg



A Rich Historical Heritage