

myADVENTURES with THE EXPERT TRAVELER

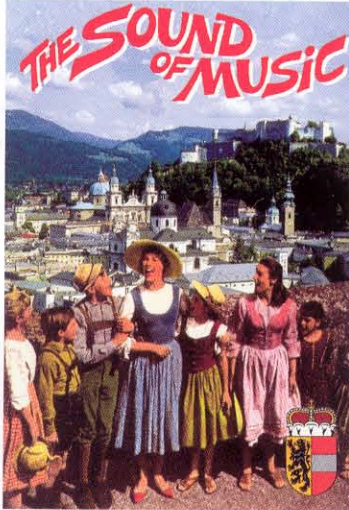
AUSTRIA

“The hills are alive with the sound of music!”

If you appreciated the movie *The Sound of Music*, why not go on location?

At the geographical heart of Europe lies the Republic of Austria. Tucked away, two hours south of Munich, is one of the country’s most beautiful cities. Austrians call it the “home of music.” When you consider Salzburg, Austria is both the birthplace of Mozart and setting for the Oscar-winning movie, *The Sound of Music*, it’s easy to see why. Spring, summer and fall, tourists and music-loving explorers make pilgrimage to Salzburg to be immersed in the culture of the city and enjoy the numerous festivals and music-related activities.

Salzburg is a town divided in half by the meandering Salzach River. The “Old City”— on the left bank of the river — is where ancient Roman settlements once stood. Now, visitors can marvel



Travel Specialist, Gig Gwin (founder and CEO of Gwin’s Travel in St. Louis, MO) the most traveled travel agent, having visited every country in the world.

at architecture from the Middle Ages, Romanesque, Baroque and Renaissance periods. Most of the hotels and restaurants are located on or near the Salzach River and the city provides a wonderful walking tour. Start at the banks of the Salzach, cross over one of the footbridges to Old City and take a cable car to the top of Hohensalzburg Fortress for a breathtakingly beautiful panoramic view of the city.

For many Americans, the highlight of a visit to Salzburg is the *Sound of Music* Tour. On the tour, you can visit the Benedictine Convent where Julie Andrews sings “Maria” and the Mirabell Gardens and Palace where Andrews and the children sing “Do-Re-Mi,” as well as several other sites recognizable from the movie. But while you’re touring, don’t be surprised if some native Salzburgers stare at you blankly when you mention the movie. Despite its tremendous popularity, the film has never been dubbed and shown on Austrian television.

My favorite part of the tour began as we drove out of the city in through the mountains to St. Gilgen. This picturesque mountain

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Above, left:
The mountains of St. Gilgen



Above, right:
The view to the Old City from Monchsberg, Salzburg

Right: A view of Salzburg from the Salzach River



All photos courtesy of Gig Gwin

