Austria – Salzkammergut

My favorite vacation spot in my home country Austria, is a region called the “Salzkammergut”, which can be translated as “Estate of the salt chamber”. The name is derived from the many salt resources in the region. It stretches over the three federal states Upper Austria, Styria and Salzburg. It is a gorgeous part of Austria with many lakes and mountains, which offers a lot of opportunities for different activities.

In the summer you can go swimming in one of the many lakes or rent a boat and just enjoy the scenery. There are also many opportunities for hiking, biking, golfing etc.

Activities in the winter include skiing, snowboarding or cross-country skiing. Furthermore you can visit one of the many wellness hotels and thermal spas in the cold months.

This part of Austria has many sights and a very long history. There are many museums you can visit and a number of cultural events. The region is especially famous for its traditions and customs. For example many of the towns hold a “Glöcklerlauf” every year on January 5. The men and women wearing the Glöckler hats are symbolizing good light ghosts who are supposed to banish the bad ghosts of the Twelfth Night (the evening before the last day of the Christmas festivities).

In the Salzkammergut traditional costumes are considered as important and you still see many people wearing them.
My favorite town in this region is Bad Ischl. It lies in the heart of the Salzkammergut and has a lot to offer. The architecture of the old town is beautiful and has a historical flair. I most enjoy to walk along the river Traun on the “Esplanade” and sit in the outdoor dining area of the famous coffee house “Zauner” and eat their delicious pastries.

Another fun activity in Bad Ischl is a hike up the “Siriuskogl”, where you can enjoy a refreshing drink and a beautiful scenic view of the town.

If you are more interested in the history of Bad Ischl, I recommend a walk up to the “Kaiservilla” (Imperial Villa) with its beautiful park, which was the summer residence of Emperor Franz Joseph I. There you can also find the cottage the Emperor built for his wife Elisabeth, the famous “Sisi”. Franz Joseph I and Sisi fell in love and celebrated their engagement in Bad Ischl.

For a more relaxed vacation Bad Ischl offers the opportunity to indulge yourself in the thermal spa “EurothermenResort Bad Ischl”, with its indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and spa treatments. As it fits with the region you can find salt water pools and spa treatments with salt.

If you have the chance to visit that lovely part of Austria, it will touch your heart as it has mine!
References:

References pictures:
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