## Refresh and cool down in Austria

## Motaz Othman Austria

Following over Seven visits to different cities in Austria, such as Vienna, Salzburg, Carinthia, Innsbruck, and after I received 2011 statistics from Austria Tourist Office that over thirty four million and Six Hundred tourists arrived to Austria in year 2011, with total Hundred and Twenty six millions nights, in addition to the good news that Tourists from Middle East that arrived to Austria reached more than One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Tourists.



And as hot summer is coming soon in the Gulf Region, I believe

that Austria can offer Tourists from Middle East the most wonderful





and coolest experience, in addition to the great hospitality from Austrian people.

Below is some information about Austria and temperature during summer time.

Change the temperature of the thermometer to see the "coolest" experiences in Austria!

0°C in the World of the Ice Giants
The largest ice-caves on earth

Located in Salzburg Province just 40 kilometres from the regional

capital of Salzburg, the World of the Ice Giants is the largest series of ice caves on earth. It is a labyrinth of caves that total more than 40 kilometres in length. The unique natural are а caves phenomenon created from ice and rock and, each year, some 200,000 come to admire tourists illuminated ice sculptures which were created millions of years ago by subterranean water courses and later conquered by ice.

10°C at the Kitzsteinhorn Glacier Family fun in the snow all summer long





For travelers from the Middle East, Zell am See-Kaprun is the most popular summer holiday destination in Austria. One reason might be that there you can go swimming in the lake and have fun in the snow on a glacier on the

very same day. The swimming part is done in picturesque Lake Zell, which can also be discovered on a romantic boat excursion. The snow part is done at over 3,000 metres altitude at the Kitzsteinhorn Glacier, which offers a snow

experience all year round. It is easily accessible by a cable car. A fun park called "Ice Arena" offers entertainment for the whole family with snow slides, child-friendly lifts and a snow beach with deckchairs to relax in.

12°C at the Glaciers in the Ötz Valley Snow experience all year round

Set against a backdrop of 250 mountain peaks that all climb above 3,000 metres, the Ötz Valley in the Tyrol offers some of the most

spectacular panoramic views in Austria. The most popular holiday destination in the valley is Sölden, which is host to two glaciers, the Rettenbach Glacier and Tiefenbach Glacier. They can be reached by car or bus over the 15 kilometre-long Panoramic Glacier Road, which is one of the highest and most spectacular mountain roads in the Eastern Alps. Once you get to the glaciers, you can experience some snow and ice in unforgettable surroundings and to take in the stunning views over the Alps.







15°C in Kitzbühel In a ballon high above the ground

village The picturesque of Kitzbühel is famous for its mundane lifestyle and the breathtaking panoramic views of its mountains. The best view to marvel at them is actually from high above, so why not go on a balloon flight over Kitzbühel and the Alps? For a period of 90 minutes you would be able to look down at all the attractions that made Kitzbühel so popular with visitors from all over the world: the Hahnenkamm mountain, where the Alps' most famous Alpine ski race is held every year; idyllic Lake Schwarzsee; or one of the many mountain huts that offer hearty Alpine cuisine.

16°C at the Waterfalls of Krimml Europe's highest waterfalls

The Waterfalls of Krimml are located in Salzburg province and can be reached in just 30 minutes' drive from Zell am See. They are

the highest waterfalls in Europe and the fifth highest in the world; the water crashes down more than 380 metres and cascades over three terraces on its journey down the mountain. It is scientifically proven that being close to the waterfalls will have a positive effect health. The on one's concentration of negative air ions in the cool and misty ambient air is known to stimulate the immune system. There is also a hiking trail close to the waterfalls that makes

it possible to reach the very top of it and enjoy stunning views from up there.

17°C in Innsbruck At the Alpine lounge in 2,000 metres altitude

Innsbruck, the capital of the Tyrol, is famous for its location in the heart of the Alps. It is the only place in the world where you can be shopping in an historic medieval





city centre one moment and, just 20 minutes later, be in a mountain restaurant at 2,000 metres altitude. All you need to do is take the futuristic Nordketten cable cars designed by star architect Zaha Hadid. It takes you to the Alpine lounge, which is the perfect place to chill out with a leisurely afternoon and take in the breathtaking panoramic views of Innsbruck city with the Alps as a backdrop.

18°C in Seefeld With its wonderful unspoilt nature

The idyllic village of Seefeld in Tyrol is located on a high plateau at 1,200 metres above sea level.

At this altitude it can never get hot and visitors to Seefeld enjoy the mild climate and the fresh mountain air as well as the unspoilt nature: For example in the Karwendel Alpine Park, the largest nature reserve in the eastern Alps. The name Seefeld actually means "lake-field" and it comes with little surprise that there are many picturesque lakes to be discovered around the region. Seefeld can easily be reached as it is only 1 ½ hours from Munich.

19° in the Hotel Imperial Vienna's most elegant hotel

You will not lose your cool when





you stay in a place like the Hotel Imperial. The building was originally created 150 years ago as a palace for the Prince of Württemberg and was later turned into Vienna's finest hotel. It has been host to international guests such as His Royal Highness Queen Elisabeth II from England, HRH King Abdul Aziz Al Saud and

HRH Abdulla II with his wife Queen Rania as well as Charlie Chaplin, Michael Jackson or Claudia Schiffer. The Hotel Imperial in Vienna is one of the few hotels in the world and the only hotel in Austria offering a personal butler service. For guests in Imperial double rooms and all suites, the personal valet is always at the





disposition of the traveller at no extra charge.

20°C in the Swarovski Crystal Worlds A playful journey through the world of crystals

The Swarovski Crystal Worlds is located in the hometown of Swarovski crystals, a quiet Austrian village close to Innsbruck, Munich and Salzburg. It was conceived as a place where crystal would merge with art and hosts a series of breathtaking "chambers"

of wonders". These chambers were created by artists around the world and take the visitors on a playful journey through the world of crystal. The experience can be rounded off by a visit to the world's biggest Swarovski store. The Swarovski Crystal Worlds can be reached by a shuttle bus from Innsbruck city centre.

21°C at the Hellbrunn Palace in Salzburg A'refreshing' rendez-vous with history

This palace in Salzburg City and its extensive park were built 400 years ago by Archbishop Markus Sitticus, who proved to be quite prankster. He had the fountains and hidden water jets installed all around Hellbrunn Palace and at the push of a button water sprays out of almost every nook and corner. The funny Archbishop enjoyed surprising his honored guests with these water games already 400 years ago. Nowadays, visitors will get the same experience and the chance to a very refreshing encounter with history. But you will have to take good care to make it around this palace without getting a good soaking.

22° in the Prater Park in Vienna Nearly twice as big as the Central Park

50% of Vienna's city area is occupied by parks, gardens and forests. The most famous and biggest park in Vienna is the Prater Park. It is nearly twice as big as the Central Park in New York, it is huge and right in the city center of Vienna. It consists of two parts:









one part with gardens, woods, little ponds and alleys for a relaxing stroll or a nice picnic. The other part is an amusement park for the whole family with rollercoasters, rides and restaurants. It also hosts Vienna's icon, the Giant Ferris Wheel. A ride on it offers you the most spectacular view over Vienna from almost 200 feet height.

23°C at the Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg

And the adjacent Hotel Salzburg Sheraton Salzburg's most famous palace is

Mirabell the Palace. known especially for its beautiful baroque gardens with its artistically shaped flower beds. The park is the perfect place for enjoying a cool break from sightseeing in the shade of its trees. Located practically in the Mirabell Gardens is the Hotel Salzburg Sheraton. Due to this unique location, its quests benefit from the cool and fresh air of the park and enjoy stunning views over it from out of their rooms. The spacious suites with numerous connecting rooms and the large choice of Arabic TV channels make the Sheraton Salzburg a favorite choice for guests from the GCC.

24°C on the Danube Island in Vienna

Home of the biggest open-air party event in Europe

The Danube Island is the number one spot for anyone in Vienna who wants to cool down on a warm summer day. The artificial island in the Danube river is 21 kilometres long and a manmade recreational paradise with plenty of beaches, 180 hectares of nature, and many bars, restaurants and cafés along the riverbanks. During summer, up

to 300,000 guests a day come to the Danube Island. Every year at the end of June it hosts the biggest open-air party event in Europe – the Danube Island Festival, which is free of charge and sees three million visitors hit the island in just three days.

27° water temperature in Lake Wörthersee Austria's most beautiful lake

Lake Wörthersee is nestled amidst mountains and hillsides and blessed with a mild and pleasant climate. The lake is 17 kilometres long with water temperatures of up to 27°C in summer. Lake





Wörthersee is located only 20 kilometres from Slovenia and 30 kilometres from Italy. In summer the lakeside villages are very popular with tourists and locals alike. They all offer plenty of water and outdoor activities during daytime and a lively, international nightlife after sunset.

2436°-C water temperature in the Gastein Valley
In Europe's most modern

recreation and water park

The Gastein Valley in Salzburg Province offers a unique combination of mountain tops and thermal spas. There, a staggering five million litres of warm mineral water bubble up each day from inside the mountains. In the spa world "Alpentherme", you can enjoy this thermal water at a holiday with your family in Europe's most modern recreation and water

park. It is located in the middle of the Alps amidst snow-covered mountain tops. Six adventure and health areas offer wellness pleasure and water fun for the whole family on a huge area of 350,000 square feet. The water temperature ranges from 24°C to 36°C, while the outside air is always mild and fresh due to the high altitude.

