

July 18, 2007

Dear Reader,

It is hot in Vienna and we are glad that our hometown offers so many parks and pools and the famous Danube Island where we can relax after a day in the office.

Here are interesting facts and news you may, or may not know:

Vienna is fully geared to pedal power with almost **900 kilometres of urban cycle paths**. A number of places in the city such as the vast (6,000,000sqm) Prater park, a former **imperial hunting ground** in the rambling Danube wetlands, are best explored by bike anyway. The main avenue (*Prater-Hauptalle*), stretching over five kilometres, is populated at almost all hours by **cyclists, inline skaters and joggers**. Lainz Game Preserve, a park on the western outskirts of the city, is also a great place to run, one of the routes taking in 310 metres of uphill and 13.4 kilometres through shadowy woodland to the Hermesvilla, the imperial hunting lodge. Equally appealing are the **palace grounds at Schönbrunn** where jogging between the Gloriette and former imperial summer residence is quite likely to follow a similar route to that taken by Empress Sisi on her keep-fit activities.

**Schönbrunn pool**, also in the grounds of Schönbrunn Palace, is a haven of wellness that was completely renovated only a couple of years ago. In addition to a fine open-air 50-metre pool, it also has a fitness area for the numerous joggers who go running at the park. Its location is steeped in history. Legend has it that a fountain reservoir on the site was where **Emperor Franz Joseph I**, born at Schönbrunn Palace in 1830, **learned to swim** at the age of eight.

Locations such as Türkenschanzpark, Stadtpark and the promenade of the Danube Canal are ideal for short jogs. Yet the "fastest" routes for all levels of proficiency are the Prater and **Danube Island**, while the flat gravel and sand trails in the Lobau section of Donau-Auen National Park are great for a more extended and leisurely run. And the footpaths in the **Vienna Woods** offer ramblers some interesting climbs.

**> VIENNA:  
Cycling in the  
historic centre,  
jogging in the  
park**



**"Prince Caspian"**, the **sequel to the successful "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"** and this year's **biggest project by Walt Disney** and Walden Media studios, is currently being **shot in Slovenia**. Providing the scenery for one of the film's most dramatic scenes is the **beauty of the Soca river in the Julian Alps**.

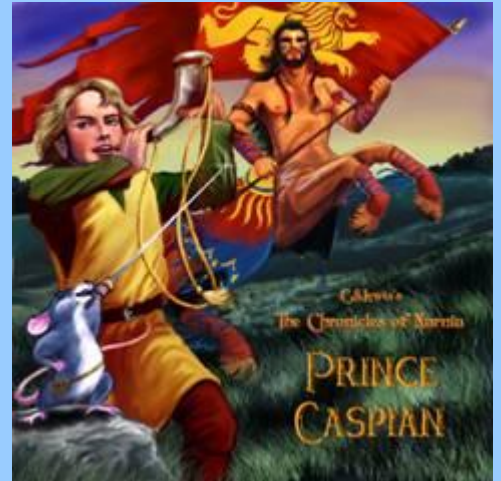
Director Andrew Adamson and his crew are shooting a scene from the ending of the film, with horsemen and soldiers running over a wooden bridge. The 1,100-member crew participating in the shooting of the second part of "The Chronicles of Narnia" arrived at the scene near the western Slovenian town of Bovec at the beginning of last week.

The area around the location is well protected in order to preserve the magic of the story and surprise the viewers, the producer explained.

Johnson and Adamson, both Oscar-winning filmmakers, are **delighted by the warm welcome of the locals and the beauty of the surroundings**, which according to the director resemble those of New Zealand.

After the shoot, **the location with the remains of the film bridge and other props could be turned into Narnia park**, a possibility being discussed with the crew, Bovec Mayor Danijel Krivec.

> **Slovenia:**  
**Soca Valley**  
**Hosts "Prince Caspian" Crew**



After years of controversy over the site of the **Palast der Republik**, the former parliament of communist East Germany, the federal government has announced **plans to rebuild a Hohenzollern-era Prussian palace there by 2013**. Dubbed the "Humboldt-Forum", the new palace will recreate the original 18th-century "Berliner Schloss", which was severely damaged in the second world war and torn down in the 1950s. The **new palace will have the same dimensions and façade as the original**, but may not have the same central dome, owing to budget constraints. Construction is expected to start in three years, at an estimated cost of **480 million Euros**.

Demolition of the steel-and-glass Palast began about a year ago, to the dismay of many artists and intellectuals, who viewed it as an historic icon and wanted it to be restored as a cultural centre. The controversy took place against a wider debate about whether destroying part of Germany's recent history and replacing it with a recreation of a previous era was appropriate.

> **Berlin: A new people's palace**





**AUSTRIA** (Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck)  
**CZECH REPUBLIC** (Prague)  
**HUNGARY** (Budapest)  
**SLOVENIA** (Ljubljana)  
**CROATIA** (Zagreb, Dubrovnik, Split)  
**GERMANY** (Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich)

**> CROATIA:  
58<sup>th</sup> Dubrovnik  
Summer Festival**

The **Dubrovnik Summer Festival** is the **largest and most distinguished cultural event in Croatia**: an **international musical, theatre and dance festival** in a city with centuries of heritage.

During the Summer Festival approximately **fifty theatre, ballet, opera and musical performances** as well as **book presentations, exhibitions, poetry recitals, off theatre plays** and other events are held on unique open-air stages and in closed venues in the **Renaissance and Baroque town of Dubrovnik**.

The program of the 58th Dubrovnik Summer Festival includes more than fifty performances by **artists from twenty countries**. Two premieres have also been announced: Arkulin by Marin Držić and A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare.

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival was founded in 1950 and has been a member of the European Festivals Association (EFA) since 1956.



I am looking forward to receiving your requests in the near future.

Kind regards,

*Birgit Kraus*

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