



# Nasushiobara & Linz

## School exchange

### Shiobara Elementary and Junior High School

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### Markus Salcher

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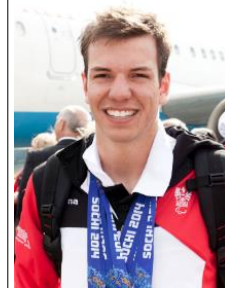
Born: 1 June 1991 (age 33)

Birthplace: Austria (Carinthia)

Sport: Alpine skiing

Medals:

- 2014 Sochi Paralympics Gold
- 2022 Beijing Paralympics Silver
- 2023 World Championship Gold



On 31 May, students from Shiobara Elementary and Junior High School had an online exchange in English with para-alpine skier Markus Salcher! Salcher was born with right-sided paralysis and has several won gold medals representing Austria at various World Championships and Winter Paralympics.

This was the first time that Salcher had interacted with Nasushiobara. The students introduced Shiobara Onsen (hot springs) and their school, and Salcher answered many questions that they had prepared such as “What is skiing for you?” or “What do you do when you hit a wall?”.

Salcher said that he wanted the students to remember his advice: “When you set a high goal for yourself, keep in mind to set many small goals on the way to achieving your final goal so you can get closer step by step”. He also noted if he has a chance to come to Japan, he would like to visit Nasushiobara once!



To the two students who did the MC in English did a very good job!

The school exchange was broadcasted on Jap. TV!



### Nishinasuno Kids House × Kreuzschwestern Kindergarten

In May, the Nishinasuno Kids House received a photo album from the Kreuzschwestern Kindergarten in Linz. The children were very curious and looked through the album together. The photos showed how kids in Austria celebrate the Austrian carnival (Fasching). For this occasion, they did a sleepover at the kindergarten, and all the children were wearing costumes disguising themselves, playing games and eating colorful desserts. Now, it is our turn to show the Austrian kids how the Japanese kids spend their time at Nishinasuno Kids House!





# Nasushiobara & Linz

## Cultural Lectures and Activities with CIR Yukari

### Austrian culture lecture at Nasu-Takuyo High School



On 17 May, I held an Austrian culture lecture at Nasu-Takuyo High School! The participating students were second- and third-year students of the Food Culture Class who are going to create their own recipes based on Austrian and Japanese cuisine as part of a school project. As I tried to make the most out of the time, my lecture was packed with lots of information, but I am glad we had a fun time together!

One of the most surprising points raised in the feedback responses was the difference between Austrian and

Japanese schools. I am happy I was able to tell the students that there are many different school systems and educational policies in the world. At the end, I was surprised with a bouquet of flowers, and it was the most delightful present because I love flowers so much 🌸 🌻 🌺 🌼 .

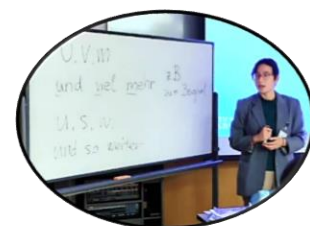


Furthermore, I was impressed by the students' written feedback essays I received a few days after the lecture, and I really enjoyed reading each student's opinion. Thank you so much!

### German class with Edelweiss

On 11 June, I was invited to one of the classes of the German language - learning group "Edelweiss", that study German together twice a month. Based on an article about bread in last year's Sister City Newsletter (No. 27, October 2023) this lecture's topic was food. We were talking about Austrian food and its culture while searching for pictures and videos on the Internet so everyone could imagine how Austrian dishes look like.

I read the German version of the Sister City Newsletter aloud and explained the differences in pronunciation and greetings between the German-speaking countries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Thanks to everyone's active participation in the class by asking questions and sharing personal stories, I had a great time with the members of the Edelweiss-group!



# Nasushiobara & Linz

## Sister City Exchange

### Enjoy the taste of Linz in Nasushiobara!

～“Linzer Augen” and “Linzer torte”～

Did you know that you can eat Linz’s famous specialties called “Linzer Augen” and “Linzer Torte” in Nasushiobara? That's right! Where? Right at the roadside station “Meiji no Mori Kuroiso”, which reopened in April, freshly and beautifully renovated. As a sweets lover, I had to try them right away!



Simply said, Linzer Augen are thin butter cookies with redcurrant, raspberry or apricot jam in between, but the three holes in the top cookie where you can see the sandwiched jam floating, are the main feature.

Meiji no Mori Kuroiso’s Linzer Augen are made of two thick cookies with a little spice added and raspberry jam in between. Each one is individually wrapped, making it the perfect little souvenir. Try this satisfying cookie to have a taste of Linz!

The Linzer torte, with its distinctive net pattern on top, is a cake made from a dough with ground almond mixed with cinnamon, and red currant jam in between.

The Meiji no Mori Kuroiso Linzer Torte substitutes raspberry jam for the red currant jam and comes with yogurt-flavored cream. The combination of refreshing cream and the taste of Austrian farmhouse cake was outstanding. Why not try a piece of Linzer torte and coffee at a table with a pretty view of the Aoki villa? I had a wonderful time enjoying the nostalgic flavors! 🍪 🍰



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## A beach bar in Linz?



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Summer, sea and sand beaches... Even Austrians who are proud of their mountains and lakes wish to enjoy the beach sometimes. So, the people of Linz said, “If we don’t have a beach, we should build one!”. Although Austria does not have a sea, it did not stop the people of Linz to make their idea become reality. The city decided to build a beach and a beach bar along the Danube by pouring

tons of sand next to the Brucknerhaus concert hall transported by trucks. Now drinks and food are served in kitchen cars there and plenty of events take place during the summer like life jazz performances or salsa nights. After school or work, people stop by, go barefoot in the sand and enjoy the “beach”. It is a huge success every summer!



# Nasushiobara & Linz



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## Tell us, Yukari!

When I was studying abroad at Osaka University from 2021 to 2022, there was hardly a weekend I did not go somewhere with my friends. I travelled around the Kinki region and Kyushu with my international friends, as well as to Hiroshima, Yamaguchi and Okinawa. We even climbed Mt. Fuji! Because we wanted to save as much money as possible while travelling, we spent many hours on overnight buses and local trains. I cannot tell you how many times we ate lunch at a convenience store. We went to see the cherry blossoms at so many places and cheered for the local soccer team Gamba Osaka at a derby match. But all that came with a price: I also had a lot of homework, papers and presentations to do, and I struggled to balance my university studies and travelling sometimes. However, I really had uncountable once-in-a-lifetime experiences, so it was worth the effort to cut down on sleep!

## Quiz

How long are the summer holidays in Austria?

A : 4-6 week

C : 8-10 weeks

B : 6-8 weeks

D : 10-12 weeks



[Documentation Movie of the "Expo Choir Exchange Pre-Event Austria – Japan" is now on YouTube!](#)



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Nasushiobara Linz Newsletter

Answer: C. Austrian schools have a nine-week summer holiday, although some states stagger their summer holidays by a week to avoid the travel rush. But, there is no homework during the holidays in Europe! The country with whopping 10-12 weeks (three months) summer holiday is Italy, but therefore students in Italy attend school for 13 years instead of 12 years until they graduate.