

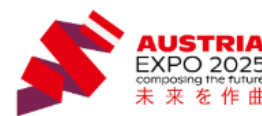


Nasushiobara & Linz



Road to Osaka Kansai Expo 2025:

Expo Pre-Event



Nasushiobara × Linz Joint Choir Performance

Road to Expo: The ongoing engagement of Nasushiobara City for exchange activities with Austria leads us to the Osaka Kansai Expo 2025! On July 27th and 28th, students of Nasushiobara and Linz will perform Japanese and Austrian songs together at the Expo.

The joint choir consists of 31 students: 10 from Adalbert-Stifter School in Linz, which has previously collaborated with us on several past projects, and 21 from various junior high schools in Nasushiobara, all of whom passed the audition for this Expo Chorus project. The students from both countries are eagerly rehearsing for their performances in July!



On March 2nd, we held a hybrid performance in Nasushiobara as a pre-concert for the Expo. Our partners from Linz joined us online, along with two VIP guests: Mr. Salm-Reifferscheidt and the Japanese Ambassador to Austria, Mr. Iwama. Unfortunately, due to an insufficient internet connection, the Austrian students were unable to perform live. However, we were able to play wonderful recordings of their performance, which had been sent to us in advance.

The feedback we received from our visitors was outstanding, with many expressing that the children's voices filled their hearts with joy and that they are looking forward to their performance at the Expo.



Nasushiobara & Linz

Austrian Pavilion

“Composing the Future”



OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN
EXPO2025



AUSTRIA
EXPO 2025
composing the future
未来を作曲

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT

The Osaka Kansai Expo is about to start on April 13th! Among the various participating countries, Austria will have its own pavilion – to be specific, a Type A pavilion!

...but what is a Type A pavilion?

In fact, there are four different types of pavilions: A, B, C, and X. The type of pavilion is determined by two factors: the builder and the user. For instance, Type A pavilions are designed, constructed, and used entirely by a single country, meaning its government covers all the associated costs.

Since Austria is renowned for its classical music, the Austrian Expo team decided to blend this feature with the theme of this year's Expo “Designing Future Society for Our Lives”, eventually coming up with the fitting title: “Composing the Future”.

Once you see the pavilion, one feature will immediately catch your eye right away: a massive wooden ribbon. This 12-meter-high spiral sculpture rising into the sky resembles a gigantic musical score welcoming guests into the pavilion. It was constructed in Austria, using regional wood, shipped to Japan (in pieces) and then assembled at the Expo venue.

Visitors will be presented a contemporary and up-to-date picture of Austria, showcasing its rich past and innovative future, while highlighting the country's diversity and creativity. You can also enjoy Austrian sweets in the pavilion! 🍪

And guess what! On July 27th, the students from Nasushiobara and Linz will perform at the Austrian Pavilion! They will not only showcase their performance at the pavilion but also at the Pop-up Stage North and the following day's LOCAL JAPAN exhibition, singing both Austrian and Japanese songs together. We can't wait for the students to deliver their amazing performance!



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Adalbert Stiftersgymnasium

Nasushiobara City

Nasushiobara & Linz



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Spring in Austria

Most Austrians would think of unsteady weather and Easter when asked what spring reminds them of the most. In contrast to Austria, April is a very special month for the Japanese as it symbolizes a new beginning. New school years, new terms at university, new jobs, and even the start of the fiscal year begin in April. On the other hand, in Austria, the start of the school year is in autumn, and starting a job can be at any time of the year.

Like many countries, Austria does daylight savings, meaning we set the clock one hour forward at the end of March. This results in the sun setting an hour later, allowing people to enjoy more daylight, which makes them feel like spring has finally arrived.



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Furthermore, Easter plays a big role in Austria and is considered as the main event of spring. Unlike Christmas, the date for Easter changes every year. According to tradition, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring.

Symbolizing rebirth and new life, the egg is an important item for Easter. Similarly, the Easter bunny representing fertility and new life is central to the celebration. People celebrate

Easter by decorating boiled or hollow eggs and doing Easter egg hunts with kids.



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Additionally, when having an Easter brunch with your family or friends, colored eggs and tulip flowers are a must! The culture of celebrating Easter is deeply rooted in Austrians' daily life so most children in Austria have experienced those traditions.

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Tell us, Yukari!

Austrian Traditional Clothing

Austrian traditional clothing, known as “Tracht” can be broadly divided into two categories: the “Dirndl” (a dress worn by women) and the “Lederhose” (leather shorts worn by men). Each has its own patterns, colors, and variations, with



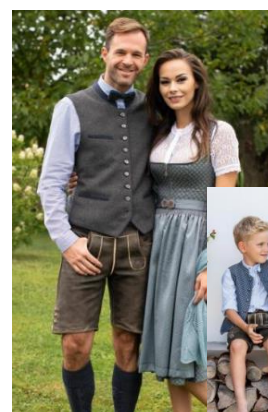
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significant meaning and history, much like Japan’s kimono. The price of these garments varies greatly depending on the material, pattern, and dyeing method, ranging from more casual versions suitable for parties to formal ones made of silk or featuring embroidery for ceremonies and balls.



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The Dirndl is made up of three parts: a blouse, a dress, and an apron. On the other hand, men wear an elegant blouse and a jacket on top, paired with the leather shorts and knee-length socks.



©Trachtenmode
Hiebaum



Quiz

The Austrian traditional dress worn by women, the Dirndl, consists of a blouse, a dress, and an apron. In the past, the position of the apron knot had a specific meaning. What did it signify?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| A : Occupation | C : Marital status |
| B : The four seasons | D : Social rank |



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Answer: C. If the knot is on the left side when viewed from the front, it means the woman is unmarried. If it's on the right, she is unmarried. A knot at the back indicates a widow or a waitress, while a knot in the center means the woman is not yet of marrying age. (Children often tie a ribbon in the center.) In the past, men would look at the position of a woman's apron knot to decide whether to approach her romantically. However, today, this tradition is rarely observed, although those in relationships often tie the ribbon on the left side when viewed from the front.