

Hallo! My name is Ester and I'm a 22 Italian girl. This summer I've been 3 weeks in Austria thanks to Syle, the youth Servas Program.



I spent the first week with Michaela, a very nice lady who lives in Vienna. We did a lot of interesting activities together: we rode bikes in Donau Island, we visited the ancient castle of Aggstein with her grandchildren and we had dinner in a typical winery in Lower Austria. I enjoyed Michaela's company and her huge energy for everything!



Michaela also took me to visit Dürstein and I appreciate the harmonious union between the nature and this little human town. In Vienna I also visited the beautiful Schönbrunn and its huge garden and the famous Belvedere Palace. One of the things I liked most of Vienna is its numerous green areas, I didn't expect it and this was a very nice surprise!

I liked a lot living one week in Vienna with Michaela. She is a very kind and generous woman, and she tells me a lot of interesting things about Austrian culture. The first day she made me visit the big Vienna's cemetery and it was also very nice to discover that there are buried people from different religions. Michaela has been always a super energetic woman especially when we rode 42 kilometres along the Danube. At the end of the ride she was fresher than me, I wish I could be like that at her age honestly!

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During my week in Vienna I also met Heidi, one of the Servas coordinators in Vienna. She spent some time with me showing me characteristics spots of the city like the rooftop of the 25 Hotel and the paths inside Schönbrunn garden. It was really nice to meet her and spend 2 nice afternoons with her! Thanks to her I could get this wonderful experience in Austria!



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After Vienna, I took the train to Linz. At the station I met Gerlinde, her husband Franz and her daughter Magdalena. I was really happy to meet my second Austrian host family and it was really nice of them to wait for me at the station of Linz!

We went to their village, Hellmonsöd. I was really lucky to be hosted in such a little village with so many forests and fresh air, but I was even more lucky to be hosted by Gerlinde's family! I enjoyed really a lot their company and the activities we've done together!

We spent 2 days in a "Haus Müller", a typical Austrian mill. We cooked together, we did some board games together and we did some walks in the wood. A nice moment in the "Haus Müller" was making the fire in the evening and sitting around it, singing all together.



Then we spent 3 days in Gmunden hosted by Gerlinde's "Tante". The weather was nice, and we enjoyed swimming in the lake, having long walks along the river and eating fish. Gmunden is one of the most beautiful places I've ever visited and I'm thankful to Gerlinde for having brought me there!



One day we met the other daughter with her 2 children. The children were fun and sweet and creative! We did some walks in the wood, we visited Linz and some little town in its surroundings. I liked a lot the botanical garden and I enjoyed cooking with Gerlinde!



I really enjoy this time in Austria! Style is such a good opportunity for the young Servas and I feel lucky for this opportunity. I enjoyed visiting Austria, but even more I enjoyed spending my time with my really kind Servas host! Thank you again for your hosting me and we wait for you and your families in Italy!