

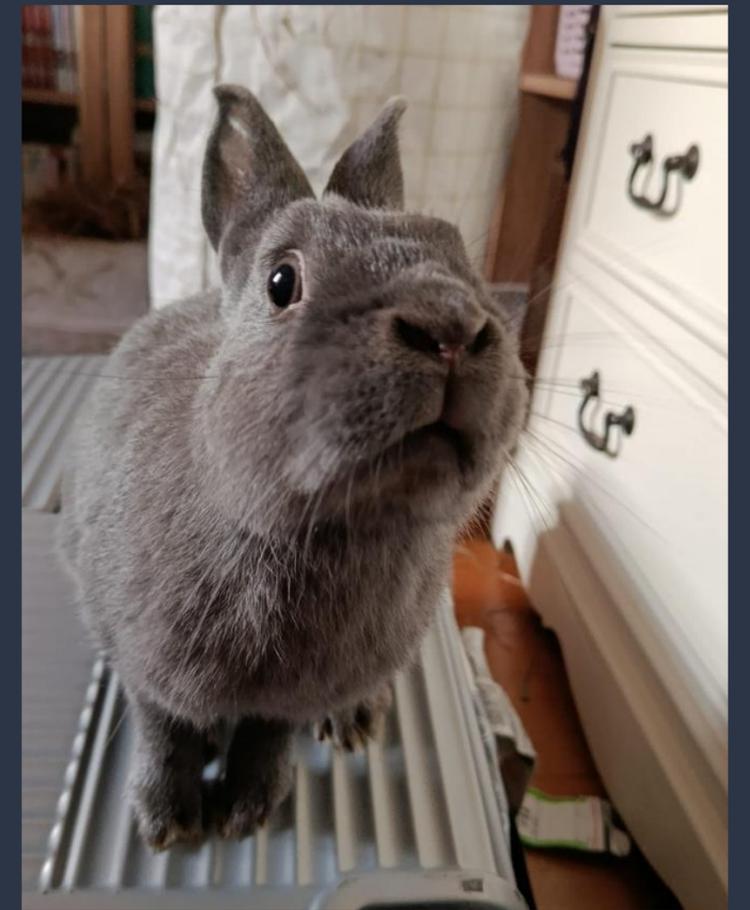
An aerial view of a city street in Austria, likely Vienna, showing a tram on tracks, red-tiled roofs, and a large building with a dome in the background. The text 'MY Exchange in AUSTRIA' is overlaid on the image.

MY
Exchange in
AUSTRIA

From France to Austria: A European Exchange!

I packed my things to take a plane to Austria with my Slovenian correspondent, Julija, on September 20th, 2025. We had spent a week together in France, and I got to know her well, it was the beginning of a European friendship! I was really looking forward to discovering this part of the world. In fact, it was my first time taking a plane without my parents or any adult, so it was quite an experience! We had to make a stopover in Frankfurt, and we almost missed our connecting flight to Graz...

The other exchange partner and I also had some problems with our flight back to France, on October 4th. the flight was cancelled. We had to ask for another flight, which was really stressful. However, I experienced difficulties in a foreign country and had to speak English in a stressful situation, so it helped me improve my language skills. I had to face the situation and became stronger because of it.



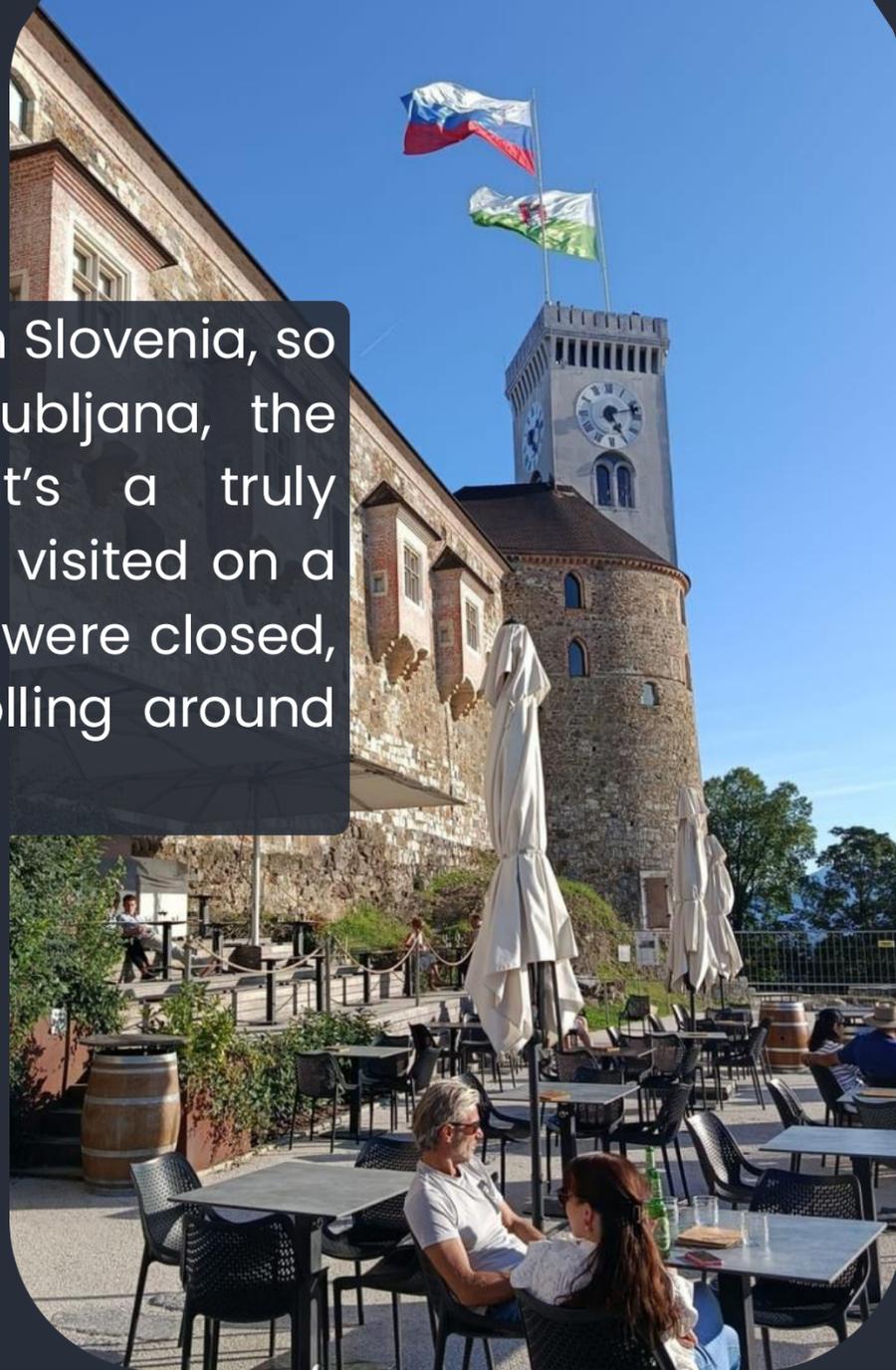
my host family

I stayed with a really nice family, Julija's family. They are Slovenian and live in Slovenia near the Austrian border, so Julija goes to school in Austria, in Leibnitz, just like I do. It was really interesting to experience this "double culture" family. Even though they are 100% Slovenian, they speak several languages. For example, Julija's little brother, who is only eight years old, is already fluent in English, almost in German, and of course in Slovenian, which is his mother tongue. Julija speaks French, German, Slovenian, and English very well, and so do her parents. Together, we took part in the grape harvest, which was really fun. I got to taste Slovenian wine and ate the most delicious grapes I have ever had! I'm really grateful to have met them, and I'm sure I'll come back again, and I hope they will come visit me as well!





My correspondent lives in Slovenia, so my first visit was to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia! It's a truly wonderful city. Sadly, we visited on a Sunday, so some places were closed, but I really enjoyed strolling around the city!



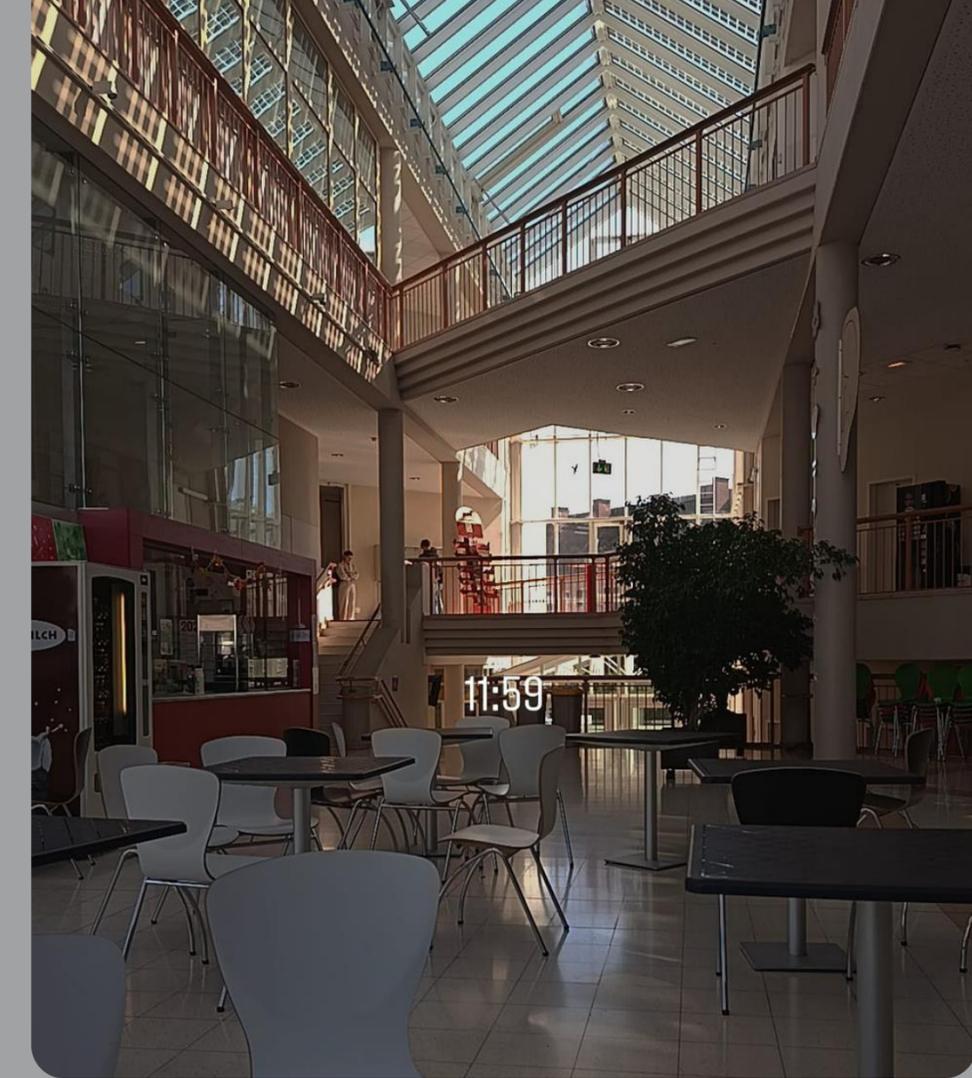
My favorite place in Ljubljana is definitely the castle, which overlooks the city. You can get a magnificent view from up there! Julija told me the story of the city, and its emblem is a dragon, seen as the protector of the city.



The Gymnasium:

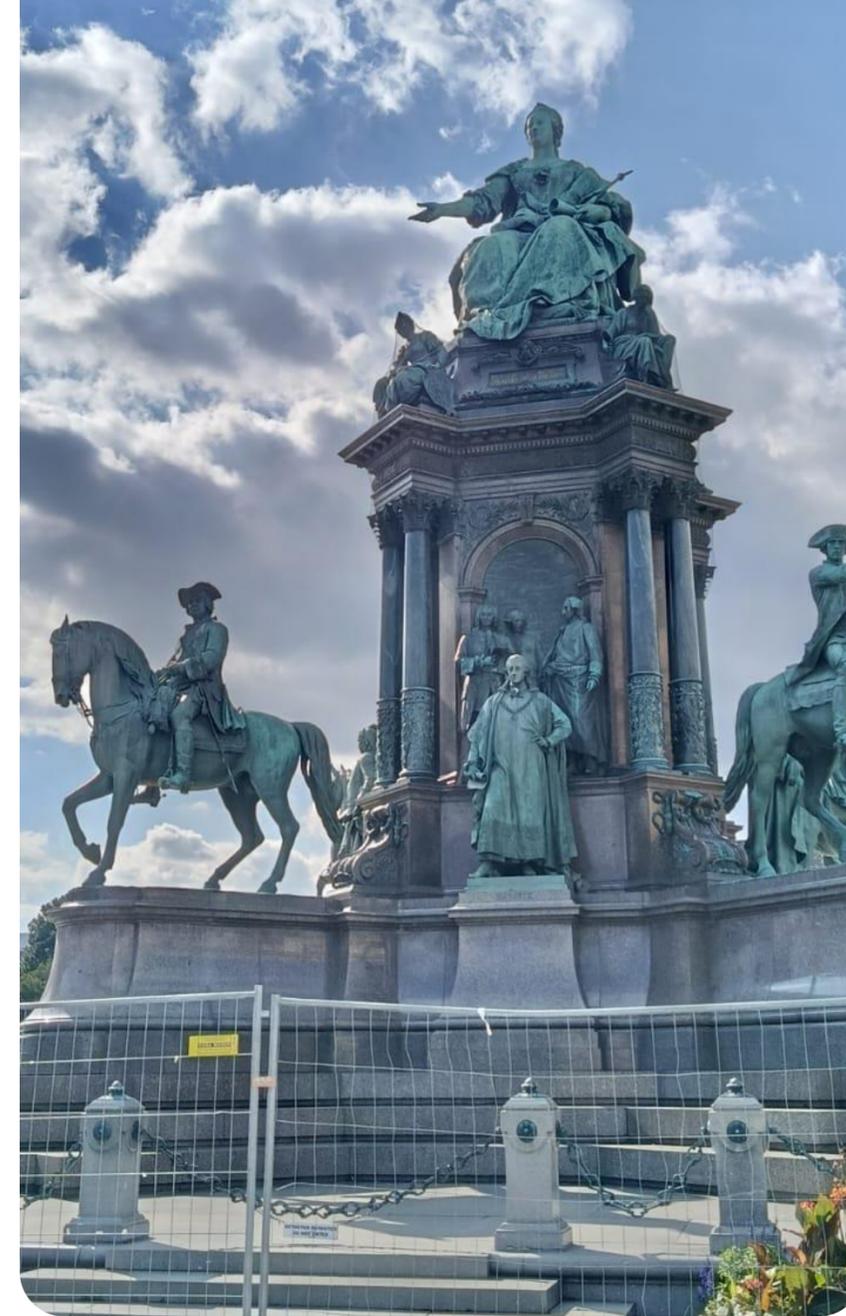
As mentioned earlier, Julija and I attended a school in Austria. School in Austria is really different from school in France. First of all, the schedule is different because they almost always finish school at 1 p.m, so most of the time they bring a kind of lunchbox to school so they don't get hungry.

They don't have as many breaks as we do, or theirs are much shorter they only have a 5min break between each class. But Julija's school was really great; all of the teachers were nice, even if sometimes it was a bit hard to follow in class because of the language. Even though I speak good German, in lessons the vocabulary is more specific to the subject, and I had to spend some time in the library to do my own homework from France.





We also visited Vienna, which is truly sublime. I loved this city. We visited St. Stephen's Cathedral and wandered around the city.



We also went to the Albertina Museum and saw some pieces of art, such as Dürer's famous hare! We even tried the famous Sachertorte. We wanted to go to the Sacher Café, but it was full, so we went to another café instead, which tasted really great too! I really liked the atmosphere in the city, and I'm sure I'll go back there someday.



To sum up, I feel like I grew stronger and gained a better understanding of the European mindset, especially the idea of community that connects people across countries and made new friends!

