
2014-15 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

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Austria's National Holiday

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2014-10-27 Austria's National Holiday



Two army veterans

Today was Austria's national holiday and a fun one at that. Earlier in the week, in our mandatory meeting about future events, Herr Herrmann told our group that Austria's national holiday was coming this Sunday. This holiday celebrates the neutrality in Austria in 1965 from the Act of 1955. There are lots of events going on. There are the open offices at parliament, an open showcase of the armed forces of Austria, and some of the museums in Vienna are free to the public. I decided that I should go and enjoy Austria's national holiday.

I decided to go to the natural history museum for fun. In order to get there quickly, I had to go through the Hofburg Palace. However, I was in for a surprise. It was at the Hofburg palace that the armed forces were giving their showcase. They had music playing about from Rocky's build up soundtrack to Pirates of the Caribbean. When a person thinks about it, those choices of music aren't a bad way of getting one's blood pumping. There were helicopters, trucks, and other equipment for different missions. It was exciting to look at what the Austrian army had from machines to styles of uniform. I asked for a photo with two army veterans who were very kind in allowing me to take a photo of them. My favorite part of the festival was the showing of the dogs they use to train for combat. For all the dog lovers out there, this is one place that you should visit if you have the need to get some puppy love. I petted a lot of the dogs and they were so sweet that I asked one of the trainers in German if I could take one home but he laughed and said no.

Then after that, I went to find my next museum. I looked for the Rome museum but couldn't seem to find it. Hint: when you decide to plan something, no matter how much you look over the map online, bring the map itself with you. I didn't find

the Rome museum, but I did find the clock museum. It does sound boring but it's a place for any gadget or gizmo lovers who dream of the idea of taking things apart and seeing how they tick. I was able to see that with some gears and rope, you would be able to make a clock. The tricky part is getting it to tell time. By then, it was getting late and I was tired from all the walking around that I did. Austria's national holiday turned out to be one of those fun days. I was able to meet nice people, see new things, and try freshly squeezed grape juice, straight out of the vineyards. Another hint, for anyone who isn't big on alcoholic drinks, that's okay because they have really good grape juice. That's all for now. Have a nice day.

Tschüss!
Jade Boyd