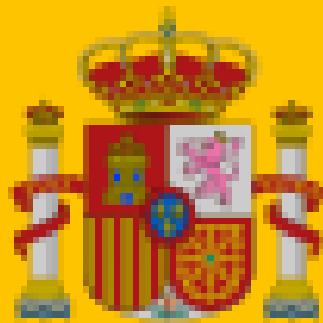


Eric's

Intercultural

Experiences

Austria



vs.

Spain



Eric in Graz

## Eric at home and in the city

When Eric first came to my house he really liked it. He also liked the fact that my family and I always eat breakfast and dinner at the same time and talk about our day. He never eats lunch at home but always in school, so it was also a new thing for him to eat lunch at home. He said that in my home there isn't so much difference then at his home in Spain but dinner time is later in Spain than in my family. Eric eats dinner every day at about nine o'clock. Monday to Friday we eat at about 9:00 pm, too but on weekends my family eats dinner between 19:00 pm and 20:00 pm.

For Eric it was also a new experience that there is much more free time in the afternoon. After I did my homework, we could for example go in the city and on the Schloßberg with friends and have fun while people in Spain stay in school until 16:00 pm.



## Eric in school

When I asked Eric when school starts in Spain he told me that it starts at 9.00 am and I was happy about that because when I come to Spain I can sleep longer, but he wasn't so happy when I told him that we have to get up at 6:30 am because school starts at 8.00 am.

At breakfast when Eric and I met for the first time in the morning I was dressed like every day for school. Jeans and a normal T-shirt. When I sat down he starred at me for like ten seconds and then said: "Where's your school uniform?" I explained that we can wear whatever we want for school and that we don't have something like a school uniform. He told me that every school in Spain he knows has school uniforms and that they wear them every day in school.



When I took Eric for the first time with me in school, he first wondered about our school building. Not about the design, what I had wondered about first, but about the size. He told me that in his school in Spain, the school building is much smaller and there are not so many students.

When I took out my phone to see what's the time he was kind of shocked and also told me, that they aren't even allowed to bring their cell phones to school. When I told him that we sometimes even are allowed to use them during class, he said that he would rather like to attend GIBS than his school because it's much cooler.

In the first break I took him to the yard and showed him the peacocks.

First he asked what kind of animal it is and then if they belong to the school. I told him that they actually belong to Schloss Eggenberg but they like to visit us during the day.

Also that school ends much earlier than in Spain made Eric happy. His school ends every day at 16:00 pm, the cool thing about that is that they never get homework, but they haven't this much free time at home. The only thing that Eric didn't like about leaving school so early was that we get homework and have to do things for school at home.





Eric in Spain

When I went to Spain I had a great time there. But I also realized some differences in Spain compared to Austria.

The first thing I realized was the food. The typical Spanish food there is totally different than the food in Austria. I would say it's better but maybe it's because I know Austrian food already. Were in Austria people like to eat Schnitzel, Spanish people eat for example Tortilla or bocadillos, which is very typical food there. The times when Spanish people eat are also different. Breakfast is a bit later than in Austria because children in Cataluna start school at ten to nine, so they don't have to get up that early. Most schools in Austria start at a quarter to eight or eight so, it depends on how long the kid's schoolway is, but children have to get up before eight o'clock, were kids in Spain get up at eight most of the time. Kids usually eat lunch in school at two o'clock and dinner at nine or ten in the evening.



Parents in Spain are much more considerate than in Austria. It's not that this is bad but you may want to compare it with grandparents. Parents in Austria, at least most of them, are considerate too but in Spain you can't go anywhere without telling your parents where you are and when you will come home and that's every time you go out. This can be really annoying after some time.

What's really cool in Spain is that kids start with school at the age of three. There isn't something like kindergarden. In Spain all grades are in one school. That's really kind of helpful for families with more than one child so they don't have to take their children to ten different places and all children get holidays at the same time. In Austria it's a bit complicated, because there is kindergarden for the kids starting with three, elementary school for the children at the age of six up to ten and then there is also upper school for

children starting at the age of ten or eleven.

In school I loved the fact that all children look the same, so I mean they all wear the same clothes because they have to wear school uniforms. The girls had green-red skirts and red t-shirts and for the boys there were black trousers with red t-shirts. Kids in Cataluna have school until 16:50 everyday. I think that's really long but because of that they actually never get homework, just sometimes in German or Maths.

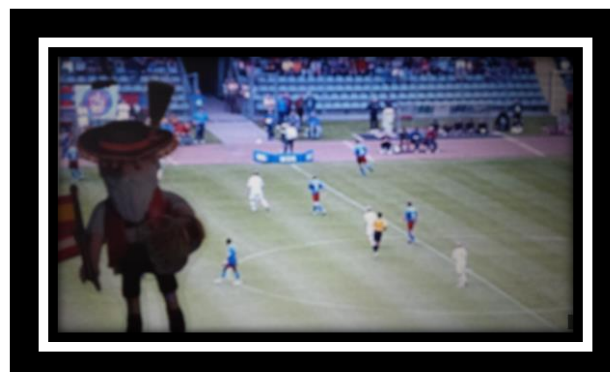
What Spanish people really love to eat are Bocadillos. These are sandwiches often filled with bacon or cheese and they taste so good. Everyday I went to school there I got one with me as a snack. Spanish students don't drink juice or water out of normal bottles but everyone there drinks out of those little paper bottles.



Lots of kids in Spain like to play tennis or football after school, at least three times a week in their free time. The other days they go directly after school to the city together with their friends and have fun there.

In Barcelona, there is also this big football stadium, the biggest one in Europe called the Camp Nou. I think because of this, there are so many football fans. They watch like every single game that's on TV or go to Camp Nou to watch it.

In Austria there are lots of football fans and also stadiums, but people watch the most Austrian football games at home on the TV.



are of course also fans and also stadiums, but people watch the home on the TV.