

August 2013

SUNDAY, 25 AUGUST 2013 16:39



Day 15. Today we had an early start and drove towards Trieste in Italy via the small roads passing Croatia and Slovenia. It was a really long drive (about 300mi) but we couldn't catch the highway till far past Hungary. Trieste is a really nice town, we only spent a few minutes there, had a bite to eat and saw the port. We then continued towards our overnight halt in Mestre, near Venice. The hotel (Casa Per Ferie Alle Lagune) is designed similar to that of student hall rooms, but is comfortable.

In the evening we took the bus to the island of Venice and took the water bus around the main island, visiting the sites. We then got off at San Marco to eat dinner and see the basilica and climbed the clock tower to see Venice from a height. It was nice to see it in the early evening when it was cool and there were less people. Come night time, it started to pour down with a lot of thunder and lightening. Dramatic!

MESTRE, VENETO, ITALY • 23° PARTLY CLOUDY

MONDAY, 26 AUGUST 2013 20:58



Day 16. We are now starting to realise how close we are to the end of our trip through Europe. Today we completed another long leg of our journey, driving from Italy to Switzerland. We booked to stay in a self catering chalet style house 1380m up and with amazing views of the Swiss alps (the best in my opinion). We are in a small village called Nendaz and the apartment is called Alpvision. The drive was the best driving experience I have ever had. The roads were amazing, especially the tunnels and the 360 degree views were just spectacular.

In the evening we went to a local restaurant where they served traditional fondue and raclette. I had a raclette, which was melted Gruyere cheese mixed with white wine and bread. The fondue was a small coal grill which cooked raw pieces of smoked beef. Both meals were exquisite.

NENDAZ, VALAIS, SWITZERLAND • 18° MOSTLY CLOUDY

TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2013 21:17



Day 17. Today was a really great day. We drove from Nendaz to Kandersteg, home to the International Scout Centre (KISC). I have been here a couple of times camping before but wanted to show my parents the lovely village and camp site with 360 alpine views. The drive was quite long and went through many mountain passes with windy roads and spectacular scenery filled with lakes, mountains, waterfalls, dams and much more. When we arrived we met up with my scout group who are camping at the centre and had drinks with them as well as visiting their tent site. We are staying in a really nice place in the heart of the village called Hotel zur Post.

KANDERSTEG, BERN, SWITZERLAND • 16° CLOUDY

WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2013 20:01



Day 18. Today we left picturesque Switzerland and drove to Mulhouse, France to see the Cite de L'Automobile museum. It is stocked with around 400 classic and modern cars from old Peugeots and Citroens to the new Bugatti Veyron SS. The collection was established by the Schlawmlp brothers who acquired these cars. It was worth visiting, especially as most of the collection were classic Bugatti's! Lovely design and engineering.

We then drove across the border back into Germany via the Rhine River to stay at our overnight place called Pension Williams in Seebach, Schwarzwald. The place is owned by a nice English couple and is in the heart of the Black Forest 400m high. In the evening we drove up 1080m through the forest to a lovely village called Mummelsee. It had a really nice black coloured lake at the top and a wonderful restaurant (Mummelsee Hotel) with great views. We can see why it is called the Black Forest! We tried the local cuisine including the world famous Black Forest gateau. Rich and delicious.

SEEBACH, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY • 16° CLEAR

THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2013 21:00



Day 19. Today was our last full day of our 3 week European trip. We drove to Luxembourg via Baden Baden and Trier. We stopped in Trier and had lunch also visiting the famous Porta Nigra (Black Gate). We then arrived in nearby Luxembourg, to stay with my cousin and his girlfriend in a small village called Larouchette. We dined at a nice place which served traditional Luxembourgish food like horse steak (Cheval). We can see just how small the country is, but with great links to the surrounding countries like Germany and France.

LAROCHETTE, LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG • 16° CLEAR

FRIDAY, 30 AUGUST 2013 19:35



Day 20. The return trip home. After a relaxed morning we visited the local shopping centre in Luxembourg to buy last minute gifts like local beer and wines and cheeses and hams. Because taxes are so low in the country compared to the UK it was wise to stock up! In the afternoon we drove towards Calais via Brussels and Lille to take the Eurotunnel home. Unfortunately it was the worst travelling experience we have ever endured. We arrived a couple of hours early but were stuck in traffic near the exit of the train terminal for at least three hours, we then edged along until we got to the main terminal where we, as well as hundreds of other passengers were escorted to an overflow car park, where we would wait another two hours till being let on to the train finally about seven hours later! This was all down to a power failure which happened that afternoon. Just our luck!

Anyway, we are now home and dry and starting to reminisce about all we did in the three weeks.

CALAIS, NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS, FRANCE • 18° MOSTLY CLOUDY
