

***Ed & Rob's
Great
European
Adventure -
July 6-15, 2007***

This trip came about the way the previous trips did: over many-a-pint-of-beer. Here are a few lines of communication we exchanged early in the process. Our interest in Dublin started – more-or-less with the idea to attend an Irish music festival:

“Yup, found it. It's too late in the summer, which sent me to a calendar with a bunch of regional "Fleadh" festivals. Just as cool, I think. Think about if you'd be serious enough to go there...or just play it easy and do something domestic.”

1/20/07

“Better open up a new folder, ah reckon! Oh, scuse me, I have a travel woody.”

4/22/07

“I've attached a Plan...where are we now? 'Z'. I got to looking at stuff on the internet, it's just a thought.” 4/22/07

I reserved the one on top, called “Hotel Restaurant Zum Felsenkeller, Sohren” for Sunday night there. 4/28/2007

Full firmy!!!!!! From: easyJet.com 4/30/07

“Kinda fun perusing this page with a cold one.” 5/1/07

“[Ten weeks] From today we leave. I’m going to spend the next week pretending it’s already here. Here we go: Just about packed up.....all old underwear and t shirts gonna throw away, 4 books, may have to get some more there somewhere. Looking forward to that first beer this afternoon at the airport. Wanna take one of the trucks, park in that remote thingy we did last time?” 5/4/07

“Enjoyed St. Pat's today. We're at the end of our first day.....we can always pick good pubs for the night of the first day, when it seems like the trip will never end. You sure played up a storm on the old organ.....gonna sleep like a baby at the hostel.”

“St. Pat's in Dublin is a nice cathedral. Here's the pitchur I took – must be Oak Wilt or something going on with those trees.”

At “The Boathouse” hostel in Prague for the evenings of July 10, 11, 12. Read some reviews on it. Think we’ll enjoy it. 5/6/07

Got up really early; been tinkerin’ with the “Passau to Praha” routes. Going to be fun.....3 transfers: Passau to Plattling, Plattling to Bayerisch/Eisenstein, Bayerisch/Eisenstein to Plzen, Plzen to Praha. Have to change trains at each one of those. Should be fun. Some connections are about 7 minutes or so.

And before you know it, here we are sipping our traditional first beer of the trip at the Austin airport July 6, 2007




Good thing we're flexible... couldn't get the Austin-Chicago engine started. Went to LA, then London Heathrow, then Dublin – only about 9 hours behind our original plan. Here we are in LA airport bar



Greater Dublin



A photograph taken from the interior of a double-decker bus, looking forward. The bus has blue seats and silver handrails. Several passengers are visible, including a woman with long brown hair in the foreground. Through the front window, another bus with the 'airlink' logo is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

After umpteen hours of flight, we landed about 3:15 p.m. and got on this double-decker at the airport for downtown Dublin

This lovely young lady stepped right into the picture of Ed climbing the stairs



**Street
musicians
in
downtown
Dublin**





07 07 07 - About 6:30 p.m. on O'Connell St. in downtown Dublin. We stopped at an internet café to let the wives know we made it there.





Heineken

MESS^{RS} MAGUIRE
MASTER BREWERS

encom The Murphy Shop

A large digital advertisement display for 'encom' featuring a man in a uniform. The display is part of a kiosk structure with 'encom' branding.



**Our first beer
on Irish soil –
O’Sullivan’s**



10

BEWLEY'S

10

GUINNESS

O'Sullivan's Bar

GUINNESS

GUINNESS

O'Sullivan's Bar

O'Sullivan's Bar

ds
Dublin School of English

ds
Dublin School of English

WESTMORELAND
1980



fonemenders

For sale
by pub...
UNDER OFFER
retail
investment
opportunity

Tel: 01 671 77

WINE
LOES
DANCE

NU
Essence
Beauty
16-183

NU
Essence
Beauty
16-183

LaVenue

RESTAURANT
TAILORING
ALTERATION
CENTRE
LADIES & GENT

AVEDA
WHETSTONE

GUESS

FURS BY
Sydney

50

**St. Stephen's
Green Park
(*Faiche
Stiabhna in
Irish*) where
public
hangings
used to take
place**



***Fusilier's
Arch seen
from
Grafton
Street***



**Beer & dinner
at CAPTAIN
AMERICA'S. An
Irish version of
Hard Rock
Café.**







Our first Guinness





Our abode for the night: Citi Hostel. Good sleepin, woke up to no hot water in the shower





Saying farewell to our hostel

Sunday, 08 July 2007



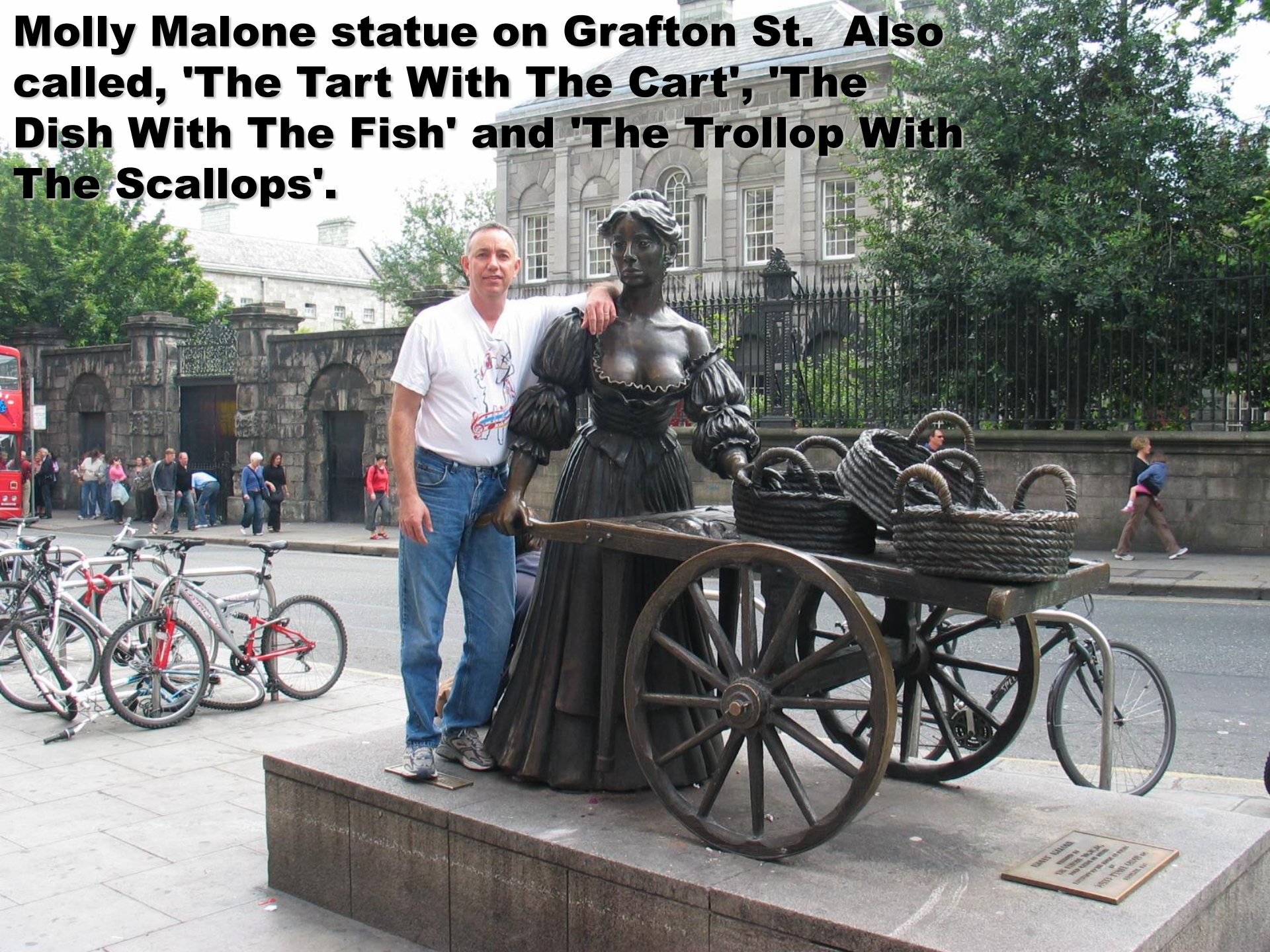


We grabbed some juice, coffee, and pastry and came back to Stephen Green to sit and eat before embarking on our foot tour of Dublin. It was a little cool to be in jeans & T-shirt but as long as we kept moving we didn't whine.

**Opposite
view of
previous pic**



Molly Malone statue on Grafton St. Also called, 'The Tart With The Cart', 'The Dish With The Fish' and 'The Trollop With The Scallops'.





Rob had a date to play the organ here, but missed it due to the change in travel plans. Nice place to visit. The choir sang Swiss composer Frank Martin's Mass.

Christ Church Cathedral

The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Founded c.1030.

Diocesan Cathedral of Dublin and Glendalough, Anglican - Episcopal

OPENING TIMES

The cathedral is open daily

09.00-18.00 Jun-Aug

09.45-17.00 or 18.00 Jan-May, Sept-Dec

CRYPT & TREASURY

These are open until 17.00

General visiting is restricted during service time.

SUNDAY SERVICES

11.00 Sung Eucharist

15.30 Choral Evensong

17.00 An Eocairist (4th Sunday)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Please see notices at the entrance



Just prior to services at Christ Church Cathedral. The choir was rehearsing. This was their last time to sing before the summer holiday. We stayed for part of their services.



We then walked about 15 minutes to St. Patrick's Cathedral but couldn't get in because services were going on.









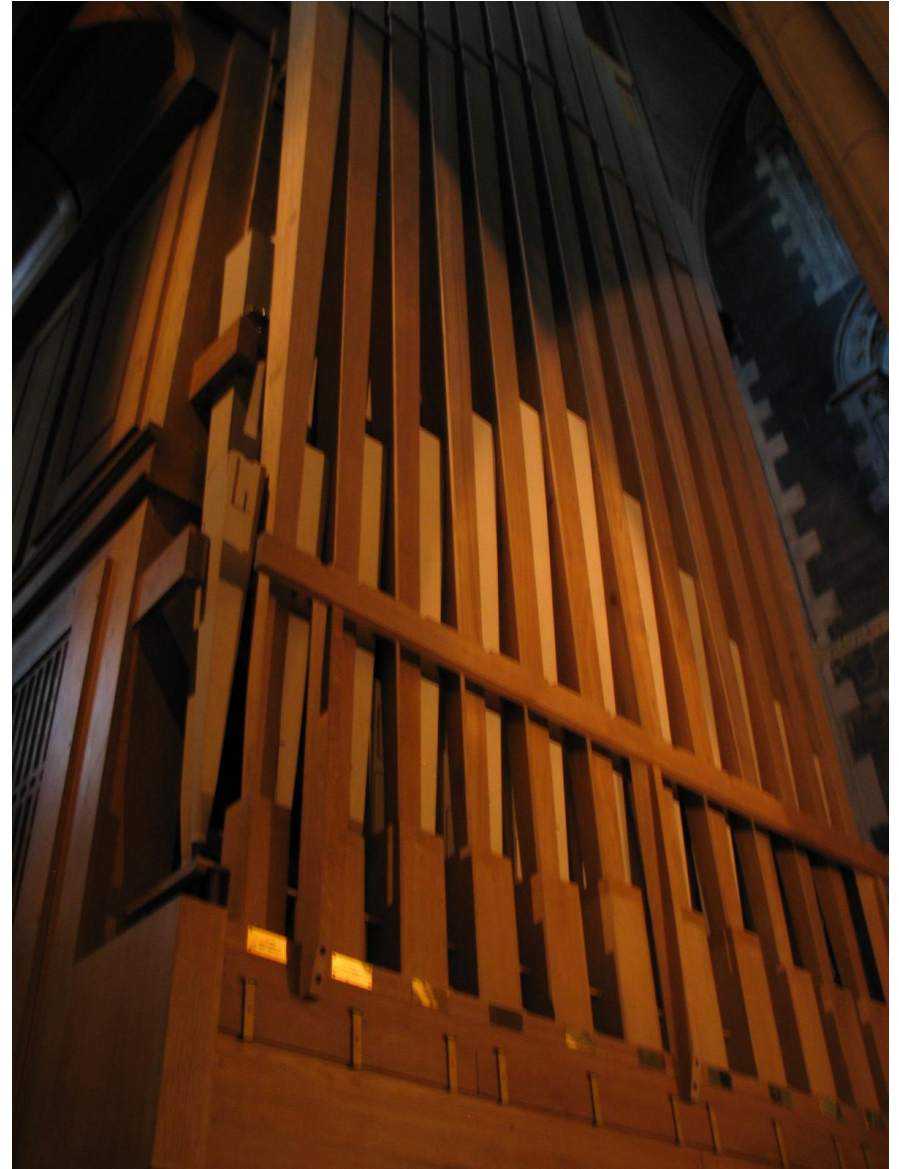
Stopped here for a light lunch

TOSCANA

Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria




Back to Christ Church to see/hear organ Rob missed playing





The older, retired organ in Christ Church Cathedral



Our next endeavor was to find the Irish Music Museum, after we went to the Viking Museum. We walked across the River Liffey many times while in Dublin





We found the street the Music Museum was suppose to be on, but apparently it moved or closed down. There was this street fair going on.



Comfort INN

THE GO...
D MARKET

Comfort INN

AMULET
BUS



We started drifting through back streets to catch the bus out to the airport when we stumbled upon...

1780

John Jameson & son
Whiskey Distillers
Since 1780

**The
Jameson
Whiskey
Distillery**



JAMESON

THE OLD JAMESON DISTILLERY. est. 1780

OPEN 7 DAYS
GUIDED TOURS
9.30am to 5.30pm

GIFT SHOP
RESTAURANT
TRADITIONAL BAR

JAMESON



The tour they offered might have been interesting, but time was short and wouldn't have allowed us to sample the product.

We each got a different 'flavor' of whiskey and relaxed in the lap of luxury before heading to the airport.





JJ's
BAR



JJ's
BAR





EXIT

BAR & CAFE

TELEPHONE

TOILETS

D STILL TAURANT

Dublin's Spire (locals call it the Spike) an architectural mystery.



**Power nap
before flight**



**The next thing you know we were boarding
Ryan Air to Frankfurt, Hahn airport in Germany**





Our bumpy flight from Dublin to Frankfurt, Hahn was about an hour, of course we lost an hour time zone-wise. It's obvious how their tickets are so cheap – they play commercials over their P.A. system.



Frankfurt Hahn Airport

g a t e 9



What happened in the next few hours have to be some of the most bizarre and unexpected events we've ever experienced on our trips – with the exception of Jennifer walking into our Paris hostel in 2000. We had reservations at *Zum Felsenkeller*, in Sohren, about 3 miles from the Hahn airport. The hotel shuttle service brought us here. We had one beer before their bar closed.

***Zum
Felsenkeller
in Sohren***



The people there told us about an Irish pub up the road about 500 meters. We obviously zigged when we should have zagged because after about 1,000 meters we were out of the village – no street lights, and the smell of freshly cut hay in the fields on both sides of the road. To top it off it began to rain a good shower. We turned around and found *Aydin Kebap-Haus*, a (pizza/k-bob place) still open on the left side of the street as we came back into town.

The movie playing on the TV here was "Saving Private Ryan," in German of course

The place was open and willing to serve drowned rats



Logo of DVV (Deutscher Wanderverband) and text: "Angebot des Deutschen Volkspartnersbundes e.V. im DVV", "Landesverband Rheinland", "15. Internationale „Schinderhannes“ Volkswanderung", "3. Kinder- und Jugendwandertag", "Sohren / Hunsrück".

Samstag 14. Juli 2007	Start und Ziel: Bürgerhalle Sohren Veranstalter: Wanderverein Schinderhannes Sohren 1981 e.V. www.dvv-wandern.de/sohren Wanderstrecken: 6 km / 10 km / 20 km	Sonntag 15. Juli 2007
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Samstag 6:00 – 14:00 Uhr für 6 und 10 km
6:00 – 13:00 Uhr für 20 km

Startzeiten: **Sonntag** 6:00 – 14:00 Uhr für 6 und 10 km
6:00 – 12:00 Uhr für 20 km

Samstag 17:00 Uhr **Zielschluss:** **Sonntag** 16:00 Uhr

An Start und Ziel Duschmöglichkeiten!
Busgruppen garantieren wir unseren Gegenbesuch!

Verantwortlich:
Annette Götter
Auf der Schicht 2
55487 Sohren
Tel.: 0160-3827587
E-Mail: AnnetteG@sohren.dvvh.de
Internet: www.dvv-wandern.de

Partner des DVV:
Förder und Helfer des DVV
WIRZELPETER



Sohren

Aydin Kebab-Haus

Hauptstrasse hotel

Way we should have gone

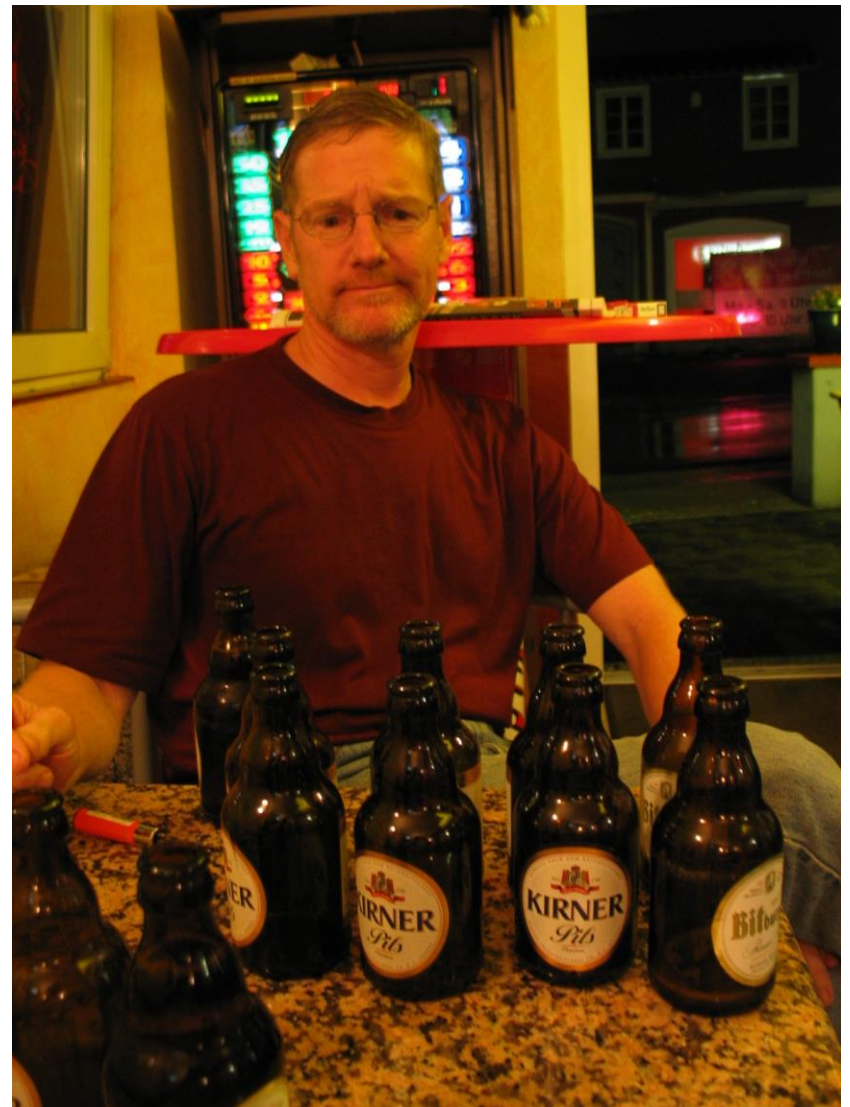
Road we walked down



These guys work here. They're natives of other countries: Croatia, Turkey, and maybe Russia



Ed walked up the street to the bank and tried their ATM. It worked. He was so elated he bought beer for us and these guys. We enjoyed our visit with them even though they didn't speak English!



We went back to the hotel about 12:30 a.m. Got out of our wet clothes and took hot showers. Was afraid we were going to catch colds or worse.



**Great
complimentary
breakfast**

**Monday, July 9,
2007**



**Shuttle ride back to
Frankfurt/Hahn to catch bus
for 1.5 hour ride into
Frankfurt Main**



Interesting poster at the Frankfurt train station

Translates: remain strong!

Stark bleiben!

Lassen Sie sich nicht von falschen Argumenten verführen: Kondome sind immer noch der beste Schutz vor HIV und anderen sexuell übertragbaren Krankheiten. Und das ist Grund genug, sich für Sex stark zu machen.

mach's mit[®]
www.gib-aids-keine-chance.de
Telefonberatung: 01802-222-444

GIB AIDS KEINE CHANCE

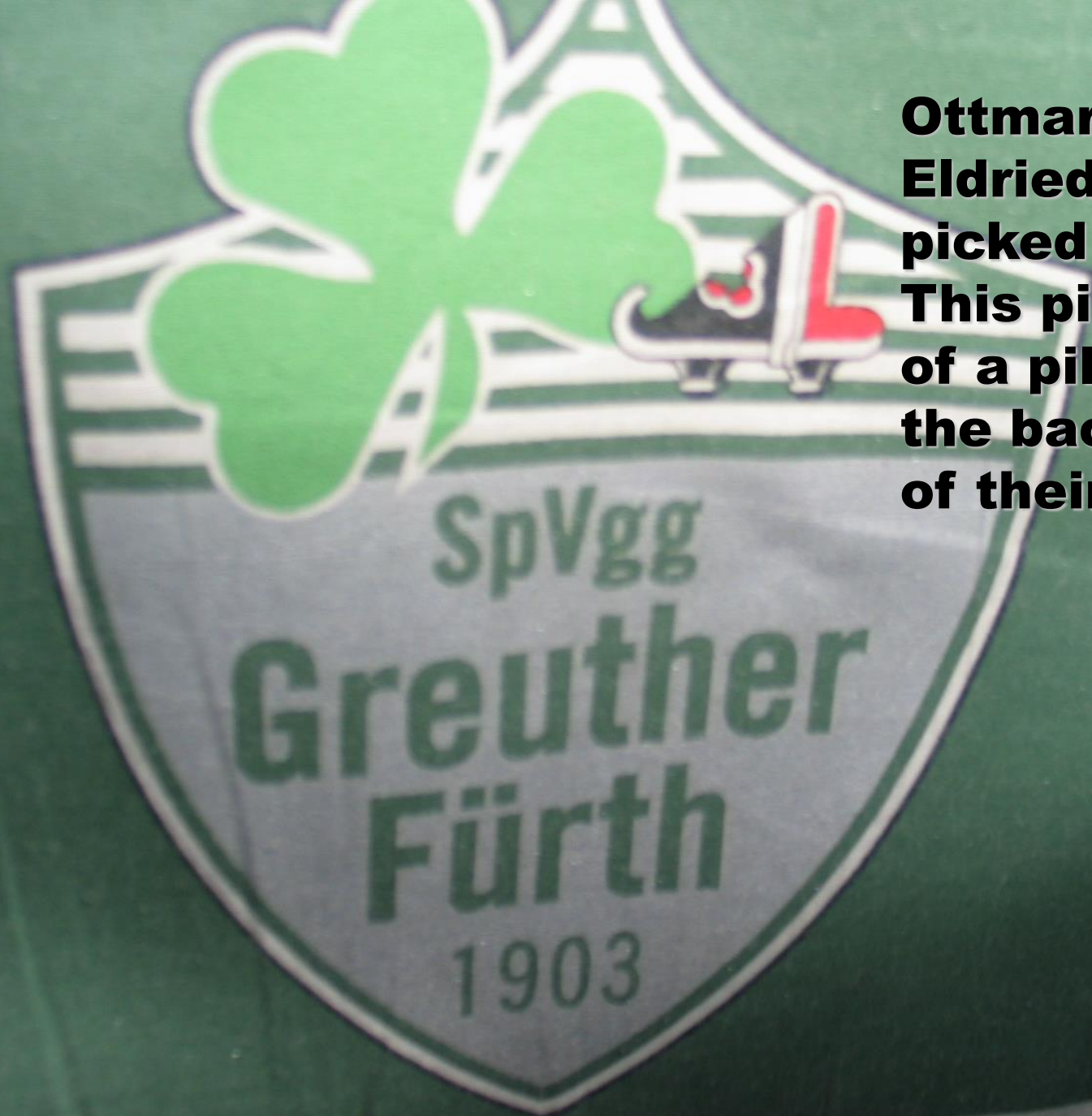
PKV, AOK, G



**Our train to
Nuremberg**



**The train
took us to
our next
destination
Nürnberg**



Ottmar & Eldrieda Then picked us up. This picture is of a pillow in the back seat of their car



**Eldest son
Wolfgang
started a
fire for the
evening
meal –
pork steak**



Wolfgang is a good host. Keeping our beer mugs full, the meat cooking, and interesting conversation.



Wolfgang says his motivation to learn English as a kid came from wanting to understand songs from American rock groups: Beatles, Rolling Stones, etc.



**Wolfgang's
sister-in-law
Helga –
Guenther's
wife**

**As in '05
Elfrieda
put on
quite a
spread for
us**



**Delicious
beer
appetizer**



**Wolfgang,
Elfriede, and
'tart without a
cart' grand-
daughter
Jenny.**



**Guenther
Then(Ottmar &
Elfriede's younger
son), wife Helga, and
16-year-old son
Florian**



**Ottmar
Then
family**



**“Young”
Guenther (our
age) had just
had open-heart
surgery a few
weeks earlier.**

Despite the language barrier – though Wolfgang and Jenny speak English – it was a great evening visit



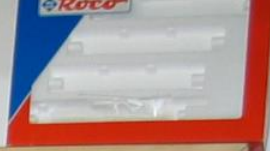


Florian's bike





**Guenther
and his
cab**



Atlanta
GEORGIA







**Elfriede's
'secret'
ingredient in
her kartoffel
salat (potato
salad) Maggi –
which is
actually just
soy sauce.**

**Now the wine
hour.
Wolfgang
offers toast**





**Ottmar talks with Frances,
Ed's step-mom in
Fredricksburg, TX**







Our shared-bed experience



**July 10, 2007 Breakfast
just as good and filling
as dinner the night
before**





Street view of Ottmar & Elfriede Then's home

**We exchange
our farewells
and hop the
train to Passau
– a scenic
route much of
which is along
the Danube
River**





The absolute epitome of train travel: backpacks and books. It don't get much better than that!

**Another
interesting
anti-AIDS
billboard**

Sicher querbeet!

**Altavista Babel Fish translation of this is
“surely transverse patch” whatever that
means**



**GIB AIDS
KEINE
CHANCE**

*Gerade bei wechselnden Partnern sind Kondome unverzichtbar.
Denn in Deutschland infizieren sich täglich immer noch sieben Menschen mit HIV. Deshalb gilt:
mit wem Sie es auch machen – greifen Sie zum schützenden Gummi!*

mach's mit

www.gib-aids-keine-chance.de
Telefonberatung: 01805-555444

Hersteller: ...
Kontakt: ...

Eine gemeinsame Aktion der Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung mit dem Fachverband Außenwerbung e.V. und dem Verband der privaten Krankenversicherung e.V.





Better one of Passau Cathedral



Passau Cathedral Organ



It was a cold day in Passau. We seriously considered buying coats. The noon organ recital was good. He ended with Franck's Chorale in a minor



And again





Biergarten where we had a deli sandwich and a beer in 05. Too cold to eat/drink outside today

**Great lunch. Damn
the cholesterol, full
speed ahead**



**Kartoffel &
kraut**

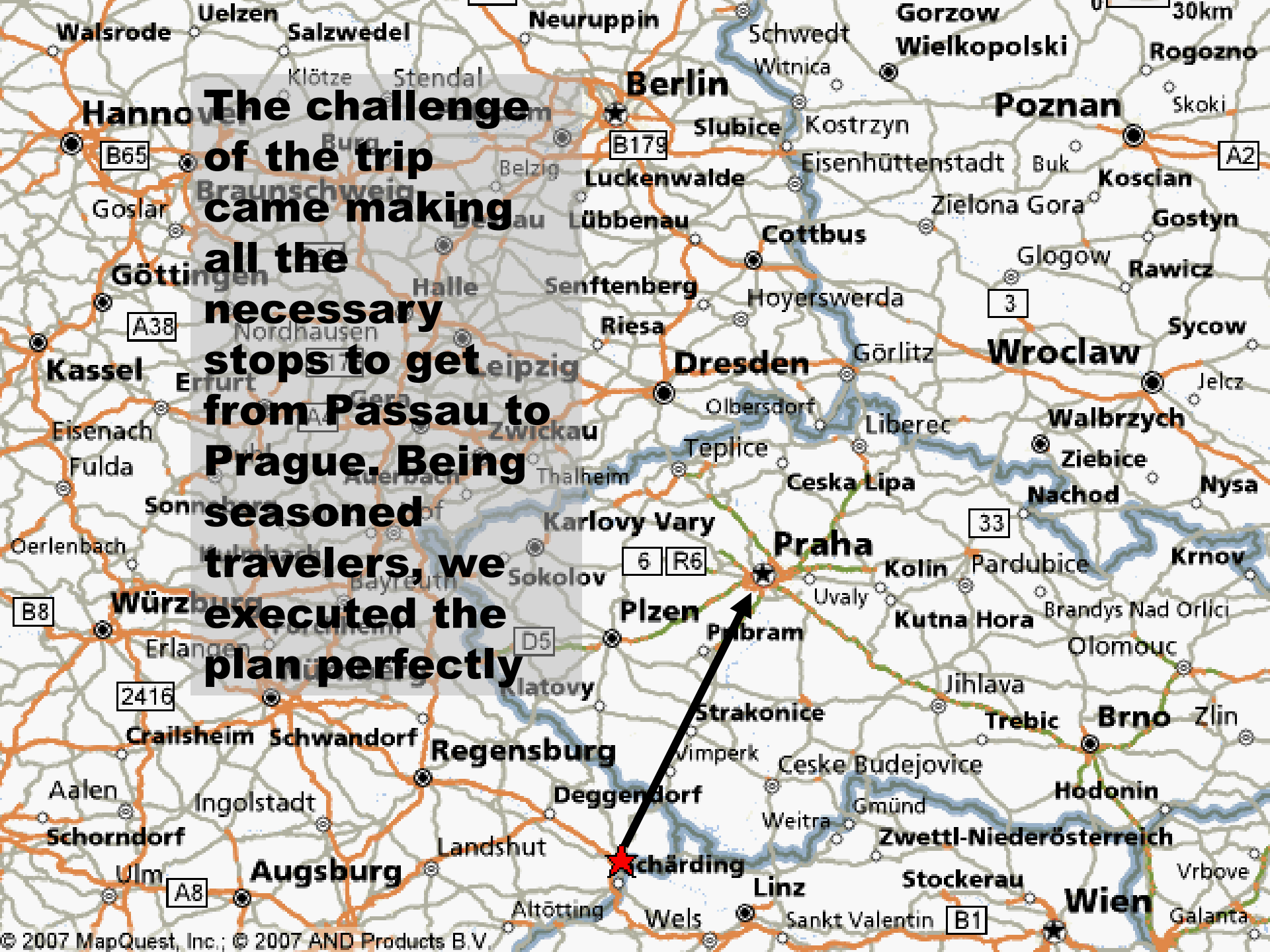
**Pomfrittes
(fries) & brat**



A photograph of a Woolworths store facade. The building features a large glass curtain wall that reflects the surrounding environment, including trees and other buildings. The Woolworths logo is prominently displayed in large, red, three-dimensional letters across the upper portion of the glass. The letters are mounted on a metal structure. In the foreground, the green leaves of a tree are visible on the left side. The overall scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the building.

WOOLWORTHS

**Interesting store in
downtown Passau**



**The challenge
of the trip
came making
all the
necessary
stops to get
from Passau to
Prague. Being
seasoned
travelers, we
executed the
plan perfectly**

One of several train transfers. Bayerisch Eisenstein



A man with grey hair, wearing a maroon jacket, blue jeans, white socks, and blue sneakers, is sitting on a train seat. He is holding an open book and looking down at it. A large black bag is resting on the seat next to him. The train is moving, as indicated by the blurred green trees outside the window. The interior of the train has yellow walls and brown seats with a striped pattern.

**Lots of good
reading time on
this ride**



The farther east we traveled, the more run-down the trains seemed to get



wald bahn
Bayerisch Eisenstein

STAAATSGRENZE





Hamry - Hojsova Stráž

**A middle-of-nowhere
Czech train stop**

Yet another

Dešenice

ŽELEZNÁ RŮDA - PLZEŇ



139-01
2152
11.11.11
Petř
ZMRJ



rovy

2. NASTUPIŠTĚ

3. NASTUPIŠTĚ





ČD
51 54 09-41 034-B
AB



Praha hlavní
nádraží

2.

nástupiště
Bahnsteig
platform



TENTO PROSTOR JE MONITOROVÁN PRŮMYSLOVOU TELEVZÍ
THIS AREA IS MONITORED BY A VIDEO CAMERA
DAS OBJEKT WIRD VIDEO - BEWACHT



vyšhod
Ausgang
xit



O₂



After getting off this train at 8:45 p.m. we got cash and proceeded using the underground and bus routes trying to find our hostel for the night: The Boathouse

It took about an hour and two beers to find this place after dark

The Boathouse





Here are two of the managers. The one on the left is Věra, the one on the right is Helena.

**At one point we
sat on the porch
and visited with
a guy from
Boston named
Rob who also
enjoyed beer**



View from the Boathouse





Wed. July 11, 2007

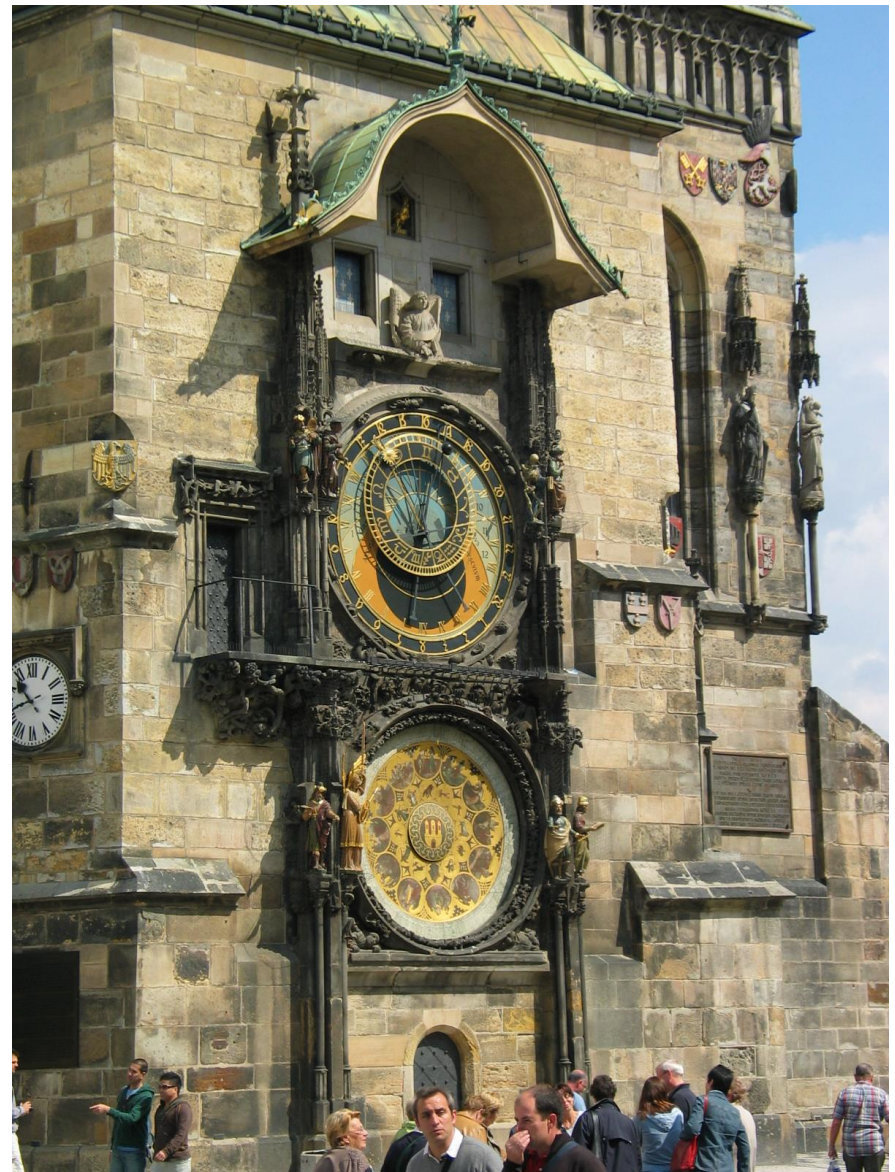


Found a brochure advertising a free, 3-hour walking tour of Prague. While we were waiting on the tour to start we met a young couple from Plano, TX.

Our babe-o-riffic tour guide







This is the mechanical clock and astronomical dial, parts of which date all the way back to 1410



**Jazz bands
performed
here later in
the afternoon**





**Neat Baroque
cathedral on
walking tour**







**Jewish
part of
Old Town
Prague**



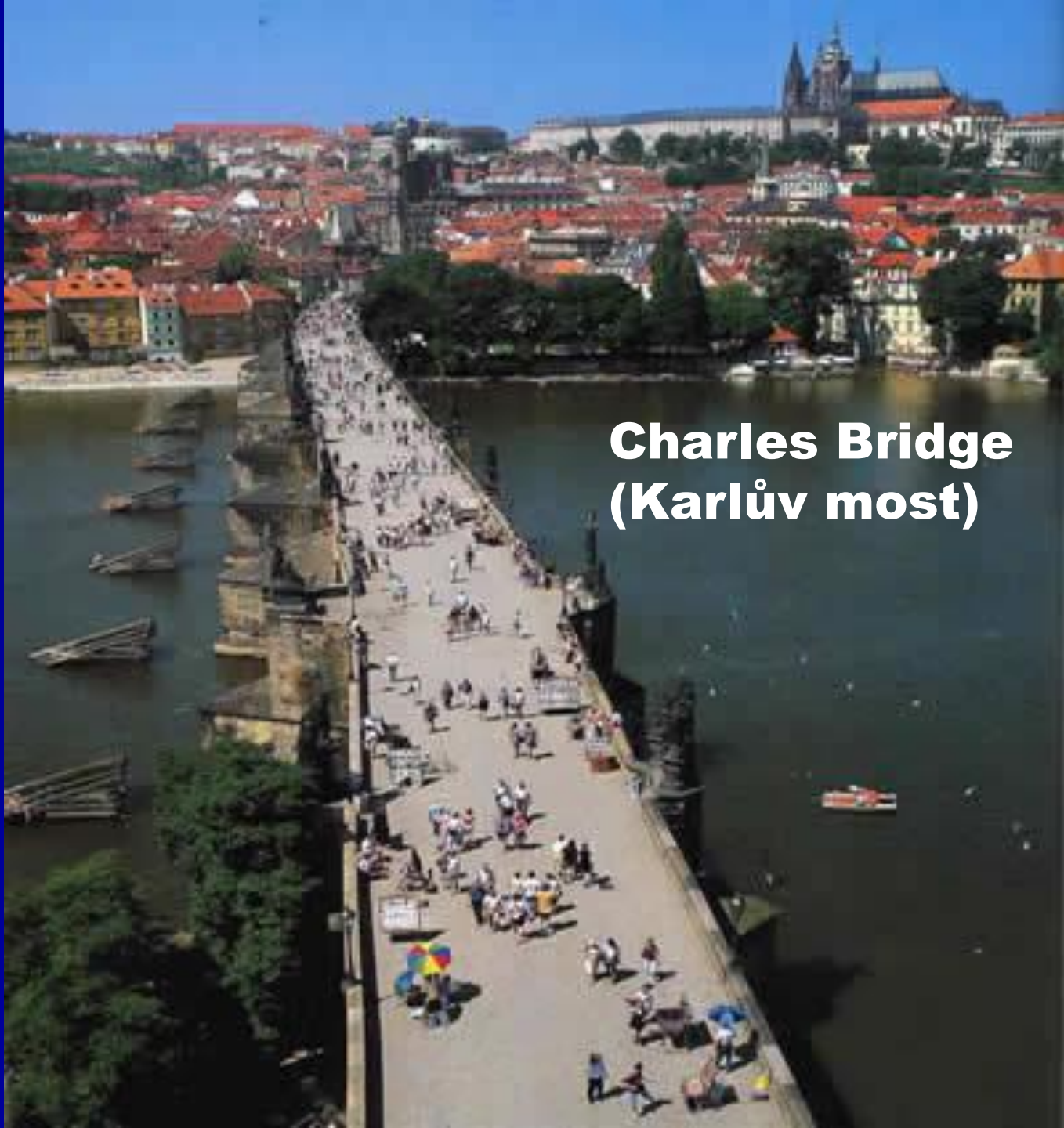
**Back side of
old
synagogue**

Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral





**Entrance to Charles Bridge. Built in 1357.
Cornerstone laid at 5:31 on 9/7 (July 9) so you
have: 1-3-5-7-9-7-5-3-1. They were into numbers**



**Charles Bridge
(Karlův most)**

The statues that line the bridge all commemorate a given saint. Street vendors are here as are tourists from all over the world. Pretty cool.





Looking south from Charles Bridge



IN
CHURCH
FOR
CONSTIT
CTY
BRACHIO

VINTAGE
CALIFORNIA

Hubo



**The tour
proceeded toward
the castle**





행우X주
우.개용.경은
개용.경은
심희은길

CROW

LA BAZA

CUNE

DRVA

FEDE

name tag

at





TONY!

I MISS YOU BOTH

MARCIO MARCO
JUAN

MELA

225
GUILLE
TITO
GUIDO
PABLO

E TOUR

FZY

ANNHS

SICHNI DOHROMAJ
DEN, JEDINE AT
NAS JE TA
MILEVILA
A TO JE TAKO
HIPISACKA
ATOMOVKA...

CHEGO SIENA
ASI
I AM YOU AS YOU ARE ME
AS YOU ARE ME
I AM YOU AS YOU ARE ME



NNHS
OF

MIRAIL

HERRERO CHELO OCHO CHEMA

JUAN



ASI

194 - 1980

I AM YOU, AS YOU ARE ME,
AS YOU ARE WE
MAKE LOVE NOT WAR

C.K.N...



NO WAR
H.W.XXII
DEN TEDINE AT
MAJ DE TA
EVIL
TS JE TAKO
PISKACKA
TOMOVKA...

PE
ZONUSKA
UNKA
15 06
NOT WITH!

59106

**Well-
known
Prague
city steps**



Lot's o' stairs in Prague



TEXAS
State
Solo
and
Ensemble



Ceremonious changing of the guard at Prague Castle













**Observation
area**





Interior of St. Vitus

**From
observation
tower**











Following the walking tour ... Our mid-afternoon lunch of goulash and beer. Goulash is suppose to be so good in Prague... Naaaaa





**Funicular railway up
Petřín Hill toward
Observation Tower**

Funicular ride





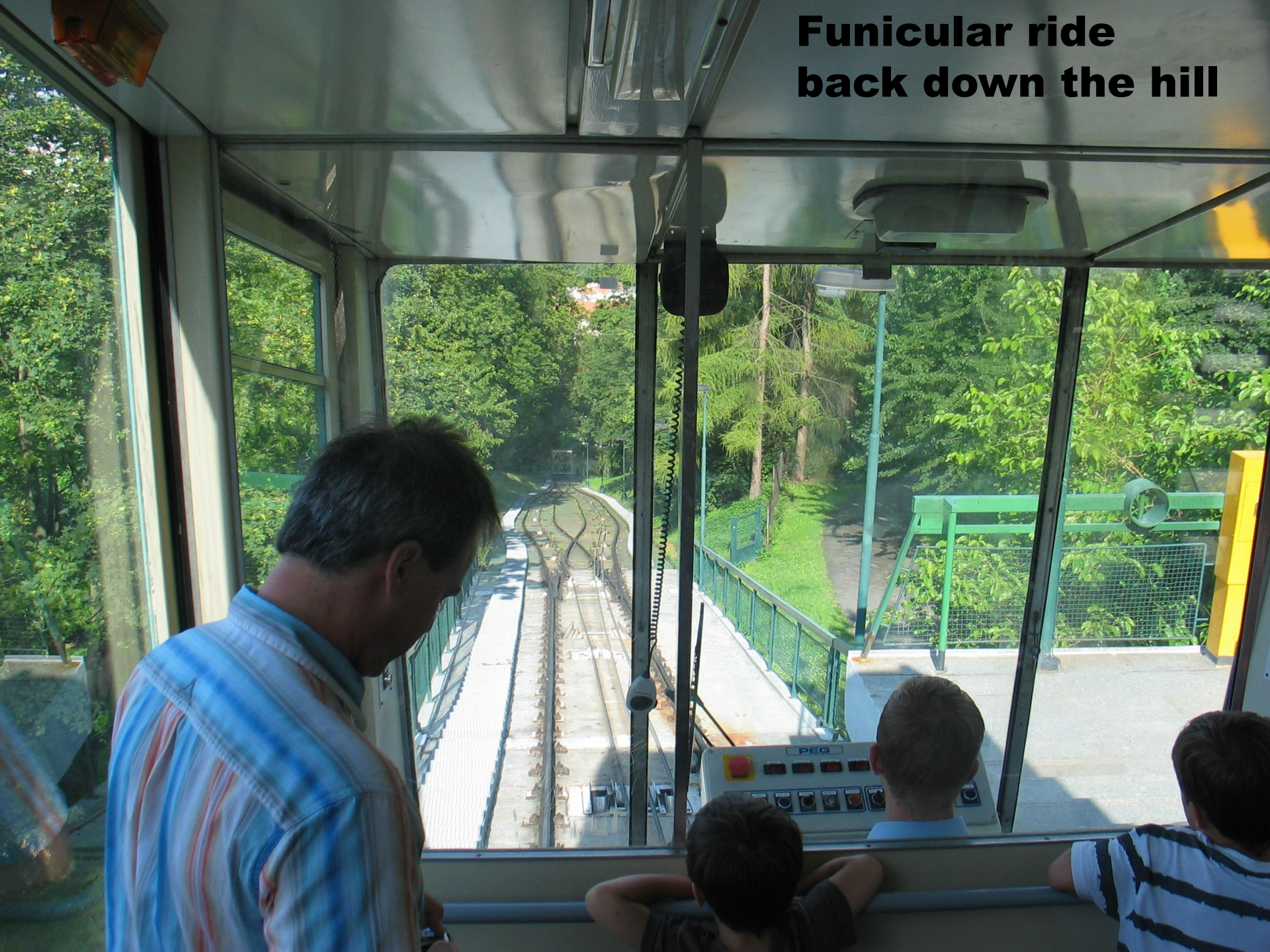
**Used to
be a TV
tower**





**Yet another
angle of
Charles'
Bridge**

Funicular ride back down the hill





**Headed
down the
hill, across
the Vltava
River and
back into
Old Town
Prague. An
occasional
“map stop”**

Welcome to Prague Ed & Rob!

Pilsner Urquell Bohemia JazzFest

Pilsner Urquell
bohemia
fest

Pilsner Urquell

Jazz festival



**6 p.m.
Organ-
Trumpet
recital**





**We booked tickets for
this recital online weeks
in advance. Ate dinner
then went to 9 p.m.
concert**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

CONCERT

WITH
FAMOUS ORGAN
PLAYED BY W. A. MOZART, A. DVOŘÁK A.O.

DURATION 60 MIN

TODAY TODAY

AT 9 P.M./21:00



**On our way back to
Boathouse after
recital. Still some
daylight at 10:45 p.m.**





**Got off the tram
one stop too soon.
Beer to drink back
at the hostel, no
time to waste.**



Damn Tram maps.



Thursday, 12 July 2007 – Got on the same tram we used yesterday, but it changed routes. No notice. As usual, we regrouped and figured out our next move. This sort of thing is what makes travel fun. Yes, this picture is posed but it's like many-a-time we stopped on a street corner to study a map.

**Next visit to
the Jewish
museum in
Old Town
Prague**





**Jewish cemetery
where people are
buried 12-deep**



**Good lunch. With
Pilsner Urquell
you can't go
wrong**



Thanks, Nate, for naming this.





**Czech
corn
pizza**

**By subway to
Wenceslas Square**





**Wenceslas
Square
(Vaclavske
namesti)**

**Hard to
believe there
were a
million
people here
in 1989 for
the “Velvet
Revolution”**





**Blacksmith
making and
selling his
wares**



The museum focuses on the totalitarian regime from the February coup in 1948 to its rapid collapse in November 1989. The theme of the Museum is "Communism- the Dream, the Reality, and the Nightmare" and visitors will be treated to a fully immersive experience. Immersive factories, a historical schoolroom, an Interrogation Room, or the video clips in our Television Time Machine are all part of the experience. The museum is a great introduction before you step back even further in time and experience the wonders of The Golden City.

This is the first museum in Prague (since the Velvet Revolution) exclusively devoted to a system established in the sphere of the former Soviet Union. The original items and meticulous installations containing authentic artifacts are displayed in the three main rooms

This was a fun and informative place to visit







**Wenceslas Square – Well needed justification.
Pilsner Urquell. Big 22 oz glass of it for \$1.75 Life is good**



**Walked
around
and found
a spot for
dinner &
beer**

**Our
waitres
s**





Walked across Charles' Bridge one more time to this locale for one or two last beers in downtown Prague



Original Czech Premium

Pub

SESTON
BECK & CO.
CENY LAZ TUREK

**Garbage trucks
come right along
the stores/bars
during “prime
time.”**



Butt shots of us walking back to the Boathouse Hostel in Prague for the last time before leaving tomorrow.



When we got back we sat out on the porch and drank beer with Rob from Boston. A guy even older than us! He was 55.

**Room in Boathouse
last night there**



Friday, 13 July 2007 – Got up early and headed to Prague airport for flight on easyJet to London Stansted. Picture here at Stansted. It was here we learned Lady Bird Johnson had died.



**Interesting
folks at
Prague
Airport**



**We arrive back
in Dublin in
time for... a
beer at the Vat
House**





Bartender

Enroute to our hostel we see this lady and her dog. The dog is carrying a plastic hotdog in a bun for no apparent reason.



**Our lodging
for the last 2
nights of the
trip in
downtown
Dublin**



Fish 'n' chips with
10W 40 motor awl
from Burdock's

Fish 'n' Chips with 10W/40



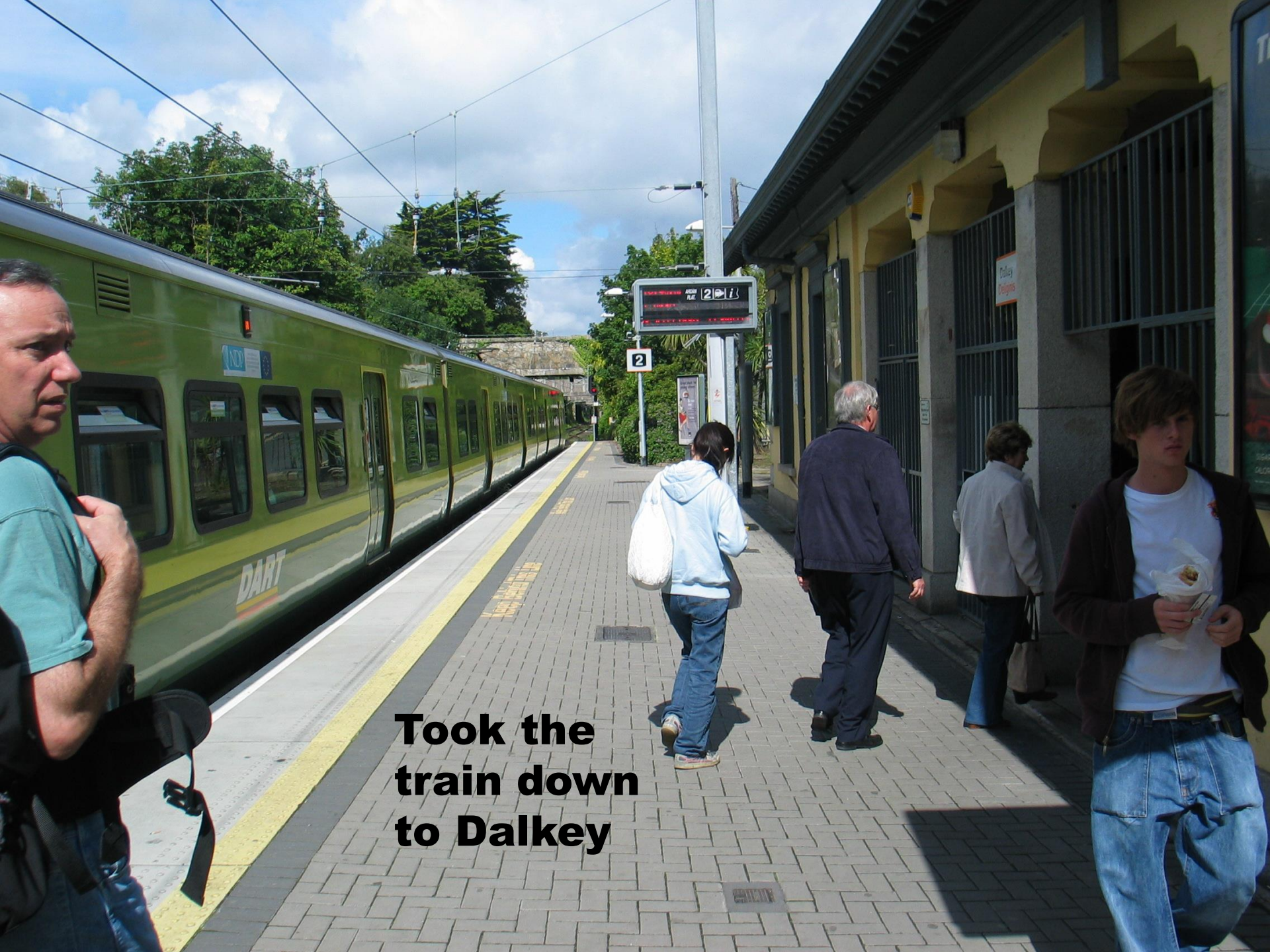
Night cap at the Bull & Castle bar

IN RUA - Reg/Bottle
CONDICIONED 4.2/Alol
CONDICIONED 6.0/Alol
CONDICIONED BEERS !!
CONDICIONED BEERS !!



14 July 2008 – had a heck of a time finding a train platform.. After a quasi breakfast at Starbucks. Saw this place

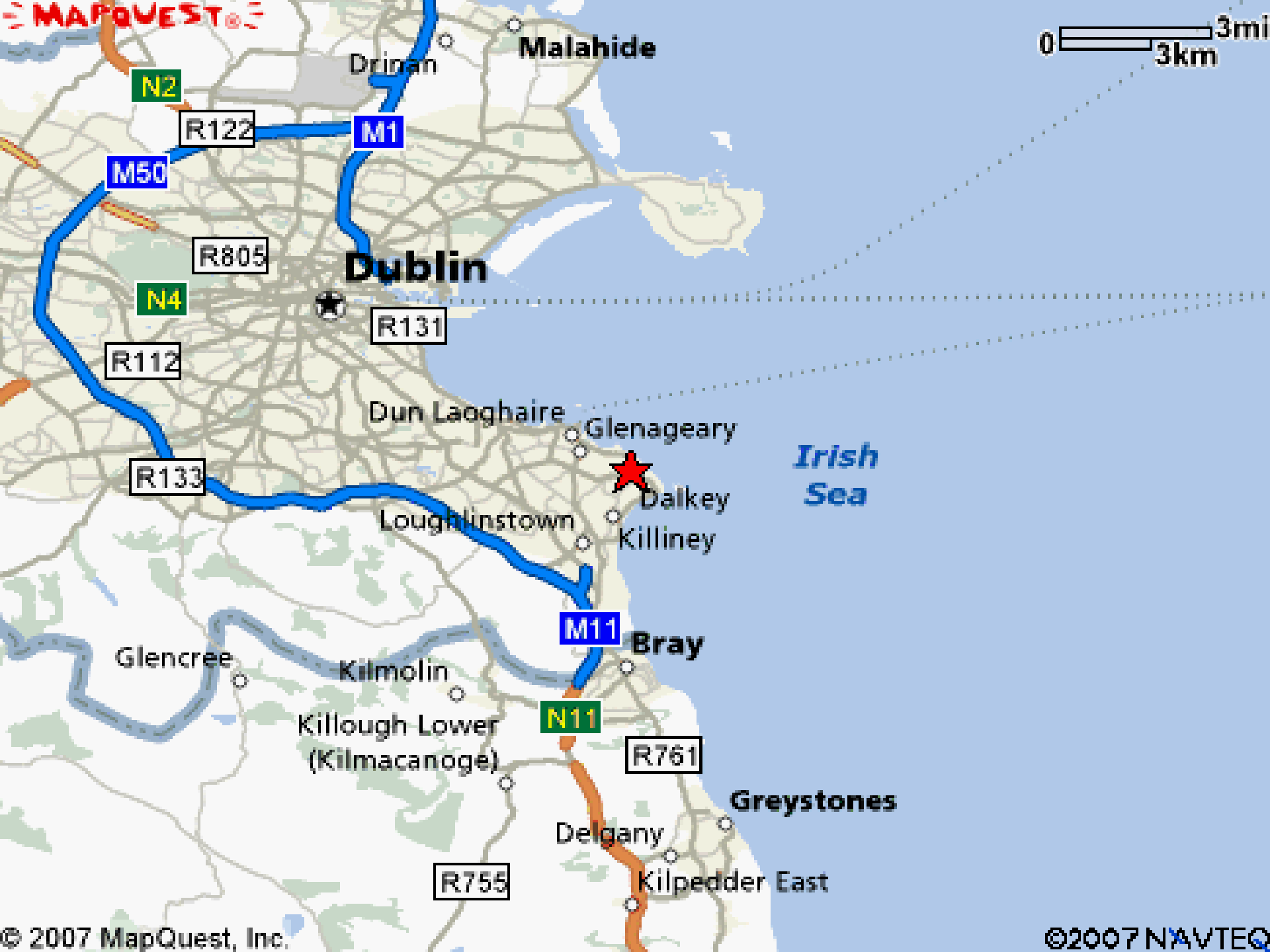




**Took the
train down
to Dalkey**



The beautiful little town of Dalkey. Used to be the port of Dublin



Dublin

Irish Sea

Dalkey

Killiney

Bray

Greystones

Delgany

Kilpedder East



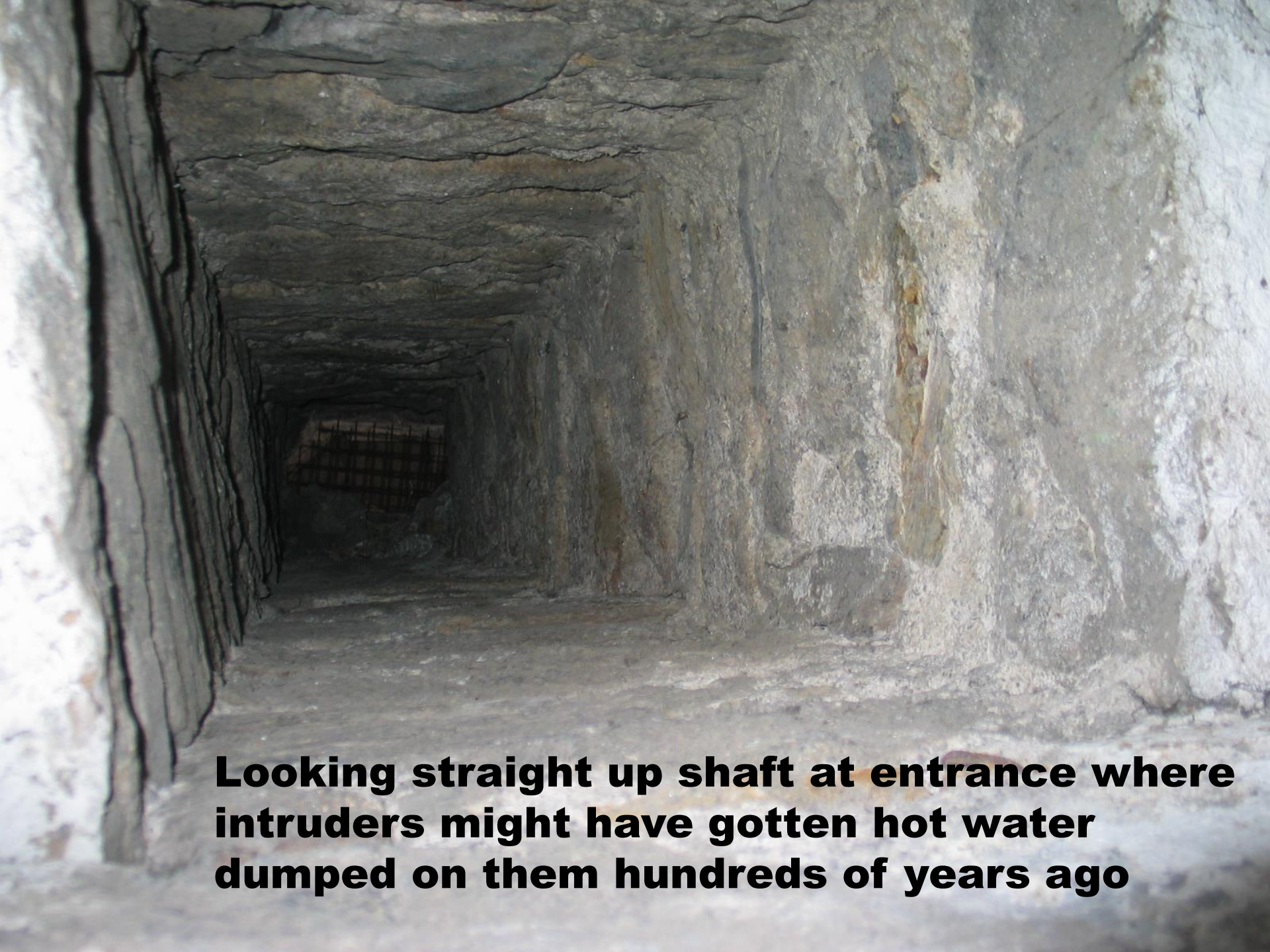
Quiet little town on a Saturday morning. We got there about 10:45, just before the castle opened at 11.



Church yard across from Dalkey Castle

Dalkey Castle & tour





Looking straight up shaft at entrance where intruders might have gotten hot water dumped on them hundreds of years ago

The other fireplace opposite may be medieval but is covered with
paraffin dating from 1891. The large window across the doorway
belongs to the house and the entrance to the side of the room was
used as a medieval window. The door leads to the garden which still
has remains of the battlements with four towers to entry visitors. A
kitchen was made/created in preparation when the sign which forming
which is the way passed into medieval medieval's house created
because the way into the medieval battlements and a battlement and
belonged to the Conquer family until the eighteenth century.



**Tour guides in period costumes and character.
Made the experience a little more real**

**View from top of
castle**







CHURCH OF ENGLAND
IHS
Died 24th
MRS. ELLEN MOLLON,
Wife of her beloved HUSBAND
MR. JOHN MOLLON,
born 26th July 1855 aged 72
to four of their Children
she a devoted MOTHER MOLLON
started this life the 7th day of
1862 aged 60 years.
Also the beloved son of ANTHONY
MOLLON, WILLIAM FRANCIS MOLLON
aged 25 years died, sept 3rd 1931
MRS. RYANNE MOLLON, wife of ANTHONY MOLLON
died 12th June 1906 aged 76 years
she her husband ANTHONY MOLLON
died 24th Oct. 1912 aged 75 years.

The Queen's Est. 1745

A good lunch at the Queen's Bar

THE Vico

Dogs Not Allowed

EGON RONAY'S GUIDES

EGON RONAY'S GUIDES

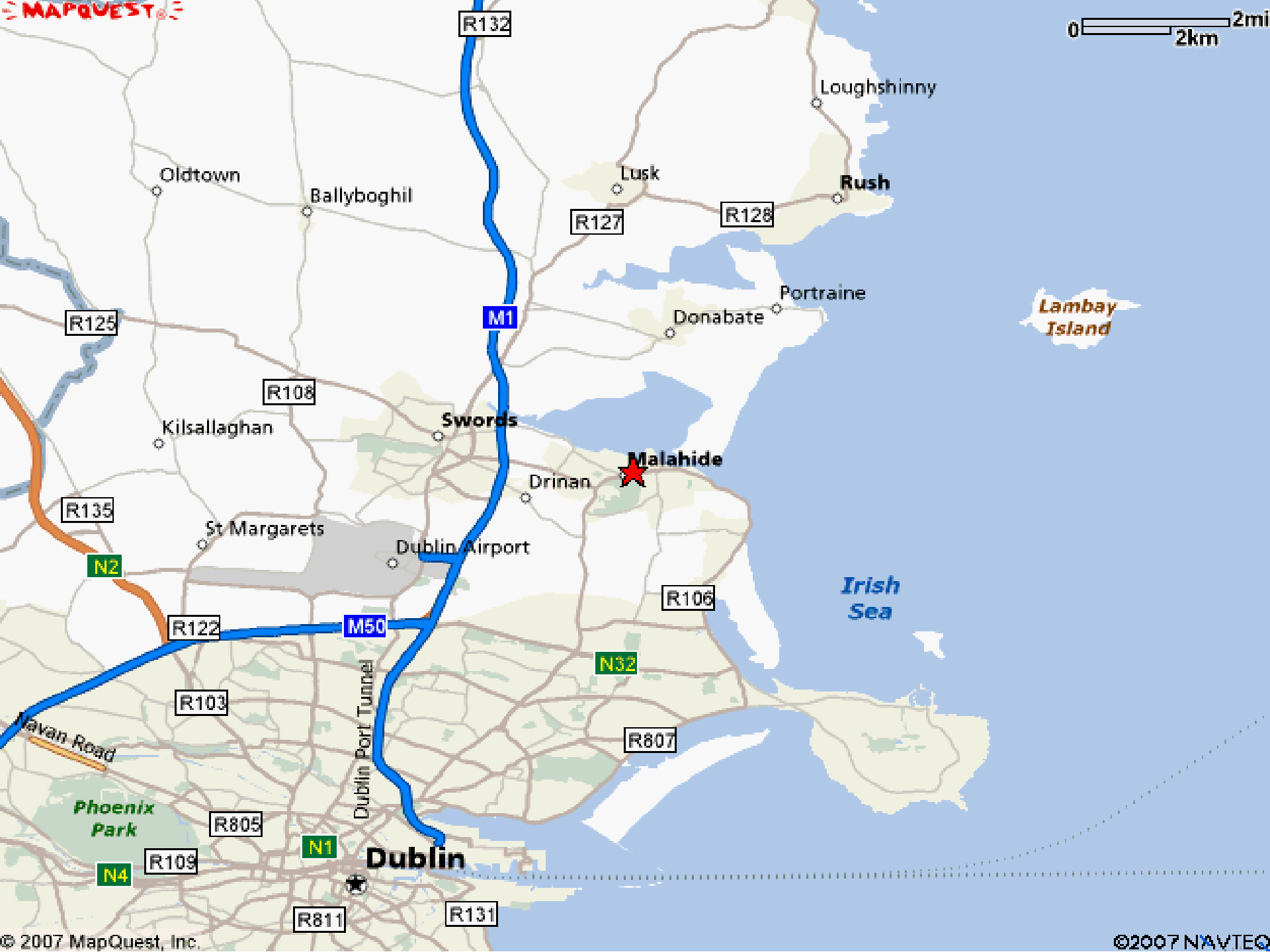
2001

Only Food & Drink Purchased on these Premises may be





Then it was back up the railway to a little town & castle north of Dublin - Malahide





The weather was spectacular today. Nice day for a wedding. This was about a 20 minute walk from the DART depot



This place was pretty interesting. A lady still lives who grew up here – a part of the family whose descendants go back about 800 years.









Malahide Castle is very unique in Ireland because the Talbot family managed to keep control of the castle for 791 years. The Talbot family began their reign in 1185 and ended in 1976 despite a short interlude, 1649 to 1660, while Cromwell marched through Ireland. The lands and harbor of Malahide were granted to Richard Talbot in 1185, one of the knights who arrived in Ireland with Henry II in 1174. According to Burke's Peerage, Richard Talbot or de Talbot was the common ancestor of the Lords of Malahide and of the Earls of Shrewsbury.

The history of the Talbot family is recorded in the Great Hall, where portraits of generations of the family tell their own story of Ireland's stormy history. Many additions and alterations have been made to this romantic and beautiful structure, but the contours of the surrounding parklands have changed little in 800 years, retaining a sense of the past. Malahide Castle is operated by Dublin Tourism Attractions in conjunction with Fingal County Council. The hall of the castle is one of the purest specimens of Norman architecture but it is not known whether it dates from the reign of Henry IV or from that of Edward IV when the original building was considerably enlarged and embellished. The circular towers flanking the facade were added in 1765.

At the heart of the medieval castle is the Oak Room, approached by a winding stone staircase and lit by Gothic windows added in 1820 when the room was enlarged and the front hall below was created. The room is lined with carved oak from floor to ceiling, representing scriptural subjects, now black with age and polishing. Some of the carving is of Flemish origin, including six panels representing biblical scenes opposite the window; their religious theme suggests that the Talbots, who remained Roman Catholics until 1774, used this room as a chapel in penal times. Over the mantelpiece is a fine representation of the coronation of the Blessed Virgin which according to tradition disappeared when Cromwell seized the Castle and miraculously sprang back to its place when the Talbots were reinstated.



Church near DART station in Malahide



A walk back in a light shower that broke into a full downpour by the time we caught the DART back to Dublin in time for a beer at the Vat House. Just prior to this we hit an internet café.



**Then to St.
John Gogarty
for traditional
Irish dinner**

This place was voted best bar in the Temple Bar area in 06 & 07.

This window area is where we sat





**Authentic Irish
music**



THIS AREA IS
RESERVED FOR
MUSICIANS

7 DAYS A WEEK

8.30pm - 2.30am



**Steamed mussels in a
delicious broth**





**Ed enjoyed the
Irish Stew**



**Rob had the
corned beef &
cabbage with
new taters**





After a fine dinner we hit the street enjoying the... uhhh... scenery. Since we still had time on our DART pass, and plenty of daylight, we decided to head back to Dalkey



**Nice real estate in rural Dalkey
overlooking the Irish Sea**



**Boats to paddle
over to old
castle**









We stopped at a bar in Dalkey and accidentally ordered Bulmers apple cider. Talk about disappointing. We caught the DART back to Dublin and walked the streets in the party district before landing at the Bull & Castle for our final beer(s) of the trip.



We woke up early to lukewarm shower water at best. Took a few shots and headed to the airport for the journey back.

A good flight from Dublin to Chicago, then Chicago to Austin. Some good reading time. Chicago, pictured here, may be our base for 2008's domestic trip... who knows





Once again this trip, as in 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 we couldn't have done this without the love and support of our generous and sweet wives Mary Kay & Joan. They know our need to explore new lands and beers, and cheap, smelly hostels. *fine*

You'll certainly want to check out these other trip anthologies of Ed & Rob:

Europe 2000 (with Nate) →

UK2003 (with Nate)

NxNW2004

EURO05

NYC06



2004

2005



2006



And who can forget the Missouri Mule Jump September 2002



Grandma in Missouri March 2002



Of course our grand trip to the Travis County Landfill... I believe in 2006



Work/fun trips to Medina

H N M C

Productions