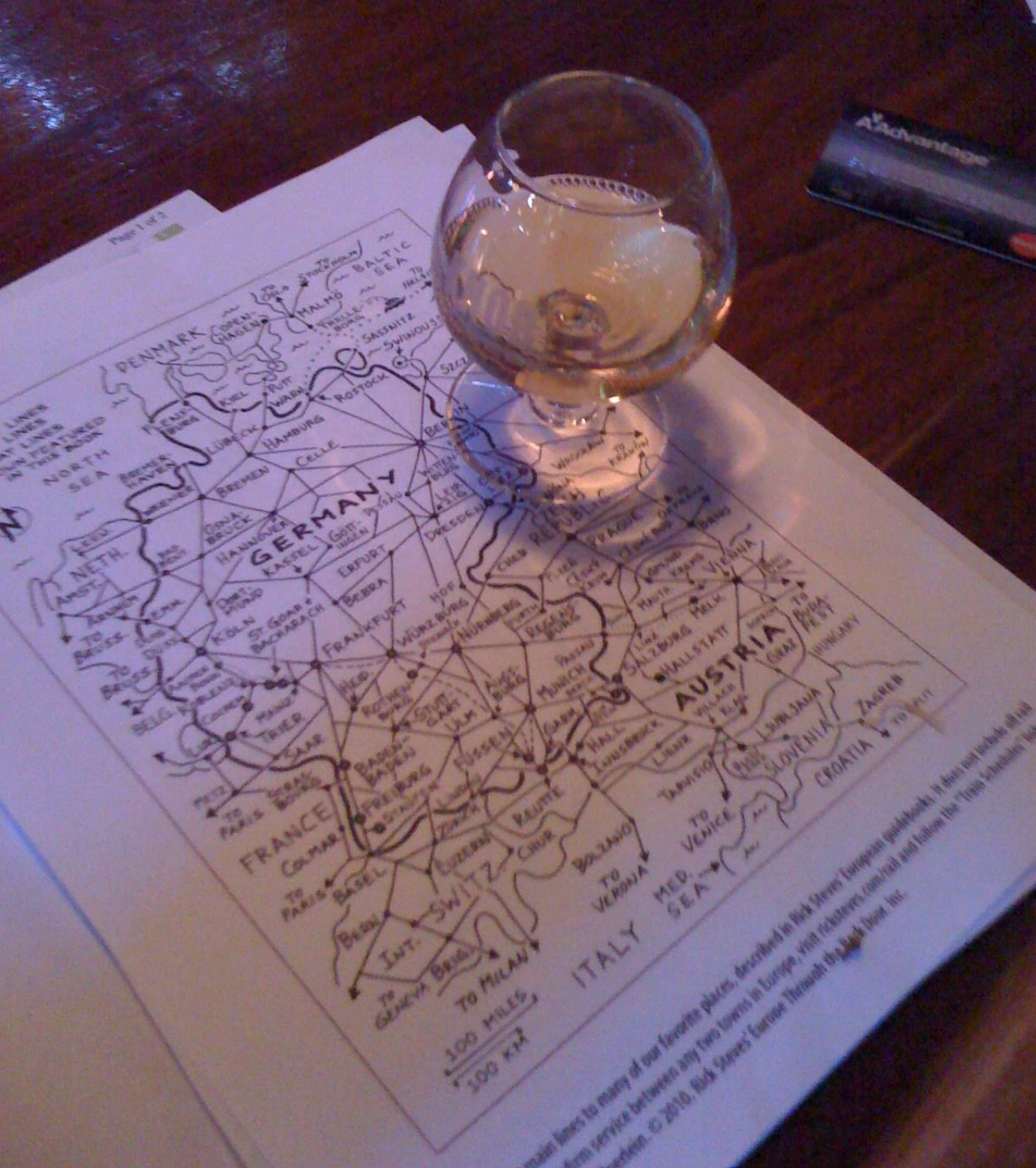


Ed & Rob's 2010 European Adventure June 28 – July 9, 2010





Many beer soirées at Opal Divine’s took place to carefully hone the itinerary. Mostly beer, but the occasional night-cap too i.e. Grand Marnier. This photo is artistry at its best.

Ed created this chart to help plan itinerary and budget for the trip.

| June 28 Monday | Mode/Trans | Duration | To do | Meal/Beer \$ | Gas \$ | Accomodations | Sleep Cost | Daily Total |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|--------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Arrive Zurich 7:25 a.m. | Fly | | | | | | | |
| Zurich > Lichtenstein | Car | 1.5 hours | | | | | | |
| Lichtenstein | Car | 3-5 hours | | | | | | |
| Lichtenstein > Rhupolding | Car | 3.5 hours | | | | | | |
| Stay in Ruhpolding | | | Eat/Drink | \$50 | | Hotel Diana | \$110 | |
| June 30 Wednesday | Mode/Trans | Duration | To do | Meal/Beer \$ | Gas \$ | Accomodations | Sleep Cost | Daily Total |
| Ruhpolding > Nuremburg | Car | 1.5 hours | Zeppelin Field | \$30 | | | | |
| Stay in Furth | | | | | | Hotel Green Place | 100 | |
| July 1 Thursday | Mode/Trans | Duration | To do | Meal/Beer \$ | Gas \$ | Accomodations | Sleep Cost | Daily Total |
| Furth>Passau | Car | 1.5 hrs | organ concert | | | | | |
| Passau>Bratislava | Car | 3.5 hrs | old town | | | | | |
| July 2 Friday | Mode/Trans | Duration | To do | Meal/Beer \$ | Gas \$ | Accomodations | Sleep Cost | Daily Total |
| Bratislava>Krackow | Car | 5 hrs | Auschwitz | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| July 3 Saturday | Mode/Trans | Duration | To do | Meal/Beer \$ | Gas \$ | Accomodations | Sleep Cost | Daily Total |
| Krackow>Budapest | Car | 6 hrs | | | | | | |

American Airlines sent us notification of time changes in March.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------|---------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | |
| Date: | 09 JUL 10 - FRIDAY | | | | |
| Flight : | American Airlines | 45 | | BOEING 767 300 | |
| Departure: | PARIS DE GAULLE | 11:05 AM | | AEROGARE 2 TERMINAL A | 8HR 15MIN |
| Arrival: | NEW YORK JFK | 1:20 PM | | TERMINAL 8 REF: KICODK | NON-STOP |
| Name: | GERLACH/ROBIN | SEAT 24J | ECONOMY | | MULTI MEALS |
| | | | | | |
| Date: | 09 JUL 10 - FRIDAY | | | | |
| Flight : | American Airlines | 785 | | MD-80 | |
| Departure: | NEW YORK LGA | 6:30 PM | | CENTRAL TERMINAL | 4HR 0MIN |
| Arrival: | DALLAS FT WORTH | 9:30 PM | | | NON-STOP |
| Name: | GERLACH/ROBIN | SEAT 18B | ECONOMY | | FOOD FOR PURCHASE |
| | | | | | |
| Date: | 09 JUL 10 - FRIDAY | | | | |
| Flight : | American Airlines | 417 | | MD-80 | |
| Departure: | DALLAS FT WORTH | 10:10 PM | | | 0HR 55MIN |
| Arrival: | AUSTIN | 11:05 PM | | | NON-STOP |
| Name: | GERLACH/ROBIN | SEAT 25B | ECONOMY | | |

One thing we had to decide was how to get from Zurich to Paris for the return flight. Ed did some in-depth sleuthing and reported the following:

These appear to be the options:

Train - \$139 per person

This is new info. I misread the information when we were at Opals the other night Zurich HB>Paris Est (Gare du Nord, Est, Gare Lyon....several train stations. Est is the eastern most)

We chose this



7:02>11:34 a.m.

Air Berlin: \$174 per person

Zurich>Dusseldorf>Paris:

Zurich>Dusseldorf 10:45-12:05

3 hours between trains

Dusseldorf>Paris 3:00-4:20

Air France: \$317 per person

Non-stop to CDGaulle

9:55-11:20 a.m.

Easyjet : \$125 per person

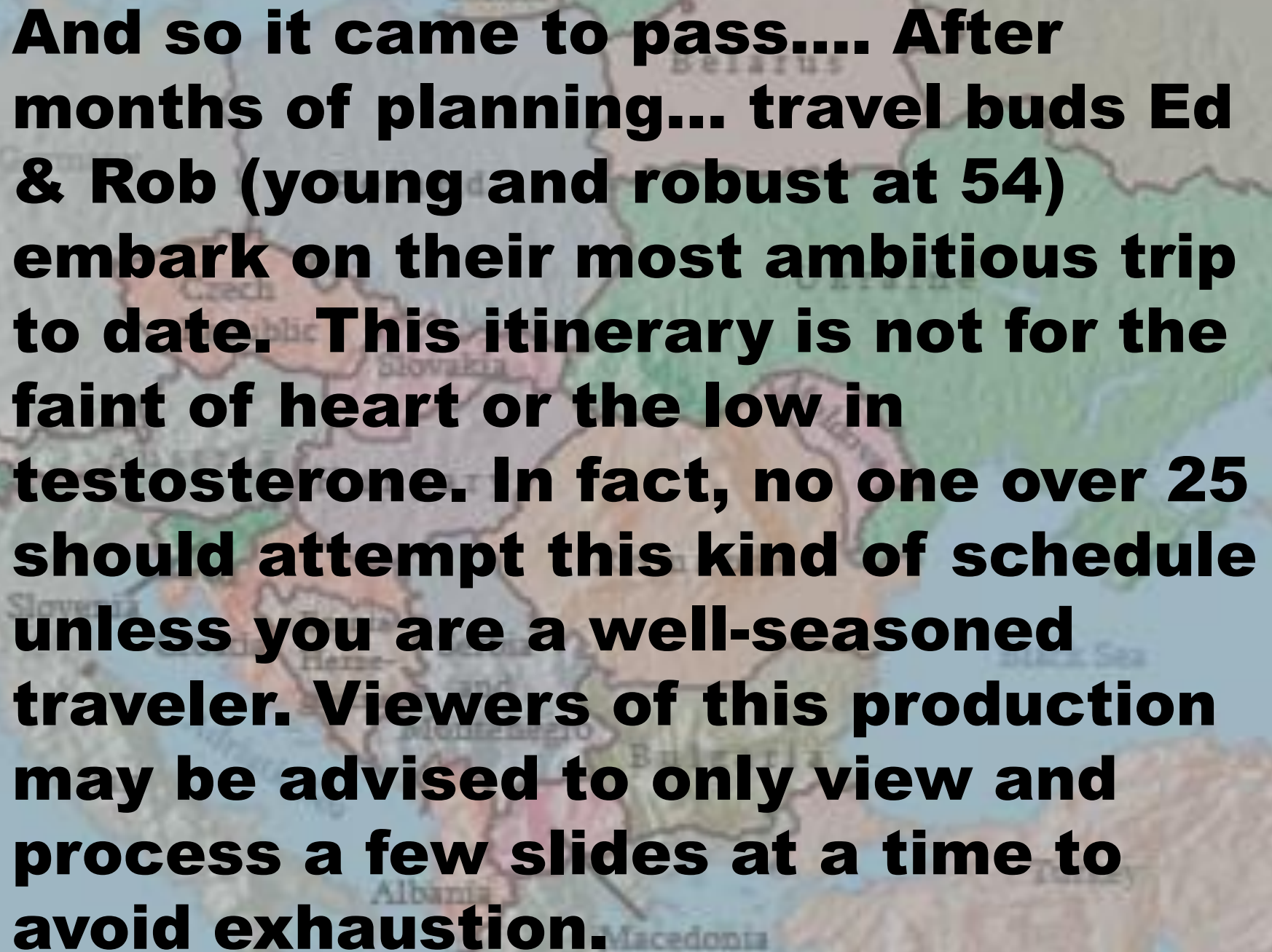
Zurich>London Luton>Paris

Zurich>London Luton 9:50-10:40

4.5 hours between flights

London Luton>Paris CDGaulle

3:10-5:30



And so it came to pass.... After months of planning... travel buds Ed & Rob (young and robust at 54) embark on their most ambitious trip to date. This itinerary is not for the faint of heart or the low in testosterone. In fact, no one over 25 should attempt this kind of schedule unless you are a well-seasoned traveler. Viewers of this production may be advised to only view and process a few slides at a time to avoid exhaustion.



Day #1: June 28, 2010. We made it from Austin to Dallas to Reagan-DC for lunch and first beer of the trip.



Weather delays, aborted takeoff's, etc. kept us from getting to JFK for our international flight. By the time we got to JFK our only option was to go to London Heathrow, then catch the flight to Zurich. So we landed in Zurich at 10 pm rather than the original 7 am. We lost a whole day. \$#@%#!



Flughafen Zürich



This little Ford Fiesta would be the wheels that took us on our 12 day, 12 country odyssey. Day #2: June 29, 2010





15.41 miles

To avoid high Zurich prices, etc. we decided to get away from Zurich before finding lodging for the night. Winterthur would be the spot.



Several places we found were full for the night. The place here wasn't full, but it cost \$250/night. So much for finding someplace cheaper. By now it's pushing midnight.



GOTTHARD

GOTTHARD

We walked under the train station to find this bar – for a \$6/glass beer. Oh well, we had been up 30-some-odd hours – just get the beer and enjoy it.



We waited for this beer a lot longer than we had planned. While it didn't pack a taste worth noting, we gladly accepted and drank it and the next one too.



**Day #3: June 30, 2010.
The place offered a
great breakfast. We
had some miles ahead
of us.**



**Farewell to our
plain but
adequate 250
Swiss
Franc/night
room. At the
time, a Swiss
Franc was about
the same value
as the Dollar.**



204.86 miles



Our hotel on the right, train station ahead. Getting on the road at 9:20 am is not bad for the first night with the time adjustment and all. In trips past we don't even wake up until 10 am.



Wartstrasse

W
wartmann

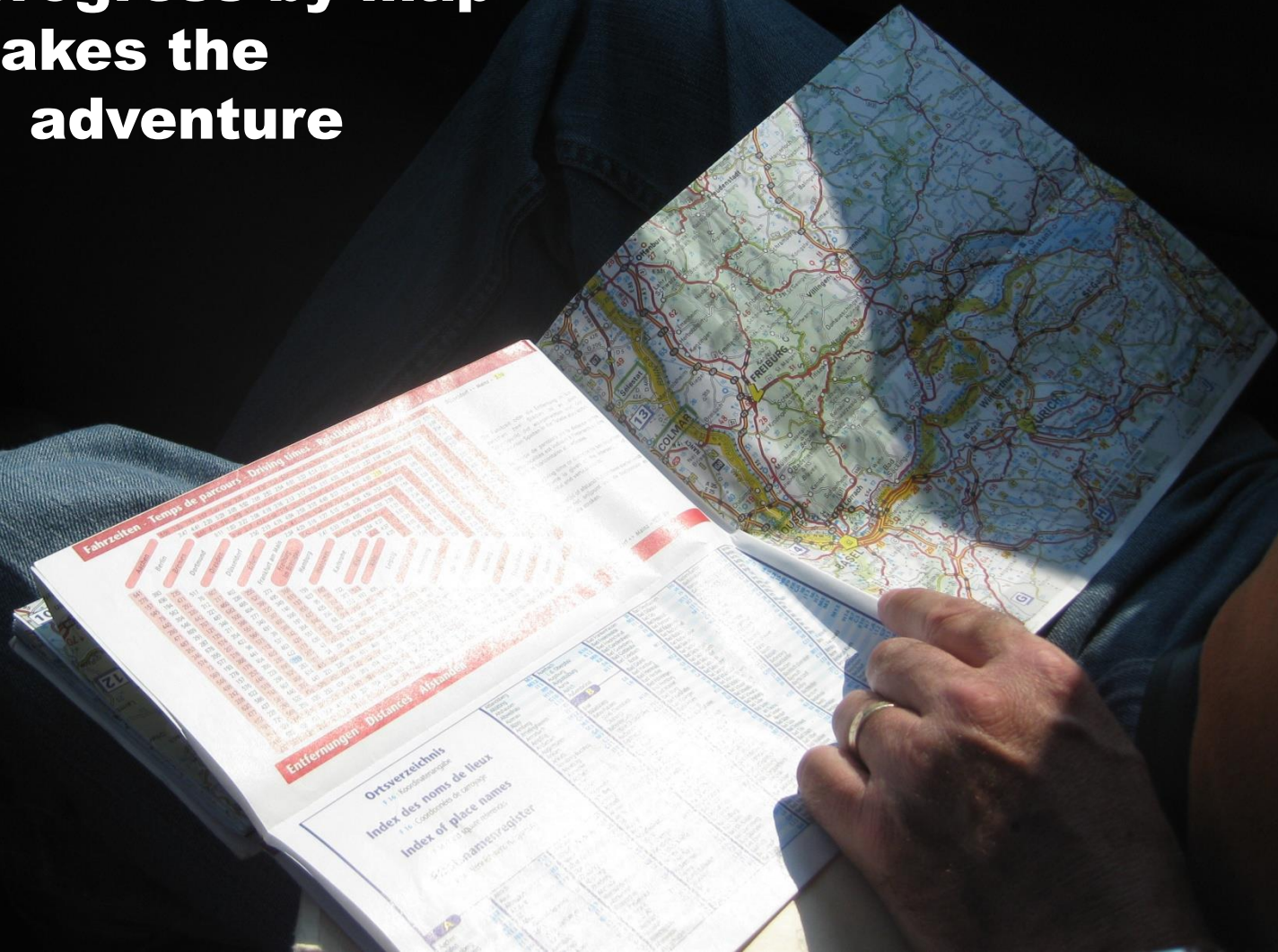
W
hotel wartmann

Opel Astra
ZH-50835



A woman in a green shirt standing on the sidewalk.

While the Garmin proved itself priceless, there's something about keeping up with your progress by map that just makes the *mancation* adventure complete.





After driving through beautiful Swiss towns and countryside, we came upon Lake Constance (Konstanz) which serves as the German/Swiss border here. We had to cross the ferry.

ZWOLLE
Tel. 038-4672100

0J-39-NT

CHMITZ

Boarding the ferry





4.5m

RAUCHEN VERBOTEN

RAUCHEN VERBOTEN

GEHWEILER

TAXI

ACTROS

CONTAINERS

Er...





4.2

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

KREUZLINGEN

KREUZLINGEN

MAGAZIN

MAGAZIN

Gerhard's Trekking Agency

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN

RAUCHEN VERBODEN







Some beautiful countryside in southern Germany. A mile of hike/bike trails for nearly every mile of roadway. Interesting.





Break time. Stretch the legs & back a little, and sit, but a different kind of sit.



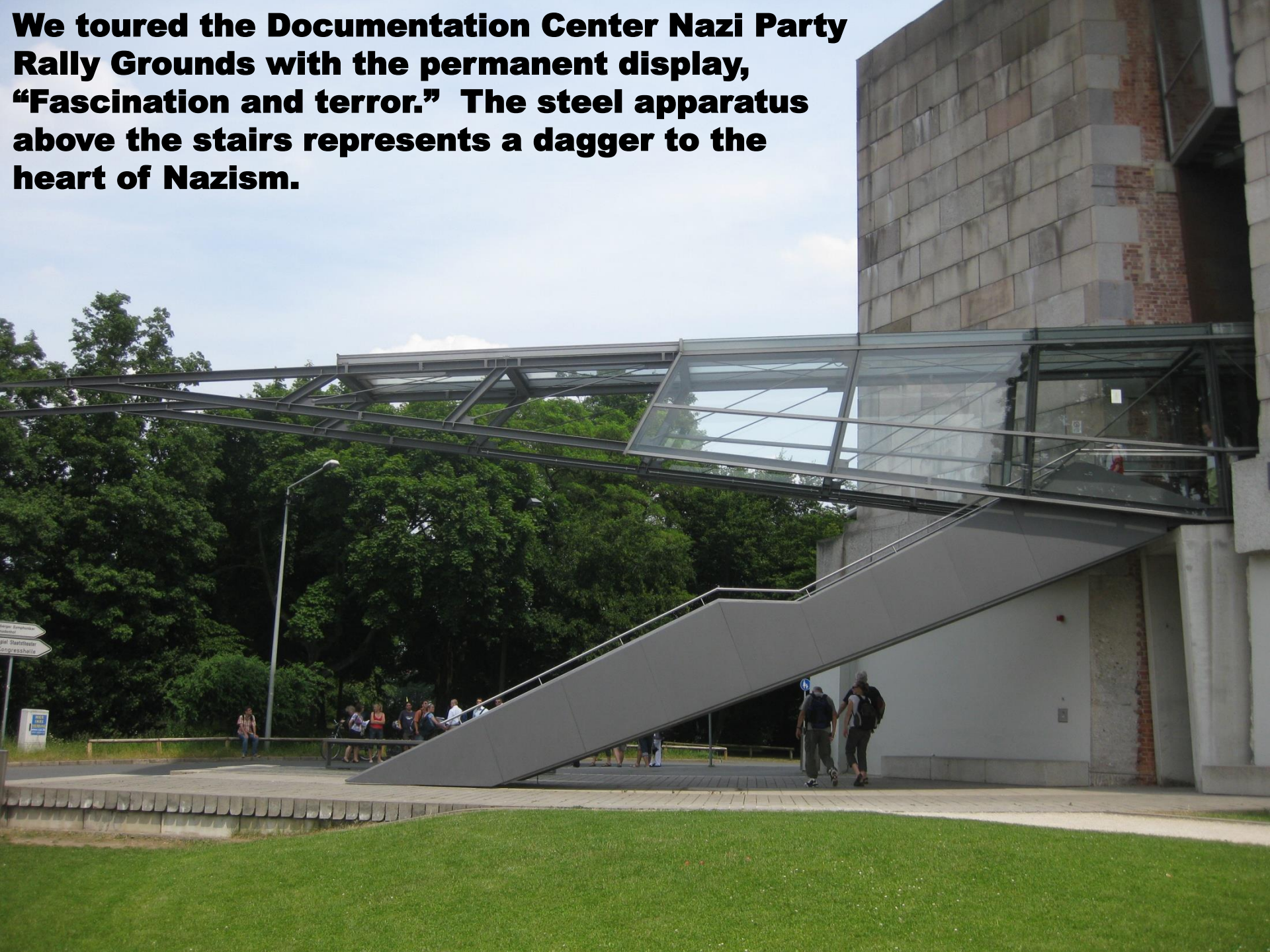
Rastplatz
e sauberhalten

www.koblenz.de



Getting into Nurnberg. Our first goal was the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rallying Grounds, a.k.a. Dokumentationszentrum Reichsparteitagsgelände. The Garmin took us right to the front door. Purddy cool!

We toured the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds with the permanent display, "Fascination and terror." The steel apparatus above the stairs represents a dagger to the heart of Nazism.



Dokumentationszentrum Reichsparteitagsgelände

Ehemaliges Reichsparteitagsgelände
Former Nazi Party Rally Grounds

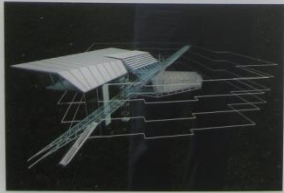


Im nördlichen Kopfbau (unterer Bildrand) der Kongresshalle ist das Dokumentationszentrum zu erkennen.

In the north wing (bottom of photo) of the Congress Hall, the Documentation Centre can be seen.

Entwurf für das Dokumentationszentrum von Günther Domenig (1998).

Design for the Documentation Centre by Günther Domenig.

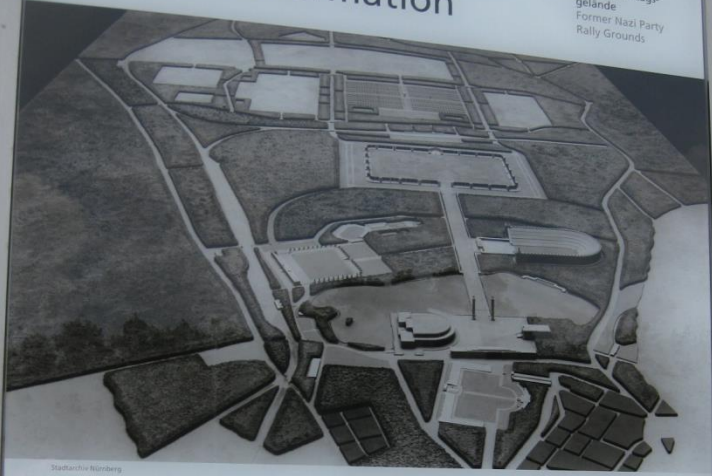


1994 beschloss die Stadt Nürnberg, in der Kongresshalle ein Dokumentationszentrum einzurichten. Der österreichische Architekt Günther Domenig gewann 1998 den internationalen Wettbewerb. Mit seinem Konzept bezieht er eine Gegenposition zum Bau der Nationalsozialisten. Wie ein Pfahl bohrt sich ein Gang aus Glas und Stahl diagonal durch den nördlichen Kopfbau der Kongresshalle und setzt so ein Zeichen gegen die steinerne Monumentalität. Das Dokumentationszentrum Reichsparteitagsgelände wurde am 4. November 2001 eröffnet.

In 1994, the City of Nuremberg decided to create a Documentation Centre in the Congress Hall. In 1998, the Austrian architect, Günther Domenig, won the architects' competition. With his concept, he adopted a counter-stance to the National Socialist construction pattern. A corridor of glass and steel pierces the north wing of the Congress Hall like a stake, thus creating a symbol of opposition to the stone monumentalism of National Socialism. The Documentation Centre Party Rally Grounds was opened on 4 November, 2001.

Geländeinformation

Ehemaliges Reichsparteitagsgelände
Former Nazi Party Rally Grounds



Stadtarchiv Nürnberg

Modell des Reichsparteitagsgeländes aus nördlicher Sicht.

Model of Party Rally Grounds from northerly perspective.

Die Nationalsozialisten veranstalteten 1927 und 1929 die ersten Reichsparteitage in Nürnberg. Von 1933 bis 1939 bauten sie das Gelände um den Dutzendteich für die Inszenierung ihrer jährlichen Parteitage aus. Das Areal diente als Ort des nationalsozialistischen Kults, der Machtdemonstration und der Massenmobilisierung. Architekt Albert Speer erhielt 1934 den Auftrag, auf etwa 11 km² Fläche einen Gesamtplan für eine Anlage mit entsprechenden Versammlungsflächen zu entwerfen. Danach waren als zentrale Schauplätze die Luitpoldarena, das Zeppelinfeld, das Märzfeld und die Kongresshalle vorgesehen. Mit Beginn des Zweiten Weltkriegs am 1. September 1939 wurden die Bauarbeiten weitgehend eingestellt.

The National Socialists first held Party Rallies in Nuremberg in 1927 and in 1929. From 1933 to 1939, they systematically extended the grounds around Dutzendteich lake for their annual Party Rallies. The area served as the location for the National Socialist cult, for the demonstration of power and mobilization of the masses. In 1934, the architect Albert Speer was given the task of creating an overall plan for an area of 11 square kilometres with suitable assembly areas. According to this plan, the Luitpold Arena, the Zeppelin Field, the March Field and the Congress Hall were to be the central features. With the beginning of World War II, on 1 September, 1939, the construction work was to a large degree abandoned.

Nirgendwo sonst in Deutschland sind bis heute Reste der NS-Architektur in einem solchen Umfang zu sehen. Die monumentalen Zeugnisse der Weimarer Republik stehen seit 1973 unter Denkmalschutz.

Nowhere else in Germany can the remains of NS architecture be seen to such an extent until today. Since 1973, the buildings have been under a historical monument preservation order.

**Listening to
audio tour and
taking a picture
of.....**





this





Congress Hall



Kongresshalle mit Dokumentationszentrum, 2001
Congress Hall and Documentation Center, 2001

Architekten: Wolf Porth / Hentig & Porth





Lagerzone / Camp Zone

Städtisches Stadion / Municipal Stadium

Märzfeld / Marchfield

Deutsches Stadion / German Stadium

Zeppelinfeld / Zeppelin Field

Große Straße / Great Road

Kongreßhalle / Congress Hall

Luitpoldarena / Luitpold Arena

Blick nach Süden über das frühere Reichsparteitagsgelände.
Von den farbig unterlegten Bauten ist heute nichts mehr zu sehen.
Sie wurden nie vollendet bzw. nach dem Krieg abgerissen.

Aerial view over the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds towards south.
The coloured parts are no longer existent. They were either never finished
or demolished after the war.

© Luitpold Stadion & Sport AG / Büro Müller Pöschel



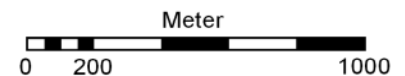


Reichsparteitagsgelände Nürnberg (1940)



- ① Luitpoldarena
- ② Gefallenendenkmal
- ③ Rednerkanzel der Luitpoldarena
- ④ Luitpoldhalle / Alte Kongresshalle
- ⑤ Kongresshalle
- ⑥ Große Straße
- ⑦ Deutsches Stadion
- ⑧ Märzfeld
- ⑨ Ehrentribüne des Märzfeldes
- ⑩ Städtisches Stadion /
Altes Stadion /
Stadion der Hitlerjugend
- ⑪ Zeppelinfeld
- ⑫ Haupttribüne des Zeppelinfeldes
- ⑬ Trafostation
- ⑭ Stadionbad
- ⑮ SS-Kaserne
- ⑯ Zeltlager der Wehrmacht, der SS,
der SA, des NS Kraftfahrkorps,
der Hitlerjugend und des Reichs-
arbeitsdienstes

- Bestehende, bzw. fertig
gestellte Gebäude/Objekte
- Gebäude/ Objekte im Bau
(in ihrer geplanten Ausdehnung)



Zeppelin field where Hitler held Nazi party rallies. I don't think Nestle's sponsored it back then.



As it appeared September, 1937



Hitler's ranting podium

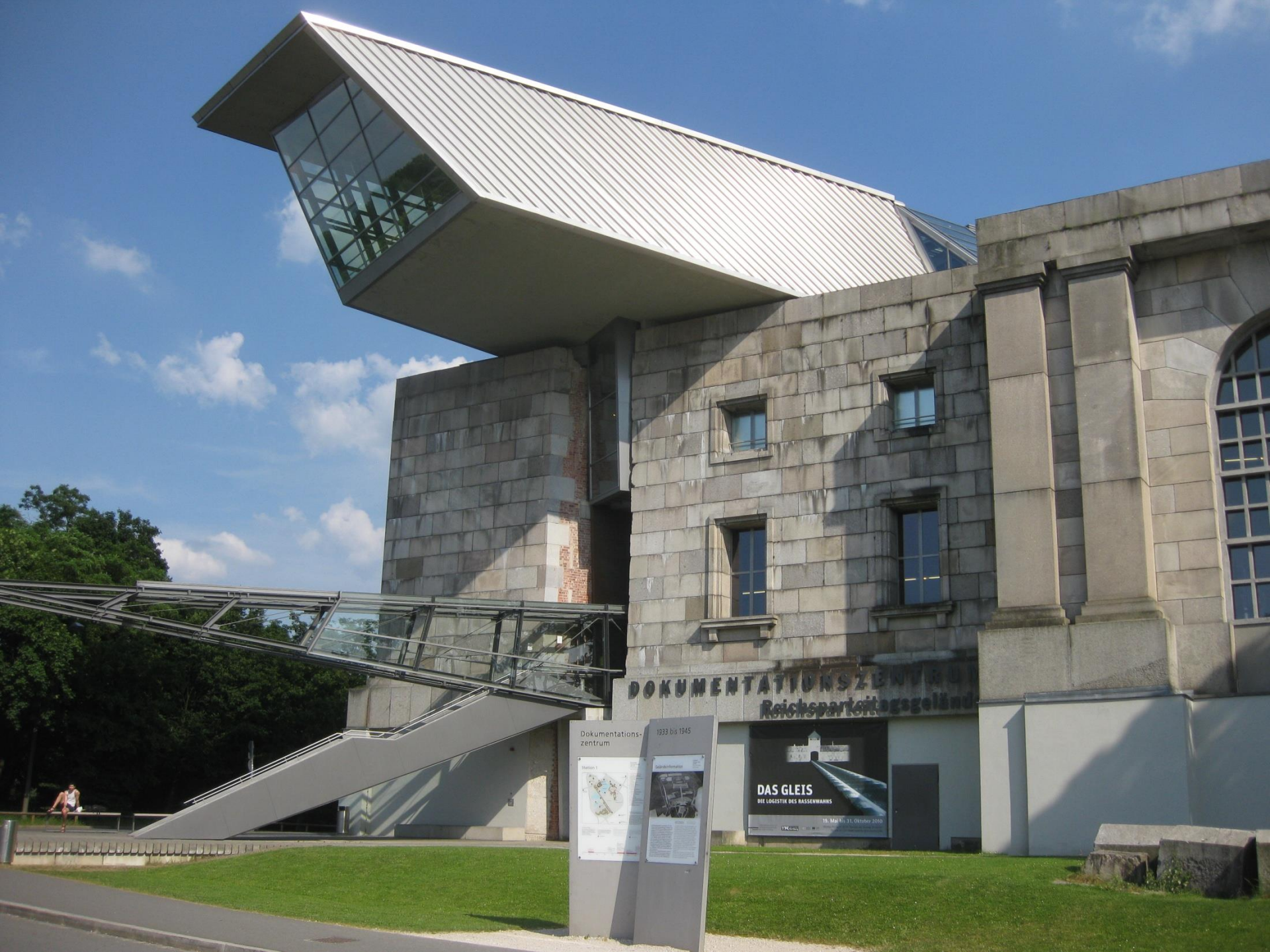




Wouldn't be bad to take this car on a little spin on the autobahn.

400K people were suppose to be able to fit in this rally area.





DOKUMENTATIONSZENTRUM
Reichsparteitagsgelände

Dokumentationszentrum 1939 bis 1945

Station 1



Stationen



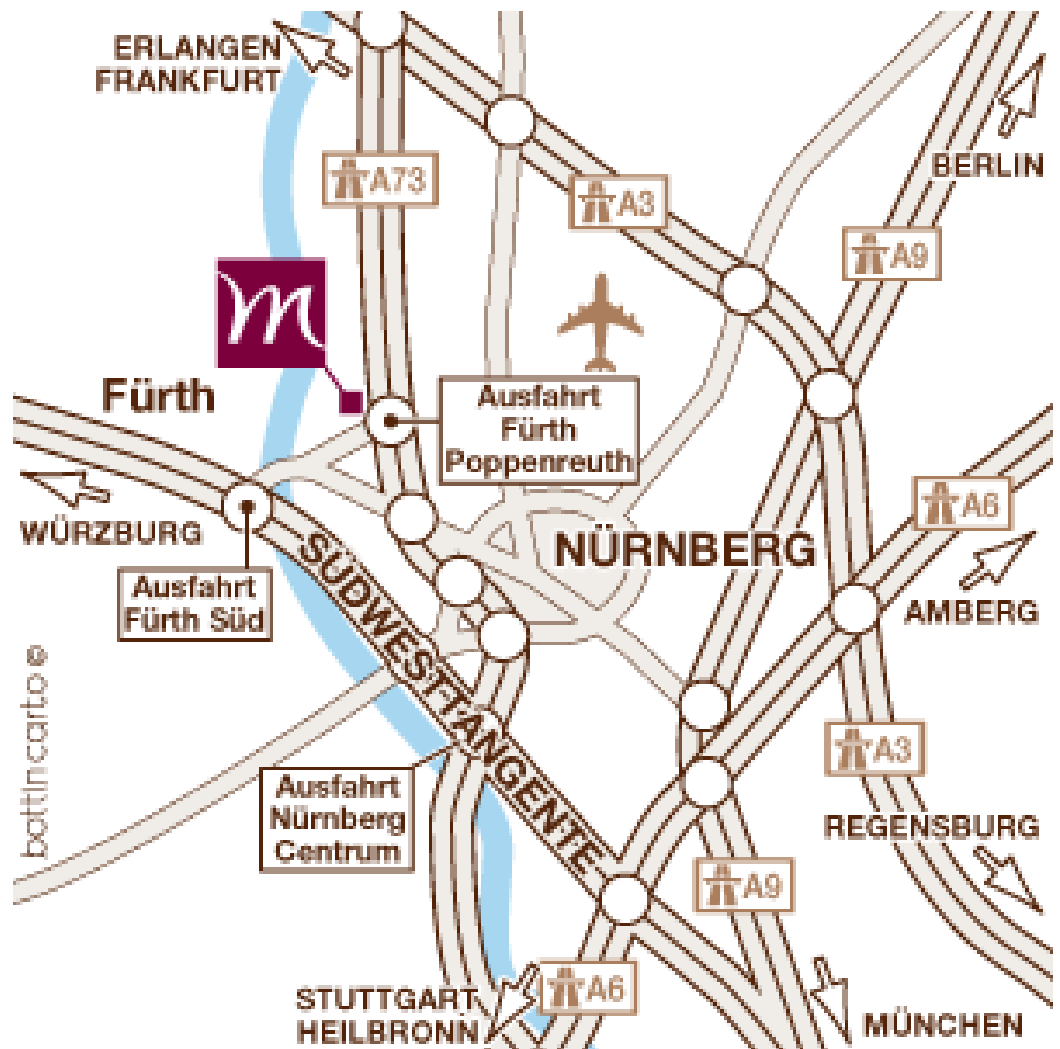
Stationen



DAS GLEIS
DIE LOGISTIK DES BASSENWANNIS

19. Mai bis 31. Oktober 2010

A visit and meal awaited us at Ottmar & Elfriede Then's place. Rather than stay with them as we did in 2005 and 2007, we opted for a room at the nearby Mercure Hotel in Fürth (see *M* on map). Time to check in and regroup before Gunther picked us up in his cab.



Never pass up an opportunity to use the timer feature on a *digical* camera. Even on the elevator at the hotel.





**O & E's
eldest son
Wolfgang
was the
chef for the
evening. He
grilled up
enough
meat for
twice as
many
people that
ate.**

**Good food, good
drink, lively
conversation**





**Sweet Jenny,
now pushing 30,
proudly displays
her.... uhhhh...
large bottle of
bier**

..... as does Helga,
Gunther's wife.





**Proudly
displaying their
Bavarian flag
overlooking the
family garden.**

**More lively
conversation...**



Talking to Frances in Fredricksburg, Texas





Ottmar with sons Gunther (54) and Wolfgang (56)



**Jenny with Jorgen
(I think was his
name) above, and
her Opa on the
right**





**Hmmm...
2005....**



Enough of the flashbacks.... Gunther & Helga drop us off at Mercure in his cab.



Before retiring for the evening, we walked several blocks to find a bar for a night cap



Mercure HOTEL

M

Day #4: Thursday 01 July 2010



A panic attack nearly struck when Ed couldn't find his passport. Rob did a strip-search of the room (but remained clothed himself) in search of said passport while Ed did the same with his backpack at the car. When neither were successful, Ed went to the room and Rob went outside his comfort zone and began searching side pockets on Ed's backpack... and FOUND missing article... then apologized for invading Ed's space – a male no-no... but drastic measures were necessary. Great haste must take place to get to Passau organ recital by noon.

143.29 miles





**In Passau now with
only moments before
recital**



This place remains a favorite stop both visually and for the music made by this fabulous instrument. The acoustics of the room add to the great sound profoundly. Our third visit here.

**And of course the
Dom was
undergoing
remodeling,
cleaning, whatever**





Even small-town Germany has made a “racket” out of parking tickets



**Still lots of
medieval charm
in Passau**

After the recital in Passau, we began eastward, basically following the Danube River through beautiful Austria to Bratislava, Slovakia.





A gas station in Passau that actually offers FULL SERVICE

**Was pushing 2 pm
and we hadn't had
lunch. This place
along the autobahn
looked good.**





Wahnsinn
Kaffee Strudel
(Apfel & Zitrone)

**Good wiener
schnitzel and
trimmings**



**A brief respite in
the Austrian
town of Melk
where Rob had
taken his choir in
2001. Domes are
the Abbey.**





BRATISLAVA · JAROVCE

Austria into Bratislava, Slovakia

**Entering downtown
Bratislava. Here bridge,
here castle**



**A unique
adventure
again. Here
is our
Slovakian
lodging for
the night –
complete
with our
own
veranda**

**Our room
and balcony**



Bar balcony



Hostel Blues

SALÁŠ
Jediný na západe, najkrajší na Slovensku.
Iba 20 minút od centra Bratislavy.
čerstvý ovčí syr, restaurácia, programy pre deti
Salaš Biofarma Príroda Stupava rezervácie:0918/280546

HOSTEL
BLUES
HOSTEL

CSOB

ICON

FRANČEK ROMA

SALUŠKA ZA NÁVŠTEVNÍKOV



***Hostel Blues* bar
viewed as a dive
by older folks...
we *young* guys
think of it as
plush**

A nice view from our room/patio. Next goal was old town centre, beer, and food, but not necessarily in that order, but I guess it turned out that way.





SLOVENSKE NARODNE DIVJALO

2023
PREMIERA
Vincenzo Bellini
Puritani
Mestniška hišna SPO
www.nad.si

McDonald's

McDonald's

McDonald's



Out doing her shopping I'm sure

Castle undergoing some renovation



**Street café
beer-thirty**



en
maritán

BOGAR KRALIK URSAN
AVELER ARRETTORAK & BOSTERO
PAGATA ELIZEN ET BERTUTUELA

KMPROFIT
KONZUMENENTZU PONTIKU BIDEZINA
Ing. Milan Bachraty

MONAQ
LEASING

Unique city artwork



1. Slovak pub

**Our traditional
Slovakian meal here
and a beer**

1. slovenská krčma

vitajte počestní
vitajte pútníci
vitajte synovia rdovy

...a povedal som mu
"chlapče rob dobré halušky a
daj si tam internet"

1. Slovak pub

Obchodná 62
811 02 Bratislava
www.1slovakpub.sk

dobrá adresa na stretnutie a pitie

tradičná Slovenská kuchyňa / najlepši pub v meste / história Slovenska na jedlých miestach

62

1. Slovak pub

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA ORIGINAL INTERIOR

WE TRY TO BE THE BEST PIZZA IN SLOVAKIA

TRADICIONÁLNA PIZZA USTRA

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

EUROPA PUB

WOOD FIRE PIZZA

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

Mr.Li
otvoreno

Mr.Li



**Back at
Hostel
Blues...
A guest
room on
left,
elevator
on right**

**Our nightcap for
the evening out on
the patio**



**Perfect temperature, great view,
cold beer. Ahhhh life is good**





Day #5, 02 July 2010 we had some breakfast in the bar area before our long drive toward Auschwitz

TIPS FOR OUR LOVELY STAFF ...
... and for the starving funny animals as well....
Thank YOU 😊

Sign on Hostel Blues bar

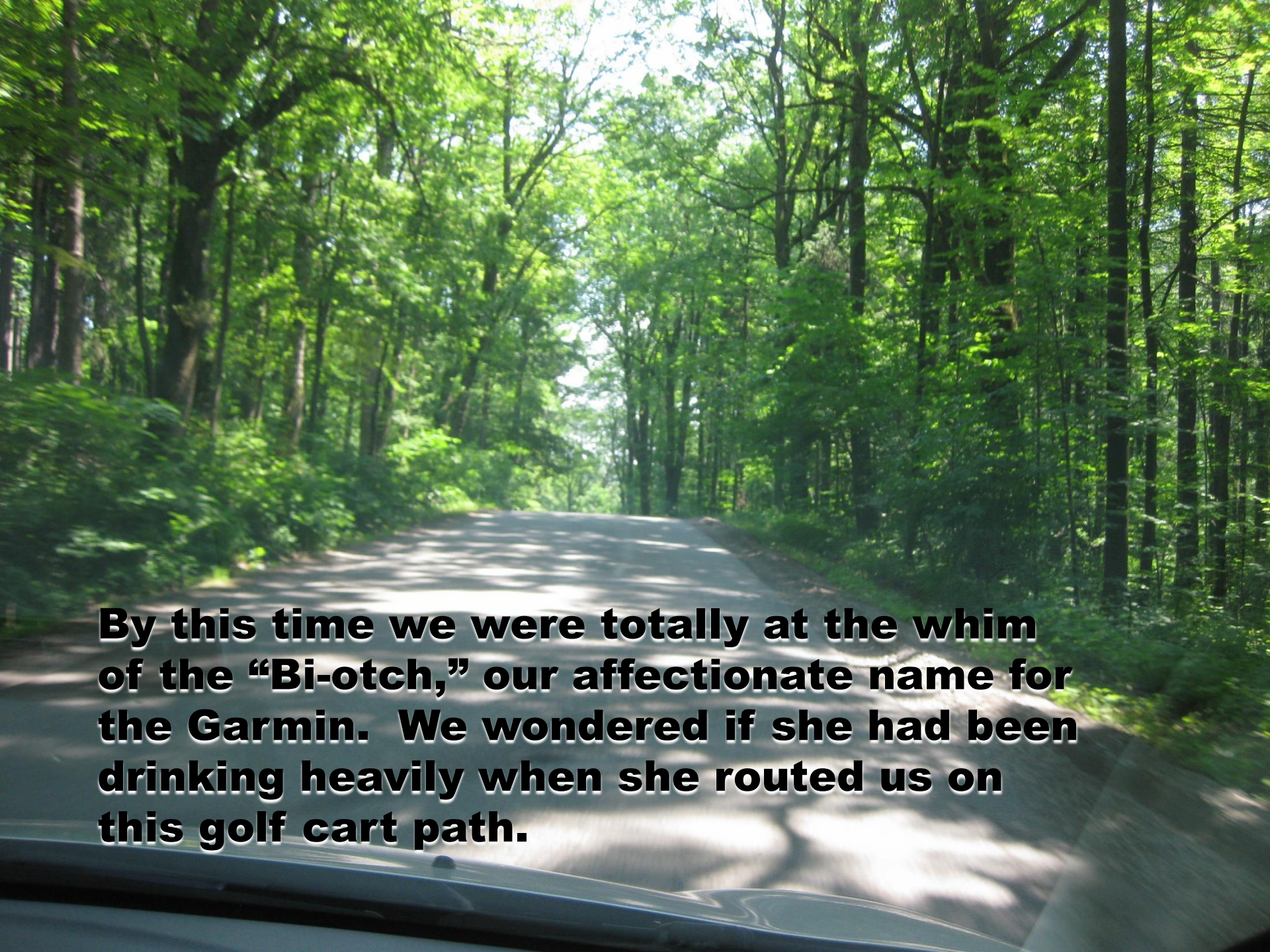


Our goal today is to experience the concentration camp Auschwitz. A 4+ hour drive that took us through the Czech Republic before entering Poland. The town near Auschwitz is Oświęcim.



**This was quite a scenic drive.
Great care went into the
cemeteries like this one near
the Czech/Polish border**





By this time we were totally at the whim of the “Bi-otch,” our affectionate name for the Garmin. We wondered if she had been drinking heavily when she routed us on this golf cart path.



Once we got into Poland we decided to stop at a truck stop for lunch: deli meats, chips, etc. Great day for a picnic.



Entering Oświęcim (German for Auschwitz). We have seen booths along side of the road the last 30-40 miles with girls selling strawberries

Words are just hard to find to describe Auschwitz. It was the largest German Concentration/Extermination Camp 1940-1945. Nazi's estimated deaths at 2.5 million, but recent figures estimate 1.1 – 1.6. A period in our world's history that should not have been. So barbaric for the 20th century. Being WWII buffs we had to see this, but it certainly wasn't a *cheery* visit. We saw Auschwitz I – the base camp, and Auschwitz II (Birkenau) – the extermination camp.





**Arriving at
Auschwitz I**



WACHT FÜR FREI

HALT

Several people are visible in the foreground, including a man wearing headphones and a woman in a black shirt.

Our tour guide







Wall where many were killed by firing squad

Auschwitz II (Birkenau)





Remains of one of the gas chambers destroyed by the Nazis when they knew their demise was imminent







A petro stop, then on to Krakow which would be the pit stop for this leg of the trip. Looking for *Good Bye Lenin - Let's Rock* Hostel

**After numerous loops
around downtown, we
found a parking place
across from this castle**





**Interesting
architecture
and other sights
on the 5-6 block
walk to the
hostel**

Let's see... car parked... checked in room... yup, time for a beer!! Here on Good Bye Lenin patio bar. Oh yea, Rob had to call credit card company to correct glitch. Grrrrr



**Now for drinks & dinner in
old town Krakow. I'd say
this was in the top ten of
trip highlights.**

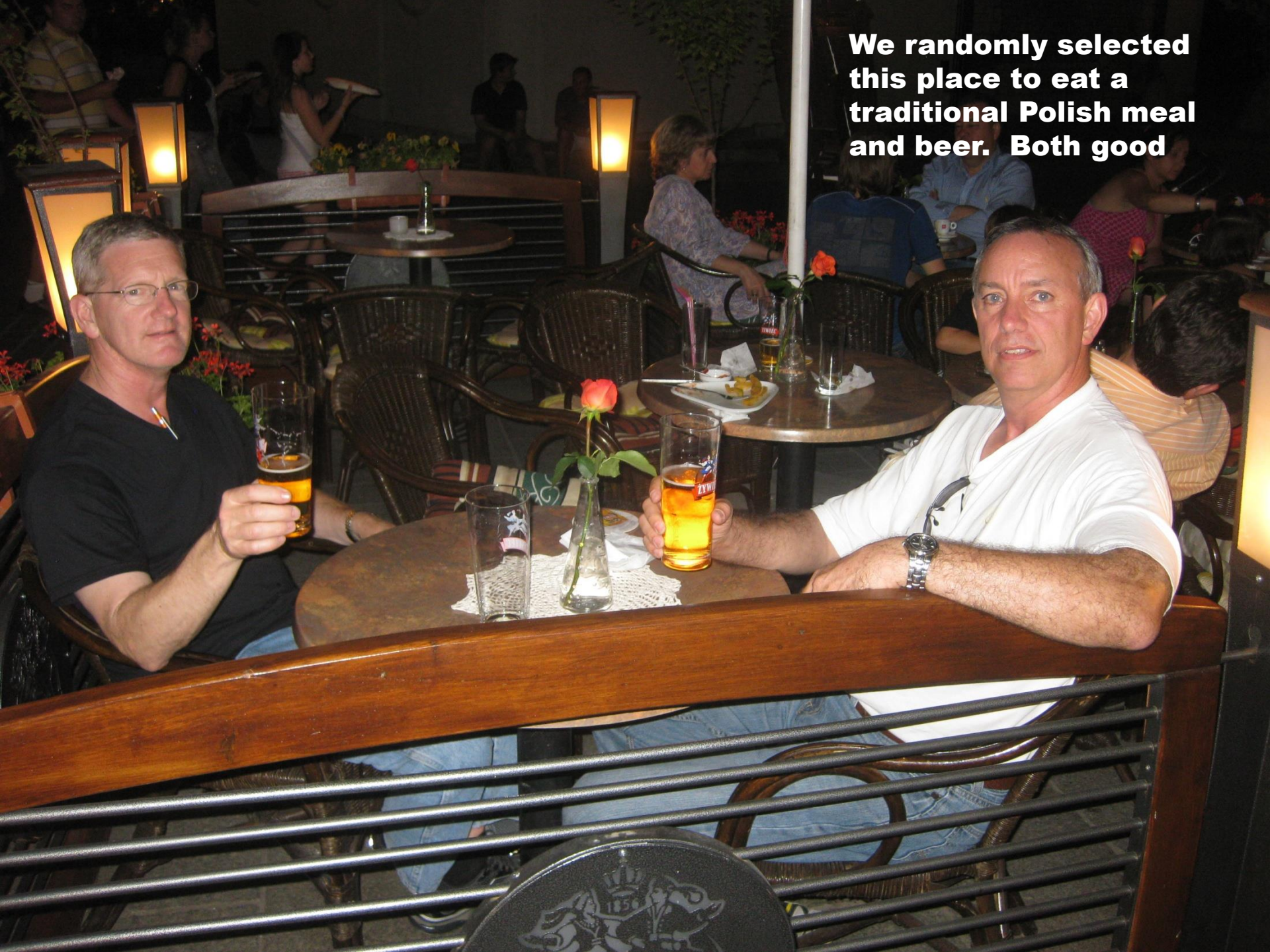


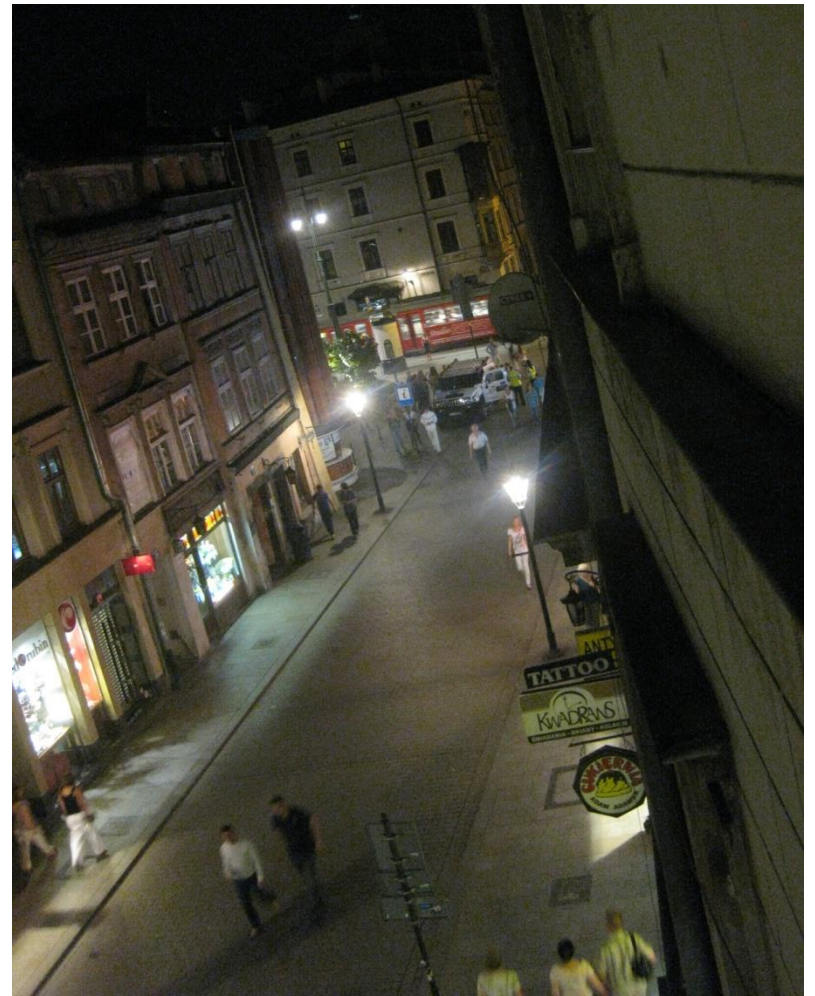
**Sidewalk
cafes
lined the
streets.
Lots of
activity
going on
here**





**We randomly selected
this place to eat a
traditional Polish meal
and beer. Both good**





Night shots from our hostel window



**Day #6: 03
July 2010.
Our goal
today is to
get to
Budapest.
Much
scenery
along the
way.**



The hostel had breakfast for its guests.... You make or pour it, then you wash the dishes and put them away. Common hostel protocol. The day got off to a good start – the car was still there from yesterday afternoon. So was the castle!

We headed south on the main drag out of Krakow ready to encounter some beautiful mountain ranges on the way back though Slovakia.



**A quick stop
to soak in
some
scenery at
this country
chapel in
Southern
Poland.**



Interesting sights





A much-needed bathroom and beverage break here at this ski lodge of sorts - in the winter.







These two guys are enjoying a beer already on this cool, refreshing morning, and it's just after 10 am. Tempting

**A map of the mountain range
we were in**

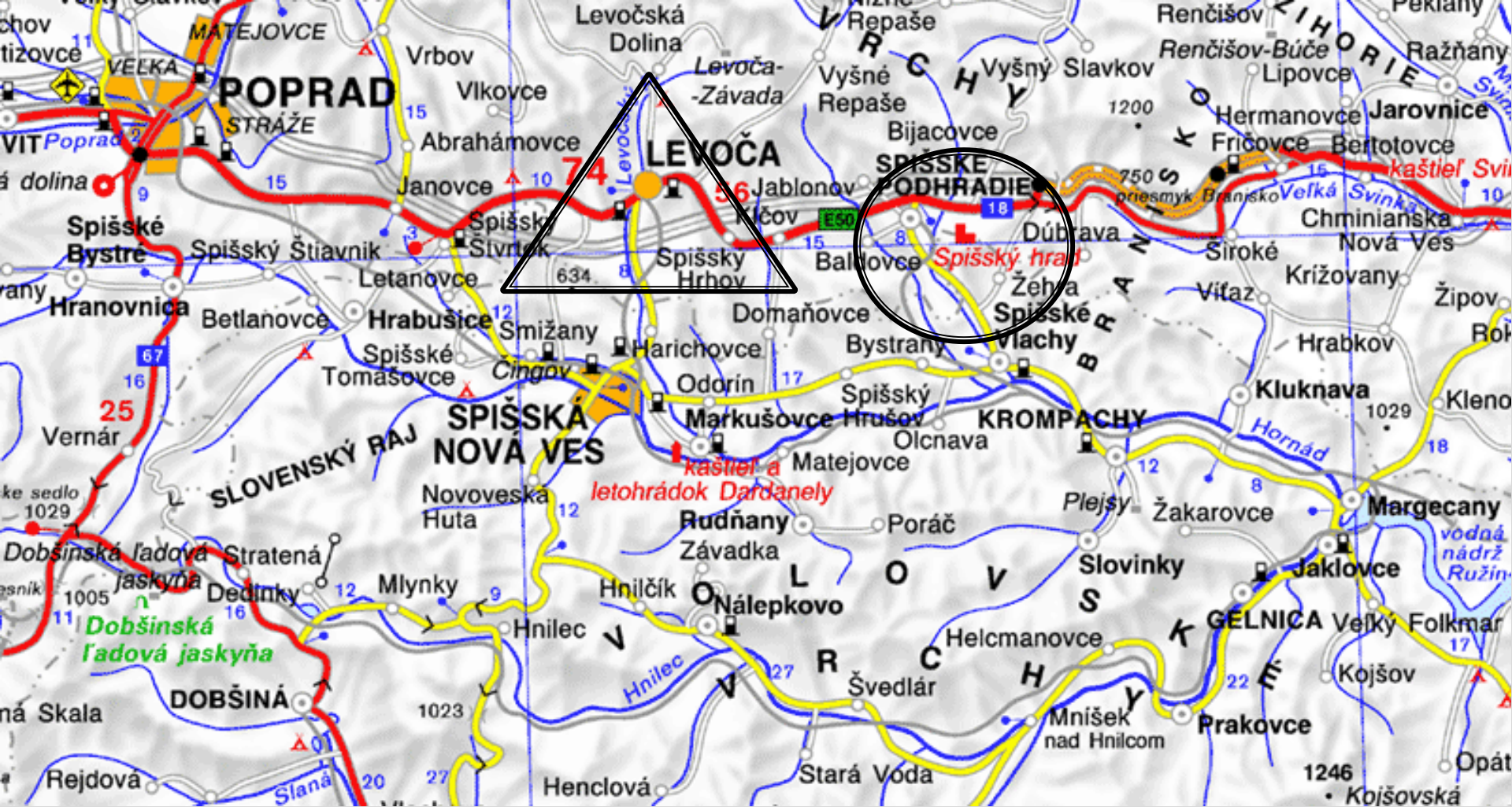
BELIANSKE TATRY

Spišská Belá Tatranská Kotlina Ždiar



Škoda Octavia Co





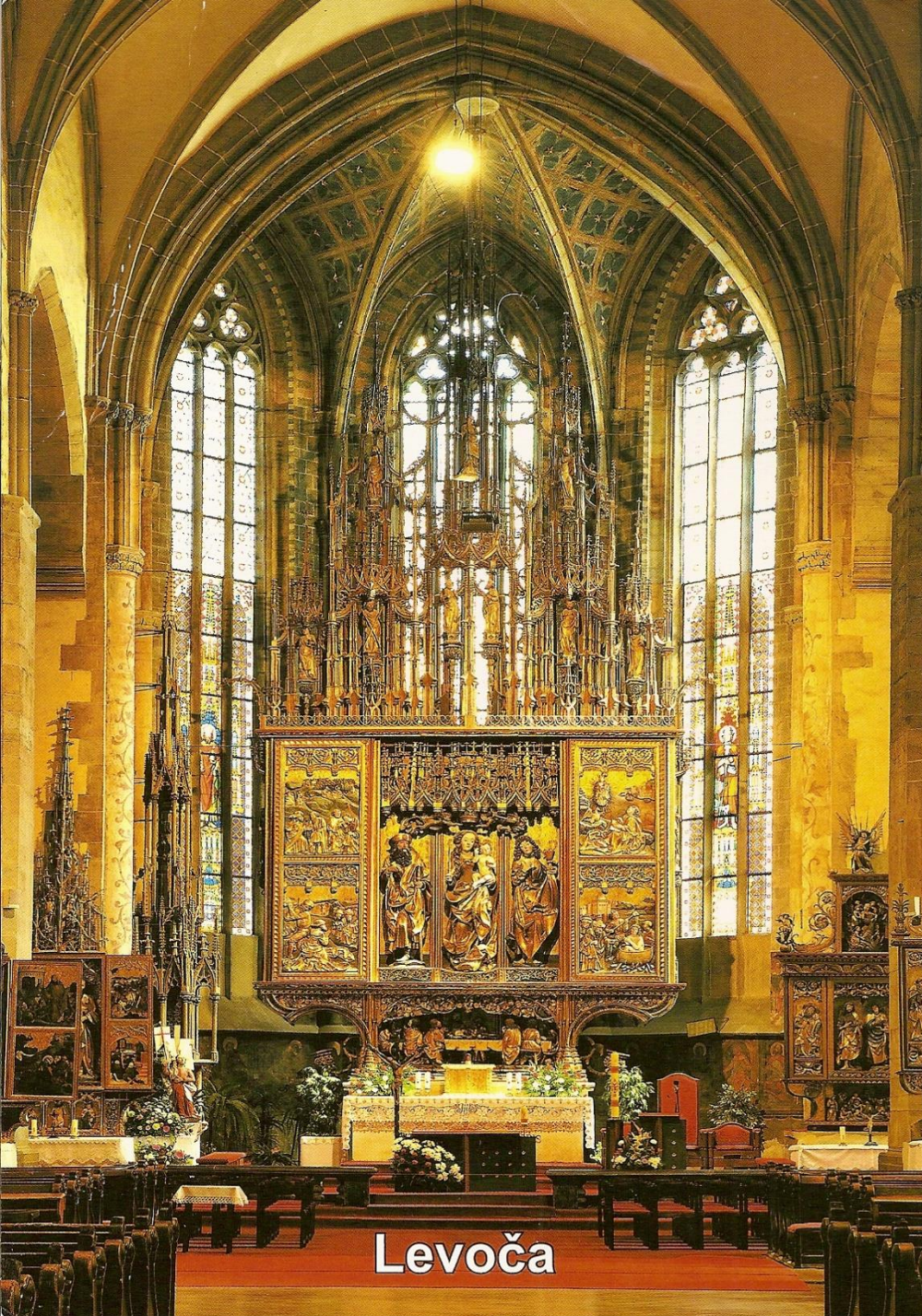
Our next goal was the ruins of the Spis Castle, a.k.a. Spišský hrad in circle on map, but we made an unexpected stop in the nice little town of Levoča, in triangle on map.



Coming into Levoča

After parking along this old fort wall, we walked up through a craft fair on the streets to see the beautiful cathedral





Levoča



Here is the Levoča cathedral and its renowned altar. No flash pics, only buy the postcard



Now this was a sight to see. Just a few minutes from Levoča was the Spis Castle – a.k.a. Spissky Hrad.

While it doesn't look very far, it took us about 40-45 minutes to get up and around to the entrance. Travel info says it takes an hour to walk from here. We hastily drug our 54-year-old butts up that hill with the skill and agility of a 24-year-old... well maybe a 44-year-old.



Spis Castle is one of the largest castle ruins in Central and Eastern Europe. Some parts here date back to the 12th century.







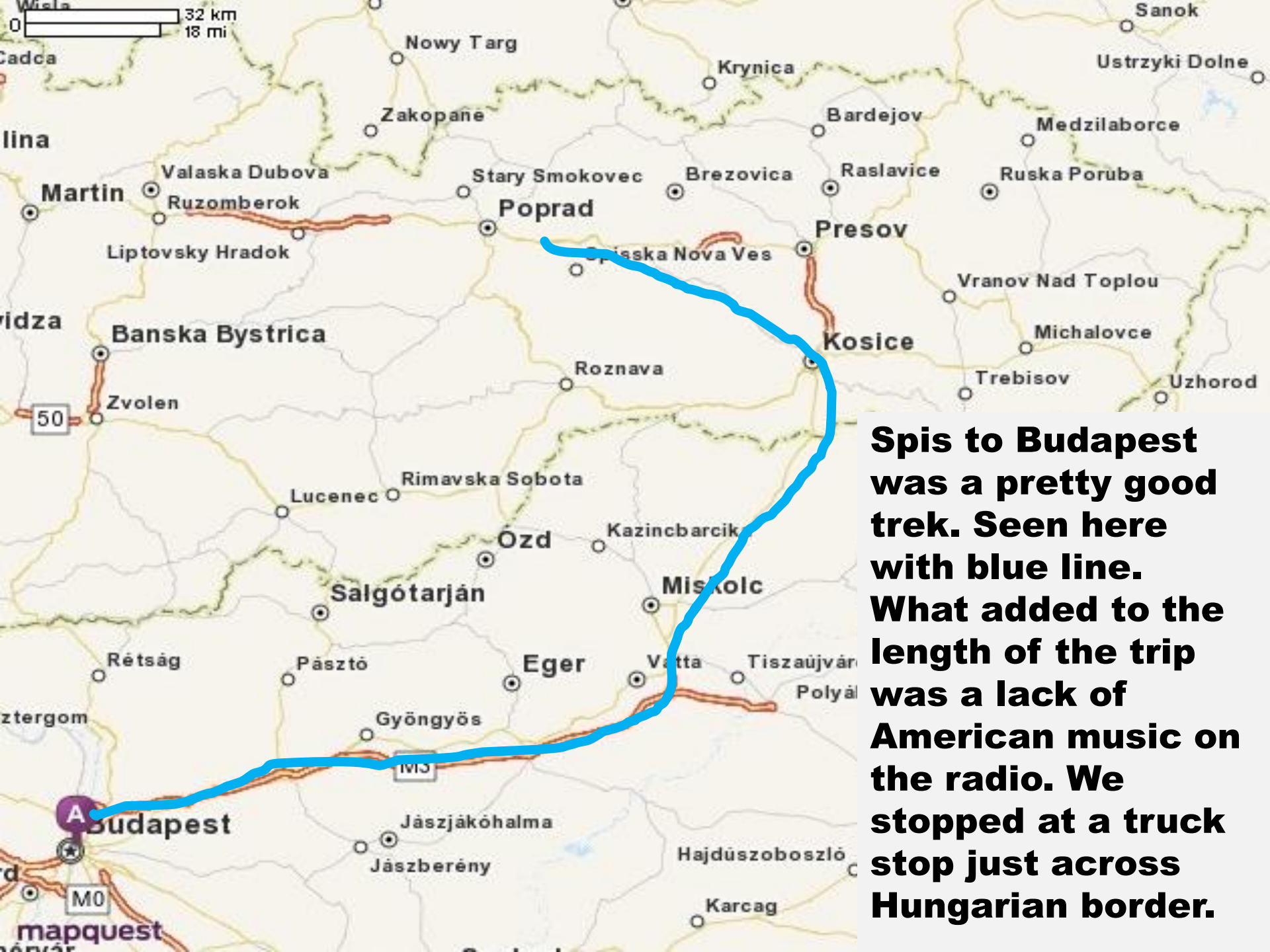


Car is here



Back down the hill.





Spis to Budapest was a pretty good trek. Seen here with blue line. What added to the length of the trip was a lack of American music on the radio. We stopped at a truck stop just across Hungarian border.

We both had siestas while at this Hungarian truck stop. Rob took this picture and purchased some mentos at the convenience store, then broke off a chunk of back tooth on it. Fortunately, no root exposed. The term *Hungarian Dentist* sounds kinda spooky. It was also on this drive... while reading Rick Steves, we found the Hungarian term: *Egészségedre*. It's a word used in place of "cheers," but it means *To Your Health*. We now add this to our regular beer toast begun in 2000.





They had overbooked our hostel and moved us into a nice apartment for the night in Budapest at no additional cost. Had the Biotch not taken us exactly there, no telling how long we would have wandered around.

After checking in the apartment, we got cash and found a nice outdoor restaurant for some traditional Hungarian food and beer in downtown Budapest. Was good. Then night cap(s) at the bar pictured here just down the street from our apartment.



**Quite a nice place.
Even had our own
computer**





**Even a piano in the
bedroom. Roll over BÉLA
BARTÓK**



**Our apt
here on 2nd
floor**





Enclosed courtyard



Day #7, 04 July 2010 Good morning Budapest!

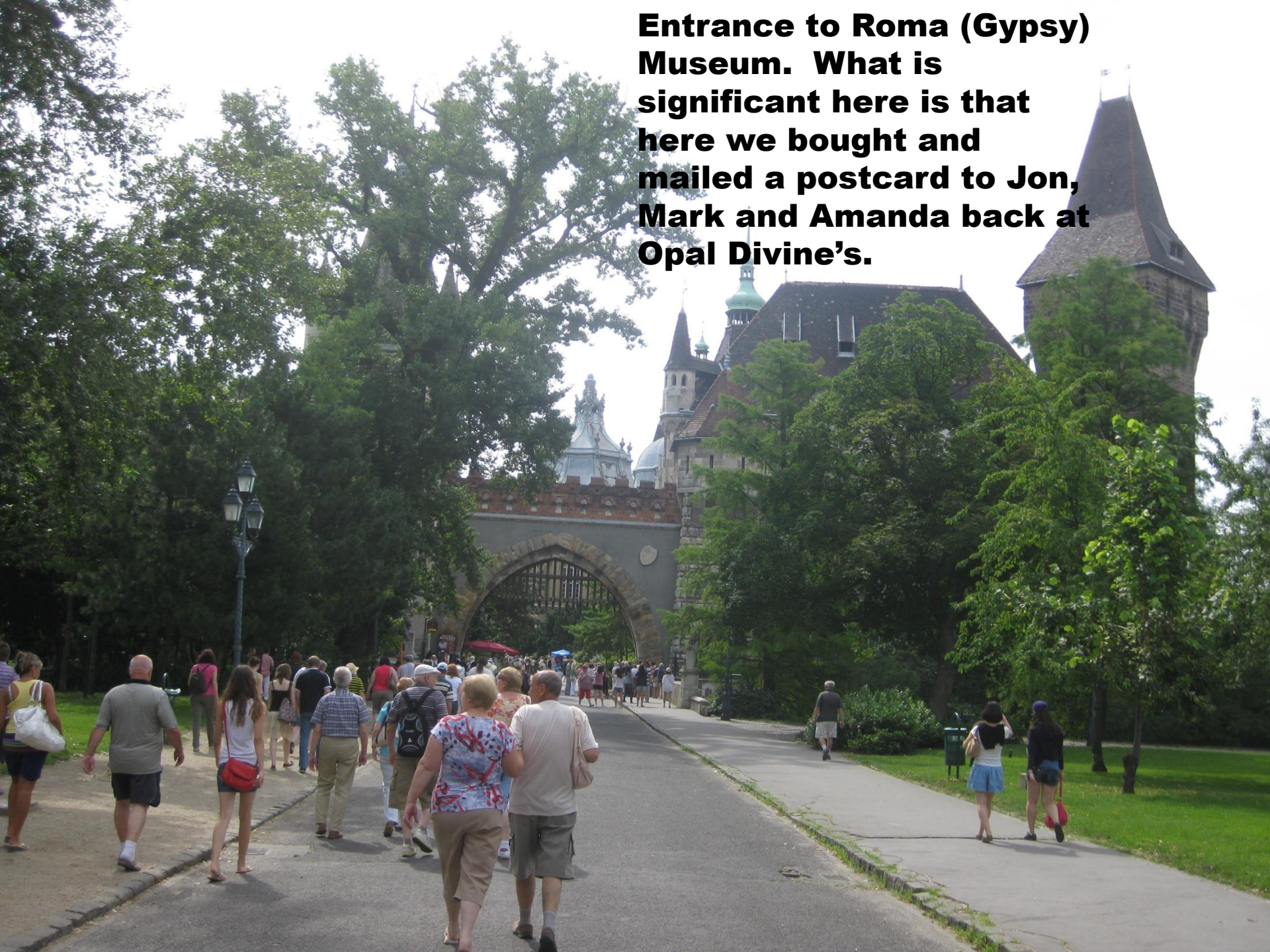
Part of the reason for Budapest was that Rob completed his Kodály certification in Music Education in 1986. Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967) a Hungarian composer and folksong collector made great strides in the world of music education throughout the early and middle parts of the 20th century. It was a pilgrimage of sorts to see the Kodály museum at long last. And here it is... closed for remodeling.



Downtown Budapest... and girls holding up street signs....



Entrance to Roma (Gypsy) Museum. What is significant here is that here we bought and mailed a postcard to Jon, Mark and Amanda back at Opal Divine's.



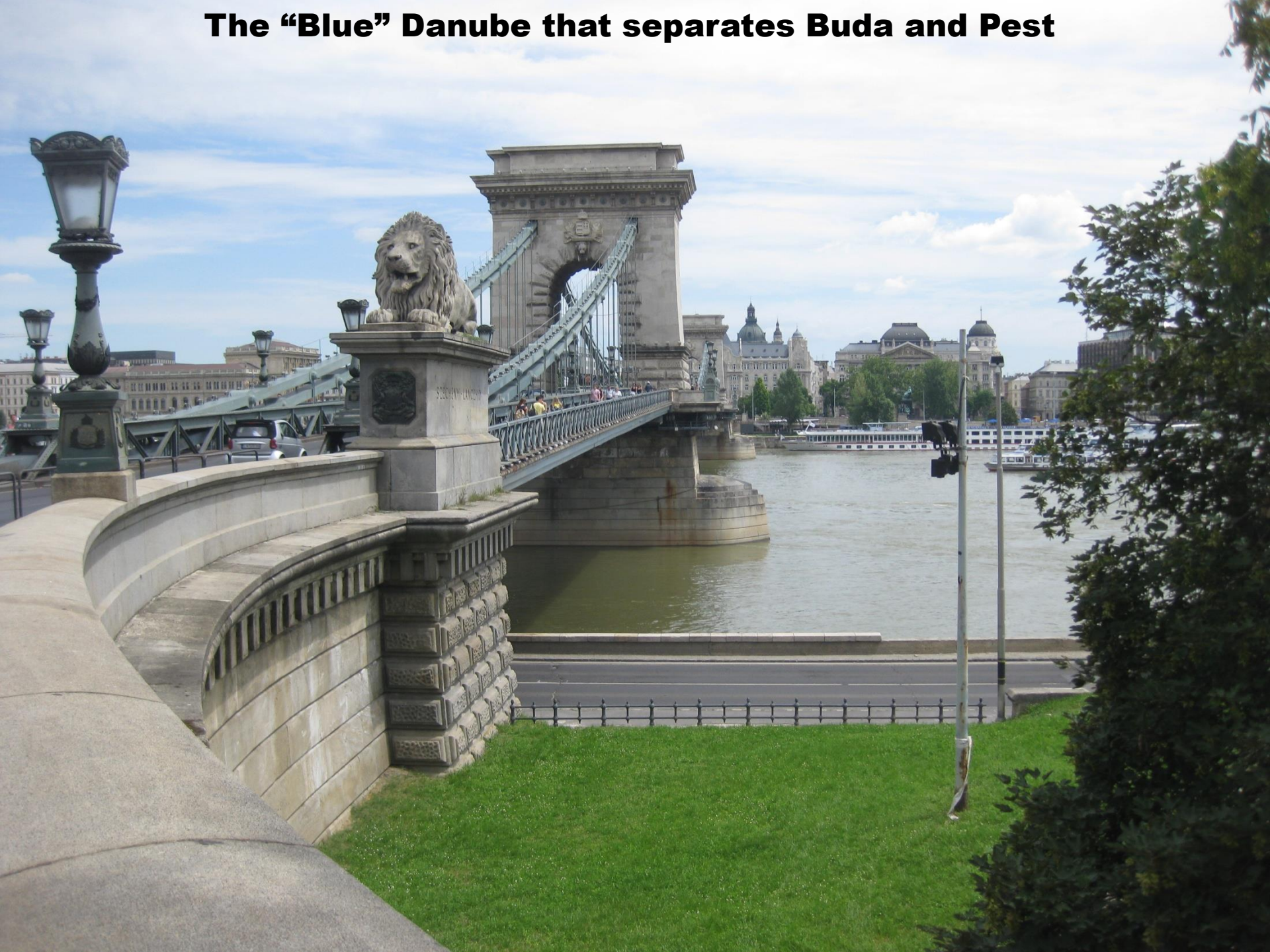


Frommer & Rick Steves both recommend seeing (and/or *doing*) a bath house in Budapest. Quick walk through will do.

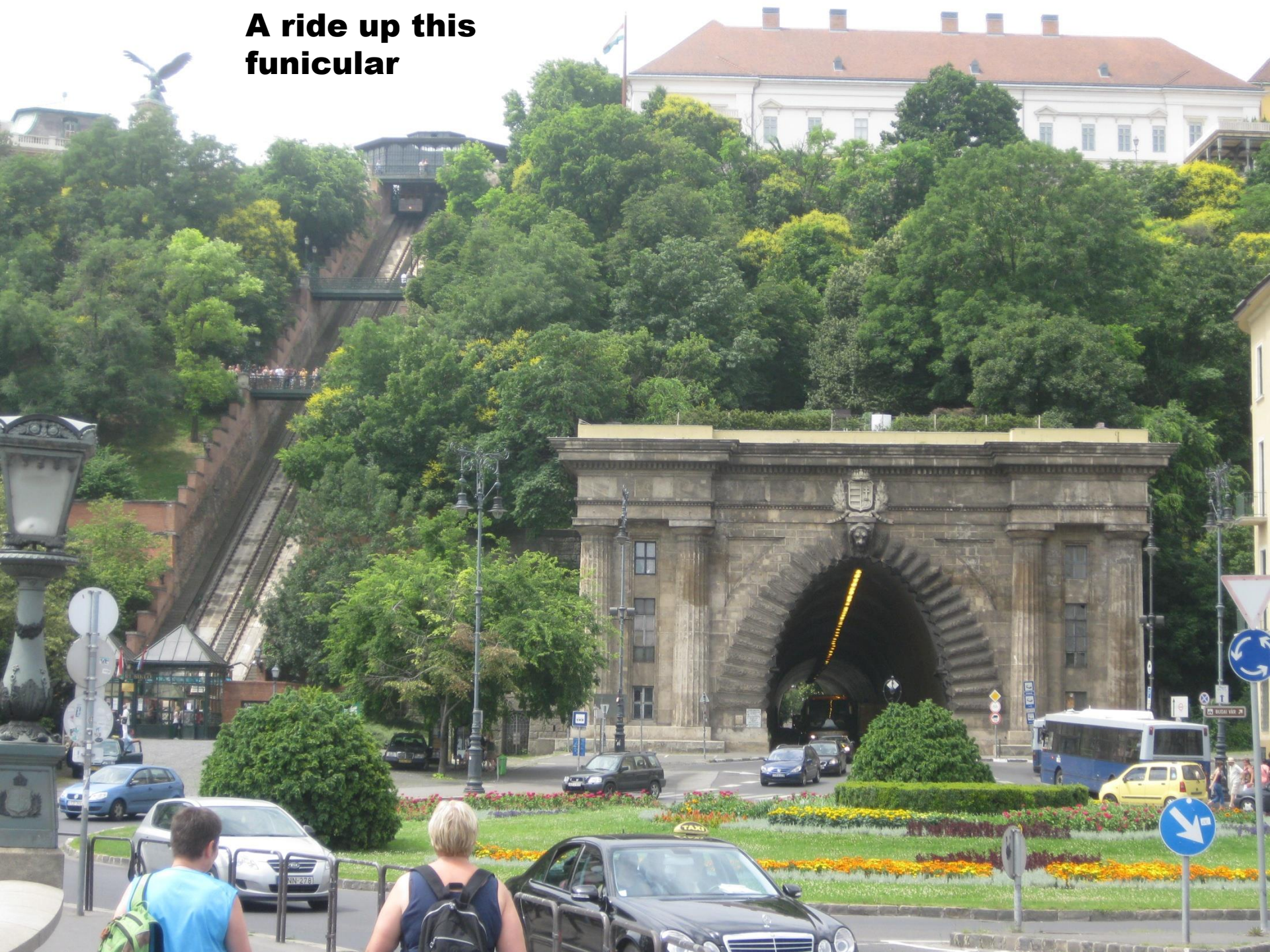
Yea, OK, Fine... let's move on. We discovered there *must* be some mathematical formula between a guy's age and the length of his swim trunks. The older the guy the smaller the swim wear. Eeeek



The “Blue” Danube that separates Buda and Pest



**A ride up this
funicular**





**Clever sign for
water closet a.k.a.
bathroom**

**Now there's some travelin' ironmen, I'll
tell ya...**



Next was Memento Park a.k.a. Statue Park outside of Budapest. Statues collected after the fall of communism. Statues of Lenin, Marx, and Stalin..



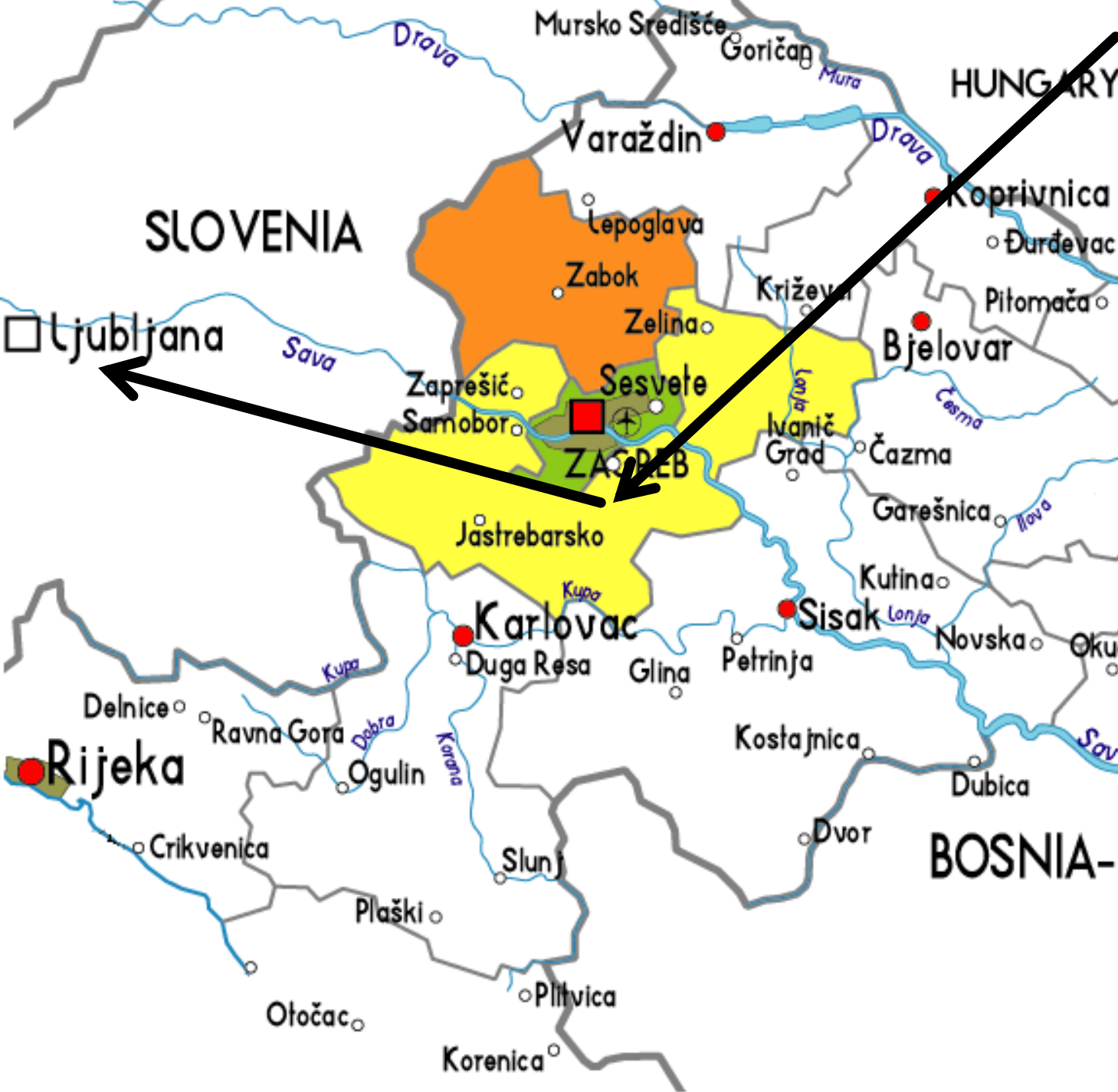
Stalin's boots







Now there's a communist era sports car



Our “landing point” for the night would be the cool Slovenian capital city - Ljubljana. But why not pick up the corner of Croatia and grab a beer to add that country to our list? So from Budapest we swooped on the south side of Zagreb before our destination of Ljubljana.

Lunch break at a truck stop somewhere along the way.





The official Croatian beer. Admittedly we poured half of it out... partly because DUI penalties are off-the-chart fierce, mostly because it was a nasty tasting beer! Almost *Stag*-like.

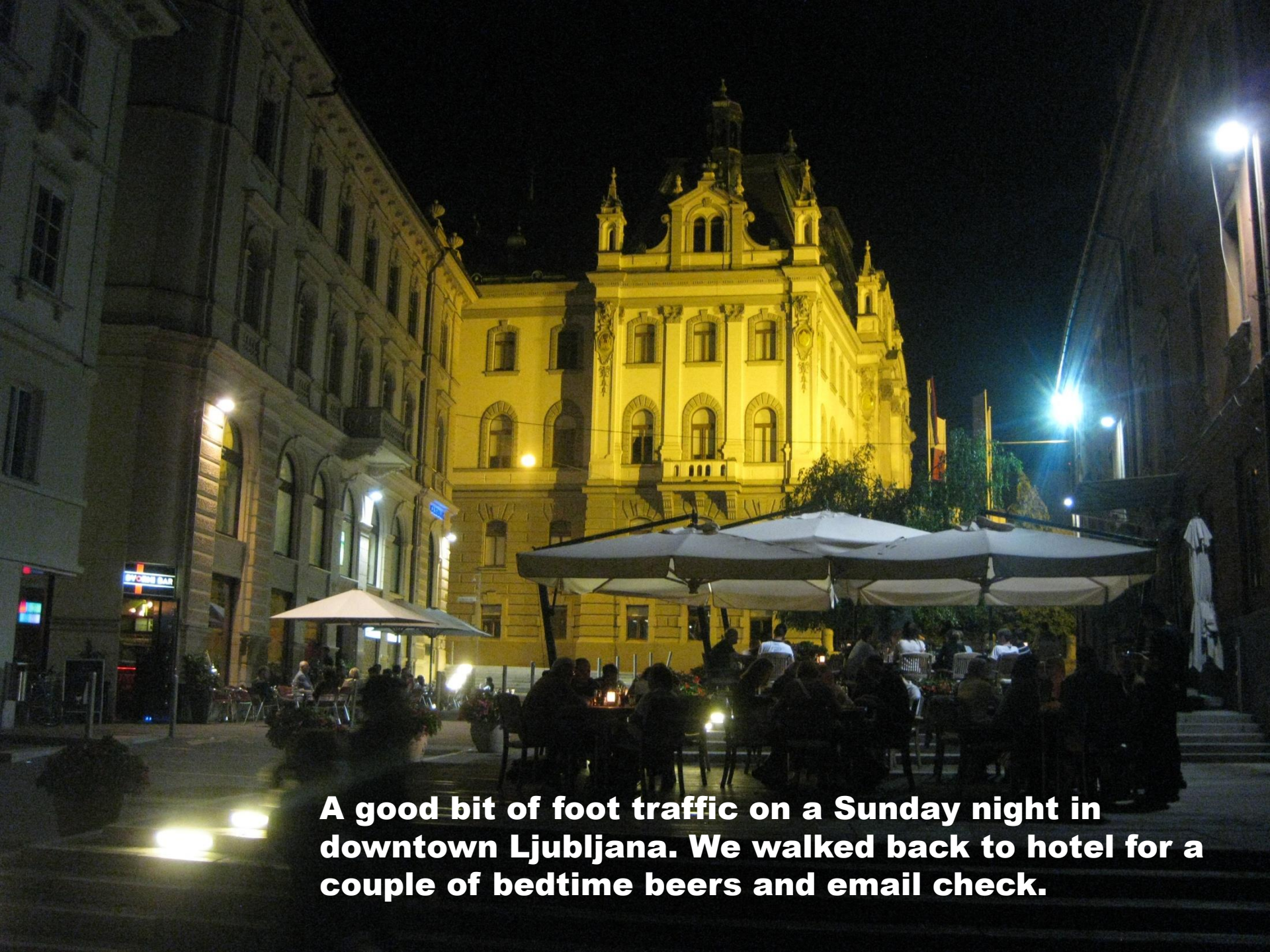




POZOR!
Visoka napetost!
Življenjsko nevarno!

**PLAKATIRANJE
PREPOVEDANO**

A place that had 100 different pizzas on their menu... and beer. Watch out for that electric box, Ed. We both phoned home. It's about lunchtime on July 4 back in Austin, TX.



A good bit of foot traffic on a Sunday night in downtown Ljubljana. We walked back to hotel for a couple of bedtime beers and email check.

Often called “Europe’s most overlooked gem,” Ljubljana boasts that it has no world-famous attractions, just the city itself. We decide to do a city walking tour.



Day #8, 05 July 2010



KABAR CZIVANO.
SMAPIUS EGAMON
...
...
...



KABAR CZIVANO.
SELEBRIS EGAMON
...
...
...
397
428
251





Another funicular to see the city



Our tour guide did a good job of telling about Ljubljana and answering our questions.





Funicular plus winding staircase for a great view.



**Lunch after walking tour.
Some kinda fish and this
salad.**

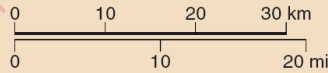
SLOVENIA



Time now to move on to a popular tourist destination in the Julian Alps, Bled, Slovenia and Lake Bled. One place certainly worth coming back to with the wives.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- National capital
- Major city
- Town, village
- Airport
- International boundary
- Under construction
- Railroad





Ljubljana to Bled is 28 miles.



This island in the middle of Lake Bled has its own website. This lake has been described as an *emerald green mountain lake*. It's breath-taking from any angle.

View from our hotel





We checked into the room - the nicest of the trip I do believe... took naps to recharge the batteries, then drove around the lake & town. You can probably do the loop around the lake by car in 10-15 minutes. Every spot along the lake was a Kodak moment. By now, though, it's time for....



Union beer good, not necessarily outstanding, but it quenched a hankerin thirst. Here we planned out our itinerary for the remainder of the day and maybe some for tomorrow. The next thing to do would be a boat ride to Bled Island.



Bled Castle that we will see later



Our less-than-one horsepower boat motor



A returning vessel





Lake Bled from atop Bled Castle

Just not a bad view anywhere





We saw this from across the lake thinking it might be some sort of great adventure rail ride. Maybe so if you're 6. Back for dinner & drinks at hotel.



We closed the evening with a beer or two on the hotel patio (pictured here) then a traditional Slovenian meal with a local wine.



Hotel wine cellar

Day #9, 06 July 2010. Started the day with the hotel complimentary breakfast before leaving Bled.





How bad would we have been *not* to get our beer from Italy while we're so close. Our next goal is Hitler's Eagle's Nest, so we'll hit the corner of Italy then through Austria.



All throughout Northwestern Slovenia were these racks for hanging and drying hay



Like most of the borders we have crossed on this trip, very low-key, no big deal, if anybody is even there.



**Here is the little town
where we would get our
official beer in Italy**

TARVISIO

A white rectangular road sign with a black border and the word "TARVISIO" in bold black capital letters. The sign is mounted on a silver metal post. In the background, a paved road curves to the left, bordered by a metal guardrail. Further back, there are green trees, a small building, and a large, densely forested mountain under a clear sky.



**Our
official
Italian
beer**

Café Corin
Qui si gioca a:
Jackpot Win for Life!

ALTA DI TARVISIO

**We asked
for a small
beer and
that's what
we got.
*Maybe 8 oz,
tops.***



**Inside the place
was this all-
purpose, floor-level
toilet. I know what
you're thinking,
and I don't know
either.**





Tarvisio was a nice little town.



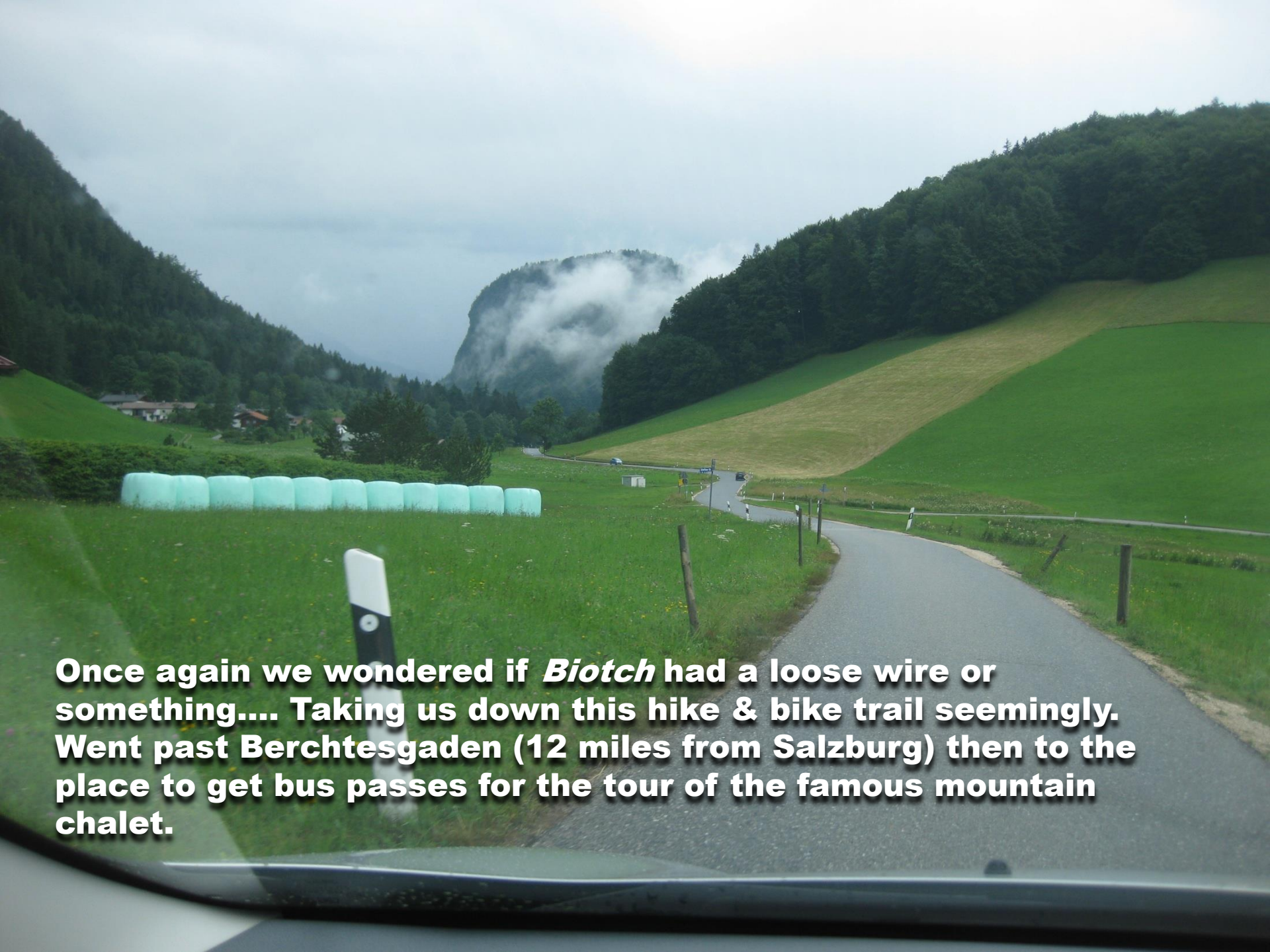
The Austrian border is no more than 5 minutes from Tarvisio. Shortly after this pic, we ran into a bad hailstorm, and windy, curvy roads where 35-40 mph was max, until we reached the autobahn.



This was the only bad weather of the trip. Mix that with some road construction and it slowed us down a little, but not too much.



The red arrow is *basically* where we went, but the small, dotted line is probably a more accurate route.



Once again we wondered if *Biotch* had a loose wire or something.... Taking us down this hike & bike trail seemingly. Went past Berchtesgaden (12 miles from Salzburg) then to the place to get bus passes for the tour of the famous mountain chalet.



Had a traditional German meal at this ski-lodge kind of place. Then on to get tickets and see Eagle's Nest.

A group of people is standing in an elevator. The walls are highly reflective, creating a series of bright, warm-toned reflections. The lighting is soft and yellowish, typical of indoor elevator lighting. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit and white shirt is partially visible on the left. To his right, a woman with blonde hair is looking down. Further back, a man in a white t-shirt is looking towards the right. In the foreground on the right, a woman with dark hair and a man with glasses are looking forward. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber.

Going up the elevator after the bus ride... Hitler actually only went to this place a few times. Said he didn't feel safe there. It was a gift to him from the German people for his 50th birthday in 1938. Mussolini supposedly gave the fireplace.



Guess what... more renovation

A photograph of two men sitting on a mountain peak. The man on the left is smiling and wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt. The man on the right is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and light blue pants, with sunglasses on his head. The background shows a vast mountain range under a cloudy sky. In the bottom left corner, there is a white text overlay.

**Set timer on camera,
then don't fall off the
#\$%^ mountain!**





**Back down
elevator
and wait for
bus ride
back down**

Our 28 mile trip from Eagle's Nest (A) to the final leg of today's travel, Ruhpolding (B) took the better part of an hour. No easy way to get there.





The sleepy little resort town of Ruhpolding, Germany was a highlight of the trip when Rob took his choir there in 2001.



**However,
this cool,
semi-
underground
bar that was
spectacular
in 2001 was
no longer in
bidness.**



**Our lodging for the night... Hotel
Zum Fuchs**

Day #10 07 July 2010 We woke up to a beautiful day and hit the road after some breakfast. Today we have to do our Liechtenstein beer and get back to Zurich to drop off the car. Oh, did I say... don't depend on ATM service at tiny Bavarian villages?





Liechtenstein is only 15.5 miles from north to south, and 3.7 miles east to west.

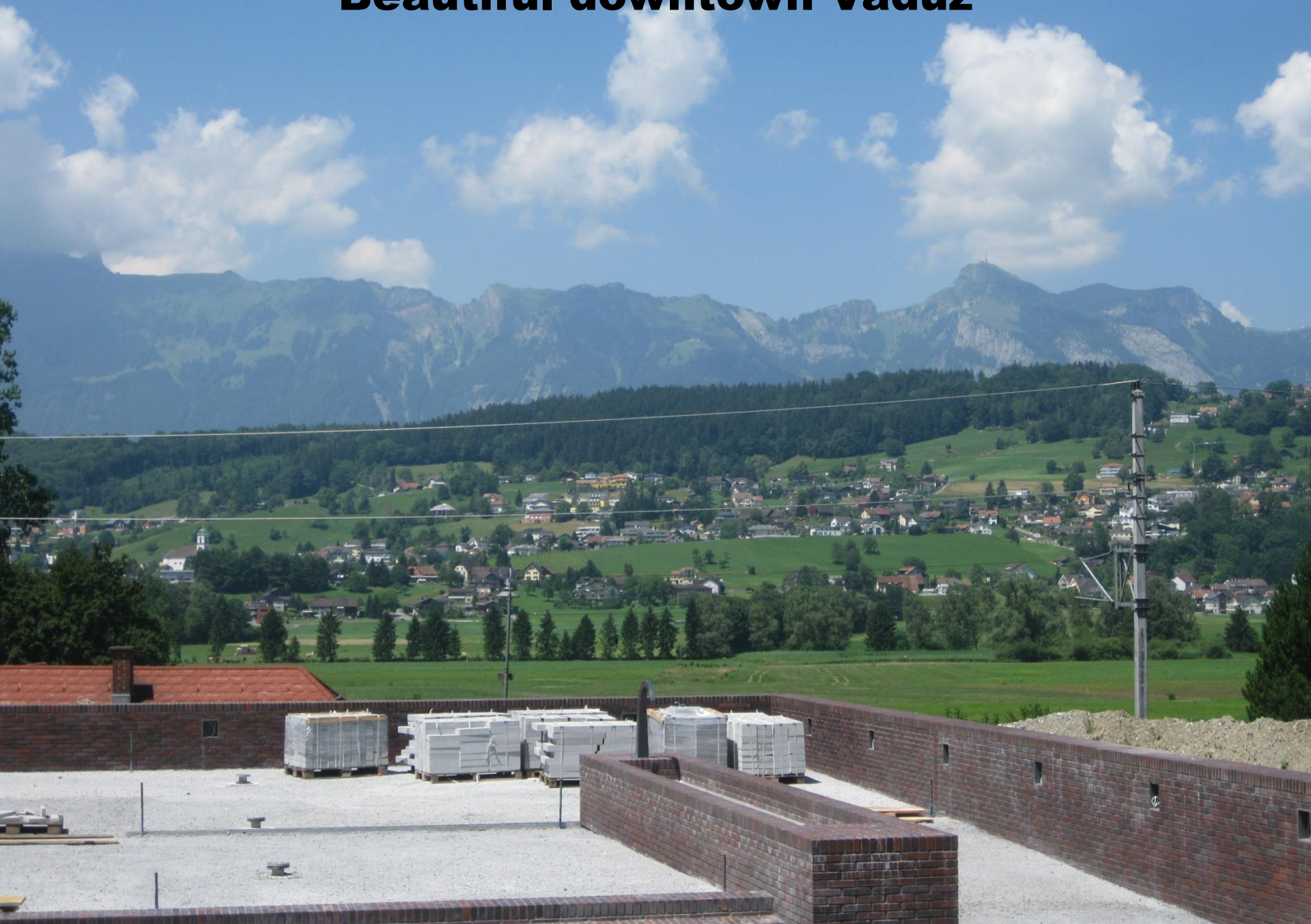


Crossing the *Liechtenstenian* border. Around noon or so now. Only a few minutes now to Vaduz, the capital city.



**The official Liechtenstenian
beer. Good lunch too. Time
to head to Zurich.**

Beautiful downtown Vaduz





**Heading down that long, lonesome, Swiss highway.
Been a great trip, but fatigue is starting to set in.**



Mid afternoon we stopped at a truck stop with this spectacular view. Took a nap, got a Coke, hit the road. Warm temps, cool air.

Another *mancation* map moment





Parting is such sweet sorrow... Arrived at Zurich airport around 5 pm and turned in the Ford Fiesta



Took the train into downtown Zurich, checked into room, then hit the street looking for a bar & restaurant. Bartender at Big Ben cursed us for paying with Euro instead of Swiss Franc.

**We ate a
delicious
meal at a
sidewalk
café. I
believe this
was ham.**





Day #11, 08 July 2010. The bullet train we booked was departing for Paris at 7:02 a.m., so we got up at 5:30 to get to the bahnhoff. This pic from hotel room at about 6 a.m.



Verkehr

S-Bahn

S-Bahn



| Verkehr | | | S-Bahn | | | | S-Bahn | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--|---------------|---|-------|-------------|--------|--|-------|-------------|--|
| Gleis | Bemerkungen | | Linie | Abfahrt | Gleis | Bemerkungen | Linie | Abfahrt | Gleis | Bemerkungen | |
| Basel | | | S9 | 6.34 Altstetten Affoltern a/A Zug | 22 | | S10 | 6.45 Selnau Triemli | 2 | | |
| Thalwil Zug Luzern | 4 | | S10 | 6.35 Selnau Triemli | 2 | | S16 | 6.45 Stadelhofen KÜsnacht Herrliberg-F. | 23/24 | | |
| Baden Brugg Basel | 18 | | S11 | 6.37 Stadelhofen Stettbach Winterthur | 23 | | S16 | 6.47 Oerlikon Winterthur Thayngen | 21/22 | | |
| Sargans Landquart Chur | 10 | | S2 | 6.38 Enge Thalwil Pfäffikon SZ Ziegelbrücke | 53 | | S12 | 6.48 Stadelhofen Winterthur Seen | 23/24 | | |
| Flughafen + Winterthur Konstanz | 11 | | S4 | 6.38 Selnau Adliswil Langnau-G. | 1 | | S4 | 6.48 Selnau Adliswil Langnau-G. | 1 | | |
| Lenzburg Aarau | 14 | | S | 6.40 Altstetten Wohlen | 15 | | S7 | 6.50 Oerlikon Kloten Winterthur | 21/22 | | |
| Flughafen + Winterthur St.Gallen | 12 | | S15 | 6.40 Stadelhofen Uster Wetzikon Rapperswil | 24 | | S | 6.50 Stadelhofen | 23/24 | | |
| Bern | 16 | | S7 | 6.42 Stadelhofen Meilen Stäfa Rapperswil | 23/24 | | S21 | 6.50 Wiedikon Enge Thalwil Zug | 51 | | |
| Oltten Burgdorf Bern | 14 | | S14 | 6.42 Oerlikon Uster Wetzikon Hinwil | 54 | | S7 | 6.51 Oerlikon Wallisellen Weinfelden | 53 | | |
| Bern Thun Visp Brig | 12 | | S12 | 6.43 Altstetten Dietikon Baden Brugg | 21/22 | | S15 | 6.52 Altstetten Affoltern a/A | 21/22 | | |
| Zug Lugano | 6 | | S8 | 6.44 Wiedikon Enge Thalwil Pfäffikon SZ | 52 | | S10 | 6.55 Selnau Triemli Wülten Waldegg Uetliberg | 2 | | |
| Basel Strasbourg Paris | 15 | | Informationen | | | | | | | | |
| Aarau Biel Neuchâtel Lausanne | 13 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thalwil Zug Luzern | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baden Brugg Aarau Oltten Bern | 16 | | | | | | | | | | |



Ahh the sights and sounds of a European train station. Like fine wine... or a good IPA.



The bullet train left pretty much exactly at 7:02 as scheduled. On the way, we pulled out the *Biotch* and fired her up. She said we were doing 197 mph. That's how we made it to Paris in 4.5 hours. The ride was smooth and quiet.



On time, 11:34 am Paris East



We grabbed lunch indoors this time at a French café near the train station. Since we've been in Paris before, we wanted to make it a low-key day. First to find our hostel for the night and check in if we can.

WOODSTOCK



1985
48

HOSTEL

Our beloved lodging for the night in Paris



**Our room just above
the sign**



Pilgrimage to St. Sulpice



We had hoped to get to the Catacombs. Finally found it at 4:20 pm., they closed at 4 pm. When Paris was running out of room in the 1800's, cemeteries were excavated and remains of 6 million people were artistically placed in these underground quarries.



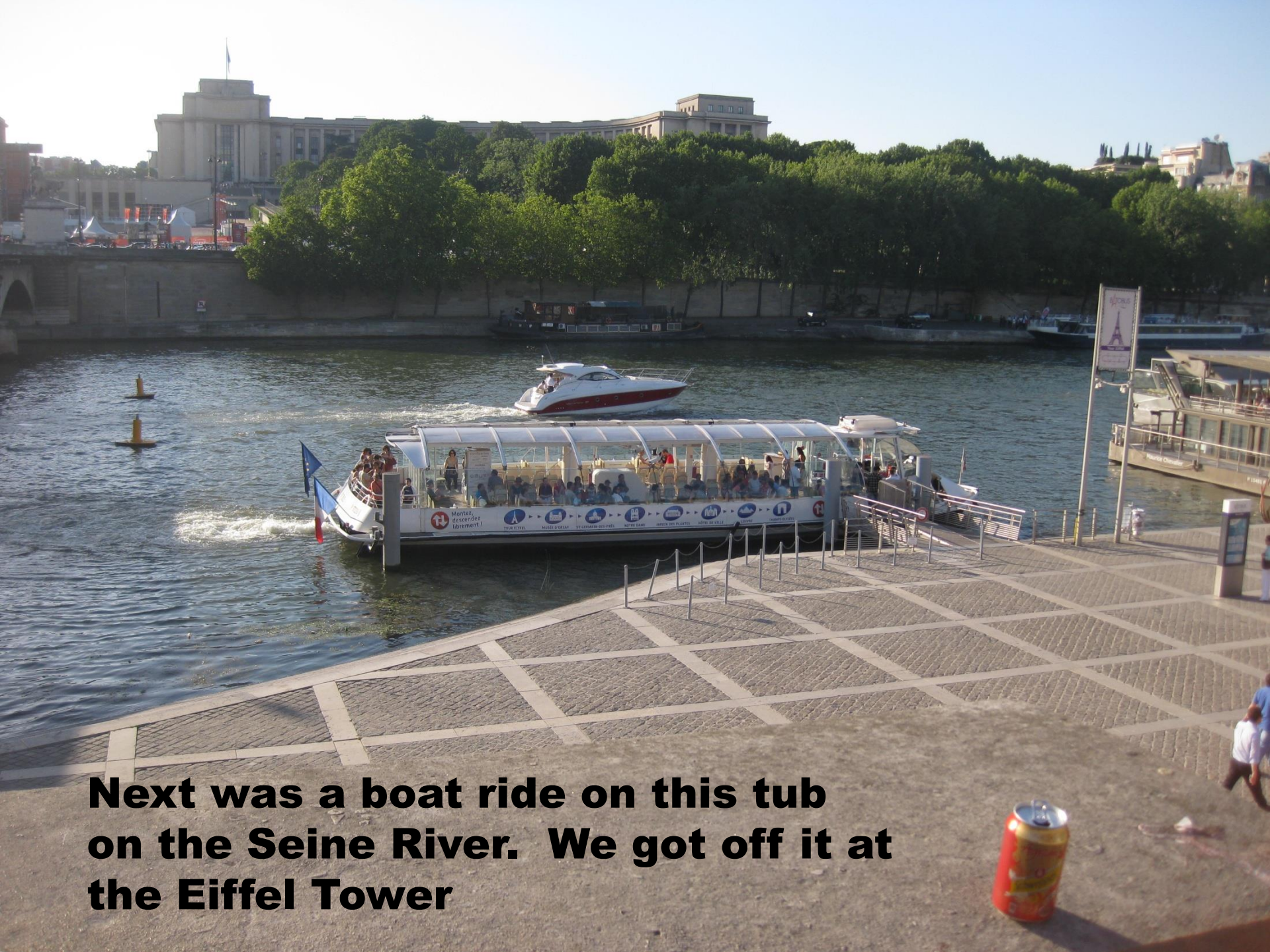
By now it's after 5 pm and it is hot & humid, and crowded with people who hadn't seen the inside of a shower in quite some time, apparently. It only seemed right to stop by Notre Dame once again even though we were running out of steam.







**Wayyy overdue for a
beer by now**



Next was a boat ride on this tub on the Seine River. We got off it at the Eiffel Tower



**Even though we've
seen this before....
Kinda like Notre
Dame.... It's still
something to behold.**



The first time we saw this – 10 years ago to be exact – we couldn't get over the enormity of each of the legs



Truly a highlight of the day were these musicians that happened to be on a subway car we got on. Even with the heat and odor of unshowered people, the good music made it a great experience.



We landed here, just around the corner from our hostel, for beer & dinner.

**A repeat visit to Sacre Coeur and a beer at the foot of the steps,
and across the street.... Just as we had done in 2007**



Ed put his camera on top of a parked car to get this shot.

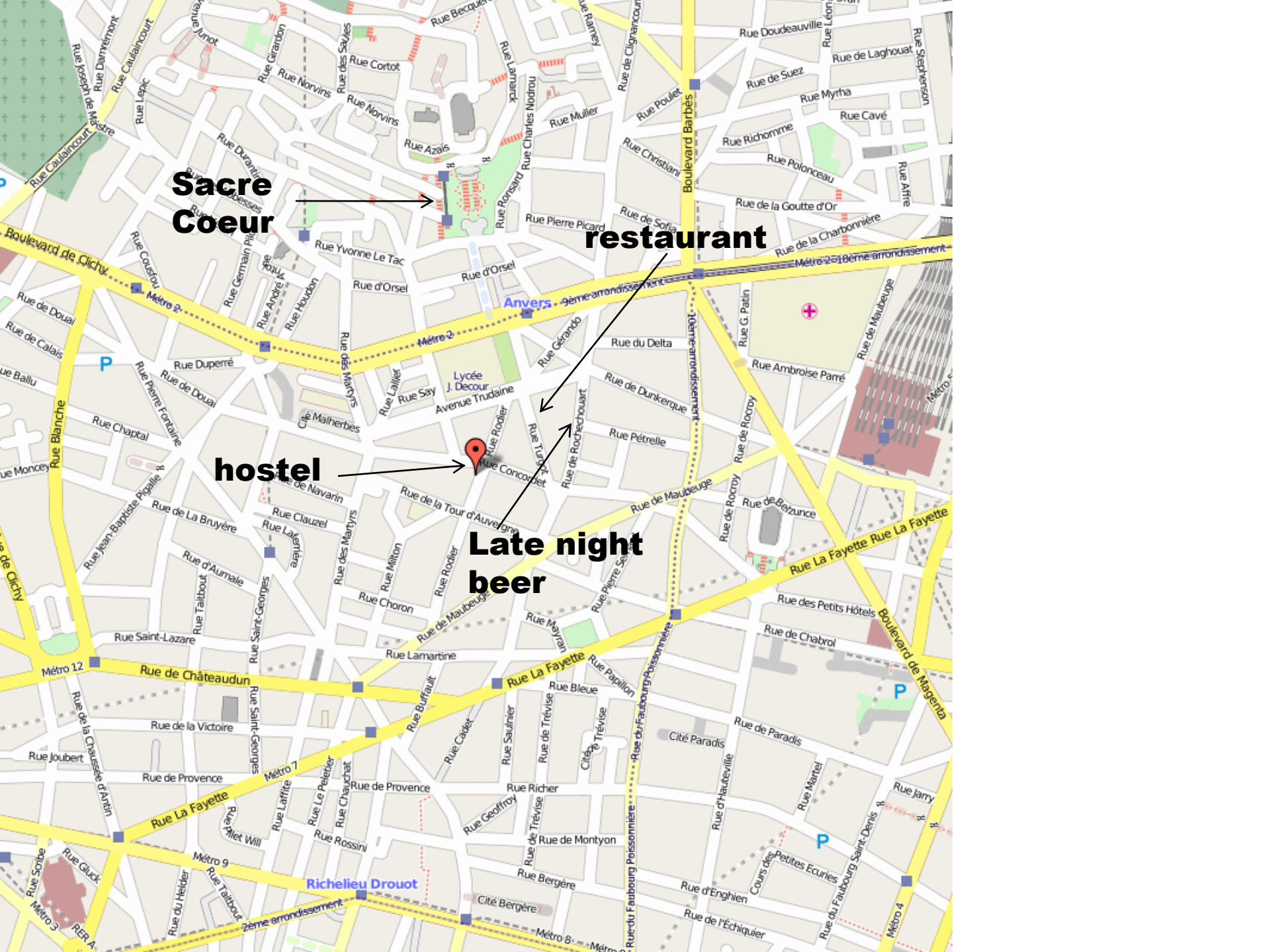


**Sacre
Coeur**

restaurant

hostel

**Late night
beer**



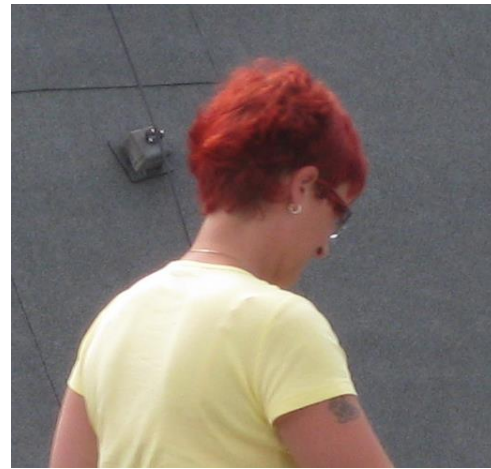
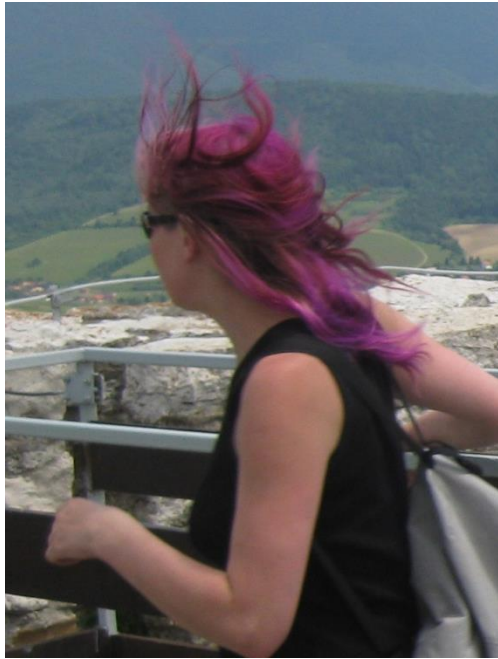
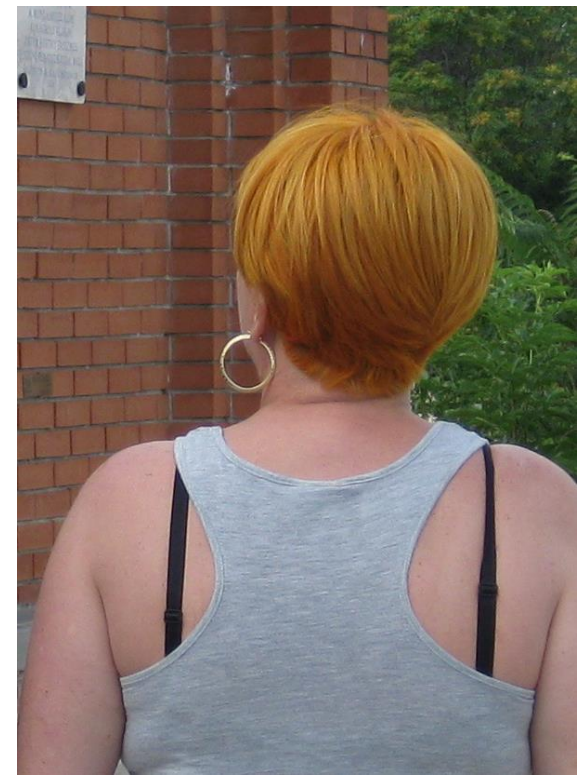
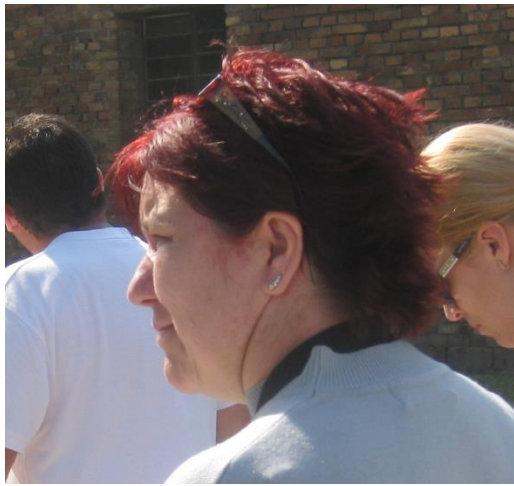


Hmmm,
can't
remember
now,
maybe 212
was our
room

This isn't our room, but one just like it. 6' wide by 17' long and it has a sink. Bath/shower in hallway. Ed won the coin toss and took the lower bunk. We hit our beds about 11pm. The noise from the bar below and the heat (no a/c) made it difficult to sleep. We got up and walked a couple of blocks for a late night schooner of beer. That with some ear plugs made it possible to sleep then.



Day #12 09 July 2010 all good things must come to an end. We caught a train out to the airport and came home with many stories and pictures to bore our wives with. Speaking of wives, we once again thank Mary Kay and Joan who give us their blessing to go on these adventures, and to Mary Kay for giving Rob her plane ticket.



A tribute to European women who like colors not found in nature

**Our thanks to people who gave us reason to try
to remember when and where we met them:**

**Jenny – at Ottmar's
Linca – Hostel Blues Bar
Kate
Maria
Simona**

**One of those was the apartment attendant but
we don't remember which one**

Previous adventures:

1999 – band trip, England, Wales, Texas, USA

2000 – Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France

2002 – Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Georgia

2003 – England & Scotland

band trip to Hawaii

2004 – Oregon & Washington

2005 – Austria & Luxemborg

band trip to Florida

2006 – NYC

2007 – Ireland, Czech Republic

2008 – Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Canada, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana

2009 – Massachussets, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine

2010 – Washington DC, Switzerland, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Leichtenstein

More to come!! Mid-Atlantic States in 2011