

**Ed & Rob's
2016
Germany and
Belgium trip
May 30 –
June 10.**

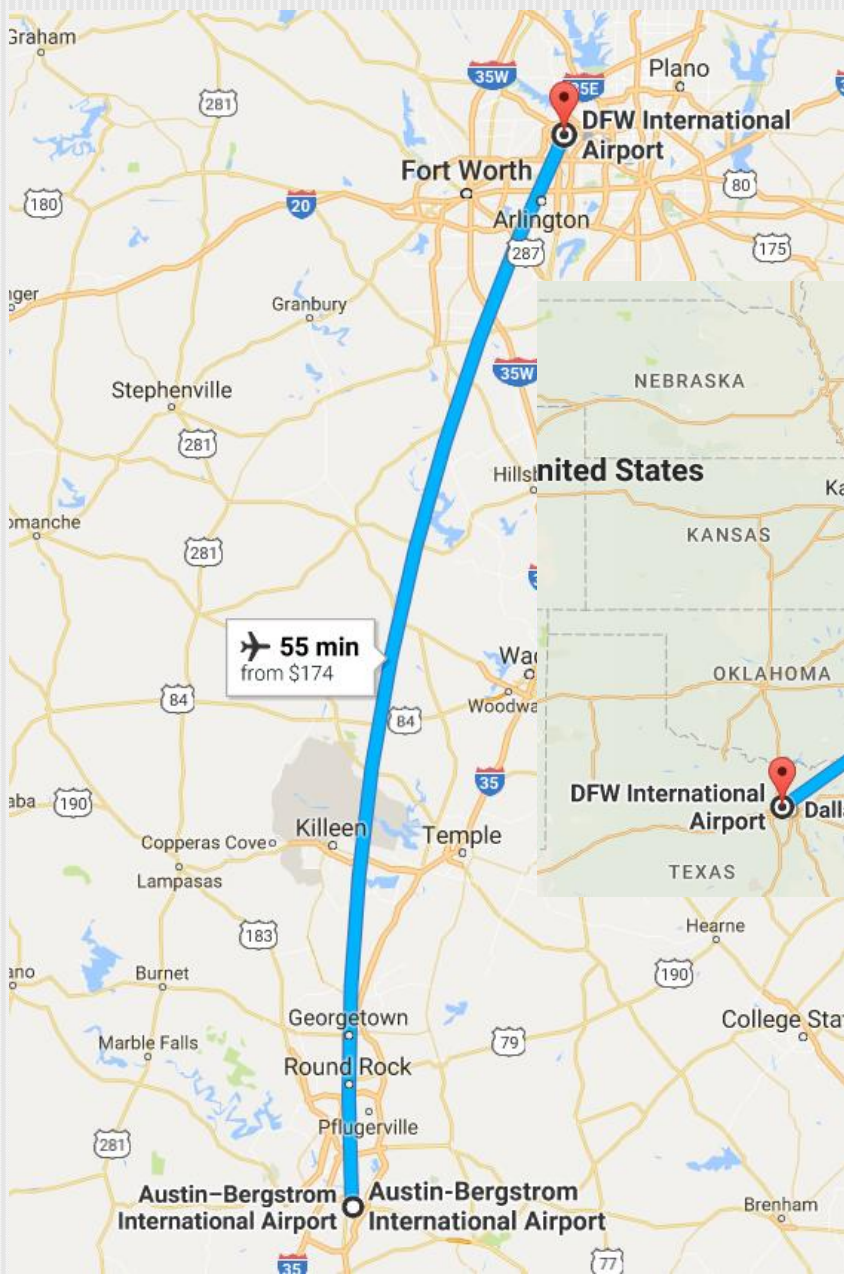


As all our trips, this one came about from ideas we chewed on for several years. We had been to Berlin separately on different occasions, and both wanted to return to see things we missed on said previous visits.

The idea to make the stop in Iceland came from the quest to add another country to the list of 28 where we have swilled beer together.

The idea to include Belgium came from our 2015 visit where we discovered there was much history and delicious Belgian beer to experience, a flavor far superior to other European brews.

And so it began....



Day #1, 30 May 2016 We left Park Place Circle around 5:30a. Managed to get a 6:45 flight to DFW instead of our 8:38 scheduled flight... but there was no earlier flight to JFK, so we had about a 3-hour wait on our 11:25 flight.

BROOKLYN DELI

Late lunch here before heading to international terminal.

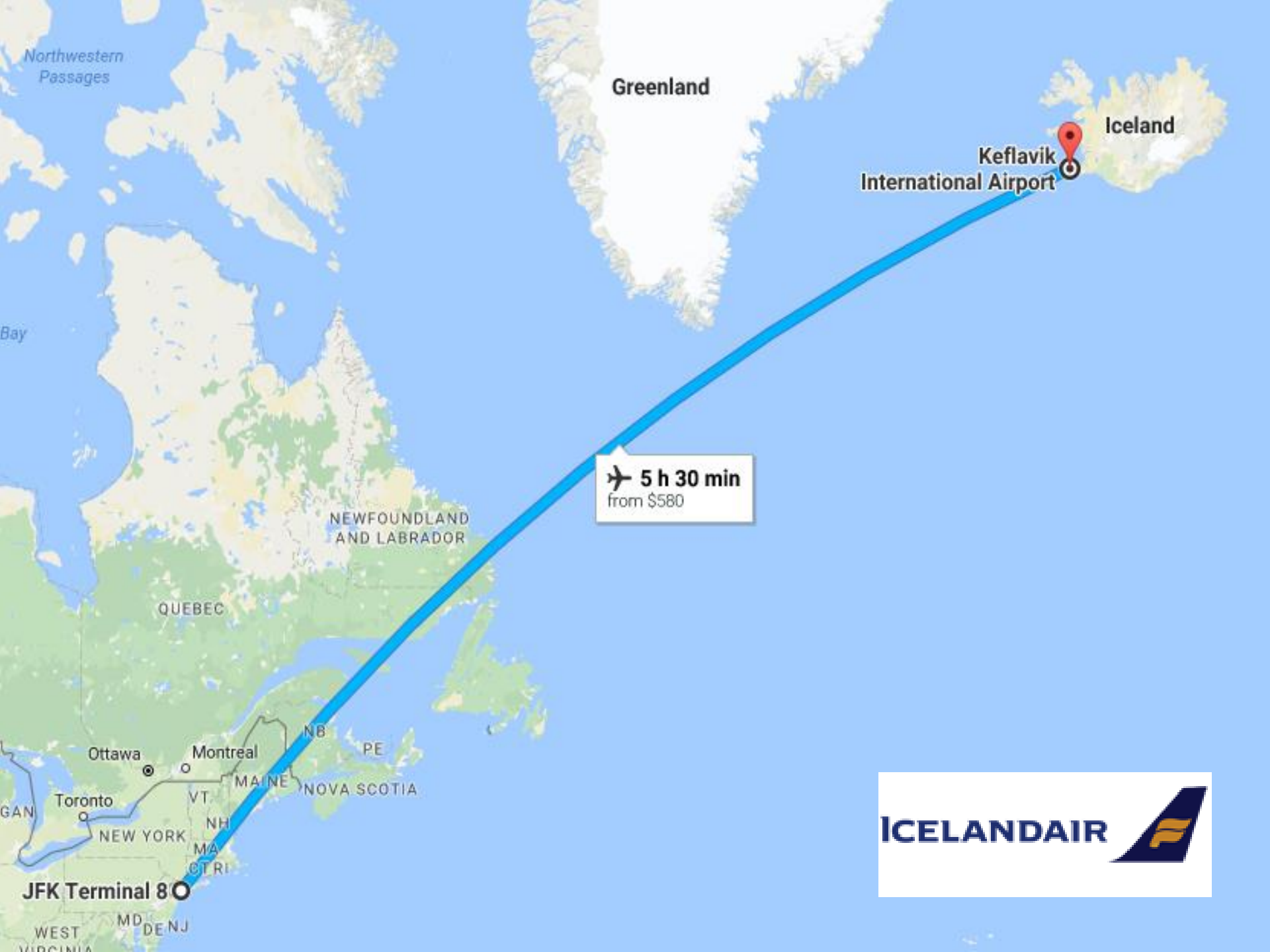


Somewhere along the day we were talking about how this trip perhaps wasn't as fast-paced as others we have taken. Though in reviewing, there is nothing slow about it, really. So here's the quote worth committing to the archives:

(this trip can be considered a)... "Precursor to a more Adagio-style trip for seasoned citizens."

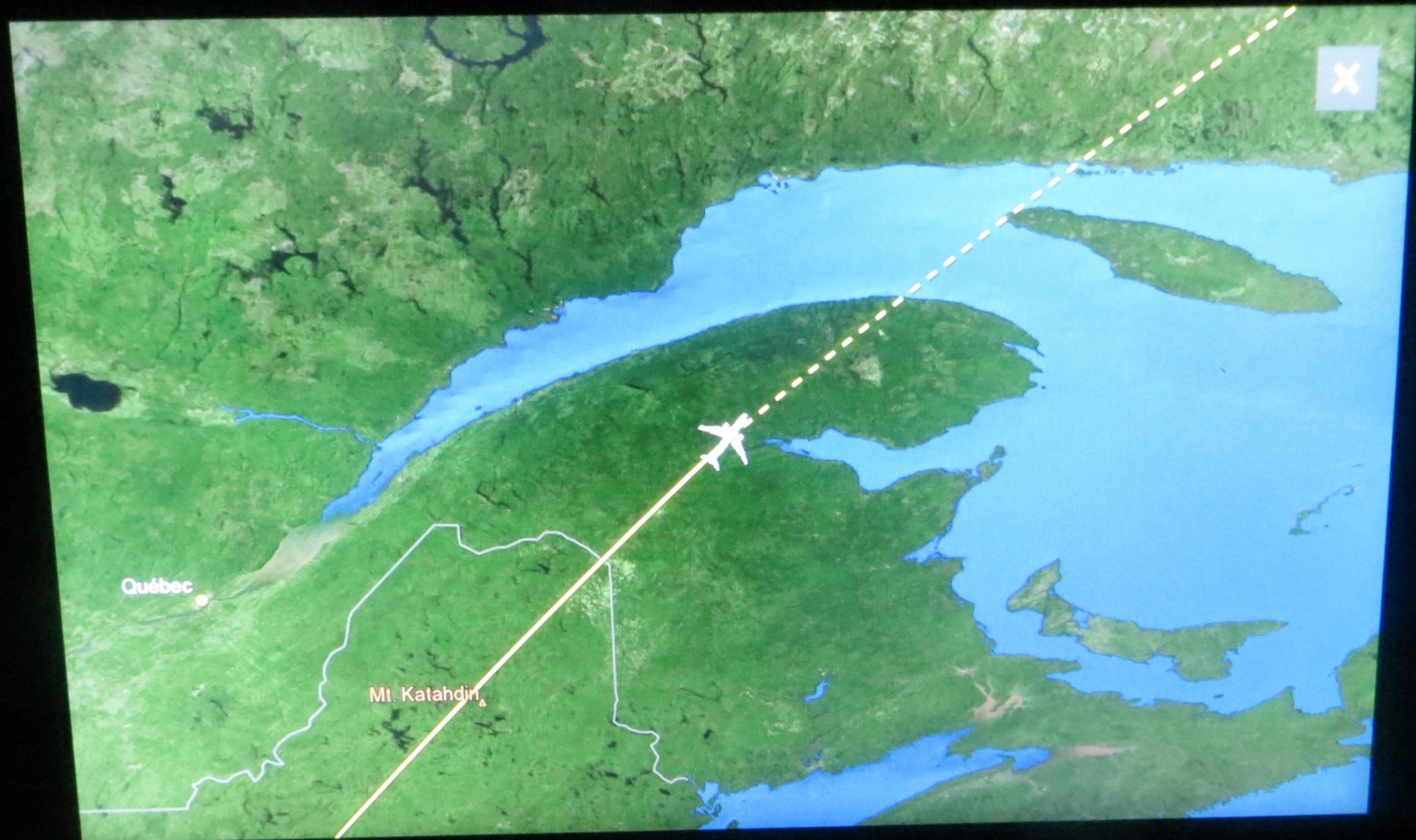
Heading to Terminal 8 for our 8p-ish flight. 4p or so now. One of these birds brought us from DFW to JFK. Once we got to Icelandair, we found out our flight was delayed. When travel is interrupted, kick back and have a beer. We took off about 10:30p.





✈ 5 h 30 min
from \$580





About an hour into the flight

Got these Icelandic beers that were the equivalent of STAG beer in the US Midwest.





**We toasted Rob's
dad Harold who had
just passed away on
April 12.**



We landed in Keflavik about 6am or so. Our flight to Brussels was the only one going there that day. Amazingly, they held it a couple of hours until we, and the others on this flight going to Brussels could get there. Barely time for a bathroom break, as they closed the door on our 60-year-old back sides. Starting Day #2, 31, May 2016.



We arrived a little after 1p in Brussels. First order of *bidness* was to have some lunch. Had a sandwich with hockey-puc bread and a delicious Belgian beer before getting the car and heading toward Köln, Germany, our destination for the day.



Fortunately, we were not here March 21 when a suicide bomber did this number to the airport, also claiming 13 lives.

Welcome to Belgium

VLAANDEREN Flandres FLANDERN FLANDERS BRUSSELS BRUSSEL BRUXELLES BRÜSSEL WALLONIE WALLONIE WALLONIEN WALLONIA



www.visitflanders.com



www.visitbrussels.be



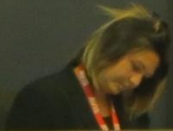
www.tourismewallonie.be



Heading toward Avis car rental

AVIS

AVIS





Got our Opel Mokka and started toward Cologne. The lady at the pickup desk told another customer, *“if you have too many patience, they will bring you a car.”* Probably what we sound like to them.

A lot of these very nice road side stops throughout Europe. Down side... you pay to use the restroom.... unless you use the field out back. 3:40p

bonjour

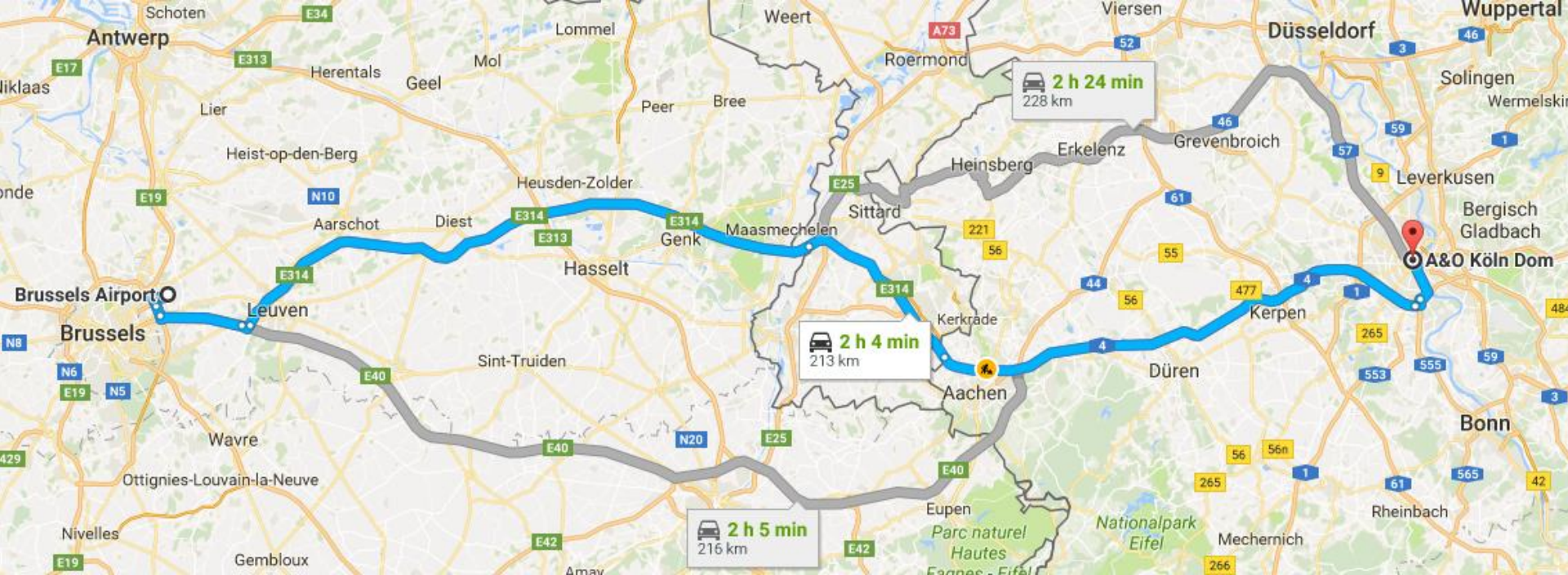
PROMO
MALTESERS
M&M'S

GRATIS
10

Free Wifi

PROMO
PERRIER
VITTEL

2.90



It was a cloudy, sometimes drizzly drive to Köln. On our way to Berlin, we must, as musicians, pay tribute to Bach in Leipzig while on the way, even though we've both been there previous times.

A quick rest stop as we get into Köln. You can see the twin towers of the cathedral in the distance.





Pulled into town about 5:30. Checked into the A/O Hotel/Hostel then parked the car in a nearby underground garage. Though we were here in 2000 and 2005, the cathedral is worth as many visits as you can get. Such a stunning structure.





Just steps from the cathedral (Dom), and the Hauptbahnhof, is the *Gaffel am Dom am GmbH, Bahnhofsvrplatz*. That's my story and I'm sticking to it! They have a great indoor eating area, but the temperature was just right for sitting on the patio in front. Thought about getting these lovely silverware-holding vessels to take to the wives, but wisely decided against it.

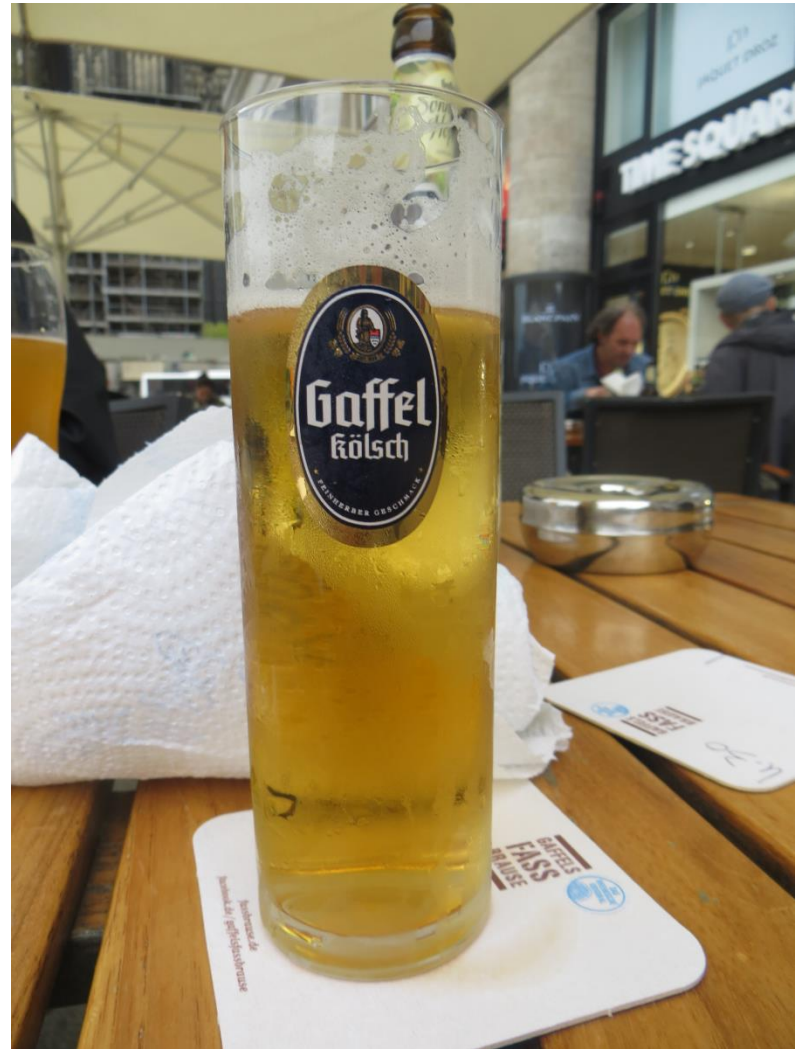


Gaffel am Dom
KÖLSCHES BRAU- UND WIRTSCHAUS

Cologne was our first night on the 2000 trip. The goal was to see the dom. What a thrill it was to round the corner in this building and see it out those window panels.



From our patio table



Ed started the evening with a Sonnen Hopfen, Rob a Kolsch



U

Aufzug / Lift

DONNER

BLANCPAIN

UNION

PARIS

Colum

Sauer Hopsien
Brauerei

Sauer Hopsien
Brauerei

Getränkeshift aus dem Hause Gaffel
Gaffel am Dom
Kunden und Preisverhältnisse

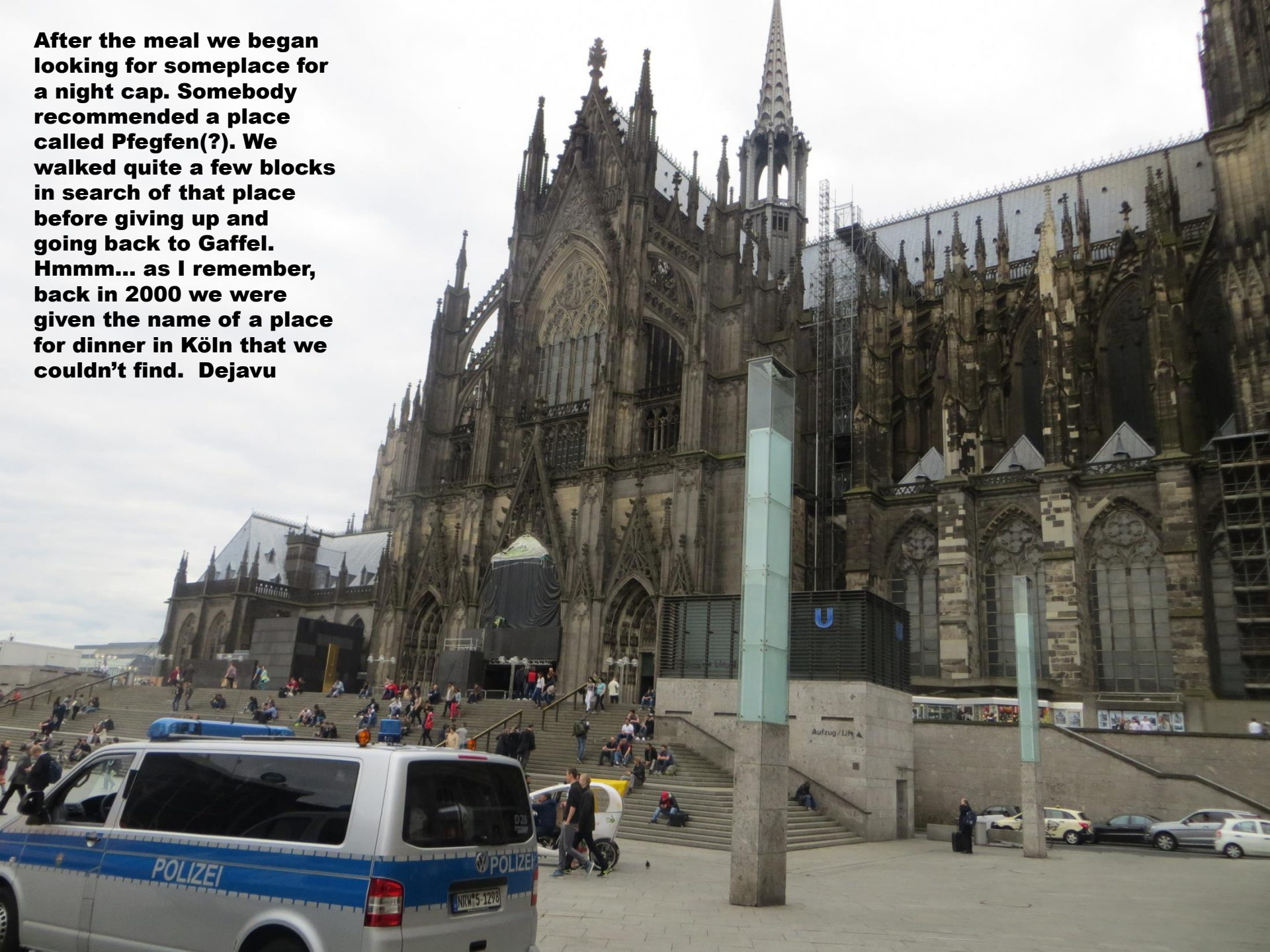
Schnitzel and kartoffel... a good meal to start with in Germany about 7:30p

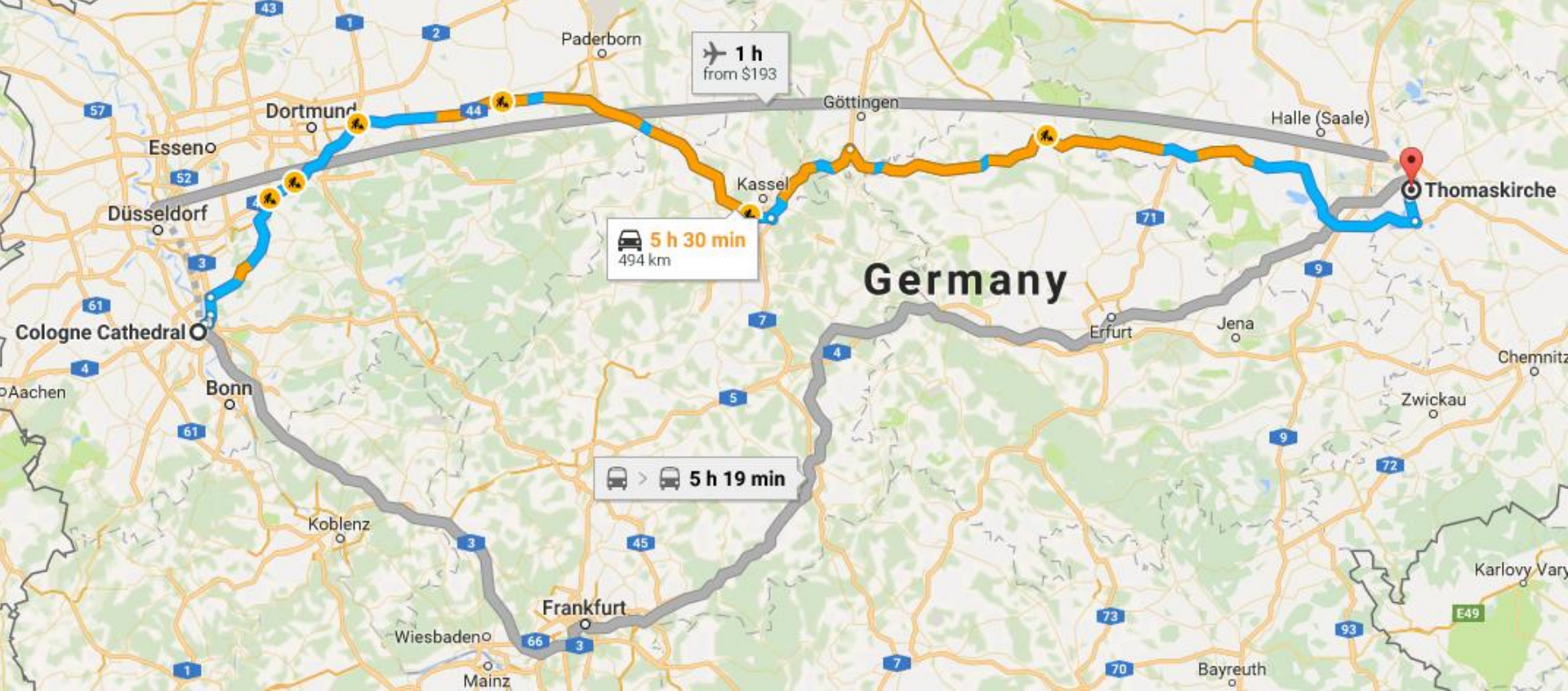


Gesch
Ex
DAS
BER MA

BARBERS
BRAND
FASH
BRAND

After the meal we began looking for someplace for a night cap. Somebody recommended a place called Pefgfen(?). We walked quite a few blocks in search of that place before giving up and going back to Gaffel. Hmm... as I remember, back in 2000 we were given the name of a place for dinner in Köln that we couldn't find. Dejavu





Day #3... 01 June 2016. This was the morning we had to adjust to the new time. Not bad, got up at 9:15 and had the hostel breakfast. Then walked around the Dom again in the rain & drizzle before hitting the road toward Leipzig about 10:45a. For some reason the biotch took us on the blue route that had lots of construction. Found out the wipers automatically speed up when the rain gets heavy. Karen and Richard Carpenter entertained us with their harmonies on this leg of the trip.

Several times on this leg we saw miles and miles (or should I say kilometers and kilometers) of trucks waiting in line for the weigh station.



This is different... roadside potty stop. One door for women, one for men (sit down and stay awhile), then this express option for men.

Pissoir





About 12 measures into “Rainy Days and Mondays” a “Code 82” alert popped up. We would later learn it was an oil change notice.



**Unlike 2015,
I can tell
where we
are on the
map! 😊**

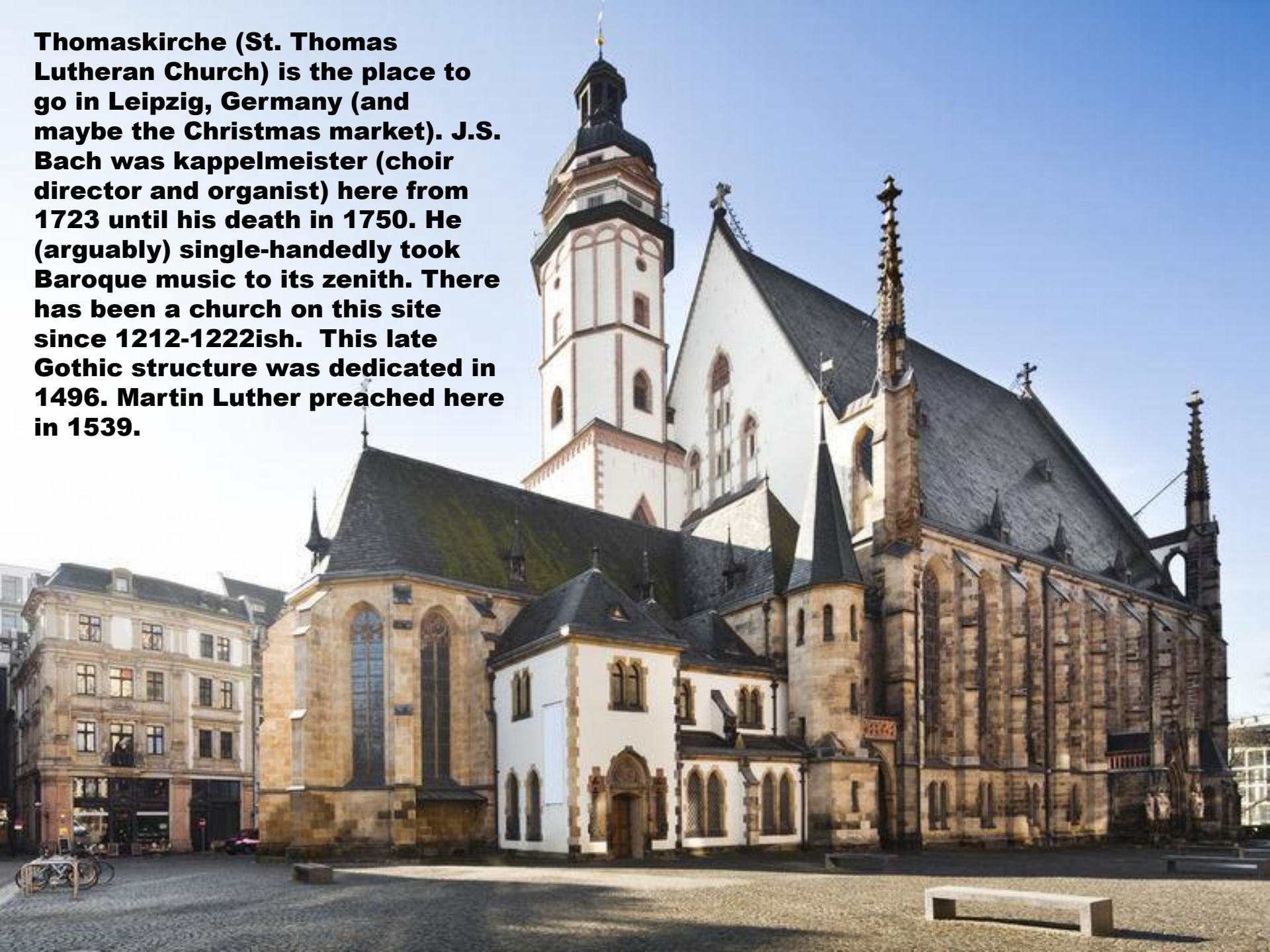
3:28p

3,00 €	Currywurst	2,50 €
2,90 €	Thüringer Rostbratwurst	
	mit Brötchen	
3,10 €		
2,95 €	Bockwurst mit Brötchen	2,50 €
2,90 €	Leberkäse Portion	2,00 €
0,30 €	Kartoffelpuffer 4 Stück mit Apfelmus	3,50 €

I grew up eating potato puffers (potato pancakes) and was beginning to doubt the German background of them I learned growing up. But sure 'nuf here they are on this menu board, with a side of applesauce. Just like my childhood.

Wir empfehlen

Thomaskirche (St. Thomas Lutheran Church) is the place to go in Leipzig, Germany (and maybe the Christmas market). J.S. Bach was kappelmeister (choir director and organist) here from 1723 until his death in 1750. He (arguably) single-handedly took Baroque music to its zenith. There has been a church on this site since 1212-1222ish. This late Gothic structure was dedicated in 1496. Martin Luther preached here in 1539.

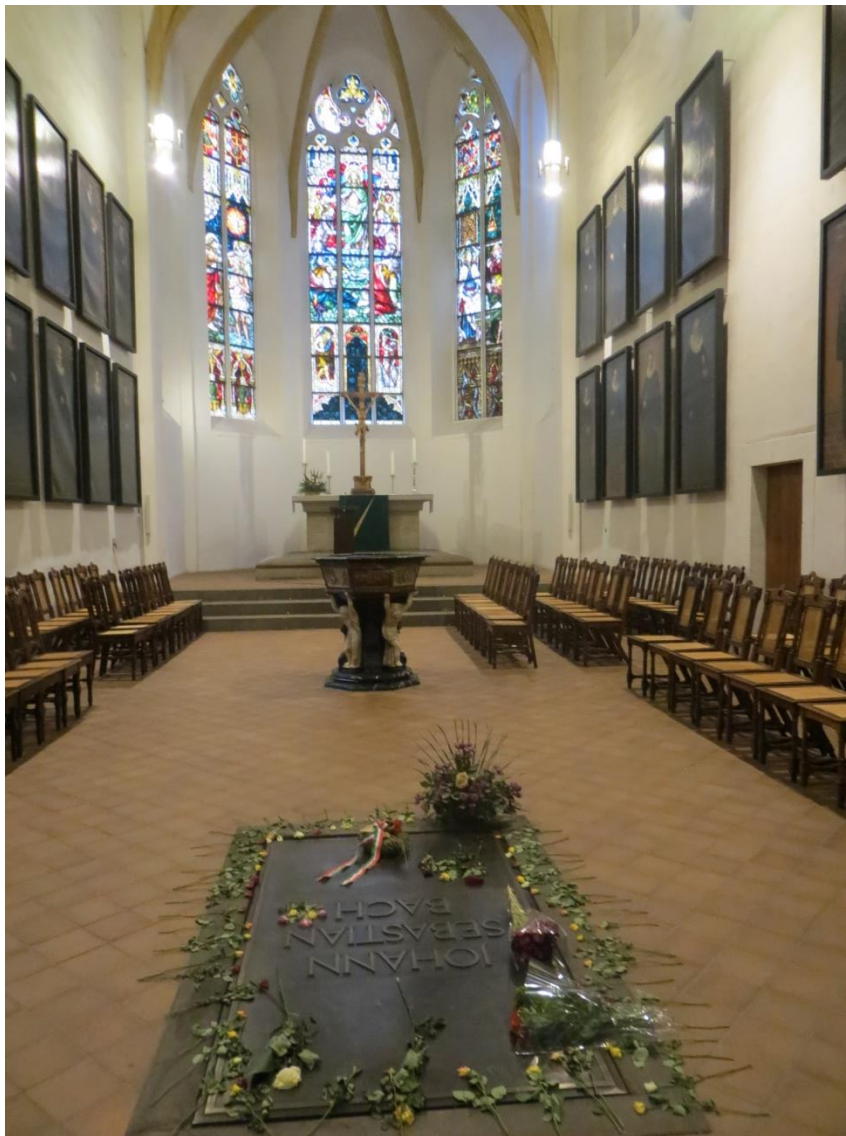




In the front of the nave is the final resting place of the composer himself, 1685-1750.



The organs of Bach's time do not exist anymore. The organ, which can be seen on the west choir loft, was built by Wilhelm Sauer in 1889. Originally, this Romantic period instrument had 63 organ stops. In 1908, more stops were added to give a total of 88 stops. The Sauer-Organ was later restored and brought back to its original eminence in 2005.



As we walked around, somebody was playing Bach's Passacaglia & Fugue on the Bach Memorial organ.

Passacaglio, con Pedale pro Organo pleno.
di J. S. Bach.

Pedal.

Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582



The new Bach-Organ in the north choir loft, situated across from the Bach-Window, was built in the year 2000. This organ is used especially for playing the organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach and was built by the organ manufacturer Gerald Woehl in Marburg. The sound quality of this instrument, with its 61 organ stops on 4 manuals and a pedal board, is similar to the organs built in Middle-Germany during the 18th century. The organ in the University Church St. Pauli, which Bach played during his time in Leipzig, served as the inspiration for the form of the Bach-Organ.



Of course Rob had the itch to check out the organ, the page turning dude named Arthur came downstairs. Rob asked if he could go up and Arthur said that wasn't suppose to happen, but he would allow it. Once we got up there we met Sebastian (yes, Sebastian) the young student preparing to play the 6pm service.



**R.I.P. Johann
Sebastian Bach**



BachOrgelFestival

„Bach ist
Anfang und Ende
aller Musik“
(Max Reger)

25. Juni bis 6. August 2016
Thomaskirche
samstags 15.00 Uhr

Tickets zu 13 Euro
ermäßigt 10 Euro
im Thomashop

unterstützt von **WEMPE**
KEINE UHREN & JUWELN
LEIPZIG, MADLER-PASSAGE

www.reger-in-leipzig.de
www.thomaskirche.org

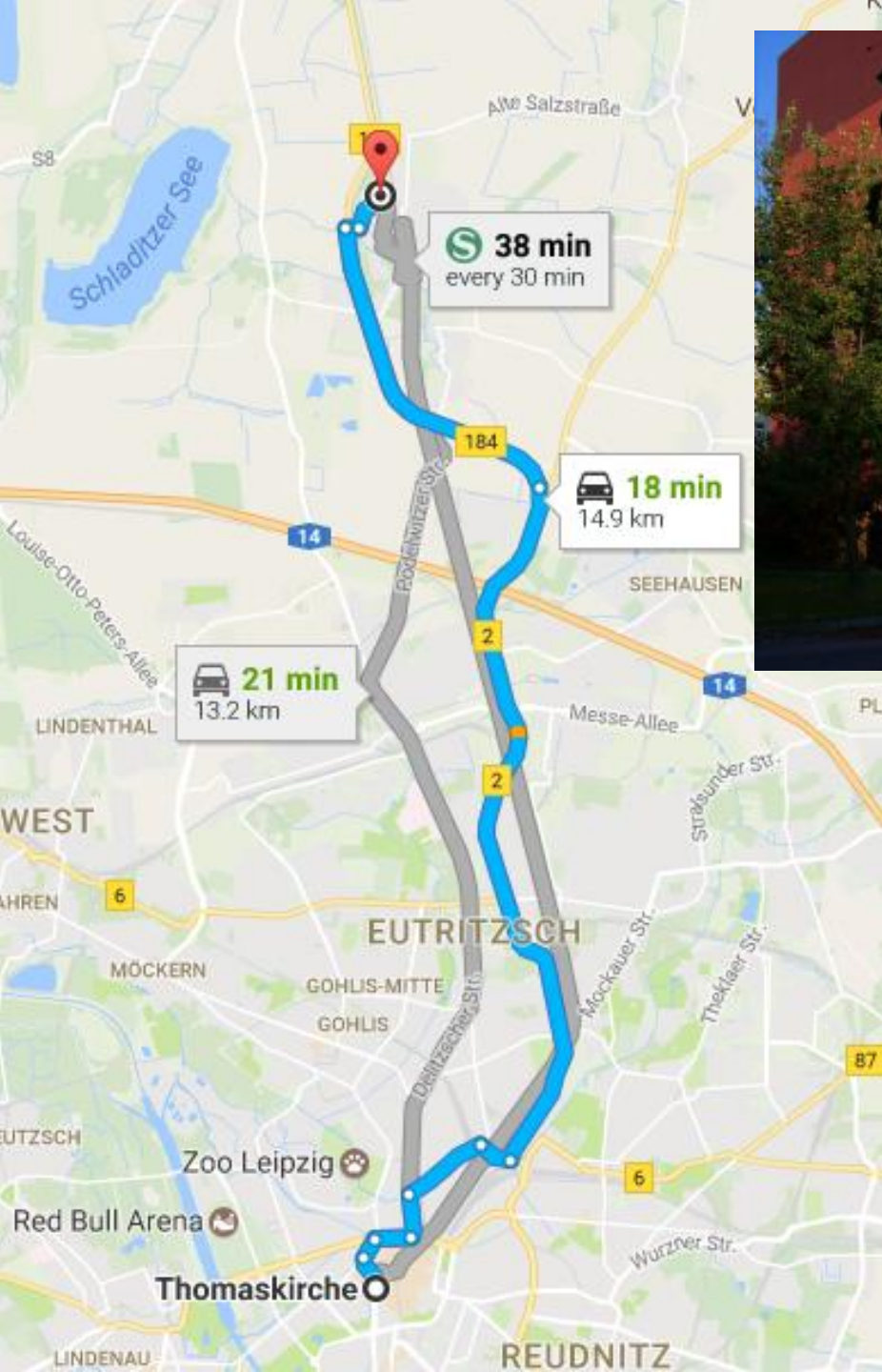




**One last quick shot
of Thomaskirche
about 6:15p before
heading to Rackwitz
for the evening.**



Parking garage next to Thomaskirche



Left Leipzig about 6:15 then headed to the *Apartment-Hotel* in Rackwitz, about 25 minutes north of Leipzig. Not a 5-star place, but clean. We each had our own room here too. *Weefee* not the strongest.

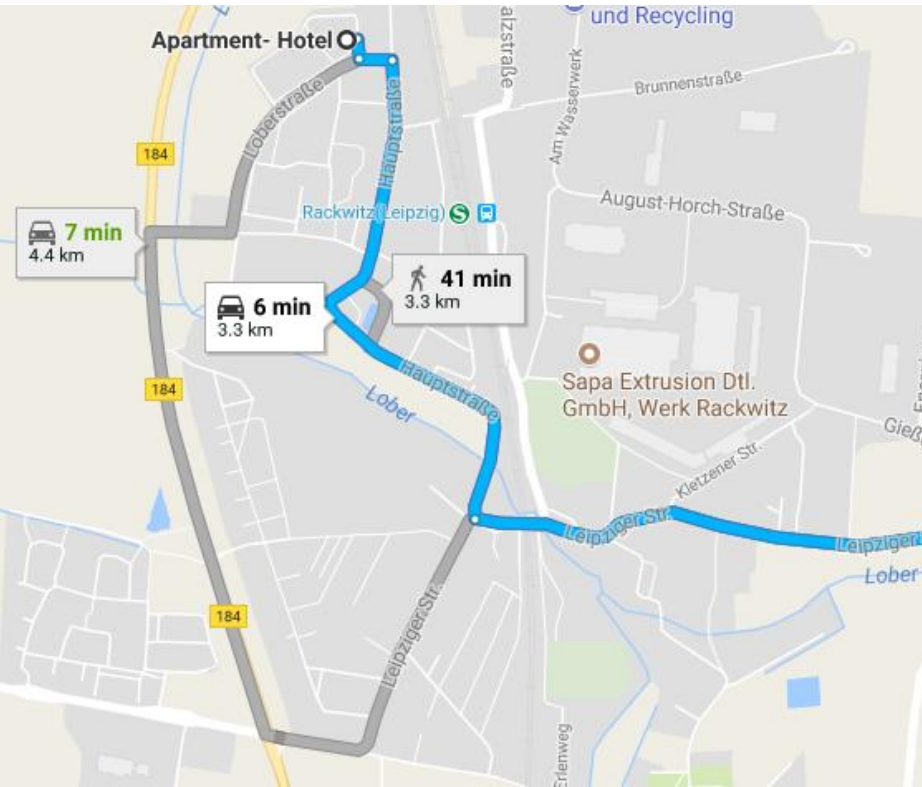


Helpful sign just outside *Apartment-Hotel* entrance

Apartment-Hotel patio and grounds



Not many food options in the area, short of driving back into Leipzig. Found Wirsthaus Zschölkau just 3.3 km away after striking out at another place.



Wirsthaus Zschölkau
ländliche Gastlichkeit

Herzlich willkommen im

- Home
- Speisen
- Bar
- Kaminzimmer
- Gaststube
- Saal
- Biergarten
- Partyservice
- Ferienwohnung
- Fotogalerie
- Gästebuch
- Anfahrt
- Kontakt

...schön das Sie uns besuchen!

Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß beim Erkunden unserer Seiten. Natürlich freuen wir uns auch jederzeit über einen Besuch in unserem Wirsthaus von Ihnen.

Aber jetzt erst mal viel Spaß beim stöbern...

Ihre Familie Klaw

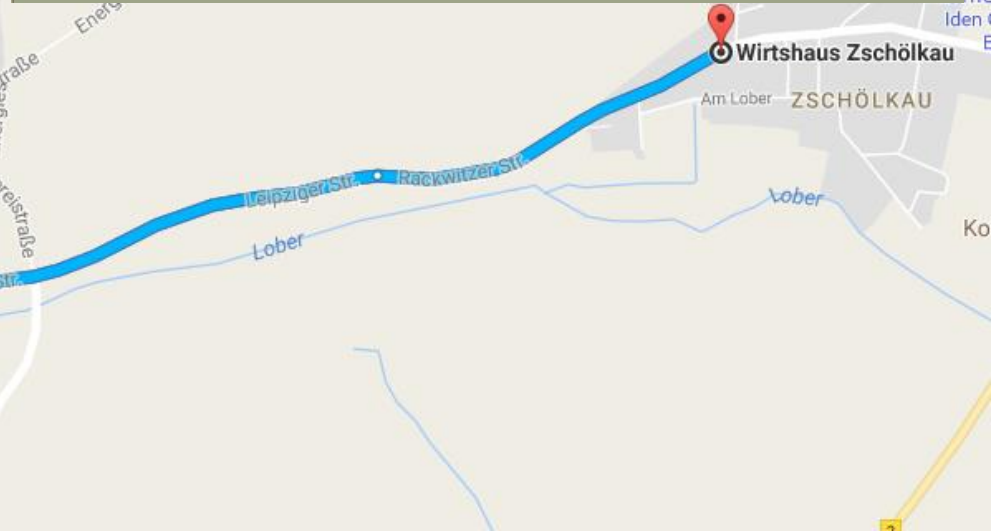
Öffnungszeiten
 Mi. - Sa. 17.00 - 23.00
 So. 11.00 - 23.00
 Montag und Dienstag ruhen wir uns aus.

TIPP: Probieren Sie doch mal unseren leckeren Partyservice. Mehr Infos finden Sie hier.

Von herzhaft lecker bis himmlisch süß - Lassen Sie sich von unseren hausgemachten Köstlichkeiten verwöhnen...

Entpannen Sie doch mal in unserem gemütlichen Kaminzimmer! Erholung pur an kalten Wintertagen...

Home | unsere Speisen | Bar | Kaminzimmer | alte Gaststube | Saal | Biergarten | Partyservice | Ferienwohnung | Fotogalerie | Anfahrt | Kontakt
 Gästebuch | Öffnungszeiten | Impressum





Wirtshaus Zschölkau



Spitzig, prickelnd

Schöffler



**Good,
typical
pre-
dinner
German
Pilsner**

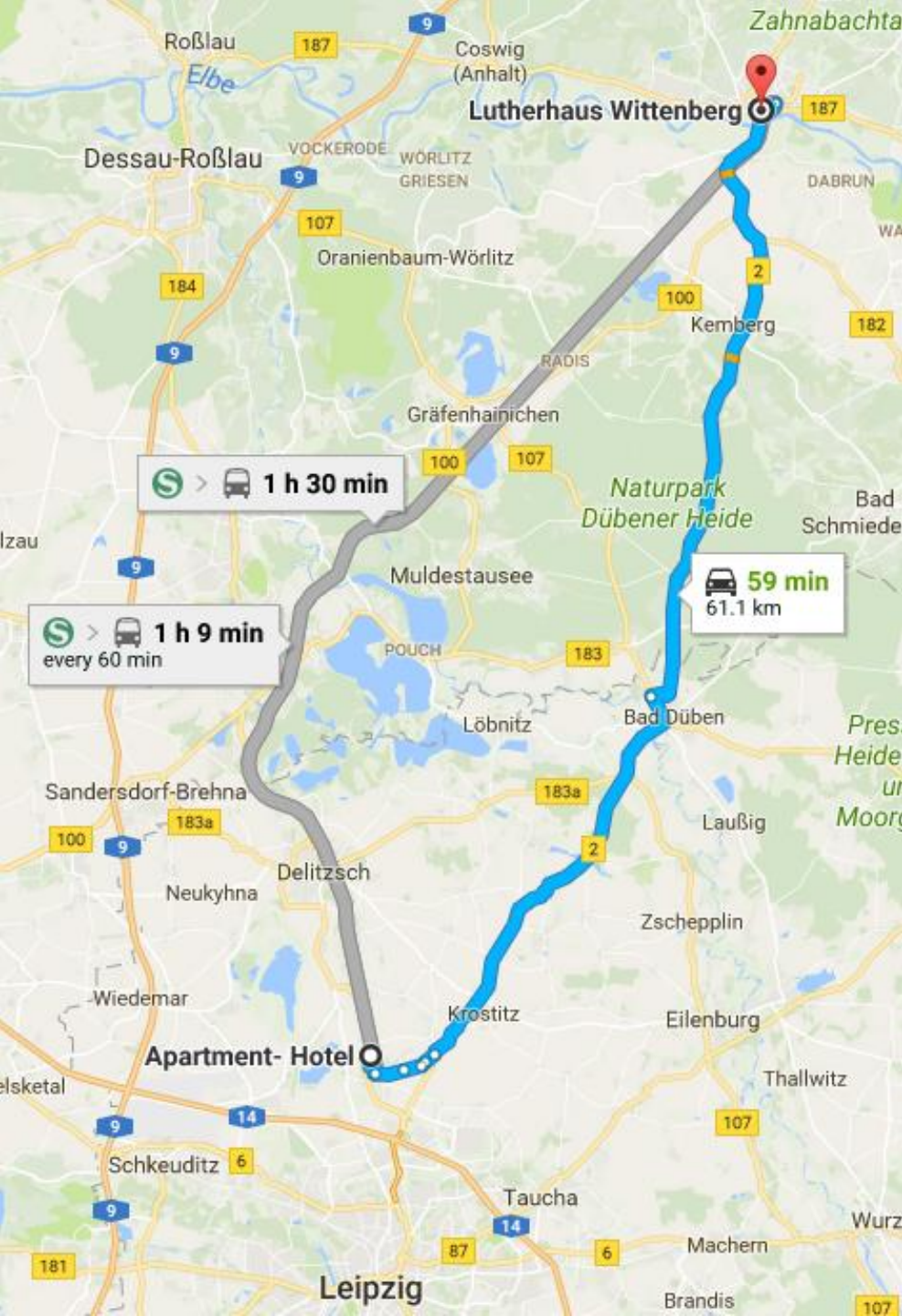




Another beer, then this meal of 3 meats, salad, and pomme fritz

Just to get an idea how late the sun stays up here... This pic was taken at 9:02p. Enroute to a convenience store for beer to take to the Apartment-Hotel. Thought this was an odd juxtaposition of signs.



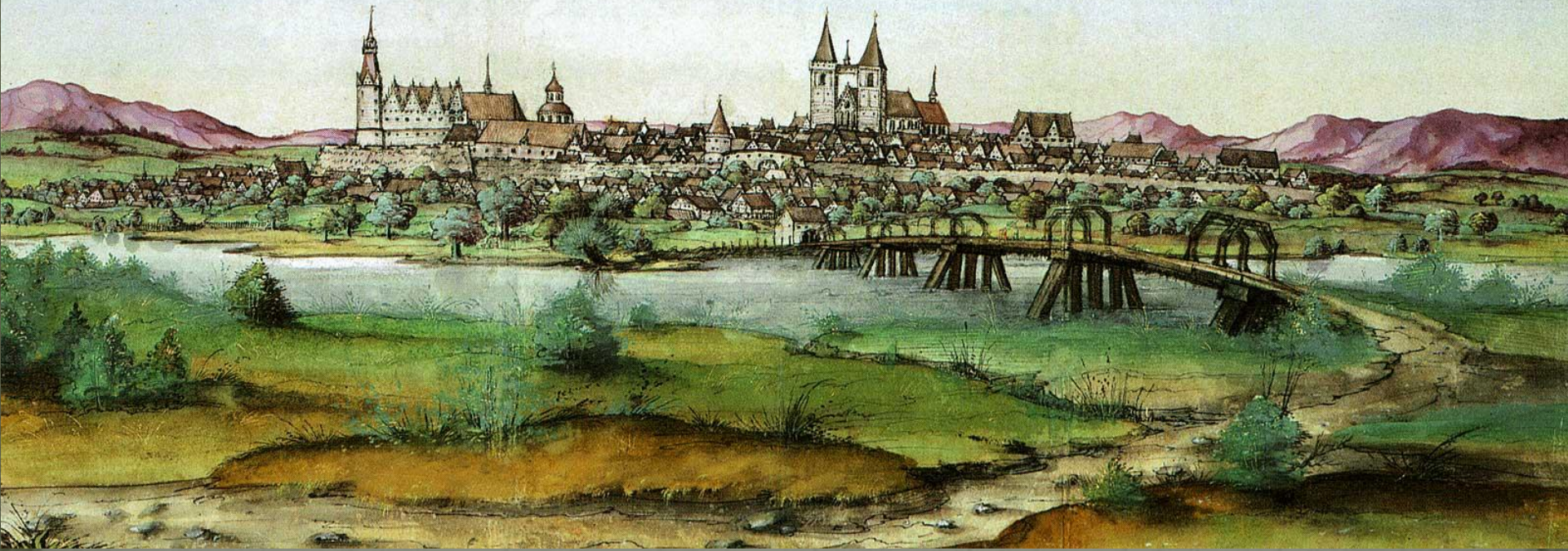


Day #4; 02 June. Ate the in-house breakfast then hit the road for Wittenberg. Arrived there at 10a.

Nice, modern bridge crossing the Elbe

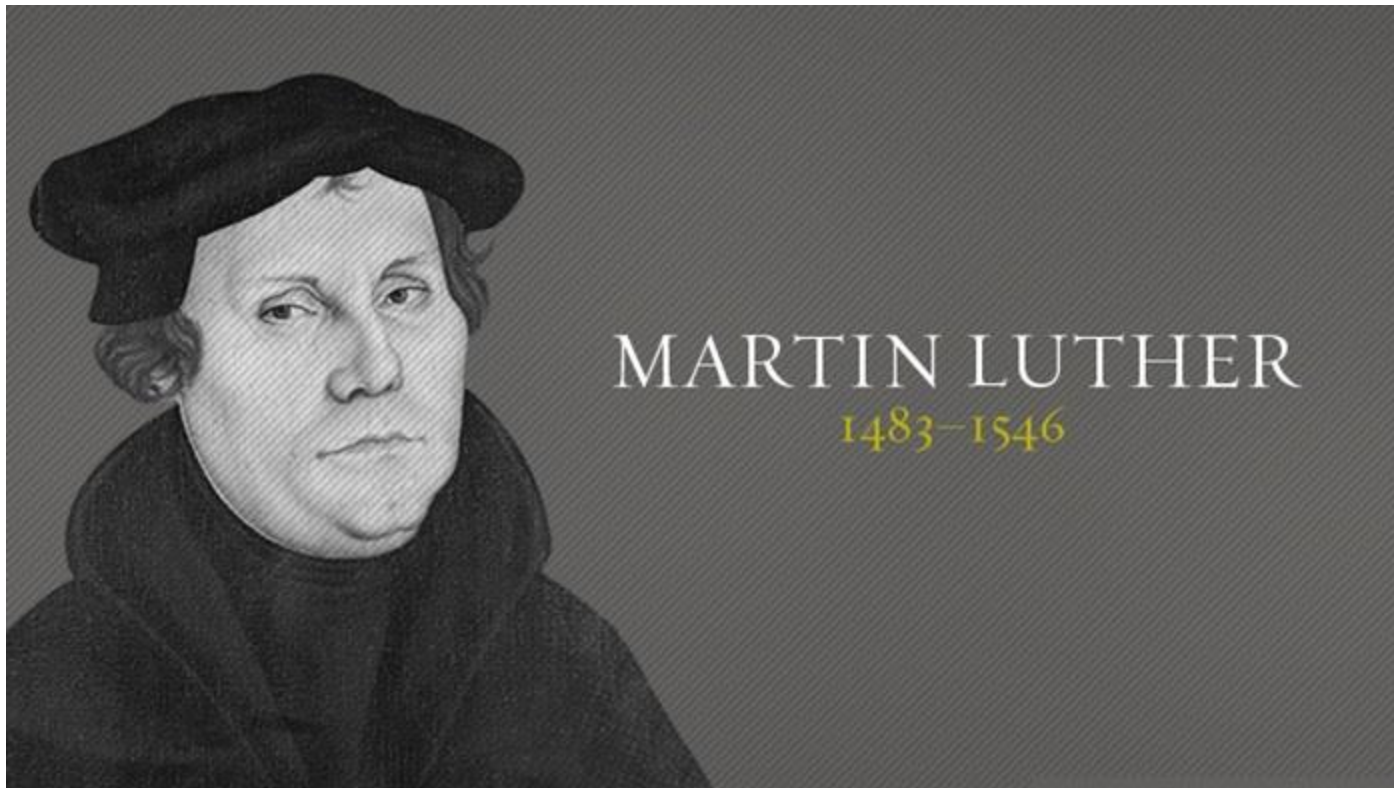


WITTENBURG



Wittenberg of 1536. Glad they replaced the bridge before we arrived.

So what's the historical significance in making a stop in the little town of Wittenberg? "It was here that, on Oct. 31, 1517, an obscure monk walked down the street from his cloister, may have nailed a piece of parchment to the door of a church and sparked a religious revolution. The rebel was Martin Luther, and his 95 theses railing against church corruption not only ripped Christianity in two but propelled Europe from MiddleAge darkness to Renaissance humanism, inspired the Enlightenment and arguably gave birth to the modern Western world."



Parked in Wittenberg at 10:30a.

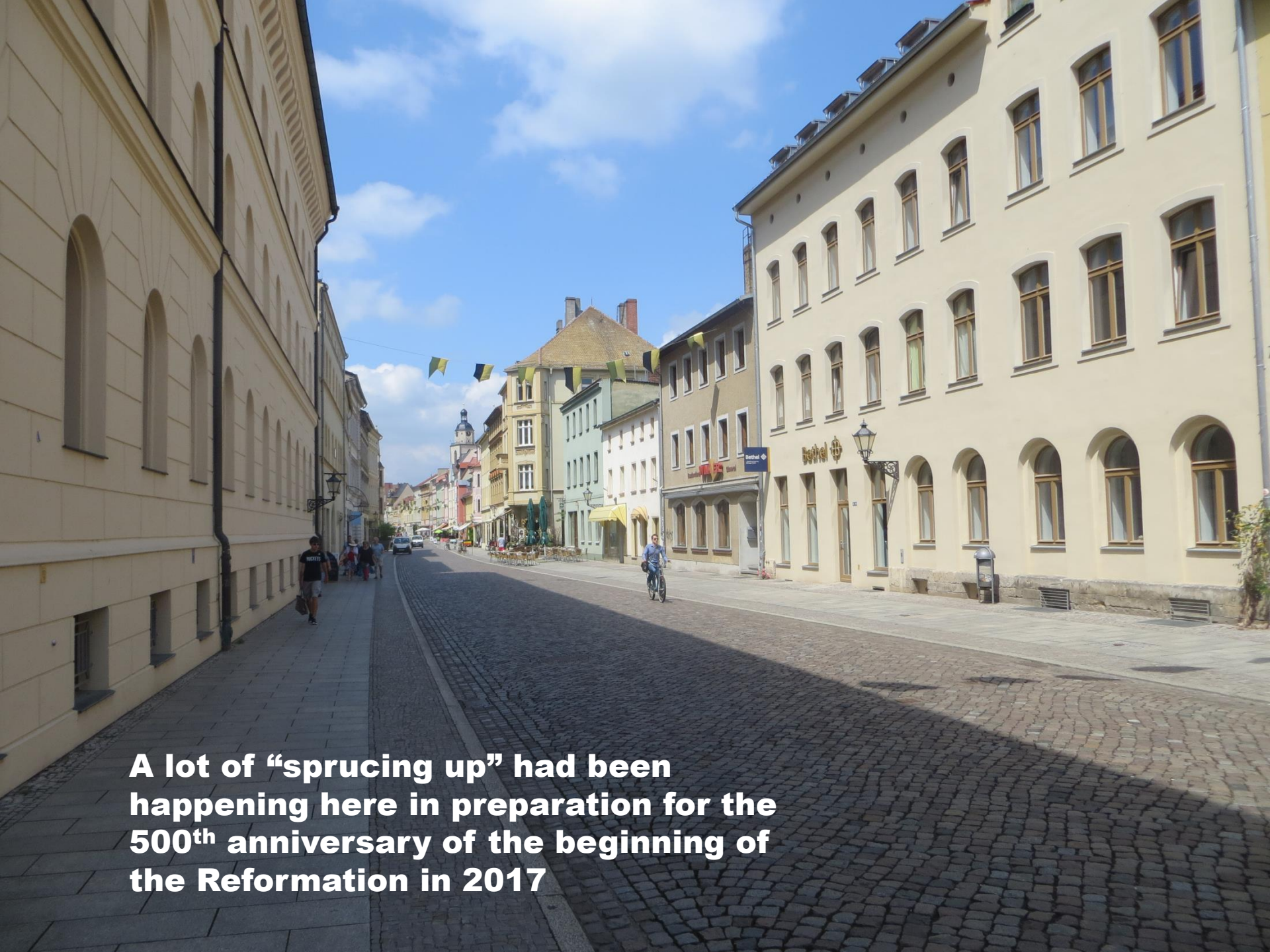


The Luther home is now a nice museum.



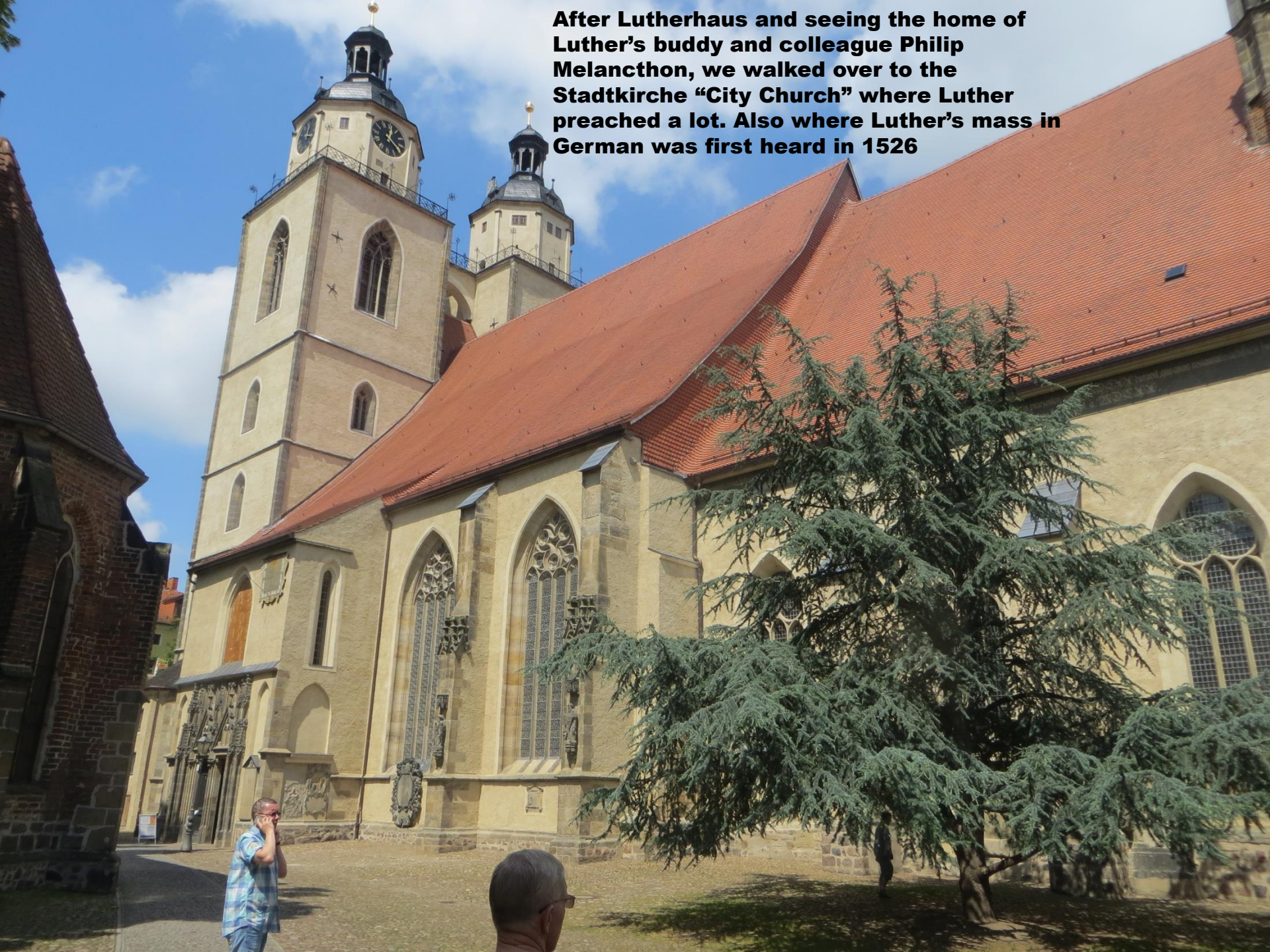


I'll title this slide "Martin and the Mrs." Katharina von Bora was a nun escaping the convent when she and Luther met. Their marriage redefined marriage practices for clergy from that point forward. Legend has it she was feisty woman and ran the house pretty firmly. She was also known for brewing some pretty good beer and keeping the house finances in order. Salute to Katy!



A lot of “sprucing up” had been happening here in preparation for the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation in 2017

After Lutherhaus and seeing the home of Luther's buddy and colleague Philip Melancthon, we walked over to the Stadtkirche "City Church" where Luther preached a lot. Also where Luther's mass in German was first heard in 1526





This 1983 Sauer organ incorporates parts of the 1811 and 1926 organs that were here



Wittenberg town square

**The “Castle” church where
Luther nailed his 95 thesis,
and is buried.**





While these aren't the actual doors Luther nailed his thesis, this is where it happened. The church was closed for renovation.



Thanks internet for lending me a good night shot of the Castle Church



Thanks again internet of an inside picture including Luther's grave



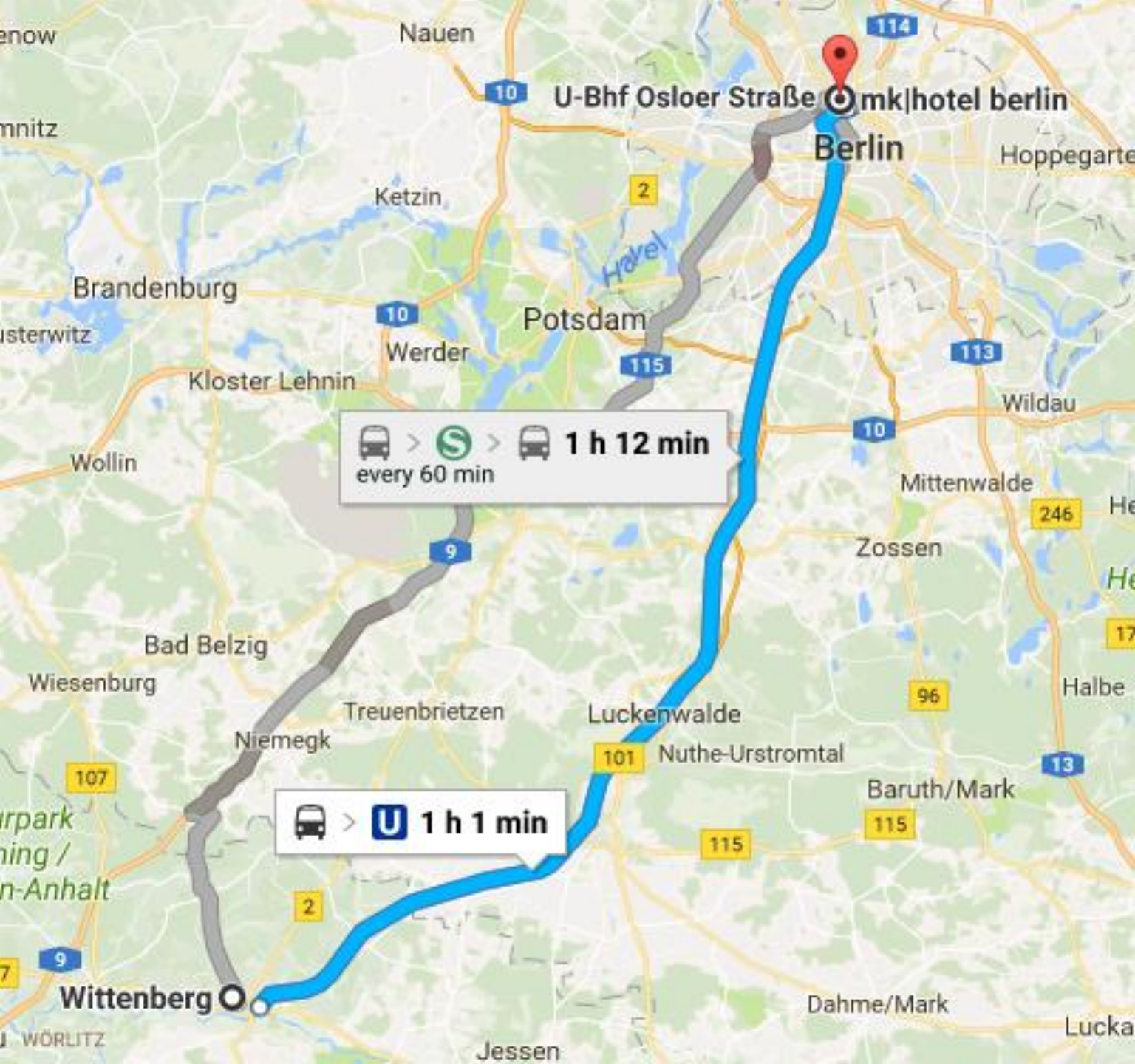
**It was a perfect
day to be outside**



Had a sidewalk lunch before heading to Berlin

**By 1:50p we were
on the road to
Berlin. New hotels
being built for
2017 celebration
in Wittenberg**





The time estimated on the map is pretty accurate except to add in a half-hour when we pulled over in the country somewhere for a nap

Just outside of Berlin... must have been an arena of some sort here, and they built the highway on the grounds and left the grand stands.



Got here about 4pm. Parked nearby in a spot we weren't sure was legal, but no tickets. (whew!)

Lindner

mk | hotel

mk | hotel
check in

100

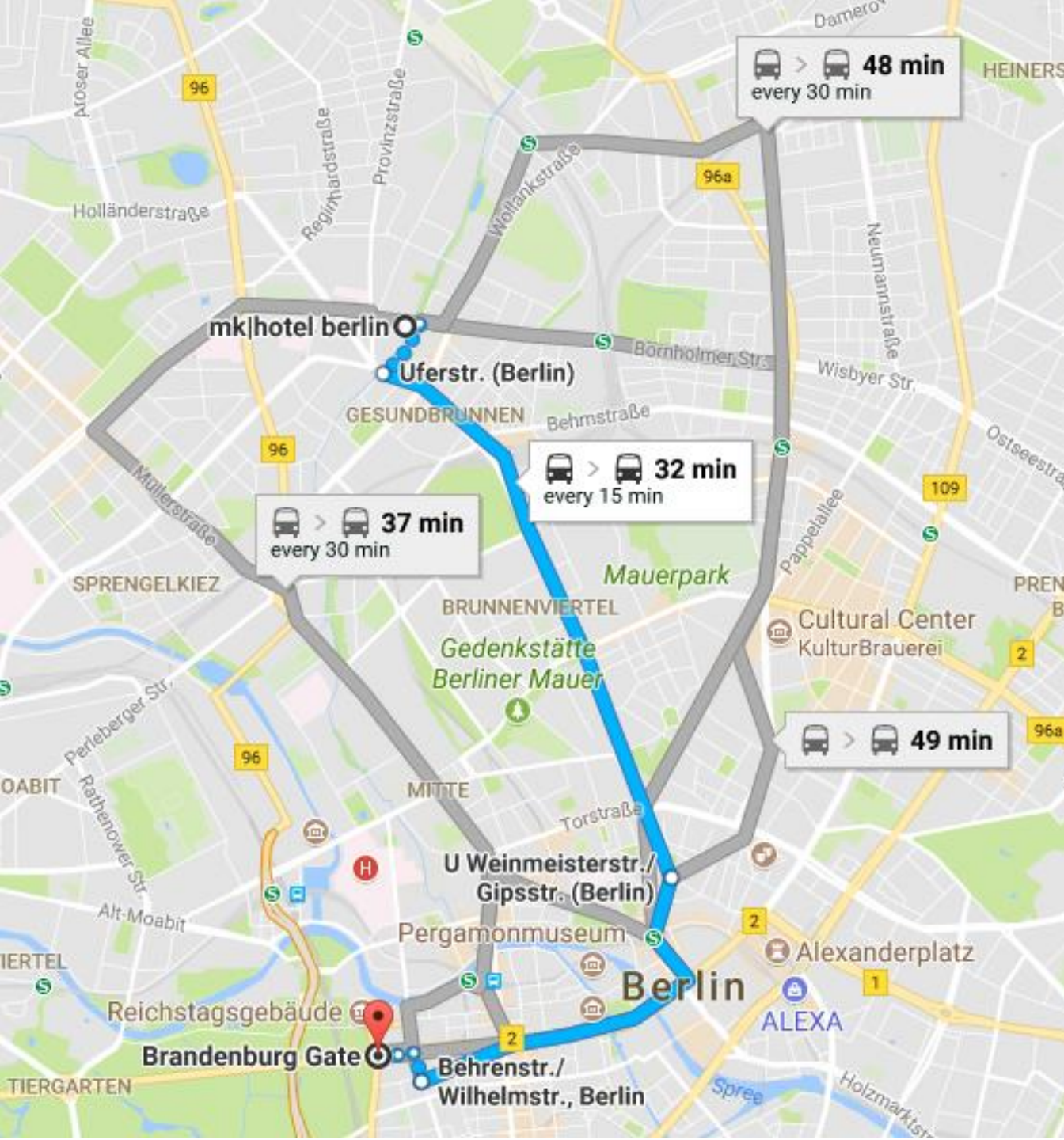
Eingang
mk | hotel

mk | hotel
restaurant & cafe





MK Hotel on upper left. #1 is Sara's where we had beer, #2 is where we parked the car. Down Prinzenallee is where we picked up train down town



To get to the Brandenburg Gate, probably one of the most famous landmarks in Berlin, we walked down Pinzenallee til we found a train station, then negotiated the ticket kiosk and before you knew it, we were there.



Here we are going full steam at 7:30pm after a full day of driving and touring already. Young and strong!!



Thanks again internet for providing this night time shot





After some photo ops we dropped into a restaurant where we had a couple of these beers along with what Ed dubbed a “white meal” consisting of fish and rice.

The evening came to a close with these beer nightcaps at Sara's. Officially, *Ristorante Pizzeria Sara* 10:20p



and cheese!	€ 32 cm
€ 26 cm	6,90
4,90	7,50
5,50	7,50
5,50	8,90
6,90	8,50
6,50	
	8,90
6,90	9,90
7,90	9,90

A coda to the evening: these shots at 11p



Day #5, 03 June 2016. After getting up and having something to eat, we took the metro downtown and toured the Berlin cathedral. Another stunning structure





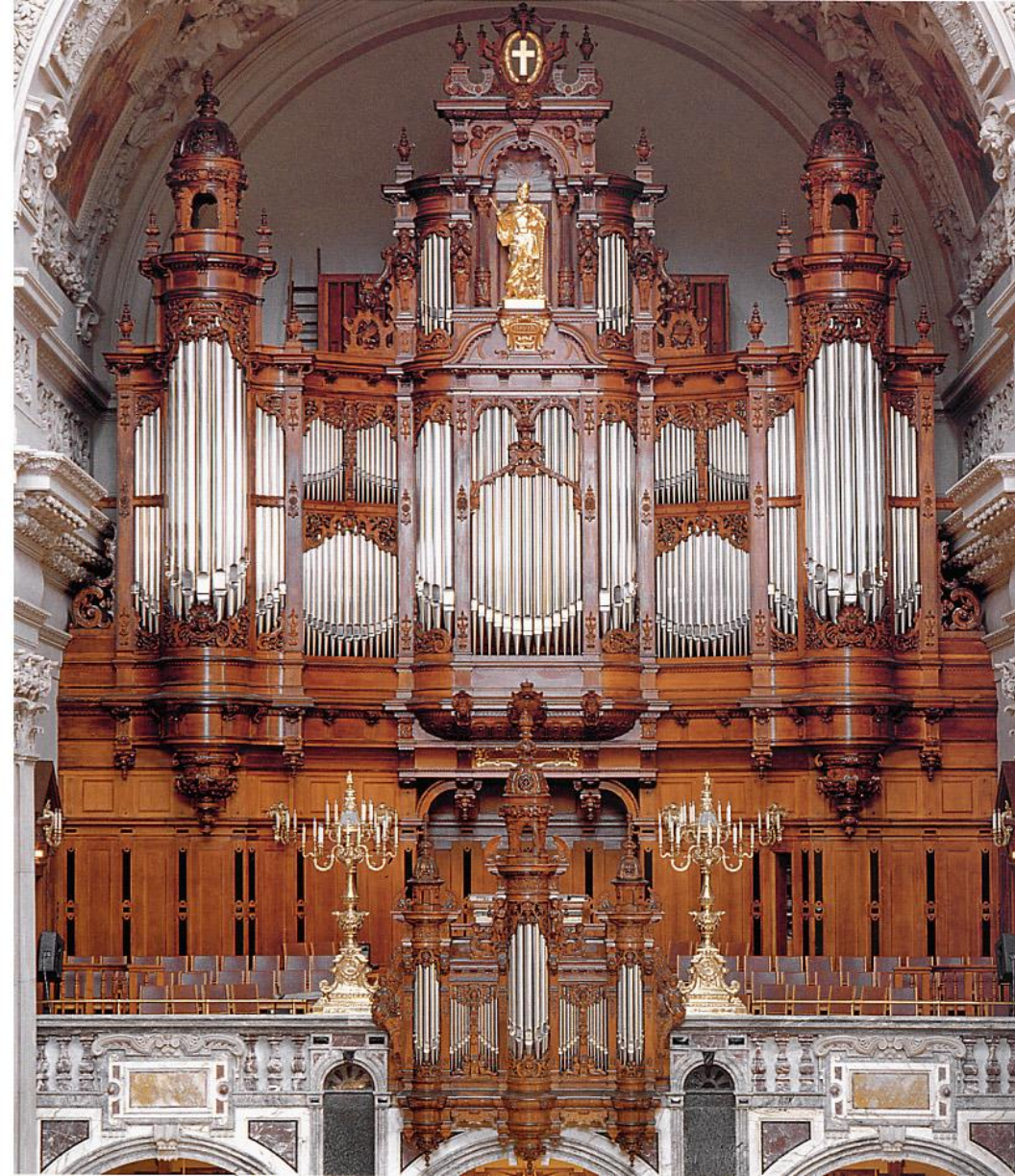
HERNACH WIRD MIT
TUCHEN DIESEL AN
DEN WELT GIBT

WELT GIBT DIE
DIESEL DIE WELT
HERNACH WIRD MIT

IN DER HÖHE DER KUNST DER WELT GIBT DIESEL







The large Sauer organ of the High Parish and Cathedral Church of Berlin was designed and built at the same time as the building itself, and it is thus part of the church's original artistic furnishings. At the time of its dedication in 1905, the organ was the largest in Germany, with its 7269 pipes and 113 registers, distributed across four manuals and pedals. The court organ builder Wilhelm Sauer, from Frankfurt on the Oder, created an instrument that embodied the newest technical and musical developments of German organ building at the time. In that way, the organ met the high expectations of both the organ builder and his client: in the Protestant Cathedral of the capital city, there was to be a monumental, modern, and in every way extraordinary instrument of the highest quality. The organ of the Cathedral of Berlin represents the highpoint of Sauer's career. At the same time, it marks the end of the long development of Romantic orchestral organs, whose sound corresponds to the characteristic sound of a symphonic orchestra of that period. Today, the organ in the Cathedral of Berlin is the largest late-Romantic organ that has survived in its original condition. (From cathedral website)



**Spectacular view from the
top of the dom**





SAMSUNG

Galaxy S7 edge



Rethink what a phone can do

**Martin
and
Philip
and
the
boys**



FORSTER
BUGGENHAGEN KRUZIGER

MELANCHTHON

AUROGALLUS

LUTHER

ICOMIS

BERLINER  DOM

Am Lustgarten · 10178 Berlin · www.berlinerdom.de

Predigtkirche

Kuppelblick

Domerhaltung
Preis: 7,00 €

Shortly after our €7 trip to the top of the dom we got a cold drink and chilled in the shade. Some guy walked by us wearing something odd with his bare butt glowing for all to see. Coulda lived without that.

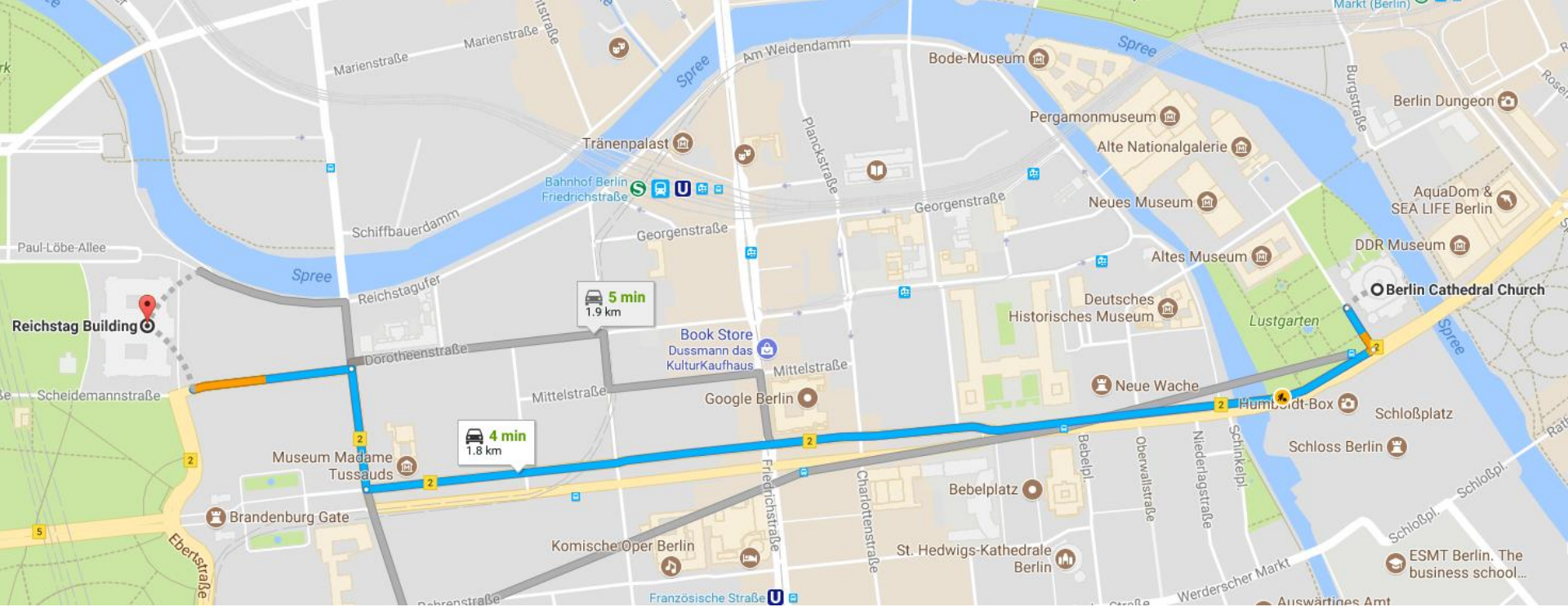
Druck und System: Beckerbillett Hamburg (0115)

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06.2016 12:17 Kasse 7



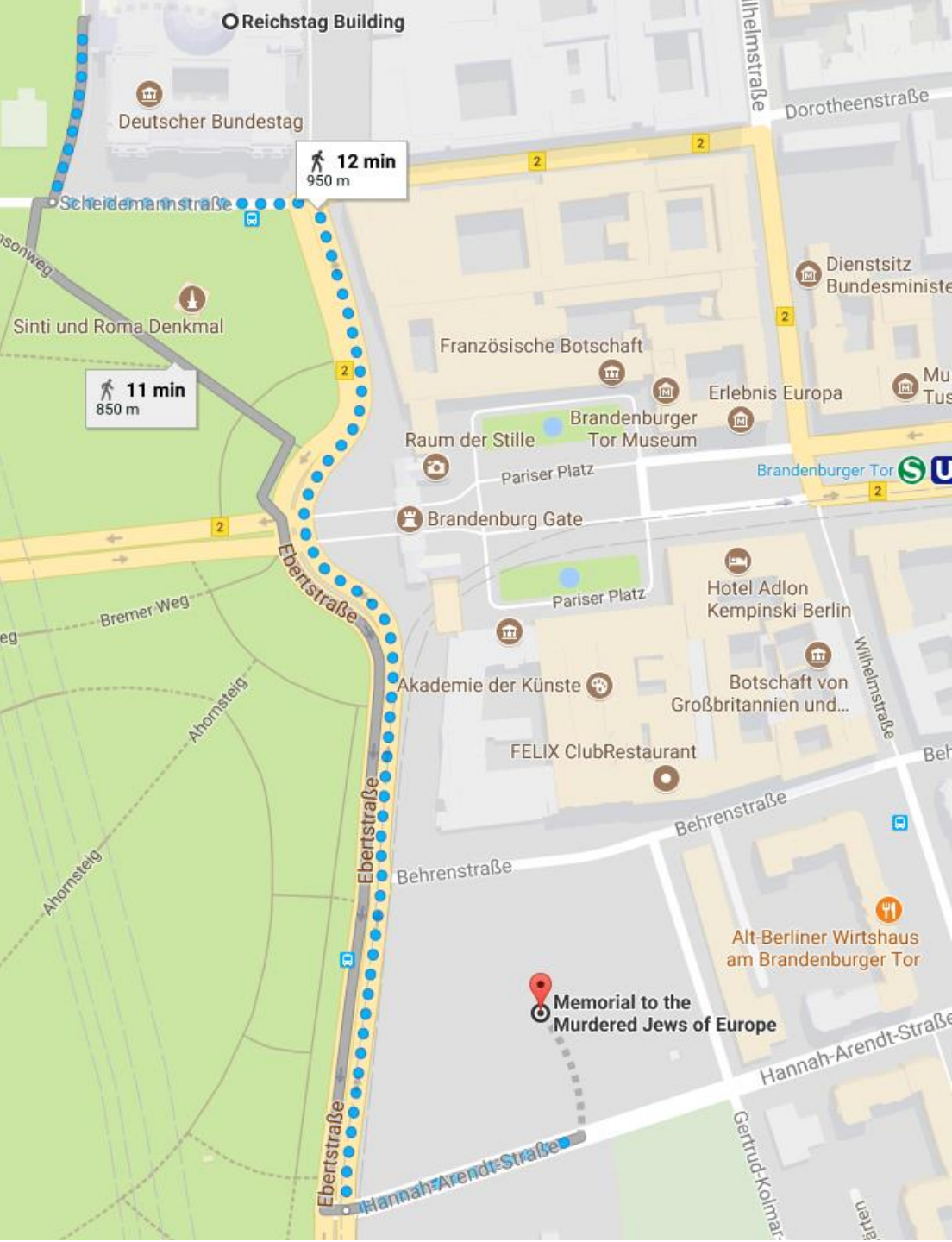
Bought tickets to the hop on/hop off bus, which we only used once.



Here's basically the route we took by bus and on foot. This was the only time we used the hop on/hop off bus.



The Reichstag building currently houses the German parliament. Constructed 1884-1894. Severely damaged in a 1933 fire, it was unused until being refurbished in 1990 after German reunification, and Parliament moved there in 1999. The famous inscription on the front says - "DEM DEUTSCHEN VOLK" - (to the German people). Good pano shot, Ed



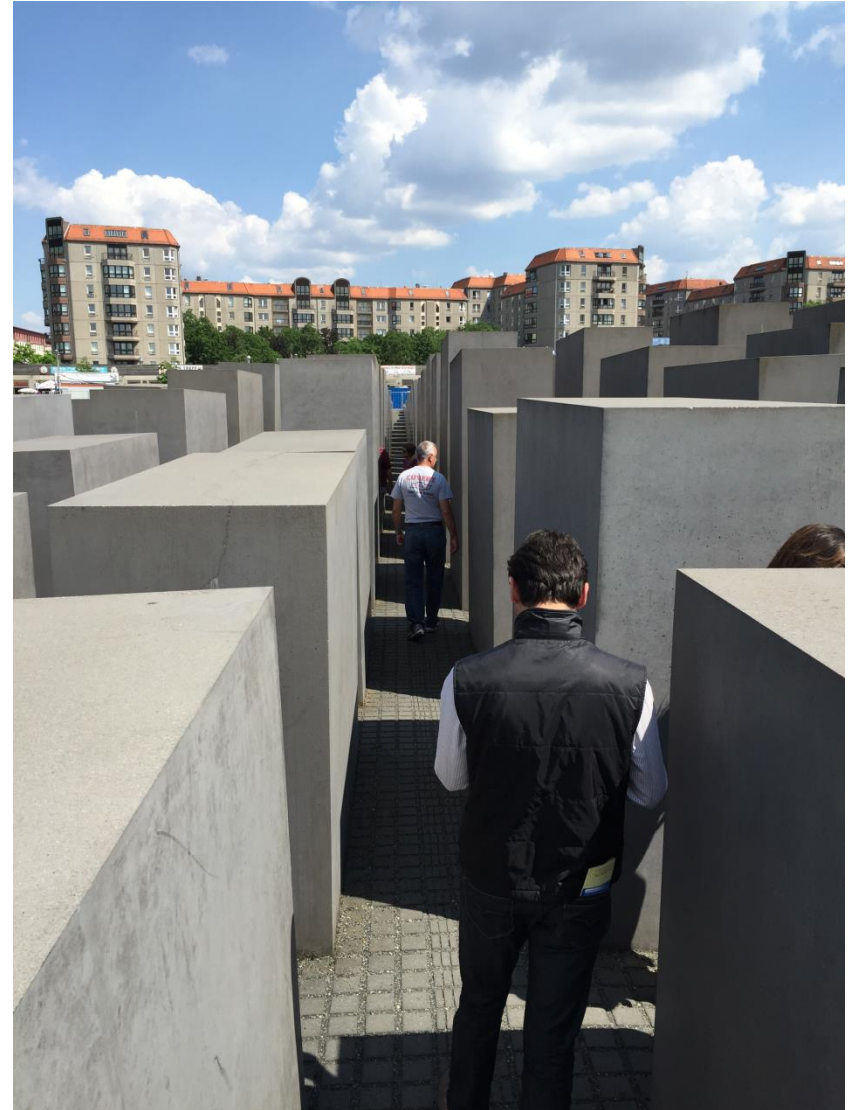
Don't think this was the route we walked, but not the first time we didn't take the best option.

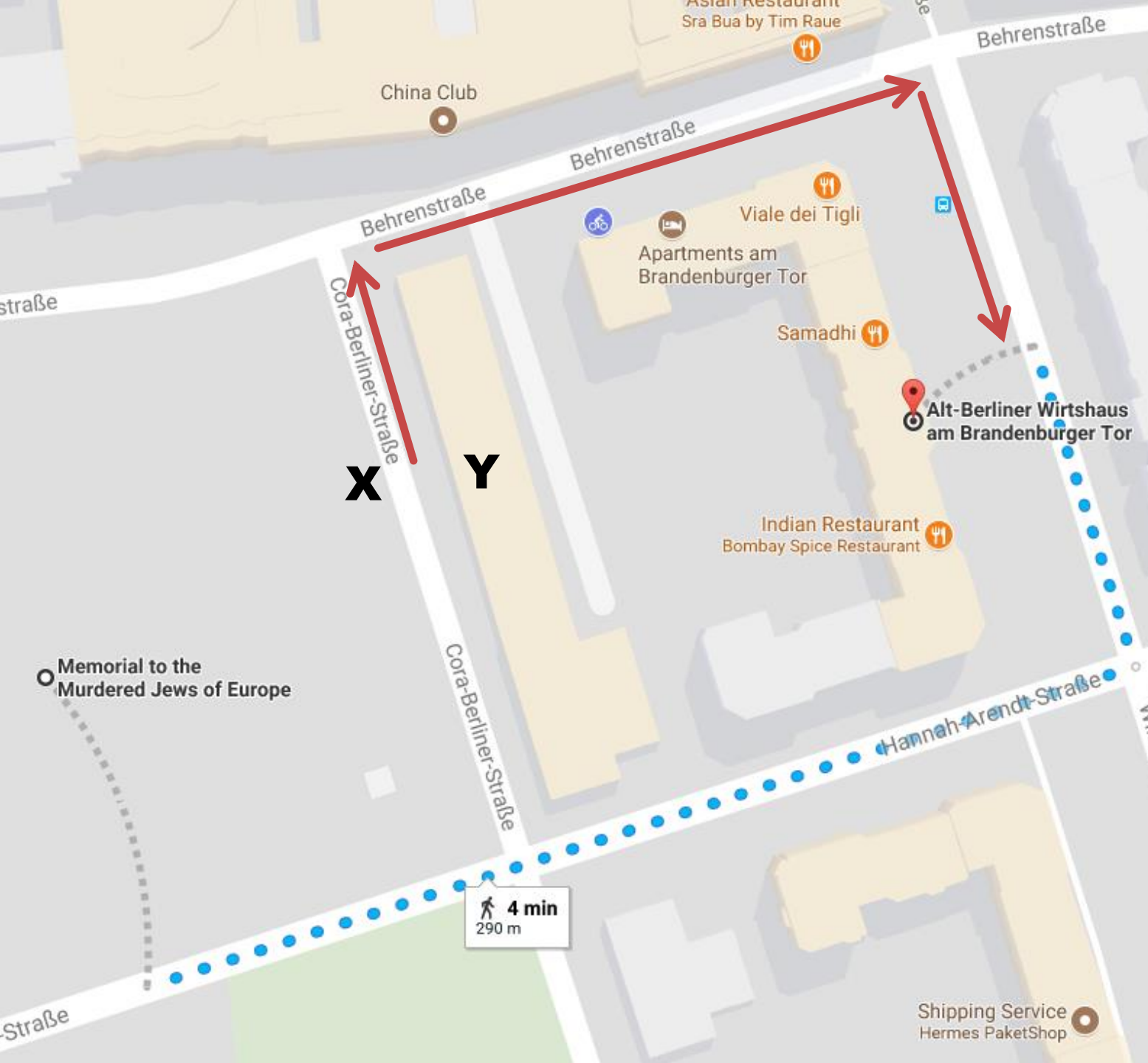


Next stop: Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (aka Holocaust Memorial). 2pm.



One block south of the Brandenburg Gate, this memorial opened in 2005 and cost €25 million to build. Don't know about sitting, but Ed can assure you walking on them is verboten.





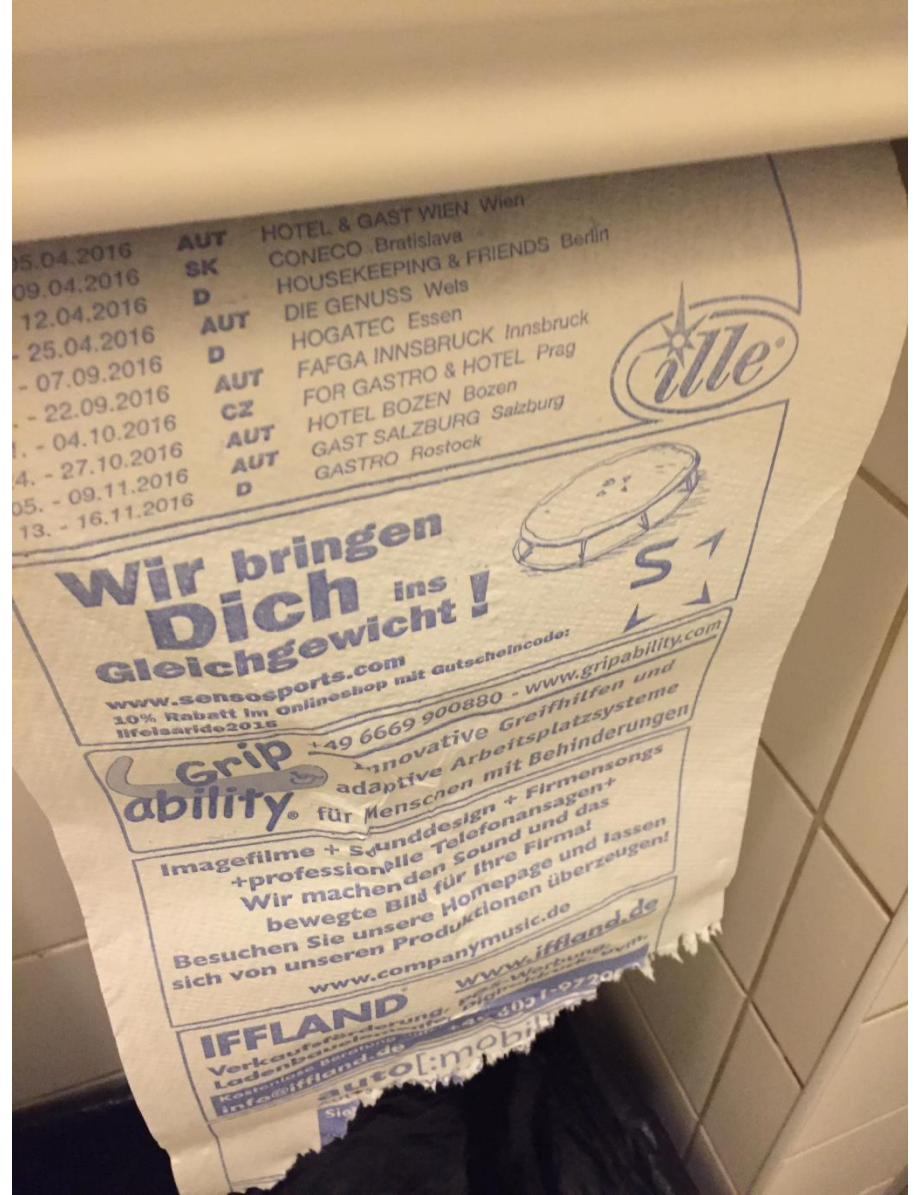
Following the Holocaust Memorial (X), we got stuff from souvenir shop across the street (Y). Ready for lunch, the lady at the shop recommended the AltBerliner Wirtshaus seen on the map. Google thinks we should have walked the dotted blue line, but we took the route in red. Six one way, half dozen the other.

X **Y**

 **4 min**
290 m

**Got here about 2:25p
and had a salad with
yellow asparagus
before more sight-
seeing. The
restrooms had paper
towels with
advertisements on
them. Different**



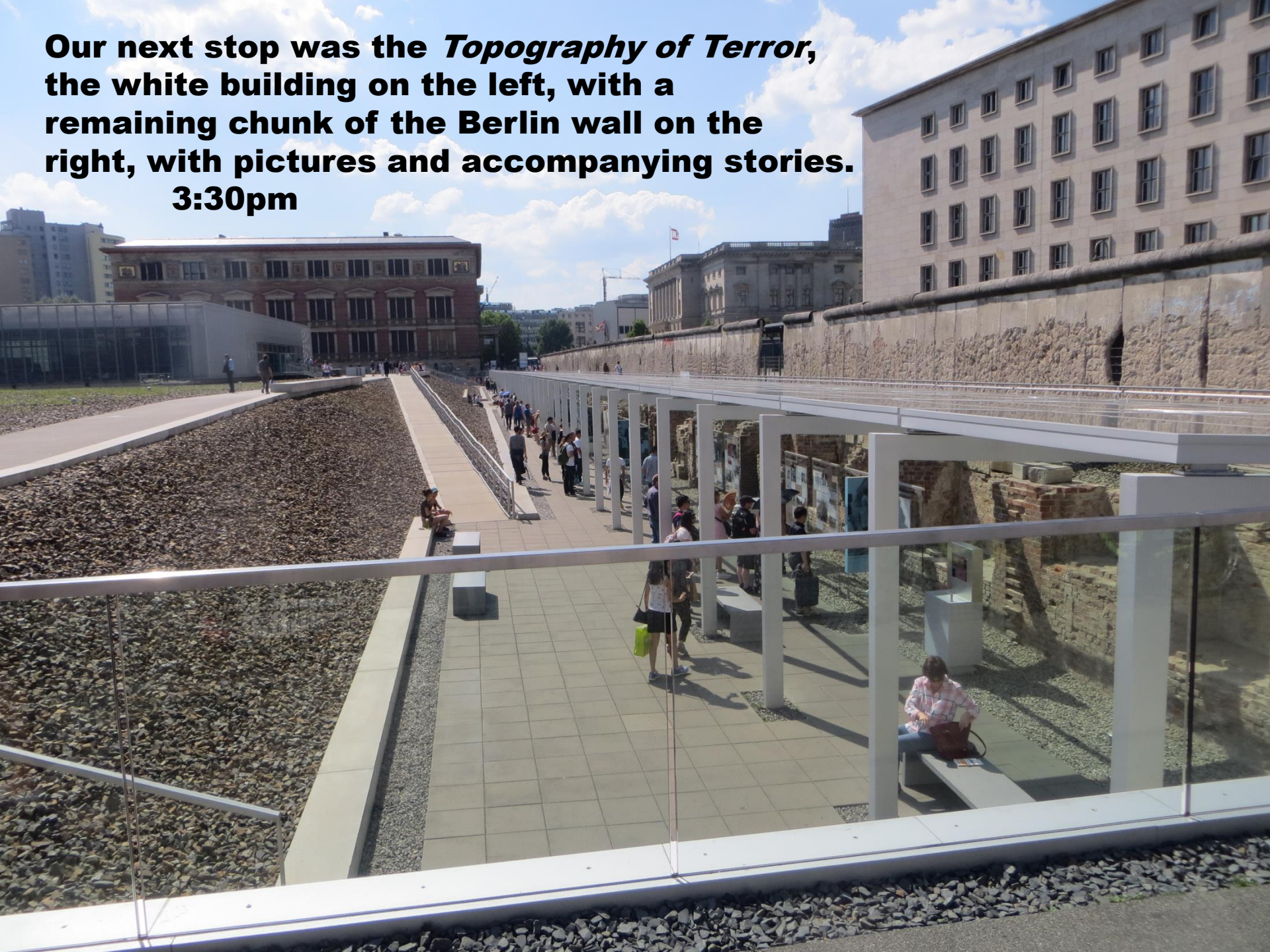


Salad... and bathroom paper towels



After lunch we walked by Trabi World. More on this later.

**Our next stop was the *Topography of Terror*,
the white building on the left, with a
remaining chunk of the Berlin wall on the
right, with pictures and accompanying stories.
3:30pm**

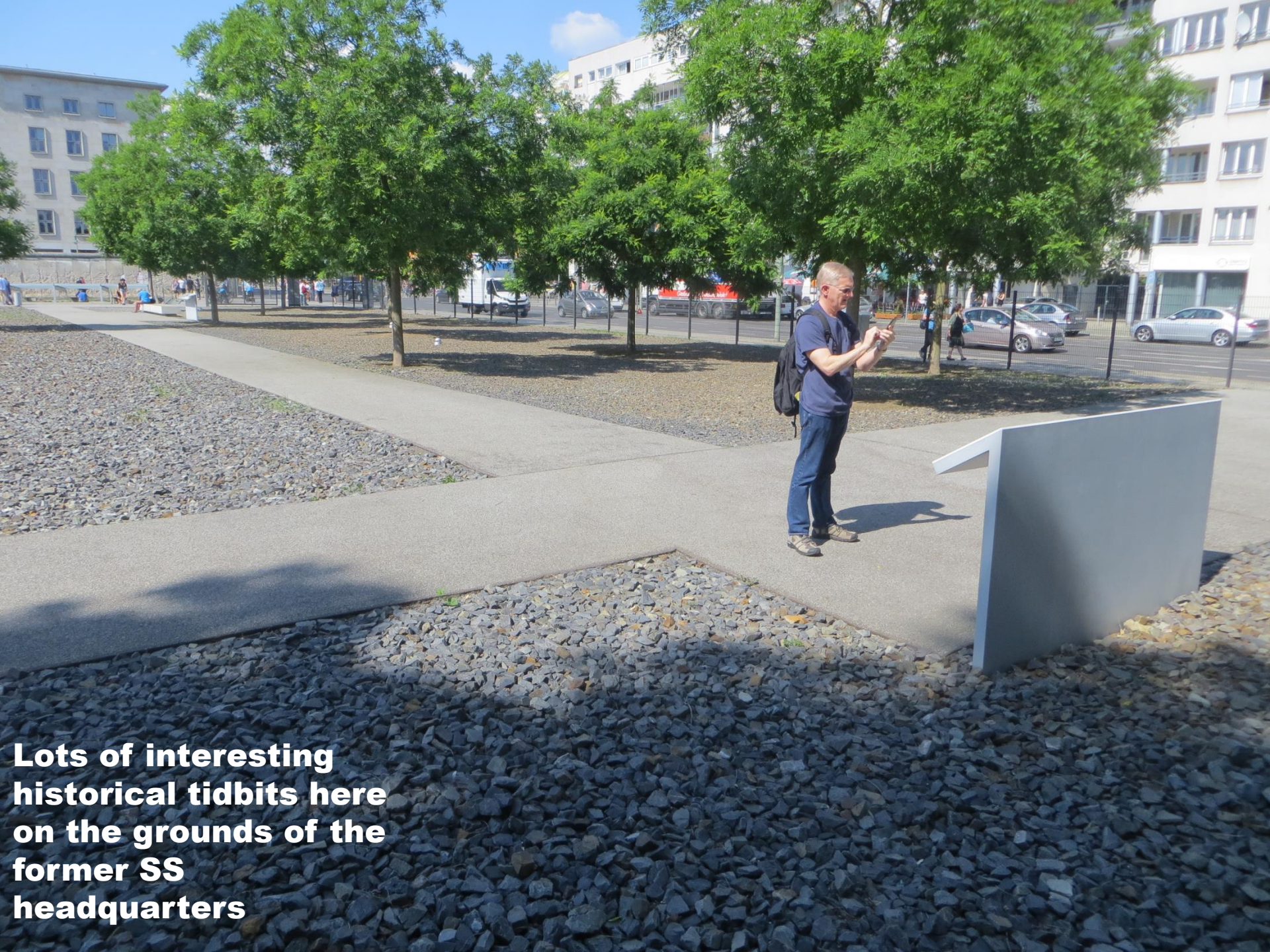




The institutions of Nazi terror

Between 1933 and 1945, the central institutions of Nazi persecution and terror – the Secret State Police Office with its own “house prison,” the leadership of the SS and, during the Second World War, the Reich Security Main Office – were located on the present-day grounds of the “Topography of Terror” that are next to the Martin Gropius Building and close to Potsdamer Platz.



A man with a backpack is standing on a paved walkway, taking a photograph of a modern, white, rectangular architectural structure. The structure is set on a large area of dark grey gravel. In the background, there are several young trees, a street with cars and a truck, and a multi-story white building. The scene is bright and sunny.

**Lots of interesting
historical tidbits here
on the grounds of the
former SS
headquarters**



STRAFVERFOLGUNG IM KALTEN KRIEG

STRAFVERFOLGUNG PROSE

„Dämonisch ging Stella Kübler über Leichen“



Freisprüche für Yester and
Erasmick im Gumpo-Pravdi

Bekanntmachung
Die Reichsregierung hat beschlossen, dass...
Ceslaw Kolodziejewski...
AUSSTELLUNG
UNGESUCHTE NAZIJUSTIZ
GALLENE SPRINGER



NS-Richter flüchtete sich in den Tod

Period sei rechtlich nicht
als Schuldverweis zu werten...
Paul Richter, im seinem Ab-
schiedsbrief, Valmeir habe er da
wardenden Geistes gegen ih-
ren Richter ab-
gehen. Der Richter
den die Ber-
liner Staatsan-
waltschaft an-
zu Klagen ver-
wehren versuch-
ten, Mord an
Montagabend erlände in seinem
Bismarck Haus aufgefunden worden.



Much to read and learn at the wall itself



TOPOGRAPHIE
DES
TERRORS

Gestapo, SS und
Reichssicherheits-
hauptamt
Ausstellung | Exhibition

BERLIN 1933-1945
Open-Air-Ausstellung

MARSCHORDNUNGEN
1933-38 & 1939

BAUENKAL
BERLINER MAUER
BERLINER
MÄRMER

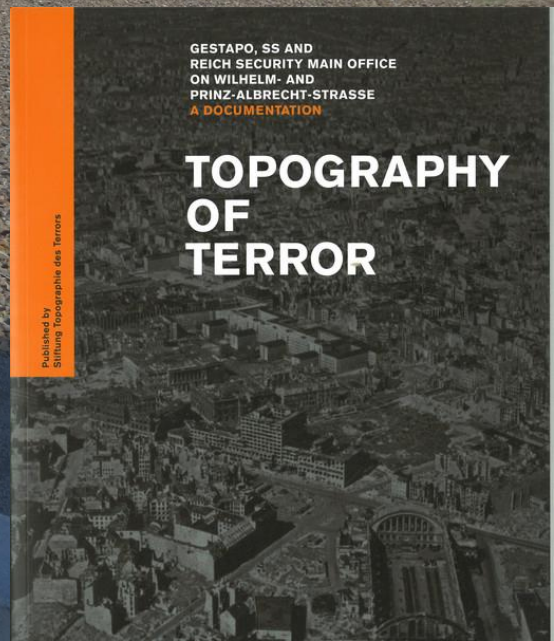
A walk through this museum is an eye-opening experience about the whole ugly Nazi era.



GESTAPO, SS AND
REICH SECURITY MAIN OFFICE
ON WILHELM- AND
PRINZ-ALBRECHT-STRASSE
A DOCUMENTATION

TOPOGRAPHY OF TERROR

Published by
Shanghai Topographie des Terrains



1

DIE NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHE MACHTÜBERNAHME THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST TAKEOVER OF POWER



Hitlers Ernennung zum Reichskanzler leitete die Zerstörung der Demokratie von Weimar ein. Gewaltenteilung, Grundrechte, Pressefreiheit, Pluralismus und Föderalismus wurden abgeschafft. Die Nationalsozialisten proklamierten eine neue Ordnung: das „Dritte Reich“. SA- und SS-Männer wurden zu Hilfspolizisten ernannt, die von der Schusswaffe Gebrauch machen sollten. Viele SA-Lokale wurden zu Folterstätten, wo politische Gegner der NSDAP festgehalten und misshandelt wurden. Der NS-Terror entfaltete sich öffentlich, um lähmenden Schrecken zu verbreiten. Manche Zeitgenossen hatten sich das Ausmaß der Gewalt nicht vorstellen können, die zur Errichtung der NS-Diktatur führte. Andere teilten Hitlers politische Ziele oder erwarteten sein rasches Scheitern.

Nach wenigen Monaten waren Parteien, Gewerkschaften und Verbände zerschlagen, verboten oder aufgelöst, die Länder „gleichgeschaltet“. Zu Säulen des neuen NS-Einheitsstaates wurden die SS und die „Gestapo“ – die Geheime Staatspolizei.

Hitler's appointment as Reich chancellor ushered in the destruction of Weimar democracy. The separation of powers, basic rights, freedom of the press, pluralism, and federalism were all abolished. The National Socialists announced the advent of a new order, the "Third Reich." SA and SS men were appointed auxiliary police officers and encouraged to use firearms. Numerous SA meeting places became centers of torture, where the Nazi Party's political opponents were held and maltreated. Nazi terror unfolded in the public eye to spread paralyzing fear. Many contemporaries had failed to foresee the extent of violence that would lead to the establishment of the Nazi dictatorship, while others shared Hitler's political aims or expected his success to be short-lived.

Within a few months, parties, trade unions, and associations had been crushed, banned, or disbanded, and the federal states brought into line. The SS and the "Gestapo" – the Secret State Police – became pillars of the new unitary Nazi state.

DAUERAUSSTELLUNG

TOPOGRAPHIE DES TERRORS

EINTRITT FREI | ADMISSION FREE





After that “downer” but highly educational visit to Topography of Terror, we headed to Checkpoint Charlie via Trabi World.



The Trabant (Trabi) produced from 1957 to 1990 by former East German auto maker VEB Sachsenring Automobilwerke Zwickau in Zwickau, Saxony. It is often regarded as a symbol of the defunct East Germany and of the collapse of the Eastern Bloc in general.



**Ich ben
Junk!**

“The car that gave communism a bad name”



Took this pic at 5:47p. Checkpoint "C" nicknamed Charlie by the Western Allies to the best-known Berlin Wall crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin during the Cold War (1947–1991). Got our passports stamped here. Next stop, 10 minute walk to Gendarmenmarkt



Interesting about the twin churches – one French, the other German. We sat on Konzerthaus steps and watched street musicians play. Rob thought about bringing one of these giant bubble sticks for grandson Nate, but didn't want to haul it for several more days of the trip.





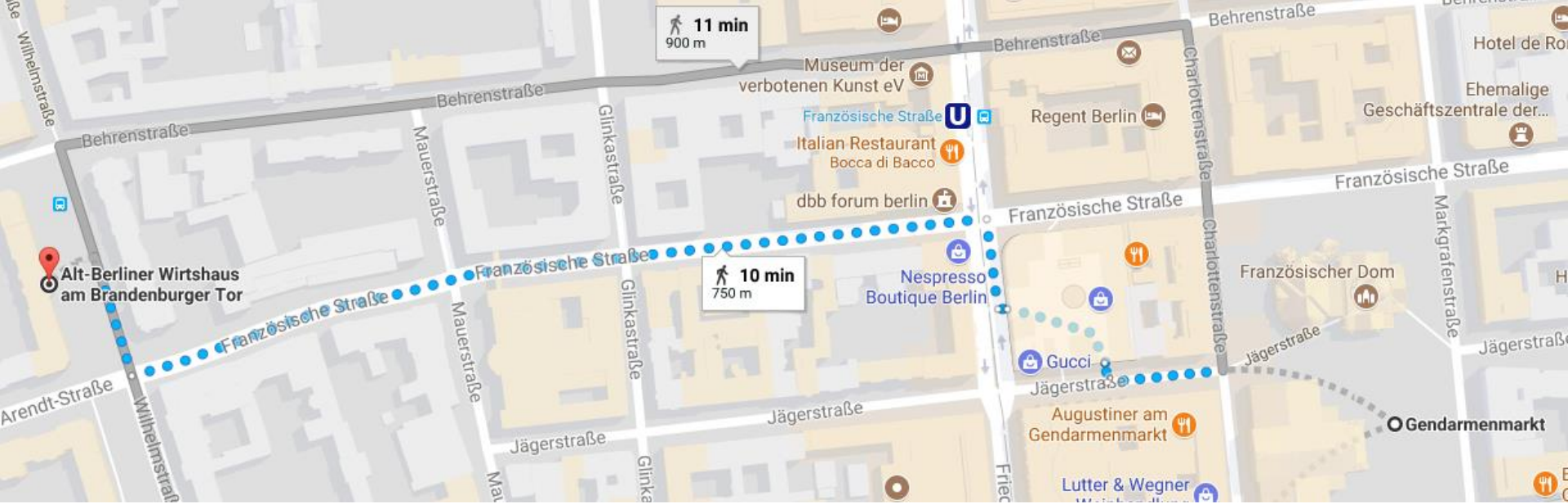
2008 panorama of the Gendarmenmarkt, showing the Konzerthaus, flanked by the German Church (left) and French Church (right)

Deutscher Dom - The German Church (in German: *Deutscher Dom*) is located to the south of the Gendarmenmarkt. It has a pentagonal structure and was designed by Martin Grünberg and built in 1708 by Giovanni Simonetti. This church belonged to the Lutheran community. It too was modified in 1785 by Carl von Gontard, who built the domed tower. The German Church was completely destroyed by fire in 1945, during World War II. After German reunification it was rebuilt, finished in 1993 and re-opened in 1996 as a museum of German history.

Französischer Dom - The French Church (in German: *Französischer Dom*, where *Dom* refers to the "dome" and not to a cathedral. Neither the French nor the German Church was ever the seat of a bishop. The terminology is a relic of francophone Frederick the Great, who was instrumental in enhancing the Gendarmenmarkt) is the older of the two churches, was built by the Huguenot community between 1701 and 1705. It was modelled after the destroyed Huguenot church in Charenton-Saint-Maurice, France. The tower and porticoes, designed by Carl von Gontard, were added to the building in 1785. The French Church has a viewing platform, a restaurant and a Huguenot museum.

Got here about 6:15p and went in the German church in this pic, then sat on the steps of the Konzerthaus on the bottom, right of this picture. Street musicians were entertaining those in the platz.



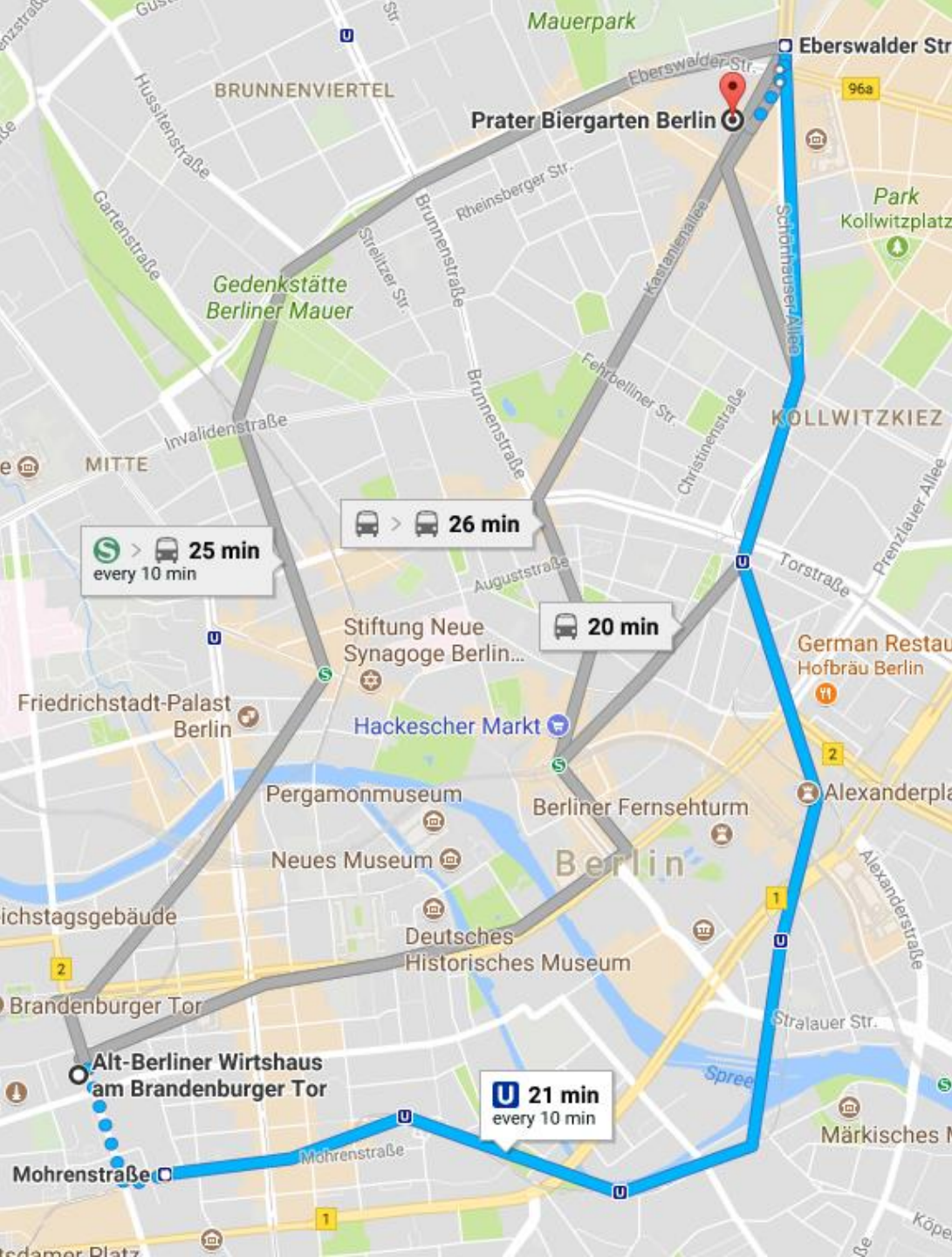


After the Gendarmenmarkt visit we headed back to Alt-Berliner Wirsthaus for some curry brats that are the big deal there. We declared them over-rated.... And our opinions count!!



NATURELL

10117 Weßlin
2,00 € 4,20 €
2,60 € 4,20 €



Quick pic of beer we had with curry brats



After dinner we hopped the train to the Prater Biergarten. The travel info rated this pretty high. Was a popular place. Many people there to eat and drink Germany's favorite beverage.



Plenty o people on train



As we entered the Biergarten

This place was hoppin' on a Friday night. And who'da thunk it... wif was stronger here in this outdoor Biergarten than any other place we had been on the whole trip!

PRATER



Seit 1837

Prater
Gaststätte
täglich geöffnet
ab 18 Uhr/Sonntag ab 12 Uhr

www.pratergarten.de

A green rectangular sign with a white border. At the top, there is a small logo of a snake with a heart. Below the logo, the text "Seit 1837" is written in a small font. The main text "Prater Gaststätte" is in a large, bold, white font. Below that, "täglich geöffnet" and "ab 18 Uhr/Sonntag ab 12 Uhr" are written in a smaller white font. At the bottom, the website address "www.pratergarten.de" is printed in a very small font.

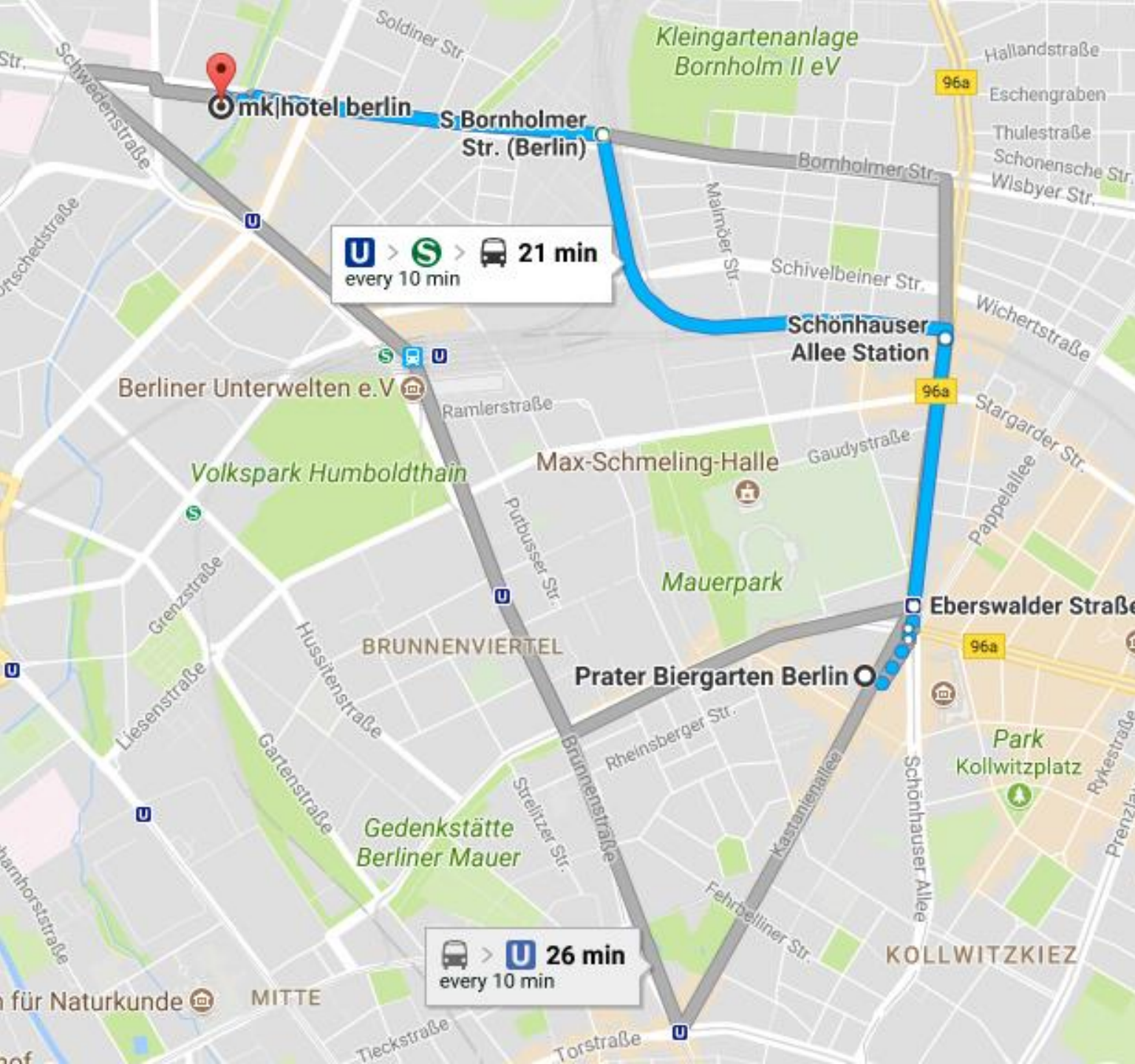


A popular hangout for Berliners



**Now here
are some
world
class
travelers!**





U > **S** > **Bus** 21 min
every 10 min

Bus > **U** 26 min
every 10 min

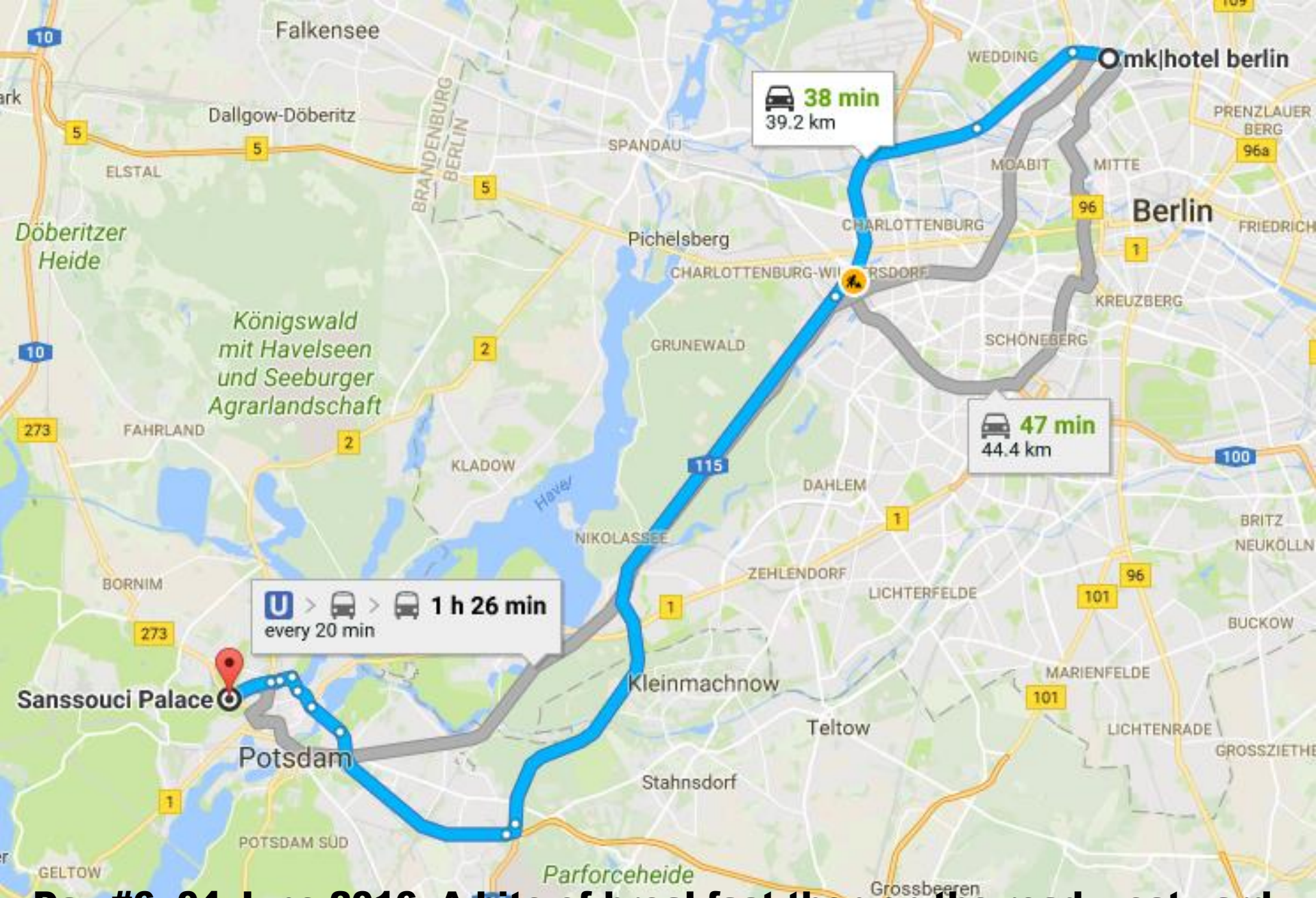
Left Prater about 10:15p heading back to MK Hotel... oh yes, with a nightcap stop at Sara's again.



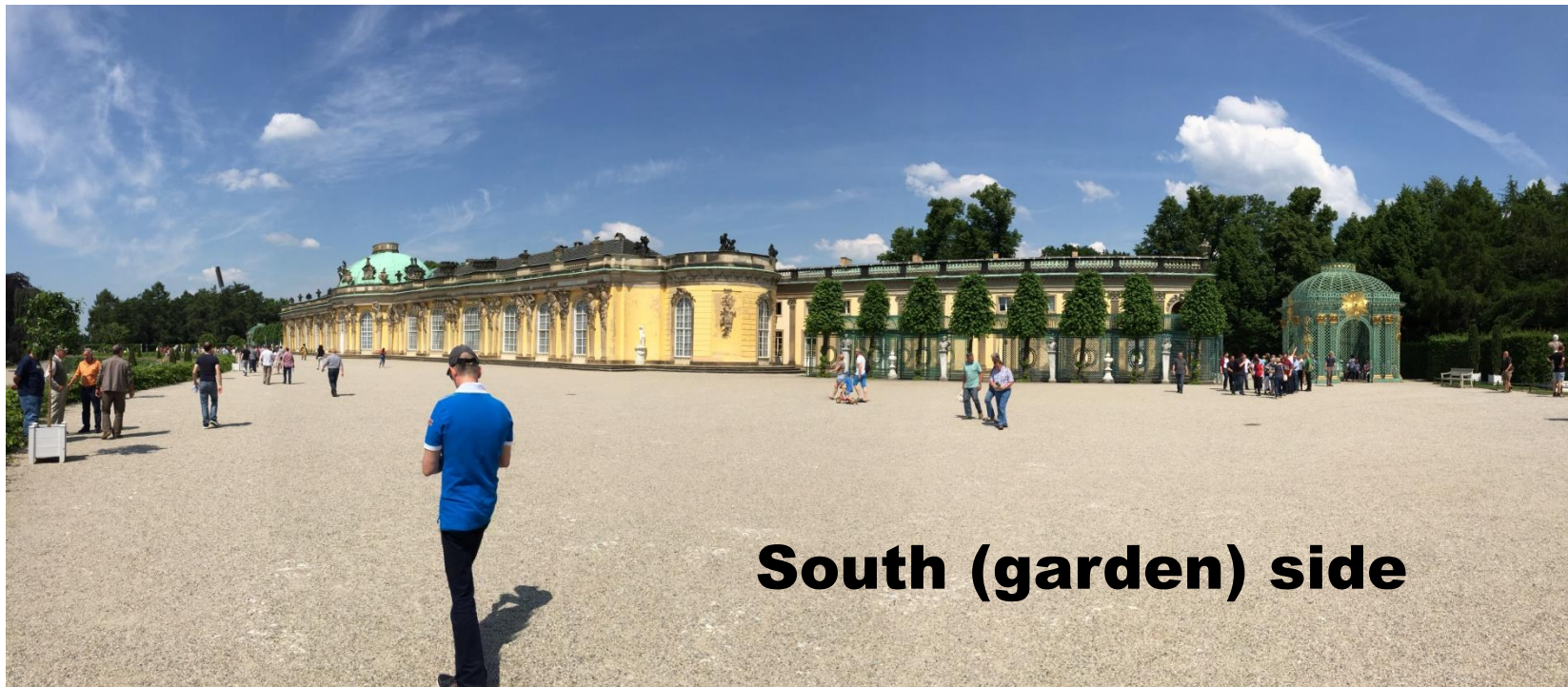
Where we picked up the U near Prater.

**Took this pic at
Sara's 11:04pm.
People near us
sitting around a
hooka table.**





Day #6, 04 June 2016. A bite of breakfast then on the road westward. First stop at Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam.



Looking north of Sanssouci



Sanssouci is the summer palace of Frederick the Great (1712-1786), King of Prussia, in Potsdam, near Berlin. It is often counted among the German rivals of Versailles. The palace was built between 1745 and 1747 to fulfill King Frederick's need for a private residence where he could relax away from the pomp and ceremony of the Berlin court. (Wikipedia)





**Beautiful
gardens and
vineyards**









↑ Park Sanssouci
Neues Palais
nach 2,7 km

→ Park Sanssouci
Sanssouci

30

By 12:50p we were heading west, toward Bastogne, Belgium or is it Luxemborg?

Rick Steves
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Including Berlin, Munich, Salzburg & Vienna City Maps
PLANNING MAP



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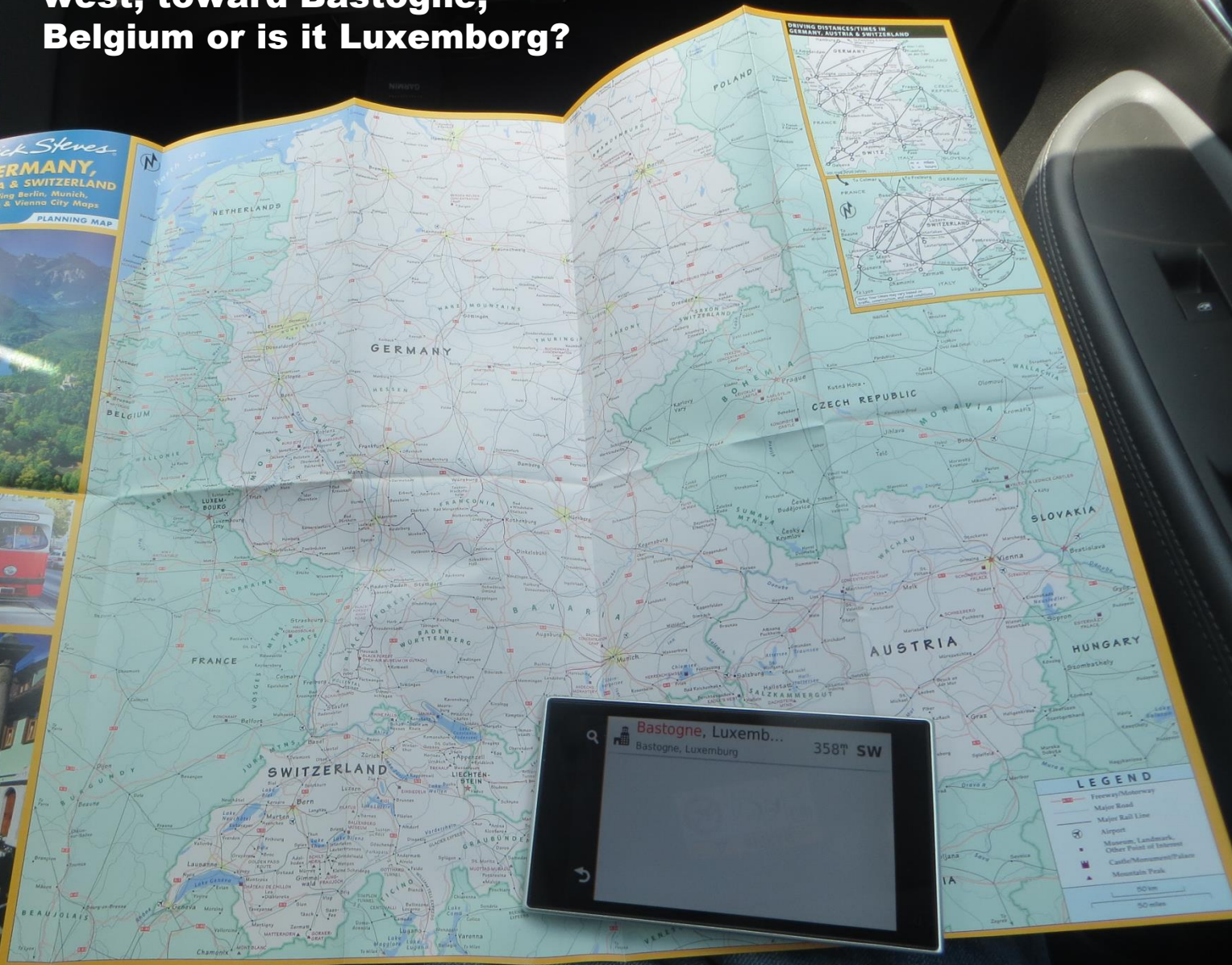


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Germany travel tips from
radio shows

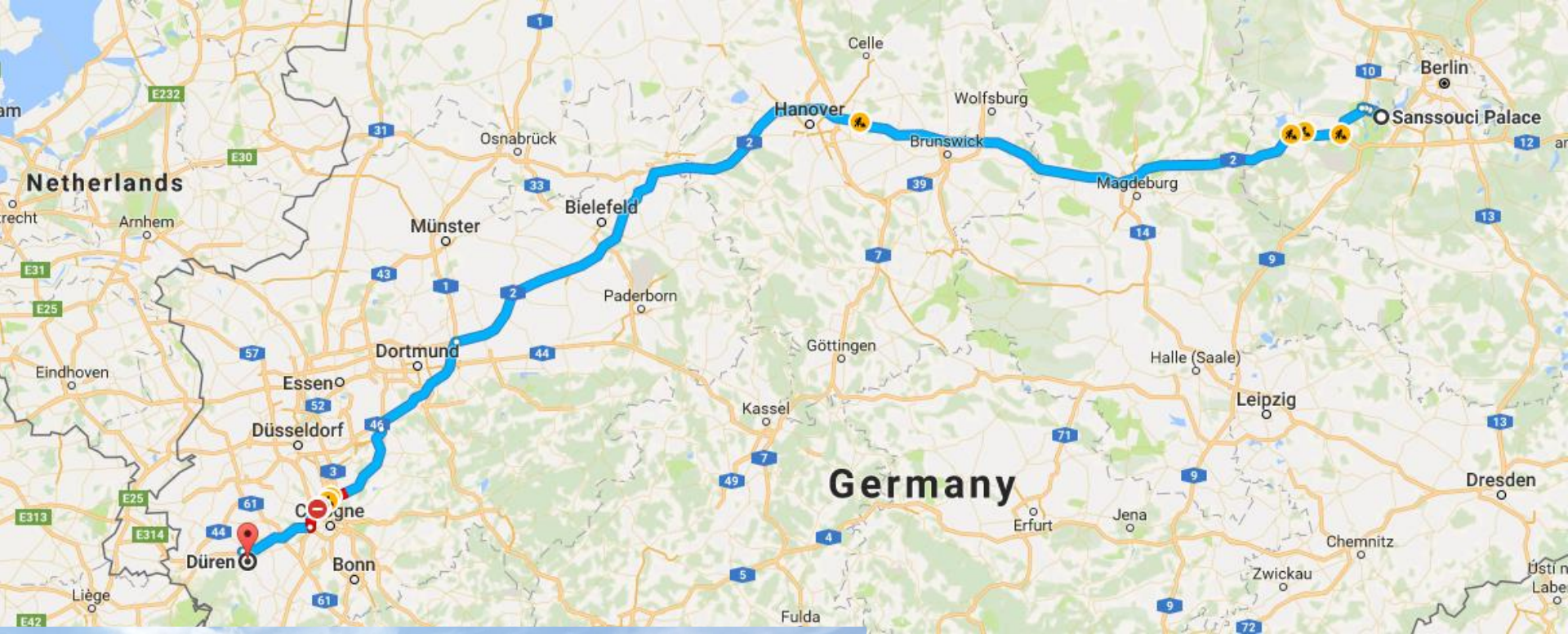
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ricksteves.com



Bastogne, Luxemb... 3587 SW
Bastogne, Luxemburg

- LEGEND**
- Freeway/Motorway
 - Major Road
 - Major Rail Line
 - Airport
 - Museum, Landmark, Other Point of Interest
 - Castle/Monument/Palace
 - Mountain Peak
- 50 km
50 miles



Stopped for lunch and wifi at this fine dining institution before getting some serious kilometers covered on the autobahn.

Quick wave to Rob's ancestry land - Hannover.



6:16p. Just east of Köln





**Stopped for
dinner at this
roadside
cafeteria....
complete with
electronic
urinals and
road-weary girls
stretching and
doing
cartwheels**





Decided at the cafeteria to exit the highway at Düren, Germany, not too far from the Belgium border. Found a room then walked about 10 minutes away to this bar where we had a pilsner and a Kölsch. Then this bartender gave us these flaming shots of Sambuca extra. 10:50p.

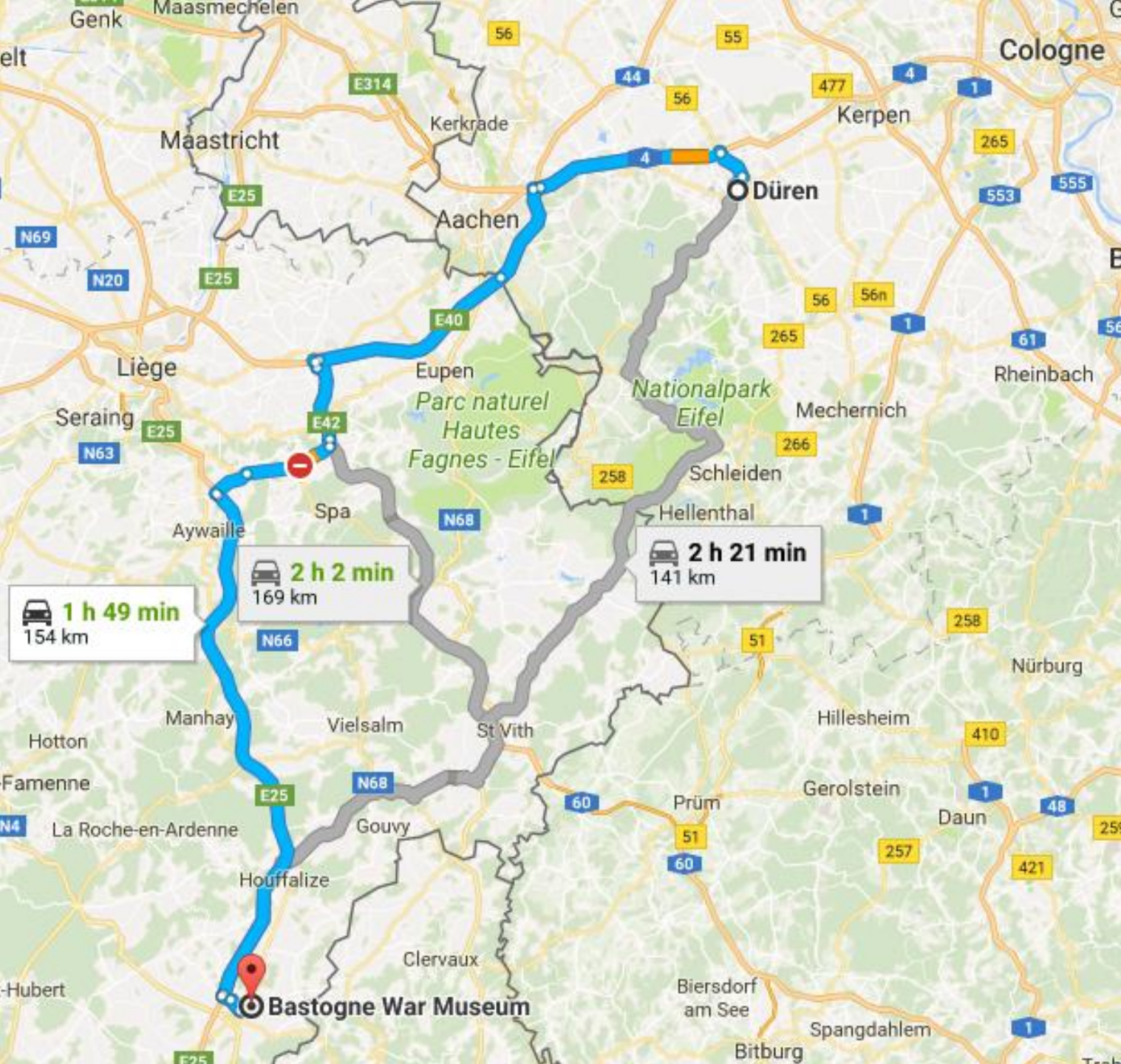
Saw this sign and took a pic of it mainly to document the time we returned to the room. Lights out and sawing logs by 11:30p.



Day #7, 05 June 2016. Slept in until 8ish, had motel breakfast, then headed toward Bastogne War Museum. Beautiful farm land throughout Belgium. Pic taken shortly after noon.







Got to Bastogne War Museum about 12:45. Fortunately they had a cafeteria so we could get lunch, and a good Belgian beer too.



BASTOGNE WAR MUSEUM



ENTRÉE

LES MARCHES DE LA MARCHE

CHAMPIONNAT
DE GOLF

BASTOGNE WAR MUSEUM



LE MUSEE



**1:03pm lunch and these
delicious Belgian beers**





This was a very cool WWII museum. There were several video clips playing throughout the museum with sounds of bombs exploding. About that time a thunderstorm hit with lots of thunder outside that added to the drama of the displays.

QUARTIER LATIN

It just so happened that a traveling display was here from Texas A & M. It was in the town and after several attempts to locate it, we finally stumbled upon it. "From Texas to Bastogne – Texas Aggies Go to War." 3:30pm



PRESENT

EXPO

FROM TEXAS TO BASTOGNE

Texas Aggies Go to War



★ OPENING DECEMBER 14, 2014 – BASTOGNE ★

© Conception and design by Tempora www.fromtexasbastogne.com



LE SOIR



Co. H

Best Support of Athletics

at

A M C

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY



1876





In our 16 years of traveling together this *may* be the first time we have repeated a place of lodging on separate trips (possible exception of place in Munich). We liked it enough to schedule another visit. Run by Patrick and Joelle. We got the same room we had last time, which was a nice one.





Yup, same room as March 2015



This was a fine dining experience with great beer from the nearby Val-Dieu Abbey... near Aubel, in the Berwinne valley, in the Land of Herve. Again I'm sticking to my story!



Rain had cooled the temperature enough for an after-dinner beer outside. Joelle dried off chairs. While sitting out here we called Maxine, Rob's mom. First time she ever talked on an international phone call.



Good Belgian beer on a nice summer evening in Belgium

**Quiet country side with the smell
of fresh rain and cow dung.**



A man and a woman are having breakfast outdoors at a table. The woman, wearing a black t-shirt and black pants, is leaning over the table, which is set with plates of food, glasses of orange juice, and condiments. The man, wearing a blue t-shirt and blue jeans, stands next to her, looking at the food. The table is made of wood and metal, and there are black plastic chairs around it. The setting is a paved patio area with lush greenery and a large red-leafed bush in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny morning.

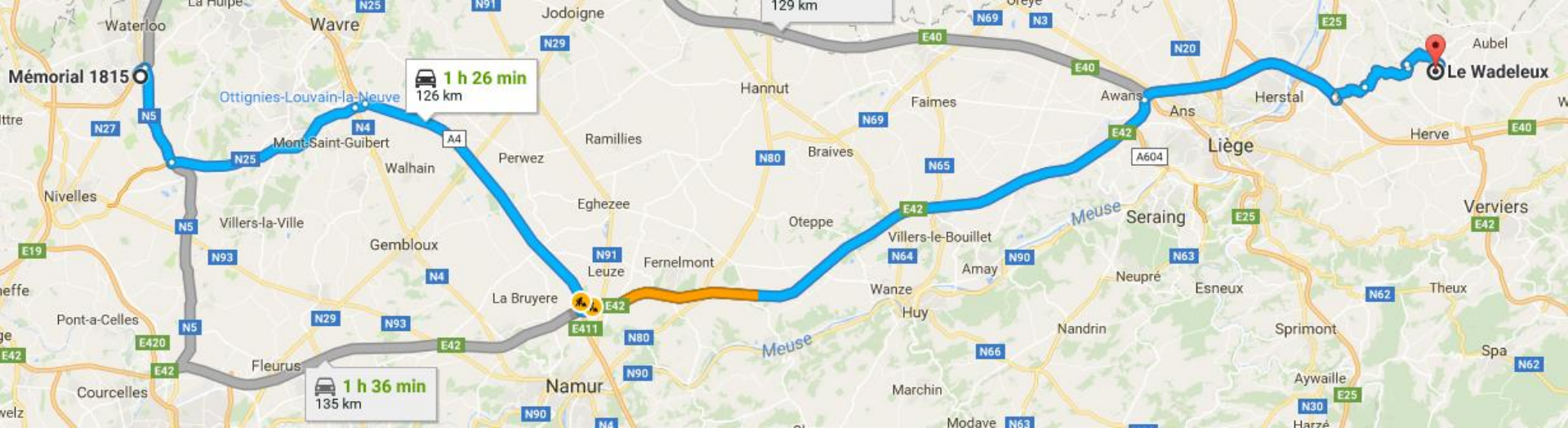
**Day #8, 06
June 2016. A
beautiful
morning...
Joelle brought
us breakfast
outside.**







Farewell La Wadeleux



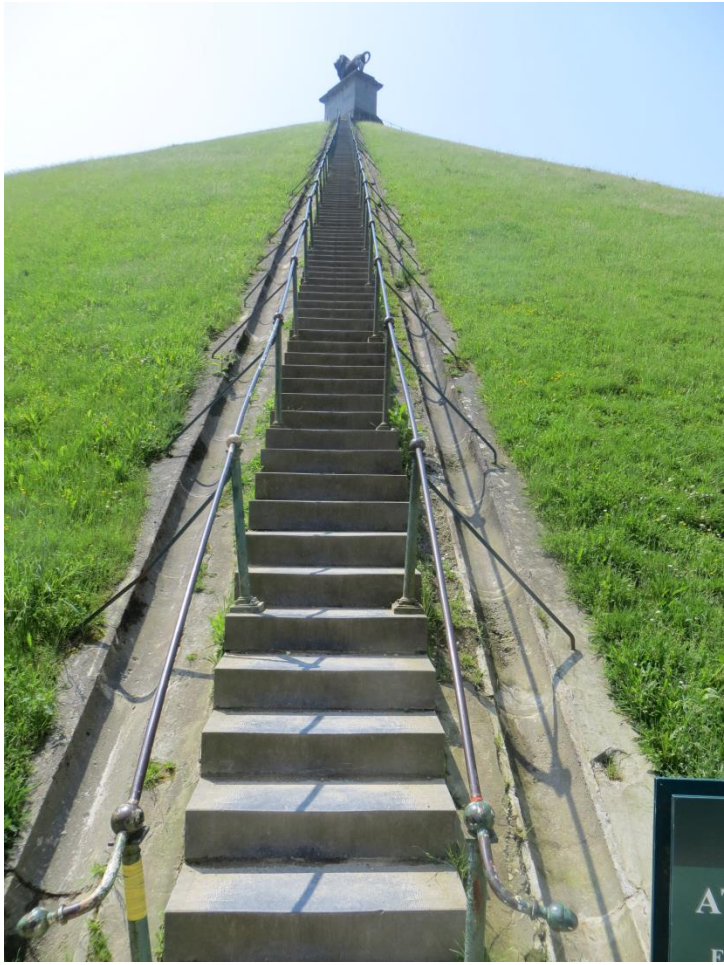
We have talked for years about Ghent/Gent and Brugge/Bruges, centuries old Belgian towns... The next goal was to see them with some war museums mixed in. But first, the spot where the Battle of Waterloo took place, since it's on the way. Ed had been there before.



“My, my... at Waterloo... Napoleon did surrender...” June 18, 1815 to be exact. *The Lion of Waterloo* or *The Lion’s Mound* (Butte du lion) was created in 1826. The *Panorama* building on the right, built in 1912, was currently being renovated. It’s a circular painting depicting the battle. Pretty neat.

226 steps up to Lion's Mound







The museum is actually a pretty sizeable place... all underground at the blue arrow.

Ed had some trouble finding his way up the mountain. He soon figured it out

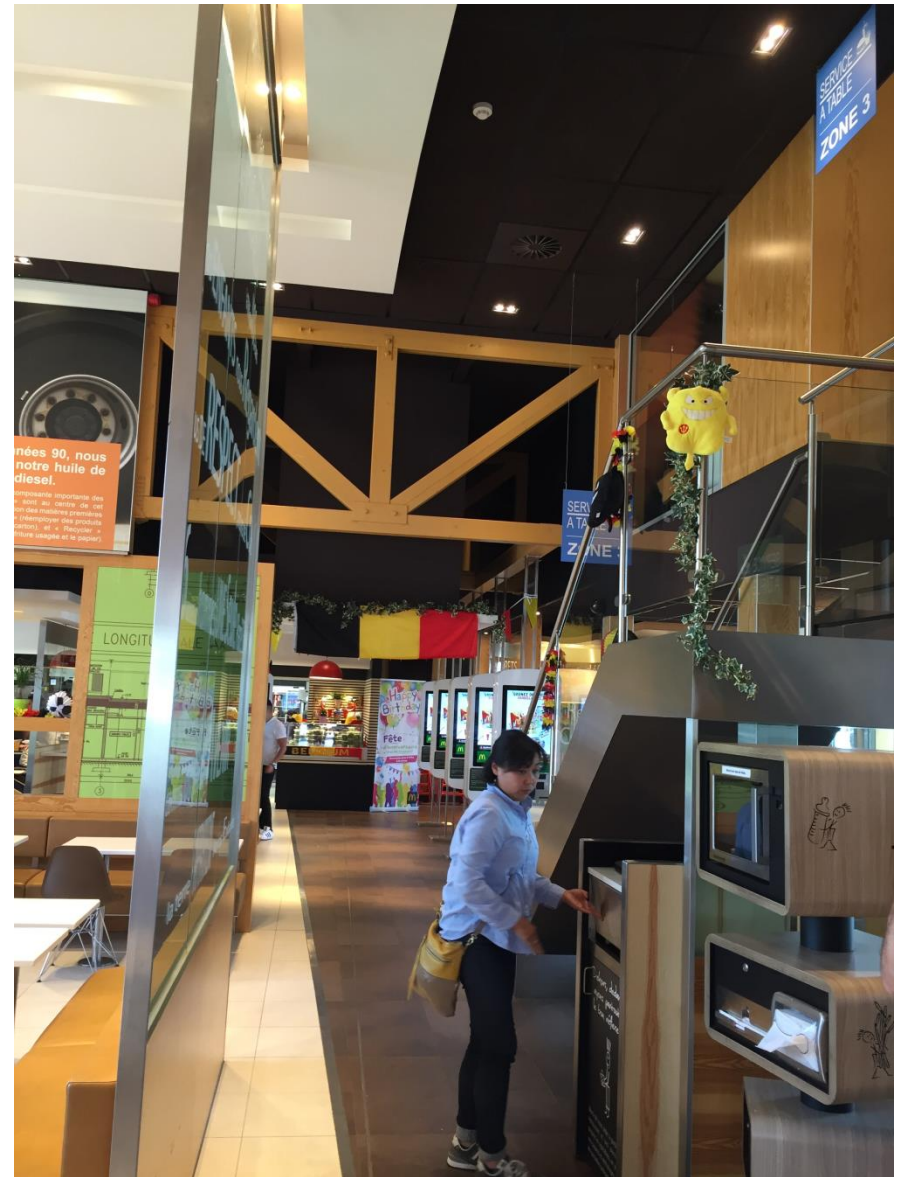




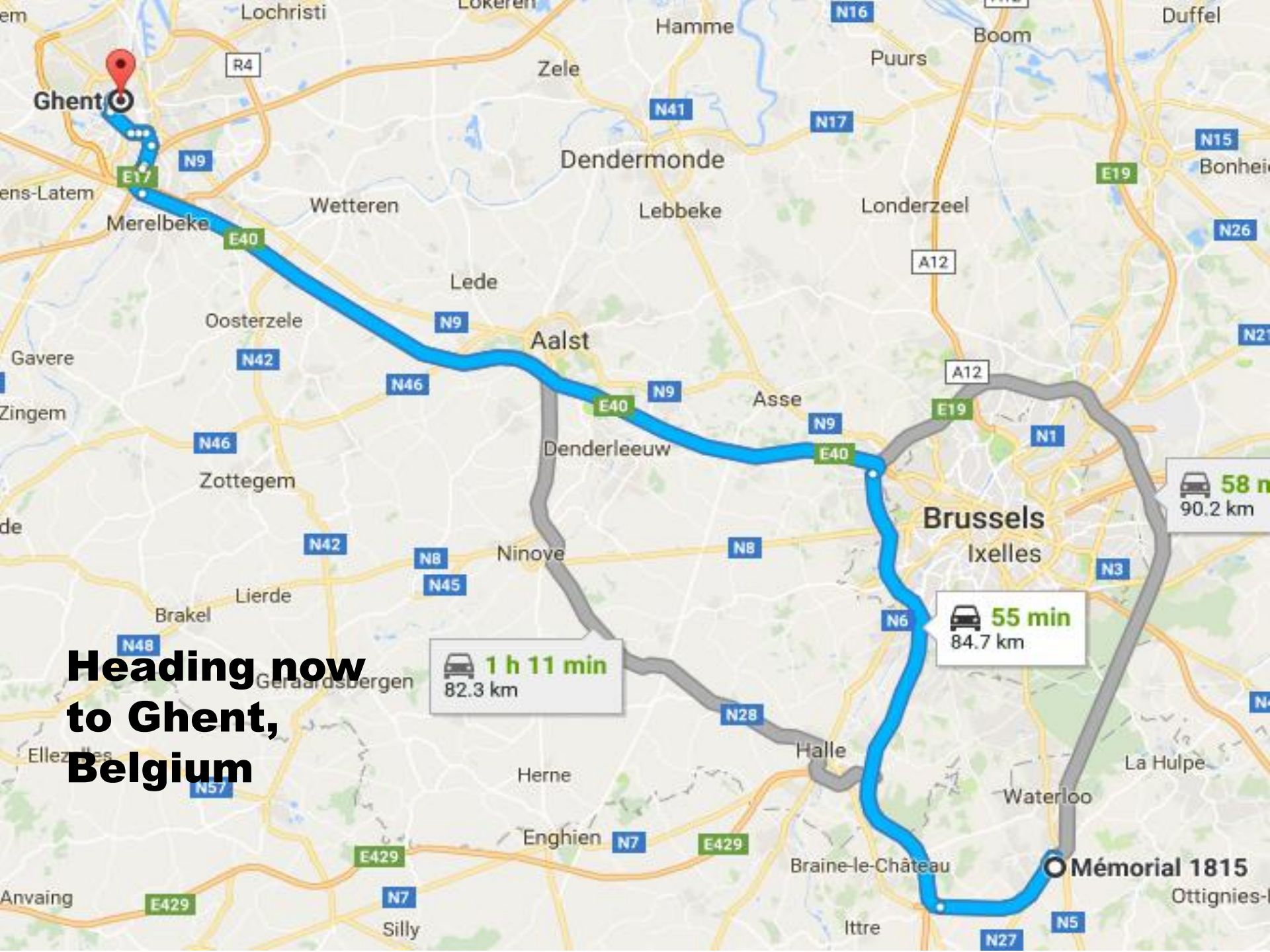
Some really nice views up here



Zoomed in from Lion's Mound for this shot of where we'd go for lunch. 1:24p



On to lunch in the town of Waterloo. One of them new-fangled McDonalds where you order and pay at a kiosk and they bring your food in which ever zone in the restaurant you said you'd be sitting.



Ghent

R4

N9

E17

E40

N42

N46

N42

N48

N57

E429

N7

N41

N17

N9

N46

NB

N45

N8

N28

N7

E429

N41

N17

N15

N26

N21

E19

N1

N3

N

N27

N5

Zelev

Hamme

Puurs

Boom

Duffel

Dendermonde

Lebbeke

Londerzeel

A12

Lede

Aalst

Asse

Denderleeuw

Brussels

Ixelles

Ninove

Brakel

Lierde

Geraardsbergen

Ellezelles

Herne

Enghien

Halle

Braine-le-Château

Ittre

Waterloo

La Hulpe

Mémorial 1815

Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve

58 min
90.2 km

55 min
84.7 km

1 h 11 min
82.3 km

Heading now
to Ghent,
Belgium

Thanks internet for this pic. Often times we only plan our trips on a skeletal frame and flesh it out as we go. Such was the case here. Ed was driving, Rob reading the Frommers or Rick Steves' travel lit. Quite an interesting story about the Ghent altar. Wikipedia says: The *Ghent Altarpiece* (or the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, Dutch: *Het Lam Gods*) is a very large and complex 15th-century Early Flemish polyptych altarpiece in St Bavo's Cathedral, attributed to the brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck, and considered a masterpiece of European art and one of the world's treasures.



**Ghent
alterpiece**





Very interesting how various panels of the altarpiece disappeared then reappeared throughout the centuries since the Van Ecks completed it in 1432. Had to pay to see the altarpiece, which we did. Many other spectacular sights here in St. Bavo, too. Then on to these other photo ops in the cathedral.



Saint Bavo Cathedral





Many interesting sights in St. Bavo... These cloth (maybe starched?) figures. Different



Walked up the street to another cathedral for these shots. About 5pm now. More walking and sight-seeing in Ghent(Gent).

This town's history goes back to around 600 A.D. It was plundered twice by Vikings.

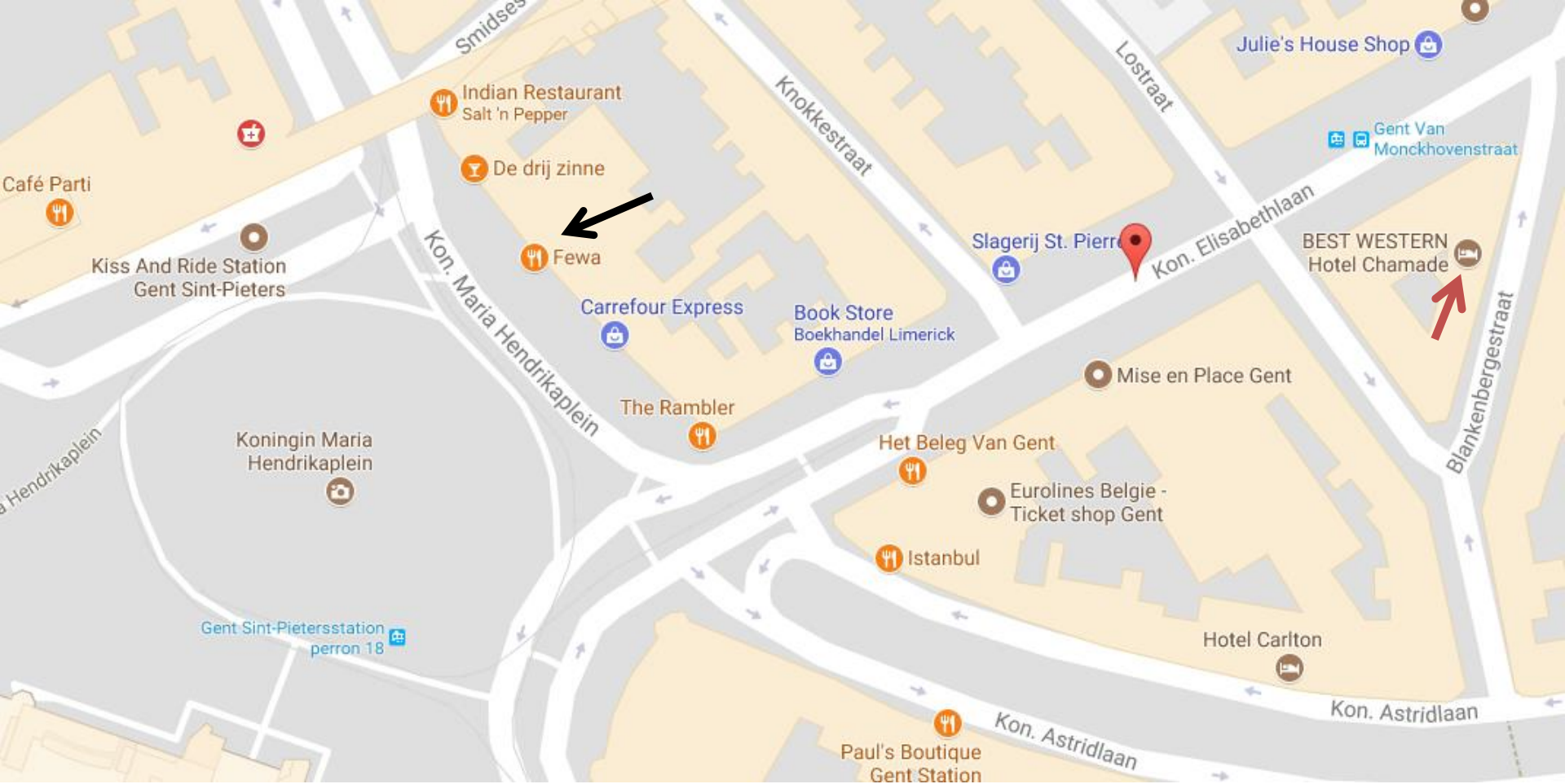


Locals enjoy a warm day



Just before we started looking for a place to stay for the night.





We drove to where you see Fewa with black arrow and parked the car for the night. Fewa is where we would eat dinner later.

After looking at a hotel near Fewa that had no vacancy, we found the more expensive, but no other alternative – The Best Western Hotel Chamade (red arrow). Was good. Then caught the trolley back to old part of town for authentic Belgian beer at old time bars.




After parking the car, we hopped a trolley downtown for beer. Some really good Belgian beers. And all are served in glasses that match the brand of beer you are drinking




Pretty much all Belgian bars are like this: glasses everywhere to match the beers they serve.



I defy you to find anything at the Louvre as beautiful as this!

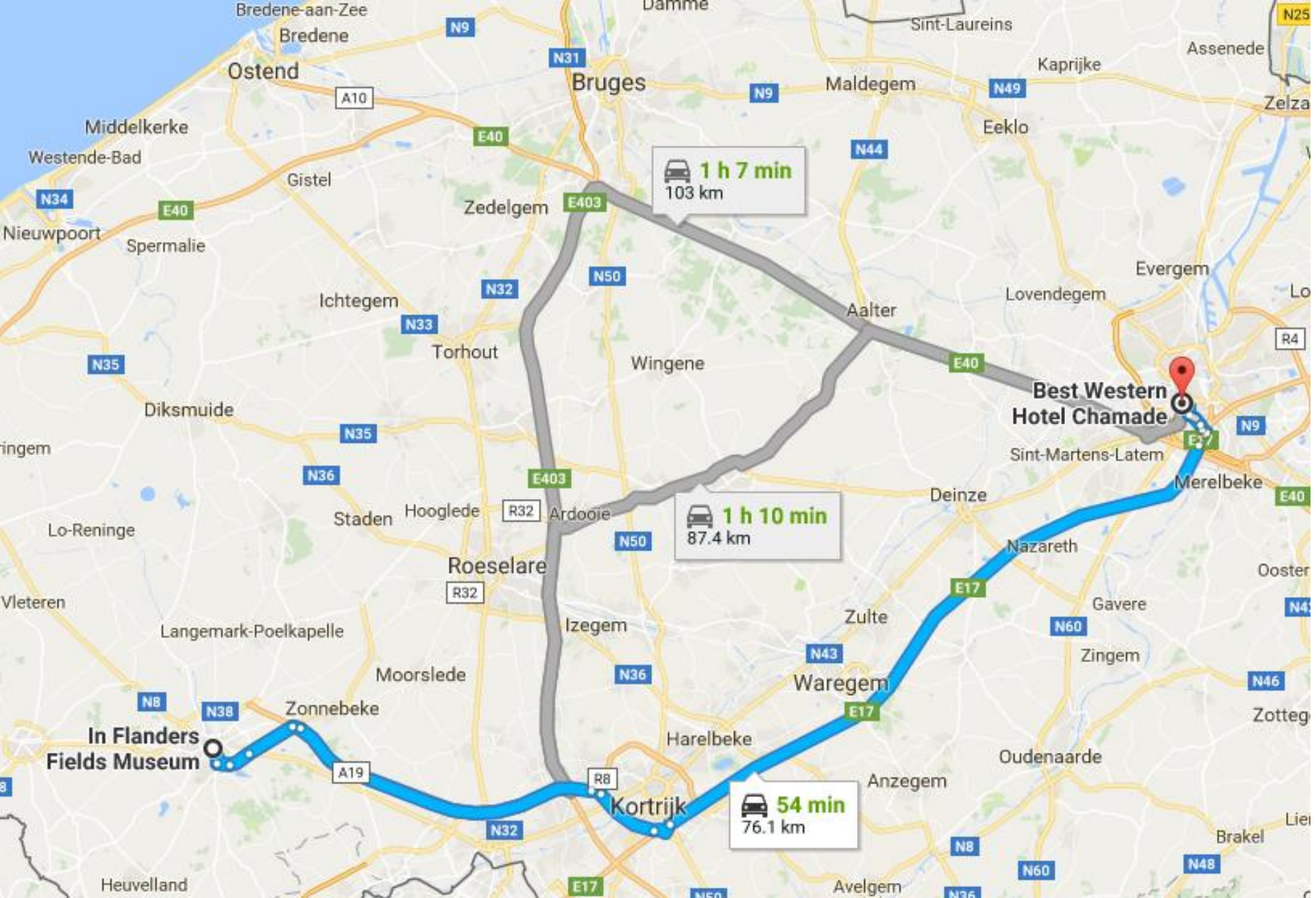


**Got caught in the
rain catching the
trolley back.
FEWA, a
Napalese
restaurant had
really good
food... and beer!
10:30p**



**Day #9, 07 June 2016.
View from our Best
Western Hotel Chamade
balcony. Trolley right
there on Kon.
Elizabethian St. Found
the car, and no ticket.
All good. 8:39a**

HOTEL



Next stop *In Flanders Field Museum* in Ypres, Belgium

Somewhere along the way... likely Kortrijk... we stopped at a convenience store for a Coke. Just happened to be across from this Opel dealer. We asked a mechanic in their shop what our Code 82 meant. He confirmed it was the oil change indicator. 11a.



In Flanders Field Museum, Ypres (Ieper), Belgium. A great museum created in 1998 about World War I.





Museum entrance

IN FLANDERS
FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

In Flanders Fields is a poem written by John McCrae on May 3, 1915 after Second battle of Ypres, WWI. This has been set to music by several noted composers.



**Carillon atop
museum tower**



**Carillon console
on left, then
spectacular
views of Ypres.**

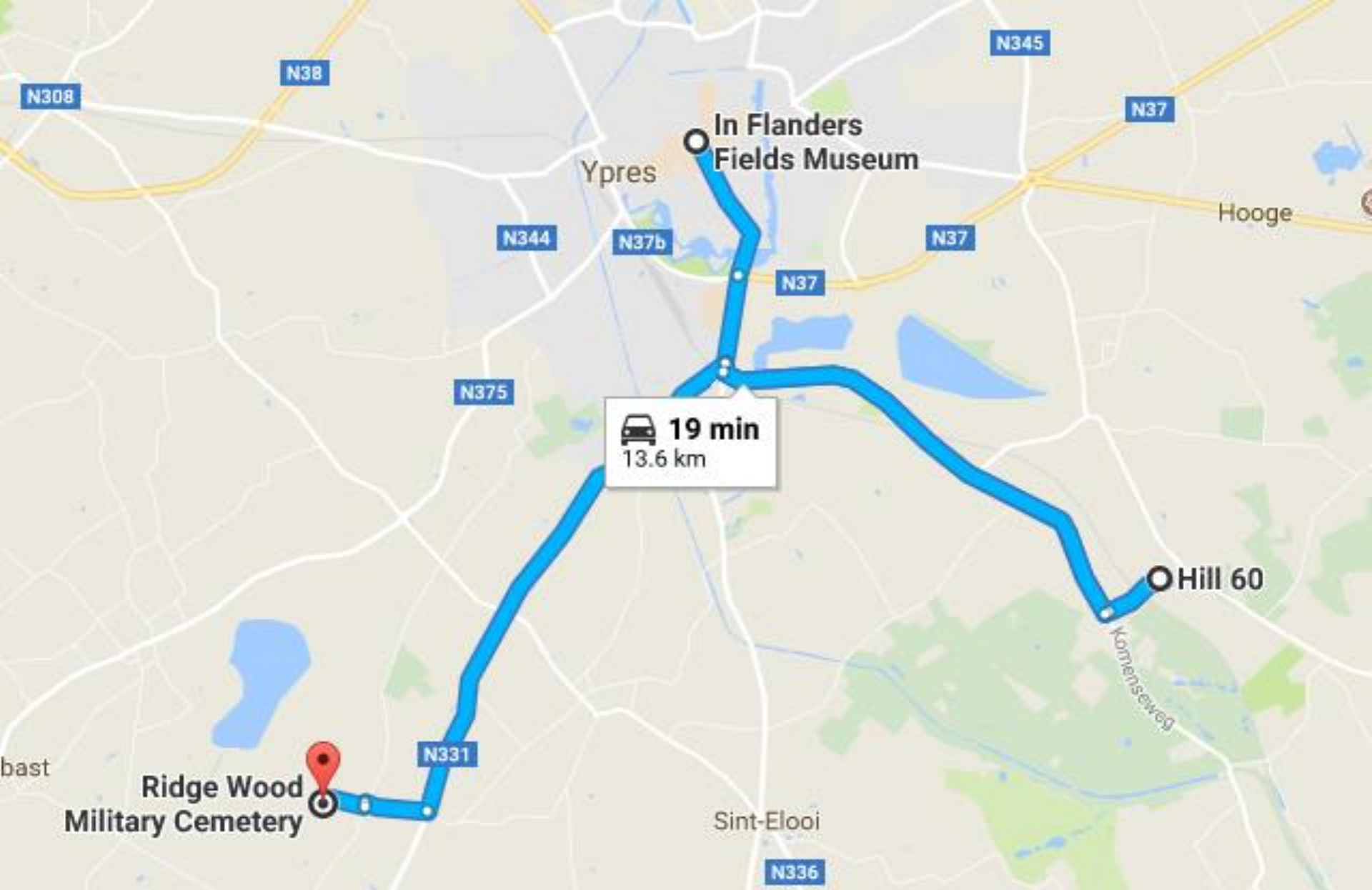




Fountain view from above



**Ground view.
12:30p**



 **19 min**
13.6 km

Not sure this map is the correct one, because we stumbled upon Ridgewood Military Cemetary enrout to Battle Hill 60.

RIDGEWOOD
MILITARY CEMETERY

1:53p

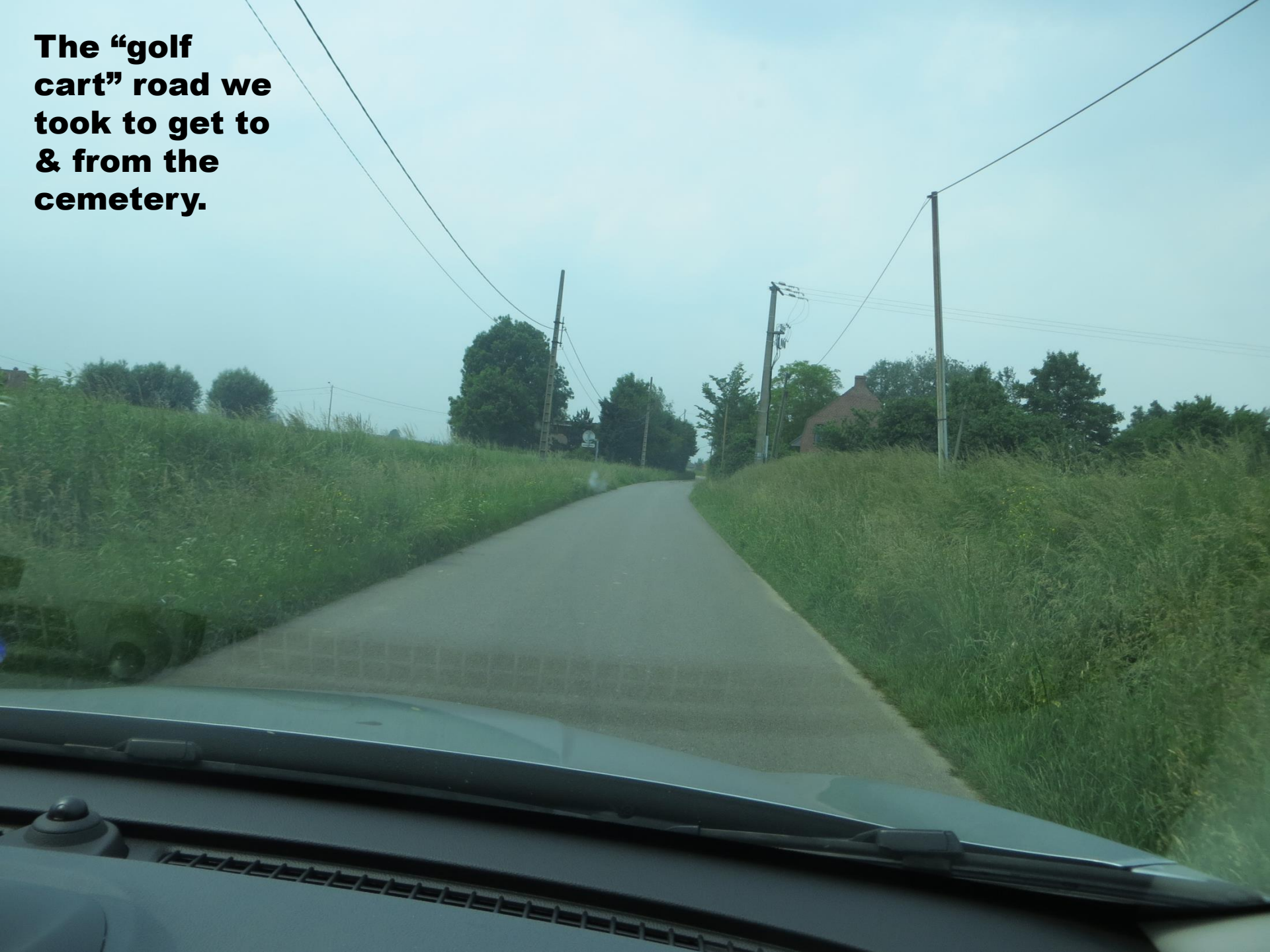
Had to drive about 3 miles off the main road to find this very well-kept WWI cemetery. Very unassuming, surrounded by farm land.







**The “golf
cart” road we
took to get to
& from the
cemetery.**



**Another modern
McDonalds some town
near Hill 60 for wifi and
McDonalds food. 3pm**

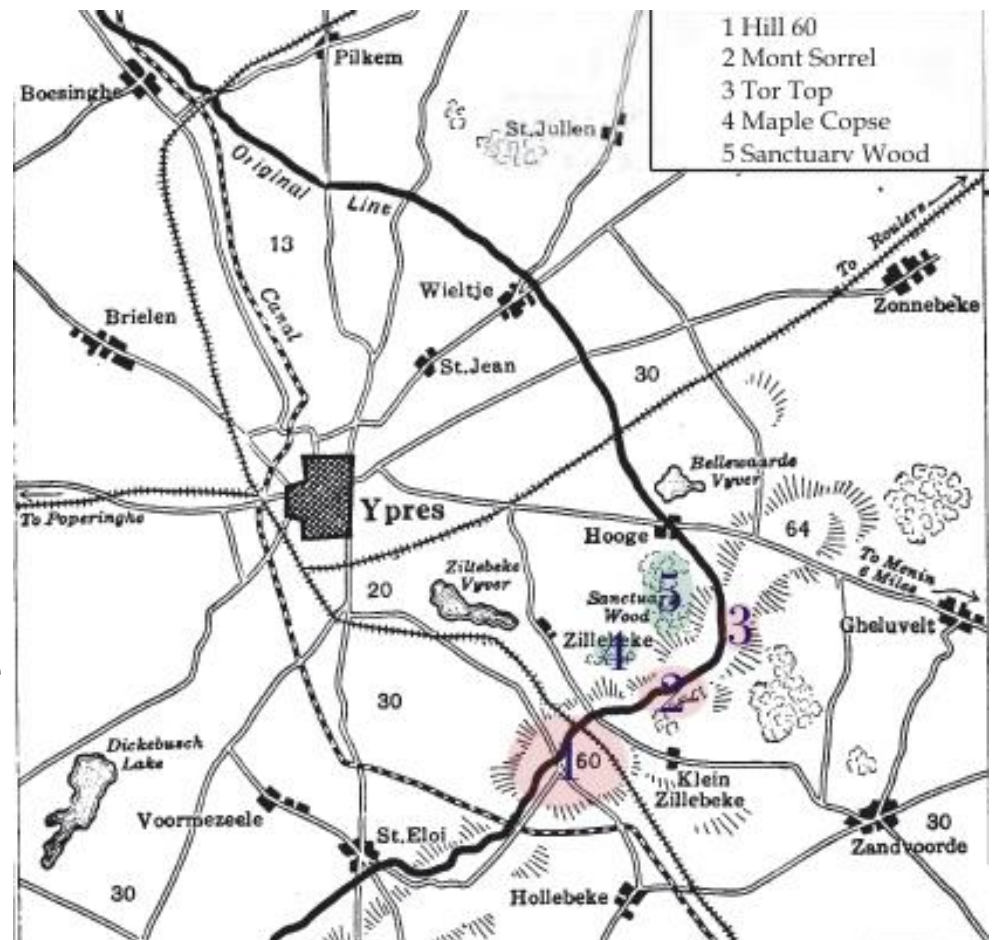




Got to Hill 60 at 3:45pm

The Battle of Hill 60 (17 April – 7 May 1915) took place near Hill 60 south of Ypres on the Western Front, during the First World War. Hill 60 had been captured by the German 30th Division on 11 November 1914, during the First Battle of Ypres (19 October – 22 November 1914). Initial French preparations to raid the hill were continued by the British 28th Division, which took over the line in February 1915 and then by the 5th Division. The plan was expanded into an ambitious attempt to capture the hill, despite advice that Hill 60 could not be held unless the Caterpillar nearby was also occupied. It was found that Hill 60 was the only place in the area not waterlogged and a French 3 ft × 2 ft (0.91 m × 0.61 m) mine gallery was extended.

Wikipedia





ON THE SPOT WAS ERUPTED IN 1917
A TOWER TO ALL MEN OF
QUEEN VICTORIA'S RIFLES
WHO GAVE THEIR BLOOD FOR
COUNTRY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR
1914-1918
1923-1945

Remembrance
2023

Remembrance
2023









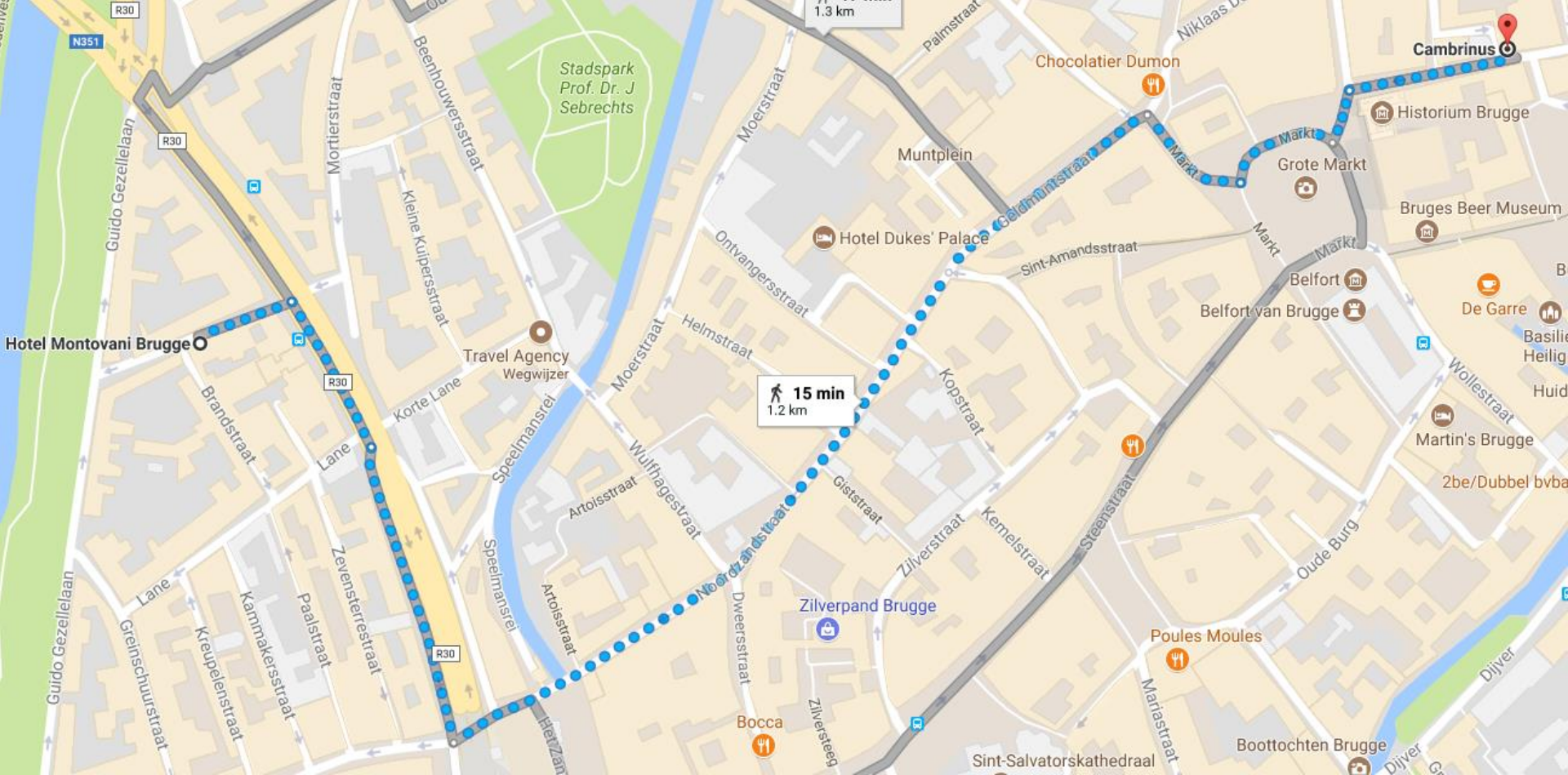
DEZEMBER 1914 FRENCH FRONT DECEMBER 1914 FRONT FRANCAIS D
JANUAR 1915 BRITISH FRONT JANUARY 1915 FRONT BRITANNIQU



Destination for the day was Brugges, Belgium. Travel lit had Hotel Montovani in Brugges as best bang for the buck. Not hard to find either. Interesting how the farther north you go in Belgium, Dutch is the main language, where French is heard in southern Belgium.

**Got here about
6pm.**





After getting settled in at Montovani, we struck out on foot to Bierbrasserie Cambrinus for dinner & beer. Their website says, “Cambrinus, often mentioned in student songs, is known as the King of Beer (long before Bud) in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany as well as in other European countries.” Didn’t know at the time that Bruges has a beer museum quite close to Cambrinus.

Interesting architecture both old and modern on our walk in Bruges.





**Made it to Cambrinus.
This building was built
in 1699.**





First brew of the day. And a good one it was

**This baked
chicken
dish was
just right for
the evening.
7:43pm**





WESTVLETEREN



TRAPPIST

According to some respected beer authorities, this is the best beer in the world! We enjoyed it, which is all that really matters.

bier

Westvleteren abt 12

inhoud 33 soort

33 trappist

kleur

donker /
dark

%

10.3

prijs

15.50

quadrupel met fantastisch aroma van caramel,noten en rijp fruit****
quadruple avec un arôme superbe , noix, caramel et fruits mûrs ****
quadruple with a superb aroma of nuts, caramel and ripe fruit ****

Westvleteren blond 6

33

trappist

blond

5.8

13.50

blond trappistenbier met prachtig bitter karakter
bière trappiste blonde avec un caractère amère magnifique
blonde trappist beer with a beautiful bitter character

Westvleteren donker /

dark B

33

trappist

donker /
dark

8

14.50

fluweelzacht en indrukwekkend evenwicht tussen zoet en bitter,
parfait équilibre entre doux et amère
fantastic balance between sweet and bitter



**A nice evening to walk off
a filling dinner and see
the sights. 9:14p**





Got here at 9:27p. A good place for said nightcap.

LE VIVANTE REFERMENTÉE EN BOTTES

BRUGGHE

Tripel



These guys were messing with switch blades, razor blades, etc.

On the hike back to Montovani... nice, lighted water feature in downtown area.



Day #10, 08 June 2016. Had Montovani breakfast then on the road to the coast – Ostend. Just trying the date & time stamp on camera.

06/08/2016 10:32



Thought this would be a cool place to look around, and it was.

Hauptbahnhof in Ostend. Quite like Amsterdam, there are bicycles everywhere. Got into town 10:50p.





The Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul is another impressive structure built in 1908. We will go inside later.

The Amandine made her first trip in 1962. She fished the waters around the south of Iceland in the summer and the Channel and the North Sea in the winter. At first, a lucrative business, but things got hard when fishing the Icelandic waters became more and more restricted. The Amandine made its last trip in 1995 and is the last Iceland trawler that came from Oostende. (from website)



**We toured the “museum ship”
Amandine.**



Next to the train station to catch a tram that goes south along the coast



We only went a few stops south on the coastal tram



**Actually got off tram then
back-tracked a ways. Our
goal was “The open-air
museum Atlantic Wall.”**





**RAVERS DE
ATLANTIKWAL**

RAVERS DE
ATLANTIKWAL

RAVERS DE
ATLANTIKWAL

RAVERS DE
ATLANTIKWAL

RAVERS DE
ATLANTIKWAL

RAVERS DE
ATLANTIKWAL

RAVERS DE
ATLANTIKWAL



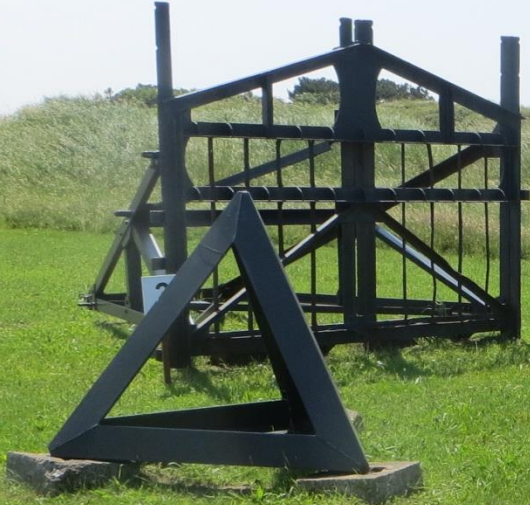
Wikipedia says: The Atlantic Wall Open Air Museum (Dutch: *Openluchtmuseum Atlantikwall*) is a military museum near Ostend in Belgium which preserves fortifications of the Atlantic Wall dating to the First and Second World Wars. The section of fortifications owned by the museum - over 60 bunkers and two miles of trenches - is among the best preserved sections of the defensive line in Europe. The fortifications survive because they were built on land belonging to Prince Charles, Count of Flanders who decided that they should not be destroyed after the war, but be kept as a national monument.



Their website says: More than sixty bunkers and trenches, looking exactly like they did during WW2! In the dunes of the former estate of Prince Karel, a unique historical site of modern fortification has been preserved: sixty constructions dating from both World Wars, interconnected by two kilometres of trenches and galleries. This remarkable site has been extremely well preserved, as prince Karel systematically prevented every demolition attempt.











Verbandkasten



Verbandkasten



Poppies





**Waiting on tram
back to
Ostende. 2:48p**

6022

Waarom bus of tram om
 niet te vermijden, waarom
 dan voor een abonnement
 in de rij staan?



Koop of verleng je
 abonnement nu!




Voor uw veiligheid en die van uw mederijders
proef niet met de chauffeur tijdens het rijden



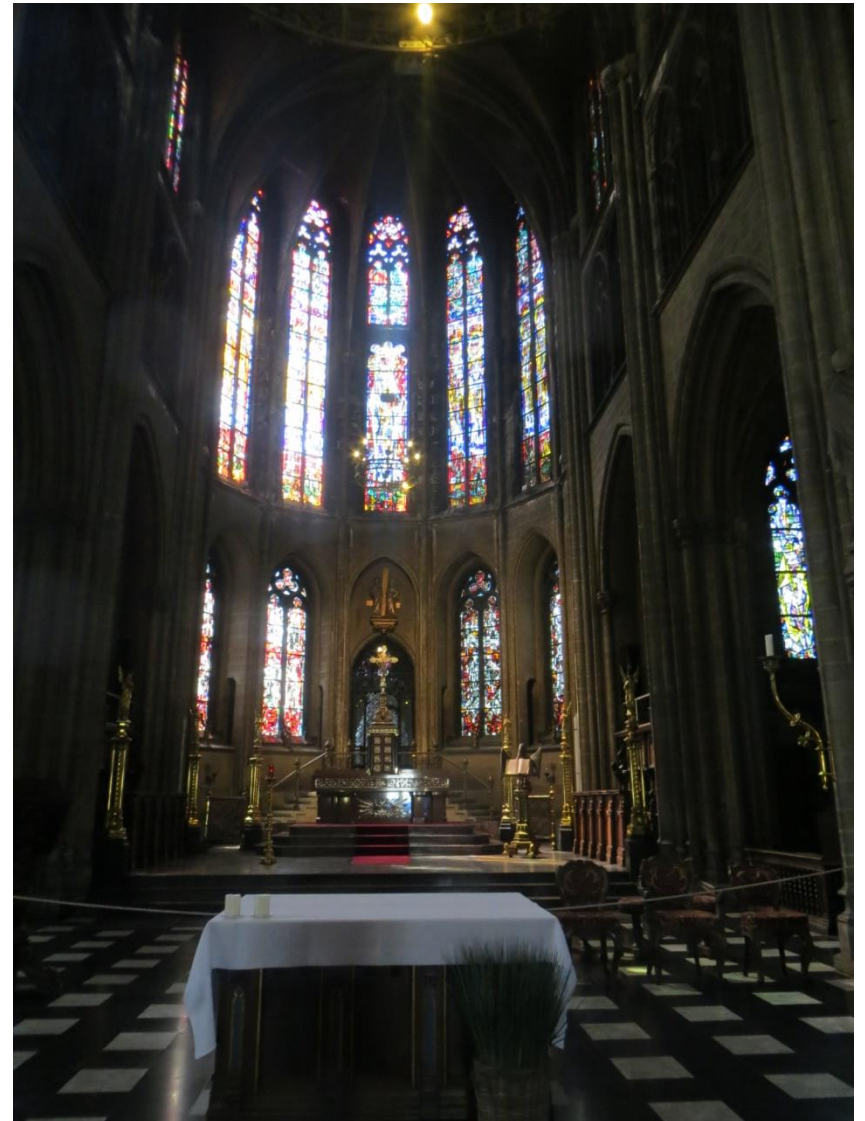
Weste klant
 Als we bijvoorbeeld **99%** of **99,9%** correctheid
 garanderen op de **buslijn** in de toekomst kunt u
 terecht voor de informatie van uw dienstverlener en voor
 alle informatie over de **buslijn**.

De **Lin** werkt samen met **99%**

de **Buslijn** 



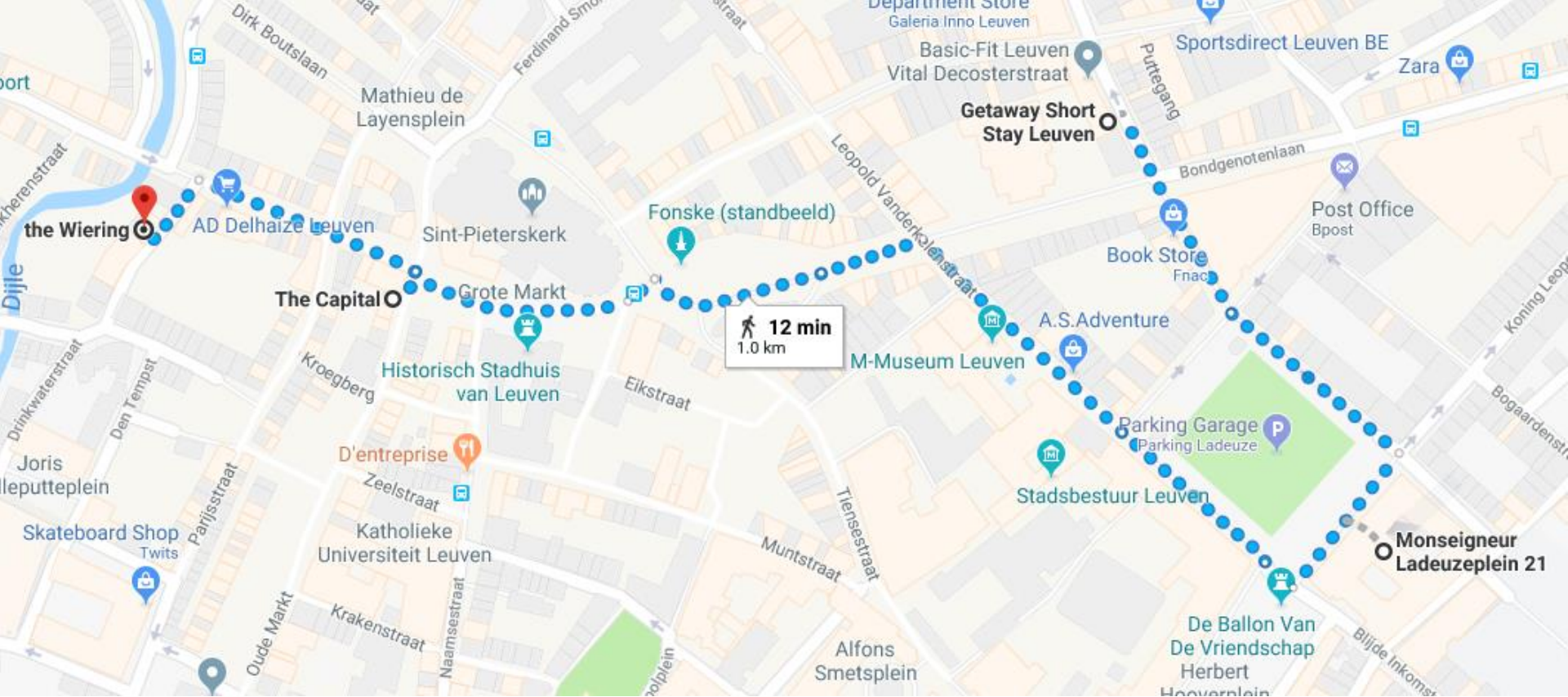




By the time we got here it was 3:15 and we hadn't had lunch. Walked through cathedral then had lunch at sandwich shop next to cathedral.



By 4p we were heading to Leuven. Why Leuven? It was close to the Brussels airport (11 miles). Our flight out is tomorrow. Ran into some traffic going around Brussels. Still got there 5:45ish. Found a hotel (apartment room), a parking garage for the car, then set out on foot in Leuven.



This pretty much sums up our time in Leuven. Lodging at Getaway Short Stay, walked up to the KU University Library and tower, The Capital for beer, Brasserie de Wiering for dinner and beer, then back to The Capital for nightcap(s) before retiring for the evening.



A short distance from our hotel is the Central Library of Catholic University of Leuven and University Bell Tower.



This building is Leuven's Town Hall. Located in Grote Markt (Main Market), it was built 1448-1469 and known for its ornate architecture.



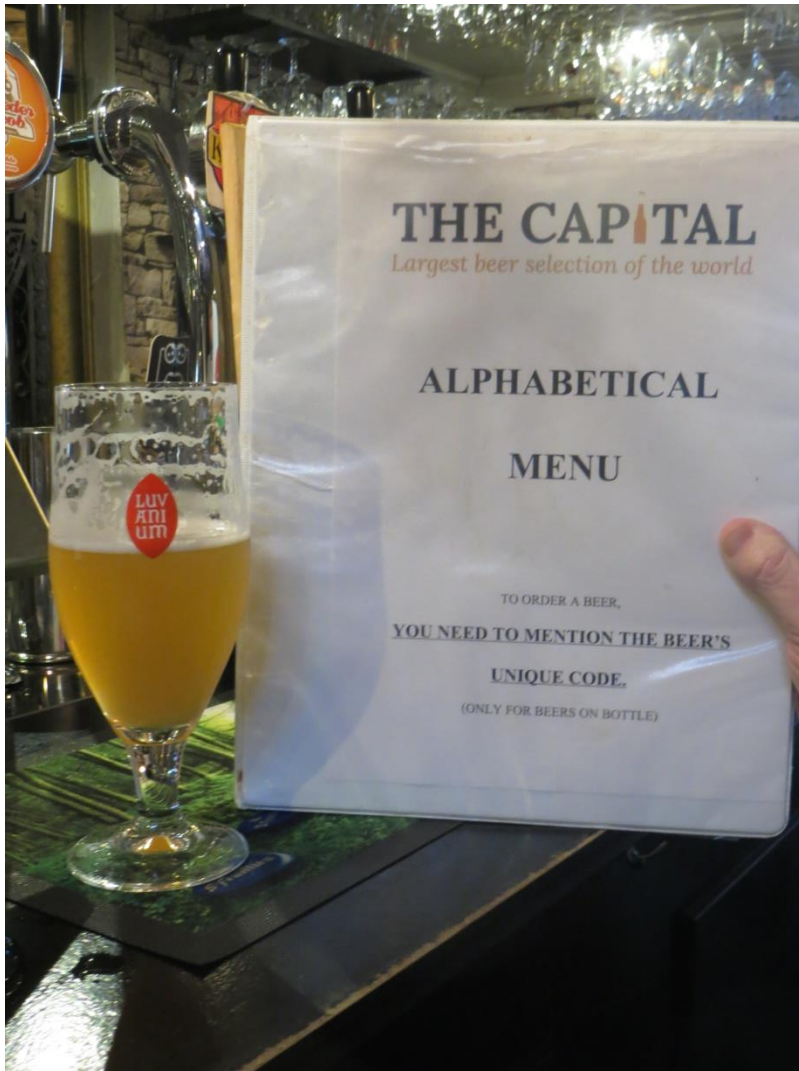
First beer stop was THE CAPITAL. They boast the largest beer menu in the world with 2,000 beers in their cellar, and 20 on draft. Beeradvocate gives it a 3.85/5 rating which is good. Negative reviews say they are often out of beers on the menu.



**Our first beer of
the day. 8:12p.**

So here's a "dumbwaiter" of sorts constantly moving. Ready to transport beer up from the cellar or empties back down. Pretty cool





**Atmospheric conditions
were favorable for sip lines**

**Lots of college-age folks
enjoying nice weather
and Belgian beer.**



**Next to Brasserie de Wiering
for dinner and more Belgian
beer. This was right on the
Dijle Creek... or river...
whatever**





**Must have had a
rainstorm
upstream
earlier. From
restaurant
window**



These delicious beers opened for our spare rib dinner.

**Heading back
to apartment
hotel. 9:41p.
But first....**





**A night
cap
back at
the
Capital**

