

## GERMANY

SIGGY AND HEATHER | EUROPE 2015 | MONDAY, 18 MAY 2015



## Schliersee

Mountains, lake, beautiful buildings. Add balmy evening and catching up with good friends and you have it. Bliss. Tonight we are chatting to the Smiths from Brisbane and pinching ourselves that we are in a place on the other side of the earth. We even played cards after a very pleasant walk beside the lake and a scrumptious home cooked meal of pasta.

We are in a little German village, Schliersee near the German/Swiss border. Heaven on a stick. To get here we drove the last leg of this part of our journey from Lake Constance. I drove, Heather navigated. My leg was so sore during the night it took me 30mins to get to the toilet. One good thing though was that Heather learned some new skills - how to turn the gas on and off and how to empty our night bucket (it seems this task is a man's job all over Europe). Anyway, thankfully my gammy leg did not stop me from being able to drive (much to Heather's relief).

Heather charted a path to a stopover town, Landsberg am Lec, for an early lunch break. We got there in quick time and after some frustration found a park for motorhomes. While I rested in the van Heather jumped on her bike to explore.

## Tolls

Of all the countries we have visited, Switzerland has the most sensible method of collecting tolls. Before I tell you how they do it, let me first say that most roads in Switzerland have tolls. In all other countries only some roads are tolls. You know a road is toll road when you are suddenly confronted with toll booths. I realise booths are necessary but when I see a toll booth I start sweating. Some tolls spit out a ticket, some ask you for a ticket and then require you to contort by stretching in strange ways just to put ticket/money in

(assuming your credit card is not rejected or notes do not blow away whereby you have to get out of the vehicle). Some ticket offices seem to wave you though and then fine you heftily later. Spanish tolls are best because they still have a person taking your money and talking you through the toll process. The Swiss, on the other hand, greet you on their border, demand a hefty ransom to drive on their roads and you simply have to pay up or you don't get into the country! Easy, quick and efficient. Expensive but no sweating at toll booths because there are none.



**MOTOR MOWER** Spied this in a front yard. Its an automated motor mower currently docked in its charging station. I whistled at it to get working with no success.



**BLIMP** Here we were traveling on the freeway when a blimp overtook us. Guess there are not speed restrictions up in the air.



**YOU WORK IT OUT** An important road sign. At first we thought it was "for Australians only" but after seeing lots of them we realised it was actually a SORTIE or, in english - the EXIT.



# German Alps



When I downloaded the photos she took I realised what I had missed. Unbelievably drop dead gorgeous place. Evidently this romanic road village is largely by-passed by the tourist trade and is all the better for it. It is a university town and has all the grace and beauty of most of the other romanic road towns without the crowds. Gorgeous old buildings, narrow lanes full of character, clever use of the river as it is shunted through the town in its many man made channels (to cool the place down in summer and provide power through waterwheels). The place seemed to be full of younger people, many riding bikes and chatting on park benches. Few old foggies like in other towns.



Heather's appetite satiated and camera roll full, it was then on to Schliersee. The roads were painless until we hit the outskirts of Munich. Glad we did not stop there!! Detours and road building absolutely everywhere. Took ages to get through.

The weather was wonderful as we drove on towards our destination. CD was on full blast as the mountains loomed ahead. We soon entered Schliersee and were greeted outside their B&B by our best friends.

