

ENGLAND



SIGGY AND HEATHER | EUROPE 2015 | TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 2015



The Broads

Heather was determined to see more of The Broads After a quick shop at Sainsburys (like a huge Coles food store but with various sub departments such as a chemist and even an insurance booth) we headed out of Norwich and on to Wroxham. The place was buzzing with people and we were told to move our van away from prime waterfront and park instead “round the back” of the town. Heather purchased tickets for a 1.5 hour boat tour around the broads. It was 1 hour too long for me. The most interesting part was passing by all the fancy houses on the river front, each with their water views and personal boat parking bay. Many were adorned with thatched roofs There are 3 rivers and hundreds of lakes that make up The Broads. Heather enjoyed spying the various birds on the waterways. Our guide gave us a history of how the lakes originated. Evidently not much was known about them until the early 1950s when research was completed. Apparently East Anglia was heavily settled in earlier times and, because there was no wood or coal to burn, the only other heating alternative was peat. Peat mining developed into a thriving industry till the climate changed and water inundated the peat workings to form lakes.



WEIRD LOOKERS Gradually as The Broads are restored to their former glory the wildlife is returning. Some weird looking birds are starting to move back home.



CREEPY We take photos with puppet Wombat (“Mouse”) for Lily..An old lady sitting next to me screamed “eeeeeeek take it away” and almost jumped out of the boat!! Some people have a thing about mice (or wombats).



BINOCULARS Heather takes every opportunity to use her binoculars including in the cabin while I am driving. People must think she is searching ahead for speed cameras.



Our Itinerary

One of the major advantages of hiring a motorhome is that you can create your own itinerary on the fly. So far we have only traveled a total of 400kms. East Anglia is such a small area yet there is so much to see and experience.

The map shows our general route. This trip has been much more leisurely than what we normally do. In essence, if we like it we linger, if we don't, we move on. And at the end of the day when we've had enough the GPS finds us a camp.

BLICKLING ESTATE

No just another stately home but THE first National Trust home. Evidently the last owner was childless and pushed through an act of Parliament to enable families to forego paying the huge death duties applicable if the house/property was gifted to the state. It meant that stately homes could be kept for posterity and the high cost of maintenance was looked after by the government through grants.

Blickling, like all the homes we have visited, has an illustrious past. The various owners added to and renovated the house in opulent ways to demonstrate their standing in the community and to flaunt their wealth. Many of the rooms we walked through are ridiculously ornate with enormous tapestries and intricate ceilings. The original furniture is also on show but signs will tell you that it is far too fragile to sit on or touch.

The National Trust certainly employs a lot of people - two ladies at the entrance and person to look after each of the rooms (and there were many). The gardens were immense and we imagined how many staff were needed to maintain them. The inviting cafe and high quality gift shop ensures that this place, like the others, pays its way.



LIBRARY

St. Michael's
18th Feb 2012



PHOTOS



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