



HUNGARY



SIGGY AND HEATHER | EUROPE 2019 | FRIDAY, 26 APRIL 2019



Lake Balaton

There is a 200kms bike path around Lake Balaton. The mostly bitumen ride is flat and interesting and it duly attracts riders from all round the world. The Nowaks were never interested in riding the 200kms but they did tackle about 15kms this morning: to Keszthely and back. And what an enjoyable ride it was too.

We read that Hungary has a population of 10mill and only 1mill vehicles. Everyone else obviously rides bikes and the government of recent years has invested heavily in

bike infrastructure. Bike paths are everywhere and even pedestrian walks are separated in many places.

The other major reflection we have is that there is a national fascination with fishing. On every shoreline and alongside every stream we see fishermen plying their skills while the fish continue to play hard to get - well some of them don't succeed because we did see quite a few fish being reeled in today on flashy lines and specialised frames. Hungarians seem to have fishy tastes.

Keszthely

Our ride this morning took us around the lake edge. The water is a milky green colour due to the algae that grows in the shallow waters. The locals call it the "Hungarian Sea". It was sunny and the waters lapped quite strongly against the concrete edges. A lot of sand and rushes covered the path. The tall rushes grow densely on some parts of the lake and provide great cover for the water birds. The small town of Keszthely sits on the western end of the lake. After riding the shore we glided up to the town through quiet streets. There is a rather large open area and cobbled pedestrianised streets. The place exhibited a gentle ambience. At the top of the town sits a palace - doesn't every decent town have one!! The building of the Festetics Palace first began in 1745. It was the project of a local Count and is now one of the largest country "houses" in Hungary. It is rather grand and had a lovely garden area that we cycled around. We had intended to go back to the van for a few hours and then head the other way around the lake but instead we are still in our mobile home enjoying the sunshine - we gotta make some allowance for older age!!



THAT LOOK When you thankfully realise that you did not accidentally delete the photos for the day. Frightening software glitch. Reboot solves many issues.



SIT WITH ME Lots of tourists come to sit alongside, and on, the famous Count Gyorgy. A number of his particular bronze parts are well worn as a result.



NAKED LADY Not sure what this bronze beauty was supposed to represent but she is certainly voluptuousness- no skinny size 8 here.

Festetics Palace - a stately home



The rather palatial Festetics Palace and gardens in Keszthely



Lake Balaton's natural capital



Keszthely has a long history going back to Roman times, Over the last 30 years since being released from the shackles of the communist era, the city has been able to benefit from funds provided by the European Union to revamp many of its earlier heritage including its market square and the old city centre buildings. The pedestrian mall comes off this square, at the end of which you can see the magnificent spire of the Festetics Palace.



Shirt free time



Fishing prime time

