

A trip to remember

# 2011 - ENGLAND

3 April 2011

Nobody gets up to go cycling in London on an Sunday at 7am - except the Nowaks!!



*Buckingham Palace*



*Buckingham Palace on bike*



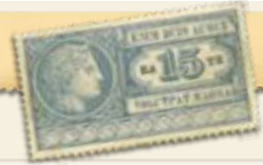
*Guard on duty*



## SUNDAY MORNING RIDE

One of the joys of traveling is that you expect to find something different around every corner. No more so than in London - there are so many things to see in this place. Although we only have a couple of days here, staying in the Citadines on Trafalgar Square, means that we are literally in the "thick of it". When we hopped on our bikes at 7am, the streets were literally empty and the wind chill factor was extreme. But, as usual, as soon as we got on the bikes, our joy was indescribable - we love the sense of freedom that the bikes give us.

In just 3 hours we covered a lot of ground and we were literally on our own - St James' Park and the changing of the horse guards & the Horse Guard Museum, the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, Buckingham Palace and Green Park, the Duke of Wellington Arch, Hyde Park where we enjoyed a satisfying breakfast on the Serpentine near Princess Diana's fountain, Kensington Palace (being refurbished) and the area where many international embassies are located. Most tourists who visit London take a full day to see these attractions. On a bike it took us only a couple of hours - and without the crowds (but best to remember gloves against the cold). We got back to the apartment at around 10.30am and decided to head off to Carnaby Street for the afternoon. The crush of people was not at all pleasant.



Breakfast by the Serpentine



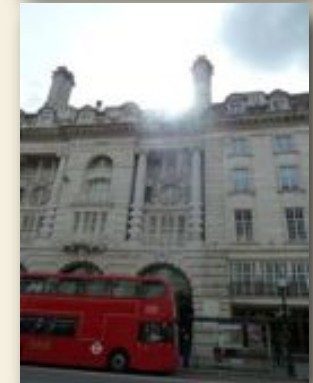
Royal Horse Guards



SIGHTSEEING

The pomp and ceremony that goes on with the Royal family is a huge magnet for tourists. Although a large number of the British population criticize the amount of money that is spent by the government, the tourists lap it all up. There was no changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace today but there was still hundreds of people outside the gates peeking in and taking photos when we rode back from Hyde Park. We did too. The preparation that is going on in London for the royal wedding is amazing.

We are also amazed that there does not seem to be as many bicycles in London as there were in Berlin when we were there two years ago. Like Brisbane, the London City Council recently introduced a well organized system for renting bikes which is having a positive effect (unlike Brisbane). Our bikes are made in England and we were surprised to find that Brompton is the highest selling bike here (and are therefore much cheaper than in Australia). We seldom see a Brompton in Brisbane but we saw quite a few on our travels today. Go Brompton!!!





*I'm not getting on a horse!!*



*Blackfriars Bridge*

