

EUROPE 2023

4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs | 2 grand-boys

Travel Light?

4 wheels are certainly better than two!! We changed our bags over a week before we took off on our 4 month adventure and are so glad we made this decision. Our old bags only had 2 wheels but now - no lifting, just rolling. Less stressful and far less physical work. The only catch is that we have to take the wheels off when checking the bags in. The wheels are held on the bag with velcro and are stored in the bag.



Farewell and Hello

It was a 3.30 am start this morning to get to our plane to take us to England. It was very emotional saying goodbye to the family. There was even a competition as to who would get up at that time and drive us the 70km! Beata, Dorota, Heather and Siggy were all teary. Blayze just simply did not want to leave and it actually took him a good part of the day until he came around.

The flight via Polish Airlines was seamless but finding our vehicle that we had rented from a company new to us — Turo — was a bit of an adventure. This venture is kind of like Airbnb for cars. The vehicles are privately owned. In our case our owner had left the car at the airport (as requested) but would only give us directions via GPS settings (with no actual address). Deakin was quite good here. He took over and lead us on trying to interpret the confusing directions. Finally we got onto the vehicle owner via the website and he told us exactly where the car was. Why not do that in the first place we thought? Anyway once we got to the car and stowed our extensive baggage we headed off via the main highway.



Home Exchange

We have been swapping houses now for over 10 years. Many of our exchanges can only be described as amazing. Private islands, apartments in the middle of Old Town, views to die for and houses filled with interesting family memories. The Fox house here in Chipping is no different.

It's always rather exciting to find the key and let yourself in to explore the house for the first time - checking out the kitchen and living quarters and then peeking in each of the bedrooms. Almost mysterious.

Our abode here is this tiny village of Chipping is an old quirky double story stone building. The bedrooms are upstairs with stunning views from each - across fields of green with distant hills. You can see the corner store from both Deakin and Maddi's room and Blayze's. Our master bedroom has a little ensuite with shower and toilet. The place is well furnished, the kitchen has all the mod cons and the fridge and pantry are well stocked with a welcome pack from Carol and Martin.

We adore this home away from home. Maddi is in her element. We even played a card game tonight. Tomorrow we explore our local area.


The women's world cup football semi final (Australia v England) had already started and we tried unsuccessfully via our laptop to watch it as we travelled. It was frustrating, but we finally saw the last few minutes in a very boring service layover. The Aussie girls lost 3 - 1. Very proud of them however.

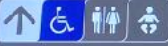
Soccer over, we headed off on the remaining 4 hours of our journey to north-west England. Siggy did the hard job of driving and the rest of us slept or tried to view the scenery from the motorway. It really is a waste of time driving on those roads. Cars, signs and toll booths were our only companions for the entire trip. However, we just needed to put the miles behind us.

When we neared our destination we went to a super market and stocked up. Arriving at our destination of Chipping was so up-lifting. What a beautiful home in a fabulous location. The name "Chipping" is derived from the old English word for market. It is a very old town that was noted in the Domesday book. We all investigated the house and absorbed the beautiful scenery from all of the windows. We even heard a few horses clip clop past our window. Our house is right on a quiet road and overlooks lovely open fields and old stone houses.

After consuming a meal of pork sausages and bacon (left by the owner of the home for our pleasure), we played a card game. Maddi noted to all of us, that despite it being about 9.15, it was still light outside. Yes. We love this about England. It will be fun exploring this area. Tomorrow Maddi and I hope to go horse riding. Don't know what the guys are doing!



↑  Airline lounge 航空公司贵宾休息室

↑  Toilets 洗手间

↑  Assistance Animal toilet 辅助动物卫生间

