



EUROPE 2023



4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs



Aberystwyth

We had planned to stay home today and enjoy the delights of this place but at the last minute decided a trip to the coast was a better option. Rugged up with coats, scarfs and gloves we headed out under the low hanging clouds. Darts of sunlight turned some of the distant hills bright lime green and heralded the better weather on the coast.

Aberystwyth, meaning the mouth of the river Ystwyth, sits smack bang in the middle of the rugged Ceredigion coastline. We had no expectations of what we would see (having done no reading), so the coastline we first happened upon was a delight. There is a mile long beach promenade beside which sit a row of multi-coloured, impressive looking terraced buildings. The gently lapping ocean was topped by low very foreboding clouds. It was extremely cold and every “promenader” in sight was all rugged up like us. We joined the small band of hardy strollers and walked to the end of the row of buildings, every one of them being hotels or some sort of holiday accommodation. We turned around to wander back along the beach. It was covered in small rounded pebbles and grey/brown “sand”. At one point we had to negotiate a water break obstacle and somehow managed to get our boots full of water. Not a good thing on a day like today. We marched on however, to check out the interesting looking pier which I now know to be the oldest in Wales (built 1864) Further around the corner we spied the ruins of a castle, a high monument of some sort and some stirring loud music.

The monument proved to be a memorial for lost service men and women. It was Remembrance Day yesterday and thus it was adorned with poppies. Loud music was coming from speakers playing emotional WWII songs that I remember my parents playing when I was a kid. We stayed for quite some time and really enjoyed the music wafting out over the tranquil freezing sea. Memories of a bygone era! A bag of chips and a visit to a local supermarket finished our short foray.







When you have to open the gate with no shoes without grumbling!