



EUROPE 2023



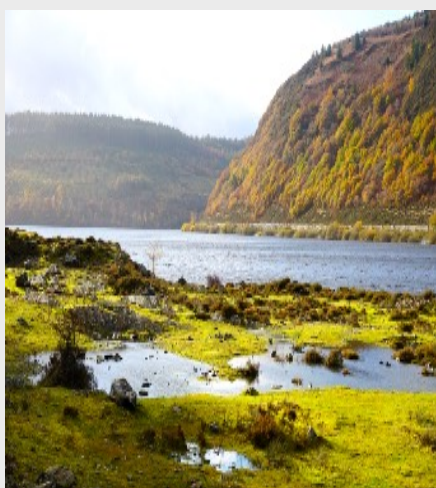
4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs



Squeezing into a micro car



All the mod cons



Elan Valley

Maya and John's recommendation led us to a wonderful destination for the day, conveniently nearby, allowing us to take our time without any rush. Following a relaxed breakfast, we headed south along familiar roads we had traveled last week on our way to Dylife. The countryside we traversed was adorned with the vibrant hues of autumn leaves, creating a striking contrast against the lush green fields dotted with white sheep.

Our ultimate destination was the Elan Valley Visitor Centre and one of the dams of the Elan Reservoir. Due to the recent heavy rain, we were informed that the spillway promised to be a spectacular sight, and it truly lived up to expectations, with the sound of rushing water audible from a considerable distance.

Damming to create the reservoirs commenced in 1893. The resultant reservoir was formed by four dams on the Elan River and two on the Claerwen River which submerged existing houses and settlements. The final dam was completed in 1952. The dam above the Visitor Centre not only generates hydro power but also serves as a recreational haven for people from across Wales, including visitors like us. The rugged rocky terrain juxtaposed against the deep blue waters creates a visually pleasing, albeit austere, environment - ideal for walking and trekking.

Our walk included crossing a stone bridge with a breathtaking view of the torrent of water in front of us. We climbed to the top of the dam and then ascended the steep steps up to the dam's edge. Despite the biting cold, intermittent patches of sunshine made our walk close to nature exceptionally pleasant. After exploring the gift shop (mainly Heather), we decided to slowly make our way back home. The weather showcased its variability, with dark clouds, distant rain drifts, and occasional bursts of sunshine that illuminated the verdant slopes. Wales has truly revealed its beauty over our days here.





