

EUROPE 2023



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



Bamberg

Our 96km drive this morning (and on the way home) was made a little longer today because of detours again. There certainly is a lot of road work happening around here. A little frustration kicked in when we didn't even know which direction "home" was in. Unfortunately our mobile internet device is not working in Germany. We have at least discovered why - it is reasonably old and apparently only 3G. Germany have discontinued this frequency and our little puck's light just rolls around and around looking for a signal. Everything is either 4 or 5G now. Our GPS finally gave up telling us to do a U turn and found a way and we arrived at Bamberg about 9.30 am. It is a Sunday so it was still very quiet (and quite cold). Not even supermarkets are open here on this day of "rest".

Bamberg is another one of those jewels of Germany. It's entire altstadt (old town) is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is laid out over 7 hills where the Regnitz and Main rivers meet. Water has also been diverted in canals so that much of the old town is between water ways or built over them on supports in the water. The structures mainly date between the 11th and 19th centuries and are a combination of half timbered, sandstone and, some brightly painted ones that are also decorated with paintings and scrolls. The most famous building is notably the Rathaus (council building) that perches on a tiny artificial island that seemingly confronts the water as it hurtles towards it. The building is also covered in frescoes. We pedalled over the many bridges and around the town on this lovely, slightly chilly morning. The area between the rivers is flat and contains the main shopping/commercial area. Some of the streets are quite wide and grand but were still covered in cobblestones. We stopped down a little side alley for a rest and a drink and enjoyed the sun. Our drive home (although again marked by detours) was largely through beautiful green country devoted to crop agriculture. It is interesting to note that we have seen practically no fencing and hence very few animals. We assume that they must be stabled. Home now to watch some football on TV or sleep (whichever is more appealing).



The early morning view on a country road







