

EUROPE 2023



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



Villages on the Tauber

The season is turning. The light chilly wind was blowing fallen leaves across the ground. A rather refreshing day of strong sunlight and brightly contrasting colours from the ploughed fields, powder blue skies, green and yellow crops was a harvest for the eyes as we drove west again to some visit some more villages on the romantic Tauber River.

Tauberbischofsheim was the first target. Hardly a sole was about. Today is a national holiday (Unity day that celebrates the rejoining of East and West Germany) and it seems that, like many holidays back home in Australia, it is enjoyed indoors with family and friends. We certainly did not see any obvious celebrations. So, our visit to this old medieval town, the largest one in the Main/Tauber district, was extremely quiet and peaceful.

Our bikes provided our transport once again and we enjoyed the sights on offer in the Altstadt immensely. The streets are encompassed in a circular pattern obviously once surrounded by a wall, the remnants of which have long disappeared. The most distinctive feature of the main square was the town hall with its great clock and flower decorations. A very grand place and a magnet for visitors. Further on, another quieter square sported a small water feature with bronze figurines. It was very peaceful. Again, no crowds. How lovely. We rode around the quiet narrow back streets, taking in the rows of historical urban residences and inevitable shops on the main street but all were closed except for a small number of cafe's and eateries supplying the occasional bike rider or visitor like us.

Further south we reached Bad Mergentheim which was once the seat of the Order of the Teutonic Knights. It had the usual beautiful commercial and residential buildings but it also a huge castle complex surrounded by a moat - currently dry. This time we walked and munched on some Germain pastries - a delicacy we have become quite fond of. Another good day.



Siggy's maternal family name

Wonky Residence?





