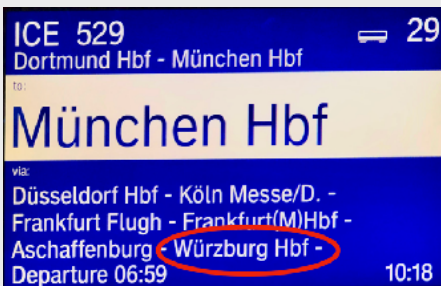


EUROPE 2023

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



The railway's pathetic attempt at an apology for our train woes handed out to every passenger - a luv ya biscuit!!



4 hours after leaving Würzburg we were back there again. Almost seemed like home.



"Go by train" they told us! "It's less stressful and much more relaxing!!" Yea right!



Packing up - Vienna bound

A change over day again. Yesterday it was a repacking and cleaning day. Heather also had a haircut and colour - surprisingly we had a hairdresser right next door. A new and happier woman again walked in the door but her wallet was substantially drained of Euros.

This morning it was an early 7am start for a 1.5 hour journey via the motorway to Frankfurt. Pretty straight forward drive actually. Sig did a great job keeping out of the way of vehicles zooming by incredibly fast while passing the long lines of slower trucks. Crazy stuff in that when there were some road works the signage indicated that drivers should slow to 120!!!! Added to this was the morning was very soupy and misty - just like the day we travelled from Frankfurt to Würzburg.

The car was returned with no drama - although its not always easy to find a fuel station close to our drop off point. But we did. We are always very relieved when we give the car back with no scratches or other damage.

We had a sit down breakfast and a relax at the station. With 1.5 hours to go before the train departure we thought we had



Our Würzburg apartment



Our Würzburg apartment



Driving blind on the way to Frankfurt



Frankfurt Central Railway Station



What should have been our train



Staying positive

plenty of time. However when we went to find out the platform number for our 10.22 am train we were told the train “had a problem” and was cancelled. No! We were given a new train but it required a change (the other was direct) and guess what - this one goes via Würzburg? And it left 22 minutes earlier! That required a bit of quick footwork and the knowledge that we had to change trains at Munich. We were a bit worried because we had no allocated seat for that particular leg. Then we found out that we had 4 minutes to change trains in Munich before our second leg!! Arhhhhh - the joys of train travel!

Of course, as you might guess, the train was even later into Munich than intended and we inevitably missed our connecting train. A lot of other people were in the same boat and they helped us understand we could just get the next train to Vienna (without paying another fee - it happens a lot apparently). We did indeed get a train some 30 minutes after our intended one (even that was a rush due to the platform being quite some minutes walk away from where we alighted) but surprise, surprise, when we had been on the train for only a few minutes the conductor told us that we were in the back carriages and these would eventually be unhitched and were NOT going to Vienna. At the next station we (and a horde of other people) had to detrain, walk briskly along the platform and get on the forward carriages of the same train. The back of the train was unhitched. This forward part of the train stopped very regularly and was, by now, totally crammed full because so many people were now on these remaining carriages. Thankfully a couple of young lads realised how old and decrepit we were/looked and gave us their seats. Between our laughing and talking we started up a conversation with two couples beside us. They were about our age and were keen to chat knowing we came from Australia. By the time we had finished the guys were very keen to have a look at walking football when they got home to Belgium.

Our train finally arrived in Vienna about one and half hours later than we originally intended and we located the taxi ramp easily enough and were rapidly ferried to our hotel on the edge of the old town. Such a relief to be in your room by ourselves once again. Unfortunately no fridge and no tea (poor Heather), very tight space but comfortable enough.

For the next two days we enjoy Vienna.