

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | FRIDAY, 10 MAY 2013

Sithonian Peninsula

After our night of free camping we headed south from Thessaloniki to the area that was described to us as the “three fingers” - three quite mountainous peninsulas jutting out into the Aegean Sea.

The first, Athos, loomed before us clad densely in vegetation and looking very rugged. It is off limits to women (and most men). It is owned by a monastic order. The most westerly is full of resorts, so we headed for the “second” finger - Sithonia.

It was a beautiful sunny day. The climb up onto the peninsula was very enjoyable.

The road was good and the sea was a magnificent colour. We stopped in a small village on the top of the range to check out their local market. We even acted like Greeks and parked on the wrong side of the road! We stood out as foreigners however, because we were wearing knee length pants - long pants are the go for locals. It was enjoyable wandering around. We purchased a few things and continued on our way.

The villages here are generally well kept and even had lots of flowers - roses in particular. There were many fields of olive trees - some looking extremely old. The eastern side of the peninsula is more arid

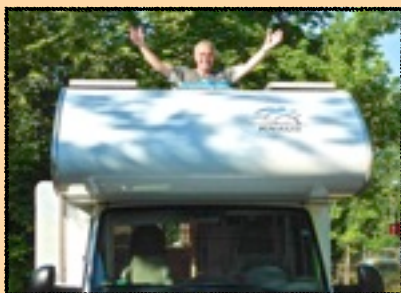


with less vegetation. The little towns were generally not well kept.

Numerous of the caravan parks we saw were very run down and sad looking. One has to wonder if it is just the off season or if the GFC and/or Greece's current financial position is having its impact.

As we were driving around we got terrific views of the “first finger” - Athos. Our day was made when we came upon a fairly nondescript caravan park on the eastern side. The view from our site was to die for - Mt Athos in the distance, aqua

water lapping gently on the shore and us just meters from it. Let's not say too much about the cruddy facilities. We lapped up the scenery and relaxed. I even took a refreshing plunge. Later we washed the outside of the van and went for a walk along the beach. Lovely.



MISSING FRONT HATCH We only noticed it was gone when we went to bed. Someone in Turkey or Greece will find it and wonder where it came from. Not our fault.



CAR WASH After nearly six weeks on the road our motorhome really needed a wash. The cheap labour I found actually did a superb job. Might just have to use her again at the end of the trip.



BEAUTIFUL TICKETS We are reluctant to throw away the entry tickets we receive when we visit attractions in this part of the world. They are a real work of art.



PHOTOS

