

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2013

Brittany

Today we drove into the heart of Brittany. It is the province in the north-west corner of France. Before it became part of France in the early 1500s it was a kingdom in its own right. That might go some way to explain why it is regarded as one of the six remaining celtic "nations". It still has its own language - Breton. One obvious implication of that is that sign posts have towns in French and Breton.



The houses also have their differences.

The very old ones and a good proportion of newer ones, are made of local stone. It is darker and not uniform in size. We have been amazed to see half-timbered houses here. We thought that they were a German "thing".

I am getting ahead of myself though.

The aim today was to drive across the middle of Brittany to the western cliffs -



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OLD AND NEW Could not help but be dismayed to see graceful medieval wooden building taken over by crass gaming shop advertising. Why is this not classified as graffiti?

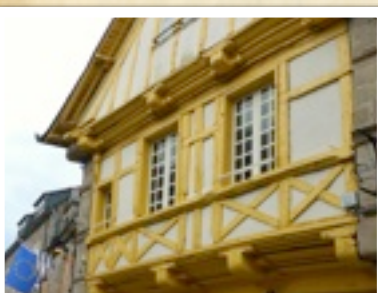


AROUND WE GO AGAIN We thought we had seen all the detour signs we were going to see on this trip. Today we came across a new one - around we go again!!



ARTISTIC FRENCH FARMERS Farmers obviously take lessons on how to create interesting patterns. Even if there is no pattern they fashion something out of nothing to keep passing Australian tourists amused.

SNAPS



People from Brittany speak another language. Still no english but they speak a form of gaelic.

the furthest point of France. All we can do is sample this area as we only have nine days left in the van.

The first village we stopped in was Josselin. It is only a small village but has a huge 14th century castle looming over it. It looked great with it's three round witch-hat turrets. It is still lived in by a private family!! How many kids must they have?

We rode along the river bank enjoying the view and then discovered the "centre ville historic". It had the fantastic array of half-timbered houses that I referred to earlier.

From here we drove on via quiet country roads through a more undulating countryside. Another difference between this part of France and the provinces previously visited is that the cows have obviously not been trained to lay down in straight rows. The fields also occasionally have weeds. More dairy cattle were evident but the large scale agriculture continues unabated.

The next village on our route was Pontivy. It is listed in the 100 "best detours". With that sort of a wrap we thought it was worth a look. Yes, it too had some grand buildings and a nice location on a river, but it did not live up to Josselin.

Next came the surprise package of Chateaulin. We drove down a quite steep slope to sight, and drive over, a very large arched, stone bridge. We had to detour and stop under it to get a better look. On the way out of town we saw a few more of them. Very impressive.

We continued our drive through the lush countryside and soon caught glimpses of the Atlantic Sea. By this time it was 5 pm and we decided to find a park and then go for a quick walk along the cliffs. This we did.

Because it's been very cool all day the temperature did not encourage us to stay out long.

So many things to like about this part of the country.



PHOTOS



Darth Vader keeping watch over his necropolis

