

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | THURS-FRID 27-28 JUNE 2013

Roermond

Rain and cold weather were not supposed to play any part in the last few weeks of our trip. We headed down south to the Mediterranean for the warmer weather and then intended to complete our trip in reasonably warm conditions up north. It has not been anywhere near “reasonably warm” for the last 10 days. And Roermond, where we are staying for 3 nights, is no exception. Worse still, notwithstanding being stuck in the van and desperately needing a haircut (and colour) Heather has now run out of TEABAGS. She has reverted to rummaging through the rubbish to retrieve old used ones. Her maximum use has been 5 times. I told her to start boiling her socks. We are also down to the last of my cordial and other essentials. Going out on bikes in the wet to do shopping has no appeal whatsoever.

The trip from Brugge to Netherlands on Thursday was uneventful. We traveled through a very modern looking Belgium with its lush green agricultural landscape and lovely little villages. Heather ensured that we only traveled on tiny D roads all the way. In fact at one stage we believe we were on a bike track so we got off it as soon as we were able to. Gauging from the looks of disdain from pedestrians and cyclists we hope that our antics do not give Dutch motorhomers a bad name.



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Caravan Parks

We often watch a TV program at home called “Hotel Inspector.” A successful hotelier shows unsuccessful hotel owners how to improve. After 3 months on the road, we reckon there are many hundreds of caravan parks that could definitely use this program. A good caravan park needs 5 simple things:

1. An entry system based on a printed barcode paper docket that lets you in and out and self destructs on the day you are supposed to leave. No refundable deposit or keys needed.

2. Self serve internet access via a ticket dispenser + internet available within your van.
3. Press button shower that lasts more than 15 seconds where the water is at least above body temperature.
4. Van sites that have concrete or road base so motorhomes don't get bogged.
5. Water tap, power source, grey water and sewage dump point within easy reach. Simple.



L PLATES We cursed as this army truck traveled at snail's pace. When it finally pulled over we realised it was a learner driver and that the speed zone was 30mph. We would have driven considerably faster and got zapped by the camera.



ZOOM ZOOM We turned the corner and were suddenly confronted by this huge jet on the roundabout. Every road either led to, or from, the air force base I guess.



PROUD AUSTRALIANS At first we were reluctant to show our flag for security reasons but realised that our Dutch number plate and maps on the dashboard would show we are tourists. Oh what the heck!!!

SNAPS



MODERN



GHASTLY ULTRA MODERN



ULTRA ULTRA MODERN



THATCHED ROOF



FLEMISH STYLE

Some of the ultra ultra modern minimalist houses looked

The architecture of the Belgium houses, churches and farms/barn really interested us. There were obviously many examples of old buildings, including some charming thatched roofs, but there were lots of recently erected buildings that have tried to amalgamate radically modern architecture with the more traditional Flemish style. Some of these looked a bit silly. The unique Belgium "Darth Vader" helmet style roof line, as well as one or two weird very boxy flat roofed ultra modern homes were a definite highlight.

We assume that Belgium has been through quite a number of rebuilding or reconstruction programs especially after each of the wars when much of the country was destroyed. As a result Belgium today has some of the best roads we have come across.

The place is neat and tidy - spick and span. Beautiful. We saw a reasonable percentage of houses on individual blocks - something we have not seen much of in other countries.

Gradually as we traveled east we came across more and more canals and had to zig zag around to find bridges over them.

Our caravan park is actually on an island in one of these waterways. It is an excellent location for a water based holiday. Green grassed sites, full free internet, as much hot water in the showers as you like, water taps close to every site and the sight of barges, house boats and yachts passing by.

Some of the holiday units are actually floating on the water. The park's low level location means the area must flood.

EVEN THE DUCKS WERE TAKING COVER AWAY FROM THE RAIN AND WIND

Light rain continued to fall all night and so far, most of today. Luckily Heather did the clothes washing yesterday and most of it is now dry.

Today, Friday, should have been a day of rest, but a bike ride will now be in order in the afternoon because we have been able to book a hair cut for each of us.

Can't go home looking like there are no hairdressers in Europe.



Darth Vader helmet roof