

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | SATURDAY, 29 JUNE 2013

Bike Heaven

Yesterday, we spent a fairly lazy day doing some van cleaning and then we took a trip into Roermond to get hair cuts. What a beautiful place it is. A lovely city of old buildings, beautifully decorated by flowers and surrounded by water.

The young girl who cut our hair was chatty and delightful. It is a sign of the times when we describe someone in this way. We talked about all manner of things about the world and discovered that to be a hairdresser here, it helps to know five languages!

A stroll around the streets followed. Roermond, we discovered, is an "outlet" city. Combine old buildings, only the best brand factory outlet shops and a great relaxed shopping atmosphere and you have a very happy Heather.

The ride in and back via great bike tracks and a little ferry especially set aside to convey bikes and foot passengers, was also a pleasure. The ferry was free! We were amazed at the number of people using it. On the journey in, we stood beside the postie. He still uses a bicycle here.



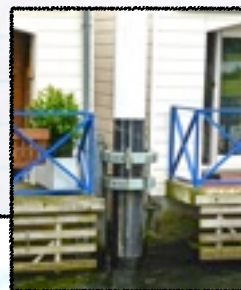
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Floating Houses

The marina where we are camping has a series of what we have labelled "floating houses". We saw a show about them on TV a few years ago.

They are literally built on pontoons that are attached to two big pylons. These pylons allow the house to move up and down with the water level. Such a smart idea. This location obviously has, and will, flood. This type of precaution must save an awful lot of heart ache.



HOUSE BOAT This one really looked like a "house" boat!! Three stories, all mod cons with a nice car, runabout boat and luxury yacht parked/moored outside.



ALCOHOL ANYONE? Only the Dutch could call their bottle shops - "Drankshop".



BIKE HEAVEN Such a novelty to us to see bikes accorded so much effort. Their own highways, their own ferries, their own set of traffic lights and motorists who give them due respect.

SNAPS



ROERMOND MUNSTER



HEATHER PLUS POSTIE



ENJOYING THE FERRY RIDE



ROW OF FLOATING HOUSES

Roermond - a delightful place for bikes, people and shopping.

We got an email from the van owners - Martin and Marlies, to meet in Roermond on Saturday, for a social get together. We happily accepted. We won't have much time for chit chat tomorrow when we hand the ban back.

It is our last day in the van today and the morning started as cold as the last few days. By 11 o'clock we had finished cleaning the van and then set off on our bikes into the centre of Roermond. The weather started to improve and the different track we chose to go into Roermond was through a small village on the other side of the canal. We had taken a little ferry directly from the park this time. It cost us a small amount but it saved us a much longer ride in to town.

THE SUN EVEN POKED OUT FROM BEHIND THE CLOUDS TO ENHANCE A MOST ENJOYABLE DAY

Being a Saturday, Roermond was packed. In one square we found a very lively and large market going on.

We kept walking until we found the main square where we agreed to meet Martin and Marlies. The square had a very old band stand (complete with band playing old tunes). What a great sight and sound! We wandered around the stalls lining the square and waited for M & M to arrive. The atmosphere was fabulous. We eventually met up and decided to take a seat in the square. We sat and chatted for about two hours. It was really very enjoyable. They are a lovely couple who are also very interested in travel. They have been to Australia more than a few times and are coming again next year. They took us back to the market and treated me to a local delicacy - raw herring and onions. Yum yum. Heather decided that that was one step too far!

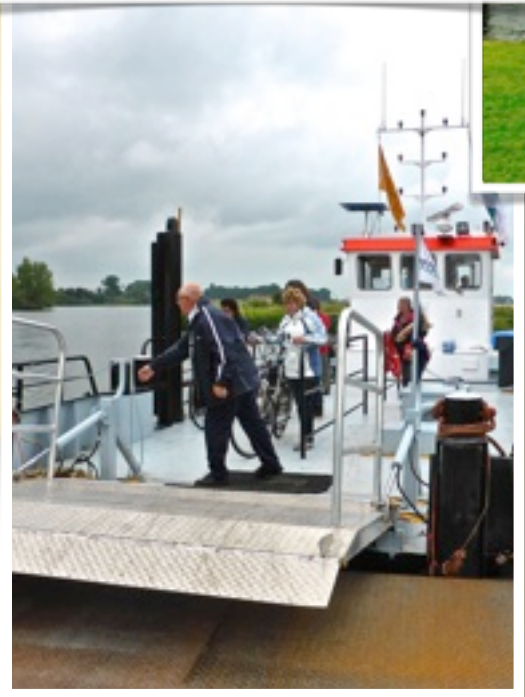
We took our leave of each other and continued on to wander through the town. What a great afternoon we had.

Back at the van we packed our bikes away and aimed to pack our bags before bed. Time for a poppy nap and a little bit of reading. An early rise tomorrow to travel the 17 kms to hand the van back and then travel on to Amsterdam by train. The plane leaves for Beijing on Monday afternoon. Next China.





PHOTOS





14 countries - 13,300 kms in 89 days