

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | SUNDAY, 7 APRIL 2013



Meersburg

We didn't travel far today but still were able to see three countries all at once - Germany, Switzerland and Austria (or at least we thought we could see them through the mist across Lake Constance). We decided to spend more time in Meersburg and then go check out Lindau island before appraising what to do next.

The 11th century Meersburg castle, is the oldest structurally intact castle in Germany. It sits imposingly on the bluff overlooking and surrounded by the town. After spending time in the main street yesterday, we walked around the winding cobbled streets in the higher section of the town. Many were steeply angled. This gave us lovely views across the lake. Every building has been lovingly maintained. The old water mill and various public buildings are absolutely beautiful. Many are draped in climbing plants and are rich in colour. The church bells pealed for ages and set the tone for the ancient old town. Everyone seemed to be smiling and laughing as they walked. We saw locals emerging from the church with their children dressed in white. Maybe it was a confirmation day.

We paid our 8 Euro and went into the castle itself. Rather than write too much about it we will let our photos do the talking.



continued on next page

Getting Around

Its quite a process to get ready for a walk when its freezing cold outside. Its even worse getting ready to bike ride. Luckily we decided to bring along a couple of key clothing items without which we would be absolutely freeezzzzzing. The heaviest coat one can buy, a woolen hat that covers the ears and a very sturdy pair of shoes. We had to buy a pair of weather proof gloves over here because the gloves we had were not warm enough.

Underneath our jackets we wear up to 4 layers of clothes - singlet or T-shirt, one or two long sleeved skivvies and a jumper. We have good quality pants and Heather also wears a pair of leggings underneath. Despite all this (and everyone wears similar things) our extremities (fingers and ears) still feel the cold. An interesting experience - but not something to wish for a lifetime. It gets worse when you exert yourself and start to sweat inside your clothes. Yuk!!

CAR GLASS?

Interesting interpretation - yesterday when we were trying to find a windscreen place we typed "windscreen repairs" into Google. No luck until a local German man told us to put in "car glass".

Smashingly obvious!!

NO PEANUT BUTTER?

We have not been able to see nor buy peanut butter in the supermarkets.

No Vegemite I can understand, but no peanut butter? Doesn't everybody eat peanut butter over here?

Obviously not.

CHURCH BELLS

We were woken this morning many times over. Every hour from 6am onwards the friggen bells pealed out from the local church.

Bing, bing, bing, bloody bing.

We just went back to sleep when they stopped only to be woken again when they started an hour later.

Both Meersburg and Lindau have that wonderful old-world charm about them - memories forever.

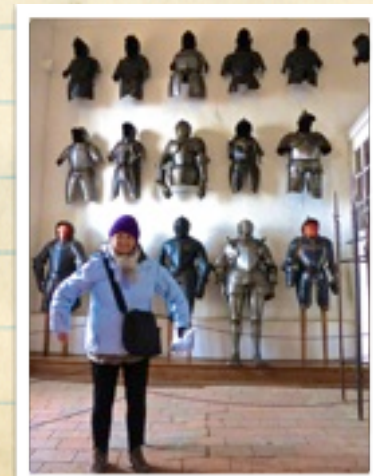
What really made the day special were the many locals who dressed up in old style clothes and set the scene. The usual characters were there - monk, soldier, preacher, woodworker, cook, jester, blacksmith, hunter, leather worker, duke, nun, nurse and so on. They just quietly interacted with one another (I think they really were having a good time!) and chatted casually so that you could take natural photos.

At one point we came into the dining room where a large group were eating and being merry - just a day in the life of Meersburg many centuries ago - an unforgettable experience.

It was then on to nearby Lindau with its ancient island town. Bike time again. Flatter terrain than Meersburg but lots more cobbled streets and lots more buildings. A town with charm-a-plenty. But then Meersburg had charm too.

Luckily for us we had our GPS to guide us back to the van - we would have got totally lost otherwise. Our camp is a overnight parking area especially set up for motor homes that is located close to the town. No mains power but the cost of staying here for a night is minimal.

An early night for us tonight and then on to Switzerland tomorrow.





PHOTOS

