

# MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2013

## Farewell to Austria

We have finally made our way out of Austria. The geography of the place tied us up in knots for a while. Mountains seem to get in our way.

After leaving our lovely site at Zell am See this morning, we made our way south on excellent roads through quiet country villages. The mountain backdrop was spectacular. The sun helped us enjoy our slow meander even more. We were excited to try our first experience of an auto-train. This was the only path open to us to get into Slovenia. It involved us driving the van onto a partially open rail carriage, seating ourselves in a passenger area and enjoying the short 8 km trip through the mountain tunnel. We struck up a conversation with some local retirees and let the train do all the work. The trip only cost us about A\$18.

After "decanting" from the train we continued our journey south. The sun was even brighter and warmer on this side of the mountain range. At one point we stopped to admire a particularly spectacular valley that opened up before us. We found a safe stopping place and wandered over to the nearby rise in "Sound of Music" style. Well not quite! But it was really quite special - definitely one of our highlights.

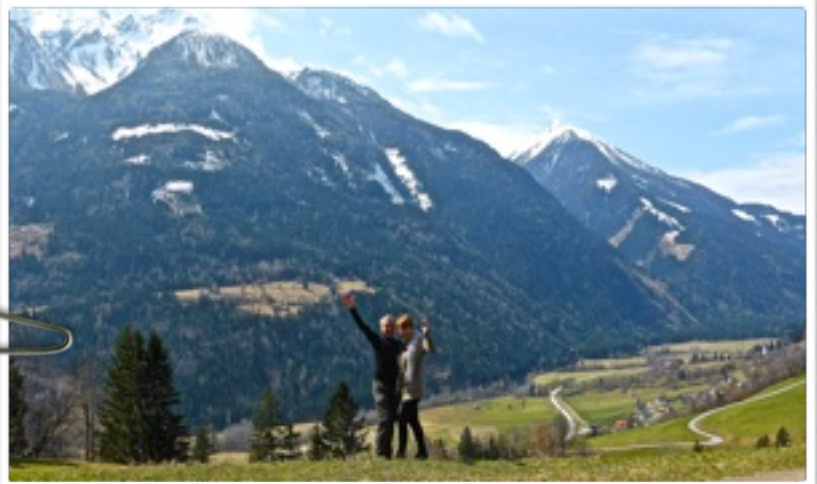
We traveled on, had lunch in yet another beautiful valley and eventually crossed the border without any fanfare. We soon arrived in Bled by mid morning, our first intended stop in Slovenia.



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View from our van in Zell am See



**LET THE DOG CHOOSE** Not sure which one is the vodka and which is the water but the dogs here are obviously clever enough to know the difference.



**READING MATERIAL** The Bled caravan park had an extensive library of free reading books for travelers. Always keen to get any information on travel in Europe Heather grabbed the book with this cover - looked like one on camping places. We must be "camping bogans".



**BUMMER** The caravan park at Zell am See has all the mod cons including paper place mats for bums. Heather would have also liked the seats to be warmed up as well.

## HAPPY SNAPS



L PLATE TRACTOR DRIVER



TOYOTA MINI QI  
NOT SEEN IN OZ



MAGIC TUNNEL  
DRIVE IN AUSTRIAN  
COME OUT SLOVENIAN



CROOKED TRAIN

# sLOVEnia

## THE ISLAND CHURCH ON LAKE BLED IS A EUROPEAN ICON

The site of the island in the lake took our breath away.

As the advertising literature says “With an emerald-green lake, a picture-postcard church on a tiny island, a medieval castle clinging to a rocky cliff, and some of Slovenia’s highest peaks as backdrops, Bled seems to have been designed by some god of tourism”.

We quickly set up the van and set out on a quick explore to make the most of the sun - no heavy coats this time but you never know what tomorrow might bring.

We rode part way around the lake and up some steep hills to get some expanded views of what the area has to offer.

Check out the photos.

We intend to stay here a few nights and get in a bit of riding, walking and investigating.

Time to slow down a bit and recharge our batteries.

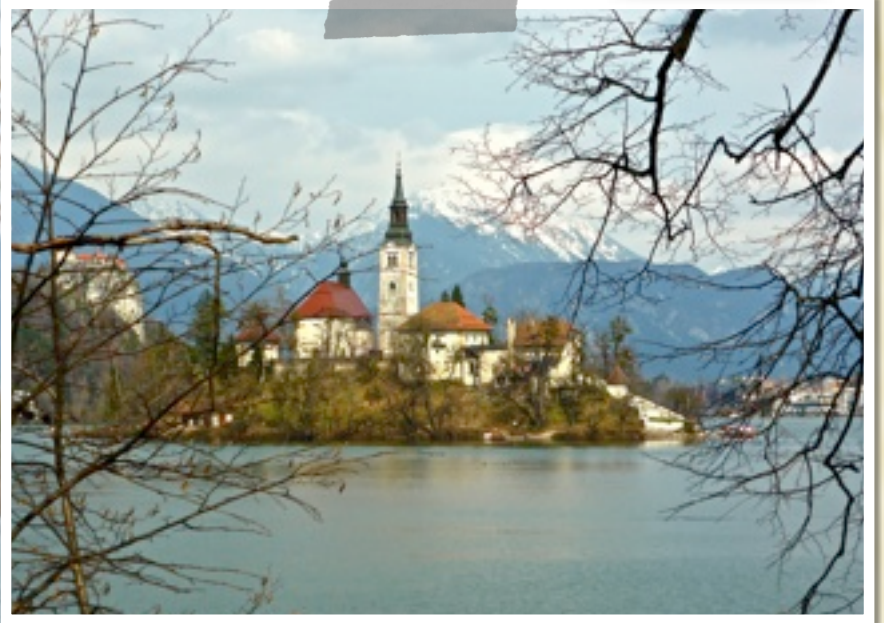
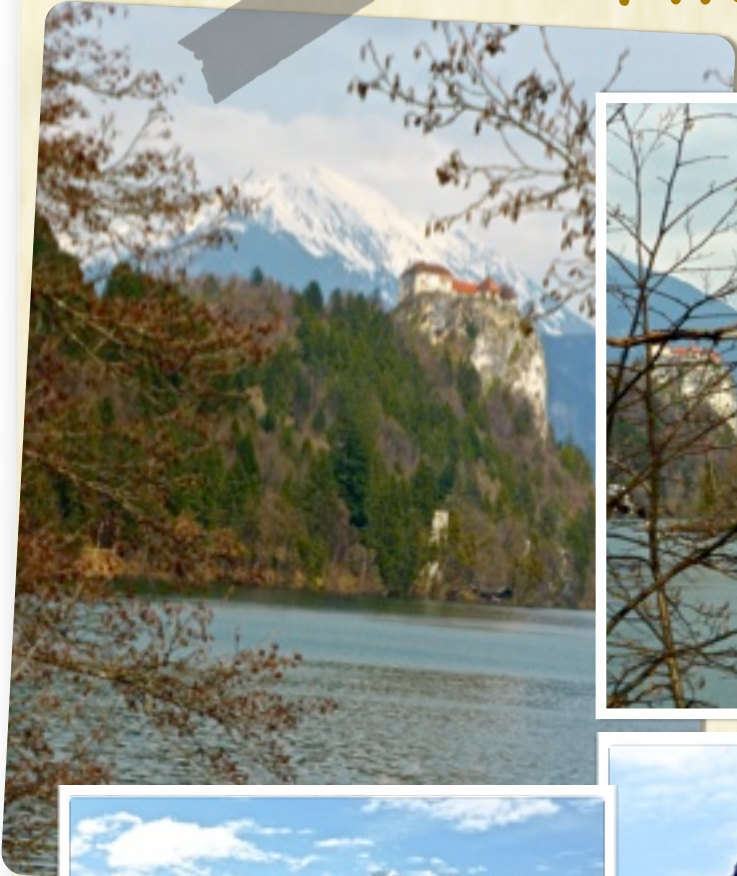


Bled’s iconic island church





# PHOTOS



Auto Train - tight fit

