

# MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2013

## Arrival

Although we arrived on the Adriatic coast today it is actually part of the Mediterranean Sea. We have finally arrived. Heather insisted that I change the newsletter banner to commemorate the occasion. It is actually a photo I took of the lovely aqua coloured water off Piran.

We left our farm stay this morning and our host (Mrs Novak!!!) gave us a brochure of all the farm-stay places in Slovenia!! Bugga. A bit late! How we could have done with this a week ago. We much prefer to stay on farms than caravan parks and will now search for a similar publications or books for Croatia.

Our first stop was Piran - a medieval village jutting out on a peninsular. We drove our van to the town centre only to be told we could not park there. We were directed to drive back and find a park in the adjoining town of Portorose. From there it was a short bike ride along the coastal bike track to Piran.

The day was quite warm and we thoroughly enjoyed the ride, although some of the cobbled streets were very bumpy so we had to walk part of the way.

Piran was very touristy with almost every building on the waterfront being a cafe, restaurant or hotel.

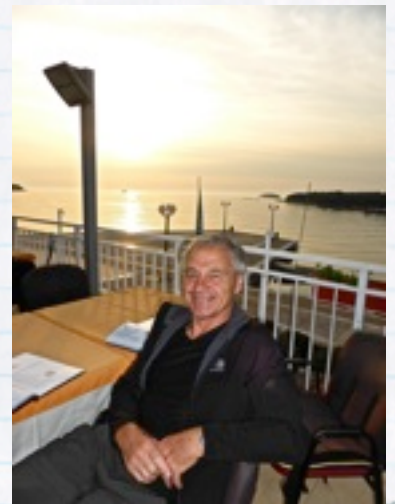


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## Birthday Boy

It's amazing the places we are prepared to go to celebrate my birthday. My mum keeps thinking we keep avoiding her. Last year we were in Katherine, Northern Territory; the year before that we partied in Glastonbury, Southern England, while in 2009 we celebrated with great fanfare with my family in Makow, Poland. I wonder where I will be celebrating next time around? Home - if my mum has her way.



**DEAD RAT SEEN IN HARBOUR** Not sure if this is a good sign or not - was it abandoning a sinking ship or did it not survive a longer than normal freezing winter.

### WHY USE A GPS?

Why not simply use the iPad?

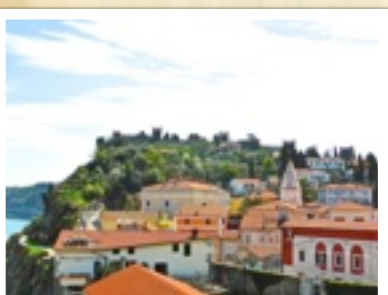
A GPS always operates because it is not reliant on internet access (unless it buggers up because you upgrade the maps!)

We discovered very quickly that it is unwise to rely on internet based maps. As soon as there is no internet - there is no map. Either you download the map beforehand and/or you need to buy a paper map - Heather's favourite.



**WHICH PADDLE BOAT** Guests have a choice of two paddle boats. Both have water slides. On one you can slide right down the front while the other has a slide curving to the side. Choices when abandoning ship?

## SNAPS



# Entering Croatia was painless. The next stage of our trip has begun.

Nonetheless, it was perfect Mediterranean scenery with the brilliant aqua blue water and pastel coloured buildings.

We climbed up to the top of the hill in the middle of town to get a better view, but really only saw terracotta rooftops. Evidently the best view of the whole town was further up the slope overlooking the town - something we were not prepared to do.

The ride back down, and then through, the many very narrow winding streets (about 2.5m wide we estimate) was interesting. This is the part of the old town behind the seaside facade where people live. We bounced along the cobblestones as quietly as we could and we could hear the din of people inside chatting, arguing and going about their daily business.

We suddenly came out into a small market place where morning stalls were being packed up. Further on we came upon the bigger square with the sun glaring down on the concrete and the crowds of people enjoying coffee and lunch. All very pleasant.

Rather than stay for lunch, we decided to go out for tea tonight to celebrate my 65th birthday. We rode back to our van and drove on over the Croatian

border. The border guard only gave us (and our passports) a cursory look and waved us on. We had expected a bit more formality.

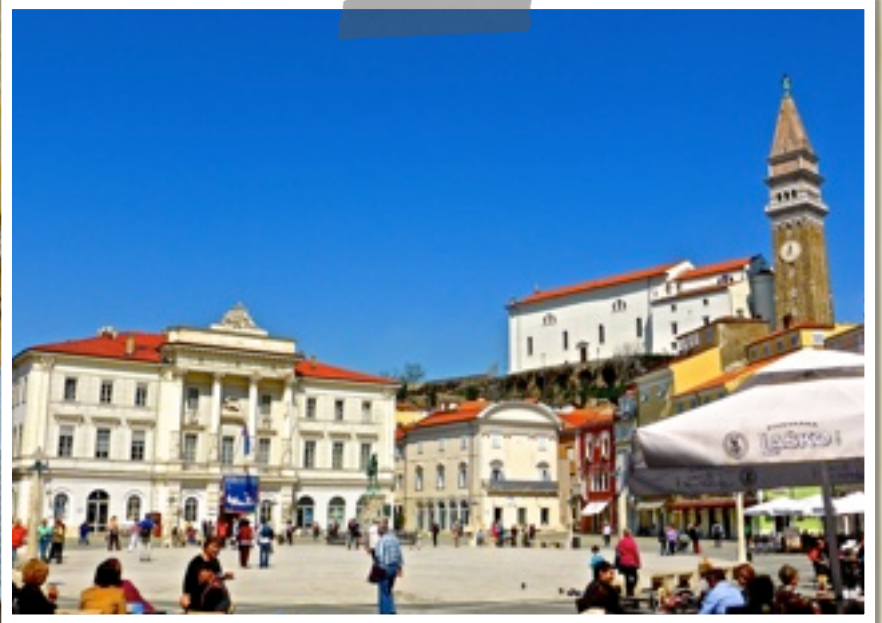
Our next port of call was supposed to be Porec, with its old Roman centre. We knew we would have to park outside the town and ride in. We followed the sign for campervan parking. The barrier was closed but just as we were turning around a gentleman came over and said we could park for free while he opened the barrier. As we were driving through he stopped us and said the fee was 20 Kuna (about \$A3) and he wanted to be paid there and then. We were not sure about all of this so Heather feigned that we did not have enough cash and we promptly turned around and drove off.

**POREC COULD HAVE BEEN GREAT BUT FOR THE REAL SHIFTY PARKING ATTENDANT**

We have vowed that when things don't feel right, we will simply move on. Who knows who this guy was anyway - we would have worried about our van while we were visiting Porec.



# PHOTOS



WE ARE STAYING AT THE CAMPING ORSERA CARAVAN PARK FOR THE NIGHT AND OUR SITE IS RIGHT ON THE WATER'S EDGE. THE MAGNIFICENT FACILITIES ARE REFLECTED BY THE HIGH COST OF STAYING AT THIS PLACE - THE MOST EXPENSIVE CAMP WE HAVE BEEN TO. WE THEREFORE AIM TO USE AS MUCH HOT WATER AS WE CAN.

