

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2013

Rovinj

The old town of Rovinj is contained within an egg-shaped peninsula. We were sitting on one of the jetties admiring the town. How to describe it? It is like a child has made a town of cardboard and leaned all the “buildings” together for support. Pastel colours once again, terracotta roofs and, if you look closely, a whole forest of satellite dishes. Washing does hang from the windows and fishermen are going about their business. We walked and rode up the steep, narrow streets into the interior of the peninsula. Like Piran the buildings are incredibly close together. This town is a little more ready to catch the tourist dollar with heaps of little shops selling clothing, paintings and jewelry.

By the time we got to the top (to the Church of St Euphemia) we had left most of the other tourists behind. It was a great view of the surrounding Adriatic and the islands. The sharp contrasts in colour between the muted buildings, the terracotta and the aqua/blue of the sea, was quite beautiful. We stopped and propped to take in the views and relax. There were just enough tourists in town to give the place some atmosphere.

We took another alley down to sea level and had to carry our bikes down many flights of steep steps.



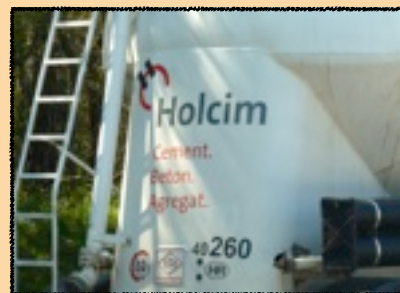
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BELGIUM'S HOLDING UP THE ROAD?
You can imagine our surprise when we passed this car - in front was the Belgium Bike Road Racing Team. Paloton anyone?



OUR DUTCH VAN Being a slow driver I willingly accept spurious comments about bloody “Dutch drivers” but when we need help we suddenly turn into “Australians”.



NOTICED THE COMPANY ON THIS TRUCK IN FRONT OF US TODAY The words that come out of the mouths of Australian travelers can be quite brutal.

SNAPS



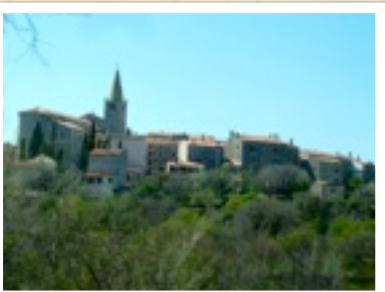
GRASS GROWING IN GUTTERS



ST EUPHEMIA CHURCH



FREEWAY FLYOVERS



ANOTHER ROMAN TOWN



VERY OLD MINI PEUGEOT

The beauty was in the contrasts

Our bikes are very light and have never been a concern. This particular walkway had even more little shops. At the bottom we realized that we had come through to the other side of the town. This more protected harbour gave us a very different view of the township. We spent a very pleasant few hours enjoying this wonderful place.

The afternoon was all about the drive.

We wanted to get as close to our next destination (a national park) as possible, but we were not in a huge hurry.

With our GPS set to secondary roads, we had an interesting drive across country. The country we drove through can only be described as poor (in an agricultural sense). It was mainly covered by low scrubby trees and shrubs. Where the land was cultivated, it was put to grapes and olive trees. The country seems to be limestone, like the area we travelled through in Slovenia.

THE COUNTRY WE DROVE OVER TODAY WAS CERTAINLY NOT VERY AGRICULTURALLY RICH.

In some areas the ground was covered in white rock. The rock fencing seemed to have been abandoned. The country itself also looks a little unloved.

The roads were very good however. They have some amazing tunnels and huge bridges. Heather was determined that we would travel the B roads to Rijeka but despite her best efforts we still ended up on the toll road into the town. This meant we had to navigate through the city but our GPS handled the spaghetti road system very well with its mass of over and underpasses.

Eventually we ended up on the coastal road overlooking the Adriatic coast. There were few places where it was possible to go down to the water's edge and the road sticks closely to the side of the slopes.

Much repair and upgrading of the road was taking place. It was very slow going. In the end we decided to camp at Senj because it was going to take us another two hours before we got to our planned destination.

Here it was finally time to relax, wind down with a walk around the town, and to have some dinner.

This is Croatia.





PHOTOS

