

# MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | FRIDAY, 19 APRIL 2013

## Sensory Overload

The Plitvice Lakes National Park would have to vie for top honours with Cradle Mountain Tasmania, as the best natural environment that we have had the pleasure of experiencing. Wow! Look at the photos. Four and a half hours of wandering through this fabulous scenery on wooden walkways that looked like they have been here for a very long time. We went beside and under and through the lakes and waterfalls on these little bridges. I am sure that such a place as this could not be experienced in this way in Australia.

There are dozens of lakes - from large ones to reed-fringed ponds - all in an incredible hue that is a product of the limestone terrain. Mossy plants and algae that have calcified, due to the process of absorbing minerals from the water, divide the lakes. It is really akin to the Great Barrier Reef. The area is fed by two rivers and a number of underground springs. Enough of the geography.

Snow was still on the ground in protected places, but the sun was shining. We even felt a need for some sun protection!

In some places water lapped over the walkways. The answer was for the staff to bring out some thick pieces of wood so that we were millimeters away from the water.

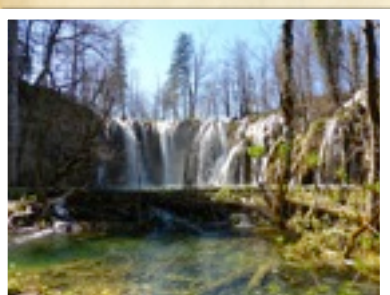
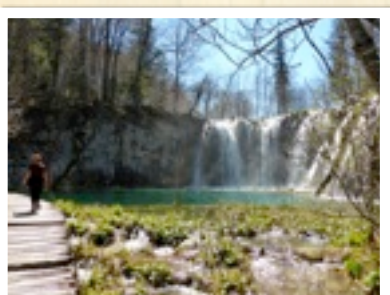
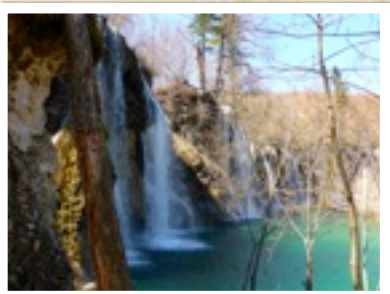


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# SNAPS



## We would rate Plitvice Lakes as one of Croatia's greatest attractions.

No hand rails existed. I felt it was perfectly fine but health and safety in Australia would not have allowed children here.

### THE DRIVE UP THE MOUNTAIN RANGE WAS SLOW BUT MAGNIFICENT

Last night we were warned by our neighbouring Dutch campers that the road up the mountain from Senj to Plitvice was very steep and winding. It was a secondary road all right but we need not have worried. It certainly did twist and turn, but around every swing in the road we caught sight of a new perspective of how high and how barren this part of the country is.

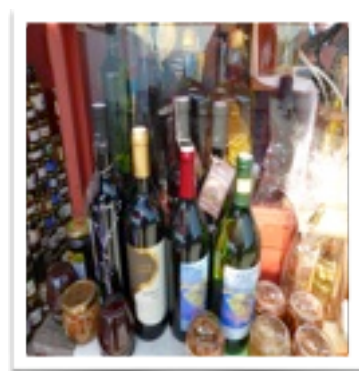
According to what we have read the history of this country has been extremely turbulent. Amongst others, the poor Croats have been ruled over by the Italians (both Romans and Venetians), French (Napoleon), Hungarians, Turks and the Serbs. I remember my dad told me that as a Pole he understands how badly maligned the Croats feel because both his people and the poor Croats have

been regularly used as pawns in the political games played by nearby superpowers. I can certainly understand his point of view.

Once we reached the top of the range we very much enjoyed the slow meandering B roads to Plitvice.

Croatia appears to have little roadside stalls absolutely everywhere. On offer are a wide range of local produce such as honey, cheese, fruit syrups, olive oil infusions and the inevitable array of alcoholic beverages and spirits (such as snaps, and grappa whatever that is).

Unfortunately the passing Australian tourists were not at all interested in alcoholic drink or olive oil and their fridge already had more than enough cheese, honey and cordial.







# PHOTOS

