

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2013

A Wet Day

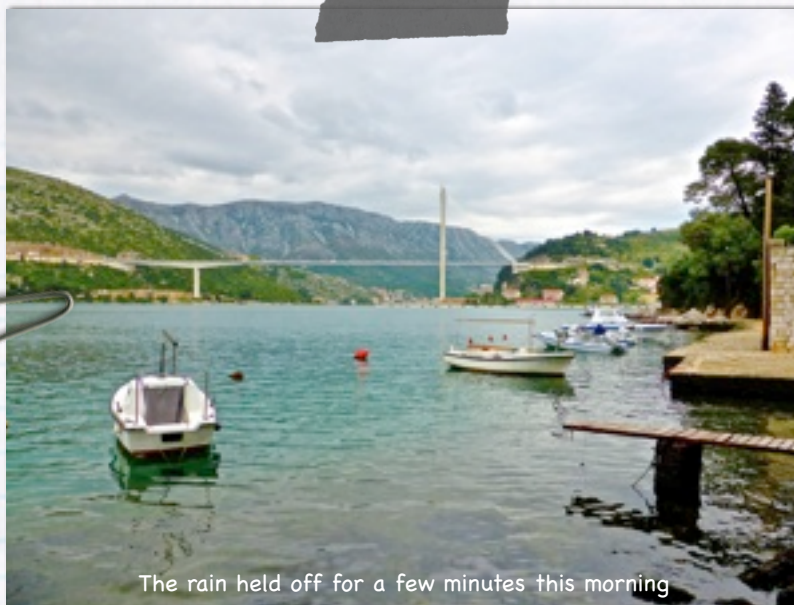
It rained all night. Heavily. It kept raining in the morning too. We decided to take the van down to the ferry terminal and book our tickets to Bari so we would not get wet and then return to the camp and take the bus to the old town. That was the plan. But plans can misfire.

After a couple of hours of turmoil we changed our plans. You see, when we tried to exit our site, our van got bogged. When I originally parked the van the night before I tried to make sure that the site was on rocky ground but the heavy overnight rain saturated the ground so much we sank down and our van wheels slid in the mud. With the help of the camp staff, our plastic flat pads (thanks to Martin) and other campers (who could see they were going to have trouble getting out too) we were finally pushed out. What a relief.

After washing off the mud and slush we re-parked our van on a slab of concrete and decided to ride our bikes in to book ferry tickets and then on to Dubrovnik old town. Wrong decision again. Getting the tickets was fine and the rain held off till we got to the old town, but then it really bucketed down. Heather had a rain coat but I only had a light jacket (silly me did not bring a raincoat for the trip).



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The rain held off for a few minutes this morning



HELPING HAND As we were climbing up the stairs in one of the buildings we came across a guide rail fastened to the wall by this unusual sculptured holder.

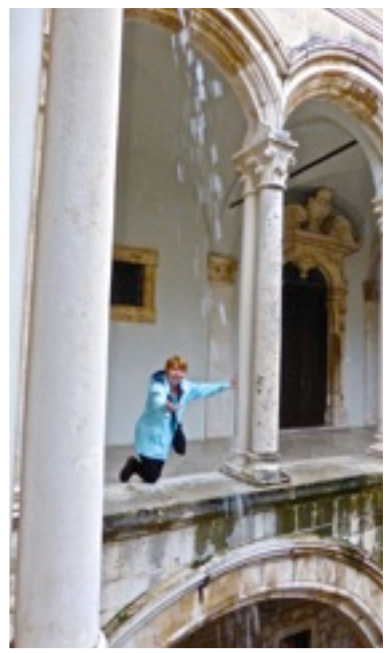


SAINT WHO? The patron saint of Dubrovnik has an unusual name. St Blaize. It happens to be the same name as our grandson. I could only take a photograph through glass.

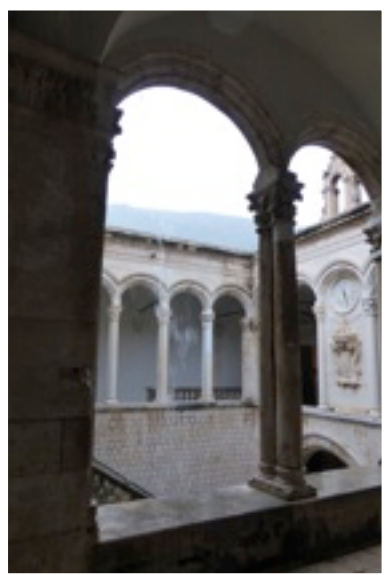


UNPICKABLE LOCK This is an example of the first type of lock mechanism made out of iron located under the lid of a money box - pretty hard to pick this lock I can tell you.

OUR FEW SNAPS



SILLY TOURIST POINTING
OUT THE LEAKING
GUTTERS



INTERNAL COURTYARDS
LET IN THE LIGHT
(AND THE RAIN)



LOOK NO TOURISTS!!

There are too many things to see in Dubrovnik in a day, rainy or not.

We decided to have lunch under cover and then visit a museum. The lunch was yummy but expensive and the museum was very interesting. The rain kept pouring down and seemed to be getting worse. We kept getting drenched as soon as we walked out from under cover so I purchased an umbrella. Unfortunately the heavy runoff dripped backwards on to our legs and back and made things even more uncomfortable.

We noticed the water sheeting along the marble cobblestones making walking very slippery. Falling over was not an option. It was time to head off home or keep feeling miserable.

WET MARBLE COBBLE STONES ARE SLIPPERY

With our bikes in hand we tried to catch the bus. We waited for almost an hour but when it finally arrived the rush to get in was very disturbing. Almost everyone was rude and incredibly pushy (particularly some elderly Chinese who must get lots of practice back in their country).

We decided not to join in the fight and waited till the end. By that time there was no room for us and our bikes. We started the long trek uphill to the van site. The rain kept falling.

On the final section of our ride I peddled holding an umbrella and the GPS. All around us people were trying to get out of the rain. The traffic was horrendous - cars hardly moved. We ran an obstacle course of narrow roads, bumpy cobbles, illegally parked vehicles, huge puddles and slippery surfaces.

With "Emily" to guide us we managed to get home intact. It was heaven to finally get back into the van, get warm and put on dry clothes.

We feel sorry for those people who are only here for the one day. At least we have another couple of days in which to see this so called "jewel of the Adriatic." Our ferry does not leave until Wednesday night. We had wanted to go on an island tour but they are not yet available. Not a day to remember.

The delights of Dubrovnik will have to wait till tomorrow.

