

2011 - SCOTLAND

28 April 2011

Never a dreigh day in Scotland

LEG 6
26 DAYS TOURING
SCOTLAND
IN A MOTORHOME

We love to talk to Scottish people just to listen to their accents.

A NEW START

The person we rented the motorhome from today said he believes there is a difference between “travelers” and “tourists”. We try to be the latter. We would rather go off the beaten track and meet real Scots than line up to see tourist attractions. Its easier to do this in a motorhome and on a bike. Its also easier if one has seen most of the major Scottish attractions some years ago. I am sitting here in the van as I write this newsletter looking across a gorgeous green valley - part of the Scottish Borders - in a town called Peebles. This area is south of Edinburgh, ranging down to the border with England. We decided to head to this area because we have been told by more than a few locals that most tourists bypass this beautiful area for the more famous north. Today's journey has so far revealed green rolling hills reminiscent of South Gippsland.

OUR MOTORHOME

Back to the start of today : after getting a taxi out to a large shopping centre in the outskirts of Edinburgh, we met the couple we are renting our motor home from. It is an interesting setup with this van. We found a site on the internet that had a list of privately owned vans, that we could choose from. The business with which we made contact, does all the paperwork - the van owners obviously pay a



This is why it's so good to be back in a motorhome again.

We like the advantages that driving a motorhome gives us - namely we do not have to pack up our suitcases each morning and we can stop and have a hot meal anywhere, any time. Plus we have a built in toilet.



View to the kitchen area





Peebles, with its old world charm, was a total surprise.

commission to them. We think it is a really great idea for a business back home. This van is a smaller version of the one we had in England. The sofa seats on either side are shorter so they cannot be used as full single beds but putting them together into a double bed is considerably easier. The storage space is as expansive (and excellent). The bathroom and toilet are shared, unlike the English van, but this made the English van longer. What we like about this smaller van was the little details that the owners thought about. It's better equipped with most features such as outdoor table and seats, a wider range of cutlery and crockery and storage containers, cleaning equipment and even a mat to limit dirt coming into the van. A lovely touch greeted us when we opened the door - a bottle of wine and chocolate in the fridge. All this makes us want to treat the van like our own personal possession.

PEEBLES

The Lonely Planet guide book recommended that we get on our bikes as soon as we set up camp. *“Although it lacks a major sight as a focus, Peebles is one of the most handsome of Border towns.”* So so true. We spent over an hour riding around the outskirts of the town past many old stone terraced houses and then along the main road through the town centre with its churches and old buildings. But the best part was riding along the river on the bike track. It was so relaxing listening to the gurgling water and seeing local people lazing on the green grass and lapping up the warm temperature. We stopped to chat to a number of locals and I even had time to have a haircut. We saw no tourists and intend to explore further afield in the morning. THIS is what being “travelers” is all about.

Our intention is to stay in Peebles for two nights. Tomorrow Heather will spend time with other local ladies watching the royal wedding. She has offered to add something Australian to the table - some biscuits with Vegemite. I reckon she will be bringing back lots of memories of “that dress and those flowers” plus lots of biscuits with Vegemite!!



Out of the room some of 5 huge rocks in our apartment.

