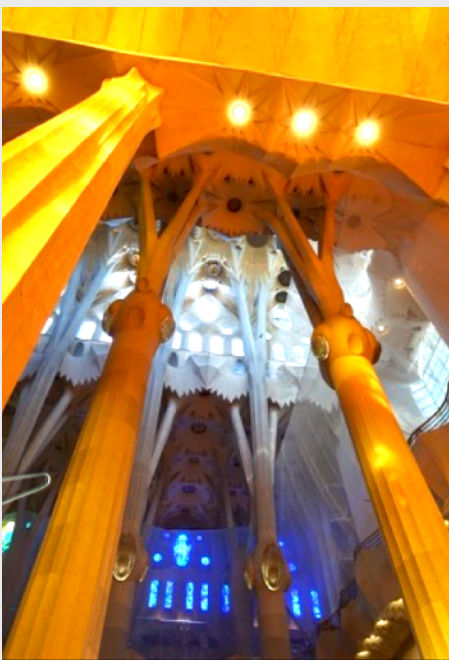


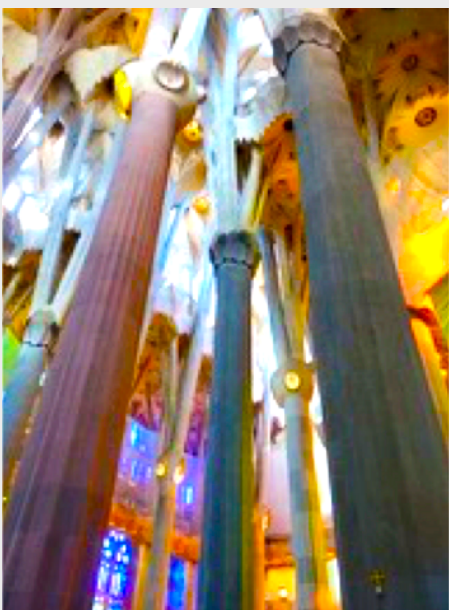
EUROPE 2023



4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs | 2 grand-boys +1



This photos were taken in 2015. Seeing Gaudi's monument still has an emotional affect on both of us even today. Its invokes feelings that are almost impossible to describe.



Gaudi

Today was a Gaudi day. We walked from the closest station on our line, to the work in progress that is the Sagrada Familia. We had the privilege of seeing it about eight years ago and were still totally gobsmacked by the beauty and ridiculousness of its structure, even today. Its designer, Gaudi, died in 1929 and I'm sure they hope to finish it to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his death. It was actually started 140 years ago. Apparently five generations of locals have lived through the work. Think about that we you have a new building going up next to you!

With the milling many, we walked and gawked around the outside of the structure to try to get a good photo of it. Because it is so incredibly high, and closed in on two and a half sides by the jumble of suburbia, getting a decent photo is a tall order. Even worse when you consider the thousands of people all trying to do the same thing. There is a small park on one side and a slightly larger park on the other. I don't think they existed when we were last here. I would imagine by the time they finish the outside, the residents living nearby might be required to give up their abodes to provide this amazing fabulous structure some breathing room. It really is a sight to behold. Just watching people seeing it for the first time is uplifting. The open mouths and gasping was palpable. How could I like something resembling an egg cup with an inverted ice-cream cone next to it, I wonder. However, we both love it so much. How could you not be over-awed. The interior, as we saw it eight years ago, was the most beautiful man-made thing we have ever seen in all our travels. Unfortunately, we could not get inside so finally we found are bus point to the next Gaudi attraction.

Park Güell, as it is known, was another of Gaudi's creations. Güell was his main benefactor and customer. He gave Gaudi the assignment of drawing up plans for developing an estate for well-off families on a large property he had acquired. It was started in about 1900 and Gaudi himself lived there in one of the houses for 20 years.



The “park” has a huge public square built up on immense concrete pylons and a number of his “bizarre” shaped houses with ceramic decoration. We enjoyed them but I, in particular, was actually a bit disappointed. Number one: I expected it to be even more way-out than it was. Number two: the park was sprawling, hard to work out where we were and really just a mess of steps and steep inclines. At one point my watch chimed in and told me that I had broken my previous record for the number of steps!!

One of the nicest interludes was listening to a couple of buskers with very nice voices. We sat for quite a while enjoying the view from the terrace and contemplated. So nice.

We rejoined the bus route but quickly decided we had had enough for the day and headed back to Barcelona Central station. We even managed to find a bigger supermarket whilst on our way and headed home with our booty.





