

# EUROPE 2023



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



When there is no empty seat on the train.



Some people think our bikes are fold up wheelchairs.

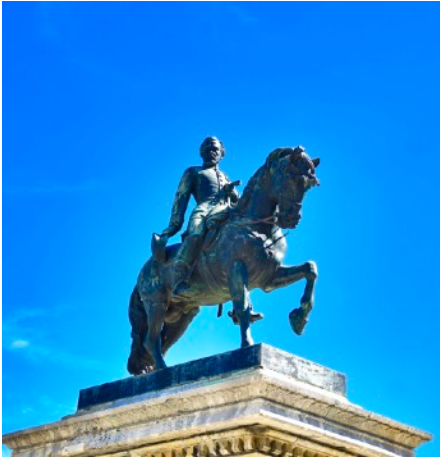


## Old Town

Our bikes were our mode of transport today. A late rise and a 10am train into near the Gothic Sector (which we now know to be the Old Town bordering the harbour). We expected to encounter fewer people today as it is Saturday - a day off we thought - not so many people in the city. We got that wrong! We started off on the main promenade near the old town called La Rambla. It is a very wide pedestrianised area with many expensive looking shops on both sides. It was so busy that we could not even ride our bikes. We headed off down a side street to get into the old town proper and found great narrow streets with very high buildings and lots of little eateries and gift shops. It was looking great apart from the masses of people. We discovered some streets later that we were being funnelled into a large square so packed with humanity that we immediately turned tail and took another route. We could hear the fanfare - it was obviously some form of concert. Sig tried to get close but all he able to snap was a photo of the crowd at head level!

A few more streets of the old town and we headed away to the port. We were now able to make use of our bikes and were soon at the waters edge. This particular area is currently being used by the current America's Cup yacht races. We even saw one vessel being placed in the water. We cycled along the water front and eventually decided we needed a rest and some sustenance. Our funds extended to some MacDonaldis but not being an aficionado of the food (or the language), I ended up with two kids meals of plain meat in a bun!! At least it was cheap! By the way, we did get a toy each! Next was a trip back inland via a large park. This too was buzzing. It sported a large outdoor market and a music stage. We sat and relaxed briefly and crunched on the apple slices supplied with the "Happy Meal" and then made our way to the closest train station on our line. We had to carry our bikes some distance underground and change trains on the way home (due to faulty aircon) but we got to talk to a lovely Spanish lady who we invited to stay with us in Brissy if she ever makes it.





The crush of people on La Rambla



The crush of people in Old Town



Winged keels have come a long long way!



Barcelona's version of the Arch de Triumph - built 1888





No idea what this impressive building is called







View of the city from  
portside



Massive crowd at the  
music festival - turned  
tail when we saw this.





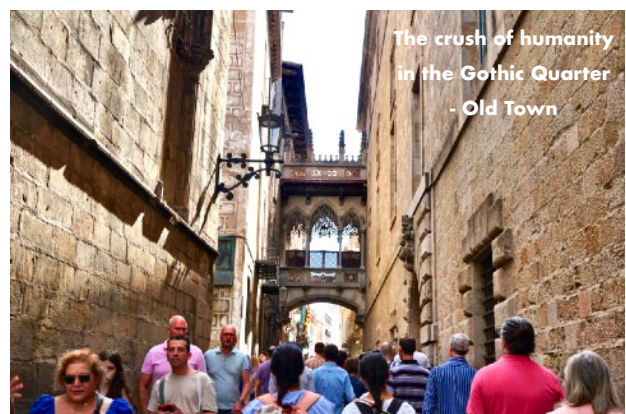
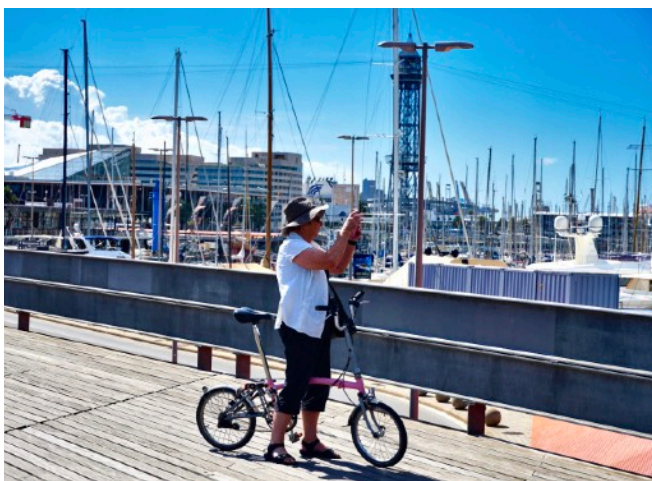
Waterfront restaurants



Barcelona Marina



Some of the obscene wealth on show



The crush of humanity in the Gothic Quarter - Old Town