

# EUROPE 2023



4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs

## Signage

Every shop, every store, every commercial establishment in Rothenburg ob der Tauber boasted an artistic metal sign depicting the type of business. Similar signs can be seen around other German towns.



## Rothenburg ob der Tauber

The Romantic Road. We had a long visit to this area in 1983. Contrary to some return visits elsewhere this was just as outstanding as the first time we were here. We arrived early (about 8am) and managed to have a wonderful, crowd-free time for the first two hours. I must admit that even after 10am it was really not too bad. The weather was a little on the chilly side, just nice, and we walked in through one of the wall entry points to have our breaths taken away. Over the next four hours we saw massive stone walls studded with 42 towers; half timbered houses with red tiled roofs; wrought iron shop signs that intrigued; cobblestoned streets and flower filled window boxes that were a delight to the eyes. Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the "red fort on the river Tauber," is a most beautiful medieval town that looks like a movie set. It has been in existence since the 11th century and is one of only three villages in Germany that still has its external walls fully intact.

We stopped for a hot chocolate and some cake and called home to show off this spectacular place. Another must-do for me was to revisit the famous Christmas shop called Kathe Wohlfahrt. In 1983 it was a hit for the the kids, Sig and I. It is still as magical with lights and trees and nutcrackers and everything "Christmassy" you can possibly imagine. And it is an even larger store now. In fact there are two Kathe Wohlfahrt stores - one across the road to the other.

Juxtaposed to that was a visit to the "Criminal Museum" that showed all the instruments of torture used in the medieval period and a history of the law from that time to today. Most fascinating.

By 12.30pm we were flagging and decided to forego our intended ride around the town on our trusty bikes. Old age is certainly catching up with us I suppose. We substituted it with a trip home via country roads.



This was made even more interesting because of a couple of road blockages that we came across. It meant the drive was through beautiful, green, agricultural areas with small villages dotted every few kilometres. An interesting observation was the huge proliferation of solar panels on almost all the shedding of farms in the area. Good for you Germany!!

Enjoy the photos. It is the best way to describe what we saw.









### When punishment by death ?

(as a rule)  
Murder: wheeling  
Manslaughter: beheading  
Child murder: drowning  
Arson: burning  
Theft (value over 5 Gulden): hanging  
Counterfeiting: boiling or fire death  
Witchery: burning  
Treason: high treason punished by death  
Unnatural sex acts: burning  
Incest: punishable by death depending on the severity  
Bigamy: punishable by death depending on the severity  
Blasphemy: punishable by death depending on the severity  
Heresy: punishable by death depending on the severity

