

Summer 2016: Adventures in Europe,
Part 9; Austria into the Black Forest,
Germany

Day 21 - Monday

Location- Airtal Traunsee, Ebensee, A. €12
per person with services available extra GPS:
n47.809070 e13.789990

Miles driven- 40 miles towards Prague,
then 130 miles to a Lake in Austria!

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Weather– dry, sunny and warm!

Bluebell the motorhome is parked with a beautiful lakeside view, surrounded by steep dramatic mountains.

She's had quite a day. We were up fairly early, with the intention of our next destination being Prague. We hit a minor problem when we discovered my copilot app didn't have the CZ maps downloaded on, so we couldn't input the exact coordinates for the aire and the wifi wasn't strong enough to download them. Not to worry we thought, we would use google maps. Fine, until we realised the coordinates took us about 40 miles out of Prague. Deciding to go for it using a good old fashioned map, we pootled along for roughly 30 miles, before the worry gene in me started thinking, hang on, are we mad?! We had-

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n't researched CZ, had no idea about the language, currency, the list went on. Keith was so looking forward to going to Prague, so was I but I felt we may be trying to do too much. I made a comment about us staying in Austria seeing as we had the vignette and hadn't seen much outside Salzburg and Vienna and to my surprise Keith said "pull off at the next junction, turn around and let's do that".

That's the short version anyway, haha, we may have had a civilised discussion about it but, in the end, we both decided we would head to a lake in Austria and hope that we could find a space. Keith was clearly disappointed but promised not to sulk and I was crapping my pants thinking God, please let there be a space, unlike last week when we tried to get a lakeside pitch and failed. Our

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number one rule when out on the road is we have to be *both* happy, whether it be a route plan, overnight stop location, whatever. Keith clearly sensed my apprehension- I was worried we would drive all that way and not get a space, Vienna was so busy and although it worked out well for us, it could have very easily gone the other way.

Roll on an hour and a half and the road descended into a glorious valley, complete with lake, and better still, we arrived to find not one space but plenty. And we got the best pitch going. The mood instantly lifted, we got the chairs out, cracked open some drinks and here we are 7 hours later, having enjoyed a fab view all afternoon sat outside chilling.

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view from the stellplatz at Ebensee- can you see the mess
someone made trying to get off the litch next to us! ☐

I even got my lake swim in, boy it was cold!
We had chicken and egg fried vegetable rice
for tea, over which we discussed actually, it's
better to have done this as we could fly to
Prague easy enough, but views like this are
made for motorhomes right? Our previous
plan was to drive back via Prague, Auschwitz,
Kraków, Zagan (Great Escape location),
Colditz Castle, Trier, Calais. Our new route is
back through Austria, with stops at Lake Con-
stance, Black Forest, Trier and Calais. Looks
like I may get my Black Forest gateaux after
all!

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Day 22– Tuesday

Location– Aire Traunsee, Ebensee, A. €12

pn with services available extra GPS:

n47.809070 e13.789990

Miles driven– 0 □

Weather– dry, sunny and warm! ☀

Bluebell hasn't moved an inch, and neither have we!

We had a lazy morning, followed by a lazy afternoon, literally venturing as far as the lake for a paddle, it's a bit cold for swimming! I read a whole book and Keefy skimmed through every magazine on board, we snoozed and we have eaten like kings. Keith sparked the BBQ up and we had fillet steak, bratwurst curly sausages and homemade

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chips. Absolutely yum. There's been lots to keep us entertained, this small resort seems to be a popular kite skiing resort (not sure of the actual name) and we've watched with fascination. Looks like a lot of fun! Tomorrow we move onwards, heading for Lake Constance, to see if the water is warmer there!



last night in Austria- Lake Ebensee

Day 23- Wednesday

Location- Camping Bankenhoff on Lake Titisee, Black Forest Germany GPS:

n47.888290 e.8.128860 around €30pn

Miles Driven- 350 miles

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Weather- dry with sunny spells

Bluebell the motorhome is hooked up on a pitch on a lovely campsite underneath a steep bank of tall Black Forest trees, on the edge of Lake Titisee in the heart of the Black Forest.

☒ She's having a well earned rest, she's driven us 350 miles today, a fair chunk of the homeward bound journey.

During the night we had very heavy rainfall. This didn't help the already mashed up ground (you can see it on the previous day panoramic picture) and we woke up a little nervous about our escape route. After some umming and aaring Keith decided he was go-

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ing to be responsible for getting Bluebell off,
fine by me, the wheels were in perhaps half
an inch of water and mud, and there was a
definite hill to get up. Fair play to him, after a
couple of wheel spins and time for an audi-
ence to gather (why do people do this?!) he
went for it and managed to get Bluebell to
the safety of the hard standing road!

We relaxed into our journey, which was fairly
smooth, in the direction of Lake Constance.
We were having trouble deciding on which
aire to head for, there are a few in this area,
and none seemed to have on site lake ac-
cess. We decided on one in Stetten, which
we arrived at around 3pm. Im not sure what
was wrong, but our faces just did not fit! It
was a busy aire with a couple of free spaces

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and it was nicely laid out, overlooking some lovely orchards and behind a restaurant.

From the minute we arrived, as I was parking us and Keith was guiding us in, a German (I think) lady walked past us doing a loud stage whisper to our neighbour clearing saying something about us. Whilst Keith was getting the levelling chocks out she went past again, with another loud stage whisper comment to same neighbour. Our neighbour then stormed off inside in a huff (we had left loads of space between us!). We wandered down to pay, passing perhaps 4 other sets of people sat outside their vans staring at us, no smiles despite ours to them. Luckily the place to pay wasn't open til 5- by now we'd got a vibe that there wasn't a lot to see so we decided to move on. Much to the delight

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of stage whisper lady who had found 3
others to join in with her gawping at us as we
departed. They nearly ended up getting
moonied at, but Keith restrained himself!

On the road again, we decided to head
straight to the Black Forest. Lake Constance
wasn't grabbing us- we didn't give it much of
a go, maybe we were in the wrong bit. Keith
keyed in the coordinates for an aire at Ti-
tisee, according to our Germany book it's the
most popular place to come in the Black For-
est.

We didn't hold out much hope for getting a
place on the aire as it only had 8 places and
we weren't going to arrive til 6pm. As soon
as we drove through the village we liked

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what we saw and decided even if the aire was full we'd try and get onto a campsite. Unsurprisingly the aire was full, but the campsite next door had space, and wasn't extortionate. We'd had a problem with the fridge ignition earlier so thought the electric would be useful anyway. Actually it seems it was just cos we weren't level! The campsite man was eager to hear our thoughts on Brexit before leaving us to pick our own pitch, so we're on a spacious one, looking out to the trees and out with the chairs and table straight away!



our pitch in The Black Forest- camping Bakenhof

We have wifi although it is painfully slow, but the facilities here are spotless so we both

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have taken advantage of long hot showers
tonight.

Salmon, new pots and carrots and sweet
corn for tea tonight. Looking forward to a
greater selection of fresh veg when we are
home I must say! The Fire pit is out although
I suspect we won't have a late one after the
journey today!

Day 24– Thursday

Location– Camping Bankenhoff on Lake Titisee, Black Forest Germany GPS:

n47.888290 e.8.128860 around €30pn

Miles Driven– 0 □

Weather– dry with sunny spells this morning, rain in the afternoon

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Bluebell the motorhome is putting her feet up after yesterday's long journey and gearing up for the homeward stretch. We were up early this morning and seeing that the weather predicted rain this afternoon we decided to have an early cycle into the small town of Titisee.

Today I was finally going to eat Black Forest Gateaux in the Black Forest (I realise this makes me sound sad!!) Our campsite is handily located 3km from the town and has a pretty off road cycle path lakeside to get there. We really enjoyed a wander around town, despite it being very touristy, it retains charm and character- of which is totally different to other German towns we've visited. We found a cafe to try a piece of Black Forest Gatauex

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and a cake each – the waitress knew what we wanted before we said anything! It was huge, and although very nice, and very alcoholic, it was a bit too big for me, and although I ate it all, I felt sick afterwards!! A big tick for the holiday list though!



Feeling full to the brim of cake we had a wander in the souvenir shops, there are plenty here and all selling the same things- mainly cuckoo clocks!! We of course bought a cuckoo clock for our new house! Always ones for touristy souvenirs us!



We experienced the worst service EVER whilst buying some local schnapps which left me reeling and frankly close to driving all the way back home! We had a couple of drinks

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and tried to block out the appalling service,
which worked! Phew!

My wine glass made me chuckle, as if BFG isn't 70s enough, they serve me wine in one of these! ☐

☒ I made the mistake of getting the cuckoo clock out of the bag in the bar, and I was met by lots of bikers singing Cuckoo to me! This went on until we left! Very funny!

We stocked up on all sorts of treats, including local meats, wine, beer, bread, butter- and as the rain arrived we cycled back to Bluebell for a long lunch followed by a longer nap!

☒ Chicken and noodles for tea, before another

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early night I suspect!

Day 25- Friday

Location- Hausach, Black Forest Germany
free aire no services GPS: n48.286233
e.8.165696

Miles Driven- 40

Weather- dry with sunny spells ☀

Bluebell the motorhome is parked up alongside a German VW and two other motorhomes (and 3 caravan so!) in a free aire/stellplatz in the small town of Hausach. We're by the local outdoor swimming pool and under a castle ruin!

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We've had a lovely day today despite a rocky start. Sadly some selfish you know what's opposite us last night on the campsite decided to be entirely self centred and be stupidly loud until the wee small hours.

Around midnight I saw red and went over to ask them to shut up, which they ignored so I went to find a warden around 12:30 but to no avail- considering the amount of rules regarding noise there was no one around to "police it"- and as a result I woke up at 07:00 to a screaming baby next door feeling like I'd been run over by a train! Keith's first words were "I'm ready to go home" and I was feeling the same!

A coffee and a pet talk later and we'd got a plan- it involved us getting Jazz seen by a lo-

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cal vet for his return to England appointment, and then a mooch up the B500 towards the worlds largest cuckoo clock. Keith knows me well- he knew that would cheer me up!

The campsite spoke to the local vet and arranged for us to visit between 10:00-11:00, we did our services, settled the bill(turned out at £27pn a bargain despite last night's noise) and were on the road.

As Colin the copilot navigated us the 6km to the vet we were wondering where we going! It led us up a residential small street but sure enough the vet was located in her home! Keith nipped Jazz in- was out 10 mins later with his passport stamped, worm tablet and

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a flea and tick treatment- all for only €20! A
bargain- it definitely pays to see vets a dis-
tance out of Calais.

We joined the B500 which turned out to be a
beautiful route through the Black Forest and
knocked the socks off the Romantic road in
our opinion.

First stop off the day was the highest water-
fall in Germany- on the outskirts of Trieburg-
what a funny place, it was HEAVING with
tourists- we wouldnt describe it as the most
impressive waterfall we've been to, it's 160m
drop is spread over several mini waterfalls,
but was a nice stop anyway- although we
made the mistake of parking in the first car
park which turned out to be the highest one-

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cue a 1km uphill walk on way back!



Next stop was the Largest Cuckoo clock in the world, also in Trieburg- handmade 50 times larger than the normal cuckoo clock and a real treat to the mechanics working “behind the scenes” – we were there in time for the 1pm cuckoo call which was a case of Blink and you’ll miss it, which made me and all the others giggle- still really great to see, perhaps just time it with a larger number hour!



A quick supply top up in Lidl before arriving at – an open air museum with lots of old traditional houses which you can go in. There was a great selection of houses to visit- including a dairy farmers, mill houses, the governors

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house, wood carvers etc. It reminded us of Hida Folk Village in Japan. Some of the houses dated from the 1600s and it was a lovely way to spend a sunny afternoon, although I started to get tired after a while- our bad nights sleep catching up on us.

We'd wondered whether we could make it to Trier, but Colin copilot was saying 4 hours and it had gone 4:30pm, so we consulted the camperstop bible and luckily enough found two Aires 3 miles down the road- both free and plenty of space!

Time for a chill before dinner, tonight we've got chicken, mozzarella and tomato pasta

Until next time

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Lx

PS you can follow our journey using a real time location tracker by following this link:

[**https://track.gs/LXADWw**](https://track.gs/LXADWw)

Camera pics to follow!!

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