

□□ A weekend camping in our capital;
London □□ 8-11th June 2018

After a fairly stressful week this week trying to source not one, but two sets of new wheels for Ruby (thanks Yodel for losing a wheel!) it was looking uncertain whether we'd actually manage to get to London for our pre booked weekend of Birthday celebrations for Keefy. Thankfully whilst I slaved away at school on Friday morning, K managed to sort it all out and after our gig on Friday afternoon, we set off towards London, via Bury St Edmunds to pick up a wheel then

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carried on towards to home for the next three nights, the Caravan and Motorhome Club Crystal Palace Club Site.



Our route from the M11 took us through London on the North Circular- a risky manoeuvre for rush hour on a Friday, however Google maps was insisting the M25 was a car park, so we obliged and sure enough 3 hours later we had arrived at the leafy Crystal Palace Site. Before pitching up, we had the small matter of taking off the spare and replacing it with the new wheel we'd just picked up. Keith managed it, with some help from the warden who had a brilliant winch- ours was next to useless.

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The pitch was lovely- we were on a grass one with electric but it was surrounded by trees and shrubs, and nicely landscaped. It was also really large! Whilst K showered, I got on with dinner, burgers and salad and we enjoyed a gin together toasting the terrible week turning out ok.



We had an after dinner stroll to the pub; just ten minutes walk and you're right in the hub of Crystal Palace where just about every type of restaurant and takeaway is available if you don't fancy cooking.



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Saturday dawned bright and fresh; we knew as the alarm was set for 7:30am, a very rare occurrence for weekends and camping trips!

□ The reason for our early start was that we had pre booked tickets to visit the Cabinet War Rooms, for 10am. The transport link into London from the site is excellent. Almost outside the gate is the number 3 bus stop which takes you directly to Trafalgar Square, the journey takes an hour and costs just £1.50 (or free if you're over a certain age and have a bus pass!)



The Queen had kindly laid on a birthday celebrations for Keith- our arrival at the CWR coincided with the gates opening for Trooping of The Colour. We felt very underdressed in our

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jeans and flip flops!



The Cabinet War Rooms were fantastic. We spent almost 3 hours exploring the endless underground corridors and rooms- the hub of the British War Logistics and where Churchill lead us to victory.



After the war ended, the underground war office was closed- with everything left inside, maps, office items and everything else, and not found until about twenty years later- with everything as it was on the day we won the

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war. The map room you can see above is completely original and how to was left/ found.

There is an extensive Churchill museum which has many of Churchill's clothes and personal items. It was an absolutely brilliant way to spend the morning and we highly recommend it- but advise you to prebook.



We managed to time our exit so that we enjoyed the Battle of Britain fly past which was lovely!

https://adventuresinamotorhome.files.wordpress.com/2018/06/img_8388.mov

Having lived in London for many years we've

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done most of the normal tourist sites many times before so after lunch at Bubba Gumps, we spent the afternoon having a wander around Soho taking in the atmosphere and having a drink stop here and there.



Keith had no idea, but I'd arranged for his friends to meet us at 5pm at Covent Garden for the evening, his face was a picture!



We enjoyed a curry at the Strand Tandoori and then a drink on the river Thames, at the Tattershall Castle- right opposite the London Eye, before catching our night bus back to

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the campsite.



Sunday morning arrived and we had a little bit of a woolly head. Obviously dehydrated.. Ahem □. Nothing that a eggs and bacon bap and a cold can of coke didn't fix! We were back into London, this time in or "above average" camping clothes. We were being treated to Brunch at AquaShard (up the Shard) by Keith's Dad and stepmom.



It was the first time we have eaten there and it was excellent. It's not cheap, but the quality of the food was great and the views are marvellous. Definitely the best restaurant view in London.

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After a long leisurely Brunch we bid farewell to Barry and Valerie and as the sunshine was glorious had a stroll down Southbank, stopping at a couple of bars on route before making our way back to Ruby on the number 3 from Trafalgar Square.



We just scratched the surface of London activities as we've done many of them before. What we can't understand is why we've never stayed at this campsite before!

At just £25 pn we highly recommend it for a London trip- but, be quick - sadly it's closing at the end of this year! Sad face.

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Trip info

- Stayed at **Crystal Palace Caravan Club Site**
- No. 3 bus from Crystal Palace to Trafalgar Square – 1 hour trip, £1.50 each way (payable by contactless or Oyster card)
- **TFL transport checker** was very useful
- **Cabinet War Rooms**
- **Crusting Pipe Wine Bar** my favourite spot for a vino in London. Watch the Covent Garden musicians with a lovely glass of wine
- **Tattersall Castle** – best bar on the Thames (in my opinion!)
- **AquaShard** – fine dining restaurant

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with amazing views

Until next time

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