

Goodbye to the EU Partitour June 2019, the Searson version.

Lizanne and I set off on the Nevada, with a full load of luggage, on Wednesday 19th June. We were collecting some Round Britain Rally landmarks on our way south to catch the Newhaven to Dieppe ferry on Saturday morning. Staying over one night at Buckingham and two nights at Lewes in East Sussex. Lewes is a nice little town between the South Downs and the Weald. See pictures below of the view from the castle keep.



We stayed in the White Hart hotel, parts of which date back to Tudor times, see our bedroom and the lounge shown below.



It was a good billet in the centre of town with good access and off street parking but our room overlooked the main street and was a bit noisy with street cleaning in the mornings.



We boarded the Ferry in Newhaven at about 7.45 am and the bike was stowed securely.



Leaving Newhaven and arriving at Dieppe 4 ½ hrs later, Saturday 22nd June.



We then had another night on our own in Beauvais, north of Paris before joining the rest of the touring team at the Hotel Tulipier, at Vienne le Chateau, nr Verdun.

Where we gave everyone on the tour a “Neckie” to remember the trip by. See the nice sensible people trying them out for suitability!



Some of the team did not wish to be identified as Jenny Clegg takes a picture!
This is a superb hostelry with good food and service, it was a shame to leave!

The following morning it was already hotting up, 20+ degrees before we left.



The Nevada was on her own, the only one in the shade for a cool load up in the morning. Whilst Collin looks on at the Cleggs loading up in the hot sun! There were 10 people and 7 bikes all told on this tour organized by Mark Soave (the retiring chairman).

After a 207 ml ride convoying with the Cleggs, in ever increasing heat, we were grateful for a cool beer in the garden at Bischwihr, nr Colmar in Alsace Lorraine. Not far from the Rhine.



There were a lot of Chinese/Japanese staying here too on a coach trip and they were very noisy when they left in the early morning!

We headed off North and after an initial hiccup convoyed about 200 miles, with the Cleggs criss-crossing the Rhine to avoid Strasbourg and minimize motorways. Past Trifels castle (home of Barbarossa) and finally crossing the Rhine by ferry from Bingen to Rudesheim.



Both bikes on ferry with the Neiderwald monument in view atop the opposite hillside.

We arrived at our hotel with the temperature now at 38 degrees!



We were staying at the Hotel Trapp near the centre of town with underground parking. It had a theme of DUCKS as the lady of the house collected them in all their non live forms!

See pictures from the ladies bathroom below.



We were here for two very hot nights, no aircon but the rooms and nearby restaurants were very good, this being a tourist town for all nationalities.

The following day we all went up the hillside by Seilbahn (small cable car) over the vineyards to the Neiderwald monument. This statue of Germania was erected to celebrate winning the Franco-Prussian war in 1870/71 and the subsequent formation of Germany.



A rare pic of James in a cable car, however it was nice and breezy in the open cars.

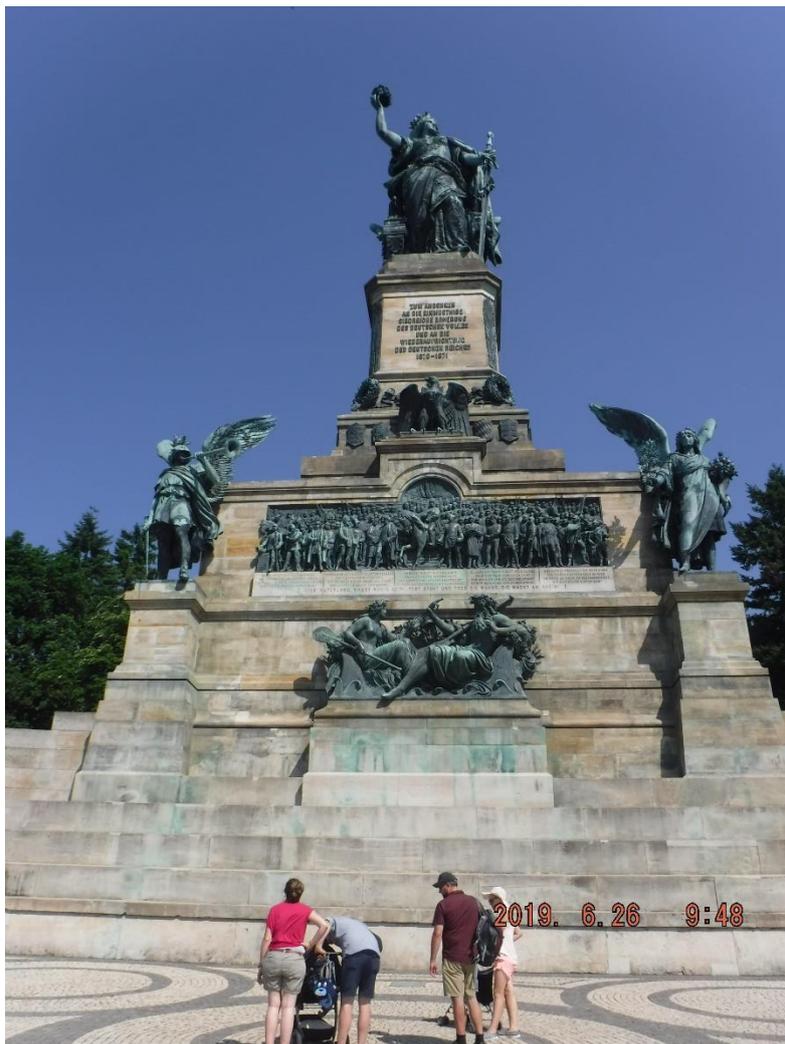
The views from the top and the monument itself were quite spectacular.



The Rhine is a major waterway here with ferries crossing it and large barges plus cruise ships making their way up and down it.



The four solo riders on the tour, Mark, Graham, Collin and Alistair, enjoying the scenery.



The Neiderwald Monument is massive.



The 2J's (James & Jennifer Clegg) stride out in search of shade.



Enjoying a cool drink on the walk back down through the vineyards.



Two views of the 'Drosselgasse' (the street of lost souls) a famous street of bars and micro breweries, with an excellent ice cream parlour at the bottom.



We had some good traditional German food in the town at the Bar-stube, Lizanne has a Haloumi salad and I have a Jaeger Schnitzel mit fries und salat plus good German beer!



Two Moto Guzzis and their crews stop for a break and drink en-route from Rudesheim through Luxembourg to La Roche en Ardenne in Belgium about 170 miles.



Staying at La Claire Fontaine for 2 nights about a mile out of the town itself. The ladies were not coming out of the shade for a mere photograph.



Had an excellent meal at the hotel with the Cleggs on the day of arrival, too hot to go walking into town after a long day on the bikes.



The view from our room and balcony, looking towards the Cleggs' room in the opposite gable end of the annexe. Nice garden area to the rear running down to the river Ourthe, which passes through the town.

The following day we walked into town to see the sights, a nice little town.



No of course the ladies don't want any Belgian chocolate do they?



I might have found our next touring bike, in the museum to the battle of the bulge.



A view of the town from the castle and the castle from the riverside walk.



The river from the riverside walk, which was thankfully in the shade, temps still 30+ degrees. Then back to the hotel for a meal all together before the tour broke up.

We left La Roche on the Saturday morning, on our own again now, bound for Zeebrugge and the overnight ferry to Hull. A ride of about 190 miles through Belgium. As we didn't want to queue for long at the terminal we went to a museum "For Freedom" at Knokke Heist, all about the life & liberation of this area during the second world war. It passed the time nicely and it also has a good café, well worth a visit.



Waiting to board the ferry in Zeebrugge, temp 34 deg above left.

Then queuing to passport control in the dockyard at Hull 9.45am Sunday, temp 19 deg but thankfully dry. We then went to Morrisons for a coffee whilst the traffic cleared the docks. Home for 12.45pm comfortably 1,507 miles all told home to home over 12 days.

Yet another very enjoyable IMTC tour, organized this time by Mr Mark Soave, thanks very much Mark.