

GS Road Trip Europe-Spain-Italy-Balkans.

(Sarane 15th May)



Friends, it's now been a month on the roads since the last blog, three more months to go; Back from Africa, Morocco, we had a look at Gibraltar, unprepared by the number of Monkeys at GIB. Legend has it, as long as the monkeys are there, Gibraltar will remain British. With the current Brexit consequences, it may put the legend to a test. In Spain, Ronda is a place worth a visit. So also, Park Guell Barcelona. We managed to get a Paella, before leaving Spain for France and Colliure, the very quaint Town bottom right of France. In Monaco, all preparations were being made for the Formula 1. We got ourselves a drink at the Pit, and rode part of the track and took a quick look at the iconic Casino.

We followed the coastline to Italy through hundreds of tunnels across the so many ravines to Rome, for a three-night stay in a cabin at Campo Roma. We tried a courtesy bus to get in to town next day for a whole day of touring. Next day, the BMW GS tourist ride was stressful, but got us around much faster and covering more attractions.

Unlike 5 years ago, you now can't ride all the way up to St Peters Square for photoshoot of the bike and the Pope's "cabin" anymore

For all its slow riding and sometimes heavy traffic, Amalfi coast is a must visit for its views. Having done Pompeii last time, we also had a close look at Naples instead this time, with traffic much like Rome.

Across the Italian "Boot" to Bari, which proved to be quite a nice town to visit. We took passage for the Balkans, costing only about 155Euro, with a cabin for an overnight vehicle crossing was a bargain.

Overall Albania and Macedonia were very cheap and good value. Like how's 30 Euro for 4-star Grand Hotel stay on the beach with a breakfast buffet for 2! Albania will be heard of more as a tourist destination for sure. We tried one of Europe's best MC Roads over the Mountains on a winding 120 k ride, very high, with awesome curves (serpentine) and views, from Vlore to Sarande.



Our BMW Garmin GPS has been all but a total failure in so many ways and with change of direction advice in the last second sometimes, downright dangerous. Once we passed the SAME 7 Euro Toll booth 3 times, paying each time. The "latest" Europe maps I bought months before leaving were, sometimes terribly out of date. Maybe it's just my device, which is all I can report on. It's now deteriorated to not giving any direction advice or not even showing current location more than sporadically. (others may have had a better experience?) Our six year old TomTom Rider by comparison, with less fancy options, was a Star performer 28,000 k Europe and 40,000 k USA. Navigation wise, we now survive by Google Map saved jpg files and the starting advice on the GPS (only) when starting a destination (no progressive directional advice). Next is Greece and then back to northern Italy and northward.

Below the ride log kilometres---Regards Michael and Ann and our GS (Violet)

Travel Log Roaming Dingoes Tour 2017 From 14th Apr, as at 15th May 2017			
(first Month)			
Kilometers	Miles	Sequence	Country entered
218	136	United Kingdom, GBR	
2,877	1,798	France, FRA	
3,445	2,153	Spain, ESP	
12	8	Monaco, MCO	
1,606	1,004	Portugal, PRT	
7	4	Gibraltar GIB	
786	491	Morocco, MAR	
1,707	1,067	Italy, ITA	
512	320	Albania, ALB	
58	36	Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of, MKD	
Total	11,228	7,018	