

Roaming Dingo Road Trip Europe, the South East).

(Budapest 10th June)



Time to catch up with the Blog again. BTW, in Albania, mentioned before, we also took short trip around Ohrid Lake in neighboring Macedonia which is a trip we can recommend.

Greece landed a surprise. Via a bridge, we rode beautiful Lefkada island, ready for the next Greek Island, just to be told about a complete Ferry strike (all islands) for up to a week. So we back-tracked up the mainland and headed for Athens..

My left upper jaw had been painful for almost a week now. I was down to eating just yoghurt, popping Voltaren and Panadol like candy, having sleepless nights and starting to climb the walls. Not good for safe riding. There was something very wrong. Yes I do have 6 monthly dentist checks and special detailed checks before the trip.

Via the Swedish embassy (we're dual citizen, handy with EU passport) I found a first class Dentist the next day in Athens (Swedish trained and spoken). She was the best dentist I've ever had. The X-ray revealed inflammation in upper left jaw bone and a bugged three pronged root canal, plus a broken chew tooth lower left. Two treatments 3 days in between, 4 hours total in the chair, 3 X-rays and I was all fixed up. It cost me 280 Euro (\$350), how's that? The process forced an extra couple of days of stay in Athens, which we used touring and to do an oil change on the bike.

Leaving Athens for Mt Olympus, the Garmin GPS really took us for a ride. We ran out road and even of goat track and were chased by two large angry and savage sheep dogs on what appeared to be private land, 'Well, there were sheep and closed gates. Thessaloniki was like the Marseille of Greece with a deep water harbour right up to the cappuccino cafes, on shore winds even whipping up surf. After Thessaloniki, to our surprise the Garmin GPS recovered. Maybe it found its (minimum?) number of satellites. It has since performed OK, except for a long list of base GPS directional idiosyncrasies and short comings, (like taking you onto goat tracks to save 2 kilometres, instead of staying on the main road, regardless of settings, etc.).


Next was one of the great highlights of the trip, the National Park of Durmitor in Montenegro, Friends don't miss this one, It was euphoric riding! We then had some typical touring in Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia, Slovenia and Croatia. The Croatian coast is really the Cote D'Azur of the Balkans, or highway one up California. Whilst star coast road locations like Dubrovnik, Bar, Pula, etc. could be crowded, don't miss it. Slovenia had high country roads and rain. Great roads, we were just unlucky with the weather. We had another dip into Croatia before the really high Alps of Austria and Alpine Italy.



You can't control the weather, so we soldiered on at Grossglockner, Frans Josef glacier and all the alpine passes of the Dolomites, some places with down to +3.9C. They were fantastic motorcycle roads, unfortunately with 70% rain and fog. It was demanding and with that fog, the views weren't always there. Stills, it was epic riding.

We had saved legendary Stelvio pass for last, knowing it would be SUNNY, and it sure was. Fantastic whole day experience. We suggest you budget for a margin to wait for the right weather when riding these roads. Next we headed for the Swiss roads and via South Tyrol (Italy) to Austria, where amongst many things we took the very cable car that Richard burton fought a life struggle in the Movie epic "Where Eagles Dare" a great ride in old style cable car, and of course the roads to get there were great. Next on our list is Budapest in Hungary. (and we have more than 2 months yet to go) Michael and Ann.

Travel Log Roaming Dingoes Tour 2017 from 14th Apr, as at 8th June

				(first seven weeks)		
				Kilometers	Miles	
	218	136	United Kingdom, GBR			
	2,877	1,798	France, FRA			
	3,445	2,153	Spain, ESP			
	1,606	1,004	Portugal, PRT			
	786	491	Morocco, MAR			
	7	4	Gibraltar, GIB			
	12	8	Monaco, MCO			
	2,122	1,326	Italy, ITA			
	563	352	Albania, ALB			
	58	36	Macedonia, MKD			
	1,425	891	Greece, GRC			
	533	333	Bulgaria, BGR			
	696	435	Romania, ROU			
	425	266	Serbia, SRB			
	988	618	Croatia, HRV			
	486	304	Bosnia and Herzegovina, BIH			
444	278	Montenegro, MNE				
185	116	Slovenia, SVN				
964	603	Austria, AUT				
33	21	Switzerland, CHE				
92	58	Germany, DEU				
	17,965	11,228	TOTAL			