

# ASOC traveller

Number 1



Welcome to the first issue of ASOC Traveller.

We are experimenting with members travels as a supplement to the monthly magazine. We hope to publish as often as we can, but this will depend what and when members send off their travel stories to us.

We have also included aires that you might find useful.

If you have any travel stories and you would like to tell other members about them, just let the editor know.



## Stellplatz Romerquellen

Zell am Mosel



50.016884, 7.176833

<https://goo.gl/maps/UFDc1G3tVS9Vax8F9>

On the edge of a lovely Mosel town, 9€ per night. Marked pitches and some electric hook-ups on a pay as you use basis. Adjacent to town indoor facility of swimming and leisure pools. Many excellent restaurants and wineries.

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*front cover:* Checking out the vines in the Mosel

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# WATTEN

Co-ordinates 50.831327, 2.208838  
<https://goo.gl/maps/wruiFUwnwffe4oBRA>

Ten spaces. Free to stay but services €4, tokens available in town.

Carrefour Supermarket and petrol 1 mile away.

The Blockhouse at Eperleques about 2 miles – V2 launch site.

Excellent overnight stop before or after Channel crossing.



# WE'RE BACK IN EUROPE

Chris and Peter Brown

It's the end of May and we're back on the Continent. We travelled via the Tunnel and as usual with no hassle, although we did have our passports stamped.

We headed for Zell am Mosel to meet up with Liz Irvin, Sid Cass and Martin Ross and make a visit to our favourite vintner, who we haven't seen since 2019, and thanks to Brexit we can no longer get wine posted to us (not without a huge surcharge). We strolled over the bridge from the Stellplatz, along with Liz (as usual) and Sid (who we dragged along for the experience – I think he enjoyed it.) around 4pm for our wine tasting and weaved our way back around 6pm having ordered our wine for the holiday.

Next day Liz, Sid, Peter and myself took a boat along the Mosel, three of us to Enkirch and Sid all the way to Bernkastel.

The three of us then walked over the Hohenweg back to Zell, about 10k. It was an interesting walk, up through the vineyards, then through the woods, stopping off at a roman fort and temple, and getting spectacular views through the trees. Coming down was quite steep, but some thoughtful pilgrim had left a stout staff by the path, which Liz found of great help.

We left Zell on third June and headed for Vezac in the Dordogne stopping at Aires en route, one of which was Lac du Der, which is apparently the largest artificial lake in Europe. It seems to be a popular holiday centre with two aires at only €6 a night, with bars, shops, restaurants, walks, activity areas and a marina.

We met up with Liz, Sid and Martin at Vezac, staying for eight nights at Les Deux Vallee. From the campsite we walked to the gardens at Marquessqac on one day, and the castle at Castelnaud on another. We also took the van off site and visited Roque St Christophe. Whilst there we also celebrated Sid's birthday with a gorgeous cake and fizz. Martin and Sid went on a canoe trip along the Dordogne and missed their stop off point, which provided an interesting couple of hours, but with the help of some local youths and the canoe company they were recovered and returned to us in good order.

After Vezac we headed for Le Grand-Bornand via Le Puy. Le Grand-Bornand is a pretty town where we've held rallies in the past. Being just the two of us this time we





Roque Saint-Christophe ▼

▲Castelnaud







had the opportunity to see more of it and we did bump into a couple Peter knew from the AS Forum, with whom we spent a couple of very pleasant evenings.

We walked up to la Table d'Orientation which is a pleasant walk. We took the bus into Annecy on another day, had a round trip to Auberge Nordique and the cable car up Mont Lachat de Chatillon to check on Mont Blanc and watch the paragliders. We were particularly impressed with one guy who took off and did a perfect 360 'cartwheel' I suppose you'd call it, but when he failed to carry on we realised it wasn't intentional and he'd crashed. Fortunately he was ok. We

▲ *Mont Lachat*

◀ *The Marqueyssac gardens*

▼ *Annecy*





took a local bus to Chinailon and walked back via La Cascade Mysterieux and over the Pont Romaines.

When we had been here previously we walked over the 'hill' to St Jean de Sixt and found ourselves in the middle of a festival which consisted, among other things, a music competition comprising local bands and bands from their 'twin town' in Germany. Unfortunately, this year we found a newly constructed village centre and only one band, who were in competition with the church bells ringing loud and long in celebration of someone's wedding.

We stopped again at Zell for our home wine order and whilst there did a pleasant walk, though the first part felt like primeval forest. Once we got out of the forest though, it was lovely walking along the ridge toward the far end of Zell and we found an interesting cemetery by the medieval tower (as seen from the village).

In hindsight we'd planned far too much travelling. It will also be known as the 'Trip of the Stuck Cupboards' – the wet locker stuck, the bathroom cabinet stuck and the pan cupboard stuck. All for different reasons but all having to be unstuck in very hot temperatures, in addition to which Peter left the electric hob on and the cooker top shattered. We're still finding bits of glass, although it has been replaced now.

Anyway, one reason for the trip to the Dordogne was to look at the viability of having a rally at Les Deux Vallee next year. Some of you may remember it was planned for 2020 but Covid got in the way. But we've had conversations with the site owners and all things being equal details will be posted in ASOC News later this year.

## WILL WE, WON'T WE?

Janis and Mike Wood 4201



Earlier in the year it was a case of will we won't we go abroad this year? It may be our last, with time passing so fast! Or with Brexit and Covid, and then trouble at P&O, could we be bothered? But eventually we set off in early June, Janis wanting to be at home for the Jubilee Celebrations.

We had chosen the Netherlands, a) because of the cycling & b) because of the ever increasing price of diesel! To be fair we also wanted a relaxing holiday, rather than travelling hundreds of miles, which is difficult to do in Holland.

Even though we were told we couldn't take any meat or dairy products, there were no checks at the border, wished I'd filled the fridge!

Looking at the forecast, we decided to travel anti-clockwise, and so our first stop was Kinderdijk.

40 kms from Europort. This was an excellent Aire with good facilities, hardstanding and grass to sit on. Next day we cycled to see the many varied windmills along the canal, where there was a museum, but with so many tourists we gave it a miss.

Aiming for the old town of Amersfoort we arrived at a large site at Woudenberg. At the entrance was a red double decker bus selling snacks and ice cream, so we immediately felt at home and the staff were very helpful, and spoke perfect English, of course. After a relaxing day, we cycled into Amersfoort, a pretty historic town, with surrounding walls. Next day we walked through woods to a huge lake with a beach and a bridge to an island, making for a picturesque walk.

*below: Campsite at Elburg*



So we were sorry to leave this site after four nights and made for Ermelo. Now the weather was warming up, and it could have been a Bank Holiday, because all the sites on Flevoland were full. So we came off the island and finally stayed at Elburg. What a surprise this site was. Situated in a smallish private estate, we were surrounded by lush green lawns and rose beds....so peaceful!

Elburg was an interesting medieval town, with a busy marina. The following day the temperature reached 33 degrees in the shade, so a ride to the local windmill was enough!

After five nights in this idyllic spot, we moved on to Zwolle. This town had walls with beautiful gates and a magnificent cathedral, and was surrounded by a canal. As it was so much cooler cycling, we aimed for Hassalt, some 10 kms away. But we didn't anticipate having to take our bikes on a precarious punt across a river to get there! However, it was worth the unusual experience to visit another old historic small town and enjoy their delicious apple cake.

Moving on after three nights in Zwolle, we crossed the 30kms Markerwaarddijk causeway, which separates the IJsselmeer from the Markermeer and arrived in Enkhuizen which had a huge marina bordered by many cafes and restaurants. We struggled to find this site and the entrance was uninviting, but the actual campsite was excellent and centrally located. The weather was still hot, so a storm in the night provided some respite. We cycled along the ramparts which bordered the site with the river alongside, and the sunsets were spectacular.

*below and right: The city walls of Elburg*





We then made a short journey to Hoorn, and amazingly were able to have the same pitch by the side of the canal which we'd had on a previous visit, perfect! It was a 3km cycle ride into town, which had many interesting and very old buildings and, of course, a busy harbour. Later we enjoyed the freedom of traffic free cycle rides along numerous trails, a delight. Though sometimes we got lost, but the locals were always willing to help.

Another short hop took us to Edam, which is famous for its cheese and of course, we couldn't resist buying a large chunk.....delicious. This was a very small, compact town with hardly any cafes, much to Mike's dismay. Eventually we found one outside the Stadhuis serving the usual appletart!

Next day on arrival in Volendam, we were surprised to find how touristy and busy this small port was, but enjoyed drinks and local snacks whilst watching the many craft go in and out.

For our last site we made for Delft, always a very busy site, so we were pleased we'd booked in advance. Here there is an outdoor swimming pool, very inviting. a new modern Sanitair, which has been built whilst they were closed for Covid. There was also a Bistro and takeaway, and very well stocked shop where we ordered our daily baguette. The site is situated in a Country Park called Delft Hout, with many cycle tracks making for interesting rides.

We did find that food in Holland was quite expensive, and although we stayed at ACCI sites, it was advisable to ring ahead to book as they were busier than usual due to the Dutch having staycations.

As we made our way back to the Ferry Terminal, we reflected on eight very different sites and four very relaxing enjoyable weeks, with beautiful weather, and realised we'd made the right decision after all. ❖

Let us have your travel stories





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