

GS Road Trip Europe, East to North).

(Gefle 24th June)



(City Hall Icon of Stockholm Sweden)

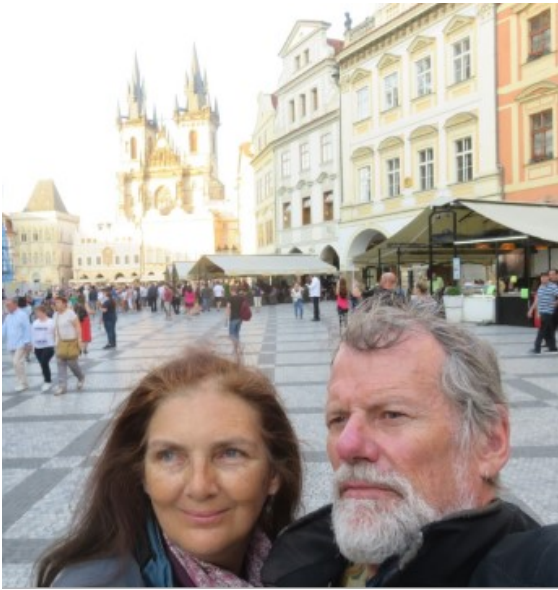
Budapest (Hungary) was a special City, with emotional war memories like those special bronze shoes (so life like) left as men, women and children were machine gunned, with bodies falling in to the Danube river or the several memorials to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who gave up friends, career and his life, to save hundreds from the Nazis. Krakow (Poland) had its memorials, like the "Schindler's list" factory, salt mines and of course, Auschwitz, which was much larger than I expected. I mention these, because they took us away from the fast roads and into some very enjoyable country roads. Entering Czech Republic was almost without any border control and it was our last time to pull out the passport for customs. On this trip, in Prague (Czech Republic), we spent a whole day and night to really check out this iconic city, with its special huge cobble stone streets and criss-crossing street cars. Near Warsaw (Poland), we found a private car and bike museum containing amongst many other brands, 20 very good condition Rolls Royces, with a few Silver Ghosts and up to more modern ones. The previous Pope was remembered in the city, as were several war memorials. Northern Poland had many choices of great motorcycle roads through Sherwood-like forest. In one of those you'll also find the Wolf's Lair, the place of the most serious assassination attempt on Hitler took place, but it's much more than that. It was like a whole city of two-three story bunkers with three-meter-thick concrete walls, to protect or house important Nazis by the hundreds.

Kaliningrad (Russian enclave state) changed their Visa rules, making it much harder to visit, so instead we went to Riga in Lithuania, for many of Ann's researched attractions and some nice roads, and of course no border controls at all as we cruised up through Latvia and into Estonia. Tallinn in Estonia was our favourite, with medieval type streets and alleys with restaurants and shopping. Parking the bike was no hassle. From Tallinn, we took the ferry (Tallinn link) to Åland Islands. The ship was not like a ferry but more like a cruise ship with glass, mirror, brass and velvet surroundings in Bars, Cafes, Casinos, Nightclubs, Shops and Restaurants. You would also enjoy the price! Looking at the price for two 9 hour cruises, two people and motorbike and cabin first to Åland then on to Stockholm we paid a total of \$500. You can also go direct to Stockholm from Tallinn.

Åland Island is a self-governed Finnish province of mainly Swedish culture. With some persistence, we managed to do 220 k here across the islands. It's a sleepy holiday island area but had some sentimental value for us. What every tourist would really enjoy is cruising into the Swedish archipelago to Stockholm by ship in golden yellow sunshine and blue sky (The Swedish Flag). It was awesome. Stockholm is my birth place and the Green Grass of home and we enjoyed all the special places for a couple of days. Traffic was easy and in no time at all we took a trip north to Uppsala before swinging south to Motala visiting my sister and celebrate midsummer festivities.

We must have saved a lot this trip in petrol, food and accommodation going Italy and all those countries in the Balkans and then up eastern Europe, instead of going through price levels of central Europe.


The next part of our journey would see us heading way north to the midnight sun after visiting old biker friends in Gefle. The scenery, roads and attractions so far have been all we could possibly have wished for, save for some rainy days in the Northern Balkans.



In Prague



Auschwitz

Travel Log Roaming Dingoes Tour 2017 from 14th Apr, as at 24th June				
			(first nine+, 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, the Former Yugoslav Republic of, 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
		1,070	669	Austria, AUT
		33	21	Switzerland, CHE
	92	58	Germany, DEU	
	312	195	Hungary, HUN	
	219	137	Slovakia, SVK	
	1,170	731	Poland, POL	
	608	380	Czech Republic, CZE	
	559	349	Lithuania, LTU	
	271	169	Latvia, LVA	
	209	131	Estonia, EST	
	226	141	Aland Islands, ALA	
	1,162	726	Sweden, SWE	
	22,807	14,254	TOTAL	