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 $Some\ images\ from\ Google\ Street\ view.\ Some\ historical\ information\ was\ rounded\ out\ with\ information\ from\ Wikipedia.$

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Up early, we both exercised and did our final pack. 10:00 am, Drove to Austin 11:15 am, Drop of car at Fast Park and Relax

11:30 am, After getting checking in at the Delta kiosk, I notice one of the zippers on by backpack is open; hopped back on one of the Fast Park busses, and rode back to the car, by my liquids bag was nowhere to be found. Back to the terminal and zipped through security, thanks to our TSA Prev. We headed to the Austin Article shop near our gate, and bought new shampoo and lotion. Got a call from Gracie, who was there picking up Pablo, so we headed to Ray Benson's food court and had brisket breakfast tacos. Gracie and Pablo headed out, and we headed to our gate.

1:36 pm, board.



Austin to Salt Lake City flight on the RJ 900 went fairly smoothly, and our mini luggage fit in the overhead bins where most folks had to gate check their bags. We enjoyed flying over the lake, but we arrived in Terminal B, instead of D, as we expected; so we had to run from B13 to D6. Looking at our boarding passes for the next leg, we noticed that the seats had changed since we booked, even since we had checked the night before... due to an equipment change from a 747 to a 767, so we hurriedly got that fixed and got seats together, in our desired spot of a two seat group, with one by the window. We had just a few minutes to notice how SLC is almost in a bowl, surrounded by green mountains with traces of snow on them...





We boarded right on time for our Salt Lake City to Paris flight, but we were parked at the gate for a bit as they fixed one of the toilets that was leaking to the point that we would have had no water on the flight.

5:30 pm, we took off, about 20 minutes late.

Later, our dinner was chicken Salad that Susann enjoyed, and chicken with tomato sauce that I did not.

Susann watched the movie Joy while I watched Deadpool.

About half way through the flight, we were served chicken/ turkey and chees on a bun, and I watched the Finest Hours.

I must say, the Delta mainline aircraft were very nice... the seatback entertainment system is touch screen, with a USB port, and we could use the onboard wifi to check the Delta app to check on gates, etc., for free.

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Sunrise was pretty spectacular, but re-watching the original Ocean's 11 was a bit of a letdown. Breakfast was cheese, a biscuit (cookie), juice, with coffee and tea.

11:30, landed, just a few minutes late.

12:30, clear passport control and border protection, and made the long hike across CDG to the RER station





The RER is basically a subway train that runs part of its route above ground... pretty packed with luggage and all, and some 'interesting' Buskers who rode along for one leg.

13:30, Approaching the Gare du Norde railway station, we could see Sacre Cœur, and then had another bit of a hike to the Métro station. Four stops north, and we exited at the Marcadet Poissoniers station.



We popped up out the station on Barbès, in the Montmartre neighborhood, walked just one block to the south, then around the corner, and half a block up on the left to our hotel, the Amarys Simart, nestled between a laundry shop and a driving school.



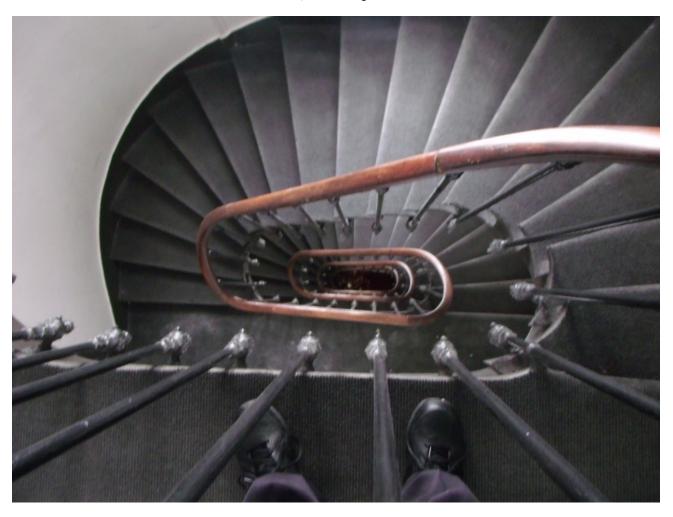


13:45, An incredibly gregarious and jovial African fellow with great English checked us into room, after several attempts to find a room that had already been serviced by the staff. The down side, it was on the 5th floor, and there was no elevator. Good thing we packed lightly!

We noted the breakfast area was just to the right of the counter, and headed down the hall to the dreaded stair case. On our way up, we notice the strong smell of paint, and there was obvious work being done on the second and third floors. The stairs were a tight spiral with definite slopes to some treads, but we finally made it to the 4th floor. (In Europe, it is ground floor, then first floor, then second floor, and so on, so the 4th floor to them is the 5th floor to us... all we knew was it was a lot of stairs.



Room map not to scale... but the raised shower was right next to the toilet.



The view, looking down from the 4th floor landing, and the direction sign just behind, on the wall.



The view out the balcony window.







Room 46. No closet, just an open wardrobe with a few shelves and a place to hang clothes, plus a small desk.



After unpacking, we knew we'd never fall asleep later if we crashed, so off we went. From my planning before we left, I knew there was a Carrefour store just south on Barbès, so we walked just half a block down Simart to Barbès, and went south. We were a bit of a sight, picking up conditioner bottles and trying to decide which would be better. We also grabbed some instant coffee for Susann, and some cookies.

Finally we were ready to do some exploring, so walked south to the Château Rouge Métro stop and looked around, all the construction, then dropped down to the Métro station to head to lle de Cité. For the first day, we had purchased a set of 5-zone passes... while they were good on the RER train to get us from the airport to Paris, they were also good for unlimited travel on the Métro for the rest of the day.



We popped up in the middle of the island, and walked by St. Chapelle, c. 1246, which we visited in 2005, and headed around the Palais du Justice de Paris and Conciergerie, to the north side of the island.



What had been a light mist turned in to a pretty hard down pour, so up came the hoods as we looked east toward Hotel de Ville, the old town hall.



We then walked west toward Pont Neuf. We passed the Conciergerie and walked around the Palais du Justice de Paris. The Conciergerie used to be a royal palace, then a prison (one prisoner of note was Marie Antionette), but today is mostly used for Courts of Law. From the sixteenth century to the French Revolution the Palais du Justice de Paris was the seat of the Parlement de Paris.

The building was reconstructed between 1857 and 1868 and was opened in October 1868. It was awarded the Grand Prix de l'Empereur as the greatest work of art produced in France in that decade.



Pont Neuf



By now we were getting soaked, so back to the Métro, and we rode up to hotel, to drop off our stuff. We had seen a lot of cheap food shops near Château Rouge, so now armed with umbrellas, we headed down and we found a place that had chicken, drink (Orangina), and an ice cream sundae dessert for €10 for both of us.

We then walked south on Barbès just to explore. We then went into the Barbès – Rochechouart station on Paris Métro Line 2 and Line 4, at the point where the 9th, 10th, and 18th arrondissements all share a single point. The 4 line we needed was below ground, but at this point the 2 line ran above ground.

18:00, back to the hotel, up the stairs, and settled in for the evening. We left the balcony door open for a bit to let the paint fumes clear. The wifi was a bit weak, but the iPad was able to upload the few pictures I had taken. The blackout curtains certainly helped, as the sun stayed up until about 22:00 at this latitude.

Thursday, May 19, 2016

While the bed was comfortable, the bath was pretty much a joke. The old place had the shower raised about 1 foot up, I supposed to allow room for plumbing, and the toilet took ages to fill. I'm not sure the place was to American plumbing code, as there was often a slight sewer gas odor, but not too big a deal as we did not spend a lot of time in there. Another small issue was that I had to go downstairs each day and borrow one of the two or three hair dryers they had for the entire place. Not a big deal if you have an elevator, we did not.

7:00 down for breakfast. The hotel breakfast, which we got as part of our special booking, included: juice, coffee or tea, French bread, cheese or Nutella, croissants, cereal, and a pastry with apple and chocolate.

9:30, in light rain we walked half a block down Simart to Barbès, then up a block to one the two Métro station entrances.



We now started using our 5 day, 3 zone passes. Great deal, but boy were they hard to keep track off, they were perhaps .75" wide and maybe 2" long.

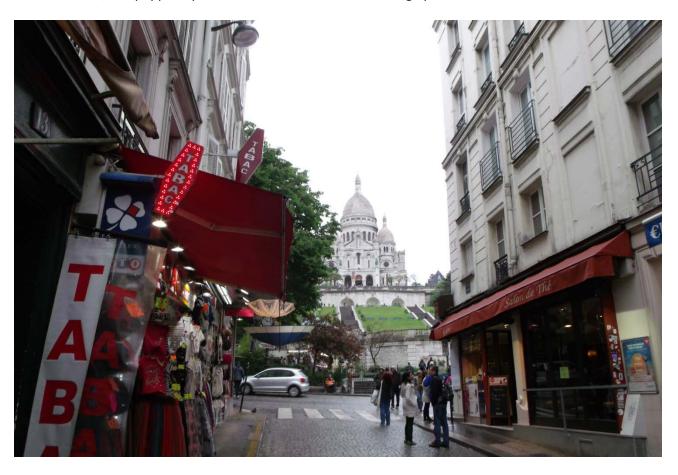


We rode the Métro to Barbès – Rochechouart, then changed lines and rode to Blanche, coming out right across from the Moulin Rouge. Our original plan was to ride the Petit Train around Montmartre to Sacré-Cœur, but it was a few minutes before the train supposedly started running so we walked around the sex shops and tree lined boulevards for a bit, getting to Place de Clichy, then reversing and walking to Pigalle before heading back to Blanche.

The Moulin Rouge first built in 1889, is best known as the spiritual birthplace of the modern form of the cancan dance. Originally introduced as a seductive dance by the courtesans who operated from the site, the can-can dance revue evolved into a form of entertainment of its own and a place loved by artists, of whom the most iconic was Toulouse-Lautrec. His posters and paintings secured rapid and international fame for the Moulin Rouge. Which led to the introduction of cabarets across Europe. Today, the club's decor still contains much of the romance of fin de siècle France.



After a bit, it was pretty obvious the train was not going to run in the rain, so we hopped back on the Métro, rode to Anvers, and popped up at the base of Montmartre, looking up at Sacré-Cœur.



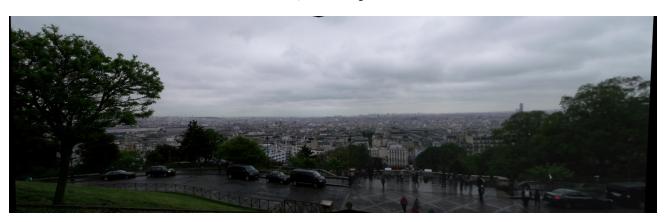
There were close to 100 stairs to get up to the basilica, but we stopped several times to admire the views, appreciate the fountains, and perhaps to catch our breath.











Sacré-Cœur is not all that old. A popular landmark, the basilica is located at the summit of the butte Montmartre, the highest point in the city. Sacré-Cœur is a both a political and cultural monument. The Basilica was designed by Paul Abadie; construction began in 1875 and was finished in 1914. However, it was consecrated after the end of World War I in 1919.



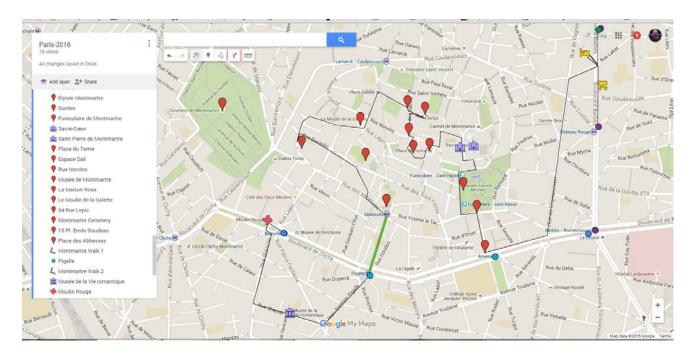
A model of Sacré-Cœur

Sacré-Cœur is built of travertine stone quarried in Château-Landon (Seine-et-Marne), France. This stone constantly exudes calcite, which ensures that the basilica remains white even with weathering and pollution.

The interior of Sacré-Cœur.



For our Montmartre walking tour, we followed a route from http://www.aparisguide.com/montmartre/

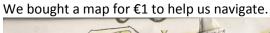


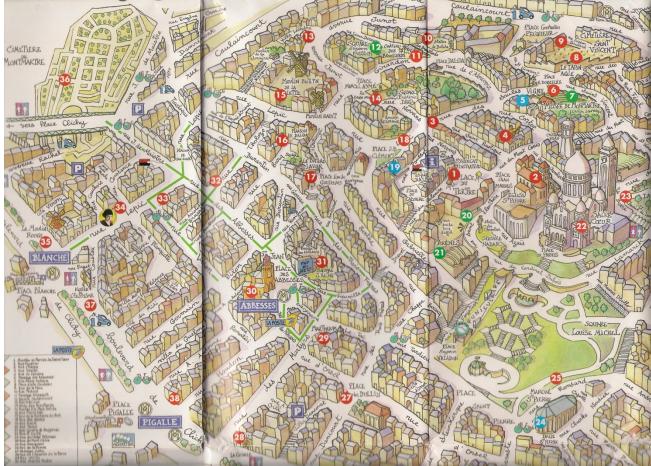
Another nearby church is even more interesting historically is the Church of St. Pierre which is one of the oldest in Paris and even contains some original Roman columns. (they say Dante came here to pray). The name Montmartre was originally Roman meaning "Mount of Mars" but was later changed by less pagan French to "Mount of Martyrs" or Montmartre.

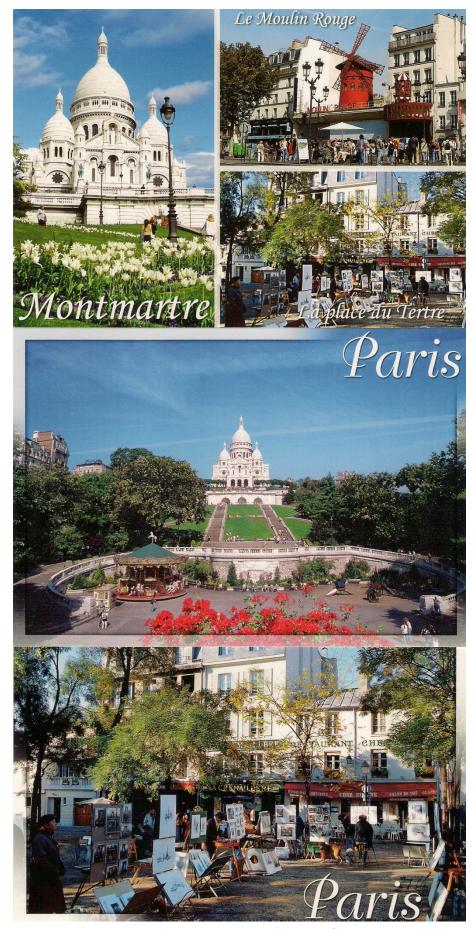


Across the street is the Place du Tertre where the legends of 20th century art used to roam. Now it's filled with watercolors, portrait sketchers and caricaturists. You can't blame them for trying to make some money, and a few are actually good artists who need money, but for the most part it reminds us of that lost generation of artists who lived and worked here before the commercialization of everything. Picasso, Vlamenck, Derain, Soutine, Modigliani, Van Gogh and countless others lived and worked in these narrow streets.









Even with the map, it was confusing at times, but we found did walk by Espace Dali at 11 Rue Poulbot.

We followed the road downhill and you will begin to enter the most interesting streets of historic Montmartre filled with narrow cobblestone streets and sometimes beautiful private gardens. Now you realize why this was truly considered a village once, set outside the city limits. At that time it was covered with vineyards and gypsum quarries and was a real working class neighborhood to which the artists came for cheap rent and tax free wine. Renoir's house is at # 6 Rue de l'Abreuvoir.

These are the only two windmills left on the hill which was once literally covered with them. The Moulin de la Galette in on the Rue Lepic which was a central and crucial street to Montmartre, as it still is. Many artists painted the Moulin de la Galette in various conditions.



The Moulin de la Galette in on the Rue Lepic, Van Gogh lived at #54.

Nearby was the Clos Montmartre vineyard, the Montmartre museum, and the famous Montmartre cemetery, but we decided to head down the hill to another famous spots for artists...but the way there was incredibly beautiful, as the rains let up a bit.



The famous Bateau Lavoire at #13 Place Emile-Goudeau. The birthplace of Cubism isn't open to the public, but a display in the front window details this unimposing spot's rich history.

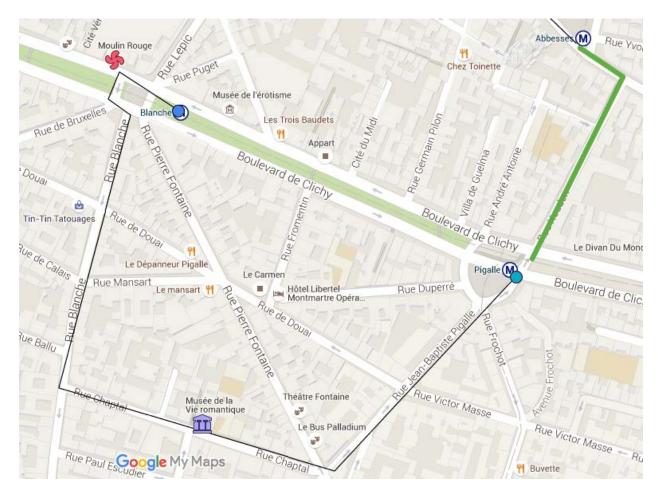
Picasso's studio was here and at times Braque and Juan Gris, Modigliani and Apollinaire the poet all lived here. It is without a doubt the most famous art "studio" in the world. Any biography of any of these artists and poets will give you countless stories of the wild days at Bateau Lavoire.







We then made our way down to Abbesses, found the hidden Métro and a small carrousel, and rode to Pigalle.



We then walked to Musée de la Vie Romantique; If you're in Paris for the romance, there is no lovelier free place than this museum dedicated to two artists active during the Romantic era: writer George Sand and painter Ary Scheffer. Squirreled away at the end of a film-worthy cobbled lane, the villa originally belonged to Scheffer and was the setting for popular salons of the day, attended by notable figures like Delacroix, Liszt and Chopin (Sand's lover).





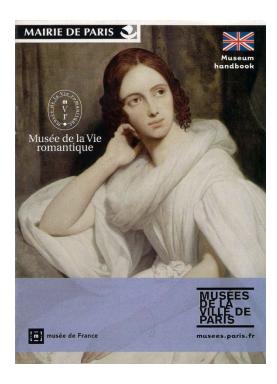
Located in the romantic neighbourhood of "New Athens", this residence and its courtyard, garden and two artists' workshops have retained all of their original charm. This is where the painter Ary Scheffer received Parisian socialites during the Juillet Monarchy: Delacroix, Rossini, Sand, Chopin, Gounod, Tourgueniev, Dickens...The museum offers a precious setting for the paintings of Scheffer and his contemporaries, as well as the memorabilia of George Sand (furniture, painting, objets d'art and jewels).

VISITOR INFORMATION

THE MUSEUM IS EXCEPTIONALLY CLOSED FROM FEBRUARY 29 TO MARCH 7 2016

Adress:

16, rue Chaptal 75009 Paris





We took the Blanche station Métro to Barbès – Rochechouart, then wandered up to Château Rouge looking for lunch. We settled on L'Etoile de Tunisia, which advertised Sandwiches, Patisserie Oriental, Restaurant, and Pizza. Definitely a favorite of the community, they still welcomed us; we each had a 3 fromage pannini, shared frites, and watched with the locals about the lost Air Egypt flight. €11,50. Interesting lunch.



We walked back to the hotel to freshen up, but about then the maids arrived; so we took the Métro to the Châtelet, changed over to the 1 train to the St. Paul stop, and walked Musée Carnavalet.

The museum occupies two neighboring mansions: the Hôtel Carnavalet and the former Hôtel Le Peletier de Saint Fargeau. In 1548, Jacques des Ligneris, President of the Parliament of Paris, ordered the construction of the mansion that came to be known as the Hôtel Carnavalet. On the advice of Baron Haussmann, the man who transformed Paris in the latter half of the 19th century, the Hôtel Carnavalet was purchased by the Municipal Council of Paris in 1866; it was opened to the public in 1880. By the latter part of the 20th century, the museum was bursting at the seams. The Hôtel Le Peletier de Saint Fargeau was annexed to the Carnavalet and opened to the public in 1989.



THE MUSÉE HISTORY OF PARIS

> A detailed map of the pages 4 - 7

The Musée Carnavalet is dedicated to the history of Paris and its inhabitants and hous-CARNAVALET es collections tracing the development of the city from prehistoric times to the present day. A huge selection of works of art, me-mentos and scale models is on display in over 100 galleries, showing how the city looked in different eras and conjuring up its everyday and intellectual life. The magnificent reconstructed historic room interiors provide an inspiring backdrop as visitors enjoy a rewarding stroll through the centuries.

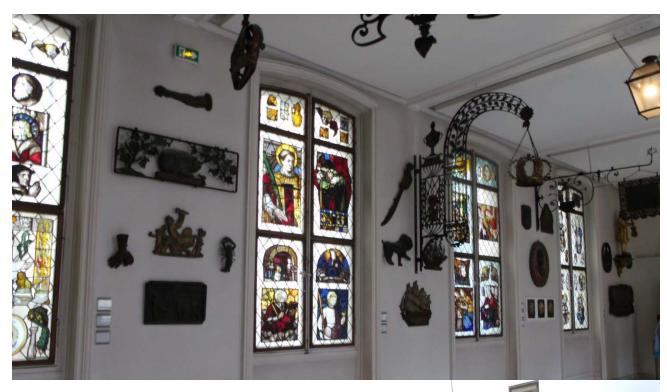
A GARDEN-CUM-MUSEUM

In the late nineteenth century, architectural elements salvaged during demolition work in the old quarters of Paris were used to extend the museum around the gardens: the Pavillon des Marchands Drapiers (Merchant Drapers' house, 1660) A, the central block of Hôtel de Choiseul , and the Arc de Nazareth , a Renaissance structure from the Île de la Cité, which provides a doorway into the garden. The Victory statue is the original version of the statue which tops the Châtelet column.

ONE MUSEUM IN TWO TOWN HOUSES

The museum buildings date from different eras. The Hôtel Carnavalet is one of the most outstanding examples of architecture to be found in the Marais district. Work started on the building in 1548 and a magnificent decorative sculpture representing the Seasons was created for the facade at the end of the courtyard by Jean Goujon's workshop. In 1578, the town house was bought by the widow of François de Kernevenoy, dubbed Carnavalet by Parisians. From 1660 onwards, the architect François Mansart raised the side wings and refurbished the frontage. The building was pur-chased by the City of Paris in 1866 and extended around its garden to house the municipal collections, which were put on public display in 1880. In 1989, the museum expanded into the Hôtel Le Peletier de Saint- Fargeau. In addition to its magnificent staircase, it boasts one of the last two remaining orangeries in the Marais district which now houses the archaeological collection. 2-3









Much of the museum was closed off, but we still found it interesting. Nearby was the Musée Cognac Jay, but they seemed to be having issues with security and there was a lot of confusion, so headed out.

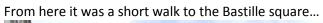
We walked to Place des Voges, were Victor Hugo used to live.



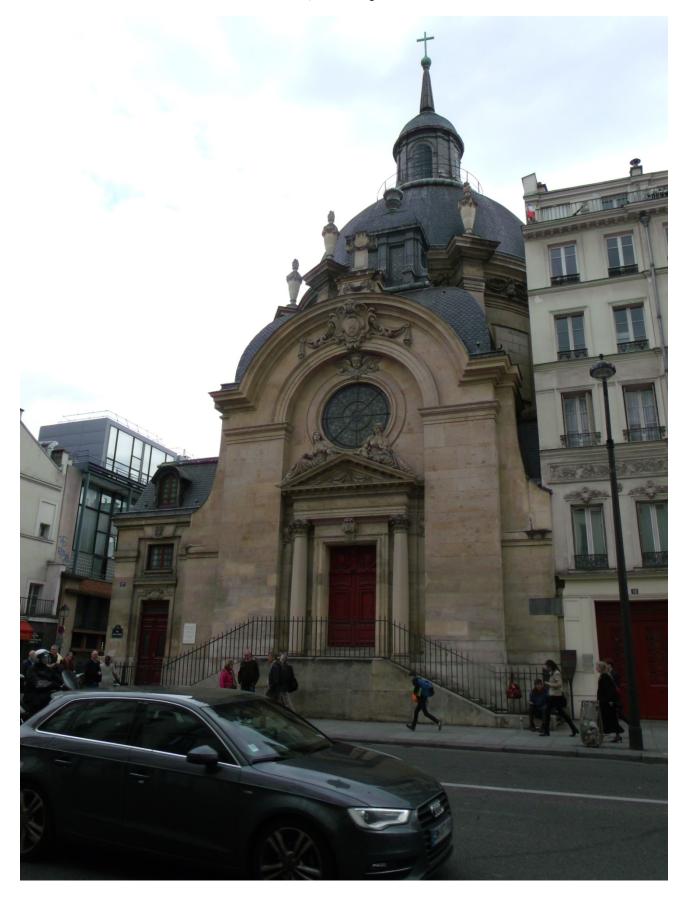
Next to the Victor Hugo museum was a neat little shop with cat figures.



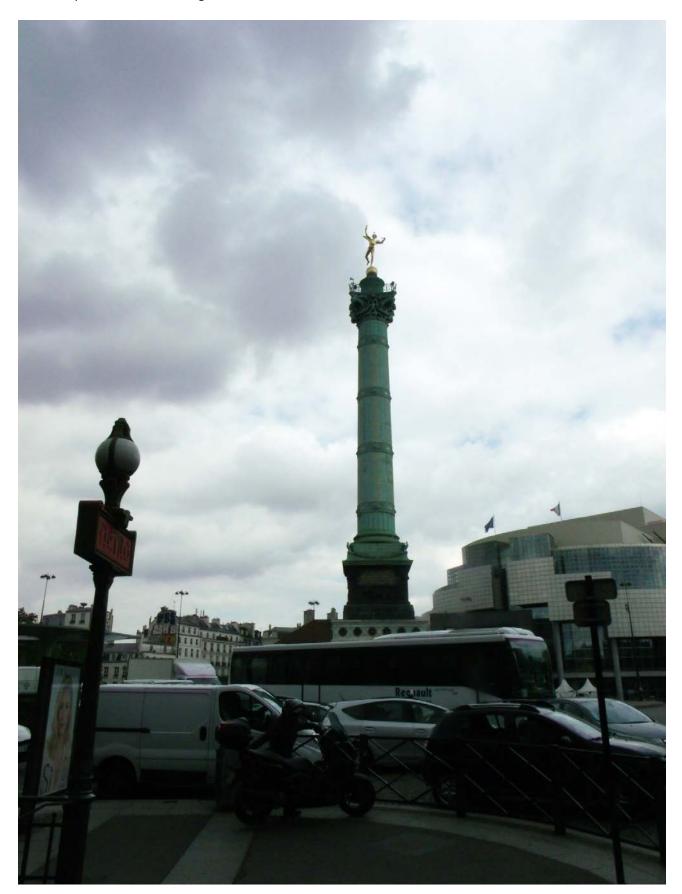








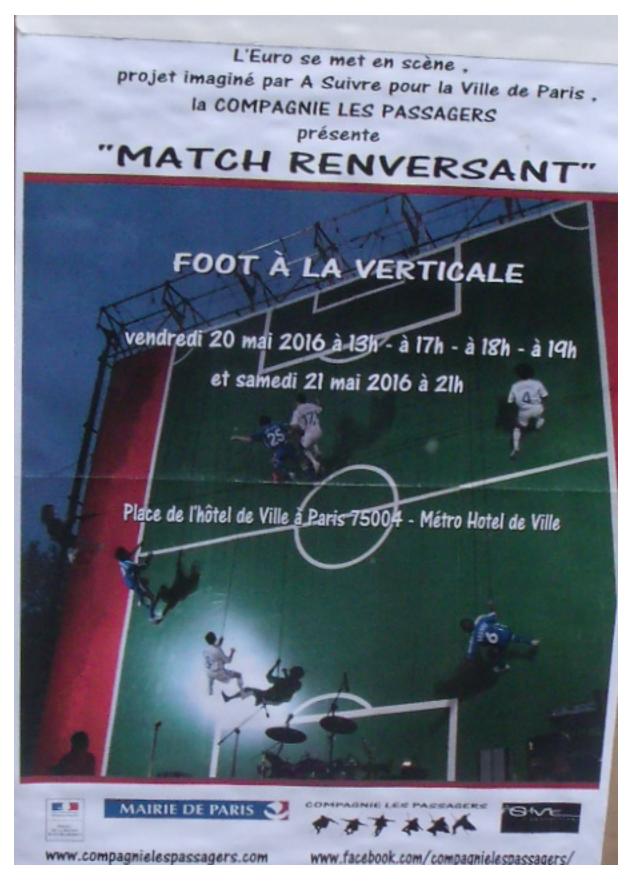
Bastille square...where we caught the metro to Hôtel de Ville.



The Hôtel de Ville area has been the headquarters of Paris since 1357. In 1533, King Francis I decided to endow the city with a city hall which would be worthy of Paris, then the largest city of Europe. In the court yard was a carrousel, and a vertical soccer field, where a team advanced a ball straight up.



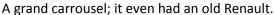






The trick to the teams playing vertically? People acting as counter weights on the other side, going down.







It was only midafternoon, and we were feeling pretty good, so it was back into the Métro system, as we decided to revisit the Eiffel Tower.

The last time we visited the Eiffel Tower was at night, and even though we went up into the tower that time, we really couldn't see the tower itself; so we decided we wanted to see it, and the area, during the day.

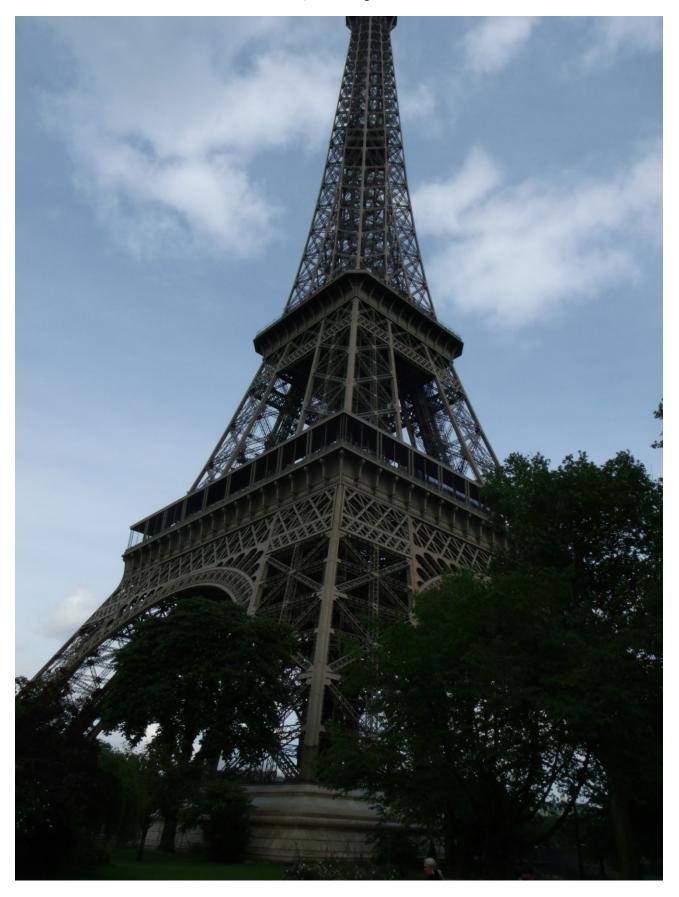
It was a pretty long ride, and then a pretty long walk from Bir Hakeim. It seemed so close when we caught our first glance from the above ground station, but then again, it is 984 feet tall, and it throws off your sense of perspective. But there were also tons of hucksters literally playing shell games on the way over, to keep us amused. But it was worth the walk.

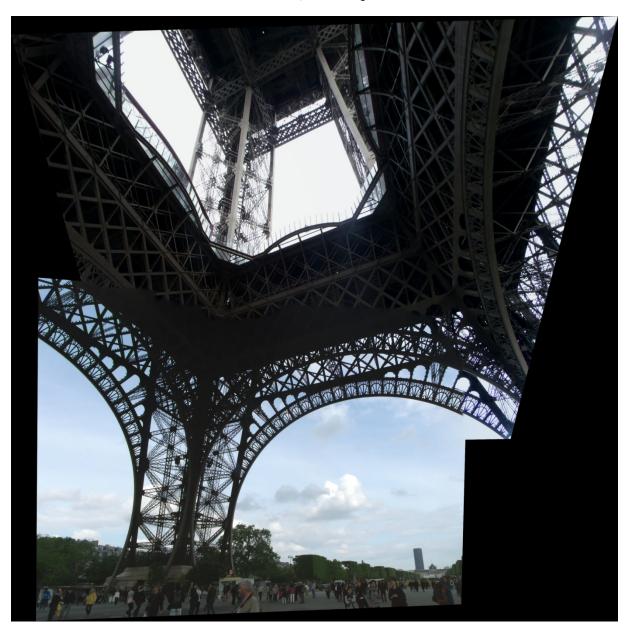
Constructed in 1889 as the entrance to the 1889 World's Fair, it was initially criticized by some of France's leading artists and intellectuals for its design, but it has become a global cultural icon of France and one of the most recognisable structures in the world, and almost 7 million people ascended it in 2015.

The tower is about the same height as an 81-storey building, and the tallest structure in Paris. Its base is square, measuring 410 ft on each side. During its construction, the Eiffel Tower surpassed the Washington Monument to become the tallest man-made structure in the world, a title it held for 41 years until the

Chrysler Building in New York City was finished in 1930. Due to the addition of a broadcasting aerial at the top of the tower in 1957, it is now taller than the Chrysler Building, at over 1,063 feet.

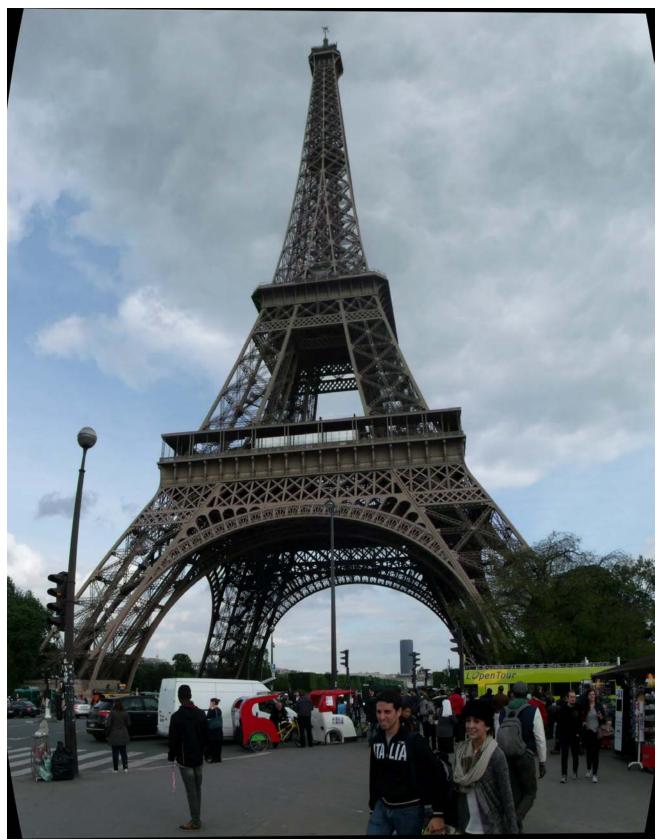






Our first trip to Paris started Seine cruise, then we walked past an arcade to the tower. We found the arcade again.



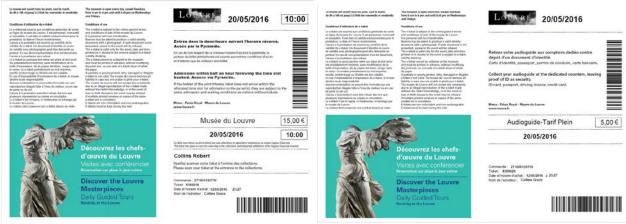


We rode back to Monmartre, and wandered around looking for something for dinner. We decided to eat at the Extra Doner kebab shop right by the Métro stop. €9 for two burgers, and frites. We then decided to scope out Gare de l'Est, and we got Susann some Starbucks for dessert. €4,20. 21:30, Back to the hotel

Friday, May 20, 2016

Standard trip down to get the hair dryer, then return when we went to breakfast. Our favorite clerk would always joke the hair dryer was for me, making any other guest at the desk laugh.

9:00, Light rain as we walked to the Métro to head to the Louvre, taking the 12 train from Marcadet-Poissoniers to Concorde, and switching to the 1 train to the Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre stop. 9:35, The Métro stop literally took you to the underground portion of the Carousel Mall adjacent to the entrance to the Louvre right under the Pyramid, so we were able to stay dry, and avoid the long line. We checked our coats, using neat touchpad lockers that allow you to set the combination, and freshen up. 10:00, We strolled to the Richelieu gallery entrance, had our tickets scanned, and picked up our audio guides.



We started on the ground floor with a temporary exhibit from Greek gods to Darth Vader, then went to the sculpture gardens and the Horses of Marley. From there we went up to the Napoleon III apartments.



Then, up to start on the paintings. There were a few wings closed, so we missed the "Lace maker," and the "Cheat with the Ace of diamonds," but we did get to see "Gabrielle d'Estrées and her sister."



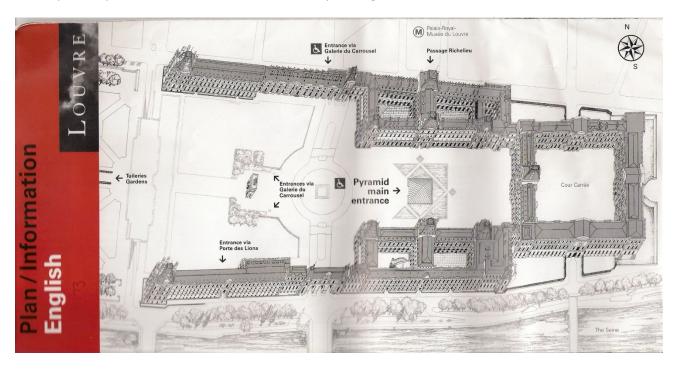
We headed to the Sully gallery, and saw the "Turkish Bath"; later went to Denon to see Winged Victory.



Of course the artwork is amazing, but the former palace also is beautiful.



The Louvre is horseshoe shaped, and can be a challenge to move in a logical fashion, I constantly marked up the map to keep track of where we had been, while planning a route to what to see next.



It had been fairly empty in the Richelieu and Sully galleries, but the crowds were picking up in the Denon gallery.



Of course, this is where the Mona Lisa is.



Two enigmatic smiles





13:20, Lunch in Café Mollier; quiche, baguette, and water, €15,80, plus a view of Concorde's Ferris Wheel.

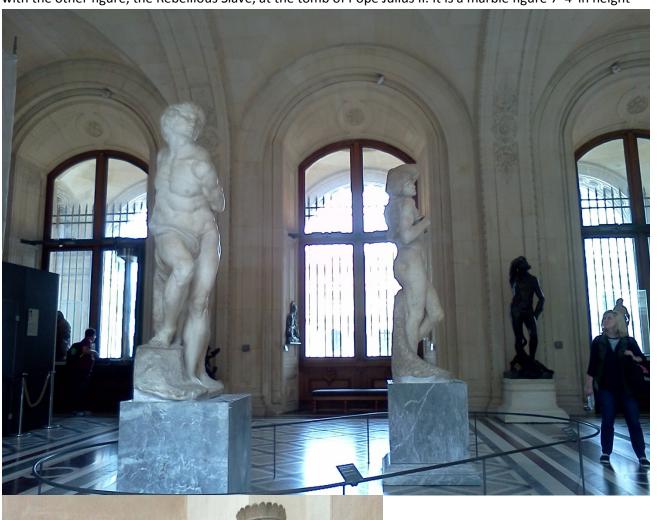
Now it was time to reverse the path, finish up Denon before moving back to Sully.

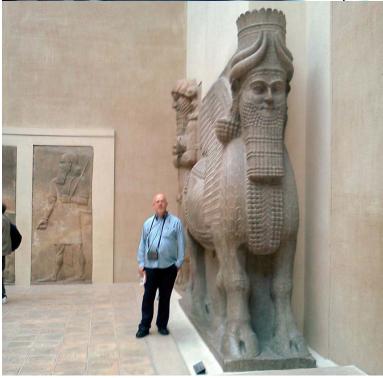
Venus De Milo





Michelangelo's "Captive," also known as the Dying Slave. Created between 1513 and 1516, it was to serve with the other figure, the Rebellious Slave, at the tomb of Pope Julius II. It is a marble figure 7' 4"in height





Back in Richelieu, we saw the Winged Bulls.



Code of Hammurabi.





15:30, we gathered up our jackets, headed through the mall exit, and got a great view of the grounds, before we headed through the north colonnade to visit Palais Royal. And we noted, no rain!



Paris/Luxembourg 2016



Palais Royal, originally called the Palais-Cardinal, the palace was the personal residence of Cardinal Richelieu. The architect Jacques Lemercier began his design in 1629; construction commenced in 1633 and was completed in 1639. Upon Richelieu's death in 1642 the palace became the property of the King and acquired the new name Palais-Royal.

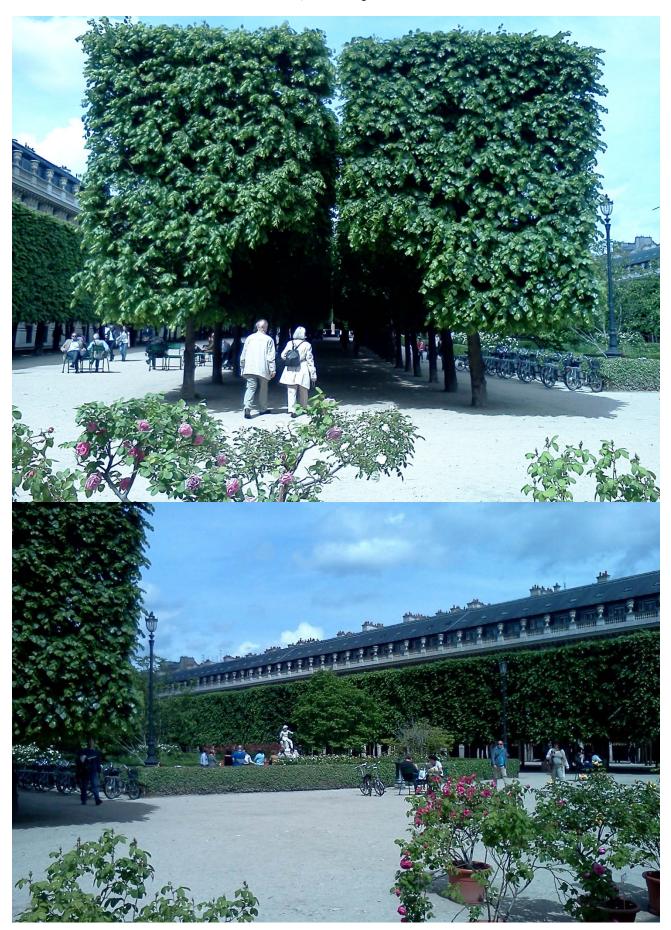
After Louis XIII died the following year, it became the home of the Queen Mother Anne of Austria and her young sons Louis XIV and Philippe, duc d'Anjou.

From 1649, the palace was the residence of the exiled Henrietta Maria and Henrietta Anne Stuart, wife and daughter of the deposed King Charles I of England. The two had escaped England in the midst of the English Civil War and were sheltered by Henrietta Maria's nephew, King Louis XIV.

The larger inner courtyard, the Cour d'Honneur, has since 1986 contained Daniel Buren's site-specific art piece Les Deux Plateaux, known as Les Colonnes de Buren. In 1830 the Cour d'Honneur was enclosed to the north until the 1930s; now its flanking rows of columns are still standing between the Cour d'Honneur and the popular Palais-Royal Gardens.









Enjoying the fountain, and basking in the sun.





The cutest little girl made faces at us, when she wasn't trying to climb into the fountain.



We then headed back towards the Louvre



to the Jardin des Tuileries, which are between the Louvre and Place de la Concorde.

The gardens originally were the grounds of a palace, created by Catherine de Medici in 1564; the grounds were eventually opened to the public in 1667, and became a public park after the French Revolution.



Note the Eiffel Tower and the Ferris Wheel at Place de la Concorde.



Musee de Orsay, across the Seinefrom the fountain in Jardin des Tuileries





The traffic was terrible around Place de la Concorde, so we decided we'd return some evening, and we headed toward the Pont Alexandre III.





Pont Alexandre III



We walked past the Grand Palais, heading to the art museum in the Petite Palais, just across the street.

The Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées, known as the Grand Palais, is an exhibition hall and museum complex located at the Champs-Élysées in the 8th arrondissement. Construction of the Grand Palais began in 1897 as part of the preparation works for the Universal Exposition of 1900, which also included the creation of the adjacent Petit Palais and Pont Alexandre III.

The Grand Palais structure was built in the style of Beaux-Arts architecture. The building reflects the movement's taste for ornate decoration through its stone facades, the formality of its floor planning and the use of techniques that were innovative at the time, such as its glass vault, its structure made of iron and light steel framing, and its use of reinforced concrete.



The Petit Palais now houses the City of Paris Museum of Fine Arts (Musée des beaux-arts de la ville de Paris).



Petit Palais on the left, Grand Palais on the right.



We then wandered to the Champs-Élysées, before heading back to Marcadet-Poissioniers.



18:00, arrived at the Marcadet-Poissioniers station, but the exit took us to new ground, at the corner of Rue Ordener and Rue des Poissioiers, near a FranPrix store.



After getting our bearings and looking through the store, we headed to the hotel, passing the Portobello Italian restaurant.

18:45, headed back to the Portobello Italian restaurant, but found they did not open until 19:00, so we wandered the 'hood,' south of Rue Ordener and Rue des Poissioiers. At one point the Gendarmes drove in and a bunch of folks scattered... while crowded by Château Rouge, Château Rouge was lively with the markets, folks selling peanuts they were roasting right there... this was just overly crowded and no one was really moving. So we got back to Rue Ordener, and the restaurant. Susann had Lasagna, and I had Spaghetti... neither of us really were thrilled with the food (very 'interesting' sauce which was very unlike marinara), or the price. €26,10. We always find it interesting how Italian and Chinese foods vary so much.

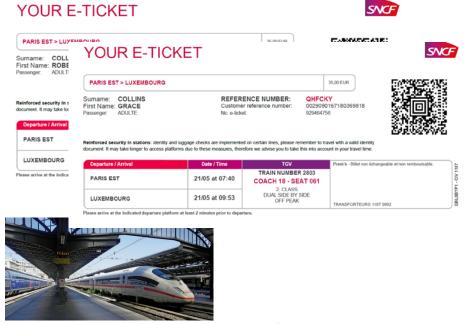


20:00, We went back to FranPrix to get snacks for the morning train trip, €2,19. We noted that signs were now up at the Métro stops announcing that Château Rouge was closing for a month.

20:15, Then back to the hotel, the rain was starting again. We were pleased to find the wifi now worked well enough for our android devices to work, so I could upload the Louvre pictures.

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Up very early, before breakfast was served... Métro to Gare De l'East, to catch our train to Luxembourg. 7:00, We got gum at Relay (€1,20) and coffee for Susann at Starbuck (€4,20).



We boarded the TGV Bullet train about 7:20, found our seats, and really marveled at how smooth the train was, even when running about 186 mph. It did slow for the last part of the journey, but very nice ride. 10:00 started looking for where the Hop On –Hop Off bus would pick us up, even Information did not know. 10:30, spotted the bus, ran to the site way to the north of the station. The station was the last stop before returning to the start point, so we rode a full loop, to get an idea of what we would hop off later, to do.





The Capital city of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the center of the city is divided by a huge Ravine. Standing at the confluence of the Alzette and Pétrusse rivers, Luxembourg is one of the three European Union capital cities; housing the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Auditors, the Secretariat of the European Parliament, the European Investment Bank, the European Investment Fund, and the European Stability Mechanism, and has the second highest per capita GDP in the world.



It looked as if it might rain, but gradually the skies over this mix of old and new gradually cleared.



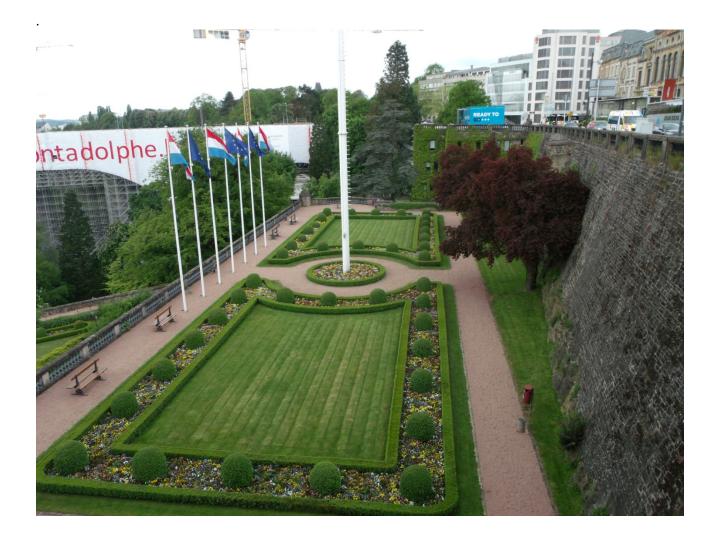
The stops included on the tour were: 1. Boulevard FDR 2. Rue du Fossé 3. Montée de Clausen 4. Avenue de la Porte-Neuve 5. Rue du Fort Thüengen6. Rue du Kiem 7. Avenue de la Porte-Neuve and 8. Railway Station



After the loop, we got off at FDR and Contstitution Plaza.



We looked around the plaza, and the park and casements below before heading to the Center, where we found a celebration of the European Union, with stalls and live music









Constitution square to one side, the ravine and casements to the other.







The square, and across the street was Notre Dame, and the town center.



After we looked around the plaza, and the park and casements below, we headed to the Center, where we found a celebration of the European Union, with stalls and live music.



We found a restaurant called Paul (the baker) on the square, and decided to have their special, Croque Madame (ham, cheese, a Mornay sauce, topped with a fried egg), Coffee or Tea, and dessert, in our case, éclair and macaron. €27,80. Bought souvenirs, €27,75





Then it was back to the center





The Ravine, casements, and bridge.



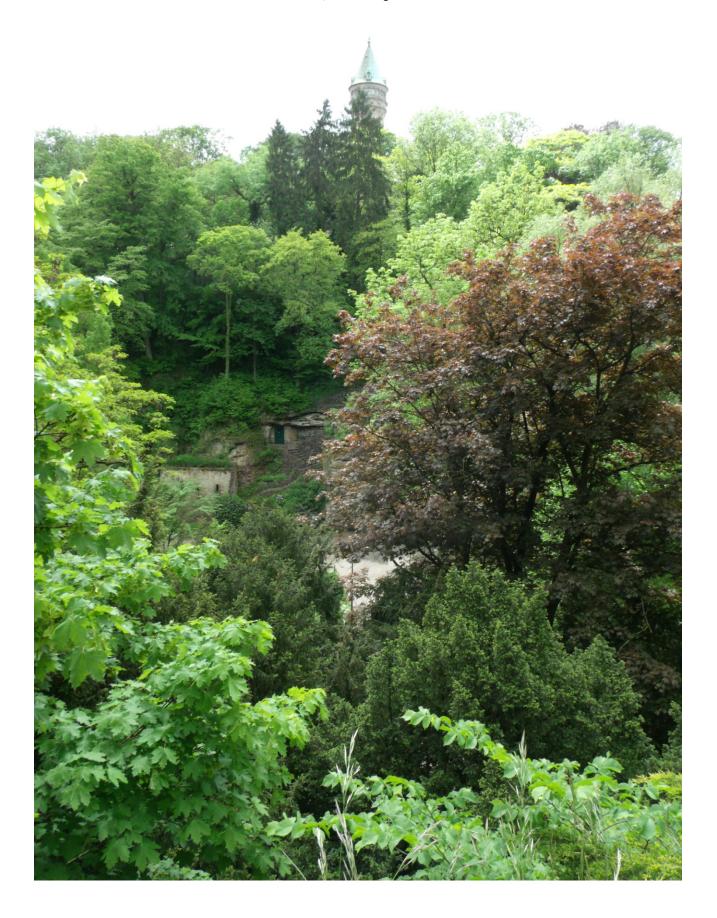
The story of the casements and park: In 963, Count Siegfried built a fortified castle on the Bock promontory, which was soon to become the cradle of the city. In the course of the centuries, on the western side, mighty ring walls were added with 24 forts, 16 other strong defensive works and a unique network of casemates: these could not only shelter thousands of soldiers and their horses, but also housed workshops, kitchens, bakeries, slaughter-houses etc.

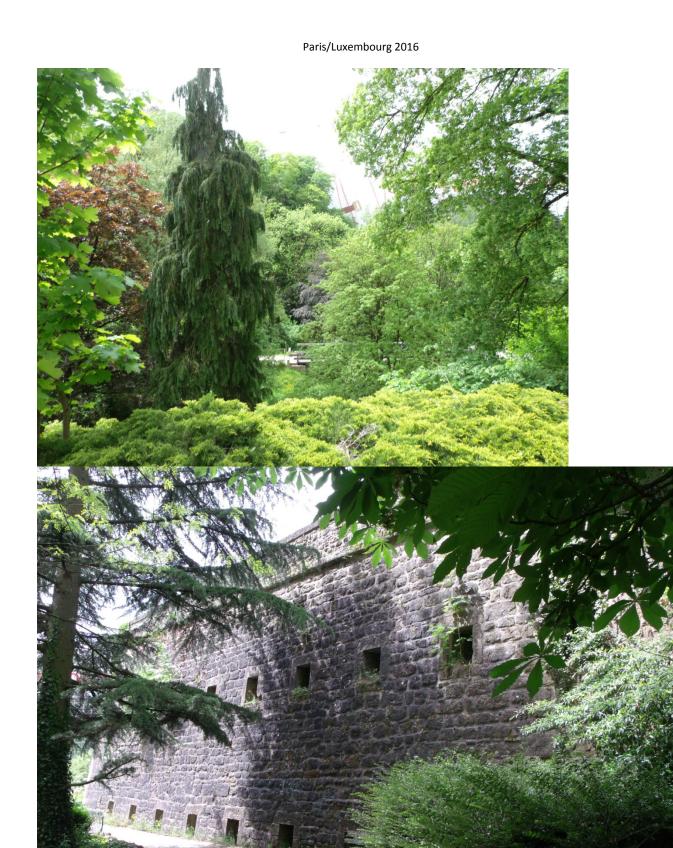
Casemates de la Pétrusse, where we were, goes back to 1644, when the Spaniards reinforced the medieval fortifications. Initially this bastion was as high as the adjacent terraces on the right; it was raised to the present level of Constitution Square (the wall is 27 meters high) by Vauban in 1685. In 1673 the Spaniards erected the so-called "Ravelin du Pate" to strengthen the defense of the Beck Bastion; this triangular construction is one of the few well-kept fortifications. Marshall de Vauban conferred the present shape to all the Petrusse fortifications and built the "Small Staircase". From 1728-29 the Austrians added the "Bourbon Lock" and the "Large Staircase" and in 1746 the casemates of the "Petrusse Battery" (54 gun emplacements). One century passed and the fortress was enlarged and reinforced: the second ring was extended and the third started, so that Luxembourg became the "Gibraltar of the North". By and by, the Petrusse fortifications fell into neglect, as their strategic momentum limited itself to the valley. It was to be shuttered, stipulated by the 1867 London Treaty, so they began walling up the most entrances.

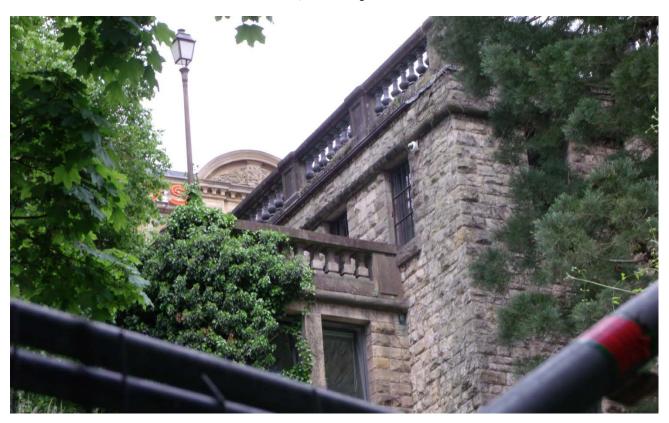
In 1875, the superstructure of the Bock, a tremendous construction, was razed. However, it proved to be impossible to blow up the casemates, without also demolishing part of the city. So, today, 17 kilometres of tunnels remain, often on different levels and tremendous stairways penetrate up to 40 metres inside the rock face.

The Casemates de la Pétrusse, where we were, has so much lush flora.



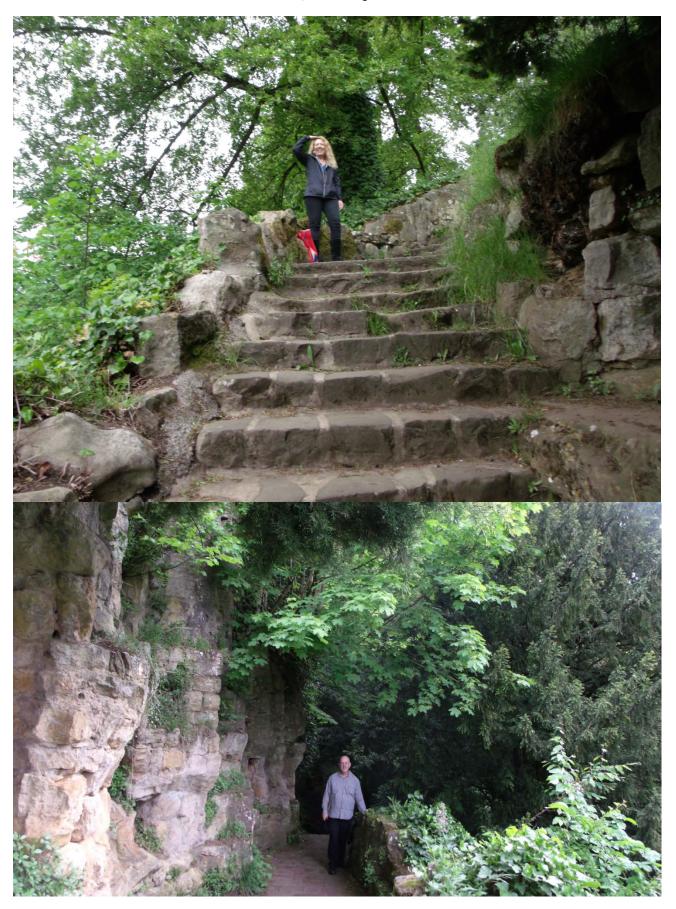


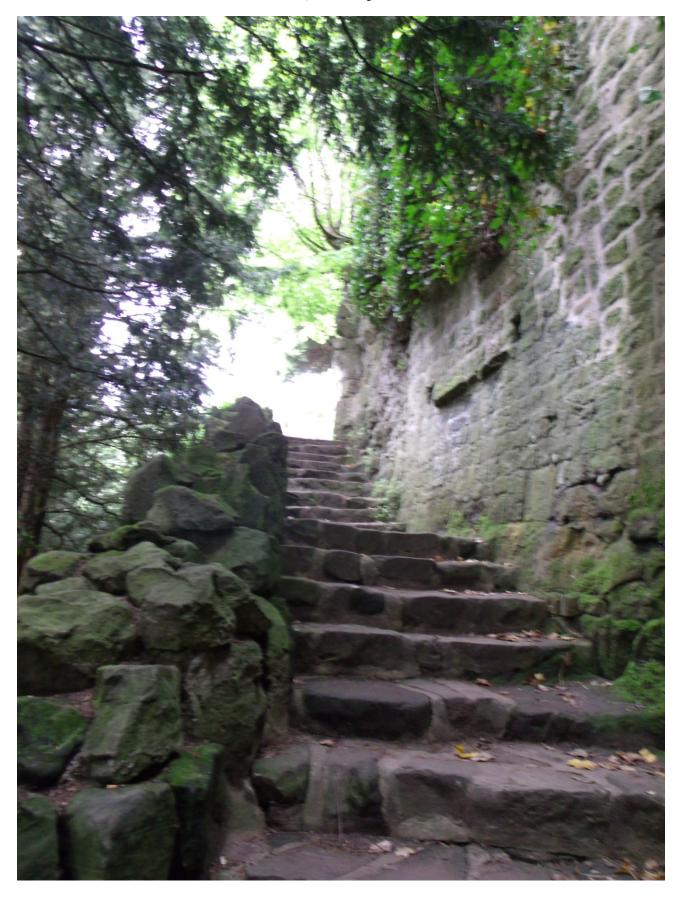






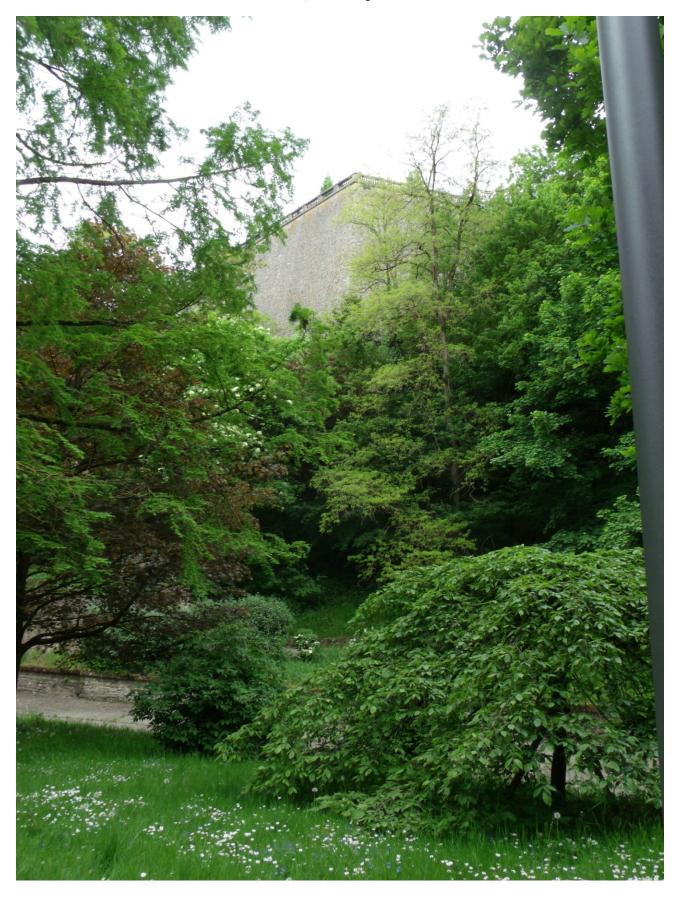


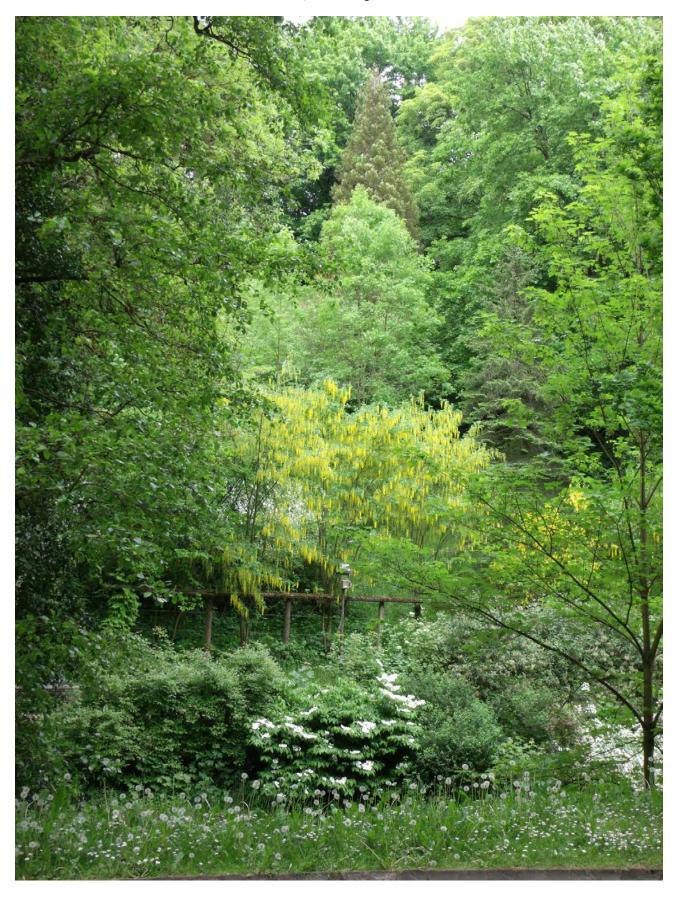


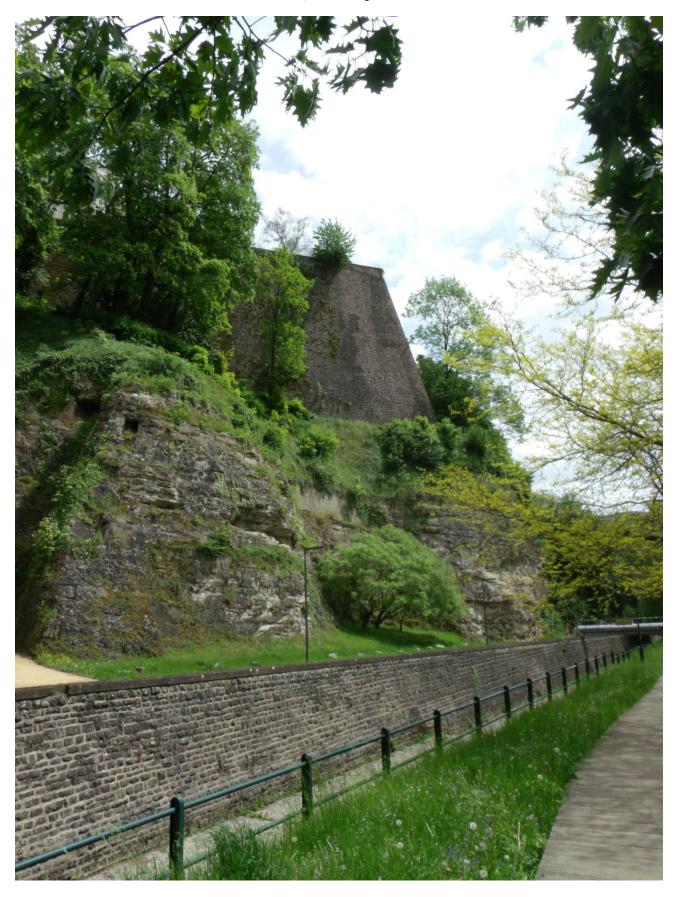
















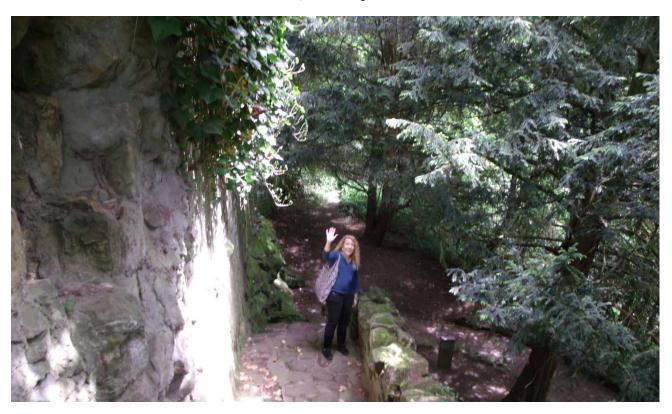
Adolphe Bridge: The bridge takes road traffic across the Pétrusse, connecting Boulevard Royal, in Ville Haute, to Avenue de la Liberté, in Gare. 17.2 m wide, it has twin parallel 84.65 m arches in the centre, surmounted by eight smaller arches of 5.40 m each.

Adolphe Bridge has become an unofficial national symbol of sorts, and was built between 1900 and 1903.

The bridge was named after Grand Duke Adolphe, who reigned Luxembourg from 1890 until 1905.







We headed back up to Constitution square, and decided to visit Notre Dame.



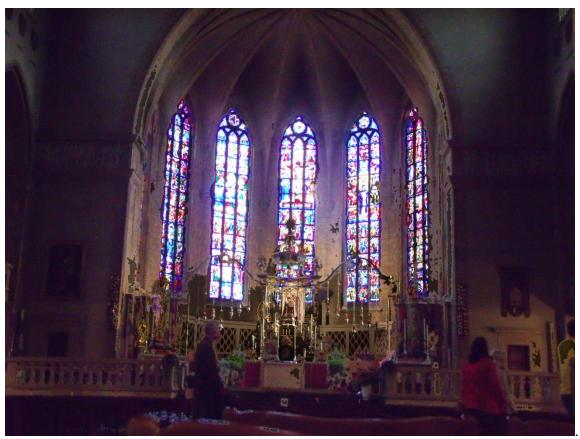
On our way we saw all manner of expensive cars, such Lamborghinis, and this exotic (in Europe) Shelby 350 Cobra.



Notre Dame















The church is a noteworthy example of late gothic architecture; however, it also has many Renaissance elements and adornments. At the end of the 18th century, the church received the miraculous image of the Maria Consolatrix Afflictorum, the patron saint of both the city and the nation.

Around 50 years later, the church was consecrated as the Church of Our Lady and in 1870, it was elevated by Pope Pius IX to the Cathedral of Notre-Dame. It is the only cathedral in Luxembourg.



15:00, We headed back to Constitution Square, and traded in our voucher for tickets to get back on the Hop On-Hop Off bus, and rode around one more time, so we could get some pictures of sites we had seen on the first run.







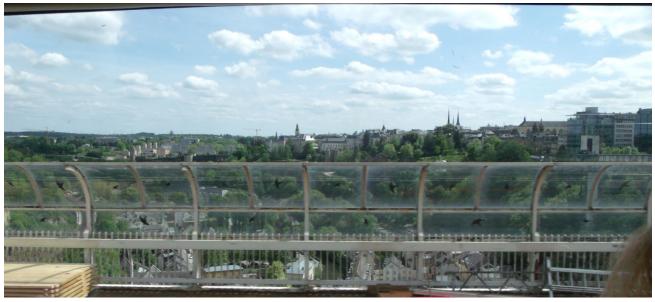




Where Patton's HQ was in WWII, he is buried nearby.



Over the Ravine.



Luxembourg's arena, the Coque







The walking flowere sculpture.

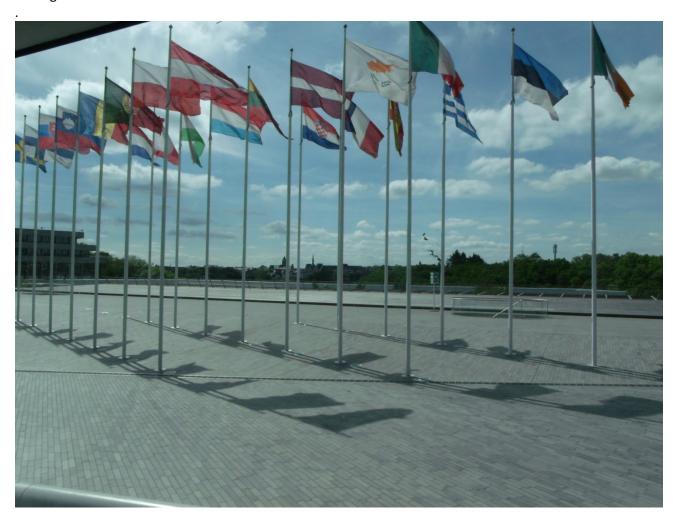


Monument to the Steel industry.

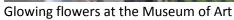


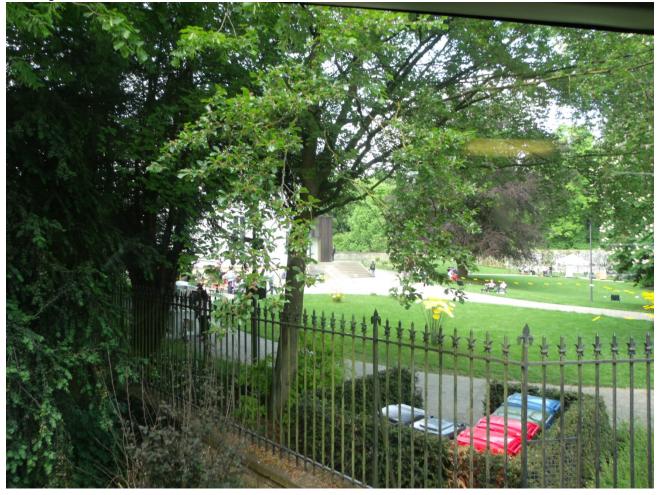


EU flags.









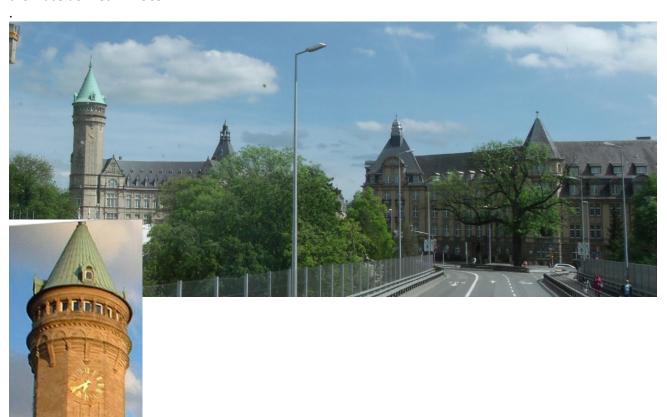


Wonderful architechture





The State owned Savings Bank, Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État (abbreviated short BCEE), with its tower, is in the fromer Hôtel de la Caisse d'Epargne, was constructed in the centre of Luxembourg City on the Place de Metz in 1909



Headquarters of a Steel conglomorant.



Rousegartchen, the Rose Garden. Roses used to be a very large export business in Luxembourg.



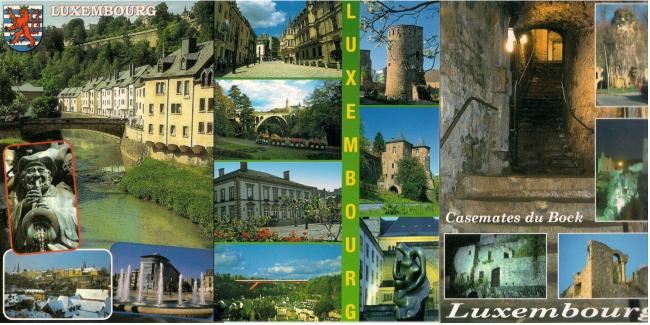
Back to the Gare.

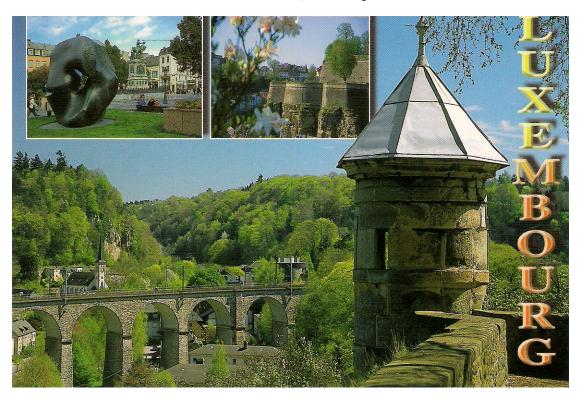


16:00, Now back at the Gare, we decided to explore a bit, and walked back to the Ravine.



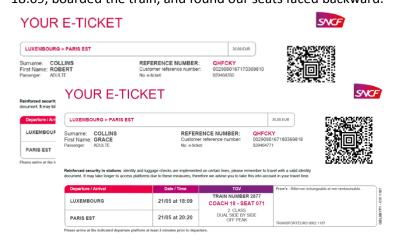






Back at the Gare, we paid to use the toilettes (€1,70), and grabbed a salami sandwich (€6,00) to eat with the snacks on the train back from Luxembourg to Gare de l'East.

18:09, boarded the train, and found our seats faced backward.





22:00 Eclairs, €4,00, Le Pain en fete, by the Métro. Nice birthday treat for Susann before we crashed.

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Standard breakfast, but Nutella instead of cheese on the plates.

9:30 Arrive at Gare de l'Est, but instead of the trains to Provins running every hour, today they are running every two hours. Toilettes €1,40.

Purchased the two trip Zone 5 ticket for the P train, €33,20, and wait.



Gare De l'East-Provins



10:25 Gate announcement, and we board the train... no one checks our tickets.

10:46 train departs... slow train but nice country side.

12:10 Arrive in Provins.

Just outside the small station, we found the electric bus that runs around the city, and as it was raining, webought two day passes, €4,00 each.



Période fonctionnement / period of operation / 操作の期間

Pendant la saison touristique Les samedis, dimanches et jours fériés

Grilles horaires / Schedule / スケジュール

Jour de fonctionnement		S.D.F.	S.	S.D.F.	S.D.F.	S.D.F.	S.D.F.	S.D.F.	S.D.F.
Trains en provenance de Paris Mise en place Minibus		10:10	11:10	12:10 12:10	13:10 13:10	15:10 15:10	16:10 16:10	17:10 17:10	
В	Saint Ayoul/Bourquelot	10:19	11:19	12:19	13:19				
C	Centre Ville / Mairie	10:21	11:21	12:21	13:21				
D	Ville Haute / Office du Tourisme	10:28	11:28	12:28	13:28	15:22	16:22	17:22	18:15
Ε	Rue Saint Jean	10:30	11:30	12:30	13:30				
F	Porte de Jouy	10:32	11:32	12:32	13:32				
G	Place du Châtel	10:33	11:33	12:33	13:33	15:25	16:25	17:25	18:18
Н	Souterrains	10:36	11:36	12:36	13:36	15:29	16:29	17:29	18:22
В	Saint Ayoul/Bourquelot	10:41	11:41	12:41	13:41	15:35	16:35	17:35	18:28
C	Centre Ville / Mairie					15:37	16:37	17:37	18:30
Α	Gare SNCF Quai 3	10:45	11:45	12:45	13:45	15:40	16:40	17:40	18:33
Trains en direction de Paris					1	15:46	16:46	17:46	18:46

Tarifs / Rates / レート

Ticket - 1 trajet :	. 2,50€
Passeport valable à la journée :	.4,00€
Carnet de 10 tickets :	20,00€
Enfant de - de c ans ·	gratuit





Horaires

11h00 à 13h00 - 14h00 à 18h30 Départ toutes les 30 mn de l'Office du Tourisme

Pour nous contacter, appelez au 01 60 58 67 67

Tarif réduit avec le pass Provins

*Ticket valable la journée

2, rue Georges Dromigny B.P. 132 - 77160 PROVINS Tél.: 01 60 67 30 67 - Fax: 01 60 67 48 13 www.procars.com

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en Minibus électrique

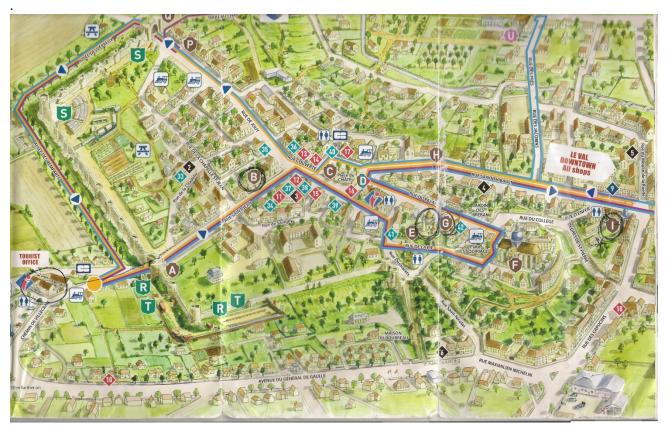






We rode to the tourist office and bought our Provins passes, total €24,00 total.





From the Tourist Office, we walked towards the old ramparts.

Provins, a well preserved medieval town, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001. The town is divided into an Upper Town and a Lower Town, respectively called the Châtel (Castel) and the Val (Valley).

The town's importance is confirmed in 802, when Charlemagne sent his "missi dominici" -Étienne, Count of Paris, and Fardufle, abbot of Saint-Denis- to Provins. This period coincides with the earliest military architecture in Provins.

In 996, during the reign of Hugues Capet, the relics of Saint Ayoul were miraculously discovered in the Val. A number of religious buildings were erected on site and the marshland was completely drained. This is also when the first Counts of Vermandois were born, which gave rise to the Counts of Champagne.

Provins was home to one of the Champagne fairs that were crucial to the medieval European economy, when the city was under the protection of Counts of Champagne.

Provins even minted its own coinage, and the denier provinois (Provins' penny) was recognized and accepted throughout medieval Europe.

The town was at the height of its fame during the reign of Thibaud IV of Champagne (1201-1253), a vassal of the French Kings Philippe Auguste (1165-1223) and Saint-Louis (1214-1270).

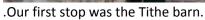
Approaching the city walls, from the Tourist Office.



The city walls.









Tariff Barn





Upstairs in the Tithe Barn

The Flemish merchant



He used to bring wools, furs and skins from northern Europe. Quality cloth soon appeared in the Flanders, were sheep and rivers are plentiful.

The letter-writer



He was the one unavoidable person during the fair. On a wax board, he would write down every deed and convention passed between the merchants and changers. He drew up the sentences and rules of the fairs, as well as the bills of exchange which were created at the time, out of necessity, and thanks to the development of commerce.

Lower room

Wool techniques in Provins

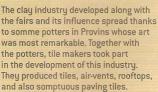
A long process was necessary before the weaver could place the wool on the loom: after sorting out any waste, it was beaten

to make it softer, then untangled to eliminate the wadding and form a regular thread: this was called carding. The last stage was spinning. Weaving

could then start, though there were still irregularities which would disappear thanks to fulling: the wool was dipped into water mixed up with fuller's earth and trampled on by fullers. Eentually, the cloth was given

its colour by the dyer On the whole, thirty processes or so were necessary over a month's time.

The potter



The Museum exhibits an important collection of objects

The quarryman



The quarryman is the worker who extracts stone, sand and clay. Here, the quarryman is one who works for fullers or tanners. The materials quarried are used to degrease wool and prepare skins. The quarryman's techniques are similar to those of the miner; he works in damp conditions and

often suffers from silicosis. The profession has its hierarchy; there are contractors, master quarrymen and labourers. The quarryman is paid on piecework, by the day.

The stone cutter



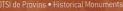
Stone cutters represent the major part of the itinerant labour force. Through a long apprenticeship, they gain a sophisticated know-how. The quality and quantity of their work was checked thanks to a sign appended on each one of the stones. Their tools dated back to the remotest times, and are still the same today.

The parchment maker

Among the riverside trades, the artisans who process skins play a preponderant role. Tanners have various specialities such as clothing, riding outfits, writing supports etc. They often use sheepskin, as the animal is



raised in large numbers and man is able to use all its resources from wool to its viscera. For parchment, the unblemished skins of young animals are used. The first stage is to make the skin as thin and smooth as possible, and then the skin is soaked in a tub of liquid clay and quicklime. The last stage is drying, which determines the suppleness of the skin. To avoid having the ink spread into the pores of the skin, they are blocked with fine chalk powder. Parchment was the noblest writing support until the French Revolution. As for paper, which was known to the Chinese as early as the 7th century, it appeared in Europe in the 13th century. It was not until the 15th century that it was widely distributed: this marked the beginnings of printing.

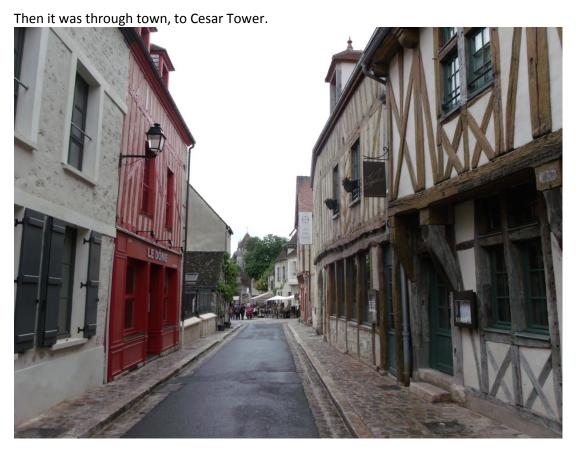






Down stairs of the Tithe barn.







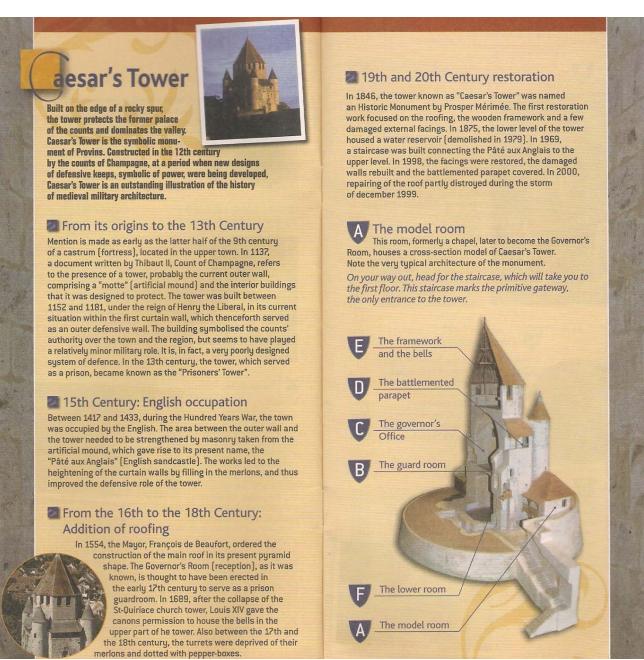


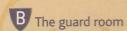




The old homes were unbelievable, but then we got to Cesar Tower.





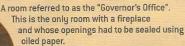




The guard room consists of a very unusual vault, comprising four Gothic arches, supported by four broad projecting corbels, at a height of 4.50 m. The arches are surmounted by a vault with a hatch at its centre. The hatch was used to issue supplies directly to soldiers stationed at top of the keep, and thus kept officers instantly up-to-date with news from the watch.

The corridor leading to the north turret contains a basin, designed to collect rainwater via a network of pipes to provide running water. The same water conducts can be found throughout the tower and form a network with the drainage channels from the latrines.

C The Governor's Office



As you leave the Governor's Chamber, mount the twenty steps of the staircase leading to the gallery, which skirts around the keep via the interconnecting turrets.

D Battlemented parapet

The battlemented parapet is covered to protect against bad weather and attacks. Each sentry box

consists of a calotte vault, is lit by window, and opens wide onto the gallery. Two small doors to the east and west communicate with the upper part of the keep by means of very narrow staircases.



OTSI de Provins • Historical Monuments

E The framework and the bells

You leave the battlemented parapet by a narrow doorway set into the east face of the tower.

Each doorway leads to two double staircases hewn from the thick stone wall, both of which communicate with the upper floor where the bells are housed. You will then find yourself on the terrace, which remained uncovered until 1571, surrounded by sixteen large merions.

To the West, there is an incredible view over the upper town, and to the east, one's gaze is directed over the lower town. Of the six bells belonging to the chapter, five were destroyed in 1793 and 1798, the parts being destined for the manufacture

of cannons and for conversion to moiten matter. The largest, and the only remaining, bell is 1.48 m in diameter and weighs 3,000 Kg. It bears an inscription to the effect that it was cast in 1511:

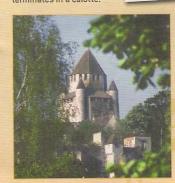
"In the year 1511 once I was cast, I was given the name of Quiriace, I reign in the skies and chase clouds away, Keeping devil, thunder and hail at bay."

The small bell, however, dates from 1889.

Head back to the ground floor, where you will find the lower room.

F The lower room

Measuring 8.90 m high, this room is lit by four long windows. The key vault terminates in a calotte.



This room used to be a storage for goods and for weapons.





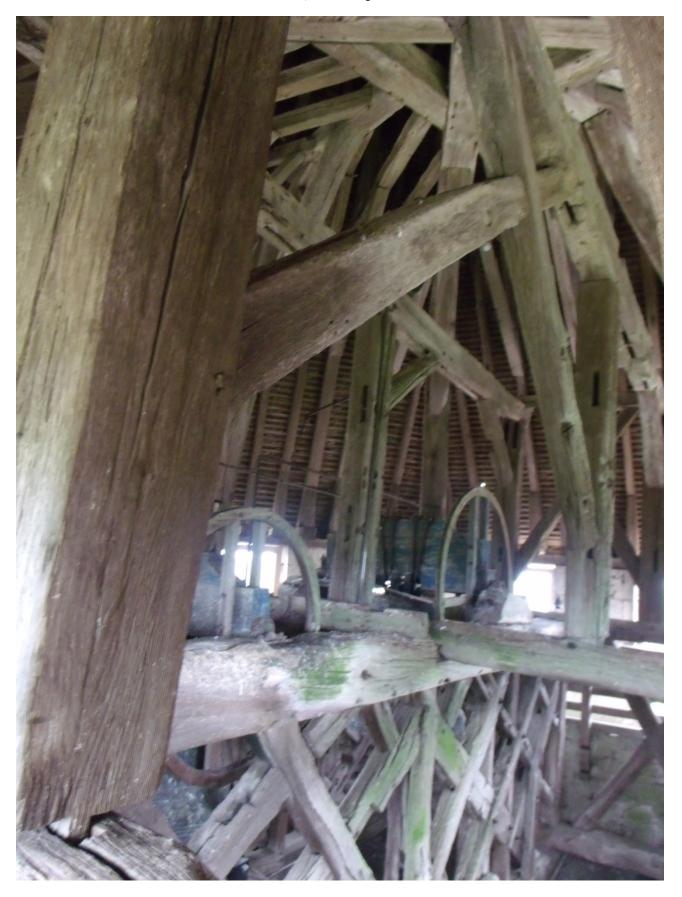








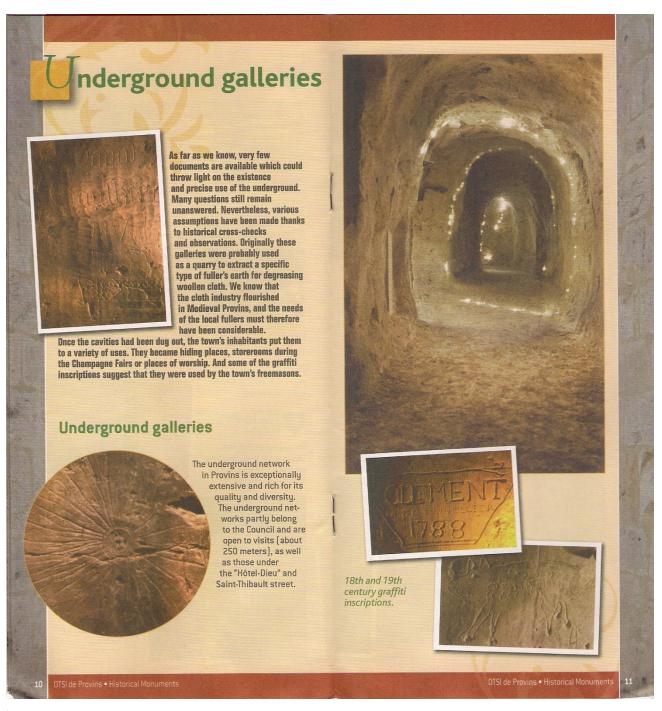






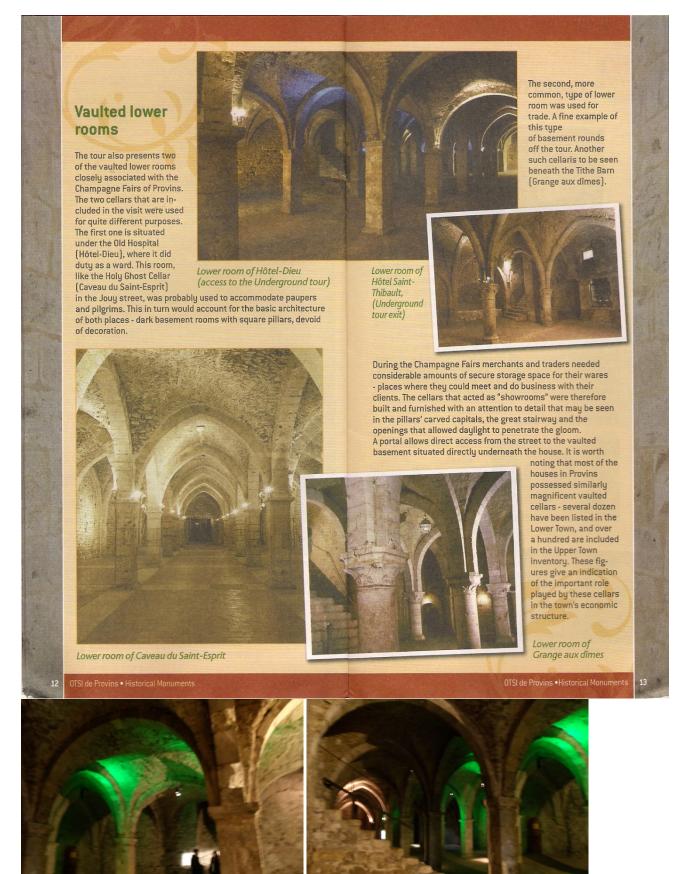


We had a so much fun on all the narrow stairs, but it was time to head to our 14:00 appointment for the English guided tour of Underground Gallery, and it really started to rain.





The guide's English was better than our French, but she made her point.





.The Black room, used by Free Masons.



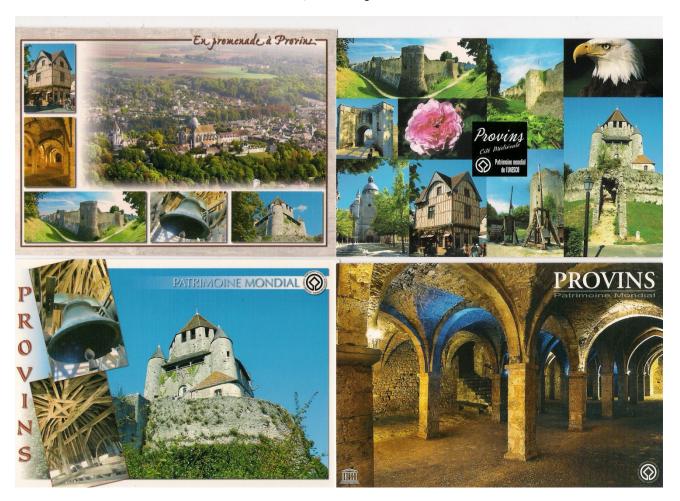
15:15, when we were exiting the Underground Gallery, we knew it would be rough outside because it was 'raining' in the galleries... water was seeping in so hard we knew the rain out was going to be miserable. We retraced our steps to the town square and had lunch at Petite Ecu. French style hamburgers, with interesting greens and cheese, a red wine sauce, and just about beef tartare. €21,80.



We knew the trains were limited, so it was back to the tourist office to pick up a few souvenirs €2, the wait for the electric bus to take us back to the Gare.

16:46 We boarded, and each of the stops the train got fuller, to the point that people we standing for the last leg to Gare de l'Est.



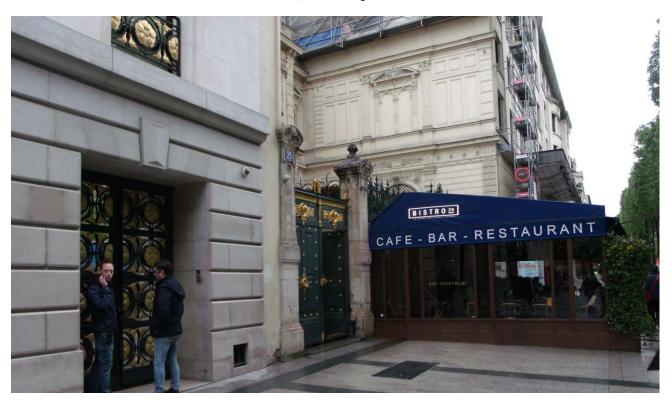


18:10, got off the train and found out that this is where they checked tickets, to get out of the stockade. We wandered around the station area in the rain, and decided to go back in the station where there was a small Paul café. We had quiche and macaron for €18,20, the made a trip to the toilette for €1,40 before heading to the Métro side, to ride to the Champs-Élysées.

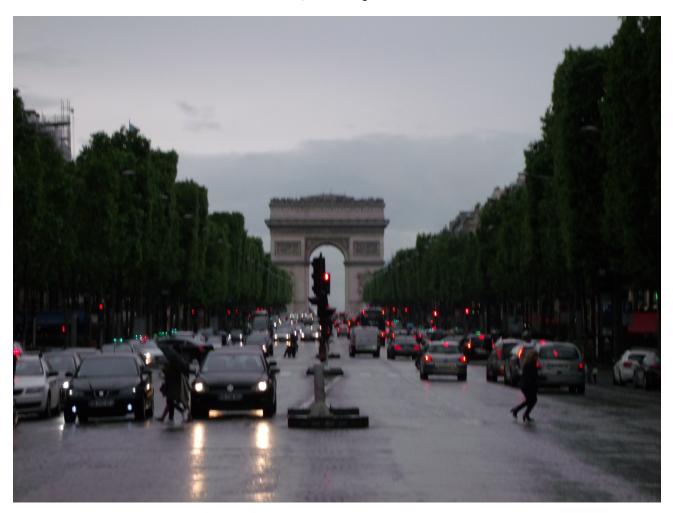












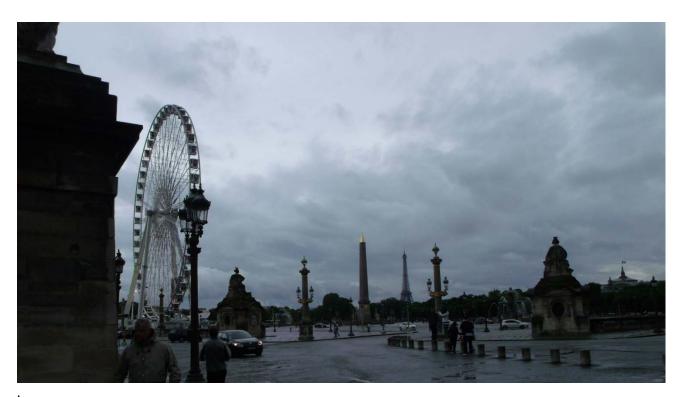
Saw some Syrian refuges, so we gave them some change, and then we walked up to the FDR Métro stop, and rode to Place de la Concorde, which is the largest square in the French capital.

The place was designed by Ange-Jacques Gabriel in 1755 as a moat-skirted octagon between the Champs-Élysées to the west and the Tuileries Garden to the east. Decorated with statues and fountains, the area was named Place Louis XV to honor the king at that time. The square showcased an equestrian statue of the king, which had been commissioned in 1748 by the city of Paris, sculpted mostly by Edmé Bouchardon, and completed by Jean-Baptiste Pigalle after the death of Bouchardon.

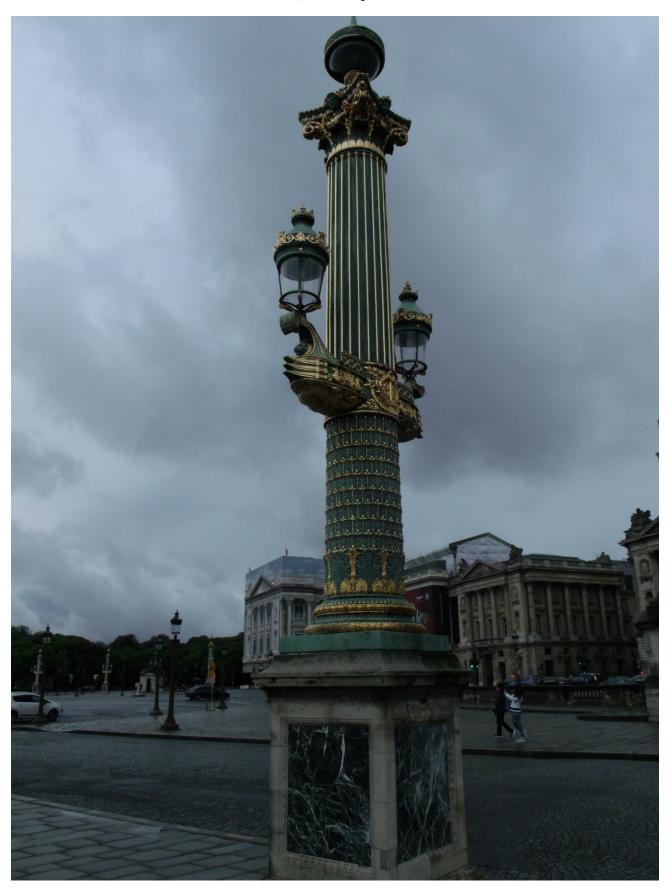
At the north end, two magnificent identical stone buildings were constructed. Separated by the rue Royale, these structures remain among the best examples of Louis Quinze style architecture.

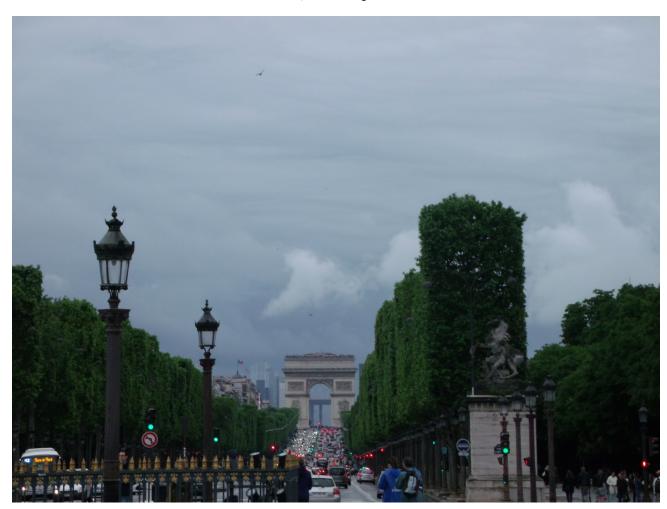
During the French Revolution the statue of Louis XV of France was torn down and the area renamed Place de la Révolution. The new revolutionary government erected the guillotine in the square, and it was here that King Louis XVI was executed on 21 January 1793. Other important figures guillotined on the site, often in front of cheering crowds, were Queen Marie Antoinette, Princess Élisabeth of France, Charlotte Corday, Madame du Barry, Georges Danton, Camille Desmoulins, Antoine Lavoisier, Maximilien Robespierre, Louis de Saint-Just and Olympe de Gouges.

In 1795, under the Directory, the square was renamed Place de la Concorde as a gesture of reconciliation after the turmoil of the French Revolution. After the Bourbon Restoration of 1814, the name was changed back to Place Louis XV, and in 1826 the square was renamed Place Louis XVI. After the July Revolution of 1830 the name was returned to Place de la Concorde and has remained since.











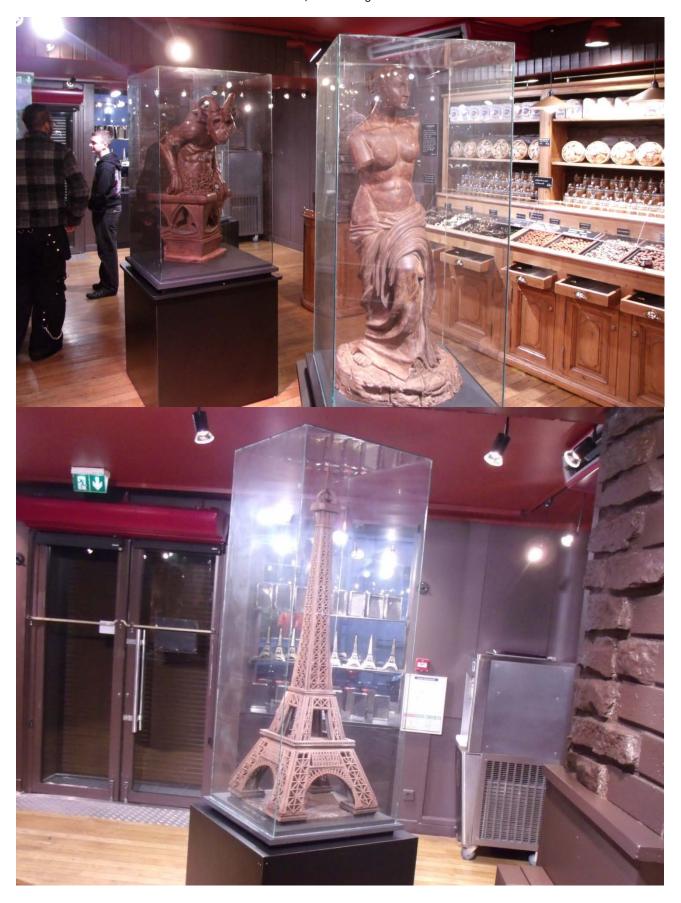




Back on the Métro to Anver, where we rode the Funicular up to visit Sacré-Cœur again, then back down to stroll past the souvenirs shops, but we did not pass the Chocolate Musée!







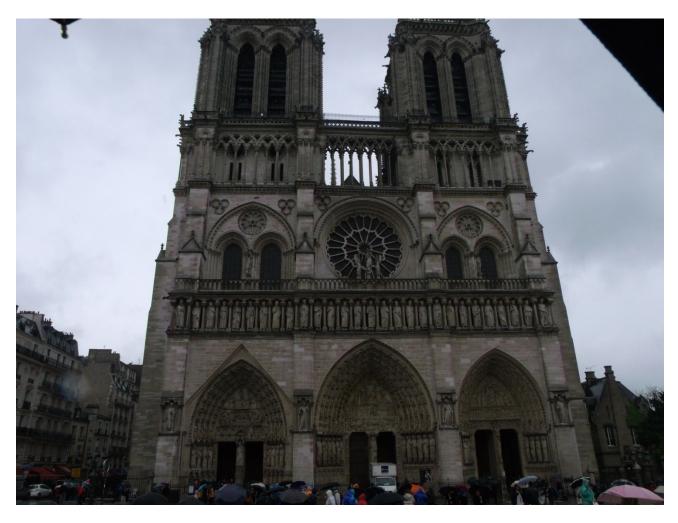


Monday, May 23, 2016

Up early

7:30, Breakfast

8:35, Checked in on line with Delta for flight back home, then off in the rain to the Métro station. We came up from the Île de la Cité Métro station, site of the Notre Dame. Île de la Cité is one of two remaining natural islands in the Seine within the city of Paris, and the location of the medieval city.

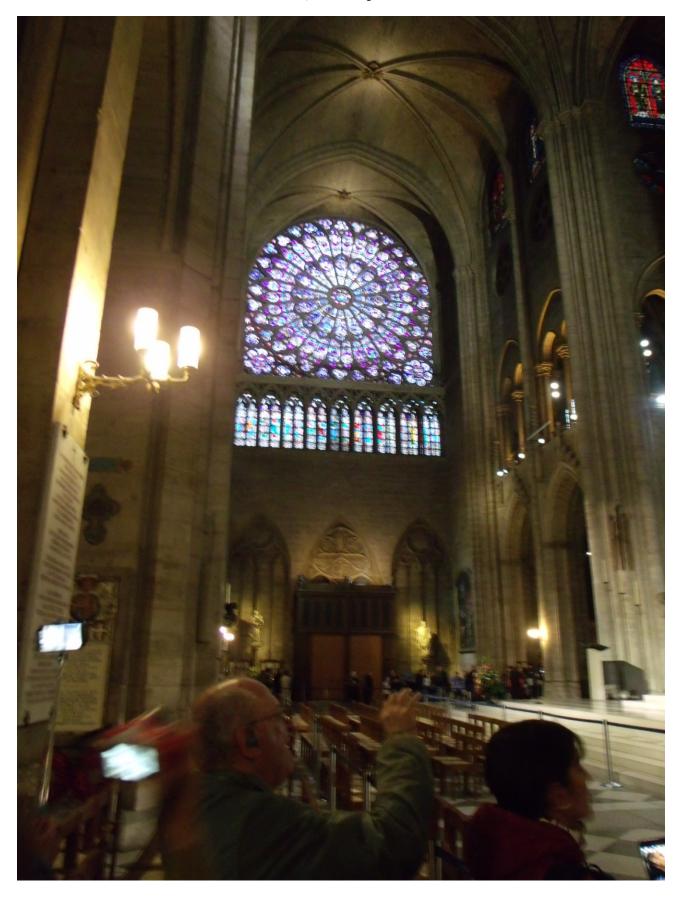


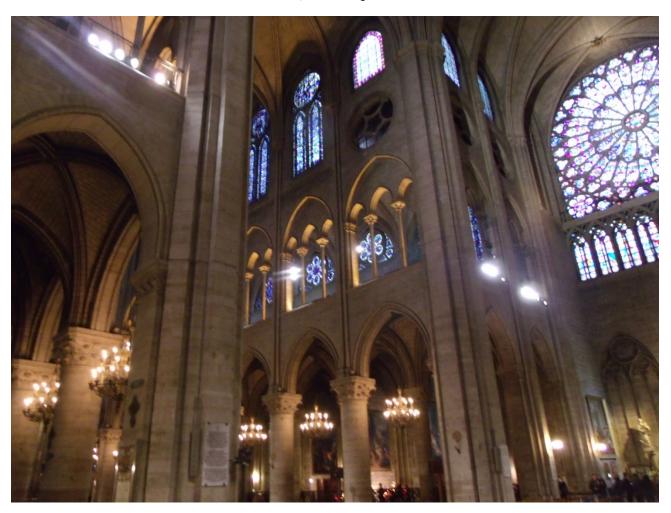
Notre Dame, one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture, was among the first buildings in the world to use the flying buttress. The building was not originally designed to include the flying buttresses around the choir and nave, but after the construction began the thinner walls grew ever higher and stress fractures began to occur as the walls pushed outward. Later the church was enlarged by simpley enclosing the buttresses.

In 1160, Bishop Maurice de Sully deemed the previous Paris cathedral, Saint-Étienne of the 4th century, a bit dated and ordered the construction of Notre Dame.

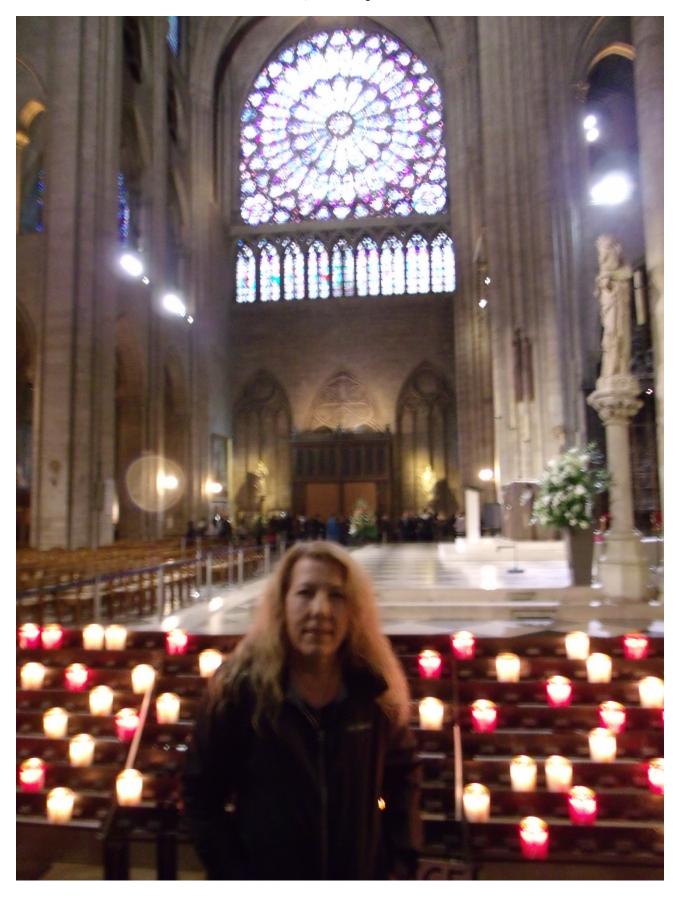
The day we visited, they were setting up a platform for a choir near the entrance, which broke up the visuals a bit, blocking a long view of the interior.

Notre Dame is 130 meters long, 48 meters wide, and 35 meters high. That is 115 feet high, and built in the 12th century, without modern cranes. The rose windows have a diameter of 10 meters.

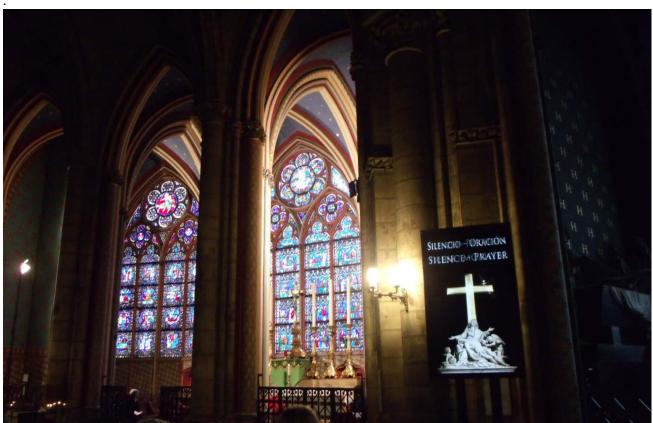


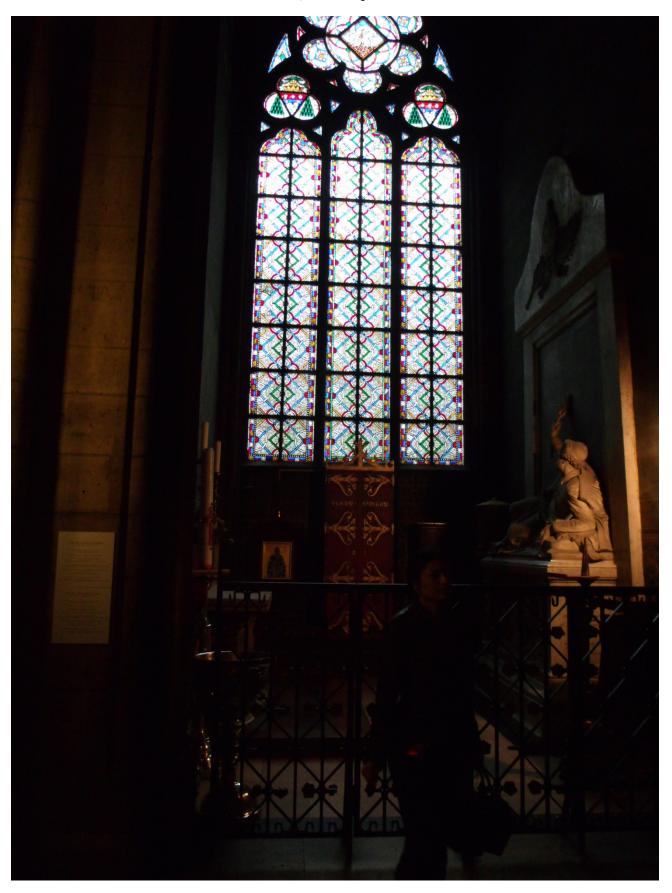


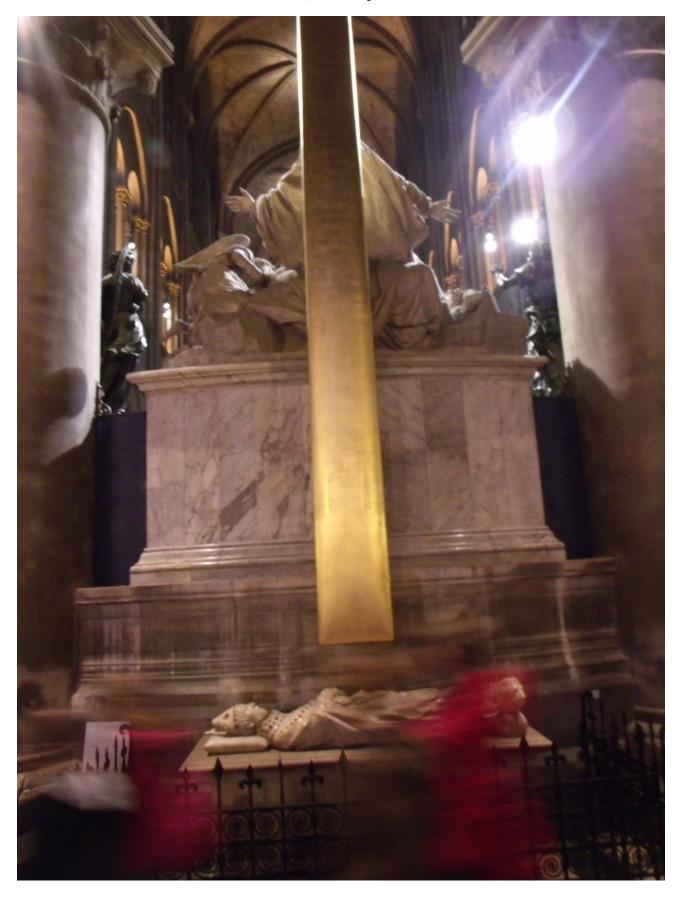


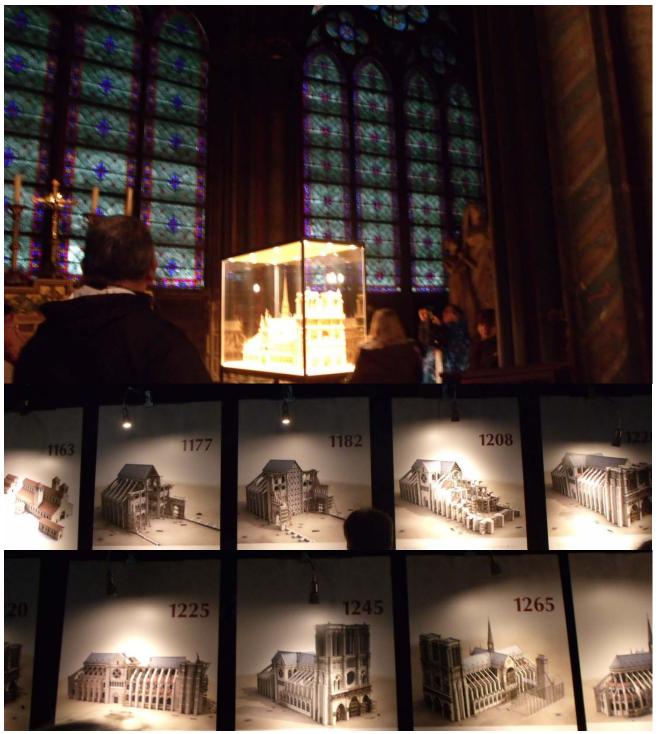




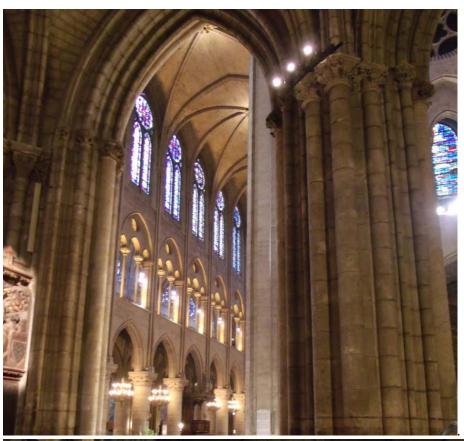




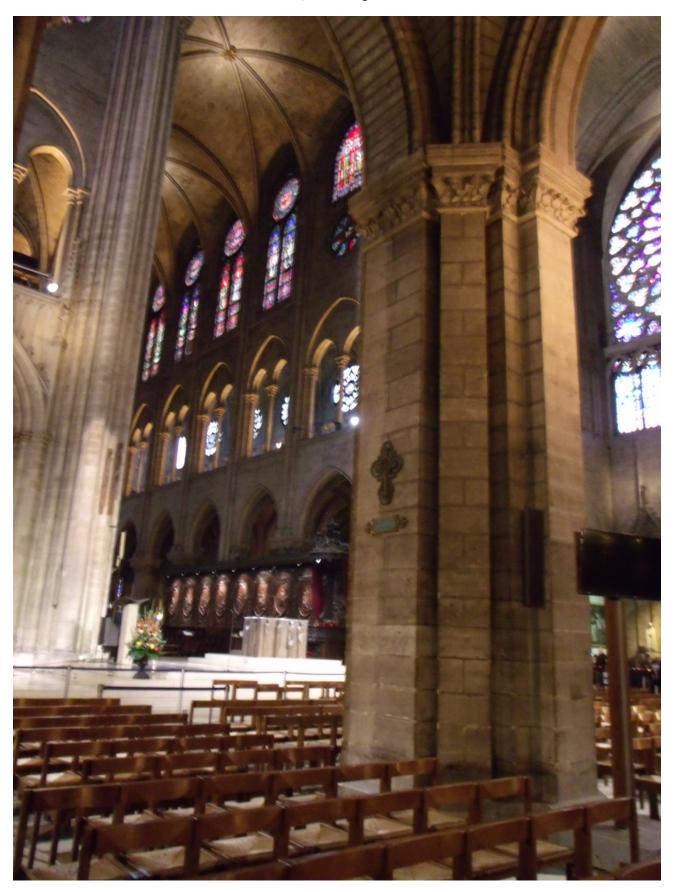


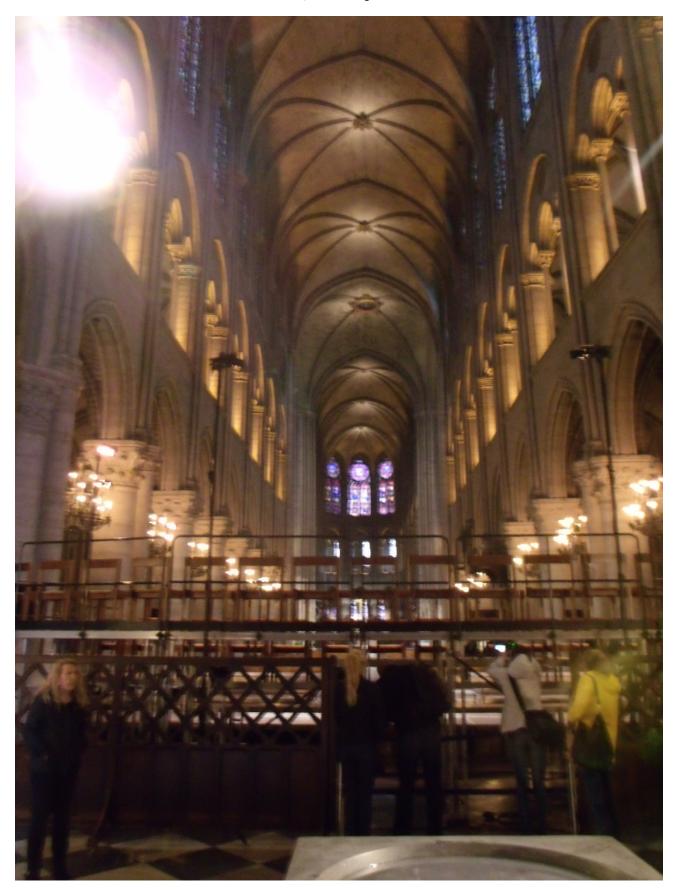


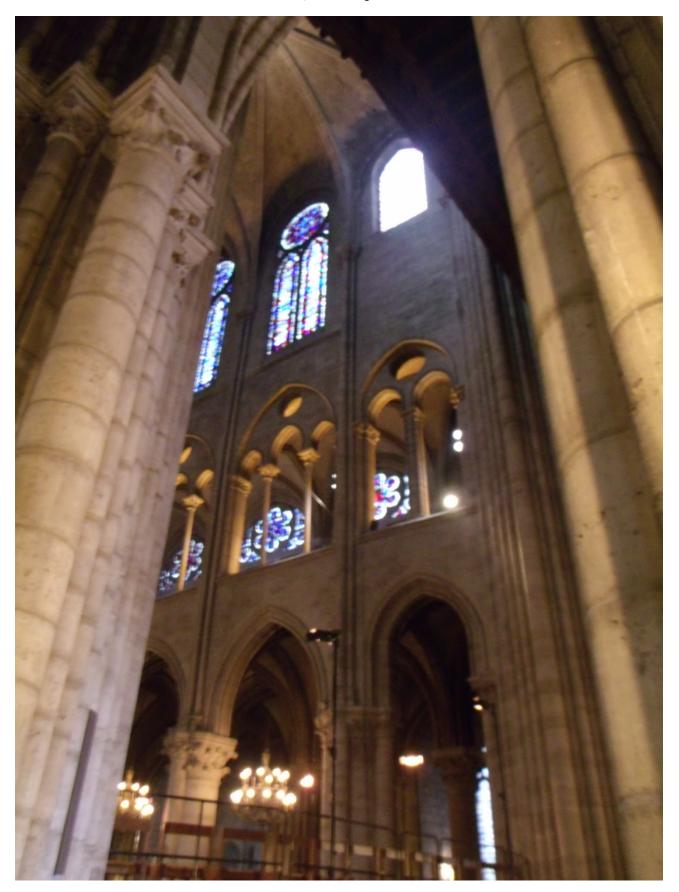
- 1163 Cornerstone laid for Notre-Dame de Paris; construction begins.
- 1182 Apse and choir completed, work begins on western facade.
- 1208 Nave vaults nearing completion.
- 1225 Western facade completed.
- 1250 Western towers and north rose window completed.
- $c.1245-1260s\ Transepts\ remodeled\ in\ the\ Rayonnant\ style\ by\ Jean\ de\ Chelles\ then\ Pierre\ de\ Montreuil$
- 1250–1345 Remaining elements completed.

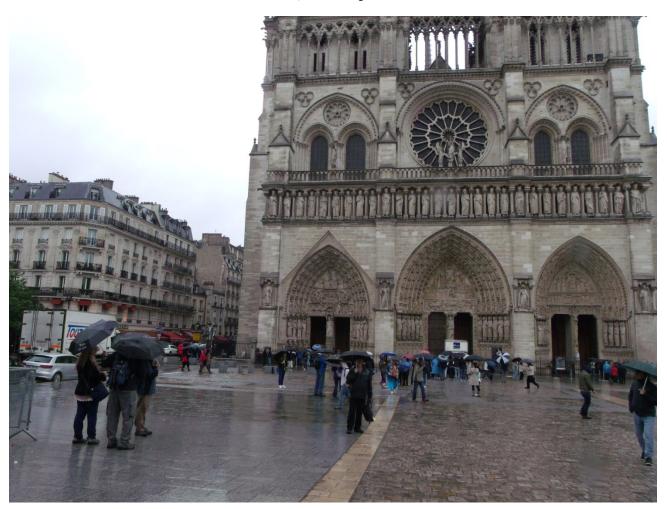












Across the square was a huge tent, and within was a big celebration of different breads of France. They had huge ovens, live radio broadcasts, kids getting tours, videos of how bread is made, and the great smell of bread everywhere. It was called Fete des Pains.





They even had massive decorative breads.



We then braved the rain, and walked across the bridge, and down a bit, to get some great views of Notre Dame.

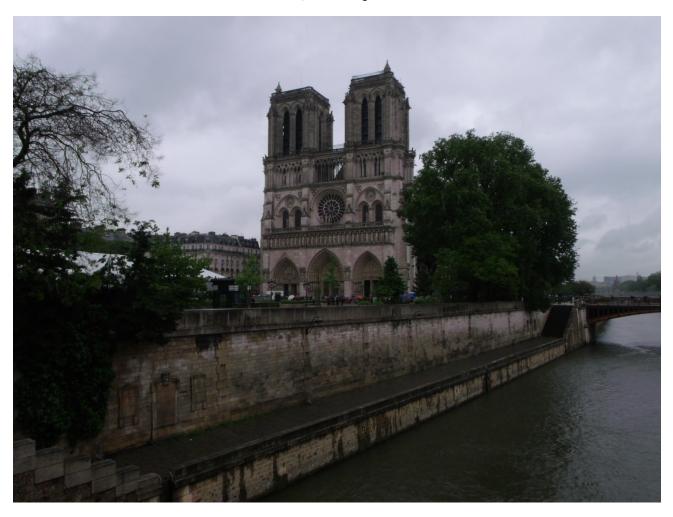






Looking toward Hôtel de Ville





We dropped down the to the RER station on the island, and rode to Jardin Luxembourg.





This was the one time we really wished we could visit when there was no rain.





11:15, Just across the street was L'Arlecchino, so we headed out of the rain for pizza, coffee, and a croque.



€19,85



12:01, we headed to the Pantheon; built as a church, it now is a national monument, and the final resting place of many of France's great people. €17,00





History







Pantheon

From Christian basilica to Temple of the Nation

The Christian basilica

In 507, after his conversion to Christianity, King Clovis founded a first basilica designed to house his tomb and that of his wife, Clotilde. The pious Geneviève, who had protected Paris from the barbarians, was buried here in 512.

Upkeep of the Patron Saint of Paris's relics was soon entrusted to a Génovéfain chapter*.

Soufflot's masterpiece

In 1744, after a serious illness from which he said



he was cured by invoking the Saint, Louis XV made a vow to dedicate a prestigious monument to Geneviève. The project for a new basilica was entrusted to the architect Soufflot* in 1755, with the ambition of rivalling

English

Saint Peter's in Rome. His colleague, Rondelet, completed the building in 1790.

The National Pantheon

In 1791, the monument was transformed into the National Pantheon. The huge sanctuary was returned to its role as a church twice during the 19th century, before being definitively reinvested with its civic function in 1885, for Victor Hugo's funeral.

* Explanations overleaf.

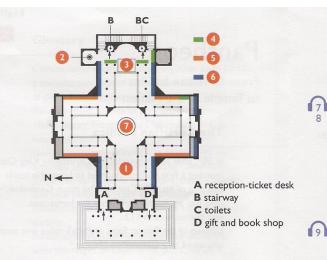
PANTHEON

PLEIN TARIF 1

Vendu le 23/05/2016 a 12:49 NI ECH CO82/LAMO1 757820803681

Valable le 23/05/2016 Vendu le 23/05/2016 a 12:49 757820803681

PANTHEON PLEIN TARIF



Main level

- 1 The nave presents a vast central volume, freed up by lines of Corinthian columns which define the side aisles. At the intersection of the transept and the nave, four pillars bear the dome's load.
 - 2 Rondelet's model shows the superposition of the three layers forming the dome, the highest in Paris, crowned with a cross.
 - 3 La Convention nationale (The National Convention) by Sicard, ca. 1924, shows Marianne surrounded by the soldiers of Year II* and renowned revolutionary parliamentarians. Other sculptures, around the pillars in the crossing, pay homage to events and people representing certain values. These values, born of the Enlightenment*, were to become fundamental for the Nation, notably freedom of expression embodied by Diderot et les Encyclopédistes (Diderot and the Encyclopédistes) and Orateurs de la Restauration (Orators of the Restoration*).
 - 4 The plaques in the chancel and the south transept are the start of the homages paid to famous persons, mainly writers who died between the two World Wars.

The walls have a painted décor on rebacked canvasses* begun in 1874, in a political context in which France was divided between monarchists and republicans. This order was supervised by the director of Beaux-Arts, the Marquis de Chennevières.

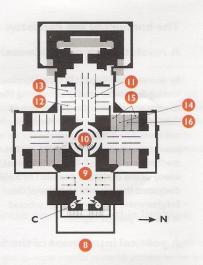
- 5 The Christian heroes who left their mark on France during the Ancien Régime are represented on the walls of the transept. Each painting corresponds to a major event considered as a step forward in the nation's construction and takes part in the history of France as it was idealised starting at the end of the 19th century: the Battle of Tolbiac, the Coronation of Charlemagne, the Reform of Justice by Saint Louis and the end of the Hundred Years'War with Joan of Arc.
- 6 The cycle of the life of St Geneviève covers the walls of the nave. It highlights the notions of sacrifice and resistance, ideas on which the different political sensitivities can agree. Artists who were famous in their day painted the exemplary actions of the Saint's life: Puvis de Chavannes (1824-1898), her childhood and the Protection of Paris under siege by the Huns, Jean-Paul Laurens (1838-1921), her death.
- 7 Under the dome can be found the oldest paintings, frescoes begun under the First Empire and finished under the Restoration* by Baron Gros, depicting the Apotheosis of St Geneviève.

Staircase B leads to the crypt, where more plaques can be seen, along with the tombs of the men and women honoured by the Nation.

The crypt

8 Léon Gambetta, founder of the 3rd Republic, is honoured by an urn with his heart placed in the wall of the access stairs on 11 November 1920, the day on which a joint ceremony was held with the Unknown Soldier being buried at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.





- 9 The vestibule holds two emblematic philosophers of the Enlightenment* – Voltaire, defender of tolerance, is preceded by his statue by Houdon and, facing him, his rival Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the father of equality.
- 15 10 The rotunda with its thick walls gives access to the branches of the crypt where the burial vaults are located.
 - 11 Dignitaries of the Empire were buried here by decree issued by Napoleon I and include the authors of the founding texts of the French State and institutions such as Portalis and Tronchet, authors of the Civil Code, and Perrégaux, founder of the Banque de France.
 - 12 Major authors whose works and commitments defend the values of republican justice and tolerance: Victor Hugo, Émile Zola and Alexandre Dumas.
 - 13 Major figures in the fight for equality, notably Victor Schoelcher, buried for the centennial of the abolition of slavery, Jean Jaurès, the father of French Socialism, assassinated in 1914, and the "Poet of Négritude", Aimé Césaire, honoured with a plaque.

- 19
- 14 Powerful voices gave life to democracy and civic values at the dawn of the French Revolution: Condorcet, Monge and Abbé Grégoire.
- 20
- 15 Courage and resistance are honoured in the north corridor: the homage begins with the plaque of the Righteous, those who helped Jews to hide during World War II. The men and women in this section showed great courage during the war.

 Resistance fighters and deportees to Ravensbrück, Geneviève de Gaulle Anthonioz and Germaine Tillion continued a lifetime of commitment after 1945, placing brotherhood and equality at the heart of their concerns.

Pierre Brossolette, Jean Moulin and Jean Zay, all of whom died during the war, embody different aspects of the spirit of resistance against the Nazi occupier and the Vichy regime. André Malraux, France's first Minister of Culture, is here with Jean Monnet, artisan behind the construction of the European Union, and René Cassin, principal author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

16 Scientists, starting with Pierre and Marie Curie, Nobel Prize recipients for their discoveries on radium, honour the notion of progress.



The west façade

The Pantheon opens out onto a monumental peristyle inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. The pediment, transformed four times since the building was erected — every time it changed uses — is now that of David d'Angers dating from 1837, La Patrie distribuant ses recompenses (The Fatherland crowning the heroic and civic virtues). Voltaire and Rousseau are represented seated to the left in the composition.

* Explanations overleaf

Glossary

Constituante: assembly called together to draw up a constitution. That of 1789 led to the elimination of the Ancien Régime in France.

Enlightenment: school of philosophical thought in 18th-century France, based on reason and denouncing injustice.

Génovéfains: canons living in a community and attached to the adoration of Saint Geneviève. Jansenists: partisans of an austere, strict Christian doctrine based on grace and predestination. Rebacking: gluing a painting canvas onto a different surface.

Restoration: reestablishment of the monarchy with the reigns of Louis XVIII and Charles X, from 1814 to 1830.

Jacques-Germain Soufflot (1713-1780): Pantheon architect, he was the main representative of the neoclassical style under Louis XVI.

Year II: second year of the 1st French Republic after its founding in September 1792.

Visitor information

Average length of visit: 1½ hours. Guided tour of the nave in French. Appropriate tools.

Gift and book shop

The guide for this monument can be found in the Itinéraires collection and is available in 5 languages at the gift and book shop.

Centre des monuments nationaux Panthéon Place du Panthéon 75005 Paris tél. 01 44 32 18 00

www.monuments-nationaux.fr

The honours of the Pantheon

A revolutionary place of worship

By decree dated 4 April 1791, the Constituante*, looking for a place worthy of receiving Mirabeau's remains, transformed the basilica into a temple to honour the great men of the Nation: the Pantheon was born, where Voltaire was transferred in 1791, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Marat in 1794. Rousseau, the "father of equality", lies facing his rival, Voltaire, enemy of the clergy and despots. The Revolution designated them as two emblems of the Enlightenment* whose writings ushered in the new political regime.

A political instrument of the State

Napoleon I decided to honour the great servants of the State in the crypt, while the nave was reserved for worship. In 1885, given the considerable emotion brought out by the death of Victor Hugo, this huge basilica seemed to be the only place worthy of holding his remains.

Honours were thus granted according to criteria that have evolved with changes in the regimes. Furthermore, the tombs in the crypt, the inscriptions engraved in stone or affixed in bronze lettering, have been used for another kind of homage. Nowadays, French men and women are honoured here depending on the desires of the President of the French Republic: politicians, authors, scientists, Resistance fighters, defenders of republican values and the fatherland.



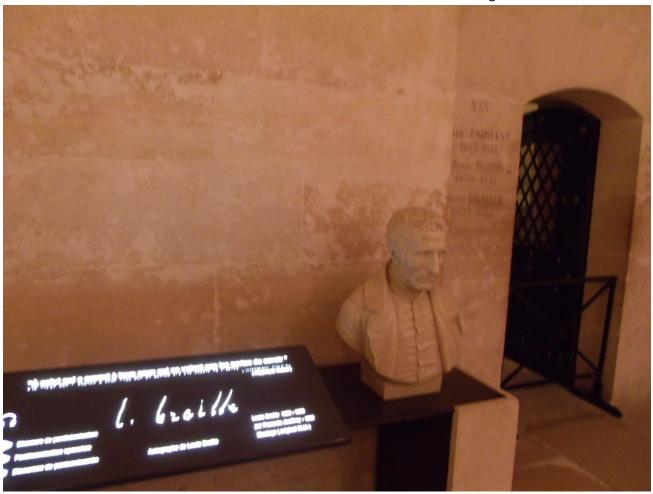




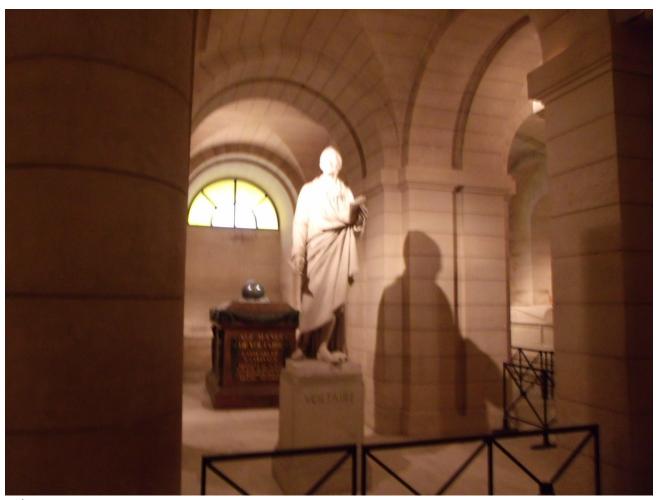




Victor Hugo and Alexander Dumas



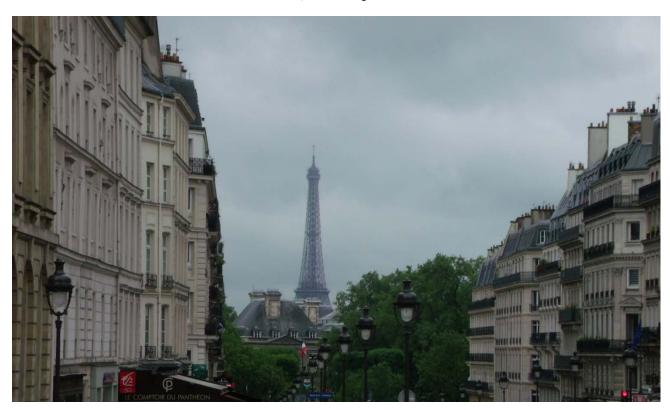
Braille



Voltaire



Model of the crypt area



We then pulled out our map, and wandered through the Latin Quarter, to the Arènes de Lutèce, an important ruin from the Gallo-Roman era in Paris (known in antiquity as Lutetia, or Lutèce in French). The amphitheater could once seat 15,000 people, and was used to present gladiatorial combats.

Constructed in the 1st century AD, this amphitheater is considered the longest of its kind constructed by the Romans. The sunken arena of the amphitheater was surrounded by the wall of a podium 2.5 m (8.2 feet) high, surmounted by a parapet. There was also a 41.2-m- (135-foot-) long stage. When Lutèce was sacked during the barbarian invasions of 280 A.D., some of the structure's stone work was carted off to reinforce the city's defenses around the Île de la Cité. Later, the amphitheater became a cemetery, and then it was filled in completely following the construction of wall of Philippe Auguste (ca. 1210).

Centuries later, even though the surrounding neighborhood (quartier) had retained the name les Arènes, no one really knew exactly where the ancient arena had been. It was discovered during the building of the Rue Monge between 1860–1869, when the Compagnie Générale des Omnibus sought to build a tramway depot on the site.

Spearheaded by the author Victor Hugo (1802–1885) and a few other intellectuals, a preservation committee called la Société des Amis des Arènes undertook to save the archaeological treasure.

As we arrived at the site, the rain finally let up a bit.

One entrance was like walking into a corridor in a building led to the floor, so we walked around to a park area, up the embankments, to get a better view.







We then set off to see the grand Opera, after watching an organ grinder and his cats.













After finishing at the Opera, we headed back to Montmartre... time to by some last minute souvenirs €7,00.

We stopped at the Pret A Manger for soup (€11,90), then headed to the FranPrix to get some snacks for the plane. We stopped by our favorite Patisserie, Pain en Fete, and picked up a couple of items they called Divorces, because of the fight between flavors. €4,20.



Then, back to the hotel to pack, and settle in.

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Paris to Atlanta

2:00, up VERY early, finished our cookies and finalized our packing.

4:00, down stairs, and checked out.

4:30, the crowded shuttle picked us up, then we grabbed two more folk near the Champs-Élysées before heading to CDG.

Voucher 1 of 1



My Pre-Paid Voucher/Ticket

Confirmed:

Paris Shuttle Departure Transfer: Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) (3627PARHTLAPTCDG)

Happy Travels

Lead Traveler: Grace Collins

Travel Date: Tuesday May 24, 2016 Number of Travelers: 2 (2 Adults)

Booking Reference: BR-572675663



Voucher Information: You can present either a paper or an electronic voucher for this activity.

5:30, Tipped the driver €2,65, checked in the kiosks, went through security fairly quickly, got Susann some Starbucks €4,20, and settled into our gate.

6:55, changed €75 for \$67.

7:40 boarding began on the A320, seats 38 A and B.

During the flight I watched the Revenant, Heart of the Sea, and we both watched Sizarro, and Casablanca. For "lunch" we had chicken and omelets, with bread, cheese and fruit. Our midway snack was Ice Cream, crackers and cheese, and just before landing we had a cheese pannini.



- 12:01pm landed in Atlanta.
- 1:30pm, finally got past the badly managed passport control, where $\frac{1}{2}$ the people were sent to extended screening. We then took the train from terminal F to A 20.
- 2:00pm, boarded the plane, and took seats 40B and C on the 757... a big guy had seat A, and he spent a lot of time in my 'air space.' We watched Top Gear on our last let: Atlanta to Austin.
- 3:45pm, Gracie met us at the gate, we picked up our car and we took Gracie to her car, before heading to Torchy's in Round Rock for dinner.

Austin to Temple was a pretty quick run, we got unpacked and collapsed... but it was a wet, but great, trip.