

# 2023 - Ireland Roundtrip

Ipsach – UK – Ireland – UK – Ste Marie

20<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
8100 km – by our Caddy Hotel,

followed by 5 weeks holidays at Ste Marie



## 1. Background

Peggy had expressed the wish to visit Ireland without our VW-Caddy for a long while already and as our Caddy's career draws to an end she had set Ireland on top of the trips-do-list. I however was a bit apprehensive due to unstable health conditions and fearing stress also because of the prospects for Ireland's unfriendly weather conditions. But in the end I gave in and went along and booked the ferries ..... then 1 week before departure I was undergoing an invasive coronary check which ended in a bloody mess the next morning..... We left with my right arm still bruised, slightly swollen with moderate pains while driving....

## 2. Plans and Strategy

Like last year to the Balkans we wanted to avoid the tourist season to enjoy our usual improvised Caddy travel mode. This implied that we would return to France well before July. With that condition and the idea to spend 3 weeks touring the Irish Island and spending a week in UK to travel through Cornwall we came to the following schedule:

- Start from home: 20<sup>th</sup> May to take a ferry from Dieppe to Newhaven on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
- Ferry from Wales (Fishguard) to Rosslare next day on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.
- 3 weeks travel around Ireland, then Ferry from Rosslare to Fishguard on 13<sup>th</sup> June
- 1 week travel in UK (incl. Cornwall), then ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe on 20<sup>th</sup> June
- A few days driving to Ste Marie for 4 to 6 weeks of resting holidays before going back home.

As usually we made no daily plans to spend every day as options and opportunities would open up!

## 3. Results

**Ireland:** Due to extraordinary weather conditions we had a very good time in beautiful Ireland and could make the best use possible of the scheduled 3 weeks. We enjoyed all these hours driving along small, mostly coastal roads around the many peninsulas and could also enjoy our scenic stopovers mostly outdoors! Finding good places for ending the days with overnight stay was generally easy and in most cases at splendid locations. Coastal sceneries, old castles, churches and cemeteries turned up at short intervals. All people we met were very friendly and seemed very relaxed. Of course we enjoyed our pints of Guinness, Fish and Chips and take-away Grilled Hacks and Peggy's enriched outdoor picnics doing some simple cooking once in a while. **All went well!**

In Ireland we did 3920km, mostly on small roads, an average of 185km, at 40km/h = 4-5h a day!

**UK:** We also enjoyed good weather conditions in UK on both ways.

It was a long (730km) but smooth 1-day drive from Newhaven/Brighton to Fishguard with only a small stretch of the M4-motorway over the Prince of Wales Bridge and by-passing of Cardiff etc..

During the return way we realised already in Wales, that it is more difficult to visit any scenic spot without paying a horrendous parking fee. Pay and Display and Private Property panels are everywhere. We still managed to see many things without paying any fee anywhere. We love walking.... and walking anywhere in a foreign country is sightseeing for us. So we had a good time through South Wales and Cornwall and at the end even had a few hours spare to visit Jane and Richard Talbot, living in a thatched roof House at Briant's Poodle before ending up at Reading with Cliff and Doreen Gardner, our best old English friends in Reading. We had a very nice evening with them having lovely dinner at a country pub celebrating the end of our trip through Ireland and UK.

**France:** Traveling in France with the Caddy is routine for us but we still try to take new routes and see things which we had not seen before. This time the Valley of the Somme and the famous Cliffs of Etr  tat on the way to take the ferry in Dieppe. On the return way from Dieppe down South to Ste Marie we just headed in the right direction which took us via Sarlat in the Dordogne, we had visited in Winter 1996.

#### **4. Various**

##### **Mishaps**

Ferry-Booking: Suddenly on 2nd June and for no particular reason Peggy looked at the booking slip for the ferry back to UK: I had booked the 20th instead of the intended 13th June. It took me 2 highly stressed hours at MacDonald's WiFi to change the booking and I only got final confirmation 5 days later, a few days before time!

Collision: On a straight but narrow road, in the middle of nowhere, hardly any traffic....driving 40km/h.... while crossing a VW-California.... BAAAANG! My right rear vision mirror had no more frame.... findig a spot to turn back.... the California had CH / BE (Bernese) numberplates. It had probably happened because we both had left-hand steering! Who's fault? Forget it! I found the frame on the road-side and we managed to scotch it back somehow. The mirror adjustment still worked.

##### **Difficulties**

Map Reading: Finding the right way to drive has become a constant difficulty for me. The main problem emanates from my dwindling short-term memory which makes it very difficult to drive in unknwn territory because I can no more retain names looked up in a map (paper or Google) even for 10 sec. I can also no more remember names on road pannels to look up in maps after finding a place to stop. So I have to consult Google Maps on my tab sometimes every few minutes which means many nerves-wrecking road-side stops .....

The only satisfactory solution would be a fixed GPS.... but soon I may give up Caddy-travelling anyhow.

Left-hand driving: In general I had no difficulty with left-hand side driving. But there were the odd situations where I started on the wrong side after parking and a couple of times I had to quickly swerve to my side! The most dangerous situations were at roundabouts where I kept expecting the traffic from the wrong side! For Peggy, sitting on the right-hand side while driving on narrow roads, frightened her, as she felt very exposed to the hazard of a collision when crossing at a couple or even 1 inch distance.

##### **Weather**

We have been extremely lucky with the weather. In May and till mid-June Ireland & UK had the longest nice weather period in history - we had only one day of moderate rain on 10th June in the Wicklow Mountains. Wheareas the Caddy is optimal for adventure driving, it is not suited for extensive periods of wet, cold and windy weather as it does not offer proper indoor-comfort and thus I had been very apprehensive beforehand. It all went well and most of the days we could even sit outside for picnic at lunch and dinner. Also we had excellent dry conditions for all the walking we did.

##### **Epilogue**




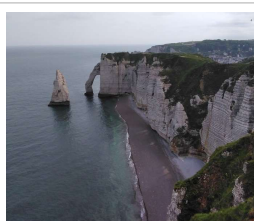
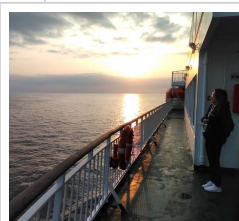

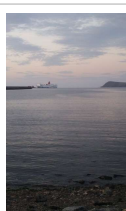
This time I was extremely slow to produce the illustrated diary. It appeared that I had great difficulty to recall my memory to fill the gaps between the sparse notes I had taken on the way! But then I enjoyed the strenuous effort to match notes, Google Earth and the many phoptgraphs I had made and to dig up additional information in Google/Wikipedia. In this way I made the journey once more at leisure and could recall and pin down many good souvenirs which would have otherwise vanished for good. For infromation: It took me about 1 afternoon of 2-3 hours work on average to document each day of the trip.....  
... although I don't think anybody except me and perhaps Peggy would ever read this report..

##### **Validation**

Not many people can understand and even less accept our enjoyment in travelling the 'hard' and uncomfortable way, be it with the Caddy or when backpacking. We found out in our long travel-carreer, that luxury just by spending money is detrimental to the experience of having done it on your own. It's just like the 'do it yourself' amateur craftsman who is proud of having done it! Getting older this idea of travelling light and simple has even spurned us to measure our capacity to face such challenges. Here one example of many adventures still giving us thrills and pride, like the one in 2007 in Guizhou (CN): Endless 11h walk into lonely mountains ending up in the dusk at a small village Beidou (see report). All these adventures would not have enriched our memories if we had not traveled by our 'hard' way! It may look to many as if we had tried desperately to save money..... NO! And we have never accepted other people to spend money for us..... but of course we have appreciated their kind help with relief and also pleasure as it proved to us that there are nice people everywhere around the world!

**Soon the show will be over for me and I may have to either stay home or pursue comfortable ways!**

## Diary

Sa 20.5.	Start: Ipsach	Arr: 19.15 / Lac Der (near St. Dizier)	Km: 384 km
<p>When departure neared I was still traumatised by a nasty experience in hospital following a coronary invasive investigation at the hospital 1 week before departure. My forearm was still badly bruised and swollen and I still felt moderate pain.... but the ferries were booked.....!</p> <p>We had prepared the Caddy for travel-mode the last few days and thus had only little last minute items to finish packing before departure.</p> <p>Minimum clothes for cold and warm weather, for walking and resting. 24 cans of beer / 6 bottles of wine / 15 liters of drinking water (just in case but then we even had some left 5 weeks later at Ste Marie-Mer).</p>			 <p>Hospital</p>
<p>We left home at 10.30 and first headed towards Porrentruy then on main roads on to Belfort, Langres, then following the valley de la Marne, where we hoped to find a good spot for the night. After trying a few options along the river/canal in vain, we headed for the Lac du Der-Chantecoq near St Dizier. Luckily we found a good, quiet spot in a clearing at 100m of the plage de la cornée du Der near Ste Marie du Lac.. Had a lovely picnic, a nice evening and a quiet night! First BAD surprise: At the Marne I took my camera out to take a couple of pictures.... I had forgotten to re-insert the SD-Card after clearing it up!</p>			 <p>Lac Der-Chantecoq</p>
So 21.5.	Start: Lac Der	Arr: 19.00 / Poterie Cap d'Antifer (near Étretat)	Km: 477 / 861
<p>We left Lac Der at 8.30. After Vitry we took the road via Sézanne to Soissons which we reached at 12.00. We visited the Abbaye St Jean and the Cathedral in the centre but found no reasonable restaurant in town for a simple lunch. Originally I had the wish to visit Rouen, so we continued via Compiègne, Beauvais, but then, due to time-consuming deviations and time approaching busy-hour traffic: Change of Plan: Don't stop for visiting Rouen but instead go right for the famous Cliffs of Étretat. After quick drives through Fécamp and Étretat we ended up at a windy parking in a tiny village called Poterie Cap d'Antifer at 2 km from the cliffs and the phare d'Antifer.</p> <p>I enjoyed the picnic, although I almost froze in the cold wind, while Peggy was upset because 'I had not been doing anything to help her with the picnic and ..... that I had only been driving....!'</p>			 <p>Cathedral Soissons</p>
<p>Now I was frustrated since I was indeed exhausted from driving 8h today, since I had no more practice of long drives.</p>			
Mo 22.5.	Start: Poterie Cap d'Antifer	Arr: 22.00 (21.00 UK) / Newhaven UK	Km: 97 / 958
<p>After breakfast at 8.00 we walked first to the Phare d'Antifer to join the cliffs and to continue walking to the famous Falaise d'Aval beside Étretat. Beautiful walk. Unfortunately we did not walk back the same way and at half way turned off to join the main road and got back to the car we had left at Poterie at 12.30.</p> <p>Drive to Dieppe with short stop at Fécamp to see the typical Seafront-Promenade). In Dieppe we stressed to get petrol &amp; last Lidl-Shopping for wine and survival food.</p>		 <p>Falaise d'Aval</p>	 <p>Ferry nearing UK</p>
<p>We reached the Ferry Check-In at 16.00. Actual ferry start at 18.00. 4h cruise. We met and chatted with interesting mother and daughter, Canadians of polish origin. We arrived at Newhaven at 21h (UK time). From the deck, at arrival, we spotted a possible lonely place for the night just beside the harbour. We got there at 22.00.</p>			
Tu 23.5.	Start: Newhaven	Arr: 16.30 / Fishguard - Ferry - 4am at Rosslare	Km: 488 / 1446 km
<p>At 6am we decided to drive off early, before breakfast to cross Brighton before rush hour traffic. At Hove Beach, at the very end of the Brighton Promenade we spotted at perfect beach-side parking for breakfast with view to the famous jetty in the distance. It was 6am and we enjoyed the early morning sun atmosphere shared with early swimmers!</p> <p>At 7am we started the long drive to take the ferry to Ireland at Fishguard tonight. We followed main roads via Southampton, Salisbury and Warminster where we stopped at a roadside small Chinese restaurant serving nice fried noodles!</p>		 <p>View to Brighton</p>	 <p>Early Swimmers</p>
<p>After this treat we later joined the M4 motorway just to cross the Prince of Wales Bridge and by-passing Cardiff!</p> <p>We reached Fishguard at 16.30 with plenty of time to hang around for picnic and a little walk until check-in time at 21.15. We were already frozen in the car before boarding. The ferry left at 23.45 after we had seated ourselves for the nightly cruise at the huge main bar area and I froze the whole time sleeping now and again....(had left jacket in the car)</p>		 <p>P.of Wales Bridge</p>	 <p>Fishguard waiting</p>  <p>Ferry arrives</p>



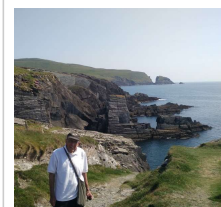
We 24.5.	Start: Kilmore Quai (near Rosslare)	Arr: 17.00 / View Point Parking near Annestown	Km: 198 / 1644
After disembarking at Rosslare at 4am in the dark and being very tired we did not find a suitable place nearby to pass the rest of night... so we just continued driving on small roads. Somehow I still had the name of Kilmore Quai in my head and so started a Night Odyssey...which ended well at the Kilmore's fishing port one hour later at dawn. We managed to sleep for almost 2h and then got up in bright sun at 8am. We found a nice spot for Breakfast a few 100m further and then took our time to walk around the place with a whale and sailors memorial park and nice old and new houses with thatched roofs.			
		Whale Memorial	Thatched Roof
We left at 10.00 driving West without time pressure and no definite plans. So we turned soon to visit the Hook Head with a light tower and old cemeteries and ruins of ancient churches... the Hook Loop. We almost managed to have our first Fish&Chips...but today the 'Hook' was closed. Eventually we had our picnic bellow the Ballyhack Castle beside a small ferry across the Barrow River but we preferred to make the detour of 20km to continue via Waterford and Tramore. Now back to the nice coast there was no way to find a combination of F&Ch and a place to stay for the night.			
		Hook Head	Near Annestown Night Stop
Eventually we stopped at a small view point parking (52.137284,-7.316606) between Annestown and Bunmahon at about 16.30h. We enjoyed the evening near the shore with warm wind/strong sun and so had lovely outdoor picnic. At 20.00h we withdrew.			
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Th 25.5.	Start: near Annestown	Arr: 18.30 / Garretstown Beach	Km: 189 / 1833
Weather so far: often moderately windy, cloudy to fair, temp mornings° 9 to 15° (today) , afternoons 15° to 20° . Got up at 8.00 and after breakfast we left at 10.00 towards Cork, which we reached at 11.00.			
Visit of Elizabeth Fort, then strolling through city and back to St Fin Barre's Cathedral (did not enter for 7E each 😊). Most important: I bought a SD-card for my camera! Then at last we got a take away Cod & Chips from O'Reilly's, claimed to be the best in town!			
		Cork Elisabeth Fort	Cork Elisabeth Fort
			
		Cork City	St. Fin Barre
On the way out of Cork first shopping at Lidl ... beer and wine cost double of home in CH.			
Then took to the shore via Kinsale to enjoy the splendid weather (max 23.5 degrees, cloudless sky). Also had a quick look at the Charles Castle. It was only 17.30 but then we hoped to find a good place to stay at the Old Head, which however turned out to be for golfers only. At 18.30 after skipping a few more options: Bingo! The perfect place...great picnic, a nice chat with a retired local and then a little evening cliff walk along the shore. Still 18° at 22.00!			
		Garretstown Beach. Night stop	..... and little walk.
Here I became aware of a very useful road-sign which will guide us all the way for the next 12 days do the Northern Shores of Ireland: The <b>Wild Atlantic Way</b> , usually taking you on the most costal roads as possible.			
		Stands for WAW Wild Atlantic Way	
.....			
Fr 26.5.	Start: Garretstown Beach	Arr: 18.30 / Near Bantry, Snaive Pier	Km: 184 / 2017
We got up at 8.00 and after lovely view breakfast we left at 9.00. Soon we stopped at the Timoleague Friary when we saw the clean Toilets inviting us to have a good wash, with warm water even! Of course we also visited the ruins and the cemetery of the friary. We drove through Clonalkilti without stop as it was too early for lunch for the famous black pudding! At 11.30 visit to Drombeg Stone Circle.			
		Timoleague Friary	Timoleague Friary
			
		Drombeg Stone Circle	
13.00 lunch stop. Peggy fried a delicious beefsteak she had bought in Lidl in Cork. Had long chat with a couple from Galway giving us some useful tips.			



Then continued to Mizen Head and saw the Altar Wedge Tomb on the way. At 3-Castle Head we did not see any good place to stay, so we drove towards Bantry via small roads and still found no worthwhile place to stop... but then, after Bantry we both saw a small sign to a slipway! Bingo! 18.30, Snave Pier, the perfect spot for enjoying the evening, right on the water and socializing with the hordes of brave swimmers jumping into the cold water.



Altar Wedge Tomb



3-Castle Head ,



Snave Pier, Night Stop

Note: At Durrus I had hesitated to take the turn to the Sheep Head, but I felt quite tired and so we continued towards Bantry which turned out well. Now home, looking at Goggle Earth, I see that it could have been worthwhile to try!

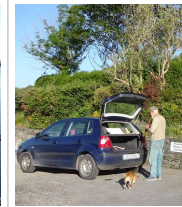
Sa 27.5.	Start: Near Bantry, Snave Pier	Arr: 17.00 Portmagee (Valentia Island)	Km: 245 / 2262
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Got up at 6.30. Sun is up in spotless blue sky. The first Lady has her swim already with 12° air temp, many others followed soon while Peggy does her early Tai Chi. During breakfast a 'Guruh' started his daily ritual playing Japanese flute followed by a session of Tai Chi.

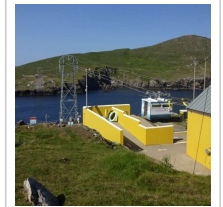
We left at 8.15 to follow the loop of Beara Peninsula. Exciting drive on small roads. Unfortunately the Dursey Island cable car was under reconstruction.



Morning Swim at 6.30

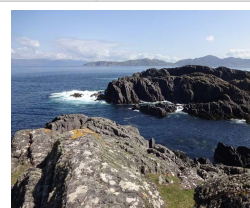


Japanese Flute



Dursey Isl Cable Car

We then went over to Garinish Pier at Beara Head and enjoyed hanging around a bit on the nice shore. Back on the Beara Ring to Kenmare we crossed hundreds of bike-racers. Then went for the popular Ring of Kerry and enjoyed the ever-changing views of bays, islands and coves. We reached Portmagee at 17.00 and decided to park just across the bridge on Valentia Island.



Garinish Pier



Beara Bike Race



Guinness at Portmagee

Later we walked back across the bridge to have a Pint of Guinness at a Pub in Portmagee. We truly deserved it! After returning to the car it was high-time for dinner picnic!

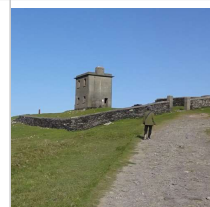
PS At 6 pm before going to the pub, a guard came to lock the parking and told us that the gate will remain closed till 9 am..... we told him that we will be gone for an early walk in the morning ..... after which he asked us to move 20m behind to a grass patch to be off the more visible official parking surface.....

Su 28.5. (Whitsunday)	Start: Portmagee (Valentia Island)	Arr: Lake Muckcross (roadside parking)	Km: 128 / 2390
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We got up at 6.30. At 7.30, after breakfast, we started the scenic walk to Bray Head. On the way we passed the Memorial of Telegraph Cables pioneering telegraphy to America (1857-1894). The Napoleonic Tower at Bray Head was built by the British in 1815. Enjoyed the beautiful 360° view, particularly the awesome Skellig Isles!



1st Telegraph Cables to America



Napoleonic Tower



Bray Head view to the Skelligs

Then we did the Ring of the Valentia Island via Brendan Well (site where the monk St Brendan stopped around in 6th century before several sailing trips to Scotland etc. It may even be possible that he reached America a long time before the Vikings did). Continued to Valentia Island Lighthouse and Knightstown and then on to join the Ring of Kerry. On the way to Killarney we made a short tempting visit to the Killarney Brewery/Distillery. After strolling around in Killarney Centre...with X pubs and restaurants, we ended up at lake Muckcross and at 17.00 found a good spot for the rest of the day but first made a walk along the lake to Dinis Cottage. After return the usual ritual of dinner picnic and sleeping.



Killarney Pedestrian Centre

Mo 29.5.	Start: Lake Muckcross	Arr: 15.00 Dunmore Head (Dingle Peninsula)	Km: 110 / 2500
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We got up at 6.30, left at 7.30 to park at the Torq Cascade, from where we made a nice walk in early sun along Lake Leane to Muckross Gardens, House & Abbey (ruins) and back to Torq Cascade (6km). Then continued to Killarney to visit the Ross Castle.



Muckross Grds



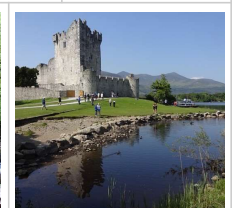
Lake Leane



Muckross House



Torq Cascade



Ross Castle



Continued to Dingle Peninsula having a bite for lunch at the huge Inch Beach. Then Peggy bought a Hot Ham Hock at SuperValue for 5€... à voir... Of course 200m later there was a F&Ch shop... Ma foi!

Continued to Slea Head and shortly later, at 15.00, stopped for good at Dunmore Head as we found a good spot to stay. Walked up to the head passing a Ogham Stone (Irish inscriptions 400-500 a.d. We enjoyed to scramble all over the wild cliffs. Then started apéro after 17.30 ...finished with desert at 20.00. Beautiful scenery in evening sun, the ham hock was delicious and the ring spaghetti a great idea! 21.10 (CH 22.10) still writing this diary with nice view in setting sun!



Ogham Stone



Dunmore Head



Dunmore Head Parking

Tu 30.5.

Start: Dunmore Head

Arr: 18.30 Kilkee (near Loop Head)

Km: 309 / 2809

We got up 6.30/13° for comfortable sleeping . We left at 7.30 and first stopped at Cenn Sreatha, a site of the Star Wars film 'The last Jedi' . Next stop at Brandon (navigator) Creek before taking the longer way over the Connor Pass with splendid view to the Brandon Peak (950m, the highest mountain of Dingle) and its few lakes.



Cenn Sreatha - Site Last Jedi



St. Brandon Creek



Connor Pass, Brandon Peak

13.00 we had lunch at Ballybunion Beach with Mediterranean bathing temperature on a 30th of May and stable weather forecast! Historical record! Now we did not feel like visiting town and by-passed Limerick .... deciding for another coastal loop via Loop Head. On the way I had Bunratty Castle on my to-see-list and so we made a short turn around the handsome castle. The Original Dirty Nelly's Pub reminded us of Dirty Nelly's in Perth & some pints with Patrick!



Ballybunion Beach

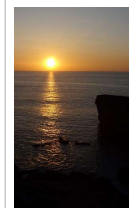


Bunratty Castle - Dirty Nelly's

We found a great place to stop at 18.30 Kilkee. We walked to look for a pub for Guinness. Peggy spotted a Pub terrace vis à vis of at take away and we seated ourselves at a table with a lovely local couple. Had 2 pints of Guinness each and one big portion of fish & chips and spent a good hour together. After walking back we had our 2nd dinner... and then walked up the little hill to watch sunset...we ended up on a stunning scenery of wild cliffs and could not stop our excitement until the sun had completely disappeared seeming to refuse being drowned!



Kilkee Pub



The end of a



beautiful day at Kilkee

We 31.5..

Start: Kilkee

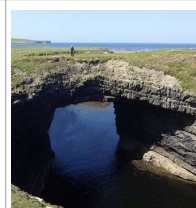
Arr: 18.00, Ballyvaughan

Km: 166 / 2975

Got up at 7am. Blue sky again, 13.5 degrees. Left at 8am for the Loop Head. Several stops with nice cliffs all the way to the Head with the light-tower. We met a nice lady travelling like us by Berlingo, Hillary! Next stop at Spanish Point with a memorial for the plight of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Stopped for picnic and small laundry.



Loop Head



near Loop Head



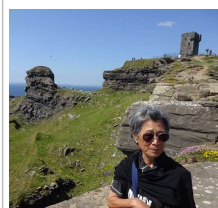
Spanish Point - Armada



Cliffs of Moher

Then headed for Cliffs of Moher. Found a free parking not too far to walk to the tower. Nice impressive range of high cliffs. Then entered the Burren limestone coast, today looked almost like Sahara with burning sun at 26 degrees.

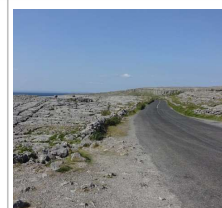
I started already to get concerned as we had not come across any parkings suited for the night but then with perfect timing at 18.00, at Ballyvaughan, we spotted a very nice hidden jetty parking and sneaked in beside a few camping cars. Then spent a very calm evening. I stayed up till sunset at 21.45



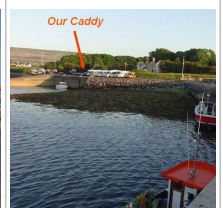
Cliffs of Moher



Doonagore C'tle



The Burren Coastline



Ballyvaughan Jetty

Th 1.6.


Start: Ballyvaughan









Arr: 17.00 Near Bunowen Pier (Connemara)



Km: 219 / 3194

We got up after 7am, the Caddy was already warm from the early sun. We left at 8.30.



<p>Detour through the Burren and via the Poul nabrone Dolmen and the Ruins of Carran Church back to the coast road to Galway. Parked after the bridge at 11.00. Started with the Spanish Arch to stroll through the lovely center. Then via cathedral back to the start of the walk for a take-away Fish&amp;Chips for picnic at the</p>	 <p>Poul nabrone Dolmen</p>	 <p>Carran Church</p>	 <p>Spanish Arch</p>	 <p>Lovely Center of Galway</p>
<p>sea promenade at Salthill Beach. Now continued coastal drive (WAW), near Casla missing the right turn twice (20km detours). After 16.00 in summer weather, we starting to look for a place to stay....but as usually it was to early for settling already for 'not very good'.</p>	 <p>Galway Cathedral</p>	 <p>Salthill Beach F&amp;Ch</p>	 <p>Bunowen Pier</p>	 <p>near Bunowen Pier</p>
<p>At 17.30, at Bunowen Pier, a local chap told us about a perfect spot to stay just around the corner and driving for about 1 km over a grass track... just magnificent and perfect. We enjoyed the 4 hours hanging around till sunset and bed time! (Loc: 53.413225,-10.138007)</p>				

Fr 2.6.	Start: Near Bunowen Pier	Arr: 16.30 Ceann Iorrais (Erris Head)	Km: 214 / 3408	
<p>We got up 6.30 and had a nice chat with 2 elderly men also camping here. We left 8am and stopped at the beautiful Kylemore Abbey (good warm water wash). Nice drive around Killary Harbour and passing the Doolough Valley Famine Memorial of the terrible episode in 1849. Then on via Louisburgh, where I bought Peggy a huge Soft-Ice at a Circle-K petrol station before stopping at the start of the pilgrimage walk to Croach Patrick (764m).</p>				
		Kylemore Abbey	Doolough Valley	
<p>After Westport we stopped at Mulranny Beach for the nice view over the bay and also had late lunch (at 13.30). Earlier on, at a road-side fish stall, Peggy had bought salmon fillets for cooking tonight....</p> <p>On the way to Bangor we stopped for a little walk on the wooden Claggan Mountain Coastal Trail, then continued to Bellmullet to find a place to stay at the Erris Head</p>				
		Croach Patrick	Mulranny Beach	
		Claggan Mt Coastal Trail		
<p>First we tried the Ballyglass Pier which wasn't suitable. Lucky that we had seen a little sign to a view point called Ceann Iorrais (which turned out to be Erris Head). Bingo! Small parking in a cove and there we started at 16.20 for a nice round-walk on the cliffs. Unfortunately, after returning, 2h later, a the strong wind forced Peggy to (gas-) cook the salmon inside the car. The fresh salmon and the couscous were delicious!</p> <p>It was cooler tonight, 17° at 17.30 so we stayed in the car until bed-time. Btw: no network coverage, but the car radio still played Irish music;-)</p>				
		Erris Head walk	Ceann Iorrais (Salmon)	
<p><b>OH OH!</b> Now Peggy, while sorting out some papers, just noticed that I had booked the wrong date for the return ferry to UK!!! The 20.6 instead of 13.6...the same date as the ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe. Will I manage to sleep?</p>				

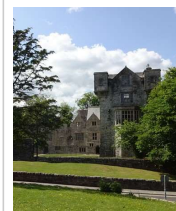
Sa 3.6.	Start: Ceann Iorrais (Erris Head)	Arr: 17.00 Malin Beg	Km: 301 / 3709	
<p>Got up at 6.30 and left at 8. Easy drive to Sligo. The whole way I ruminated about Ferry re-booking...and so I looked in Google Maps for McDonald's to get WiFi... At Sligo it then took me 45' strenuous minutes of try n' error to click through 20 panels typing in xx entries, finally with the encouraging promise that confirmation will be sent within 48h. Exhausted, I did not have the mind for a turn around Sligo and up to Mt Ben Bulbin.</p>		 <p>Killala Quay and its ....</p>	 <p>...Round Tower</p>	 <p>Sligo Courthouse</p>



Then continued towards Donegal. On the way Peggy bought a huge roast chicken at SuperValue. At 14.00, at Bunduran Beach we had a short break for Peggy to prepare 2 wraps with bits of the chicken. Met a lady telling us about her daughter, a book writer, Florence Gillian. Her last book 'Let them lie'. Stopped at Donegal to see the castle and the main square with life music....



Bunduran Beach



Donegal Castle



Donegal. main Square

Now turned West towards Malin Beg. Where, at 17.00, we found a beautiful spot to stop for enjoying the rest of the day and having our roast chicken. The wind had picked up again but we still managed to have dinner outdoor sheltered by the Caddy. Then did some socialising. Next to us there was a diving center down in the cove and on the other side a cliff with one more Napoleonic view tower! Now waiting for sunset which I will see from my seat. Soon after, the moon took over!



Malin Beg - Diving Center



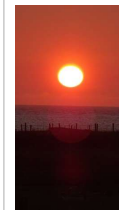
Malin Beg - Chicken



Napoleonic View Tower



Malin Beg Cove



Sunset



Moonrise

Su 4.6.

Start: Malin Beg

Arr: 17.00 Pollaid Arch (near Fanad Head)

Km: 210 / 3919

Got up at 6.30. Left at 8.00. Then visited the Sleeve League Cliffs first before driving north as close as possible to the cost-line. At Lidl at Dunglow, Peggy bought steaks and I bought beer and had to wait 8 minutes for the 12.30 deadline on Sundays. At 13.30 we had Picnic near Kincaslough with nice bay view beside a graveyard of St Marie's church....Before Gweedore we made a photo stop for view of Mt. Errigal (750m).



Sleeve League Cliffs



Mt Errigal



Fanad Head

Then continued on the WAW via Cnoc Fola and Falcarrach Beaches all the way to the Fanad Head Lighthouse...got there 16.30. Not much to see and no overnight parking. Luck again: Peggy saw a picture of an Arch on a panel ....

... Pollaid Arch at 5km! Bingo! Beautiful lonely parking elevated over the bay. Short walk right away to the great Arch...got back to car before 18.00. We had apero in the shelter of the Caddy and Peggy decided to fry the steaks.



Walk to Arch



The great Pollaid Arch



View over the Bay



Fried Steak and Bay View

Very enjoyable evening again but the temperature dropped and by the time all ended at 20.10 with 16° and strong wind again, it was bed time with Irish music from radio making me ready to sleep. Note: The parking and the footpath to the Pollaid Arch have been built just 1 year ago (2022) - Many thanks!

Mo 5.6.

Start: Pollaid Arch (near Fanad Head)

Arr: 16.15 Near Malin Head

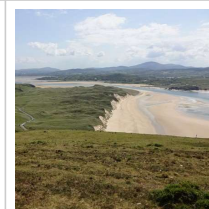
Km: 184 / 4103

Got up at 6.15. Start at 8.00, soon passing Ballymastocker Beach near Portsalon starting the nice drive around Lough Swilly, a 40km long fjord from Ice Age, ending at Letterkenny where we did not stop (except for fuel).

Continued on WWW to follow coastline to Malin with a stopover at the Dunree Head/Castle. On the way to the Malin Head we took a small scenic road passing above the 5-Finger Beach near the Lagg Chapel and also saw an Alpaca riding park before we reached a lonely view point parking 3km before the Malin Head. It was too early to stop and we continued to Malin Head. We made a half hour turn to the (Napoleonic)



Dunree Head/Castle



5-Finger Beach



Malin Head 1st walk



Signal Tower and although we did enjoy the view, we could not stay there for the night and returned to the former parking at 16.00 for the rest of the day and the night. Very pleasant time in sun, sheltered from wind by the car. At 20.00 we moved



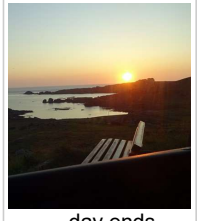
Signal Tower



Peggy preparing Chicken Wraps



Another beautiful ....



....day ends

in and and watched the sun on its way towards its setting. It seemed a bit long to wait...but the sun made it gracefully by 21.52. Good night!

Tu 6.6.

Start: Near Malin Head

Arr: 18.00 Portrush

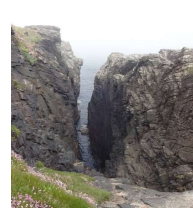
Km: 186 / 4289

Got up at 7.30. Surprise! Thick fog but the sun about to break through! We left at 8.45 to go back to Malin Head to walk to the Hell's Hole we had missed out yesterday. As the fog persisted we first took a good wash at the Toilets.

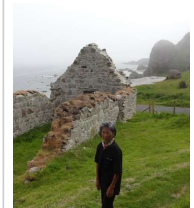
The fog started to thin out while we walked to the Hell's Hole. Next we visited the Malin Well Sanctuary & Cave and then chose the detour via Portaleen and Kinnagoe Bay and on to follow the coast line via Stroove at the Inishowen Head also with nice views across the Lough Foyle Bay to Magilligan Point.



Malin Head, ...



... walk to Hell's Hole



Malin Well Sanct'ry



Innishowen Head

Just before Londonderry, we crossed into Northern Ireland. There was no noticeable border and no checks but the petrol prices we now shown in £ and were significantly higher.

Then we visited Derry (Londonderry). We enjoyed the walk on the city wall and over the Peace Bridge at first. Then also visited the Guildhall and the St. Columb's Cathedral.



City Wall & St Columb's C.



Guildhall of Derry



Peace Bridge River Foyle



Downhill Castle



Mussenden

We left at 2pm still without lunch. 1h later, at Swanns bridge, we stopped for a sandwich with the rest of our roast chicken... then visited the impressive Mussenden Temple compound, a former Earl & Bishop residency with the Downhill Castle. Soon we started to look for a place to stay.

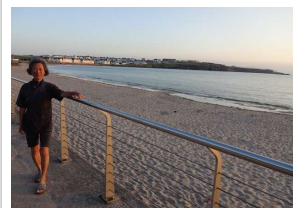
Entering Portrush we noticed a big car park behind a huge beach with the prospect of a pint of Guinness at walking distance over the harbour promenade. After the Guinness (incl. socializing), Peggy chose to walk back on the beach. Sandwich with rest of fried beef then sunset+.



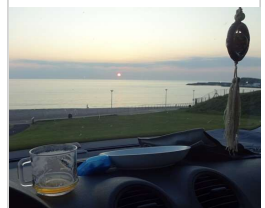
Portrush Port



Harbour Bistro



Portrush Beach



Portrush ending day

We 7.6.

Start: Portrush

Arr: 18.30 Cushendall (near Waterfoot Harbour)

Km: 84 / 4373

Got up 6.30. Breakfast after Peggy did some Tai-Chi. Thus left after 8.30 to the Giant's Causeway and stopped at first at the 'romantic' Dunluce Castle, before continuing to the main starting point at the Visitor Centre, a major touristic target of Ireland). 10 £ for parking..no way! So we drove on to Dunseverick Castle with just a few meager walls left but a free parking for hiking... that's more us! Now at 10am we decided first to walk a few steps towards the cliffs.....but then went on as cliffs got more and more exciting until after 6 km we reached the area

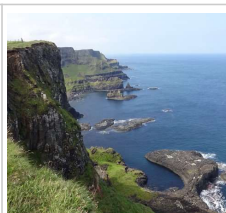


Dunluce Castle



Dunseverick Castle

with the (Basalt-) Organs near the Tourist Centre at 12.15! Then walking back with the return view just as exciting, also because the sun had moved! One of the interesting things to see were the Basalt Columns in various forms! We got back to the car at 14.30, having walked about 4h, also chatting left and right and taking well over 50 pictures.



Wild Cliffs



Basalt Columns



Chimney Stacks



Hilite: The Organs



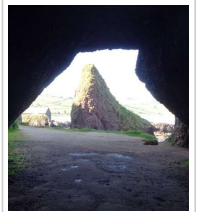
After sandwiches, we took it easy stopping at various places (skipping the Rope Bridge) but making a nice turn to the Kinbane Castle, perched on a rock protruding into the sea. It was now 17.00. We nearly decided to stay but once again it seemed to early ... so we continued with a few tries such as at Cushendun having a look at the caves.



Read Rope Hang'g Bridge



Kinbane Castle



Cushendun Cave

Finally, at 18.30 we stopped at Cushendall, near Waterfoot Harbour, at 18.30. Bingo! Carpark next to a pier, picnic tables, toilet AND a Fish & Chips take away shop! Later I had fun at the pier chatting with 3 hobby fishermen... almost till bed time.

PS Today got the confirmation for our **ferry rebooking!!!**



Cushendall Harbour F&Ch



Freshly caught Crab



Cushendall Pier

Th 8.6.	Start: Cushendall	Arr: 18.30 Lurganboy Beach (near Cloggerhead)	Km: 281 / 4654
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Got up at 7.30 and left at 9am. Coast drive to Belfast where we drove around town to find a car park. Then there was one with a sign '1 hour in any 2 hours'. Whatever that meant....

.... it was right in front of a Chinese restaurant at Donegal Pass at about 1 km distance from City Centre. We enjoyed the short turn in the town centre. Then having moved the car to another slot we even more enjoyed our Hongkongese lunch in that small simple restaurant with bbq-ed geese and pork hanging in the kitchen window! Continued driving South East and made a short visit to Killyleagh Castle.



Belfast City Hall



Hongkongese Restaurant



Killyleagh Castle

Another stop at Downpatrick, pilgrimage site at Down Cathedral with sanctuaries of St Patrick, who is claimed to be buried here. We continued and passed Newcastle along the promenade and then Newry, after which we re-entered Ireland (no visible border again) and then ended up at a very lonely parking (with WC) at Lurganboy Beach, 5km North of Cloggerhead. Nice sunset inland at 21.40 and then Irish music making me ready for bed-time!



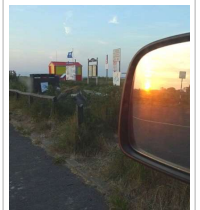
St. Patrick's Cross



St. Patrick's Burial Stone



Window of Down Cath'l



Night at Lurganboy Beach

Fr 9.6.	Start: Lurganboy Beach	Arr: 18.45 Greystones Beach	Km: 141 / 4795
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Got up 7.15 and left at 8.30. Now we drove a little inland to visit the impressive crosses from 10th century at Monasterboice. The highest measures 5.5 m. The round tower also from 10th century is 28m high. Then driving towards Dublin with a stopover at Malahide Castle. As I had hoped, we found a car park 500m from the Guinness Storehouse. (we did not visit for 30Euro each...). We made a pleasant pleasant stroll to the City past churches and the busy streets of Dublin downtown and along the Liffey River.



5.5m Cross



Malahide Castle



Guinness Store H

Also had a Guinness in a pub with live music (we had left the beer temple pub as we could not order for 10'). Peggy wanted to eat but could not make up her mind and also rejected my proposal for an Irish Stew...so on the way back Peggy bought some beef and lam then at 16.15 we drove away without having eaten ....



St. Audeon



Church of Christ Cath'l



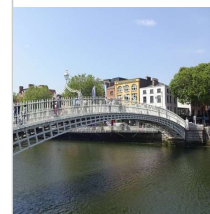
Guinness with live Music



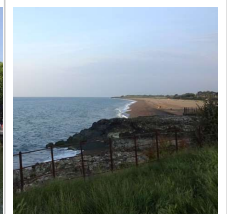
St. John Gogarty P.



Friday night rush-hour, bad sign posting, oneway streets the wrong way , slow traffic lights at every crossing.... (Now I could not even reconstruct the exact ways we took). We the ended up at Greystones Beach South at last at 18.45. Had our usual apéro first and then Peggy fried the meet and the black pudding....which I found excellent! After another warm day it was a bit cool and windy just beside the sea but after 2h of heavy traffic and getting lost stress, it was a very nice quiet day's end.....









Haypenny Bridge










Greystones Beach S.

PS Now we are at 1 day travel distance from the ferry at Rosslare and we have 3.5 days time to go. For this case we had planned to make a turn inland... !

Sa 10.6.	Start: Greystones Beach	Arr: 18.00 Cashel Castle	Km: 265 / 5060	
Got up at 6.45 and left at 8.15 to visit the highly praised Wicklow Mountains with the 2 Glendalough Lakes. 1st surprise: The Monastic site with round tower, graves etc. 2nd surprise: Now it started raining.... so we dropped the idea of a walk to the lakes and went back to the coast, leaving the rain behind us and at Wicklow, although the sky was still overcast, we decided to	 Round Tower...	 Monastic Site in ...	 Glendalough Valley	 ...and now it rains
	go on to Arklow and there start our planned inland loop to the Rock of Dunamase. After visiting the ruins of the big castle (history with Vikings, Normans and destroyed by Cromwell) it was 17.00 and with dull weather it was too early for staying and so we continued to the Rock of Cashel. We arrived at 18.00. Impressive Castle (12th century), a good small parking beneath and we made a small walk before having a good picnic with view to the castle!			
 Rock of Dunamase		 Rock of Cashel		

Note; I had Glendalough as a target in mind because we had stayed a few times with Padi & Co when they lived in Glendalough, suburb of Perth, WA. We had liked the place near the Lakes Monger and Herdsman. I was just curious.

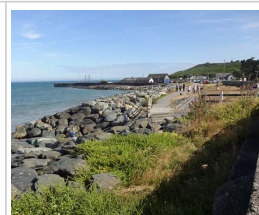
Su 11.6.	Start: Cashel Castle	Arr: 17.00 Courtown Beach	Km: 165 / 5215		
<p>Got up at 7. Taking it easy we walked partly along the Tipperary Heritage Walk to the Hore Abbey closeby, then made a turn up and around Cashel Castle. We left at 10.00 driving on small roads passing nice countryside with small traditional villages to Letterkenny. On the way in I took a turn too early for a parking but so we saw the impressive St Kierans College!</p>		 <p>Hore Abbey</p>	 <p>Tipperary Way</p>	 <p>Cashel Castle in the back</p>	
<p>Got a car park close to the centre and stayed for over 2h, visiting churches (e.g. St Canices Cathedral 13th with Round Tower 9th) and the Kilkenny Castle (13th) and also enjoyed a nice meal, 'Medieval Beef stewed in Guinness' with 2 pints, in a pub restaurant across the John's Bridge over the Nore River.</p>		 <p>Kilkenny Centre</p>	 <p>Kilkenny Castle</p>	 <p>Guinness Stew</p>	 <p>St Canice's Cathedral</p>

Note: Driving out of town was a nightmare as my tab suddenly did not get any access to Google Maps. I did not even know which direction I had to take to continue and every drection I headed for I was again denied by one way signs! I just felt desperately stressed! 1h later, out of town, I suddenly had access again - Uff!

On the way we stopped to walk over the Borris Viaduct of a railway abandoned in 1963. Eventually we reached Gorey and then Courtown Beach with a little port. A rather lively recreation area. Brilliant sunshine again and we easily found a nice and quiet place to stay. Went to buy Fish'n Chips at the Dinky Take Away (best chips in Ireland) nearby and had sunny picnic with sea view! All finished at 19.15.



Borris Viaduct




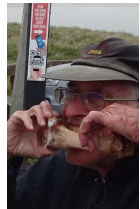



Courtown Beach/Harbour






Courtown Beach Picnic

Then hanging around and me reading Cal, an old book from Patrick's box in the garage with a sad story playing in Northern Ireland during the big conflicts in the 1970s.

Mo 12.6.	Start: Courtown Beach	Arr: 15.30 Kilmore Quai	Km: 64 / 5279
<p>Got up 7.15 and left at 09.00 after one more little walk along the beach ..... We decided to enjoy once more Kilmore Quai tonight to have a relaxed day tomorrow before taking the ferry back to UK.</p> <p>We drove leisurely with small diversions to Wexford to do shopping at Lidl for taking some Irish goodies home. Then we visited town e.g. Church of Assumption, Selskar Abbey, John Barry* Monument but did not see any place to settle for lunch...so we went to SuperValue once more for a freshly baked pork hock!</p> <p>* Was 1st commander of the new US-Navy in its revolution against British Rule!</p>		 	<p>Wexford Centre</p> <p>John Barry</p>
<p>Then drove to Kilmore Quai where Peggy remembered having seen a good parking to settle 3 weeks ago. 15.30, bingo! We had a splendid beach-view pork hock picnic. Then did a few walks around the port and once more up the road to the beautiful thatched-roof-houses before returning to our slowing-down routine: beer with a biscuit...and diary notes ... still with view over the quiet beach and Irish music from the radio. Now we had completed our Ireland tour and all had gone extremely well! We were very thankful to the Weather Gods!</p>		  	<p>Kilmore Quai Beach &amp; ... Pork Hock</p> <p>Height Limit 195m</p>

Tu 13.6.	Start: Kilmore Quai	Arr: 23.00 Fishguard (Parking)	Km: 87 / 5366
<p>Got up at 6.45. At 8.15 we left for the walk to a narrow and stony causeway called St Patrick's Bridge. Very nice walk almost to the end at 1km. At 10am the causeway was already flooded. Back at car at 10.30. Peggy started cooking at 11.30 ... Angus beef burger steaks (for wraps on the ferry) and White Pudding for now and onward journey. This spot was so nice and the situation so comfortable we just stuck here till 13.30.</p>		  	<p>St Patrick's Bridge (Causeway)</p> <p>White Pudding ...</p> <p>...yummy!</p>
<p>Then started towards Rosslare with a detour via Lady's Island. Hanging around Rosslare Strand and Harbour till ferry check-in at 17.00. I had a bad moment again because our re-booking did not seem to appear on the passengers list...long 5 minutes wait. Ferry started at 18.45 (30' late). Had our lovely wraps and a last Guinness. Chatting with a Swedish motorbiker couple for much of the journey (their hobby is to produce Birkensaft). 21.30 sunset. Unboarding at Fishguard at 22.00. Parking in the dark, bed at 23.00.</p>		 	<p>Rosslare Ferry Port</p> <p>Peggy watching the sun's byebye from Ireland!</p>

**We had done 3920 km in Ireland! 21 days at 190km/d which at 40-50km/h gives 4-5h/d.**

We 14.6.	Start: Fishguard	Arr: 19.40 Baglan (near Port Talbot)	Km: 283 / 5649
<p>Had to pee at 5.30, then moved to the nearby 3h seashore parking to enjoy breakfast later. Got up at 6.30 left at 8am (already 20°) towards St Davids via Abercastle and the Carreg Samson Dolmen. Then to White Sand Beach to walk to the St David's Head ...parking 7 £, no way! Peggy then went on about other options, but as we still had a long way to go through Cornwall.... we just continued to Pembroke (castle) and then made a lunch stop at Ganorbier Castle/ Beach. Just before reaching the Gower Peninsula, at Laughor</p>		 	<p>Carreg Samson Dolmen</p> <p>Pembroke Castle &amp; Henry VII</p>
<p>River, we saw a possible spot for staying the rest of the day, but it was only 15.30. We then 'vetted' the entire Gower Peninsula following all the small roads via Llanmadoc, Rhossily etc but we found not one single little spot suitable for us to stay. Disappointed we then drove through Swansea without visiting (as it was too late) and finally, at 19.40, ended up behind a sports ground of the Ysgol Bae High School at Baglan. I was exhausted and did not mind too much to watch people walking their dogs squeezing through the broken fence in front of my nose while we were having picnic inside the car. Amazing 23° at 22.00 and 22.5° at 22.30!</p>			<p>Baglan (Fence)</p>

Th 15.6.	Start: Baglan	Arr: 18.00 Huntspill	Km: 223 / 5872
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5am pipi then depressive dozing. Got up at 6.30. Left at 8.30 and after morning routine in Morrisons we reached Lidl parking in Cardiff at 10.30. 90' allowed. Enjoyed Castle, Churches, Market, City Centre and various impressive palaces (no time to look for lunch). Eventually we reached the M4 after Newport cross-over to the Bristol-side. I missed the 1st exit to the M49 and got very stressed continuing on the M4 as as I did not know what to expect next and gradually got into panic had fears that I could faint any time... a



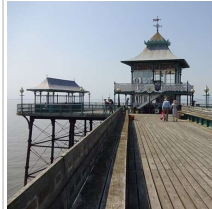
Cardiff Castle



St Mary Street

nightmare continuing while by-passing Bristol until I left the M5 towards Portishead. Then a long drive through Portishead, before we stopped at Clevedon with very nice Jetty and stylish houses.

Weston Super Mare was posh with a long waterfront. Now I had hoped to find a good place to stay at Brean or Berrow but they just a waste of time and so was Burnham! So we continued towards Bridgewater. But soon after Highbridge, Peggy saw a perking beside a pub. U-turn, park, beer, socialising and then a good sleep.



Clevedon Jetty



Party evening at the...



Crossover Inn at Huntspill

PS Only when looking at the big scale maps I now realised that we still had a long way to go to Cornwall's Lands End. It was thus difficult to answer Cliffs mail asking us for our arrival date at Reading! I also felt emotionally exhausted and could not face to travel into London as Peggy had wished...

Fr 16.6.	Start: Huntspill	Arr: 19.30 Columb Major	Km: 256 / 6128
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Got up at 7.00 and left at 8.00 towards to Bridgewater to join the A39.

Then visited Dunster and its Castle and Church followed by nice drive over Porlock Hill. Next target: idyllic Clovelly, hidden in a cove and accessed on a steep cobbled path from the top also renowned for its lovely church and garden.



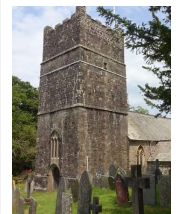
Dunster (Castle in back)



Clovelly Port



Clovelly Port



Clovelly Church

Next stop Tintagel Castle (ruins) with dramatic cliff views from different angles also offered by a high foot bridge. The entrance to the castle footbridge were already closed. After a nice turn we walked back to Tintagel village to the other head dominated by the huge antique Hotel Camelot Castle from where we enjoyed a great view across the cove to the Tintagel Castle & Bridge!



Tintagel Castle .....



.. & Footbridge



Camelot Castle Hotel

No overnight parking allowed. Here my tiredness manifested itself when I was unable to make decisions about where else to park or just to continue. I had also been dizzy at driving for a few times. In the end we enjoyed the castle walk and I was a bit more relaxed. But now it was 18.00 and the question of how to continue and where to stop to settle became more and more pressing. 1st I tried to continue to Port Issac but got tired and joined the A39. Just could not see any acceptable option. At 19.00 I was ready to settle at a stump of a roundabout near St Columb Major. Then Peggy could not face staying this exposed, noisy and ugly location, so we tried it into town and miracle: just after 1 mile we saw a parking sign in the village and there was no overnight restriction! No view but quiet and a bit hidden.

Sa 17.6.	Start: Columb Major	Arr: 19.15 Near Marazion (rest area)	Km: 172 / 6300
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Got up 6.30 left at 7.30. Visit of Newquai after a loop via Fistral Bay. Next stop St Yves, after 1 hour time lost around Redruth misreading Google Map twice after deviation and almost ended up at Falmouth. Then continued nice drive to St Just and Lands End. Parked wild at a distance where Peggy noticed a footpath to Sennen Cove.

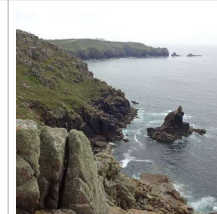
Very nice walk to the Cove and then even more over the wild cliffs, passing the wreck of a german ship sunk 2003 in a deep cove near the Land's End. Of course there was a big tourist centre!



Newquai Beach



St. Yves



View to Land's End

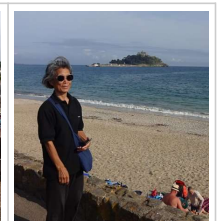


Land's End

Next stop Mousehole, a small port, hidden in a cove but from where one could see St Michael in far distance across the bay. After crossing Penzance, the next highlight: the close view of St Michael at Marazion (a replica of St Michel). Suddenly I saw a Fish & Chips Shop and pointed it out to Peggy and she bought a portion. In fact it was a bad idea because now we had to urgently look for a place to stay.... Fish and Beer vs driving! After a time consuming turnoff to Prussia Cove (no overnight parking), settled at a rest area beside the main road near Marazion (near Goldsithney).



Mousehole Port .....





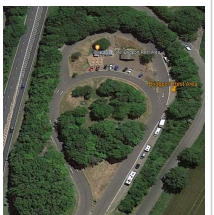



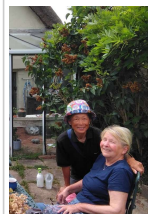



Marazion (St Michael)

**Note** (10.9.2023): Retracing the exact itinerary was a big challenge for me, because I had forgotten much of the everyday's details. With Google Earth and of patience I have been able to bring forward memories that were hidden to my recalling efforts. Today was a good example.... My notes only mentioned a rest area after Marazion and a try to find a parking at some cove. My pictures only showed old shoes. After searching and pondering without success for more than 1h, suddenly, over dinner, some memories came back and it took me less than a minute to find the exact place we spent the night! I now also remember that the fish&chips had gone a bit soggy after 1h, but I did not mind too much because I was dead hungry and happy to rest at last!



My shoes were tired too

Su 18.6.	Start: Rest Area near Marazion	Arr: 18.00 Near Bridgeport (rest area)	Km: 316 / 6616	
Got up at 6.30. Left at 7.30. Made the detour to Lizard Point, the most Southerly point of England, which turned out to be very nice. Then headed for St Malves, but were stopped by a the King Harry Floating Bridge (a ferry). In Plymouth we were stopped by a Toll Bridge (10 £) so took the very nice detour through the Dartmoor Natl. Park after a photo stop of the castle at Tavistock and the statue of 7th Duke of Bedford.				
		Lizard Point & most southerly	... Café	Tavistock Castle...
We then enjoyed the drive through the Dartmoor Natl. Park and made a sort stop at Postbridge to see and cross the old stony Clapper Bridge. Trying to avoid the center of Exeter I still ended up in a main street and needed some nerves... to head for Lyme Regis we had visited with our Mishi-Van in 2003. Still a nice place but no way to sleep here. It was 18.00 when we left and took the road towards Weymouth, when shortly after Bridgeport, Peggy noticed a glimpse of campers in a hidden rest area on the opposite side. U-turn and there it was. A few camper vans/cars with 'squatters' sleeping here regularly.				
		Clapperbridge	Bridgeport Rest Area	
One of them, about 55, with a handsome Rapido Camper, has been living this way for 10 years and his neighbour for 20 years. He stood beside us talking for a whole hour while we were eating. It was 9pm when we moved in.				
<b>Note:</b> I do not recall where I got the info of 10 £ toll for the Tamar Bridge at Plymouth. Now (10.9.2023) checking internet, I saw 2.60 £! Since I had not planned to visit Plymouth anyway, I did not mind to take the alternative route passing through surprising Tavistock to get into the Dartmore Natl Park..				

Mo 19.6.	Start: Near Bridgeport	Arr: 16.00 Reading (Cliff Gardner)	Km: 236 / 6852	
Up 6.30, off at 8.00. Pleasant drive along the coast, partly through light idyllic morning mists to Weymouth and the tip of Portland Island, which, in the early 19th century, has given the name to the worldwide portland cement. Then we decided to drop-in at Talbot's, our old friends from T200-times at Briantspoodle. Jane was there and we had a good talk in their nice garden behind their lovely thatched roof house. Just when time was up to leave, Richard also appeared for a short hello!				
		Portland Bill Obelisk	Jane & Peggy	....at Talbots' Home
We left at 12.45 having promised Cliff and Doreen to arrive at 16.00. We arrived at their home at Reading at 15.55 (5' early:-). Nice Wiedersehen with Apero, then we moved to a country pub called Cuning Man for a nice dinner! Non-stop intensive talking about 1001 subjects between old friends. Witnessing Cliffs handicaps and the associated hardship for both and their everlasting courage. They are now looking forward to move soon to Ruppert's new home at Chobham, 10 miles south of Windsor.				
		Waiting at the Pub....	.. for a lovely Pub Dinner	

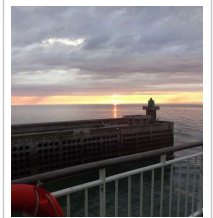
Tu 20.6.	Start: Reading	Arr: 22.30 (+1) Dieppe	Km: 148 / 7000	
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Heavy rain early morning but had stopped when we got up at 7.30. Breakfast at Cliff's. We left at 9.30, unfortunately Missing out on Jason who was expected to arrive in the afternoon. Last leg driving on country roads to take the Ferry at Newhaven. We got to Shoreham at 13.00 (last Lidl shopping), then Brighton (lunch picnic) at 14.00, Ferry check-in at 15.00, boarding 15.30. Smooth 4h cruise but a bit boring at times. Beautiful sunset 10' before the last call for disembarking. Believe it or not... by the time we left the ship at Dieppe it started to rain very heavily under a dark sky.



Departure Newhaven



Arrival Dieppe

It was 22.30, when we parked for the night, 500m from ship and town! The thunderstorm lasted well into the night.

We 21.6.

Start: Dieppe

Arr: 19.00 St Marceau

Km: 243 / 7243

Got up 7.00 (Europe time) with sun dimmed by a light morning mist. 8.30 we left for a nice 2h city walk (cathedral, castle, cliffs, beach, port, bridges). Googled for the shortest way to head South until we both got insane by trying to match Google with the paper map and the road signs. I think I wasted a good hour by stopping, slow driving and U-turns, until suddenly ....



Nice Morning at Dieppe Port

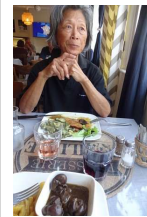


The Cathedral



Dieppe's Cliffs

... we saw a lonely restaurant Routiers (l'Escale Carrefour Malbrouck). Good lunch offer (1st / 2nd / 3rd / ¼ wine) for 18 Euro. I tried once more with rognons and this was the first time I ever found them edible, even pleasant! Now it was already 14.00 and we had only done approx 50km! I stopped with Google Maps and just headed southward on main roads with the map...as I was used to...after Alençon it was time to start looking for a place for the night but soon we had to take a deviation via Fresnet s.Sarthe. Now I was getting tired and irrational but eventually we still got back to our road. We saw and rejected a few odd places.....



Fish & Kidney



Chap. St Julien

.... but then I turned off for a 'monument historique', La Chapelle St Juilen at St Marceau. There was no suitable parking at the chapelle but a stony small patch of graveled surface by an old bridge over the Sarthe ... I just could no more and so we settled and ... bingo! It was perfect to have picnic and resting beside the car beneath the church. Quiet and romantic and in the end we watched sunset over the Sarthe.

PS Heute hatte ich in Dieppe eine Serie von kurzen Schwindelanfällen am Morgen bei der Rückkehr zum Auto. Später auch noch ein paar mal beim Fahren...

Th 22.6.

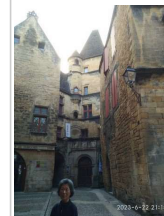
Start: St Marceau

Arr: 19.30 Sarlat

Km: 517 / 7760

Got up at 7.45. Left 8.30. Long drive via Le Mans - Tours - cutting across to Limoges and Périgueux to Sarlat, a historical Highlight in the Dordogne. First we had our dinner Picnic (Tripe-Pâté from Super U in Ireland) then at 20.00 (at last) walk through the medieval old town of Sarlat. We got back to the car at 21.45. We had parked within 100m of an old graveyard which I went to visit the next morning.

PS I was not sure if, tomorrow, we would go directly to Ste Marie or over to Spain first 😊...In fact I wished to visit Castelnaudary for lunch for its speciality: Cassoulet!



Sarlat Old Town



Sarlat Graveyard

Fr 23.6.

Start: Sarlat

Arr: 17.15 Ste Marie

Km:412 / 8172

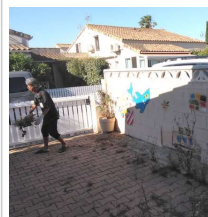
Got up 6.15. left 7.30. I tried to drive as straight as possible to Castelnaudary. No luck! I drove and drove again trying to follow Google but got lost several times and Peggy lost her nerves more and more until she became hysterical... when I lost I lost my nerves too. Up and down, left and right for hours and hours... until we reached Revel ... then boredom via Castelnaudary (too late for lunch) and Narbonne. 1h shopping in Lidl at St Laurent and then arrived at Ste Marie. Usual challenge moving things, cleaning, dinner (lovely and relaxing time), cleaning..... tomorrow some more chores to come!

We had done 8172 from home in Ipsach.

PS It took us a few days to regain a easy life again. A few days later we drove to L'Esca to do our usual shopping of Spanish goodies and also got our reward for the cleaning with a lovely lunch.

We had 5 relaxing weeks in Ste Marie and a lovely visit from Evelyne & Co.

The weather was mostly very nice.....



Cleaning the Terrace



..... that's better



Fried Fish...



..& Paella at l'Esca

## Pro Memoria

### Prologue – My Feelings 1 day before departure to the Ireland trip (starting 20th May 2023)

I write these lines on 19<sup>th</sup> May, just to remember later how unsure I felt 1 day before the start!

Eigentlich habe ich keine Lust für längere Zeit abzureisen!

Schon seit Januar habe ich oft Herzrhythmusstörungen und leide täglich an Stressgefühlen aus verschiedensten Gründen, wobei vor allem die Reise im Vordergrund steht.

- 1) Die Nachwehen der kürzlichen Coronarographie, wo es zu einer starken Blutung im Unterarm kam. Auch 1 Woche danach ist der Arm immer noch geschwollen und das grosse Hämatom hat sich eher ausgebreitet.
- 2) Auch habe ich ab-und-zu Zahnschmerzen, hatte aber keinen Lust mir kurz vor der Reise einen Molar ziehen zu lassen.
- 3) Mein Kopf ist oft verwirrt, wenn ich Administratives am PC für die Reise erledigen muss: Post, Zahlungen, Fahren Buchen (tatsächlich schlich sich bei einer Buchung ein schlimmer Fehler ein, den Peggy unterwegs nur durch Zufall entdeckte und mir 1 Woche lang in Irland Kopfzerbrechen bereitete)
- 4) Meine kognitiven Fähigkeiten und meine Unfähigkeit mich an Ortsnamen zu erinnern, machen die Navigation in unbekannten Orten sehr mühsam. (Ich habe kein installiertes GPS und die Navigation mit Google Maps auf dem kleine Tab ist sehr mühsam,). Auch meine motorischen Fähigkeiten habe stark abgenommen.
- 5) Last but not least, graust mich schon jetzt das in Irland (und UK) voraussichtlich zu erwartende kühle, nasse und windige Wetter!

Aber die Reise einfach so abzusagen bereitet mir noch mehr Stress..... also Augen zu und durch.... Peggy zuliebe. Ob sie es wohl schätzen wird? Mal sehen.....