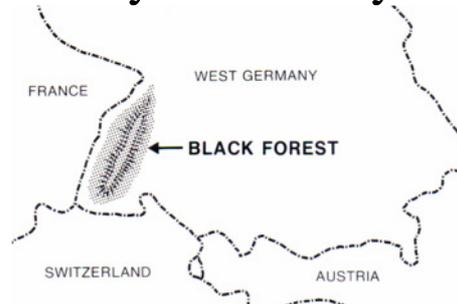


Black Forest- Germany

10th July - 17th July 2015



The LCMCC ran a trip to the Rhine this year but sadly it is to the same place I went last year. So I thought I would go to the Black Forest. I did not want to compete with the LCMCC event so I went with my wife Carol and my friend and his wife. We I was uncertain in what he was saying and was wondering what TO DO NEXT AS IT WAS NW off to a good start. 40 minutes before the crossing, we are leaving the last junction before entering the terminal when some guy rams my mate up the rear and smashes his offside box, number plate and jams the rear mudguard under the wheel. Don't ask me why but my mate John only has some plastic glue in his kit!!! A very fast repair and rear wheel out to pull the mudguard back into place and away we go. After getting insurance details of course and breathing a sigh of relief that we were not going to lose out on the holiday on day one.

Leaving the Shuttle, we head east for 290 miles to a little place called Mertesdorf just inside the German border. The trip was long but uneventful until we reach a small town called Fell just 2 miles from our hotel, the Karlsmuehle. There in front of us is a simple sign saying "Road Closed". Yes, the whole road is blocked with no diversion information. (I was subsequently informed that this is the norm in Germany). I parked the bike and, as no one was about, knocked on a village house door where a German with no English tried to explain where to go to get around the obstruction. I was uncertain as to his understanding of where we wished to go but as I was walking back to my bike another biker came racing down the road, undaunted I stood in the middle of the road and flagged him down, knowing of course that bikers help bikers the world over. I hope!!

After 20 minutes of trying to converse to gain directions my dear German biker, who's name we will never know, simply gave up and said "follow me". Well thank God he offered to take us. The "detour" was about 18 miles. Yes, 18 miles and it was already 9.00pm. We would never have got there without his help. I offered to pay him for going so far out of his way but he would not take anything.

I do believe that Bikers are a great breed and I know I would do the same thing if the boot was on the other foot.

As we pulled into the Hotel we were presented with a host of other bikers using the same place and all had experienced the same problem. We had a pleasant evening chatting to a bricky and his wife from Bath riding a Triumph. They were heading home and were laughing about all the detours in the Black Forest and getting lost!!!

Day two saw us heading into the Black Forest heading for Odenwald and the Hirsh Hotel at Lossburg, where we will stay for three days. En-route we travel through the Pfälzer and Saar Hunsruck National Parks. We arrive about 4pm and the Hotel is absolutely great.

After a relaxing evening we decide to go, on day three, to the famous largest working cuckoo clock in the world at Schonachbach. The LCMCC "T" Shirt had to have a showing here. (See pic). The clock weighs about 6 tonnes and measures 4 metres round and took six years to complete. We spend the rest of the touring the black forest by simply looking at the map and going. Best planning ever!!!



Day four we head to Baden-Baden, the home of the Faberge Museum and the Grand Dame of German spas. Baden-Baden in the 19th century was the St Tropez of high society. The thermal baths lured the Roman bathers to the town nearly two millennia earlier. The famous B500 Black forest road goes this route. The Ducati Sporting Club voted this one of the best routes in the world. It is a fast and wide route with good visibility and beautiful scenery. Watch out for speed limits and the police do frequent this road albeit we did not see any??

The Faberge Museum has got to be on everyone's itinerary. It is the first museum worldwide to be dedicated to the art of this outstanding Russian imperial procurer of jewellery and luxury objects. He built the museum in Baden-Baden because it was "safer" than in Russia!!



The collection is worth millions and then millions. It is extraordinary and is really something to behold. Anyone going must wait and have the professional tour to fully understand the extent and effort by the owner to collect so many artefacts including the famous Imperial Easter Eggs and Inca Gold.
LCMCC T shirt on show for this visit.

The next stop is Triberg where you will find Germany's highest waterfalls. These falls are the highest between the North sea and the Alps. They are made up of a series of small waterfalls cascading down the mountain and footways are easily travelled to view each stage of the falls. The total drop is 496 feet. Bikers can leave their helmets in the pay kiosk at the bottom if they wish.

Last day we head for Lake Titisee. This lake was formed in the last ice age a mere 10,000 years ago where a glacier extended from the Feldburg to the present day lake. The basin gouged out by the glacier now forms the basin for Lake Titisee. The lake is 850 metres above sea level, 2 kilometres long, nearly 1 kilometre wide and 40 meters deep. It is a prime holiday destination for the Germans and on the blistering hot day we were there it was packed both on and off the water. Anything that can float was on the water.

After a relaxed breakfast we head off on our homeward journey to a place called Bouillon in the Ardennes, Belgium. The Hotel de la Poste is in the heart of the town and our bedroom looked out onto a large loop in the Semois River and the beautiful town, covering both sides, with easy access to both sides by the elegant bridge. This small medieval town is dominated by the castle of Godefroid. Surprisingly the castle was once owned by Godfrey of Bouillon, leader of the first crusade to Jerusalem in 1096. No Bikers around then though!! There are lots of bars and restaurants and there was a street fair on the night we were there. A great place to visit and really worth two days minimum to take the whole area in. We will definitely go back to this lovely isolated place nestling in the heart of the Ardennes forest. The locals were really friendly. Underground safe parking for the bikes at 6 euro.

Bikes packed and breakfast at 8am on yet another beautiful sunny day and we head off for Calais, Dover and the trip back to Worcester. We didn't lose each other for the whole trip until the M25/M4 junction and then mass traffic caused the problem. Undaunted we carried on and received an email confirming we were all back safe and sound.

Another great trip.

Safe Riding

Malcolm & Carol Copson