

BMW 5 Series Euro Delivery



We did encounter another of my favorite street signs, though, “danger frog!” This time I even saw a few in the middle of the road, staring me down! Very cool.

We got to our room, which was very nice, large ceilings (a luxury in Europe), but the smallest shower ever! I think I know why Europeans aren’t as fat as Americans, they would never fit in their showers! We were pretty tired and crashed in order to get some sleep for an early start tomorrow to the museum, then Salzburg.



Saturday, 20 March 2004 (day 6)

After we woke up, we had breakfast in the hotel, the usual spread of meat, cheese and fruit. During the daylight, the castle was much nicer! We checked out and headed back to the Porsche museum.



We arrived at the museum and 270 Euro later we left with a bunch of shirts and a few ties and souvenirs. The museum was tiny, but wonderful. They had some real classic Porsches, including a wonderful Spyder, and also they had the Cayenne powertrain.



We hit a huge traffic jam in Stuttgart on the way to Salzburg. Cost us a good hour in stop and go traffic. Not the best way to start out the journey to Austria. We grabbed a sandwich and pretzel at a gas station on the way (they all seem to sell pre made sandwiches and pretzels there – wish we could get stuff like that in the States!). Just before the border, we stopped and got our Austria toll sticker for 7.50 Euro so as to not get a ticket while we were there.



We got to Salzburg in the mid afternoon. It was cloudy and drizzling. We found Old Town and a wonderful parking spot appeared. We grabbed it and headed out on foot. We found a Mozart piano concerto

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that was happening later on and got tickets to go. We spent the rest of the time window shopping before deciding to have a quick dinner before the concert.



We ate at a little Italian restaurant called Triangel. We had one of the best mixed green salads ever while we were there, as the Balsamic and Olive oil was wonderful. We had a beef goulash dish that we both enjoyed very quickly, and then headed back to the spot where the concert was.



The concert lasted a little less than an hour, and my wife loved every minute of it (good thing, because up until today, it was all about cars!). There was a surprisingly high number of little kids there with their family who were very well behaved. The funniest part though, was one of the children sighing at the top of his lungs in boredom in the middle of the show, as his dad quickly covered his mouth! I guess you had to be there.



After the show we got an ice cream cone at one of the only little shops that was still open and headed out in search of our lodging in Puch (10 minutes outside of Salzburg). The place was called Gasthaus Kirchinwurt, and was interesting. When we arrived, they were in the middle of a dinner theater show.

We went to the bar for a cold one and I got some chicken and fries. My wife wasn't feeling so good, so we cut that short (I think we offended the bartender) and headed up to our room to get some rest for tomorrow. I tried to log on to the internet with my laptop, but the phone line wasn't working. I went down to the proprietor and she told me I could use the phone there. When I whipped out my laptop to login, she vehemently denied me! I don't know what she thought I was going to do, but oh well. I went upstairs and headed to bed.

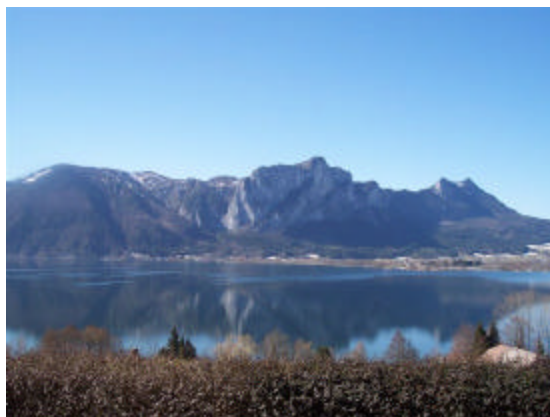
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Sunday, 21 March 2004 (day 7)

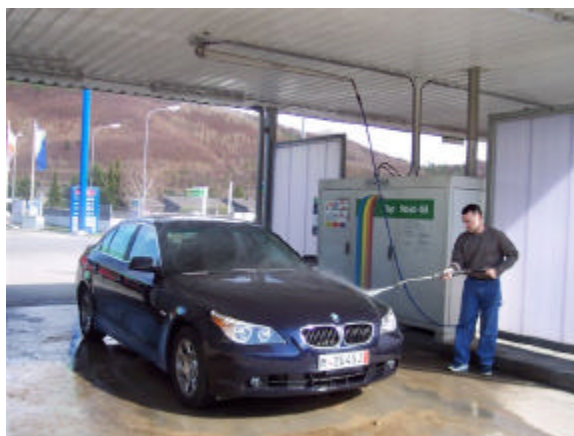
We woke up and went down for breakfast. Not as nice as some of the other spreads. Mostly bologna and some not so fresh rolls. Apparently I upset the host by sitting near the window to get some light as well. Weird lady there.



On the way to Vienna, we stopped at a breathtaking rest area that had a little restaurant on it as well. It was one of those views that you absolutely have to stop and take a picture of. The air was clean, the sun was shining, and it was almost 70 degrees outside. It was truly one of those moments that made it all worth it.



We continued driving and were sooo hungry, we ate at a McDonald's (please don't tell!). Man, we couldn't wait to be back in the US where water was free! I did, however, purchase a McDrive drink (apparently McDonalds took Red Bull and slapped their logo on it). Woo hoo. We kept driving until we hit the outskirts of Vienna. It was at this point where we realized our maps of Austria stunk. Note to self-get better maps next time, they make all the difference.



We stopped at a gas station and gave the new 5 it's first bath, in preparation for the journey home the next day.

We made a quick run to the dropoff site so that we would remember how to get there in the AM.

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We finally made it to the Zentrum where we found a good parking spot on the street and set out on foot again. We saw many of the sights and took lots of pics. We had dinner at another Italian restaurant called tri caffe, I think.. That one was great.



We got back to the car and then drove to the airport to check in our bags (for international flights, you can check your bags the night before, a wonderful load off our shoulders). I made sure to pack the warning triangles and toolkit from the vehicle and put it in our checked bags.



We stayed at the NH hotel in Vienna, on the airport property, and I must say, it was one of the most beautiful rooms from a design standpoint. It was also very roomy and comfortable, and even had a bathtub! A nice way to ease ourselves back toward western living again. I highly recommend them. We had a restful night.



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Our cab was right on time, a Mercedes E class, no less (wish they had those in the States!). Our driver was a very pleasant woman from Poland. The total fare was 27 Euro, and we gave her a nice tip. We already had our boarding passes from the night before, so we were in great shape for our 9AM flight to Munich. All of our flights from there went off without incident. Overall, it was a wonderful trip and a great experience. Next time we will spend more time in each city, and probably hit less places, but all in all, I think the experience was just as I would have hoped. I highly recommend it if you have the time. Driving your own brand new car in Europe was an unforgettable time.

Hope you enjoyed the story, as much as we enjoyed having it!

Monday, 22 March 2004 (day 8 ☺)

Prior to leaving the hotel, we had the concierge arrange a cab from the dropoff site back to the airport. We drove from the airport to the dropoff site just after 6:30AM. It was about ten minutes away and we got there in plenty of time, as they opened at 7AM. The paperwork for the dropoff took about 15 minutes. I took a ton of pix in case something were to get damaged in transit.

