



# CAPITAL WINGS



Holidays are not always those taken around travelling to and from Treffens. Friends team up and go off motorcycling and exploring in their own group. Yetti and friends have been doing this for a number of years and this year was no exception. Here's his account of August's adventure.

Well, just six people (Ray, Ginny, Wayne, Ingrid, Chris and Jo) on three Wings ventured across the channel for a winging holiday. It's usually ten people but Dani was enjoying herself looking after kids in a summer camp in America and the Peskett Juniors were awaiting Chloe's exam results and planning her move as a fresher to Aberystwyth University.

Booked onto the Shuttle and before long we were off to the train, boarding cards on show. Ours and Wayne's that is because somehow Chris managed to lose his on the way round to the train! A short delay and off we went straight to customs, all the normal questions and then Wayne spotted a live 22 bullet on the floor! Police picked it up without any questions and off we went to the train.

The first stop was the Orange Hotel in Belgium. We highly recommend this chain - massive beds, bike security, fantastic breakfast spread and not forgetting, the Trolls and Bush Bar/Restaurant (big pan of mussels and a few Belgium beers).

Our next stop was our place for the week, a four-bedroom house with all you need in a village called Beilstein, on the edge of the Moselle.

The village had many wine bars, restaurants and lovely German beers and is known as the 'sleeping beauty of the Mosel'.



*Capital Holiday Home*

After we had stocked up with provisions on the Monday, we missed the passenger boat from Beilstein to Cochem so caught a bus instead.

It was empty and I was getting a picture of us all in the bus when the driver got out of his seat and took the picture for me.

We did happen to be stopped at a bus stop at the time. Wouldn't happen in London.

Cochem was a very busy but beautiful town to explore.



*All Aboard for a Ride'*



*Picturesque Cochem*

On Tuesday, Wayne saw a restaurant on the top of one of the mountains so off we went to Onkel Toms Hütte (Uncle Tom's Cabin). It was an interesting ride on some unmade roads. The views were great and grub superb.



Meal with a View

Wednesday's trip was a ride to the Nürburgring. No, we didn't go on it as there was racing on but well worth the ride just to see it.

Thursday was a meander on the bikes up the Moselle, vineyards everywhere as well as wine festivals in the small villages along the river. The sun was shining and next to no traffic - what more do you need? Oh yeah, food and drink. Spotted an old-looking restaurant and pulled in. To our surprise it was a Chinese restaurant. Not a sign of it from the outside but we got fed and watered. A very pleasant ride back along sweeping open roads and more sunshine.

Friday was a chill day as it would be a long ride to the overnight stop in Bethune, France the next day. Yetti, Ginny, Chris and Jo decided on the boat. Well, more of a cruise ship really, to Cochem. Chris was a sailor after all. The sun was shining again so we went on the upper deck, passing beautiful, picturesque villages and miles of grapevines. The waitress supplied us with beer and wine on the way there. We did not disembark but stayed on the boat for the return trip. We had more wine and beer and a lovely big plate of German sausage and cheese - a very chilled few hours, relaxing and cruising along the river. Wayne and Ingrid, meanwhile, went exploring on the bike, finding more unmade roads and refreshments/cake stops along the way.

In this area of Germany you just need to point the bike and go - it leads to great places.

Come Saturday, it was up with the lark and we were on our way to France by 10am. A few hundred miles later and we were at the ibis in Bethune. We booked a table in a restaurant in the old town for our last night before the train home.

All in all, a great week, clocking up about 1,100 miles and not one breakdown.

We missed Al, Kerrie, Chloe and Dani but there is always next year...Mmmmm Italy looks good.....

Have you ever thought of visiting the USA but not made it yet? Or you don't fancy travelling there at the moment with everything that is

going on. Well, you can visit at least four American towns/cities without leaving our shores. Johnny and I had a leisurely ride up to Bishop Auckland for the British Treffen, stopping first in Boston, Lincolnshire. We stayed with family in Gateshead and then toured around three more cities. The first was New York, named after New York in the US, following the British capture of the city in 1777. Then it was onto Washington, the ancestral settlement of the local Washington family, from which the first President of the United States, George Washington, descended. Our tour finished at Philadelphia.



New York



Philadelphia



**Washington**

Finally, it's a few belated Happy Birthdays for some 'O' people in September - Brenda at 60, Mo Green at 70 and Colin Will at 80. Congratulations to them and we hope they all celebrated in style.

Don't forget your treacle toffee and Parkin cake for Bonfire Night. Have you got yours yet?

Miss (Helen) Whiplash