

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE WINNS

We set off in April with the first stop in Singapore, highlights being the National Orchid Gardens, Jurong Bird Park, the Zoo and a ride on the Singapore Flyer with spectacular views over the city and harbour. A superb public transport system with a



travel card allowed easy inexpensive access to all attractions. Dining in little restaurants and food courts is also part of the Singapore experience, great fun.

On to London for a few days, enjoying early summer weather, beautiful blossoms in the streets and outstanding tulip beds around



Buckingham Palace. We visited Hyde Park to see the impressive New Zealand War Memorial. We stayed in Greenwich and commuted by Thames Clipper, a high-speed catamaran on the Thames. A great scenic trip in London.

We drove across to Wales and stayed for a week in St David's on the Pembrokeshire coast, an attractive area with its rocky cliff coastline, with lots of walkways through old farms and villages. Vivid splashes of yellow were provided by the gorse in full flower! From here we attended two meetings of the Parkinson's Society and were made extremely welcome.



Back to London, stopping at the wonderful Royal Horticultural Gardens at Wisley where the rhododendrons and azaleas were at their best. Then it was on to Budapest, Warsaw and Krakow. Our first visit to Eastern Europe. We took city tours and walked the old streets to see history unfold. Highlights were visits to the Hungarian Parliament and Opera House, Warsaw ghetto memorials and from Krakow, trips to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camps and the Wieliczka Salt Mines.

On to Germany where we had eight days staying with four different families. Highlights here were wine-tasting, eating German food and catching up with old friends.



Next into France where we hired a car, to drive into the Vosges Mountains to visit the village where Geoff's grandmother was born and stay with a French relative. Our old school French still proves to be useful to ask questions, but understanding the answers can be found wanting! On through to Epernay where we took a champagne cellar tour and of course a tasting which was most enjoyable.



Next we went to the North West to the First World War Historical sites. Highlights were visiting the Wellington Quarry in Arras where the NZ Tunnelling Company linked and enlarged massive underground tunnels to hold some 24,000 men for eight days prior to attacking the German

Front Line. We made Lille a base and visited into Belgium to Ypres to attend the nightly 8pm sounding of the Last Post at the Menin Gate where some 55,000 names of lost Soldiers are engraved. A simple but very moving experience. We also visited the Flanders Battlefields and the Tyne Cot Cemetery where most New Zealanders are buried.

We took the Eurostar train back to London through the Chunnel and after a couple of days rest headed home via Hong Kong. We stayed at the top of The Peak with a friend who is the NZ Consul General. Highlights were walking around The Peak, enjoying the sights even though the views were marred by haze. Night-time lights were spectacular. A ride on the old trams and a Star Ferry trip are great ways to experience the city and harbour. We were taken to Sai Kung Peninsular where we saw the locals buying fish direct from the small fishing boats, and to select our own choice of seafood and have cooked for a scrumptious meal.



A direct flight home on Cathay Pacific brought our 8 week trip to an end. Our trip showed that with good planning, Parkinson's and travel still go together!

Thank you to Geoff and Margaret for sharing your travels with us. Ed