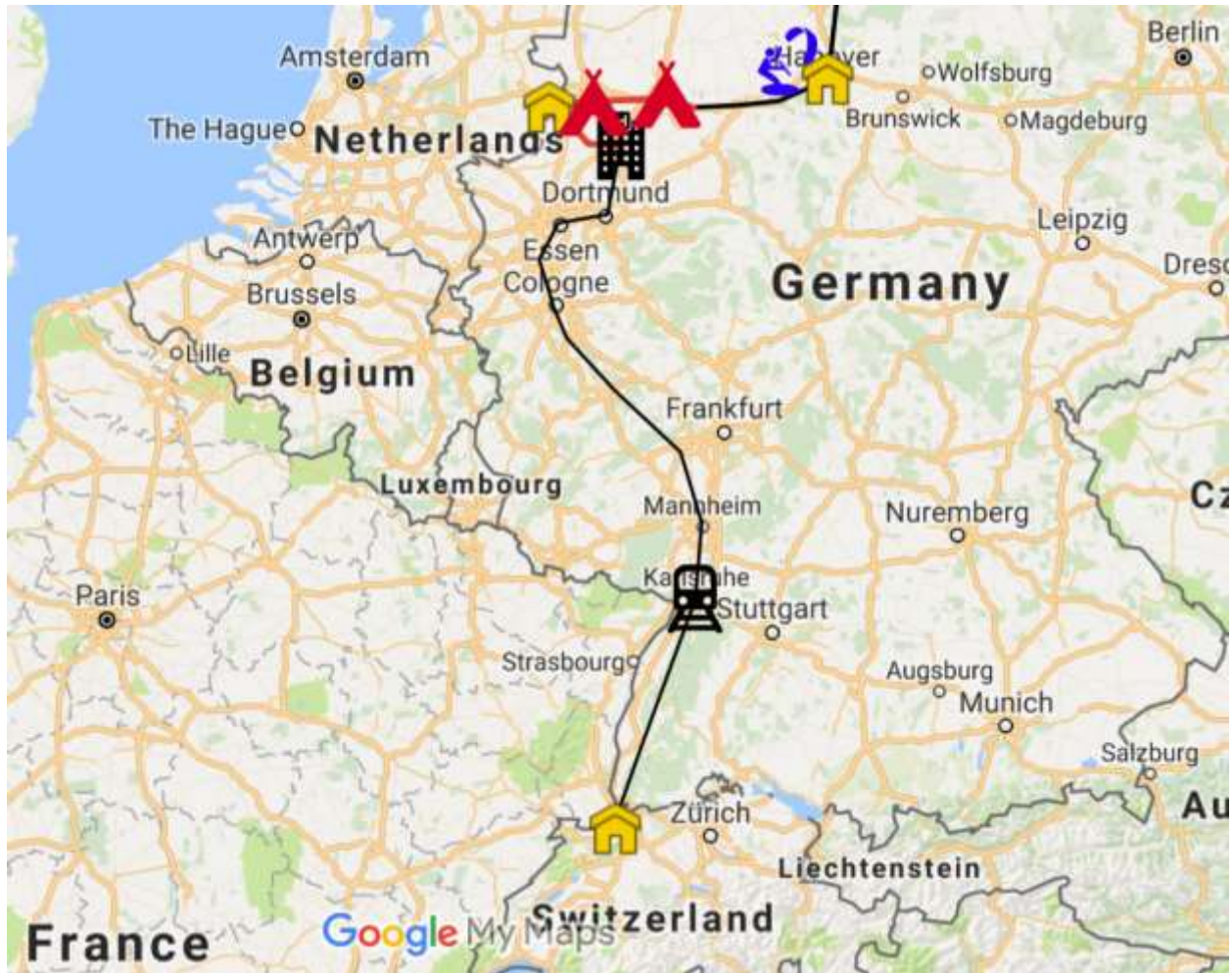


Season 1 – Part 1. Germany to Denmark



Mo 13.7.2015, day 1. Take off!

It was a really busy day. Got up early to drive off to Turgi in the Volvo to return the sound system, back to Grellingen to pack up the bike. A few minutes past 11AM I biked off direction Ettingen, arriving almost on time (for once!) at 12PM to join Siria. We had a nice ride to Basle SBB where Mum and Dad joined us to say goodbye. Also nice that we had the obligatory last minute panic getting on the train. The bikes went into the very first car and our seats were way at the back. But we made it! And so we parted, with a wonderful train ride up the Rhine, past the Loreley to Münster, sipping some nasty Lychee Prosecco on the way...





We arrived in Münster with 1h delay. On our bike ride through town to Hostel Nordstern a guy asked us where we were going with all the luggage. I said: "Los Angeles". I had to repeat it several times before he really got it and then he just laughed at us. I really wonder how far we'll get!

Tu 14.7.2015, day 2. Münster to Enschede.

Morning bike sightseeing tour round Münster. long sit in café with internet and cappuccino. Very happy to ride past Brauerei Pinkus Müller, where my Dad used to hang out back in the 50ties. It is really easy to imagine the British soldiers sitting outside in the sun having their Altbier Bowle.



We then slowly headed off. It was tough going biking against the west wind, we frequently stopped for a short break or for some grilled chicken or for a drink. We finally arrived in Enschede round 7pm. It was great to see the Hecker family again, Kaden had really grown and is still a wonderful kid. Sadly he somehow seems to have lost some of his enthusiasm for Ukulele playing...



We 15.7.2015, day 3. First day camping.

After cold and wet start, biking with Chris, Jeanna and Kaden, things brightened up enough for ice cream in the sun. By chance we passed a Guitar Shop where I bought a very nice Ukulele. We Camped at Offlumer See close to Rheine (very cheap at 8EUR!), had a very nice swim in the lake cooked our first meal on the camp stove.



Th 16.7.2015, day 4. Rheine to Osnabrück.

Nice sunny ride along Germany's bike roads to Osnabrück, of course stopping for obligatory coffee and breakfast on the way in Rheine.



On the outskirts of Osnabrück, an old gentleman asked us if we need some directions. Finally he guided us all the way into Osnabrück, through all the back lanes, forest paths and byways. He finally gave us a short tour of Osnabrück, showed us the Dom and directed us to the best Ice Cream Place in town. What a nice encounter!

We did a quick shop for essentials and camped in Osnabrück.



Fr 17.7.2015, day 5. Osnabrück to Hannover via Melle.

On the short ride to Melle, we found a lady's purse on the road. By lucky coincidence the staff at the Rheumatic Clinic knew her. We took a slow train to Hanover, lugging all our stuff on the train. We were half planning to meet my brother Tim's wife Megan in Hanover, as she was there doing some research. Finally she couldn't make it, on one side a pity, on the other side it would have been a terrible hassle for us. Andy picked us up at the station. His first comment was "wow, those bikes look brand new!!". I guess they did. Time to get some travel patina on them! We rode to his fabulous new home through the forests of Hanover for a welcome beer and then we went off to a small lake just minutes away, where we met up with his wife Ina and little Marie-Lou. We had dinner at the Bier Garten in the evening sun. Marie-Lou very much warmed up as the evening progressed, but was very shy at first!





Sa 18.7.2015 day 6. Day at Steinhuder Meer.

Everyone and everything, including Kite equipment was packed up into the Kurth's Peugeot 3006 and off we went to the Steinhuder Meer. We had a great day, again with lots of sun but unfortunately just slightly too little wind for Kite Surfing. But at least I unpacked all the equipment and got some photos: Bike and Kite! What a bizarre concept! Great grill up in the evening.

Su 19.7.2015, day 7. Rainy Sunday.

As Andy, Ina and Marie-Lou were off at a 40th Birthday party we set off to Hanover to get train tickets to get up to Denmark. We found out, that things might not be as easy as we thought as the train line from Flensburg into Denmark was closed for repairs. Also the train that evening was booked out. So we got a Sparticket for next day at 10AM and bought some stuff for a Spaghetti evening.

Mo 20.7.2015 day 8. A day in trains.

Quick breakfast @ Kurth's and then Andy took us to the train station with 15 min to spare. It was holiday time in Germany and the train was packed. What a mess! We managed to get to Flensburg only to find that the busses that were running instead of the train didn't take bikes. Nevertheless we bought expensive tickets to Struer hoping that some kind bus driver would let us take on board the bikes in spite of the big "no bikes!" sticker. Luckily a friendly Danish bus driver had mercy and we made it to Fredericia. There we boarded a very comfortable train for Struer. It seemed we would make it after all!



We packed up our bikes and rode 15 km, where we found a quiet spot on the beach to camp. But there were still 250 km to go to Hirtshals and only 4 days left before the ferry departed.

