

November 6, 2024

Dear Classmates;

At our age, travel often has to deal with the possibility of needing special care along the way. It becomes especially true for foreign trips. Fortunately, our reliable and trusty travel agent was able to put one together such that we had relatively few missteps.

Betty and I took our second Rhine River cruise (end of September). This time it was from Amsterdam, Netherlands to Basel, Switzerland. Our trip started with a few days in Berlin and Potsdam and ended in Lucerne, within the Swiss Alps.

Here are a few photos from the trip. Highlights from Berlin, besides the usual Victory Column and Brandenburg Gate, several palaces and government buildings, is a lunch on top of the TV tower building where we sat in a revolving dining room, viewing all the Berlin sights from above.



The most spectacular sights while we sit on the ship sailing up the Rhine are the medieval castles along the riverbank. It was a treat to hear the stories associated with the warlords who built the castles, and the fate that they met at the hands of stronger, new lords.

The scenery on the Rhine is totally surreal at places, including this one that is called 4-lakes, because from the viewer's perspective, the river bend looks like many lakes.

After a touch with the wine country (Riesling), we also sailed past a small section of France before disembarking in Basel. While we stayed along the beautiful Lake Lucerne, our tour took us on top of the Mt. Stanserhorn. From the top, one view has the Lucerne valley while the other view shows the Swiss Alps, always beautiful and majestic.





In a way, this is also a trip to commemorate my parents. Dad had worked at Siemens in Berlin just when Hitler was coming into power. He left to come to the USA to study. Their return to China from Harvard/Radcliffe was highlighted by a Germany marriage, the bride given away by my maternal granduncle (then teaching at Hamburg) and a honeymoon at Lake Lucerne.

----- Best to all, Betty and Yin