



YFA TRAVEL DOCUMENT

Seeing the world with the YFC Discovery Programme

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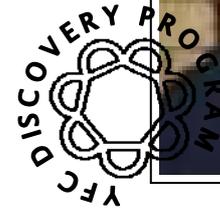
CLUB: Uttoxeter JNFU

DESTINATION: Saltzburg, Austria

TYPE OF TRIP: European Rally

DURATION: 1 week

DATES OF TRAVEL: August 2002



DESCRIPTION OF TRIP:

On 20th July 2002 I made the midnight drive down to Stansted to take advantage of the cheap airline flights to Austria and to start a week of very little sleep! I met up with the rest of the England Team- Will, Andy and Chrissie from Devon, and Theresa from Cornwall. Luckily enough we arrived in Austria complete with all of our luggage and were taken to our accommodation- the local agricultural college.

What was to follow was a hectic week dashing around the Austrian countryside and taking in lots of Austrian beer and wine.

We decided to investigate a little on arrival and were surprised to discover that the average bulk tank was not a lot bigger than your household chest freezer and the average herd size was about 20 cows. Any bigger and you were considered to be a large farmer!

The initial part of the week focused on the cultural side of the trip, getting to know all the other teams represented from across Europe. We were introduced to the different regions of Austria and their specialities- from attempting to complete an assault course on wooden skies, log chopping to their wines and ciders. We also held an international buffet where every team took specialities from their local area. I think that evening there was far more local drinks consumed than food.



We were taken to various visitor attractions, including a trip to the ice cave sculptures which involved a hike, a cable car ride up the side of a very steep mountain (not for the faint hearted!) a further hike, then a walk up (and back down) 900 steps. We then did a long hike to a pub up in the mountains, where we spent the rest of the afternoon and evening relaxing and drinking. The evening ended with walking back down the mountains with lighted torches- how we didn't set the forest on fire Heaven only knows!

In the middle of the week most people went off to stay with host families. Being the England Team Leader I attended the European AGM meeting and cluster Group meetings held. This may sound a little boring, but it certainly wasn't, with fun, games and dancing held in the bar in the evening.

On the final night we had a banquet in Salzburg Castle and what a fantastic (but sad) evening this was as we all reflected on the week that had flown by and the parting of many now good friends.

I would recommend that anyone should go on an international trip with YFC as they are great fun and you will make many great friends. I think we had even convinced the Welsh and Scottish Teams that the English were not that bad by the end of the week! The trip was not expensive, with NFYFC funding the participation fee and we just had to pay travel costs.

Future European Rally's are to be held in Norway (2003), Ulster (2004), and Scotland (2005).

So if you fancy any of these then start to think about it now, and if you want any advice or have any questions then just contact me as I had one of the best and most unforgettable experiences of my life travelling with YFC.

Jackie Hampson

