

06-18-2012 Took a train from Brussels to Paris today.



It was a very fast train but also very comfortable. The ride took about 1.5 hours.



Above Dave's girls enjoy a cheese plate and beverages at a little cafe. We walked around surveying the area and did a little shopping. Later Dave and Joyce went for a walk and then dinner. Of course we got turned around and lost our way. Dave of course speaks fluent French :-) and after showing his "I am lost" card to several people, made it back to the hotel. Tomorrow we have a two day bus pass scheduled including a river boat tour ... Should be fun!

6-19-2012 Well today started off slow, but everything turned out well. Thinking that we would be smart to book our bus/boat tours online turned out to be a mistake. Seems like you can't show the confirmation information from the smart phone or tab, but instead need to print it out Well that was a problem. Our hotel didn't have the printing facility and after 2 hours of trying to communicate with 3 little Internet shops Dave & Joyce finally got their ticket to print. Unfortunately the other girls did not. They decided to purchase another set of tickets and try settling up with the company later. Life in Europe is getting difficult ... And expensive.



Angie, Jade (and top of Joyce's head) enjoy the sights from top of the tour bus.



Joyce enjoying the boat cruise on the way to Eiffel Tower (in background)



Lunch at the Notre Dame cafe ... Picture compliments of Jade!



Girls posing in front of the Notre Dame cathedral.



Joyce in front of Eiffel tower. The girls stayed here until after dark to see the light show. Dave and Joyce headed back to the hotel and had a great French dinner With desert!

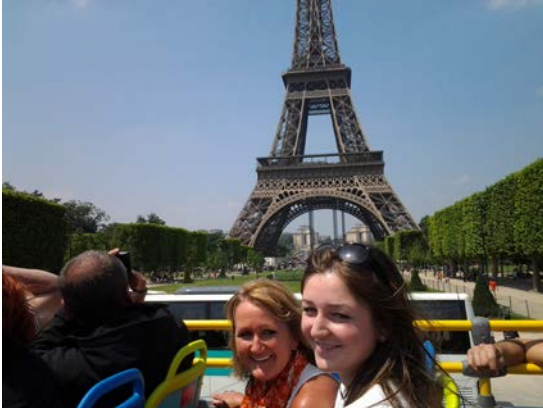
06-20-2012 Our last day of touring Paris was much warmer than the first. Yesterday we were forced to buy sweatshirts because it was mostly cloudy and cold. So today we prepared ourselves for the weather but it turned warm and sunny.



Above Angie and Jade riding on upper level of bus as we go thru a narrow archway that goes to the Pyramide du Louvre.



Shawna riding upper level of bus with Pyramide du Louvre in background.



Angie riding bus with new friend from Ukraine. This young gal speaks English fluently ... As well as two other languages.



Dave's girls with Arc de Triomphe in background.



"Back home again in Indiana" ... Not!!! We saw a lot of Indiana cafes. We did not learn the story about this chain of cafes, but they were spread throughout Paris. It was another long day of riding the tour bus and we were glad to hop on the train and head back where son David was waiting to take us back to our Belgium home. We will miss Paris, but not the crowded sidewalks and streets. It will also be nice to have a toilet handy whenever the need arises Paris (and we believe all of Europe) is not a toilet friendly place Oh we Americans are soooo spoiled!