

FRANCE SUMMER 2008

At last it was time for the big France tour. Below we have marked on the map all the places where we stayed.



Monday the 23rd of June



As usual we drove to Dalen Parking and left the car there. We had plenty of time, so we had time for a beer at Aquavit Bar before we left. While sitting there we could look out at the plain, which we were going to travel with.

We flew with SAS. The plane went at 16.45 o'clock and we arrived at 19.40 o'clock.

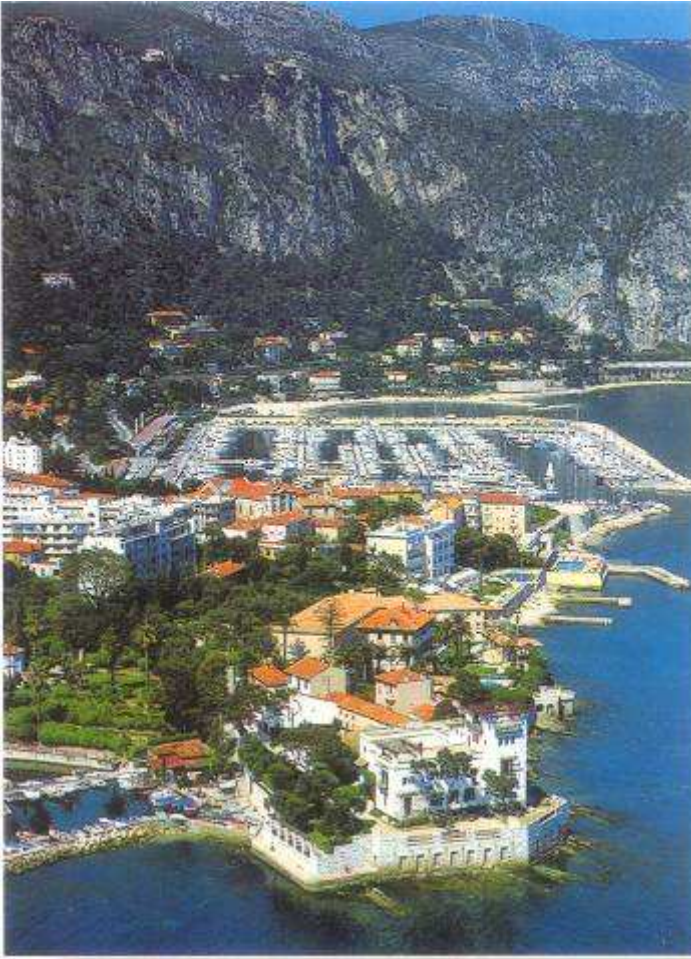
The airport there is named Côte d'Azur International.



Here are the runways



Here is Terminal 1



The first town we were going to stay in was **Beaulieu-sur-mer**.

This is originally a Greek settling named Anao.

Today the town is a prosperous holiday resort with a big marina. There are not more than 3675 people living here.

We had thought of taking the train there from the airport, but the reception at the hotel closed so early that we had to take a taxi from the airport to make it. It was quite expensive, 60€.



The hotel was **Hotel le Havre Bleu**.

We got room number 18.

The room was air-conditioned.



When we were installed we went downwards in the city to find a place to eat. We went down to the harbor and the marina, but there was nothing. We therefore went up into the city again and found a restaurant where they had spaghetti/biff with bunch with pommes frites. We had a Cognac on the terrace before we went to bed.

Thursday the 24th of June

We had breakfast at 8.30 o'clock.

Then we went over to the railway station and took the train to Eze-bord-de mer. We had planned to go up to Eze-Village. There were one hour waiting time for the bus, which was going up there.



On the station there was a small tourist office where we got a time schedule for the bus that went to Eze-Village.



Then we took a picture up at Eze-Village.



While we were waiting for the bus we had a couple of beers at this restaurant in Eze Bord de Mer.

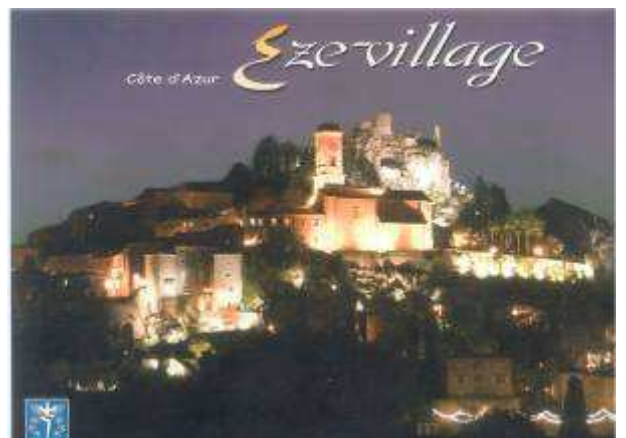
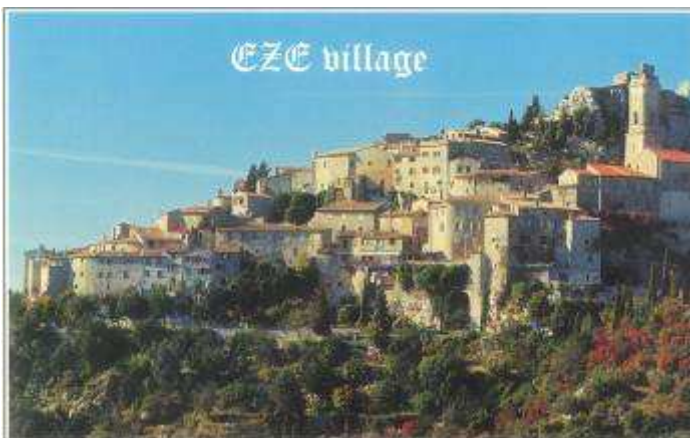


After having taken the bus up to Eze Village, we had another beer at this restaurant just besides the bus stop.

Eze lies on a mountain top about 500 m over the sea. There have lived people there since 2000 BC, and the place has a very tangled history. It has been occupied by Romans, Turks, Arabs, and French and so on. It was not a part of France until 1860, after a referendum. Now, only 2500 people live in the whole area. The town is flooded by tourist during the season.



Here is the village seen from above



Here is the village seen from below

Below are various pictures from the streets in the village.





When we had gone this round, we were hungry and thirsty again. We sat down at this restaurant, which lies just below the old village. Vi had rosé wine, shrimps/octopus and salmon in paste pillows. The paste was very good.



This is the railway station in Eze Bord de Mer

Then we took the bus back to Eze Bord de Mer. It was a while until the train came, so we had a beer at the same restaurant before we went to the station and bought tickets. There were ticket machines there. We had not used this particular type before, so we got help from other travelers.

When we back in Beaulieu we went straight back to the hotel. Kjell had a sore throat and slept until we should go out and eat in the evening.

We had steak in Rochefort sauce and Sambucca afterwards.

When we were back in the hotel, Kjell started working with publishing the result pages from the tournament on Monday and putting them on to the home pages to Kverneland Bridge Club. There was wireless Internet at the hotel.

Wednesday the 25th June

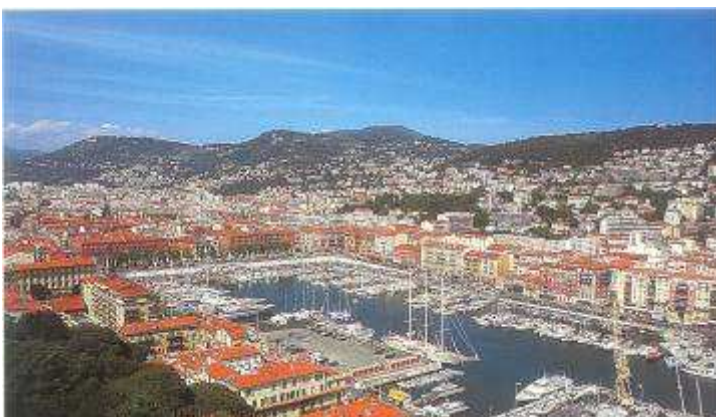
This morning we had breakfast and went to bed again. We both had a cold. Later in the day we took the train to Nice and had lunch there. We ate at Restaurant Crystal. We had Salad Niçoise.



Here comes the train



Here we ate in Nice



There are 400 000 year old traces from man in Nice. Research has shown that it was one of the first places man started using fire. The town was founded in 350 BC by the Greek in Marseilles. The town became a popular trade center and it still is today. The city belonged to the state of Piemonte, which today is a part of Italy. Today about 450 000 lives in the city and about 900 000 when the suburbs are counted in.



When we came back to Beaulieu we went straight back to the hotel. We fell asleep and slept until nine o'clock. Then we were awakened by a sms from Riad.

Then went to eat at La Catalan. We had steak in mushroom sauce / pepper sauce.

This is a picture from inside of the bar.

Thursday the 26th June



This day we had a still worse cold, so we were so limp that we just stayed in bed. We thought of taking a train to Monaco later in the day, but we were not able to. We just went for lunch at Max II today. We had Spaghetti Bolognese. This day Anne Berit had pains in her back in addition, so we stayed in bed almost all the day.

We got out in the evening for dinner. We had couscous. It was a very good restaurant with good food. There was a restaurant cat there as well.



Fine roof espalier with grapes



Nice view



Nice staff



The restaurant cat is begging

Friday the 27th of June



Today Anne Berit has a quite miserable back and Kjell is still poor by the cold.

But this day we are going by train to **Juan-les-Pins**.

We took the train at 10.34 and were there at 11.15.

Juan-Les-Pins is the neighbor city to the more known Antibes. While Antibes by lies at the east side of the peninsula Garoupe, Juan-les-Pins lies at the west side, and the built-up areas in the two cities have partly grown together to one. Earlier this was small village with various beaches that he inhabitants in Antibes used for outings and picnic. The village got its name the 12th of March 1882. The annual jazz festival, «Jazz à Juan», which has been arranged since 1960 in the city park La Pinede, attract a big audience and big names within this music style. The music has led to that New Orleans and Juan-les-Pins are twin towns. The city has about 60 000 inhabitants today.



The first thing Kjell did when we came off the train was to buy cough-mixture at a pharmacy. It was named Peter's. There were narcotics and among other things. We guess that it is not possible to buy anything like this in Norway. It turned out to be very effective.

The check in at the hotel was not until 14.00 o'clock, so we had rosé wine at Le Breban while we were waiting.

The hotel was **Hotel Aldo**



The room at the hotel was very nice with two balconies. We had the balcony right over the HOTEL name plate and the balcony right around the corner.

We went to eat lunch. We had 2 pieces of sea bass at Restaurant Le Capitol down by the beach. The waiter was sour.



This was the view from our hotel

Afterwards Kjell had to sleep for a while because of the cold.

When he woke up we went out to buy water and beer. We had a refrigerator in the room.

Little by little we got hungry and we went to Ruban Bleu and had some meat with spaghetti.



Saturday the 28th of June



This day Kjell is much better from his cold and the coughing. The cough-mixture had worked fine.

We went over to the station and bought tickets for a trip to Cannes. While waiting for the train Anne Berit turned so unwell that we had to go back to the hotel again such that she could recover.

We went a bit later in the day and strolled around a bit. We had a small lunch at Croisette Corner.

Below are various pictures from the city.



Cannes was from the middle ages and up to the beginning of the 1800s a small fishing and agricultural town. In the 1830s French aristocrats and wealthy foreigners started to build vacation houses in the area and the city changed gradually to a vacation- and recreation place. The city is known for the fine sand beaches and for the film festival that is held here every year. Today about 70 000 lives in the city.



When we went back to catch the train back to Juan le Pins, we met Tone, Jan Ivar and Mads. Tone is the sister of my son-in-law. They live in Sandnes and have bought a holiday house right outside Cannes.



When we came back to the hotel we relaxed for a while before we went out for dinner at Cafe de la Plague.

The picture is taken right outside the restaurant.

The food there was terrible.

At that time we were tired of restaurant food, and we decided that we would by canned food for a while.

Sunday the 29th June

At this day we just relaxed. We went over to the super market and bought two cans with Ravioli, which we ate as lunch in the room. Kjell made a spoon of a beer can, such that we got the food out of the cans. We had a bottle of wine with to go with it.



Beyond that we were lying on the bed reading about the places we were about to travel to and read train time tables In addition we sent some e-mails.

It had not been any beach trip for us. We had not been fit for that, but this day we felt much better.

In the evening we had dinner, paella w/chicken at L'Horizon. It was very good. Afterwards we on the terrace and relaxed with beer, which we shared.

We shut the sliding door because we didn't have insects into the room. When we was about to go inside again, we saw that there was a catch lock on the door, and it had been locked. We tried in all possible ways to open it again. We even tried to pick the lock with a pencil. There were people down on the street and Anne Berit was thinking of shouting down for help. At this moment of time Kjell had tried more rough methods. He had started tearing and jerking at the other half of the door. Then it suddenly it kicked open, so it had not been fully locked.

Monday the 30th of June

At this morning we went through our usual routines. The breakfast consisted of coffee w/milk, orange juice, croisette w/chocolate filling, bread, butter, jam. After breakfast we took the train to **Saint Raphael** (10.12 – 10.52).



St. Raphael is more or less to count as a holiday resort right besides Frejus. There is found a lot of traces from prehistoric times, among others megalith. The Romans built villas in the area. The city of today was founded by monks in the 1100s. In the 1200s the templar knights establish a center there. Saint Raphaël was a fisherman's village from the 1500s it is still that in a way. There are about 26 000 inhabitants there.



We called to **Hotel du Soleil** and made them come and fetch us at the railway station.

We were installed in a studio, which lies on the backside of the main building. We thought it was the outhouse, but it was quite OK, and it had a fridge and cooking facilities.

We went back to the city and bought a lot of groceries at the supermarket.



After that we made lunch, paste with meat sauce that we ate outside.

There was a nice sitting area just outside with hedges around, so we were shielded from the others studios.

Afterwards we had a siesta. Then we fell asleep and we slept so long, that it was so late when we woke up, we just made dinner and went back to sleep again.

The dinner we composed ourselves. It consisted of paste, tomato sauce, corned beef and vegetables.

It was excellent; some of the best we had eaten on the whole trip so far.

There was no air-condition in the studio, so up on the loft-room where the beds were, there were very hot, so Anne Berit had to go to bed downstairs, where it was a bit cooler. But there was also very hot there, so she had to cool down in the shower numerous times during the night to get some sleep. Kjell was sleeping as usual. He just pushed the sleep button.

Tuesday the 1st of July



Today we started with coffee with cognac besides.

Guess which cup we had the cognac in! 😊

At breakfast we had the rest of the dinner from the day before.

Afterwards we went to the beach.



There were a very nice park right behind the beach



This was a public beach and straight behind was the nice park, see the pictures above. The water was nice.

After we returned from the beach we made paste with meat sauce and big meat lumps. It was very good.

Then we slept for an hour or so. Then we went to the supermarket on the corner. There we bought water, biscuits, Pastis, Calvados, beer, spoons, forks, knives and cups.

Thereafter we had an enjoyable time with cross-words. Later in the evening we had sausages and lentils. The dessert was Muscatel wine.

Afterwards we went for a stroll in the neighborhood.

As midnight snack we had cheese, crackers and white wine.

Wednesday the 2nd July

Breakfast was little can of tuna fish, which we shared, a can of mackerel in mustard sauce + coffee + cognac + beer.

Afterwards we paid the hotel and they also drove us to the railway station.

We were going to take the bus to the next place, **Cavalaire**.



Cavalaire is a small coastal village with about 5000 inhabitants.

It is a very popular holiday resort town.

There is a nice sandy beach and there is a large sail yaght marina with space for over 1200 boats.

There is a free shuttle bus from the railway station to the bus station. There we bought a ticket to Faux. There we had to walk a bit to reach the bus, which went further on to Cavalaire.

When we came to Cavalaire, we saw a sign pointing in direction of **Hotel Azur**, where we had booked. Therefore we started walking, but it turned out to be quite a bit and quite steep to go, so we were quite done and hot when we reached the hotel.



We stayed in this building where it was a nice terrace outside



Here is a picture of the main building with the reception.

In the foreground is the breakfast area for those who stay in the main building.



Here are a couple of pictures from the area outside the main building.



This is from the terrace



This is the view from the terrace



The first thing we did was to eat a gourmet-lunch consisting of two tiny cans of tuna and sardines + a big bottle of wine + some beers.

We needed this after the hardships.

Afterwards we went to town again for a shopping at. We filled our rucksacks with canned products, cheese, biscuits, wine, and lots of water.



We had some rosé wine at Les Sirenes, which was directly on the other side over the street.

Right outside the restaurant was the beach.

Afterwards we phoned for a taxi, but after having called twice and waited for half an hour, we found out that we as well could walk back to the hilltop.

I don't sleep here! I'm calling for a taxi.

The first we did was to eat chili con carne with wine along with it. Then we ate half of a cured sausage and a small can of beef. Then we finished the rest of the Pastis before we tried the Calvadosen. It was a bit sharp to our taste. Then we sat for a while listening at some entertainment and music from down in the valley below.

Thursday the 3rd of July



05.30 o'clock we were awakened by the telephone in the room. It was only drunken talk, so we went asleep again. Kjell slept longest, of course.

For breakfast we had Mexican salad with tuna and with red wine.

This day it was a bit overcast with some rain. We relaxed at the hotel all day. We were thinking of swimming in the pool, but there was so cold in the air that we changed our mind.

Friday the 4th of July

This day we were going on. We got a ride down to the bus station. We took the bus to Toulon and train further to Saint-Cyr-sur-Mer. We were going to stay at a little place in the suburbs, **Les Lecques**, so we took a taxi to the hotel. We didn't want to have more strenuously walks hauling the suitcases.



St Cyr sur Mer is the main village with two small suburbs, Les Lecques and La Madrague. There are only 9000 inhabitants in total.

There are three small harbors and a 2 km long sandy beach.

There shall be a nice walkway along the shore, but we didn't go there.



The hotel was **Hotel de la Corniche**. It was positioned very nice on a cliff over the sea and the room was spacious with a terrace and sea view. There was also a wireless internet connection for the PC.



A couple of pictures taken from the terrace



We celebrated the new hotel with a Bordeaux Châteaux de la Bourne, 2007. Afterwards we had a salad in the hotel garden where we had breakfast in the mornings.

In the evening we went over to the nearest village, **Les Lecques** and had lamb, Souris D'agneau. It was very good.

The restaurant was Le Mirador and was in the marina area.



Here are some pictures, which we took of harbor from the restaurant.

There was music after a while, so we stayed there for listening.

Therefore we needed another bottle of wine.



The waiter is making pranks



Here everything are back to normal

Saturday the 5th of July

We had breakfast in the hotel garden. Later we also had lunch there, chicken clubs with tomatoes and rosé wine.

Then we went down to the beach. There were so stony and so big waves that it was not pleasant to go in. Later we solved cross word puzzles.



Here are some pictures from the stony beach



In the evening we had dinner at Le 2 Seurs. There we had filet with rochefort sauce and of course red wine. The meat was burned, touch and raw. It was on the limit to complain and hand it back to the kitchen.

Afterwards we had a stroll along the quays to the town beach, which was very nice. We went past a band, which played Mexican music



Here is the restaurant street



Here is the town beach

Sunday the 6th of July

This day we were early at the breakfast. Then there were also hermetic fruit and yoghurt. We relaxed the whole day at the hotel.

We had lunch at the hotel (chicken clubs with chips and mustard).

We went down to the town in the evening and had grilled fish. It was burned outside and raw and icy inside. We sent it back to the kitchen for a proper preparation. Then the food was acceptable, but not more than that.

When we went back to the hotel we took a picture of the bus stop and the time table, for we had thought of going to La Ciotat the next day. We also took a picture of a song cicada and a cactus type that is blooming only once in its life time, and then it dies.



Bus shelter and bus table



The song cicada



The cactus

Before we went to bed we had cheese and biscuits and wine on the terrace. Then it was past 01.00 o'clock. During the night there was a heavy lightning and thunder.

Monday the 7th July

This day we were at breakfast at opening time 08.30. Then we took a bus to La Ciotat.



From Café de la Plague



Here we can see the café from across the street

We had first rosé wine at Café de la Plague.

Then we had a swim at the beach just across the street from the café. See the pictures below.



After that we had lunch, paste and fish and red wine. We were told that the fish was called "lotte". We found later out that that is the same as "lake" in Norwegian or burbot in English.

We had thought of taking the bus back to the hotel, but only took passengers in from the main bus station, but we didn't want to go some thousand meters over there. We therefore asked the staff to call for a taxi. The taxi driver had siesta. Then the waiter found out that he could take us to our hotel. What a service!! He didn't want payment, but we gave him taxi rate anyhow. ☺

On the way to the village later in the afternoon we saw another song cicada sitting on a pole. We got some pictures of this one.



After this we had lam at Le Mirador. It was not as good as the first time and the food was only lukewarm.

When we came back to the hotel we booked a flight to Berlin via Internet.

Just before we went to bed we had a small talk with the neighbors on the neighbor terrace. She was from Peru and he was from England.

Tuesday the 8th July

After breakfast we relaxed until we went down to Les Lecques for lunch. We had forgotten that all restaurants have siesta at this time. We therefore went back to the hotel and had chicken clubs at the hotel.

Then we booked hotel in Berlin via Internet.

In the evening we went down to Riviera dei Fiori and had paste/entrecote. The food was OK, but we agreed that nothing that we had eaten in France so far was better than the food that we made ourselves.

Wednesday the 9th July

To day we had the the usual breakfast. Then we packed up and booked a taxi in the reception. We had to wait about 3quarter of an hour before the taxi came. He had got problems with something. We had been on the Internet and found out that we had to take the train to Toulon, from there to Antibes and a local train from there to Cagnes sur Mer. Alt turned out to be correct, but it the end we saw that the first train was late and then everything was shifted.

Below are a couple of pictures, which were taken through the train windows between Toulon and Antibes.



When we arrived at Antibes, we were hungry, but it was closed for siesta here too at this time. We found a restaurant that was able to serve hot food, Le Yacht Club, down in the harbor. There we had salmon and that was very good. We had rosé wine along with it.



We took the local train further, 3 stations, and we walk over to the hotel.

The hotel had Internet connection and Kjell updated the pages for the bridge club.

Afterwards we relaxed for a while.

We among others a picture of the old city from the terrace.



Then we went for dinner.

We were recommended a restaurant, Le Neptune, down by the seaside that should have good food.

Here we are sitting waiting for the good food.



The view in the direction of Nice



View in the direction of Cannes



We had lamb, lamb, red wine (Grand Barrail Larose -Saint Emilion), ice cream, espresso and sambucca.

Everything was very good.

After a while there was put up fire works nearby, and we sitting looking at it.

We ended the "party" on the veranda on the hotel.

Thursday the 10th of July

We started with breakfast at the hotel. Then we had a taxi to the airport (25 €). We had a pint of beer / a rosé wine after the check-in at Murphy's House, The Irish Pub.

Then it went homewards with British Airways via Heathrow, London. We landed at Terminal 1. This was finished in 1961, but are going to be shut down and demolished as soon as "Terminal East" is opened.

The trip further on, also with British Airways, was to go from Terminal 5. There went transfer buses between the terminals all the time, so that was easy. Terminal 5 at Heathrow is 40 meters high, 396 meter long and 176 meters broad. Each of the fem stores has an areal in size with ten football grounds. It is Great Britain's biggest free-standing building and is used only by British Airways (BA).

The departure was a little delayed so it got boring sitting waiting, but we came home at last

