

Part 18 Europe 2025 for Cathy's blog

Monday 21st April, 2025.

Today's trip is to Bratislava, in Slovakia. It is important to take your passport, as the Austrian government might fine you trying to return to Austria!

We noticed an immediate difference once across the border. The Austrian countryside is covered in wind farms. (A few years ago, they had 1426 wind turbines, creating 13% of their power needs). In Slovakia, there are no wind farms. Slovakia does have oil and natural gas fired power stations. Two coal powered stations were taken offline last year. They also have nuclear power (5 plants).

We walked into the walled city (centre) of Bratislava across a now dry moat and through a gate.



Across the moat.



And through the gate.



The buildings were very pretty.



They have built a fountain in the position of the old town moat.



They also have a sense of humour. Apparently, this “Man at work” is busy looking up the skirts of the women.

We walked into the back streets of Bratislava old town in our free time. While the centre of the city is not as grand as Vienna, it was pretty and neat and had many branded shops and coffee shops and eateries. The back streets were less typical but more photogenic.



Yes, they are practising their fencing.



Corner stop.



Building site fencing, graffiti and the plaster peeling off a building.



A door in a door. Mind the gap.



Perhaps there is a shortage of plasterers.



Easter Monday is a holiday for us, but not here in Bratislava. These people have come to the church for a service.



Another building in need of repair. This one was just around from the main square.



And another church, with no people waiting (only two tourists looking in).



As a reminder, the portcullis hangs above the street in its original position (but always raised).



The three towered castle is the symbol of the city.



Inside a courtyard (leading around from the main square, we found the public library and some more building decorations. This dragon is interesting.



And another lizard.



The bat is better!

So we caught the bus back to Vienna, being held up by a quarantine “dip” that all traffic had to pass through (foot and mouth).

It was time to say good bye to Vienna and sail on to Budapest.



Swans on the Danube River, Vienna.