

Part 23 Europe for Cathy's blog

Saturday 26th April, 2025

Tiredness is catching up with us, but we headed out after breakfast to go to the Semmelweis Museum (and medical museum), not quite as gruesome as it sounds.

Ignaz Seemelweis discovered that washing your hands between patients (specifically after doing autopsies) stops the next patient from dying (they had no concept of single celled organisms back in the day).

The museum is in the house he was born in (in 1818). It became a museum in 1965, and Semmelweis's remains were removed from a cemetery and brought to the house and buried in the garden(with a plaque).

The house also holds a range of surgical equipment (and information).



Some mummified remains.



Anton Leeuwenhoek's microscope.



Jars of ingredients for medicines.



A more modern microscope.



Books and more equipment.



A book written by Dr. Jenner (who died five years after Semmelweis was born).



Sets of suture needles.



Walking back along the river, we walked past these caves and tunnels under Buda Hill. The Church in the Rocks uses a large cave. The tunnels underneath were places of refuge during the war years.



Weeds and a fig tree in the fenced off gardens alongside the road between the Danube and Buda Hill.



Former entrance to the church. There are paths and steps up from this lower level to the church.



It is all overgrown down here now.



Back in Budapest. I don't know what this guy is carrying.



Cat Alley. Interesting they used Napoleon as a subject.



Didn't expect to find wombats.

In the afternoon we found ourselves back at St. Stephen's and then caught up in the annual Budapest bicycle ride.



The traffic was blocked. We went back to our hotel to watch from the upstairs windows.



We had an early tea and then made sure we were packed.

Our Sunday was busy :

Alarm on for 5:30, but we were both up, showered and packed, checked out and ordered an Uber.

Drive to the airport, self check in (with help from two airline attendants!) and through security.

Email telling us our flight from Frankfurt to Singapore was delayed by three hours, meaning we would miss our connections. New flights organised, home via Ho Chi Min City after Singapore... add another five or so hours!

The trouble with airports is, the desks are all “outside” customs and you cannot get to them to ask about anything.

Fly to Frankfurt. Once again, no help desk available (the Singapore desk was temporarily closed!).

Once check in for the next flight was open, we stood in the queue with dozens of others, trying to sort out the flights. The young man that helped us was great. He printed new boarding passes and new luggage tags and sent another young man to change them on the bags.

All the people who were connecting to flights to Australia (including one couple who had been on our Scenic Cruise) would be staying in Singapore over night!

Had a very unsatisfying Burger King hamburger.

Boarded and found we had the three middle seats to ourselves, so I got to lie down almost properly a few times. It was a bumpy flight, but we landed ok in Singapore.

The cabin crew read a long list of connecting flights and Singapore staff had set up tables to help us all. We got food vouchers and (not wanting another burger or such) we went to a little cafe and had coffee and cake (because we were used to eating every two or three hours!)

Spent quite a while in Changi Airport.



Then it was off to Ho Chi Min, where it was very crowded.

Not much to do there, but not long to wait either. Then onto the plane for Siem Reap.

The sun was beginning to set during the flight.



David had contacted our Siem Reap shuttle service and arranged to be picked up at 6:00. We got off the plane, through immigration (thumb prints and all) and collected our bags (so relieved to see they had made the different connection too) and were in the van by 6:05.

Home just after 7:00pm and glad to be here after 32 hours of “flying”.

That ends our wonderful trip to Europe, time in Cologne at the start, a Scenic 14 day cruise along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers, and a few more days in Budapest.