

Day 7 - 15th September

Onwards to Innsbruck...

The vaporetta trip from our apartment to the station is a lovely way to say goodbye to Venice as you go up part of the Grand Canal to the station. There is an easy ramp up to the trains but you do need change should you wish to use the toilet, or else buy something in one of the cafes to get a token to use their facilities. It starts to rain as we travel on the train to Venice Mestre over the lagoon – it must have been quite a task building this railway and making Venice connected to the mainland. Imagine how much wood is piled into the marshy ground to support Venice all these centuries.

Change trains

We change trains in Verona so have some lunch there in the station before travelling on up the Adige valley, with mist lying in pockets on the mountains, and vineyards in lychets below by the River Adige. We have passport control at Trento as we leave Italy, to go via Bozen following the River Eisack. As we pass through Brixen we notice the churches look more Austrian. As you enter rail you get tasters of the different countryside. Chalet houses are now in the woods and at Gossensas we enter Austria going slowly into the Brenner tunnel.



Austrian Train

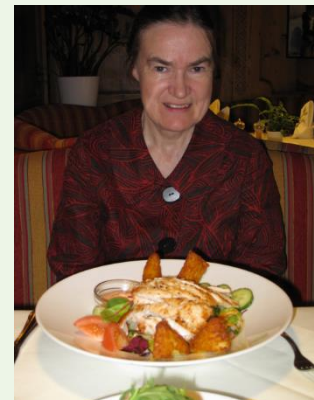
Pleasure of travelling by rail

It is an ideal holiday with a day sightseeing in a different city, and then a day relaxing on the train and taking in the view.

At Brenner we have a 10 minute stop so get off to take a photo of the front of the train. Police and army are at the station, and we have another passport check. The mountains are very high around Innsbruck as we reach our destination. Travelling 1st class to Innsbruck gives entry to the OBB lounge where you can get a drink and a snack and check on the weather forecast which is important in the mountains.

Arriving Innsbruck

We walk along by the river from our Leipziger Hof Hotel, where we have a wonderful room with a view of the mountains. Andrew's dinner in the hotel was a delicious polenta sprinkled with parmesan on grilled vegetables in a tomato and herb sauce. Louise enjoyed a salad of mixed green leaves, grated carrots and radishes topped with strips of grilled chicken. Later in the evening we use the sauna and relaxation lounge plus try the infra-red relaxation seat on Louise's back! Innsbruck is a great place for walking and for the art lover we would recommend the Hofburg as the Giants Hall has wonderful ceiling frescoes which are memorable. Also the Hapsburg portrait gallery in Ambras Castle with the collections of Archduke Ferdinand II, the Renaissance prince who promoted the arts and sciences.



Louise's Dinner in Innsbruck