



What an Eifel!

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Photos by The Group

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Eifel Tour 2026

After the last European trip we led, we said “never again”. The trip was a great success, but we felt the responsibility was too great to repeat.

So, in mid June we set off to lead a group of eight bikes and twelve people to the Eifel Region of Germany!



The two-day journey across France was relatively uneventful apart from the temperature. The only rain we had was on the 30 minute ride from the tunnel to our hotel on the outskirts of Calais. We were at the start of a heatwave that would last for the whole of the trip, with temperatures topping 38°.



Our first overnight after leaving Calais was the Villa Motel in Stenay, where the proprietor was super helpful and opened the restaurant just for us (we had booked in advance).



Crossing into Belgium we visited the War Museum at Bastogne - a fascinating insight into the events in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge – then made our way to our base at the Augustiner hotel in Hillesheim. When we arrived, the receptionist offered us ice creams and made ten overheated bikers very happy!

This would be a new area for us to explore and we weren't disappointed. The roads are a bikers dream with a mix of miles of open countryside, sweeping bends and tight twisties. Good road surfaces, very little traffic and beautiful scenery add to the experience.



We had prepared six different routes for the five days that we would be in the area, in the hope that we would cater for all tastes. Each evening the group chose the route for the next day.

The choice for the first day was a ride to Berg Eltz, a fairytale castle near Cochem. The day started well, but a road closure caused a long detour past the busy Nurburgring circuit. Then a village festival closed another road and meant another detour! Eventually we arrived at the castle car park and caught the shuttle bus to the castle entrance. The castle was quite busy, but we enjoyed the guided tour and some refreshments before taking the shuttle bus back to the bikes. We returned to the hotel via Cochem and a ride along the Mosel river. In the evening we ate at a local Thai restaurant and had fun on the zip wire in the park on the walk back to the hotel.





Mark wanted to reproduce a photo that he had taken outside a hotel on a visit to Monschau many years previously, so that was our first stop for the next day. Amazingly the hotel looked just the same as it had all those years before and the reproduction was a success.



From there we took the fabulous roads beside lake Obersee near Simmerath, stopping at a viewpoint with extensive views across the lakes and the surrounding countryside. This is obviously a popular route for motorcyclists because they are not allowed on the road at the weekend or on bank holidays! We had planned to stop for refreshments at a café by one of the lakes but, once again, a road closure foiled that plan. Since the weather was heating up we took a direct route back to Hillesheim and had a picnic by the local lake.

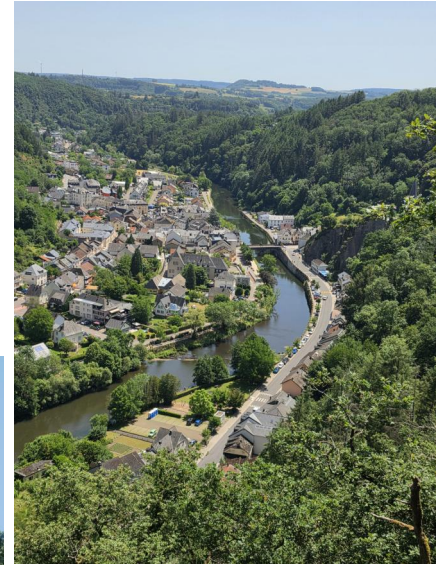


On day three we headed for the area around the Nurburgring. The first stop should have been a visit to Burgruine Nurburg. We arrived a little early, the castle gates were closed and after waiting some time we discovered that the castle wasn't open on Tuesdays! No-one wanted to go into the Nurburgring, but John had suggested a viewpoint where we could see a good section of the race circuit, so that's where we went next. For a few minutes we watched some cars on the track, then rode on and stopped for lunch at the Checkpoint Bistro. A roundabout route on fabulous roads took us back to the hotel.



Luxembourg was the destination for day four. We headed northwest to Stadtkyll, turned southwest to cross into Luxembourg at Dasburg then followed the river Our to Vianden. A short detour for a road closure had been well signed and caused no serious delay. Vianden is a very pretty, small town. We parked by the river, had a huge Dame Blanche ice cream in a café, then took the cable car to take in the amazing views of the castle and the countryside. At the top cable car station a member of staff was using a hose and she intentionally sprayed us all with cold water – it was very refreshing! Then back to the bikes and another roundabout route back to base. About 7 miles from the hotel we encountered yet another road closure!





On our last day in the Eifel we headed for the Wunderlich shop – it had to be done! The roads on the way would have been good riding, but there was a lot more traffic and little opportunity to pass slow vehicles. We had expected a shop with lots of “stuff” on display to tempt us, but the shop was large and spacious with minimalist displays. Still, they did supply free coffee. On the way back to the hotel another road closure with no diversion signs meant that we ended up taking the motorway most of the way.



Our journey home took us back across Luxembourg and Belgium to Lanois sur Vance in France for an overnight stop, then onto Tournehem for one night before boarding the tunnel and heading home.



The extreme temperatures had been draining and the road closures frustrating. The riding and scenery had been exceptional, and members joined in or did their own thing as they wished, which is as it should be. We covered 1600 miles and would definitely return to this area.

We had so much fun and laughter and, off the bikes, everybody joined in with the madness of reproducing well-known album covers (the results are below), the quizzes and the general good-hearted leg-pulling.

Our thanks to all who joined us and helped to make the tour a success.

