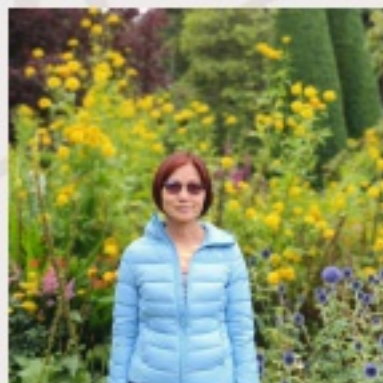




UK / Portugal / Frankfurt 2023

4 Aug HK/Mumbai

5 Aug Mumbai/London/Manchester

8 Aug Liverpool

9 Aug Chester

10 Aug Manchester/Ambleside

12 Aug Ambleside//Kewstich/Grasmere/ Glasgow

14 Aug Glasgow/Inverness

17 Aug Inverness/Edinburgh

20 Aug Edinburgh/Porto

24 Aug Porto/Nazare

25 Aug Obidos

26 Aug Nazare/Lisbon

31 Aug Lisbon/Frankfurt

2 Sep Frankfurt/HK



Aug 4 (Day 1) Fri

Stop over at Mumbai for 4 hours. Fortunately the lounge for business class passengers is reasonably good for a rest.

The transit experience at Mumbai is terrible. Everybody is queueing for nothing and no one seems to know what connecting passengers should do. It takes a long time for a simple security check.

India gives us an even worse impression when my luggage is found lost and trapped in Mumbai when we arrive London.



Lost bag saga

Day1. Bag did not arrive at Heathrow. Long lines at BA customer 'care' counters. Filed lost report. Missed my original train.

Day2. Received email. Bag flied to Heathrow.

Day3. Received another email. Bag flied to Manchester, arriving 4pm i think

Aug 5 (Day2) Sat

London to Manchester by train

Lodge at Cheung's residence

When arriving Manchester, it has been almost 30 hours since leaving home. Quite a long journey!

Shop at Tesco for some daily essentials as Rosalind's luggage was lost

Dinner at Botanists in Media City. A noisy place with lively and joyful atmosphere. Food quality is ... ok



Day4. Called BA. Was told bag with courier and we could call them. However the number of the courier was wrong. Called BA again and got the correct number of eagle aviation. Called EA but was told they have not received the bag. Called BA third time and was told bag still in London, and we should wait patiently. Discovered an earlier email from BA asking for more info on stuff in the bag. There was a link in the email on delivery information. Seems the bag was handed to EA at 1718.

Day 5. Called EA and finally told they had the bag and will deliver the same day. Bag arrived around half past twelve and EAs driver only gave us 20 minutes' notice. Luckily a friend is nearby and can help receive the bag

Aug 6 (Day 3) Sun

Manchester

Lunch at 海宝大酒樓 serving Dim Sum. Many eager HK customers wait for the opening of the restaurant at noon.

Garden Bridgewater : historically a walled garden supplying flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables for the nearby region, now exhibiting seasonal flowers and crops. Highlight of our tour is 綉球花 of various colors and interesting shapes. Giant fleshy stems holding melons bigger than footballs are impressive.



Dinner at home with our favorite stuff: quality steak at a good price, green salad and mixed vegetables soup, yummy



Aug 7 (Day 4) Mon

Manchester city tour

Touring and shopping around Manchester city centre, including Manchester Cathedral, Corn Exchange, Football Museum, Alan Turing Memorial, China Town

A mixture of old and new buildings

Shops not particularly attractive

Football Museum is a total waste of time, and huge waste of money at £14 each ! The only thing that catches me is that women football starts very early in UK

Dinner at 燒一丁 operated by a HK couple. There is always a full house of HK emigres



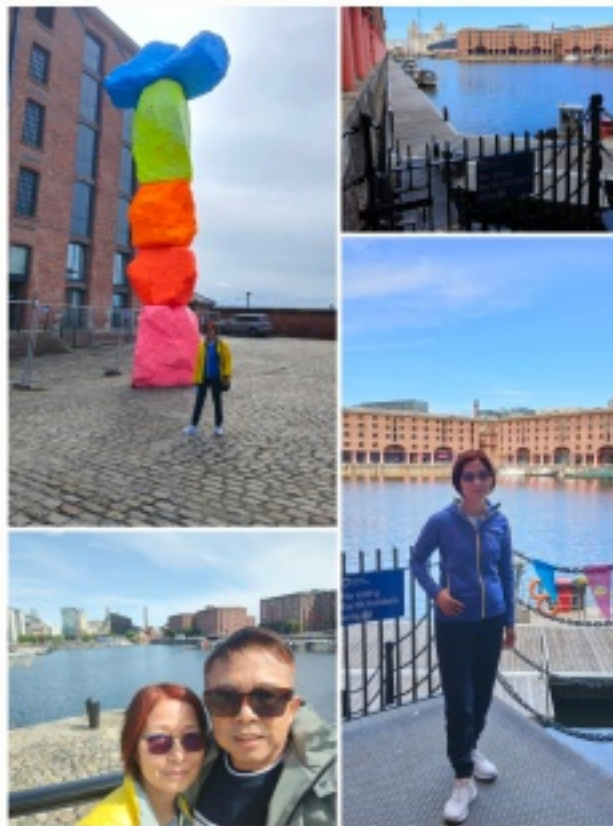
Aug 8 (Day 5) Tue
Day trip to Liverpool by train



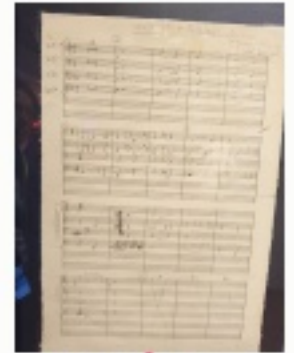
Manchester
Piccadilly,
ready to go
Liverpool



Nice scene of beautiful streets
lined with old buildings in the city
center. Many tourist attractions in
this city are built around the
Beatles.



Albert Dock has been turned into
a tourist center with historic
buildings.
Presentation at Beatles Story is
good, the audio guide adds
value.



Yesterday



The Cavern Club at Mathew Street is the birthplace of the Beatles. We enjoyed beer and a burger with live music there. The atmosphere is nice and nostalgic.

Aug 9 (Day 6) Wed
Day trip to Chester by train



Tour in the old city within the city walls. Streets are lined with half-timbered houses with distinctive features. A nice little town full of tourists, yet not too crowded.



Lunch at a small Italian restaurant with a good view of the Chester Cathedral and serving wonderful food.



Shopping at Cheshire Oats Designers Outlet. As usual, it's not easy to buy very successfully at outlets. But we still managed to buy a tee shirt and a vest.

Dinner at a nice Chinese restaurant (上海餐廳) near the train station. 正所謂「福無重至」 the good meal was followed by train delay of almost an hour for trip back to Manchester.

My luggage finally arrives in time just before our departure to the Lake District after 4 days of waiting and enquiring



Aug 10 (Day 7) Thur
Manchester to Lake District

On our way to Lake District, Fong decided to cancel her Scotland trip to fly back to HK to see her father. We two swiftly modified our travel plan ahead.

Went for a walk near BnB at Ambleside but couldn't find the Roman Fort. Chinese dinner at 映月樓. 咕嚕肉 good.



Aug 11 (Day 8) Fri
Windermere lake cruise

Enjoy the freedom to navigate in Lake Windermere on a self drive boat in the morning. Good fun.

Cruising and walking around Windermere. Took a 1.5 hr hike from Wray to the Ferry House. The lake is quiet yet lively, full of people engaged in various water sports. Visited Wray Castle. There are picturesque scenes, but nothing spectacular.



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Aug 12 (Day 9) Sat

Keswick, Grasmere, Windermere to
Glasgow by train

Ride on one of the most scenic bus
routes in the UK (no.555) from
Ambleside to Keswick and Grasmere.
Bread, jam, fruits, clothes ... are sold
in Keswick market, nothing attractive.

Met the lovely paintings of Lucy
Pittaway incidentally. Lovely bright and
colorful drawings.

As it has been raining all day, we cut
the trip to Castlerigg Stone Circle to
avoid walking in the grassland.





Aug 13 (Day 10) Sun

Glasgow city tour: Gallery of Modern Art, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Riverside Museum
Tour some murals near University of Strathclyde. Really huge murals covering the walls of whole buildings.

This happens to be a racing day of the Cycling World Championship. Many roads are blocked and we get the chance to be close to the racing field.

Gallery of Modern Art and Kelvingrove Art Gallery are both collections of whatever is available. Nothing impressive.

The Riverside Museum displays an array of things related to transport. Again just a collection of locomotives. The Tall Ship Glenlee next to it is a long distance cargo vessel built in Glasgow over 100 years ago.

Now a historic vessel turned into a museum. This should be a symbol of Britain's glorious period in marine industry.





Aug 14 (Day 11) Mon

Glasgow city tour, Glasgow to Inverness by train



Breakfast and tour at The Willow Tea Houses designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. He attended to all the details of the exterior and interior design, including furniture, light fitting, carpet...even cutlery and uniforms of servants. A nice experience of the work of the great architect!



Glasgow Cathedral seems small when viewed from the front, but turns out to be a grand structure.

Finish our Glasgow tour perfectly with a drink at a pub when waiting for the train to Inverness.



Aug 15 (Day 12) Tue
Drive to Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle, Fort Augustus



Urquhart Castle. Actually a ruin.
But the good presentation and
movie on its history make the visit
enjoyable. The photogenic lake is
of course a big plus.





Caledonian Canal at Fort Augustus. Saw an interesting operation of the locks. There are 5 and it takes 40 minutes to literally pull a vessel pass them.



Found Nessie, in a carpark though



Had haggis, a Scottish delicacy, for dinner. It is a sausage of lamb offals. Yummy. The self cooked dinner also has steak, green salad, chicken vegetable soup, gin and tonic, nuts, and a Scottish beer called Innis & Gunn which is "single malt whisky cask matured" (whatever it means)



Aug 16 (Day13) Wed

Drive to Singleton Distillery, Cawdor Castle, Fort George, Culloden Battlefield, Clava Cairns



While Urquhart Castle are ruins, Cawdor Castle is a living Castle with furniture, portraits and family photos all intact. The last owner of the family lived till 2000+.



With a car, we can move quickly and visited: Fort George (with the Highlanders Museum inside), Beaulieu Priory, Culloden Battlefield and Cava Cairns

Fort George is unexpectedly huge, but most buildings are not open.

Now Culloden is basically a piece of grassland with signs depicting the location of the 2 sides in the battle. Entrance fee of each site in Britain costs over £10, we choose not to join the guided tour on this site.



Aug 17 (Day 14) Thur

Inverness city tour, Inverness to Edinburgh by train

Walk around Inverness city: Victoria Market, Leakey's bookshop, cathedral, Ness Island. The city center is quite small and everything is within walking distance.





Found Nessie again

Aug. 18 (Day15) Fri
City tour in Edinburgh

Dean Village is a tranquil village with beautiful houses built on terraces on slopes by the side of Water Leith.

Just view the exterior of Edinburgh Castle that is situated high on a cliff.

The Royal Mile is the busiest street we have seen in this Scotland trip. As the Edinburgh Festival is on, we come across numerous street performers. Bought a lovely Scottish scarf for Candice at a big souvenir shop.

Canongate Kirk is a small church, yet it was the church for Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. Very Interesting history!

Holyrood Palace was initially a Scottish Palace, now a working palace of the British king in Scotland. The Palace is not extravagant as compared to other European palaces we have seen.

Visited a big art and craft fair at West End. But all items are expensive.





Aug 19 (Day 16) Sat



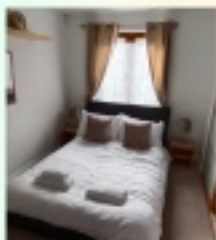
Author's Seat, Edinburgh Festival shows

Took an hour to climb up Author's Seat to have a view of the city at a height.

Watched 2 shows of the Edinburgh Festival. 唔識欣賞！

Meet Sandy, Mei and Samuel. Ready for the Portugal trip!





Aug 20 (Day 17) Sun
Fly from Edinburgh to Porto

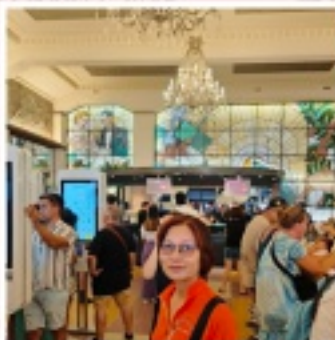


Good seafood dinner to celebrate Rosalind's birthday

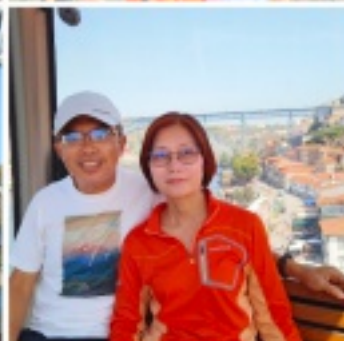
Aug 21 (Day 18) Mon
Porto city tour

Joined a 3-hour walking tour of the old city, briefly stopped at many places that we planned to visit. Too much time was spent on the history of Portugal. I expected more on monuments, architecture ...

Crossed Luis I Bridge to walk along the bank of River Douro. Browsed some port shops and tried the local super sandwich at a riverside restaurant. 份量十足



Walking around the old city, saw plenty of blue tiles in the Church of Santa Clara, Church of Souls and Sao Bento station.



This is an interesting city built on the hill next to a river. There are cable cars and funicular rides to link up the hill and the bank. We tried both to save our knees from walking up and down the hill.



Aug 22 (Day 19) Tue

Douro Valley day tour

Joined a day tour to the wine region of Douro Valley. Vines were seen growing on terraces. The tour included 2 wine tasting but no vineyard tour. Didn't gain any knowledge about the planting, the wine making process or storage.

Cruise in the Douro River while the sun was heating us at about 40°C.

Portuguese like to keep talking but not communicating !





Breakfast at Majestic
cafe, claimed to be the
most beautiful cafe.
Carmo church. Beach
vide bus no. 500. Went
to the supermarket vide
MTR and bought
veggies to make soup.



Fado dinner.
Just two singers
and one is also
our waiter. Food
is so so



24 Aug (Day 21) Thur
Drive from Porto to Nazare



Took car and drove to Nazare beach.

Amazed by the big crowds and heavy traffic. Interesting museum on fishing villages and fish drying. The hotel unexpectedly turns out to be a high point of the day. A 900 years old manor.

Suckling pig dinner in an unexpectedly big and modern restaurant in a quiet town.



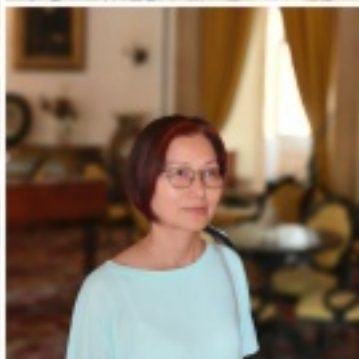
Mosteiro do Leitão

25 Aug (Day 22) Fri
Obidos and Nazare north beach

Visited Obidos's castle and town and nearby aqueduct. A medieval town with well conserved city walls. Photogenic. Good fish lunch. Revisited the beaches at Nazare in the afternoon. Took the funicular to visit the North Beach and Fort. A good panoramic view of the coast. No big waves as they usually come later in the year.



Aug 26 (Day 23) Sat
Drive from Nazare to Lisbon



Visited two UNESCO heritage: Alcobaca Monastery and National Palace of Mafra. Both very impressive and colossal, and the latter has a beautiful library, a testimonial of the once great Portugal empire.



Had a good seafood lunch next to the mafa palace followed by a even better seafood dinner in Lisbon. The dinner also celebrates Samuel's 65th birthday.

Aug 27 (Day 24) Sun
Lisbon Belem District

Took a long bus ride to the Belem district to see the Belem Tower, Explorers Monument and Jeronimos Monastery. The queues were so long that we had given up entrance to all of them. Just looked at the exterior and took some photos.

Took the old no. 28 yellow tram that navigates the narrow streets and hills of Alfama District. Walked around Commercial Square and saw the famous Elevator Santa Justa built of wrought iron.



Excellent
seafood
dinner.
Consumed a
terrific 2.6 kg
lobster.



Aug 28 (Day 25) Mon
Day trip to Sintra

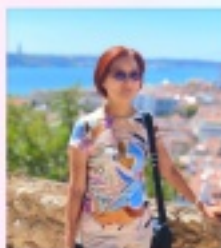


Pena palace is colorful, thus appears beautiful for photos taken from the outside. Too much waiting while inside. Just following long queues to complete a fixed route. Not much fun!

Sintra Palace is less crowded, allowing more time and freedom to progress slowly.

Dinner at Nicola, a famous cafe with a long history. But the crab is so-so.

Aug 29 (Day 26) Tue
Lisbon Alfama District



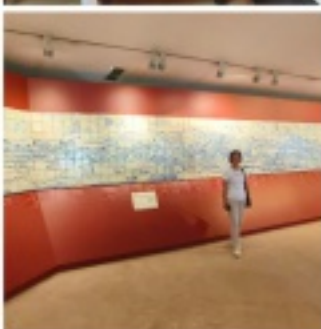
Alfama District is hilly. We started meandering up and down the hill in the morning. Visiting Carmo Convent, Lisbon Cathedral, Amphitheater, Geroje Castle and the oldest bookshop in the world. Museums in Carmo and castle are strangely both archeological and the exhibits are quite messy. A tiring day but not seeing much.

Despite warning at the beginning of the trip, Samuel lost the bag in his backpack near the Cathedral. So he had an added experience of visiting the police station. Shopping in the narrow and hilly Alfama District and then the grand boulevard of Liberty Avenue. Moved to Holiday Inn near the airport in the evening. Had dinner in a nearby restaurant that mainly serves local customers. Felt the thick family ties among Portuguese. Interesting!

Aug 30 (Day 27) Wed
Christ the king, Almada Forum ,
Tile Museum



Christ the King is huge. Had an impressive panoramic view of Lisbon climbing up the platform. The Almada Forum is a very big shopping center, but we didn't buy anything except for a good meat-on-spit lunch. The tile museum is dedicated to Azulejo, housing a large chronological display of ceramics. The day is concluded by a dinner treat by Samuel.

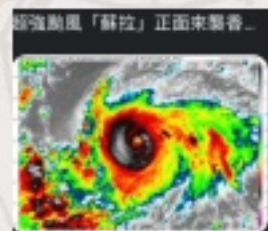


Aug 31 (Day 28) Thur

Fly from Lisbon to Frankfurt

Flight to HK on Sept 1 has been canceled due to the typhoon. Gained one more day to travel in Frankfurt. Long waits for calls to Cathay regarding rescheduling. Bought Thai Airline tickets for replacement.

Walk around Romerberg, the center of the old town. Stroll along the Main river. Climb up Main Tower to have a view of the city.



Sept 1 (Day 29) Fri
Frankfurt shopping and History Museum

Fruitful shopping of clothing, suitcase and Zwilling cutlery products. Brief visit to History Museum, learn the history of Frankfurt. Although it's only a collection from different citizens, the story line and presentation is clear. We just spent a short time there and post-study filled the gap.



Sept 2 Day 30) Sat
Fly from Frankfurt to Hk stopover Bangkok
Arrive Hk on Sept 3 around noon time