

## Rhineland Holiday - 23rd to 30th July 2011

A group of 5 members of Surrey County Walkers travelled to the Rhineland for a walking and sightseeing holiday, based in Boppard. This is an attractive small town in the heart of the most picturesque part of the Rhineland between Koblenz and Mainz, not far from the famous Lorelei rock. Boppard can be seen from the opposite side of the River Rhein.



We stayed in a small, comfortable and economical guest house which was situated on the hillside above Boppard, providing views over Boppard and the Rhein,



and towards the local Bopparder Hamm vineyard, whose products were enjoyed in the local restaurants.



We walked beside the Rhein, towards the Bopparder Hamm vineyard



and then through it.

The Rhineland is dotted with impressive castles, of which the Marksburg at Braubach is one of the most spectacular.



There is a huge amount of boat traffic on the Rhein, with barges carrying freight

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and pleasure steamers carrying tourists. The most historic pleasure steamer is the paddle boat, Goethe.



We walked along the Rhine until we came to the castle of Stolzenfels.



In addition to walking beside the Rhine, we took the train up into the Hunsruck and walked around in the rolling country there.



The Rhineland is predominantly Roman Catholic and wayside shrines are common, as in Bavaria.

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In the small village of Herschwiesen, we passed an impressive church, which unfortunately was closed for renovations.



We took a boat ride on the Rhine



and on the Mosel in a modern boat



to the village of Winningen, one of the Mosel wine - growing villages.



Also, as in Bavaria, we found attractive wall paintings.



We went by train to Trier, the old Roman city on the Mosel. Its most famous landmark is the old Roman gate, the Porta

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Nigra (black gate).



The Rhineland is famous for its wines. However these grow only in the most favoured sites. Elsewhere it is wooded, as a view from the back of our guest house shows.



Indeed, this picture could be Scotland! The weather was also reminiscent of Scotland, with one warm, sunny day but with other days being cool and cloudy with rain and some sunny interludes.