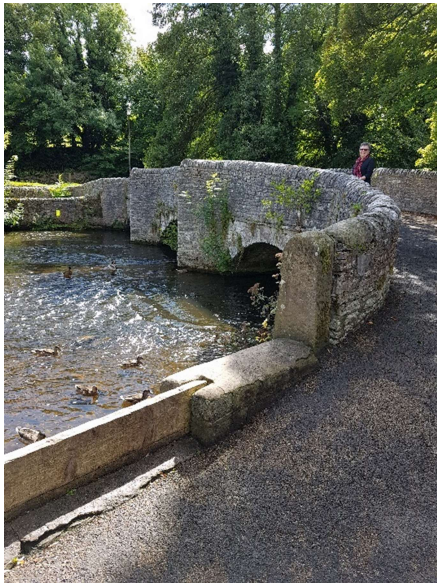


THIRD SECTOR – THE LAKES DISTRICT

Day 6 Big road trip to the Lakes

Leaving Narpenny House and heading for the Lakes District was again touched by the sense of new adventure. It was soon established that we had to get a team effort going in the car as Dave the driver, Marg the map holding navigator and Sally the SatNav often had different views of the exit strategy from massive round-about. This was compounded by multiple entry lanes marked with unrecognizable instructions half painted on the road, dozens of adjacent drivers who obviously knew where **they** were going and no visible means of warning surrounding drivers of last minute route changes. Soon the roles and responsibilities were set...Sally gave initial insight to the count of the exits (although often confused by multiple entry/exit points) plus planned destination of exit, Marg watched the signs around the round-about in order to give clear in-circle instructions and Dave just watch all adjacent drivers for opportunities to implement possible last minute abort instructions. With practice this became quite successful.

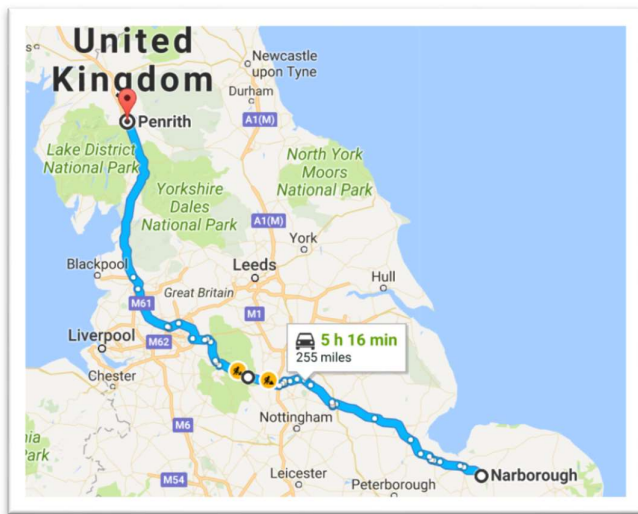
We took main roads for the first couple of hours but then deliberately took alternate routes so we could see a bit of the countryside. This proved very successful as we got to travel through many cute towns like this one, Baslow, in the middle of the Peak District National Park.



Sector 3 – The Lakes District



Photo 9: Baslow in Peaks District National Park



We managed to navigate across many Shires over nearly 8 hours. We covered Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Lancashire and finally to Cumbria. We travelled through the heart of Manchester at 5pm Friday and got a good view of travel on the M1 where my middle lane was travelling at 70 mph (115 km/hr) while the 3rd lane had all the little cars scooting by at another 20-30 mph.

Arrival at Penrith was another pleasant surprise. This was a last minute booking in order to spend more time in the Lakes district and was all that was available just on the edge of the district, but we had not realized that Penrith was also a cute town. The B&B was very good with the proprietor being very handy in the kitchen making GF bread and sausages, so Marg was very pleased. The salmon, scrambled eggs and oatcakes were also a delight. Dave is really liking this B&B experience.



Photo 10: Penrith town



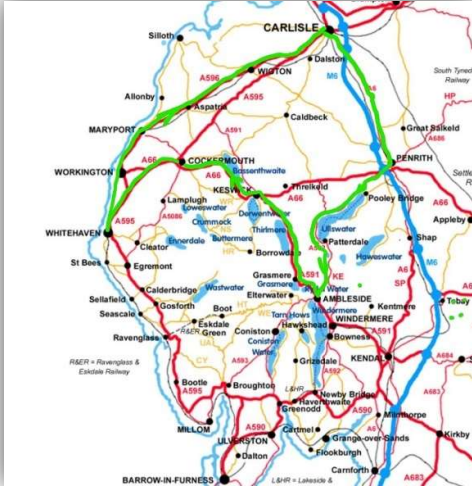
Day 7 The Lakes District

Sensational is all that can describe this region. Despite the rain the area's natural beauty is astounding. We hope to see it in another aspect if it stops raining while we are here. We obtained the plan to travel the region from the B&B operators and set out mid morning. As expected the roads are narrow and the traffic constant but not expected was the combination of 'mountains into lake' views (bit like Lake Como in Italy), rainforest tunnels to drive through (bit like Daintree rainforest with different vegetation) and stone walled & hedged farms (just like Wales). The cameras were working overtime. Here are just a few to give a little perspective.



Photo 11: Rain did not spoil the beauty

Sector 3 – The Lakes District



As shown with the green highlighter we travelled around the region from the Penrith base. Pooley Bridge was wet so we stopped in Glenridding, the home of Ullwater Steamers.



On to Kirkstone Pass.



After passing through Ambleside (where we will return for a couple of days) the road took us up to Grasmere, a small village where the road became a one lane duck and weave between pedestrians and cars. We were in the heart of Wordsworth country here.

Next stop was Keswick on Derwent Waters, famous for the range of Derwent colouring pencils. Dave was last seen disappearing with lots of kids into the replica graphite mine that is the entrance to the Pencil Museum.

I am sure everyone remembers the lovely colouring pencils that we dreamed of as kids in so many hues...just wish I could draw something that justified them. Dave now knows how they are made from graphite billets 200mm diam x 1 metre long of each colour pushed through a small hole at great pressure to produce a mile long 'lead' of 2mm diam. Then a flat sheet of Californian cedar wood, carved into half the circle and then glued around the lead. As you might imagine there is then a very comprehensive painting set up to do all the colours. This has now changed to all black pencil with many coloured tips.



A most interesting story is the owner of the pencil factory during the war was secretly commissioned to make pencils with concealed maps to give to RAF pilots so if shot down they had a map of Europe to aid their escape.

We headed out to the coast that took us out of the Lakes District. The most notable feature here was the apparent large tidal range as Maryport shows with the fishing vessels obviously grounded during the low tide. Apparently around a 8 metre range.



The day completed with a fabulous pub meal on the way back to Penrith.

Day 8 Ambleside

We travelled to Bowness on Lake Windermere where we decided to do the obligatory lake cruise, given the weather was fine but not sunny. First we had to park a couple of kilometres away and catch a train into the main port area. Great business model...don't build parking close and charge for both parking and the transport from the park.

The lake cruise brought back memories of Lake Como although not as developed and probably constrained by large family holdings around the lake and probably climate as well. But obviously an impressive sailing venue.



Before we left Bowness we could not resist the Old English Hotel on the hill where we sat and watched all the activity on the waterway while partaking of the club sandwiches and caesar salad.



On to Ambleside where our luxury accommodation awaits. This was a welcome apartment where we could spread out, repack the cases that had been left in the car for nearly a week as there is often insufficient room in the accommodation to put two suitcases out. There is a view of the lake, an attached restaurant and even a bath...our little luxury break for a couple of nights.

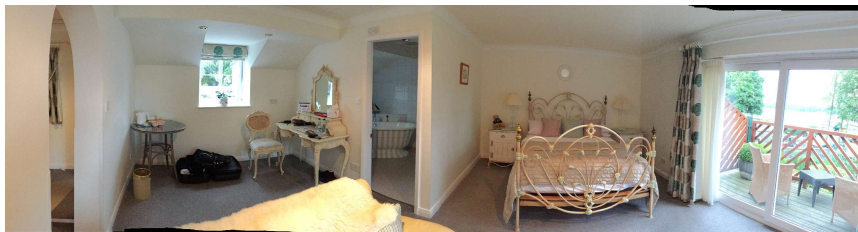


Photo 12: Wateredge Inn, Ambleside



Photo 13: Early morning at Ambleside

Day 9 The Roads

No description of the gorgeous scenery and surprises around every corner while travelling the Lakes District would be complete without trying to paint the picture of the narrow roads.



Many of the roads feigned width by putting a white broken line down the middle but that only gave definition of where a car and bike could pass. Every road is like a canyon between sharp rock walls that are often covered in bramble hedges to make the walls even more impressive, wide and narrows the roadway. Having a car with proximity sensors is disturbing as many oncoming traffic passing maneuvers were achieved with all sensors both sides of the car screaming at me to be more careful. On a few occasions meeting the many mini coopers throughout our travels the

passing was accommodated by the fact that a Mercedes driver mirror is precisely one mirror higher so that it could pass over the mini's mirror during the passing maneuver.



And these were often the main roads in the areas. In fact they were also the main route for farmer to get between farms. It was common to see a very large tractor with tyres taller than the car racing along with a large crate full of hay, produce or animals. These tractors could travel up to 60mph as we have seen on the A6, but they are a little more circumspect on these Lakes roads, but nevertheless potentially present around the hundreds of blind corners.

But this is all part of the thrill and beauty of the place. Marg managed well with only the occasional cry of 'slow down' or 'Dave...watch out'. As driver, a day of this was exhausting but

rewarding in so many ways with pleasant surprises around most corners.