



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## This is NOT what I expected to eat our first day in France

Monday, May 04, 2015

Lunch



Dinner



I don't even eat this at home, so why in the land of quiche, amazing bread and pastries was I eating this?

We left Prague on a Sunday morning flight to Paris and arrived just before noon. Not a fan of airport food and anxious to get on our way, we found our rental car agency and a long line.

Our car was a brand new hybrid. We've never driven a hybrid and couldn't even start the thing. Directions were in French. I speak NO French. DH failed French in HS. So a bit of a delay while an attendant helped the clueless Americans start their car.

By 1pm we were on our way with a map and a goal of heading west to Caen. Somehow we got turned around in CDG airport and realized we were heading EAST into the French countryside. By now we were

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hungry. OK, let's get some lunch.

Every exit we took led us to a town or shopping center where everything was closed. We forgot that this might be the case on Sunday.

The first food we saw was KFC with lots of cars in the parking lot. So Colonel Sanders fed us our first meal in France.

Next we needed to reverse direction and head west. I told DH that his big detailed map didn't agree with the small general map that came with the car.

DH: That's because I bought it on a trip here in 1990

Me: You brought a 25 year old map? There's been some road construction since then.

By now we were heading west by following the sun since the highway numbers on the signs were different than on our map. We didn't realize we had a GPS until we were almost to our destination. Oh well, another clueless mistake.

Our 3 hour trip to Caen took 5 hours. We arrived at our hotel to learn that their restaurant was closed on Sunday evenings as was everything else in town.

The helpful reception guy gave us our options: KFC, McDonalds or the "Buffalo Grill." We took choice #3.

This turned out to be an American themed chain complete with western décor and even a wooden Indian at the entrance. Thus, my all American cheeseburger and fries. I haven't eaten fries in years but they weren't greasy or overly salted. To their credit, this wasn't fast frozen food and everything tasted just fine or perhaps I was just overly hungry.

We had a good laugh about our unexpected day and drove around a bit afterwards to get a feel for the area. The next morning's destination was the D-Day beaches that I already wrote about and yes, we ate in local cafes along with a traditional buffet breakfast at the hotel for the rest of our trip. Yum!

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**CD4114015**

Somehow I got "lost" from your blogs....have a LOT to catch up on...glad I found them again!

2213 days ago



**FANGFACEKITTY**



I do think, though, that even the fast food here is just a bit healthier (and better tasting) than the equivalent in the U.S. Reasonable portions too. But Sunday's are difficult with everything being closed...I had to do the same thing on a few of my early trips here.

2217 days ago



**METAFUKARI**

I seem to like my push start car its the keys for the rest of it that give me pause! Anyhow, Paris can be interesting to eat in, Sundays are difficult~

2224 days ago



**BOILHAM**

You get a pass from me, first time in Paris we ate at McDonalds! Was the only place near the hotel, and DW was anxious about walking around until we had a guide. Enjoy your trip, you sure do travel a lot. :)

2224 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**

Thank you for the laugh about the 25-year old map! That really brightened my day.

2227 days ago





**NUMD97**

I loved that you went to a country known for its epicurean cuisine and you had American fare the first day! Too funny!

The 25-year old map, too, made me smile. Countries tend to continue to develop, grow and expand their infrastructure, and I would imagine that France is no exception.

Your blogs are simply delightful. Keep 'em up!  
2228 days ago



**WALLAHALLA**

We only had French cuisine when we were in Paris. Everything was smothered in sauces and gravies we did not recognize. I think I would have preferred their burgers and fries. They do not use the same types of cooking oils in Europe as we do, so it does make the food taste better and fresher!

2228 days ago



**PHEBESS**

Oh I can absolutely picture the two of you trying to read the signs and having the old map and being absolutely baffled! Too funny!!!!

Isn't travel just great for crazy adventures like this? Love it!  
2229 days ago



**STRIVERONE**

So French fries are more palatable in France? Enjoy the rest of your trip.  
2229 days ago



**LIVEDAILY**

I hope you find your quiche and amazing bread!!  
2229 days ago



**WATERMELLEN**

Good for you! Sometimes a little ironic flexibility is called for -- and no harm done!  
2229 days ago



**DOVESEYES**

It's great when you get to have trips and lots to tell. There is nothing better to find new places than going the wrong way.  
2229 days ago



**PRNCSCUP1-2FULL**

Hahaha! KFC and an American cheeseburger in France! C'est la vie! Sounds like fun anyhow!  
2229 days ago



**PHOENIX1949**

Kind of sad that the American fast-food chains are sprouting up all over the globe.

Whenever we didn't end up where we thought we would on trips, instead of saying we were lost, we declared we were taking the scenic route.

What a wonderful trip y'all had.



2229 days ago



**SUBMOM2**

We couldn't start our rental car last summer, either, and that was in English!  
2229 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**

LOL Best to keep a sense of adventure in such endeavors... sounds like you did a great job

of that, laughing over the day!  
2229 days ago





**DR1939**



We always have problems returning a car to CDG. We've drive in circles looking for the exit. The food at the highway rest stops tends to be very good. There's always a good risotto on offer. We've also found some decent sandwiches and cheese in petrol stations. We always cherish those things that go wrong (but not TOO wrong) on trips. They make the best stories.  
2229 days ago



**GINIEMIE**



A 25 year old map, your DH is priceless. I wished you would have found the GPS sooner. Now I am feeling quadruply blessed that I have family in Belgium to help ferret out how to operate these cars-BTW it could have been worse for you, it could have been in Japanese! I had trouble with the GPS as it had a little ball mouse to set it with and I'm already technologically challenged. Glad you got it figured out, sorry about the food fare on your first day.  
Just think of how many families would have to spend time together if that was the way of things in

the USA. Of course having the fast foods opened would not encourage healthy choices.



2229 days ago



**WILSONWR**



That does sound like an interesting day! I imagine that map was next to useless. A GPS that hasn't been updated in years is bad enough - I can't imagine trying to use a 25-year old map!  
2229 days ago



**MISCHAKEO**



That is good to know about Sundays in France. How funny to run into those food chains. I am glad your found good French food on the other days. We have gotten lost traveling also. I use the GPS on my phone. Have a great time.  
2229 days ago



**JAMIRBLAZE**



I had the hybrid thing happened to me a couple of years ago in a rental. And the directions were in English! Push start was just too complicated for someone who drives a very basic compact that's nearing 10 years old!

Sounds like a fun trip, despite a snafu or two.  
2229 days ago

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