

Pernille on Tour - June 2015



On her first solo adventure, granddaughter, Pernille (16) joined us in Amsterdam for a week's cruising through northern Holland. After a hectic day's shopping and lunch in the city, we set off along the canals to lovely Monnikendam, a well-preserved historical centre dating back to the Middle Ages, once a prosperous trading centre with cheese factories, herring & eel smokehouses and shipyards. We arrived in the middle of the annual old wooden ships' rally with the whole town partying! Pernille enjoyed the market and the rose' beer!



Left: Pernille doing her "Titanic" thing!



Volendam, our next port of call, was pretty, hot, packed and hugely commercialised, yet fun. It was originally the harbour town for nearby Edam, then became an artists' retreat for both Picasso and Renoir, and is now one of the most popular tourist destinations, known for its old wooden ships and traditional costumes (with the women's unique high pointed bonnet) Today, it is all souvenir shops, and fish and chip vendors, yet the back streets retain a quiet charm once the crowds go home and the new marina is a fantastic facility. The walk into town to the harbour along a high dam lined with gabled houses, each one unique, is peaceful. After that, it got pretty chaotic. Pernille brought the weather with her (and took it back with her again!) so it was ice cream time ...



Our last stop along was along the quiet canal leading into Edam - beautifully peaceful after Volendam and the home of the semi-hard cheese sold in yellow rounds. Because it ages well and travels well, it became the world's most popular cheese from the 14th-18th centuries, at sea and in the colonies. The old cheese market has been revived for the tourists by 90 volunteers. Cheeses are delivered by boat, brought to the market by cheese carriers, offered for sale to cheese traders and the process of haggling begins.



Weighed on the "de waag", they are then taken to the cheese store by the traditional horse and original cheese carriage. A speaker explains the process and onlookers can sample and buy cheeses at the surrounding stalls. A great atmosphere.



It was fun, Nille...we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did...we discovered things, too...that pancakes with Nutella. ducks and pink anything are all "likes"! and you discovered independence....well done!