



BERLIN HIGHLIGHTS and SIGHTS

Checkpoint Charlie - Holocaust Memorial—TV Tower - Hop-on Hop-off Bus

Reichstag Dome tour - Looking for the U55 subway link to get there on time.
Thanks to Jeff for allowing extra time for getting "lost" and for the local girl who opened the door to let us out. Great view of the city and nice café.



Victory column - spiral staircase of 270 steps to the observation deck. Yes, I counted and it was worth the effort.

Brandenburg gate - the "room of silence" and US Embassy Bear statue of Liberty.

Berliner Dom - Ron, Suzanne and I made the I-o-n-g walk to the top. A beautiful cathedral church inside and out.

Kaiser-Wilhelm Memorial Church - Memorial hall and new modern church

Jeff - our personal "GPS" kept us on the straight and narrow, had anything we needed in his backpack, and found us clean restrooms.



Hotel Bar - meeting everyone each evening near the fire place...BYOB!!



Potsdam - After seeing Sanssouci Palace and the Neues Palais, freezing waiting for the bus. College kids told us we were on the wrong side of the road to get back to town. While looking for the Dutch Quarter we stumbled onto the beautiful church Nikolaikirche.

LOWLIGHTS

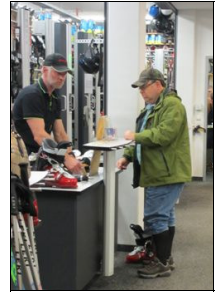
Waiting for the bus in the cold.
Hotel Aldon doorman kicking us out of the hotel
after we used their restroom (heated seats).
The 7-hour bus ride to Garmisch.





Saturday morning the "Berlin Six" boarded a bus for the long ride to Garmisch while **Jack** and **Pat Naymik** and **Nuria Lyles** were landing in Munich. They enjoyed a city tour of Munich and had lunch at the Hofbrauhaus.

Upon arrival, the Ski Rental shop shuttled everyone to get fitted for equipment. Our first injury was **Suzanne's** sliced thumb...that's some really sharp skis.



We rushed back to the hotel for orientation and welcome drink then to the hotel dining room for a buffet dinner. The waiters were overwhelmed. After dinner we all met in the bar to discuss our plans and have an after-dinner drink. Then concerned about where to catch the bus and/or train the next morning **Wayne, Jeff**, and **Brenda** set out walking after dinner. Jeff had his powerful flashlight and we walked around to a grocery store and back to the hotel.



Sunday the group, Ron, Wayne, Brenda, Zoe & Jeff, and Suzanne met our private guide, **Peter Kehl**, to take us all over the mountain. The idea was to remember what was good and bad for the next day on our own.

The area had not had much snow since November and they cancelled the World Cup races due to lack of snow. That said, the World Cup run, Kandahar, a black trail 5b, was closed. But others were skiing past the "closed" sign as did Peter and like fools we followed.



It was difficult and when we finally reached the bottom a few called it quits. But we all made it down without injury. Wayne, Suzanne and Brenda hung with Peter the remainder of the day. The Alpseilbahn tram opened and we skied the upper portion. We met Peter's wife for lunch and all skied down. Exhausted but happy.



Jack and **Pat** took the train to the next town, Oberau, and found a quaint bar/restaurant and spent the day walking around getting oriented and resting.

That evening was our Welcome party in the town square with free snacks, hot gluehwein, and five Bavarians playing the alpenhorns.



Back at the hotel, we were informed we owed for the water set on our table the night before.

We paid what we owed but the remainder of the week the Heil-Hitler of the dining room kept close watch over our water consumption.

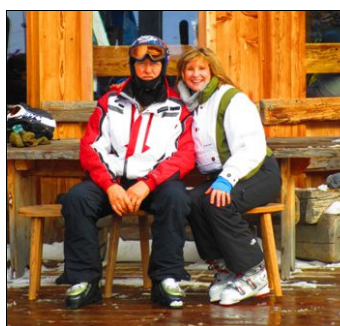
Garmisch...skiing



Monday found **Ron** on the Linderhof castle tour for the day while the rest of the group headed to the Classic area to ski.

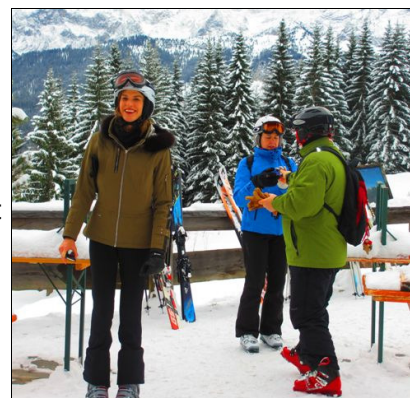
Did we remember where we skied the day before? Sure for one or two runs. For lunch we decided to go to Bayernhaus where Peter had taken us. Checked the trail map, plan in place and we lost Nuria and Zoe.

Brenda waited at the lift while the others went in different directions looking for them. **Wayne** and **Suzanne** went on a whirlwind circle of kamikaze skiing to look for them only to find out they went the right way and the rest of the group missed the turn and went the wrong way. Lunch was good and the scenery breathtaking.

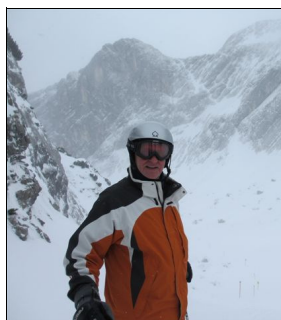


After lunch and another run, some went in while **Jack** and **Pat** and Suzanne, Wayne and Brenda wanted to ski more and planned to go to the Alpspitzbahn area. Riding the lift, Suzanne hopped off at mid-point and Pat and Jack followed. **Brenda** and Wayne rode to the top and tried to catch the others but couldn't find them and went in for the day.

The others tried to follow the map but ended up at a different base and had to take the train back to the rental place.



Tuesday Wayne, Ron, and Suzanne went to Innsbruck. **Jeff** and **Zoe** walked around town and **Nuria** hopped a train to Oberammergau and the Ettal Monastery. Pat, Jack, and Brenda went to ski the Zugspitze. Brenda forgot her boots and had to return to the hotel, getting a late start but we rode the cog-wheel train through the mountain tunnel.



We rode the tram to the top and took photos while the sky was blue. We stopped for coffee and pretzel at the café before skiing. The snow was perfect and after a few runs the fog rolled in and we couldn't see if we were inbounds or out.



We put the skis on the outside of the train and when we stopped at the Classic area to return the skis they were on the wrong side of the train and we had to ride back to town, wait for the bus back to the ski area, return the equipment, and wait for the bus back to the station.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

At the train station we purchased tickets for the group to Oberau, the next town that Pat and Jack discovered. The man at the station was very helpful recommending the Dubrovnik restaurant for our club party. He pulled up a map and gave us the address and phone number, offered to call for reservations.

The normally quiet and subdued Armadillo's were actually ssshhh'd by a local guy who promptly passed out at his table. LOL. The food and service were very good. Took the train back to Garmisch...a different experience.

Thanks to Pat and Jack for finding this little town and to Nuria for bringing a bottle of liqueur she purchased at the Monastery for our club toast.

And many many **THANKS** to each of you for the beautiful Edelweiss tote, Swarovski owl, and card. You're all so very thoughtful and I'm truly blessed to have such great friends.



Thank You!!



Armadillo's Club Party at the Dubrovnik Restaurant

Wednesday Nuria and Wayne went to ski the Zugspitze and take photos. The rest of us went to see Mad Ludwig's Neuschwanstein castle and then stopped in the town of Fussen for lunch. We quickly found out restaurants close after lunch and don't open until dinner time. We ended up in an upstairs café and were nervous about getting back to the bus on time. We ran a little late but waited to take a group photo. Then we traveled on to the UNESCO site of the Pilgrimage Church of Wies.

We returned to the hotel for dinner followed by the TSC party at the Werdenfelsahof. We posted our banner and were given two drink tickets and a pretzel. The entertainment was by young boys doing the Schuhplattler dance, where they slap their thigh, knee, and soles then clap their hands and stamp their feet.



TSC in the town of Fussen



The only club with a banner

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Thursday was our last day and everyone did their own thing, last minute shopping, discovering the town of Garmisch and taking in the architecture and painted buildings and farmers market.



Old cog wheel—not Jeff, the train.



Jeff in front of a
Hair stylist shop



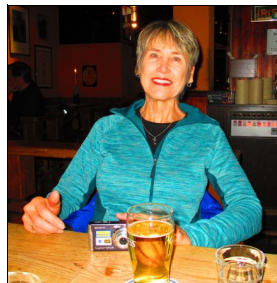
Lunch at the pastry shop Pat and
Jack recommended

Our final night was at an Irish Pub not far from the hotel. Nuria's roommate was injured skiing and **Nuria** missed the party as she went to the hospital to check on Young.

Pizza and beer along with a game of darts. **Pat** and **Zoe** were the dart Champions.



Wayne & Ron at the Irish Pub



Suzanne at the Irish Pub



Zoe and Pat were the Champions

Friday morning most of us departed for home. Nuria left for Spain to visit family. Ron took the train from Munich to Prague to stay a little longer.

Prague Extension

In Prague they had a guided tour, saw the changing of the guard, the Charles bridge, the Basilica of St. George and of course the Astronomical clock.

We don't have a picture but Ron took a 3-hour Segway tour.



The Prague Group