

# Cochem - On The Mosel River

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Cochem, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany

Thursday, June 16, 2016

*Where there's life there's hope, and need of vittles.* — J.R.R. Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings

## Wednesday 15th of June 2016

Here we are scooting along through the German countryside at God knows how many kilometres per hour. We are on a German ICE train, which unlike the Austrian Rail Jets doesn't have a display showing current location and speed - but it is pretty damn fast! (actually later found out there is a display but not visible from our seat and it indicated a steady 247 km/h). We have two more connections to make today at Mannheim and Koblenz on our way to Cochem on the Mosel River..

Things ran well until our last connection. The train to Koblenz was running about 20 minutes late - so much for German efficiency ;-) Our train to Cochem was due to leave six minutes after our train finally arrived. It was like a scene from "The Amazing Race". Brad running up the stairs to each platform to look at the departures board then running back down to the underpass. Anna spoke to a man who told us where the train to Cochem was and we bounced up the stairs with our suitcases - OK, we struggled and huffed and puffed our way up - but made it onto our connection with about 30 seconds to spare.

The last leg of our trip was very pretty, first a short distance along the Rhine, then our train turned off to travel along the Mosel River. Idyllic scenes with the deep river valley and villages every few kilometres. We arrived at Cochem where we were greeted by Sonja, the proprietor of the apartment we were to stay in. It was nice being driven instead of having to walk with our suitcases for a change.

We walked a little way to do some shopping to get supplies for tea. Later we had a look at the town quickly to get our bearings before retiring to our very comfortable apartment.

A bit of rain today. 20 degrees. Walked 7 km.

## Thursday 16th of June 2016

We both had a good night's sleep and woke feeling ready to explore Cochem. Our accommodation is on the other side of the river, about 1km to walk into the main part of town. The history of Cochem goes back centuries, with some buildings commenced around the year 800, being added to, renovated, some bombed during the war and then rebuilt. The town has maintained its unique character and is a real gem. We did a self guided walking tour before having lunch in a restaurant specialising in schitzels. After lunch we took the shuttle bus up to the Imperial Castle (Reichsburg) for an interesting tour. One might think that after you've seen one castle you've seen them all. We've seen a few castles on this trip and each one has been quite different. This one was destroyed by the French in 1689 and was a ruin for the next 200 years before being rebuilt by a rich Berlin industrialist, who reconstructed it as a chateau rather than a castle. The drizzle started again in the afternoon as we made our way back to our apartment to buy some more supplies, and once again ate in.

Overcast with rain showers, and occasional sun (a bit like Melbourne can be). 18 degrees. Walked 8 km.

## Friday 17th of June 2016

We woke to another overcast morning, and it had rained a fair bit overnight. We had been speaking with our host last night as he came past to walk his labrador and he confirmed the Mosel is only a couple of metres from bursting its banks. There has been a lot of rain in Germany in the last couple of months. We had seen news of floods in Bavaria while we were in Croatia, but it did not seem to have caused any damage that we could see. Anyway, we decided to get out and do some more exploring despite the weather. Anna was keen to take the chairlift up the side of a steep part of the river valley, so that's what we did. At the top we visited the cafe for a coffee and hot chocolate - and that's where I made a new law of travelling. Never buy coffee at a cafe where the only access is by chairlift. It's bloody expensive! We walked further up the valley side to the top with a good view of the River Mosel. It started to rain so we headed back to the chairlift and went back into town. The rain had eased off so we bought a couple of baguettes for lunch and ate them by the river. The clouds were getting really dark by now, so we hurried back to our accommodation and just in time too. It poured down for quite a while so we stayed put until it stopped.

After the rain we walked back into town and had a fine meal at a Weinerhaus, and once again had to wait for a heavy shower to pass before we walked home.

Weather lousy. Walked 10.5 km today.

[Pictures & Video](#)

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Cochem Station

Cochem Station Story!



Town Square



Lunchtime in the town square



Narrow streets



Wood frame houses



Narrow houses



The Castle - Reichsburg



Inside the castle



Us at the lookout



View of Cochem and the Mosel



Back down the easy way



Cochem Station

Even the station is pretty.

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Town Square

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Lunchtime in the town square

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Narrow streets

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Wood frame houses

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Narrow houses

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The Castle - Reichsburg

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Inside the castle

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Us at the lookout

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View of Cochem and the Mosel

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