



Dear friends

Another year has passed and we would like to share some of the highlights we experienced in 2008. At the beginning of April we spent a week in the region of Cinque Terre in Italy. The weather in Cinque Terre was nice and we went hiking every day. The scenery is really nice with its small towns with colorful houses along the coast and its vineyards, olive groves and orange and lemon trees in the backcountry. I also liked the town of Genoa, where we spent the last two days. It's a little run-down and dirty but very fascinating. It has a huge old part with dozens of narrow alleys and funny creatures. We got lost several times.

We had another two weeks off in August. Unfortunately those holidays didn't turn out as expected. The weather was mostly rainy and so we decided to drop our planned 10 days hike in the Swiss Alps. Instead, we drove with our Land Rover Nanuq through Southern Germany. We visited some nice places like Freiburg im Breisgau, Ulm and the Valley of the Donau River. We also loved the hearty food and tasty cakes.

In September we spent one weekend up on Mönchsjoehütte (3650 m, 11,975 ft) in Switzerland. The mountain hut is comfortably reachable. The train brings you up to Jungfrauoch-Top of Europe from where you can reach the hut within an hours walk over the glacier. The sunset and sunrise were very impressive (see picture) and in the night you could see thousands of stars. So we didn't mind too much that we didn't sleep that much because of the height. It really was a very moving experience!



In October we spent one week bicycling around Provence and Camargue in South France. If it wasn't for the cold and bad weather it would have been a perfect week. We did our best pedaling against the wind while trying to keep our spirits up. In the Camargue horses (see picture), flamingos and bulls were our companions along the way. The Provence awaited us with huge vineyards and small, historical villages.

That's about it of our travels in 2008. We hope much more is to come next year :-). What else can we tell you? I moved back from Interlaken to Markus place in October. We are happy to see each other more often again. I miss the mountains around Interlaken though. In November I started a new job as graphic designer in a small advertising agency. Markus still works for the chocolate company. He traveled to Malaysia for business several times this year. In springtime I had to undergo a surgery for one of my ears. Everything went well and I can hear on both ears again... Markus has to watch out ;-)

Next weekend we are going to Munich (Germany) where we will meet friends from the States. We are all very excited to meet again! Would be cool to welcome more people from overseas in Europe next year :-). We wish you all a merry Christmas with friends and family and all the best for 2009. Keep in touch!

Love,
Markus & Carole