

Jim and Emmy's Travel Journal

The Country of Andorra

1980

We had arrived in Europe on May 9, and had visited with cousins in Mettlach, Germany, crossed Luxembourg and spent a week or so in France by the time we arrived in Andorra.

After we crossed the first high mountain pass, we were in heavy fog. Emmy has a sore throat again, and is not feeling too well, but Jim is enthusiastically driving as if the day has just started. As we approach the first town, we find the hillside almost barren of trees.

AND, Encamp, May 27, Tue - 8

Drove through a little village and on to the capital of the country. Andorra seems to exist in deep valleys, with some towns hanging on the adjacent hills, with only one narrow crowded highway for all the traffic. There is a rushing river going through this same valley. Construction is underway, all over the place. High rise apartments are being built in areas where there is no way they can handle the extra traffic.

We see large cranes with booms that reach a half block. They are set up on the street behind the buildings already lining the main street. The crane extends over that building and takes building supplies from a truck in Encamp's main street, then swings these supplies clear around to the second street back, which is too small for the trucks to drive on. Can just imagine these traffic problems will continue in the coming years. We were told these are vacation and second homes for people in other countries.

Villa de Andorra is the capital of the country, and is filled with tourist stores of all kinds. Many stores with calculators, cameras and radios, all more expensive than the same product in the US.

Emmy found a leather coat she likes for about \$118. It needed a little alteration, and when we came back a little later, it was ready to go. They said the coat was made in Majorca. We had looked at many coats when we visited there last year, but found none she liked. (In 1991 our car window was broken, and that jacket was stolen. Well, Andorra or Majorca, here we come!)

There was a campsite right in downtown, so we checked in early so Emmy could rest with her cold, and Jim could go walking in the rain.

AND, Villa de Andorra, May 28, Wed - 9 - 235 - 1,431

It's cloudy and chilly as we head south out of Andorra and into Spain. Went through a couple more small towns, still much construction in each. We made a left turn as soon as we got into Spain and drove for about an hour on a very rough road, then back into France.

We drove south from Andorra, and entered Spain. We turned left and headed east for a few miles, then turned left again. Soon we crossed the border from Spain into France, on our way to Carcassone. We returned to the US on October 26.