

## Leon & Audrey's world trip 08/09

### Part 18 – Ulm & Austria Continued as it was getting too big.

We may appear to be putting a lot of emphasis on churches. Neither of us is overly religious, but we do like old buildings and churches are a relatively untouched example of the best of the day. The churches of Innsbruck have given us an insight into the changes from gothic to baroque to rococo.



The basilica is late baroque (compared to just baroque from the Spitalskirche) and is very ornate. The main hall is fenced off from visitors but a small plain chapel is provided at the rear for those who come to worship. The overall effect of the decoration is becoming more palatial and less religious to my mind.



The church at Stift Wilten is a rococo church and is simply too much. I think it's the use of black marble, it simply no longer looks like a church.



The Servitenkloster is another building that has lost its way with small hints of gothic amongst the baroque fittings.



The Cathedral, Hofkirche, was described in the tourist information as gothic. And it probably was once given the vaulted ceilings we saw in out of the way places. The main ceiling looked baroque while other features were decidedly rococo. I'm not sure it knows anymore what style it is. The Silver chapel was closed for renovations.

The bronze statues in the cathedral are magnificent with fine detail. They stand up to 2.5 m tall and look down on the people in the church. The marble they are

standing on shows signs of falling apart with ancient cracks repaired with metal staples and modern cracks with tape (temporary I hope).



Saturday we went to the Alpine Zoo in the snow. Well this is the Alps.



Golden eagle



Bearded vulture.



Chamois.



Yes, these cute little animals are turned into leather to dry your car. They feature strongly in a novel I read once and I have wanted to see them ever since.



One of the small alpine birds. We saw similar birds flying around the top of the mountain where there was no visibility (on the mountain it was a bit too far off to determine the species, so we can't make an exact determination – and we don't know all the alpine bird species).



Mountain goat.



Elk.



This lynx is smiling after a particularly satisfying yawn. There is a sign on the enclosure telling people to look high in the tree to see the lynx's favourite resting place. One was in the tree (see next page), others were playing on the ground and seemed to be curious about the tourist taking pictures without the flashes of bright light and so came to investigate.





More Lynx.



I've always loved wolves, they are like dogs with minds of their own (which I admit is not always a good thing, but we will leave the dog Vs cat thing there).



We left the zoo as the snow turned to rain and headed back to town to have lunch, get our luggage and head back to Düsseldorf.