



A Viking River Cruise down the Danube September 2021



We spent 4 days in Munich, Germany, before boarding our river boat. It's a big, modern city, but we found many interesting sights and museums.





One day we encountered a bizarre, puppet parade walking down the street.





Some good
Street Art.



That isn't.

That's
David C.



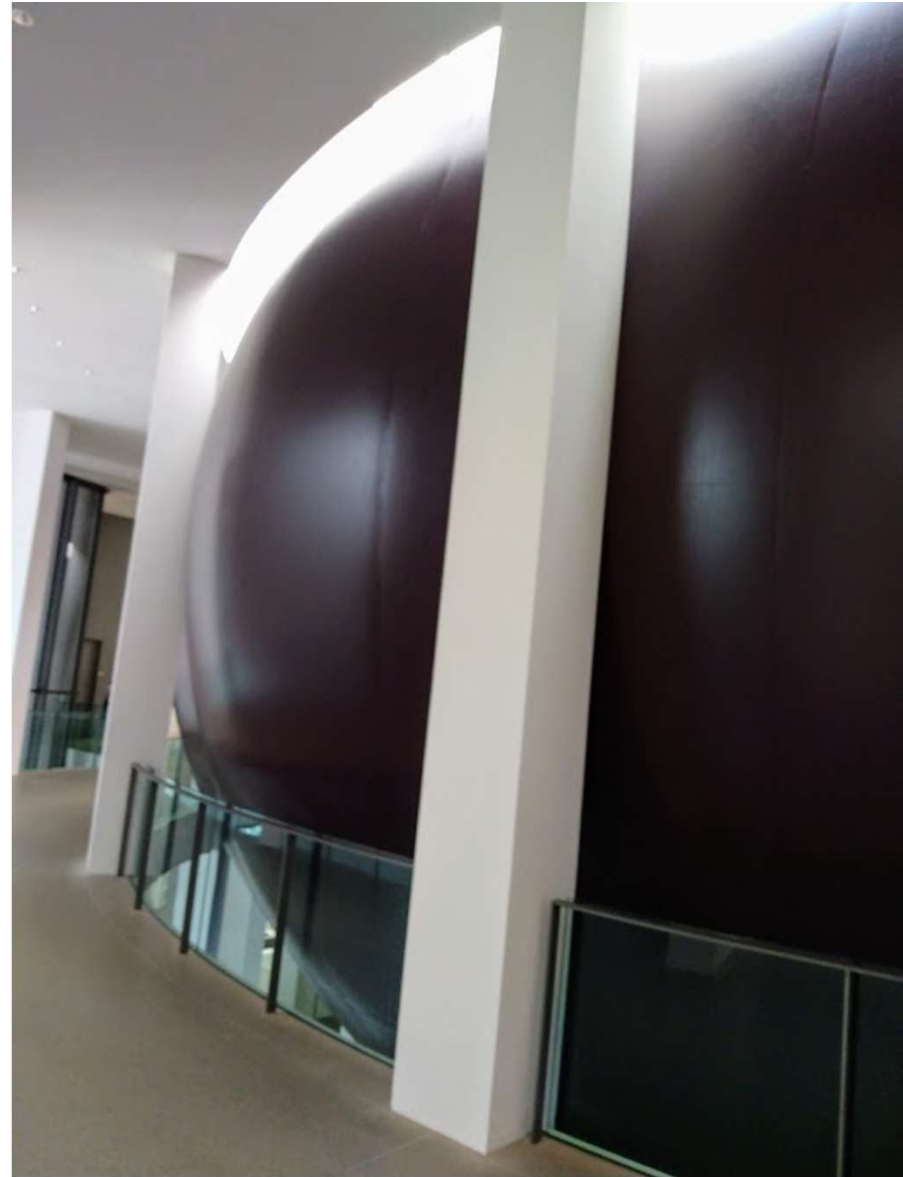


We found an
excellent
Modern Art
Museum.





The entire, 3 floor atrium was taken up with a gigantic rubber balloon.





There were strange clocks, that changed the time in weird ways. And a couple robots that drew designs on a moving paper roll



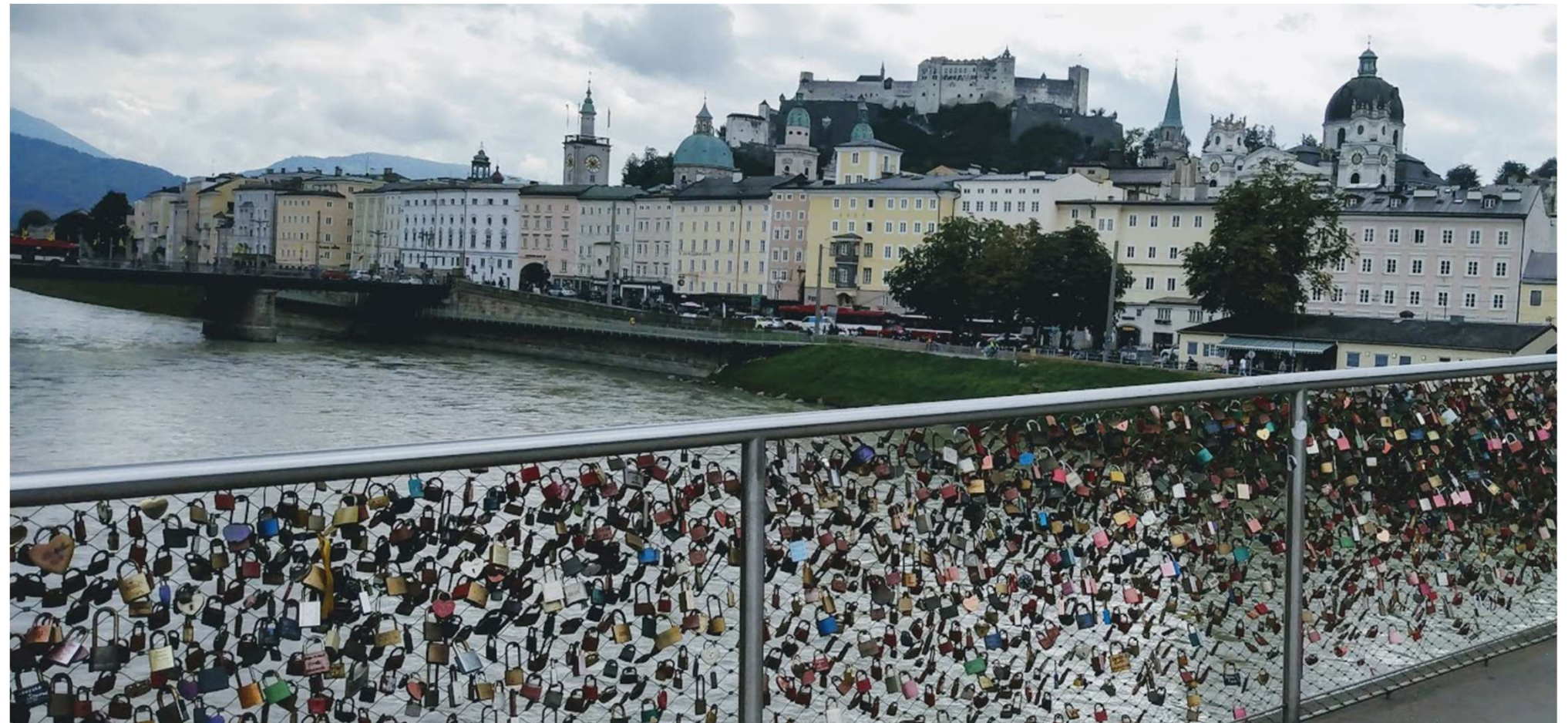
We took a train to Salzburg, for a day trip.
Walking to the Old Town, we passed a
magnificent garden.

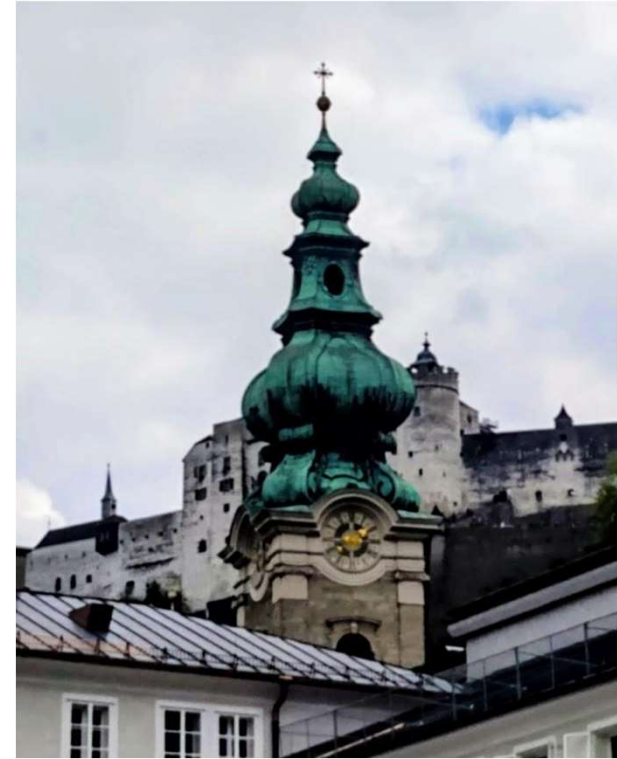




Up the hill was a group of gnome statues, where a wedding was taking place.

Then we went across the river into the “Old Town” and eventually up to the castle. It was jammed with tourists, but because it’s a fabulous city, it deserves to be.









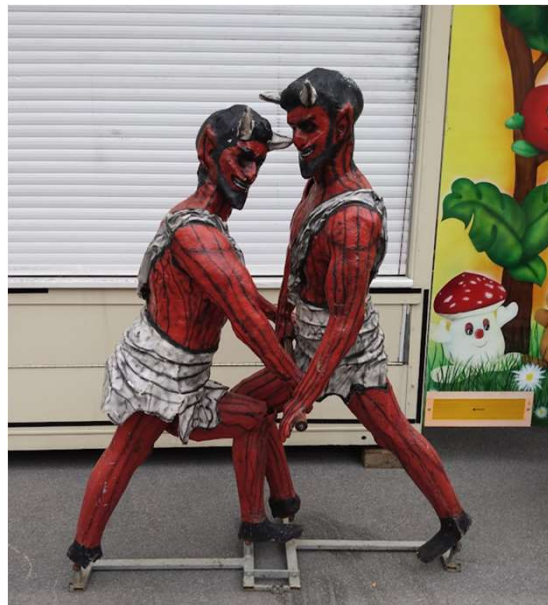


We took the funicular up to the castle and the ancient town around it.

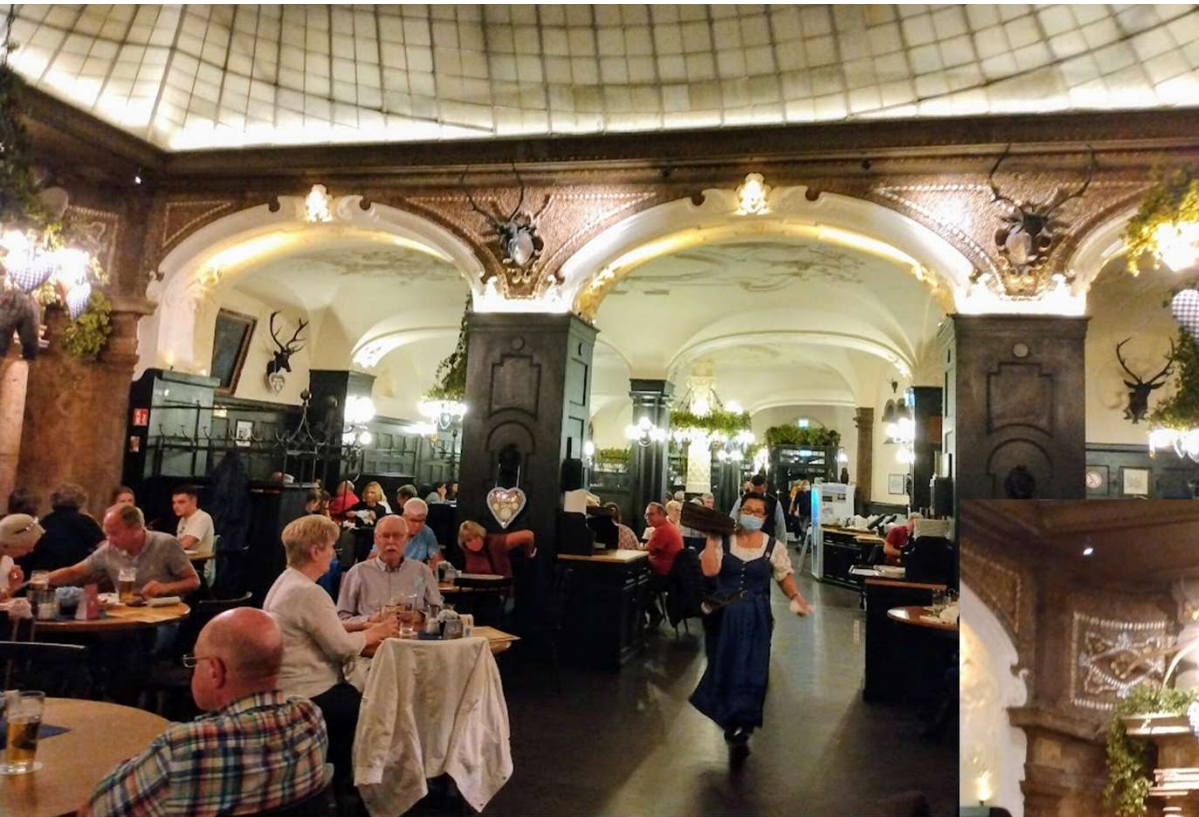


The view was spectacular!





And then a long walk back to the train to Munich. I was pooped, but happy.



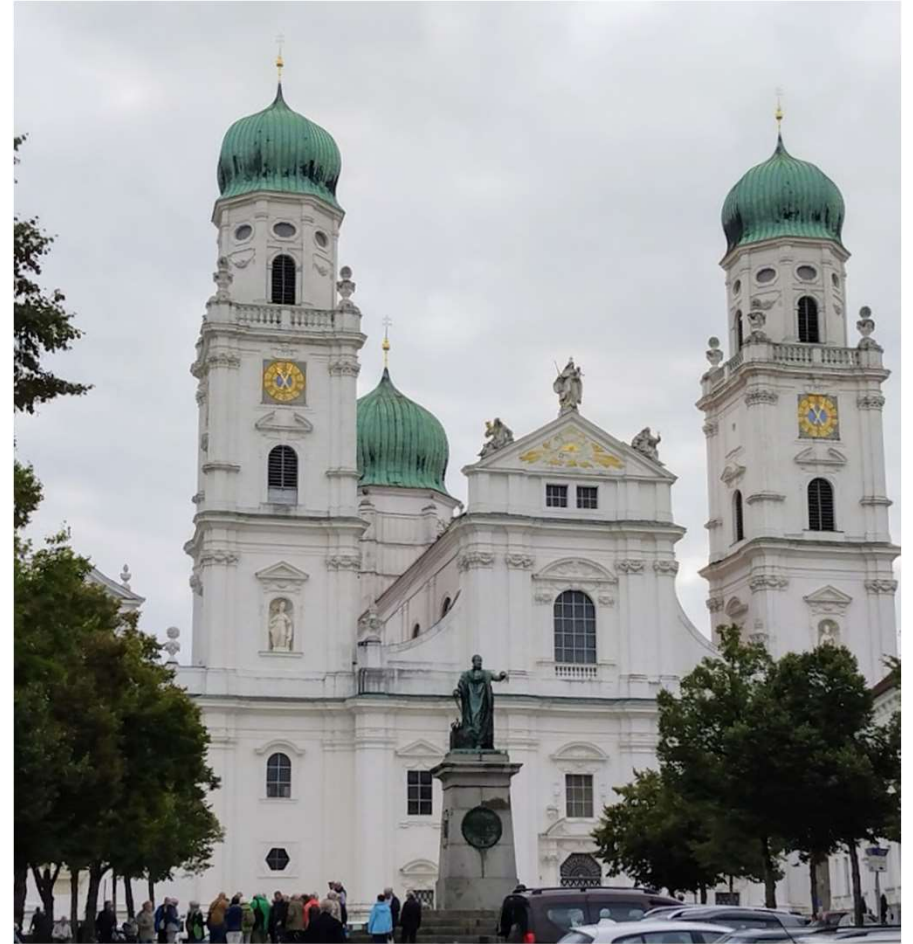
On our last night in Munich,
we ate a great dinner in a famous,
old German restaurant
and beer hall,
Augustiner Stammhaus.



The cruise began in Regensburg, Germany.



Lots of churches with clock towers, in every city we went to.





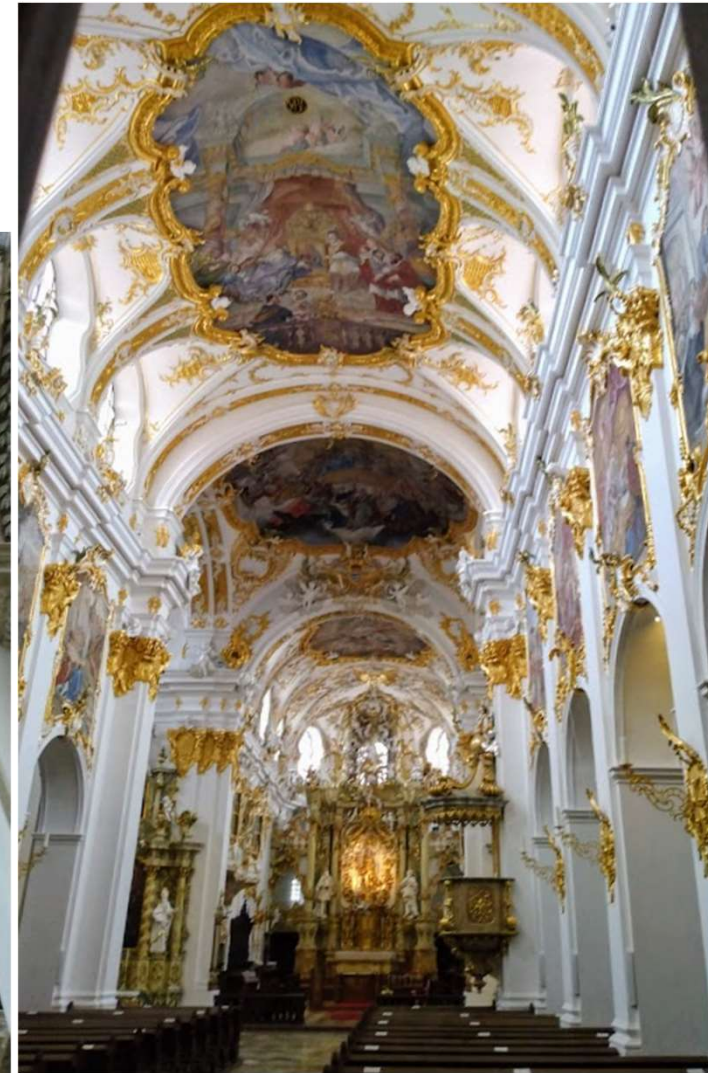
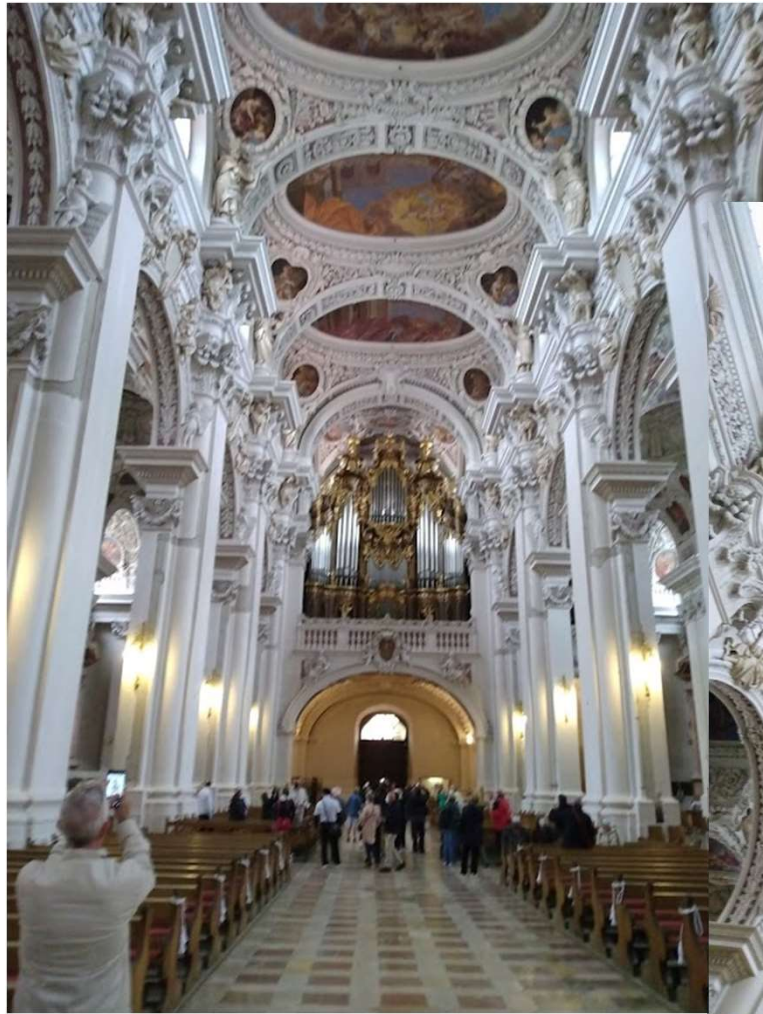


A medieval town
With plenty of charming streets



This show flood levels
over the years.
This building is way up a hill.

Two truly remarkable
Baroque cathedrals

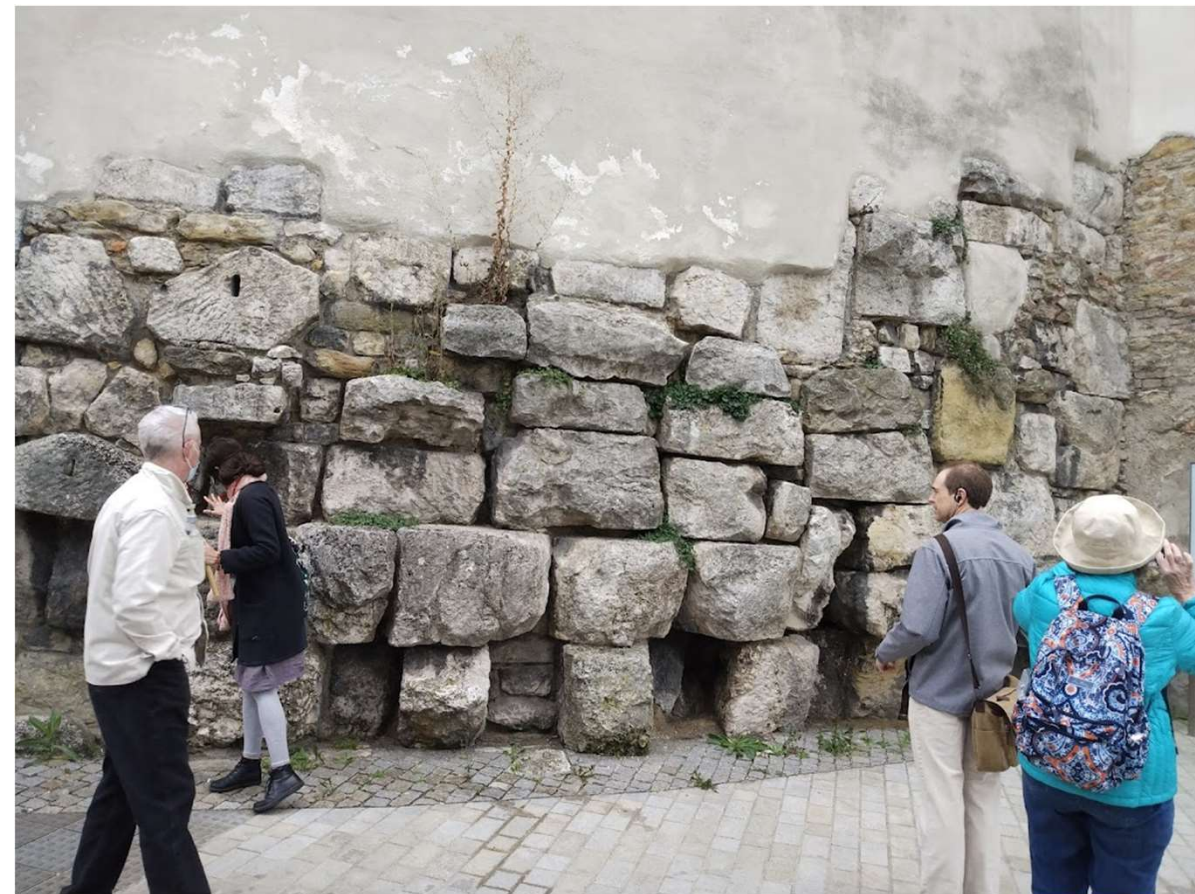


It is a very colorful city.
These houses have been the same color for centuries.
If you bought one, you couldn't change the color.





This painting of David and Goliath has been on this building for centuries. They keep restoring (and improving on it). Note the elbow resting on the window, it was that way originally.



The remains of Roman walls that surrounded the city.







Some lovely doors
with our tour guide.



A gorgeous sailing down the Danube to our next destination,
Krems, on the way to Vienna, Austria.



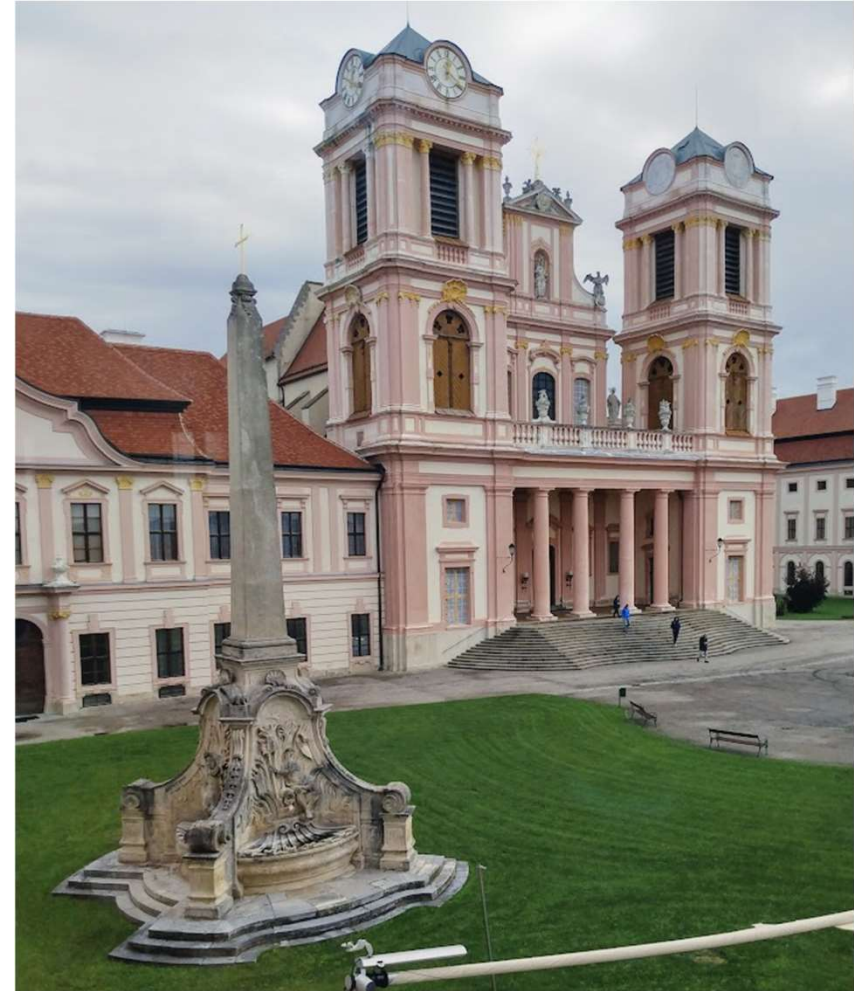


Past castles and vineyards on the hillsides.

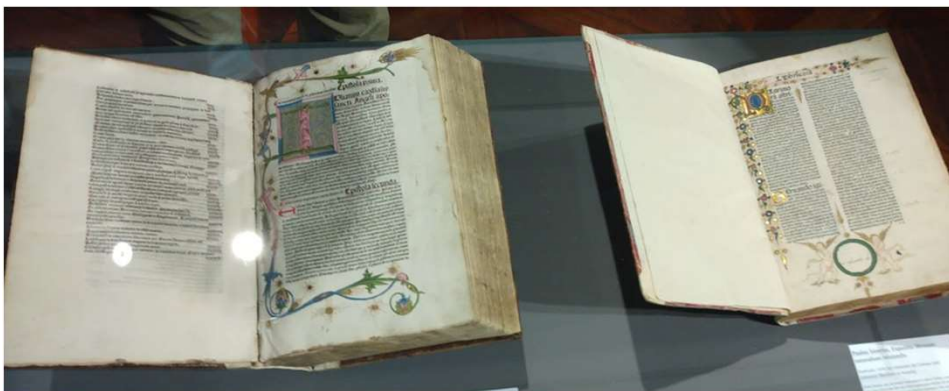




When we arrived in Krems,
we saw the first blue sky
we'd seen the whole trip!
But it didn't last long.



We took a tour up the mountain to the Gottweig Abbey.

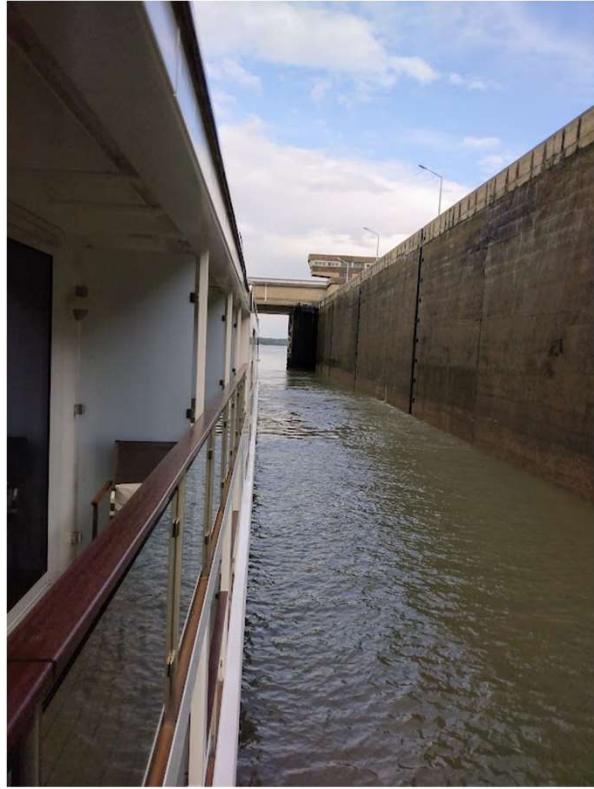




I'm taking the photo
of the great ceiling
in a mirror.

The view from the abbey was stupendous.





On our trip down the Danube, we went through 16 locks. From the balcony in our stateroom, we could often watch us sink from the upper level to the lower level.



We made it to Vienna in time for an evening concert in a beautiful palace. We went with our new friends Pat and Sherri.

Soprano: Anete LIEPINA
 Primaballerina: Luisa SOLOWJOWA
 Solo violin: Stanislava KARDJIEV
 Flute: Constantin TALMACIU

PROGRAM

Antonio Vivaldi	Il cimento dell'armonia e dell'invenzione, le quattro stagioni, l'estate: 3. la tempesta
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Andante for flute, C Major KV 315
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro, "Deh vieni non tardar"
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	A little night music, KV 525, 1. movement, Allegro
Ludwig van Beethoven	Romance for violin, Nr.2 F Major, op 50
Johannes Brahms	Hungarian Dance Nr.5
Johann Strauss	Wiener Blut, "Grüß dich Gott, du liebes Nester!"
Johann Strauss	Frühlingsstimmen-Waltz
Camille Saint-Saens	Karneval der Tiere, 13. Der Schwan und 14. Das Finale
Johann Strauss	Bauernpolka, op. 276
Astor Piazzolla	Libertango
Franz Lehár	Paganini, "Liebe, Du Himmel auf Erden"
Johann Strauss	Éljen a Magyar, Polka



The next day began with a bus and walking tour of Vienna.
All I can say is that Vienna is huge and magnificent!

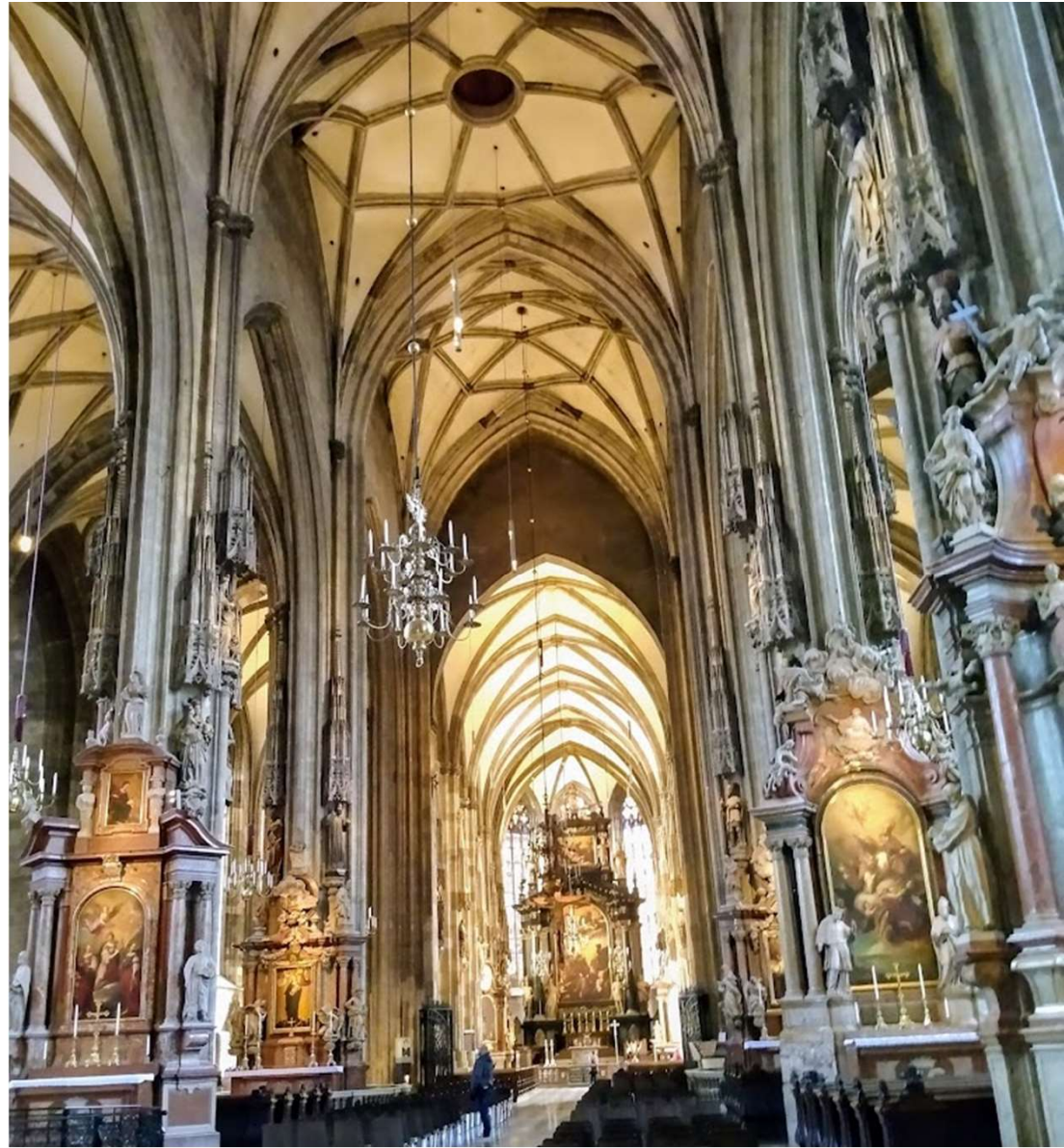




In diesem Hause wohnte
MOZART
im Jahre 1781,
und componirte hier seine
"Entführung aus dem Serail".



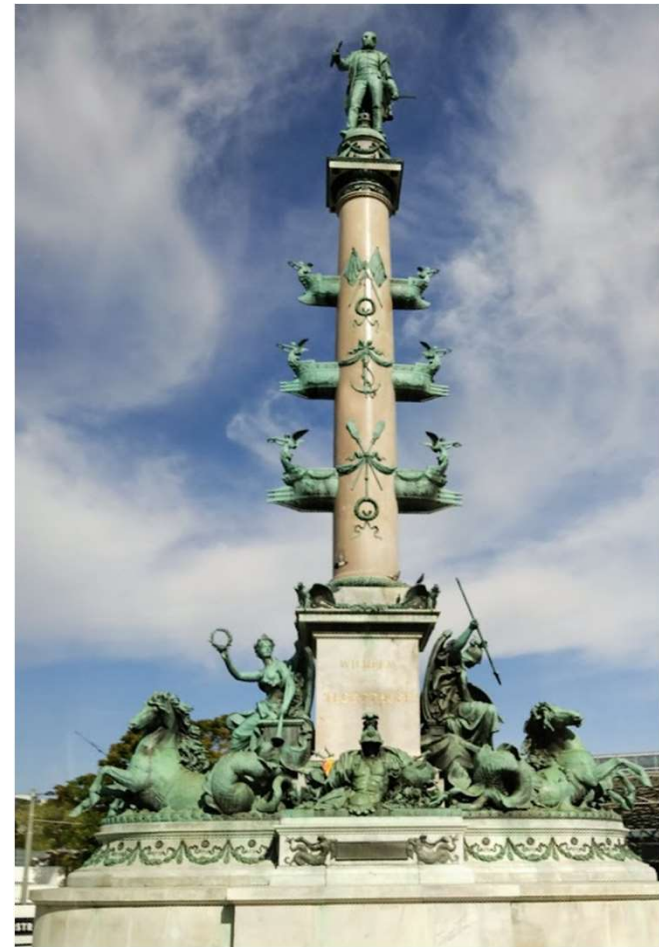




Vienna is known for its wonderful clocks, so we found a Clock Museum with 3 floors of nothing but clocks. Munro was in his glory.







Mozart Memorial



We left Vienna, vowing to come back some day.

We took a bus tour to a new country, Slovakia,
and the charming city of Bratislava.

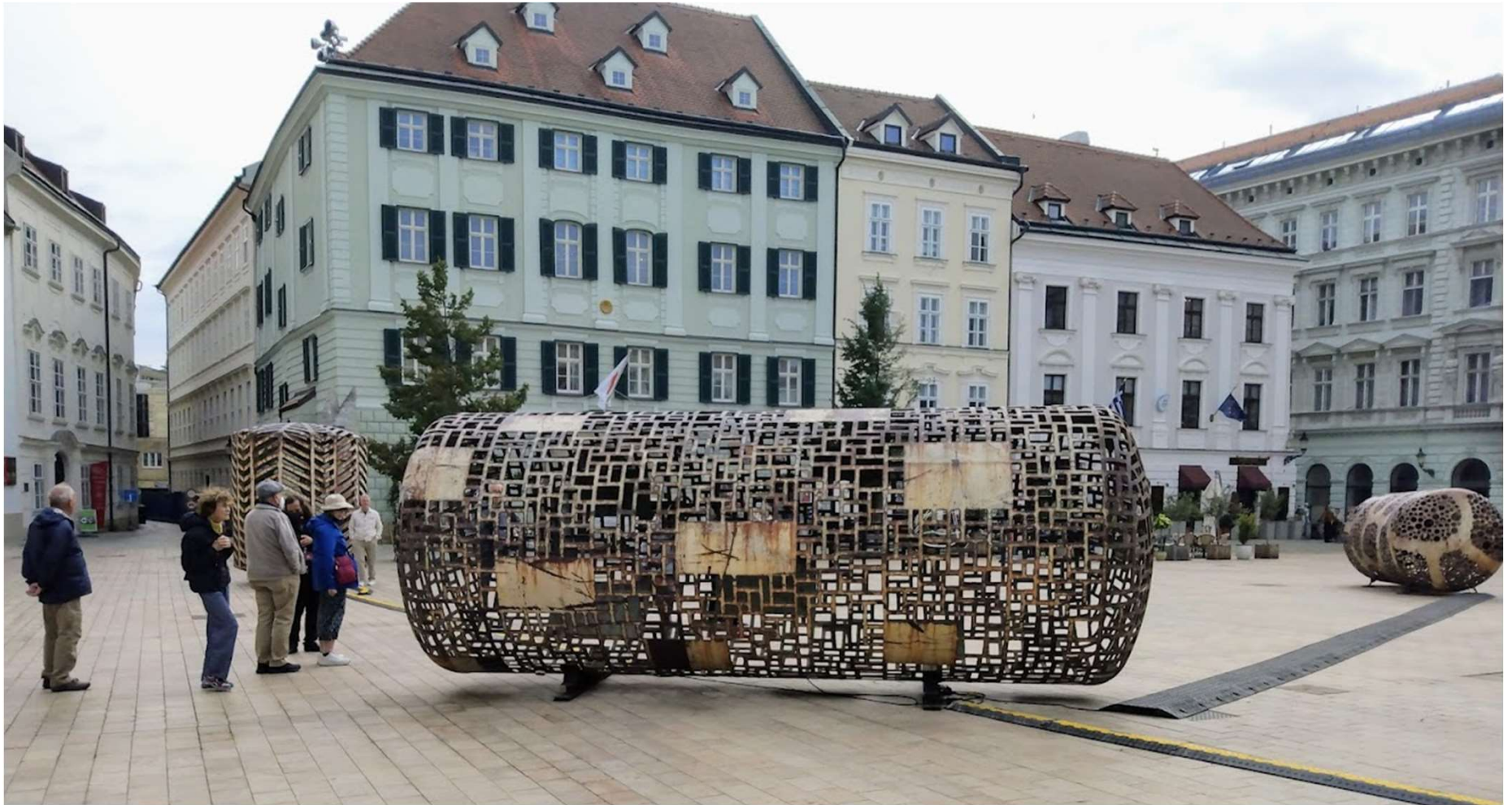


It is smaller than Vienna
and full of delightful art.



Everywhere we
walked, we
encountered Art.

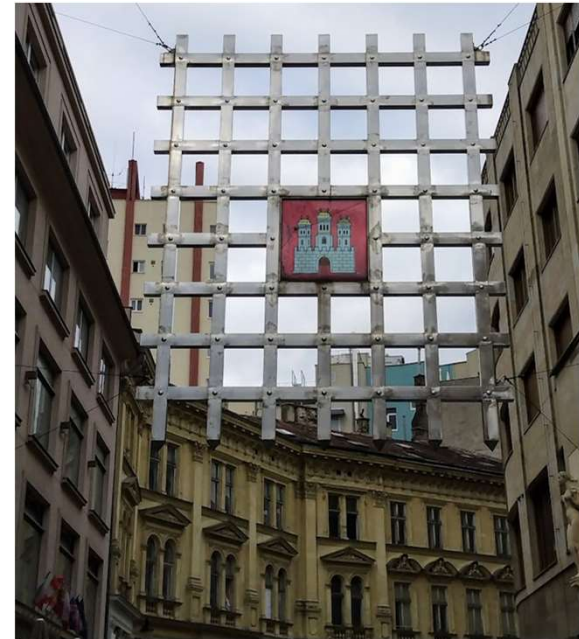


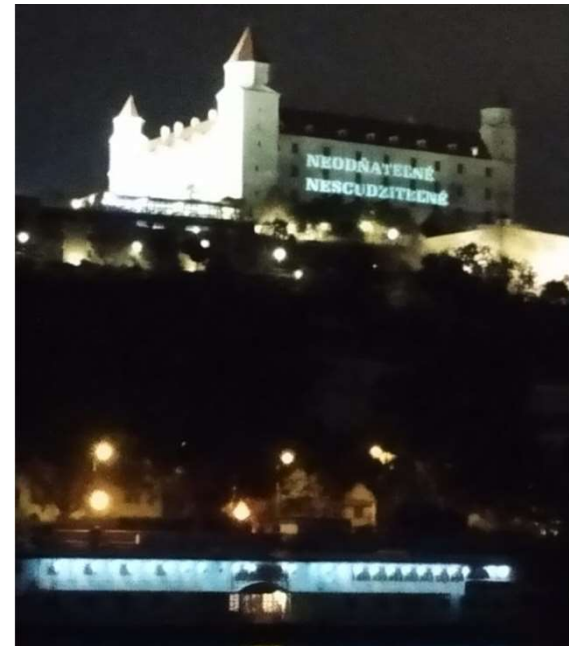


These are odd, rather ugly iron works. But at night they are lit from inside and project beautiful patterns around the square.

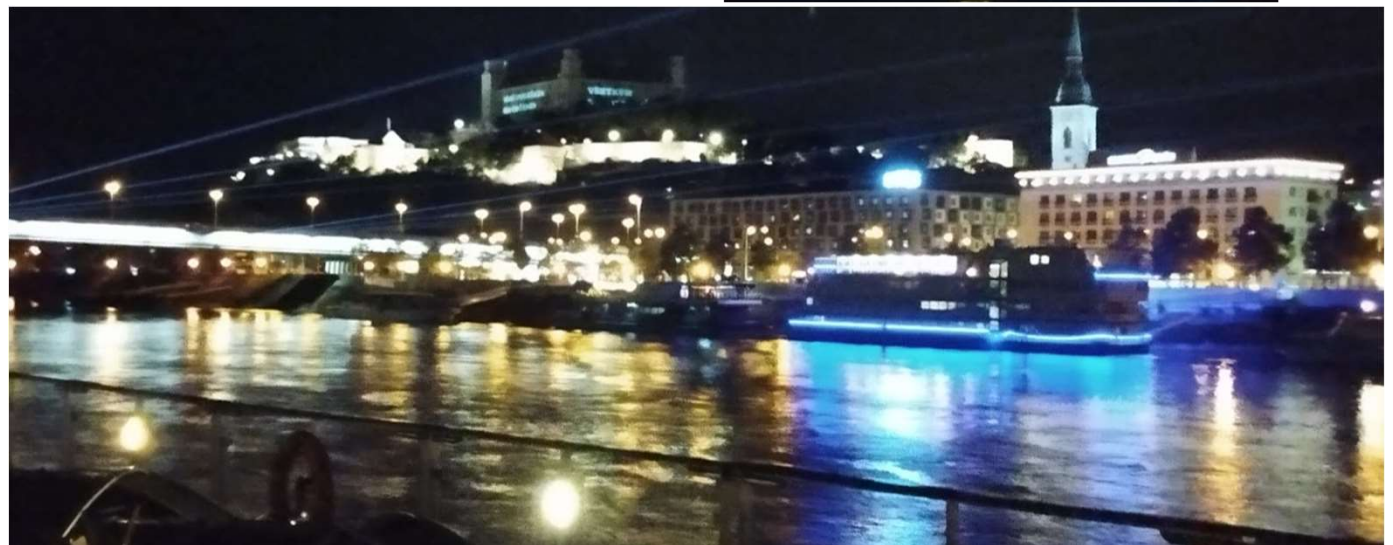


An all together delightful
city to visit,
I'm glad we took this tour.



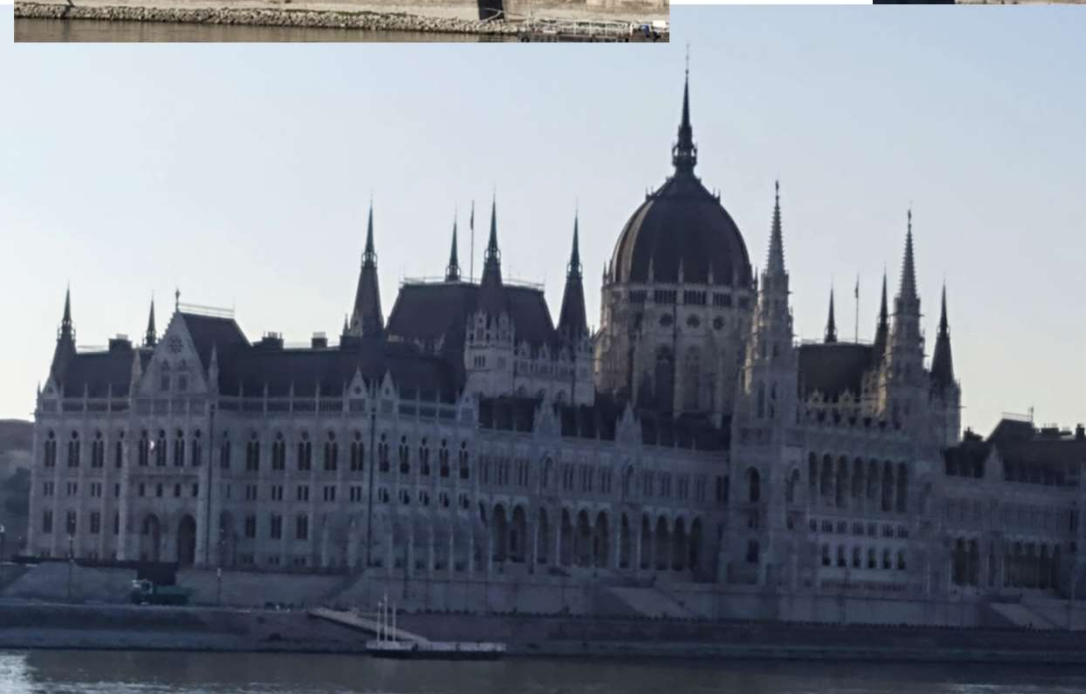


When we left that night,
the city was all lite up.



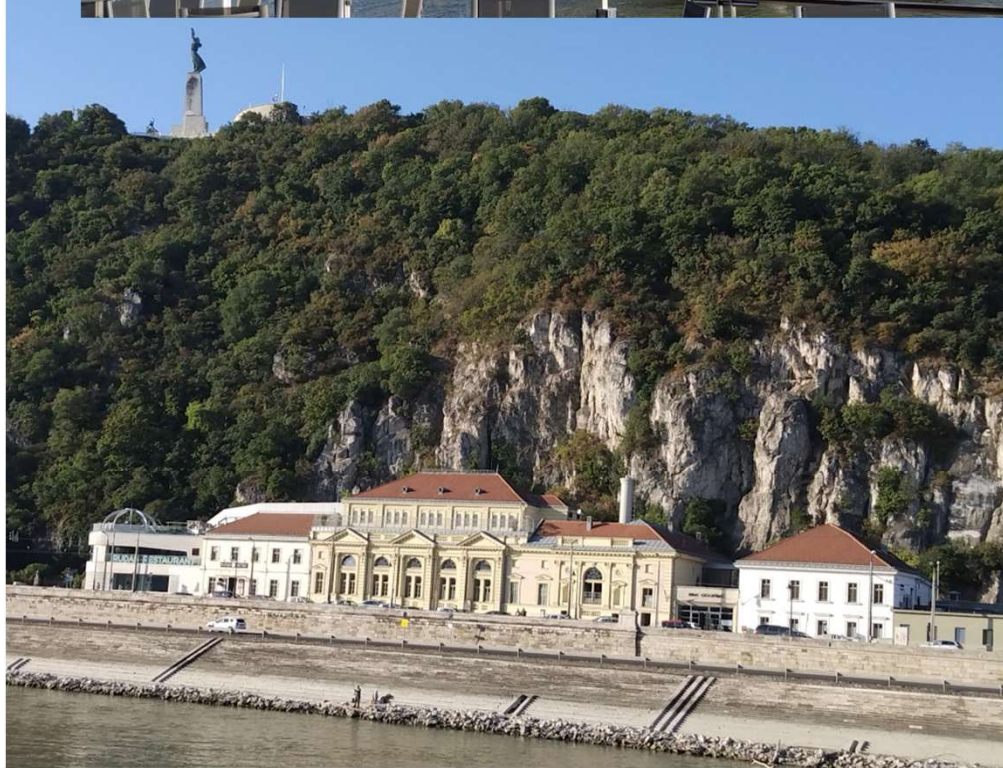
Early the next morning, we went up on the top deck, (which was usually too cold to sit on) and watched as we pulled into glorious Budapest, Hungary.



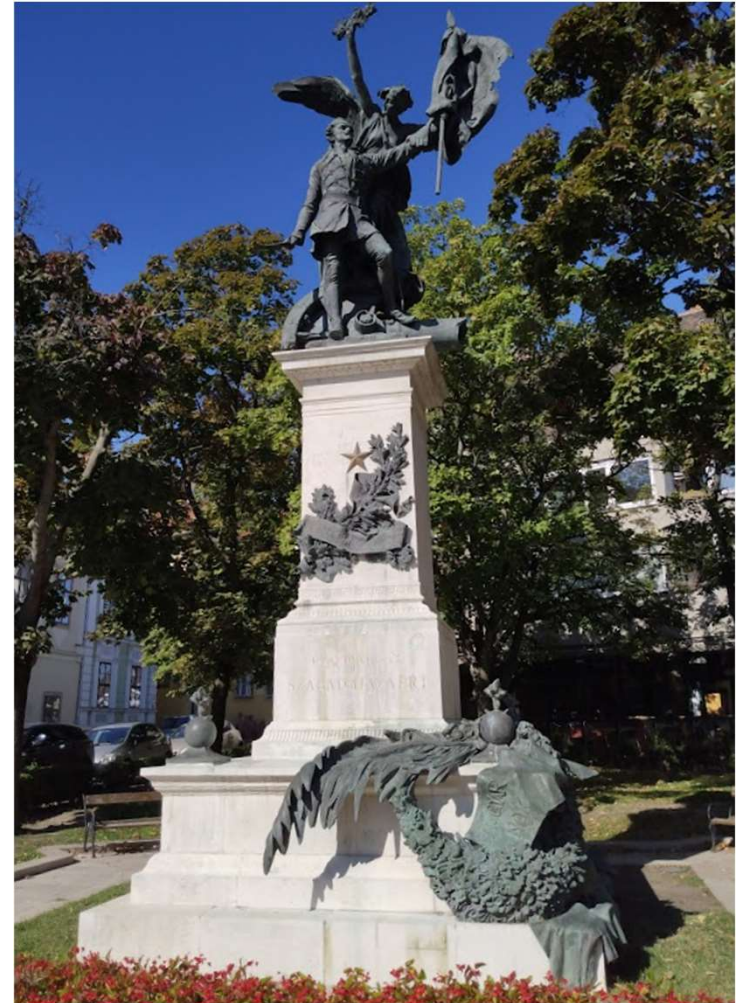


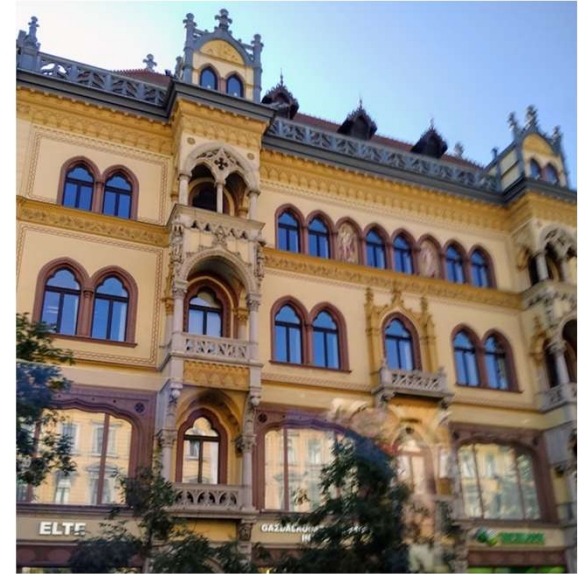
And it was the first warm, sunny day of the trip.

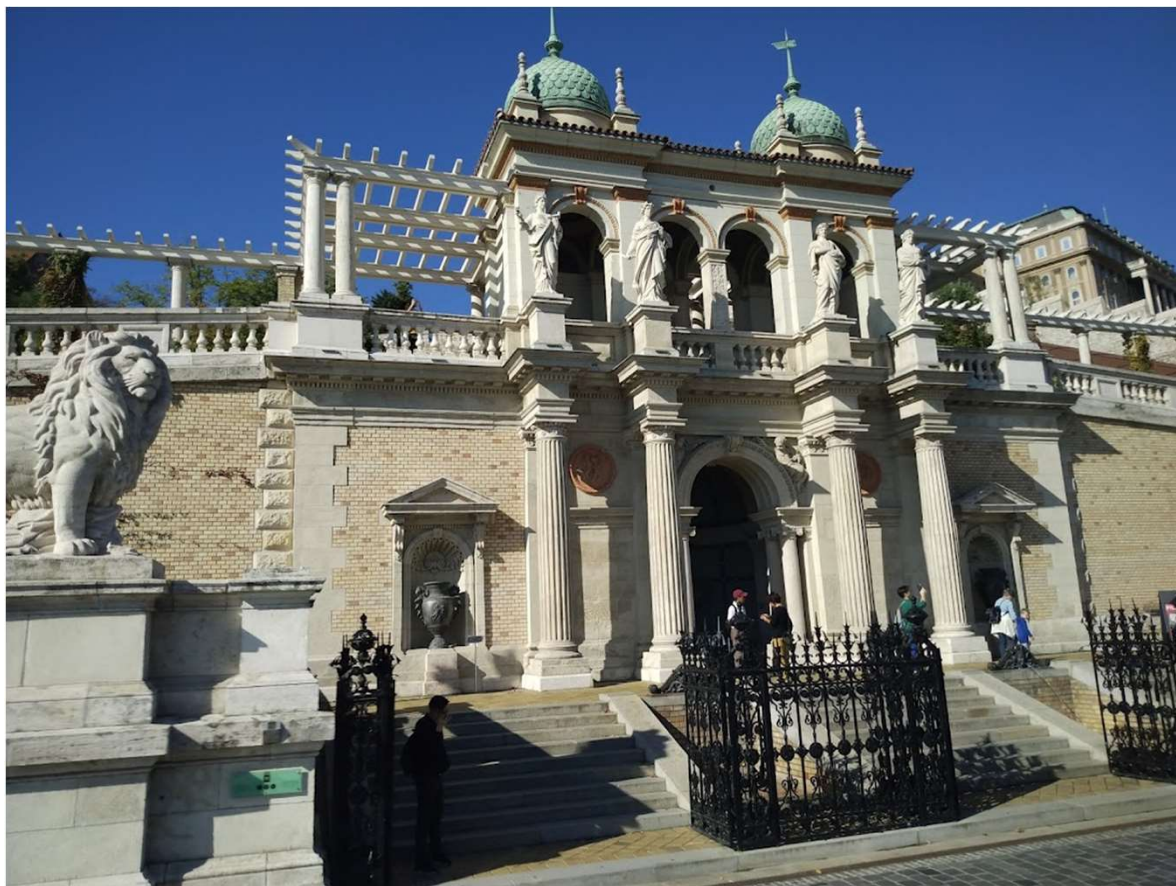


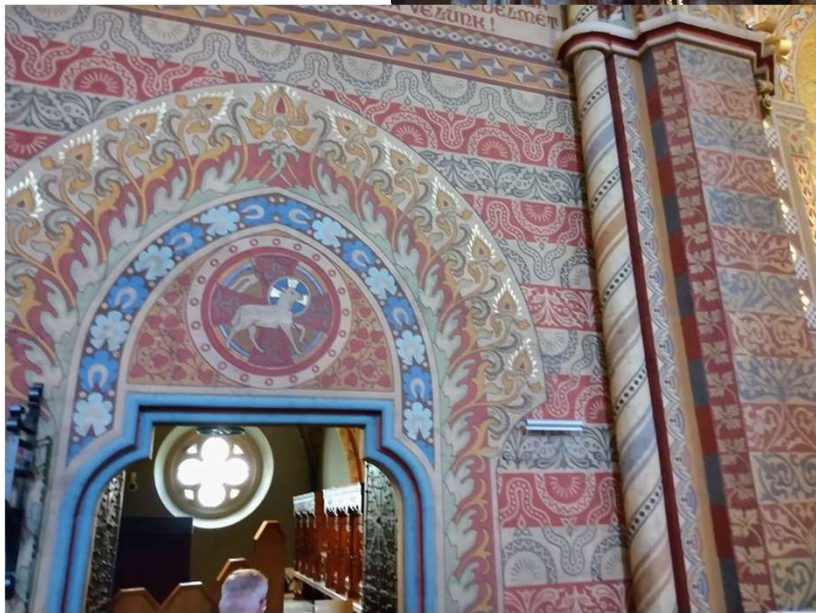


We then took a bus tour around this amazing city.

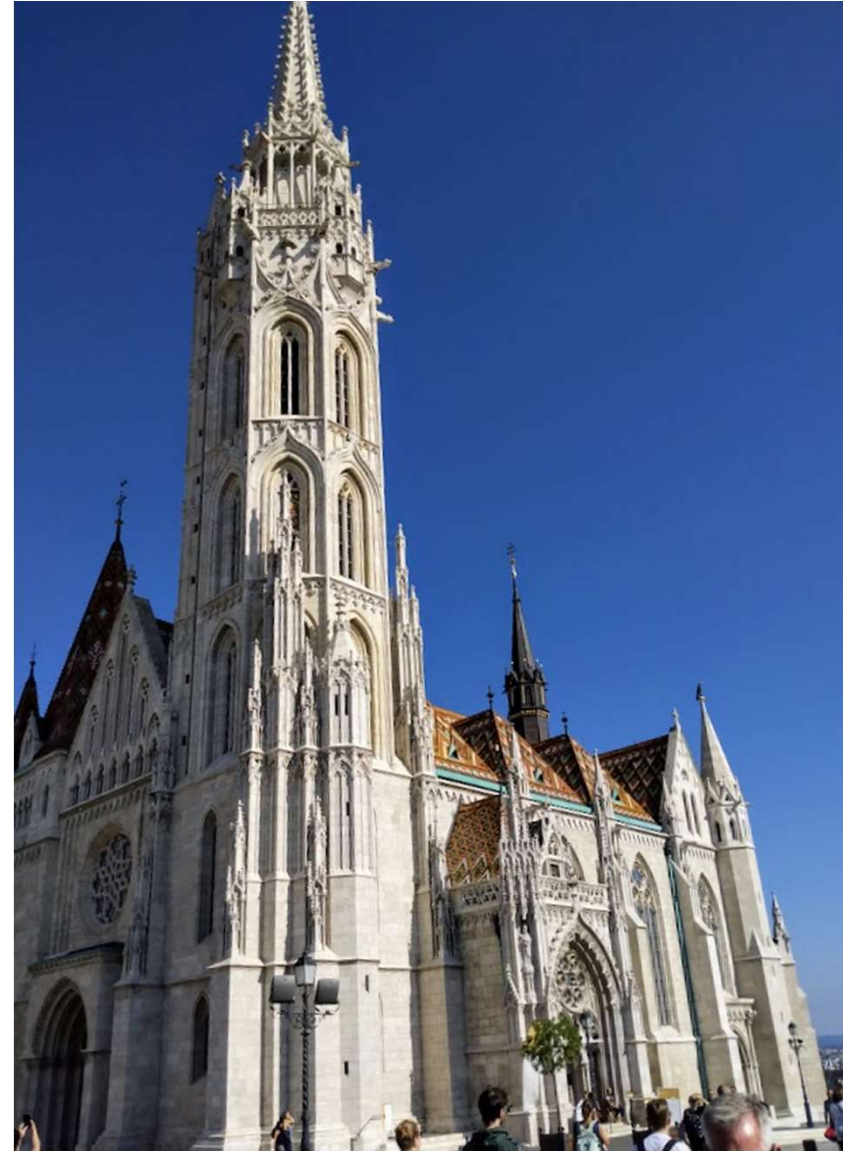


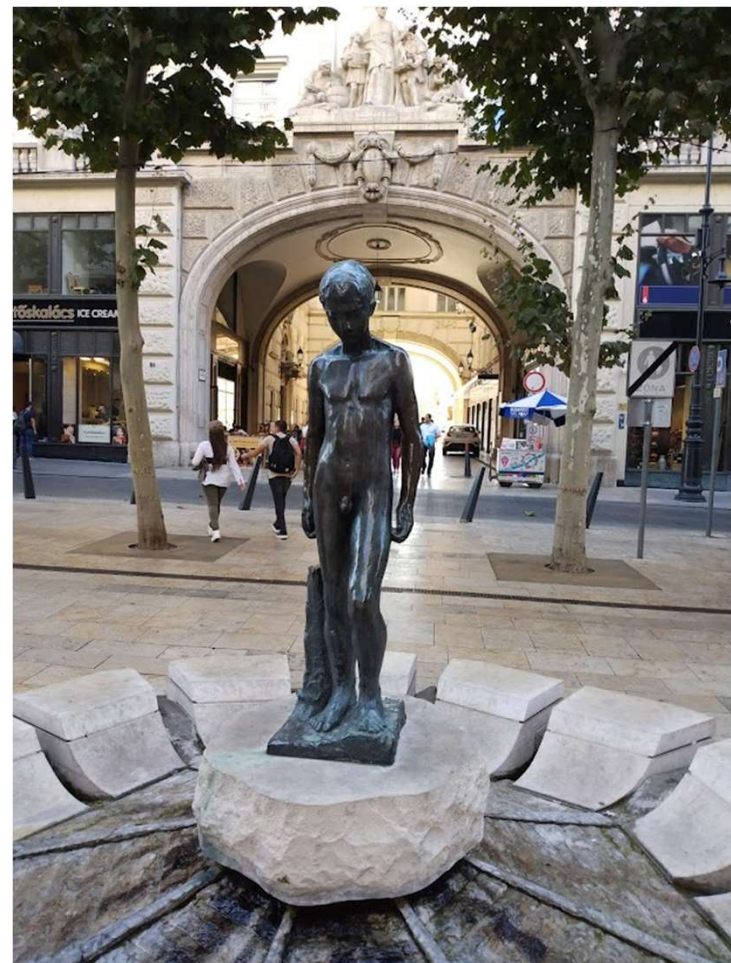


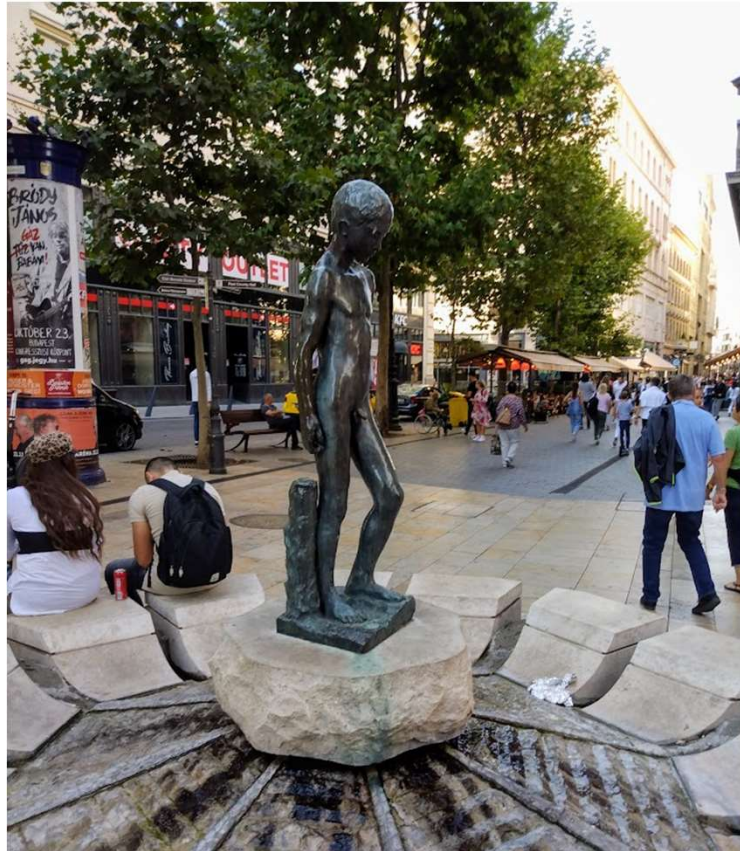




All the decorations of this cathedral were frescos.







(Looks like these guys are cruising each other)

That night we said “Goodbye” to our wonderful Cruise Director, Joey.



And new to our friends:



George and Tina Ulbrick
(Kansas)



Ed and Susan Jepson
(Illinois)



Pat and Sherri Cannon
(California)



Maria and David Brown
(Florida)

The next day we took a cab at 5:00 AM to the airport for our flight home.

But when we got there, we were told, “Your flight is tomorrow!”

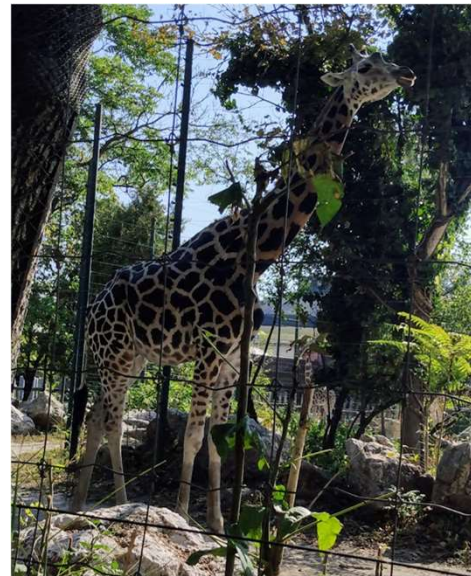
David C had mis-read the calendar.

Munro solved the problem by renting a car, and we went back into the city for an extra day in Budapest.



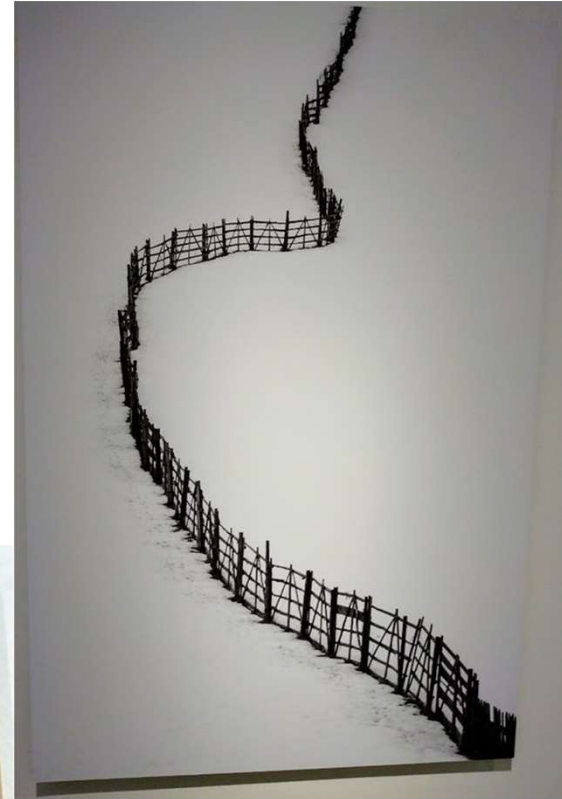
We got a hotel
near Hero's
Square and the
Museum and
Zoo district.





We spent the morning at the zoo.





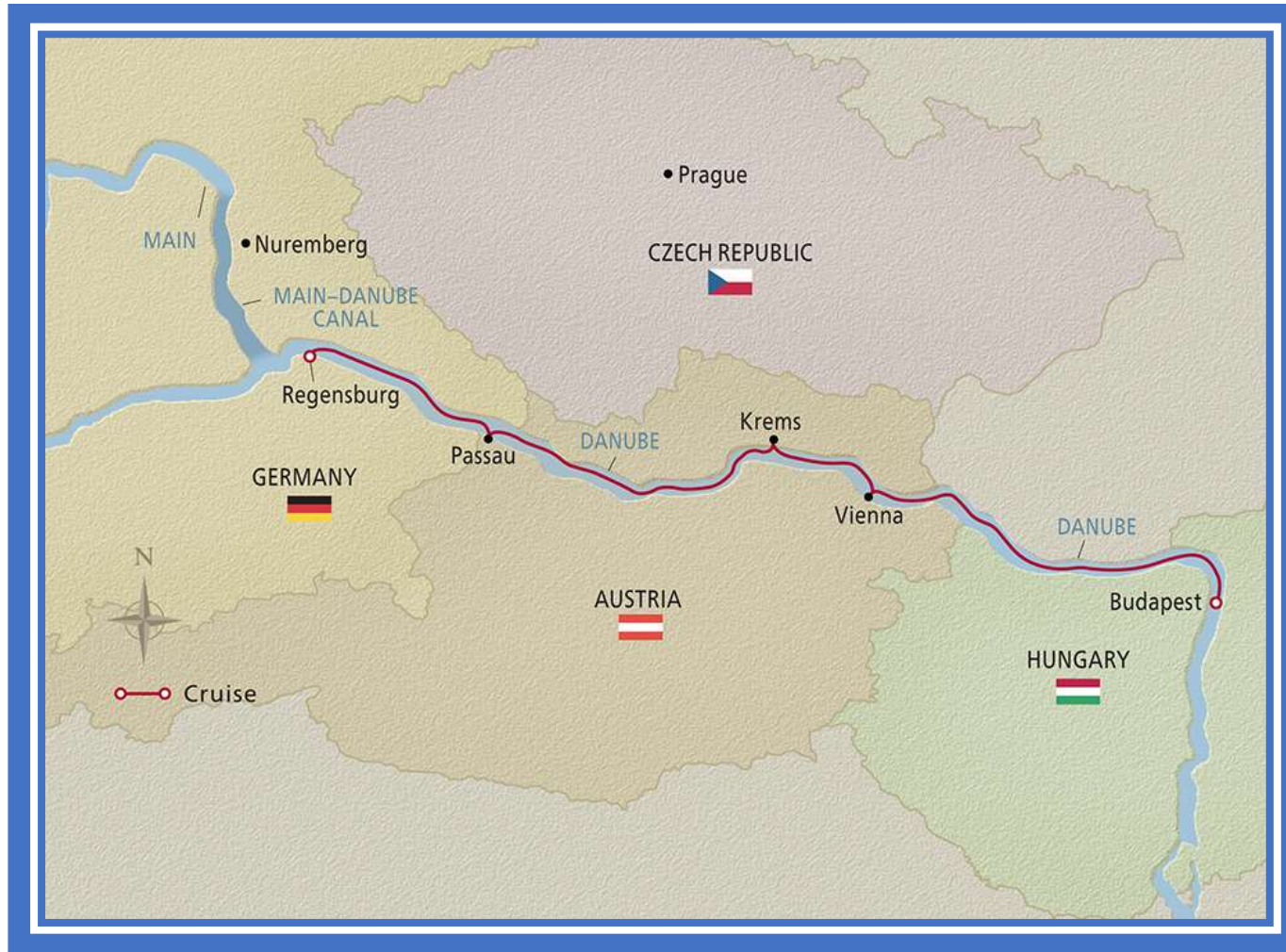
The afternoon was spent in a museum with an amazing photography exhibit.





So, with a lovely lakeside lunch and a wonderful Hungarian dinner, we bid farewell (again) to Budapest. We were very glad to be able to spend another day in this beautiful city.





And so, we completed our delightful, first Viking River Cruise. We were happy to have visited several cities that we'd never seen, and enjoy the relaxing cruising down the Danube, as well as meeting some fellow cruisers. A very pleasant vacation.