

Our 2022 trip, with Judi Laganga, began in **London**.

After long flight to Paris on La Compagnie, we had a quick lunch, then hopped on the Eurostar, through the Chunnel to St. Pancras Station, and then a taxi to Hotel Thistle Piccadilly.





The first morning was chilly and cloudy, but we took a stroll around Trafalgar Square. We did encounter spring flowers, however.



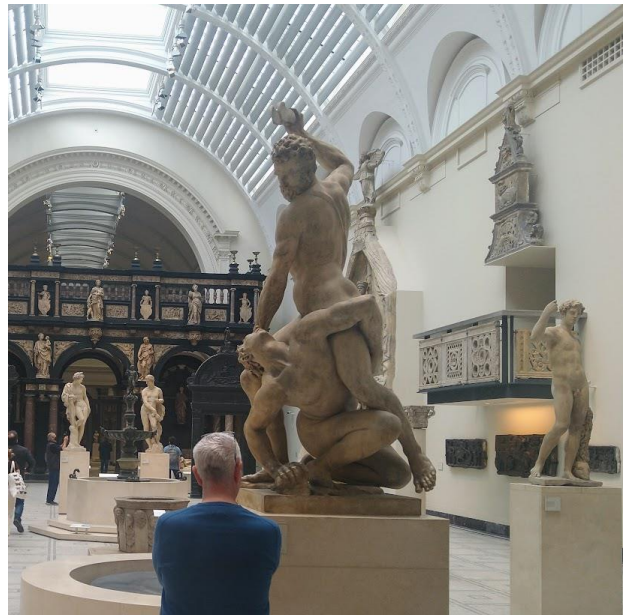
We continue our first morning stroll.

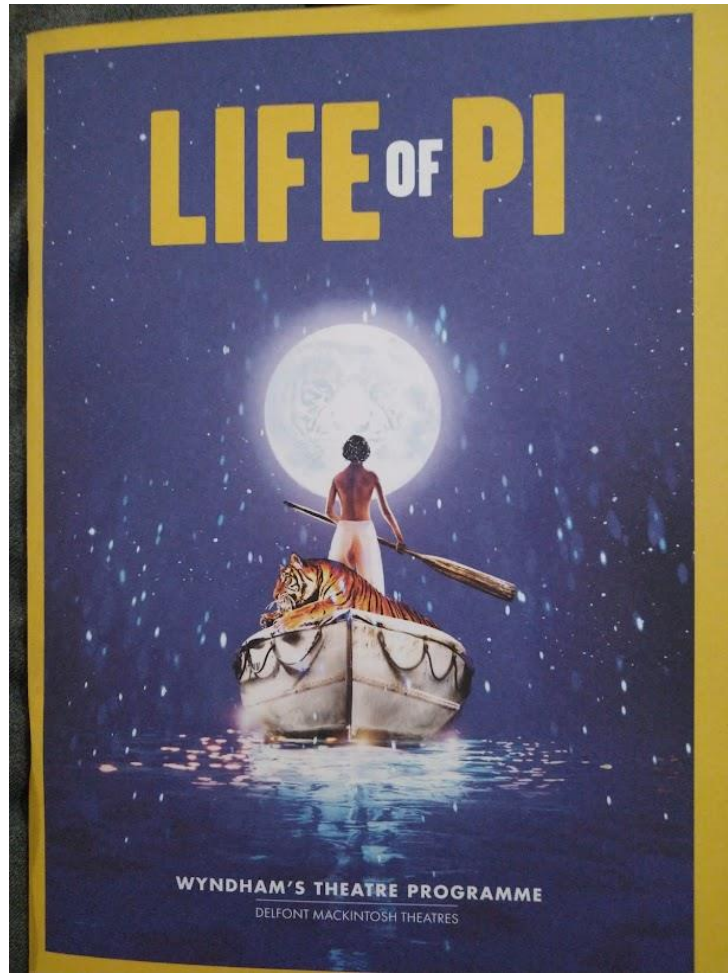




We meet Mel and Peter (Judi's brother) for Fish & Chips at a local pub, The Porcupine.

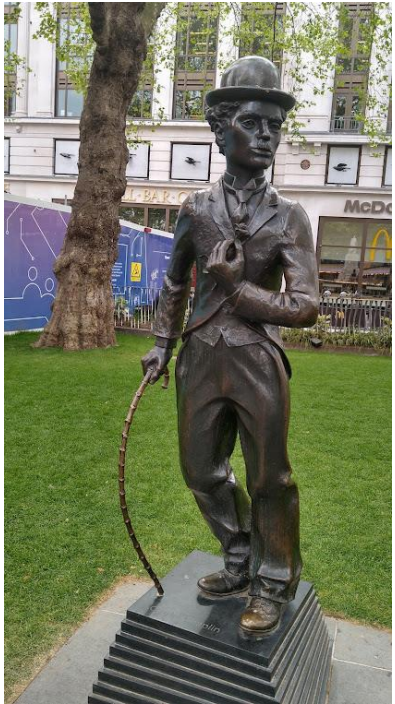
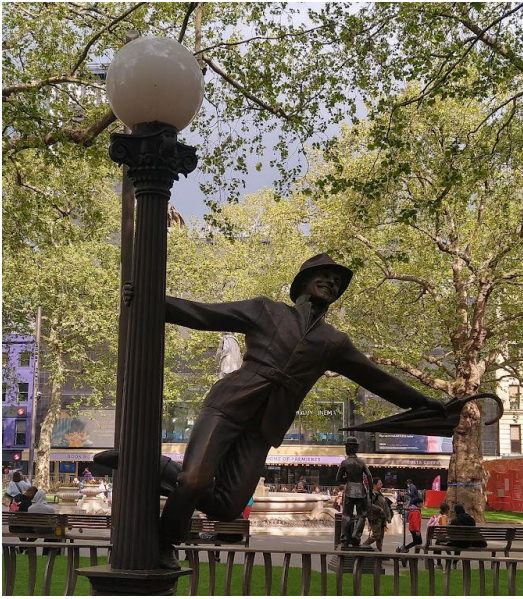
Then on to the Victoria and Albert Museum.



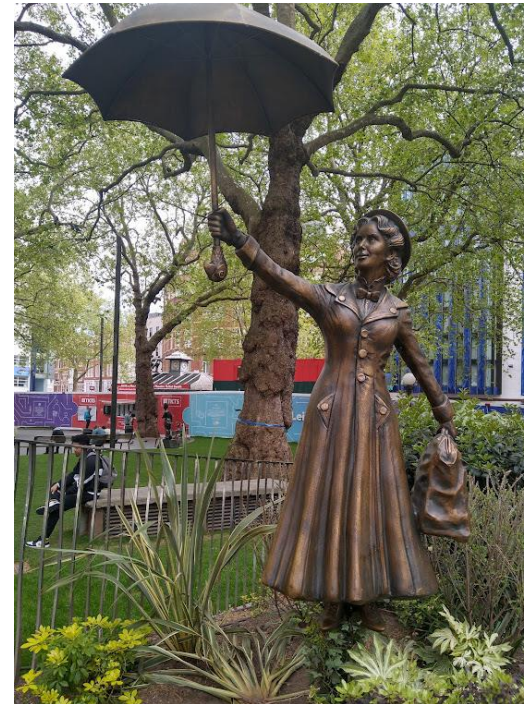


We see our first
West End play,
and it is marvelous!





Our hotel is on Leicester Square where they have statues of movie images.



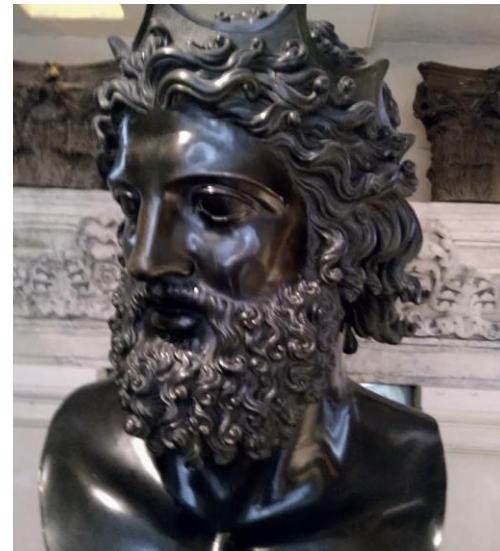
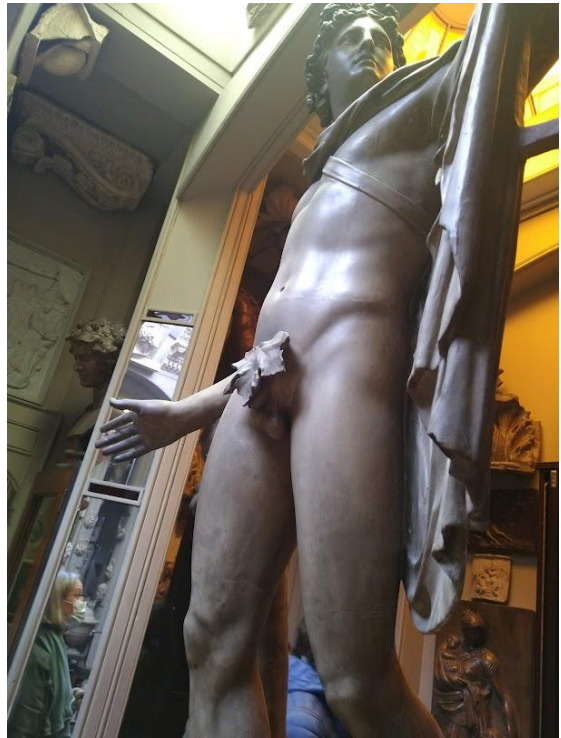
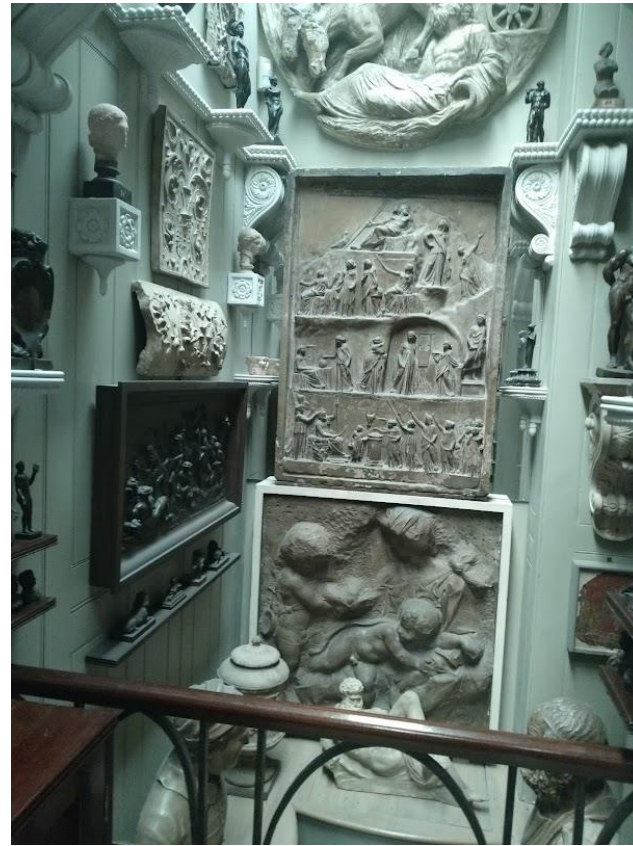


Sights around London
on St. Georges Day.



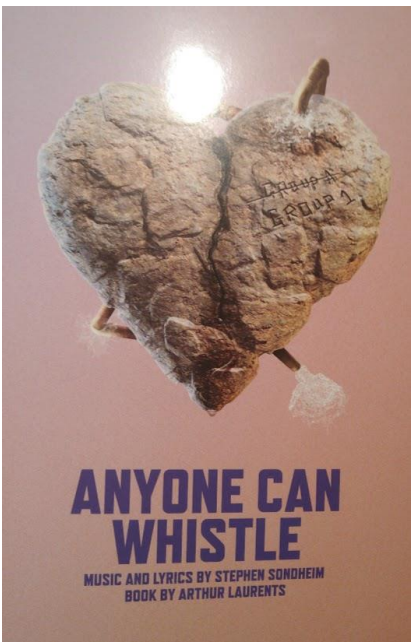


We visited the amazing Sir John Soane House, with rooms and floors crammed with artifacts that he collected.





At the National Theater, before “The Corn is Green”, I offered my chair to this couple. He’s Sir Ian McKellen!



We also saw a Fringe production of “Anyone Can Whistle”.





A ferry up the Thames
with Mel and Peter,
destination Greenwich.





We walked up the BIG hill to the Greenwich Royal Observatory, where the Prime Meridian divides the two hemispheres of the earth. Also, the view of London is spectacular.



Straddling the East and West Hemispheres.



A trip to the National Gallery was a treat. We saw Gainsborough's "Blue Boy", Seurat's "Sunday in the Park without George" and a master teacher at work.



A wonderful lunch
with Mel and Peter
at
Brasserie Zedel.





The British Museum is massive, but we saw some amazing things, including the Parthenon Marbles.





ENGLISH clockmaking advanced quickly after the pendulum was invented. Clocks commonly now run a week or longer, but heavier models made them difficult to hang from a wall. The solution was the new long or grandfather clock. Clocks became items of furniture, affordable to landowners and merchants. But the most sophisticated table clocks could still cost as much as £100 – many wages for a working person at the time. London clockmakers such as Thomas Tompion became famous throughout Europe. Many French Protestant clockmakers arrived in London after 1685, adding their own style to English designs.

1660s–1800
English clocks for the home

Year going table clock about 1690
Thomas Tompion was one of London's most celebrated clockmakers and this is perhaps his most spectacular creation. It was made for King William III's bedchamber and bears the royal shield of arms. At the top the figure of Britannia holds a shield engraved with the combined crests of England and Scotland. The clock was perhaps intended as a political statement at a time when William was urging the Scots to recognize his joint monarchy with his wife Queen Mary II. The clock only needs winding once a year, which makes it very rare. As well as showing the time it records the hours, striking the bell every quarter hour; between windings, it will also strike the hours and quarters when a cord is pulled.



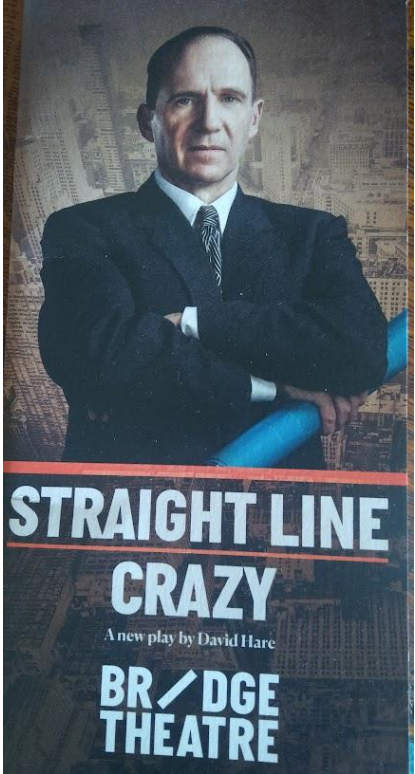
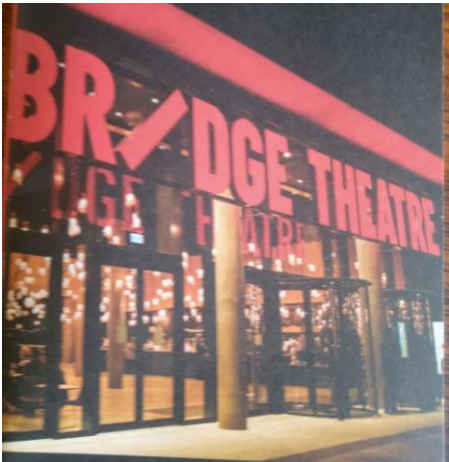
Munro gives Judi a lesson in the History of British Horology.



Our last evening
in London.



We went to
The Bridge Theater
on the South Bank.
Great views of the Tower
Bridge and other structures.
The play was excellent. Ralph
Fiennes played (of all people)
New York's Robert Moses.
Brilliant!



After another trip on the Eurostar, we arrived in **Paris**, and took a taxi (not nearly as nice as London's) to the St. Germain Hotel, on the rue du Bac, on the Left Bank.

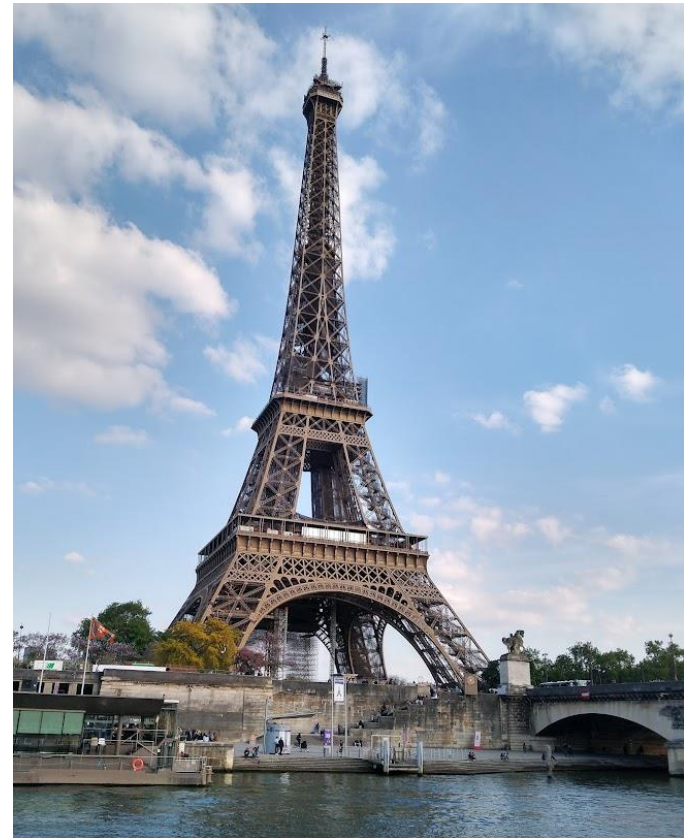
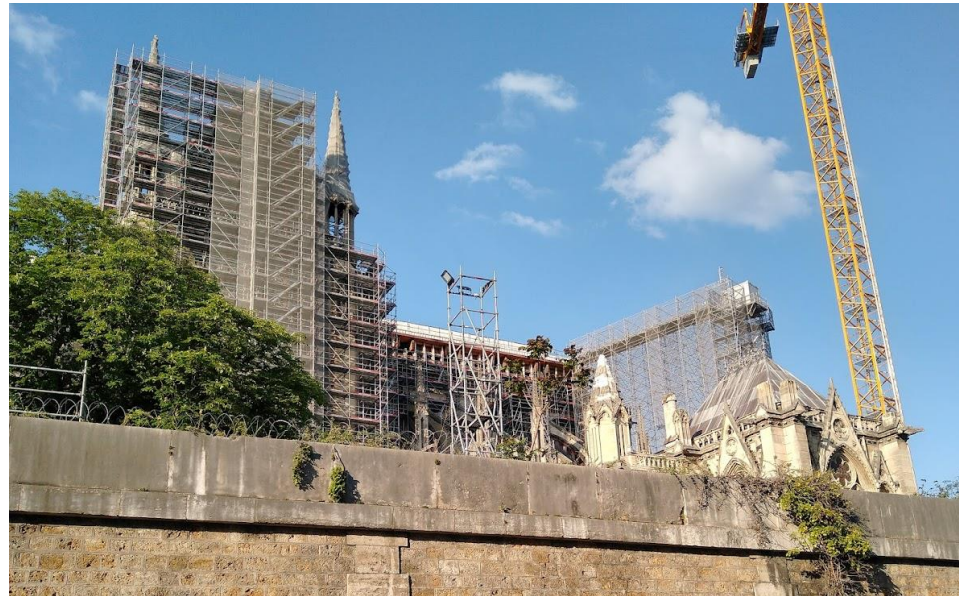




What better way to begin a tour of Paris than on the Bataux Mouches on the Seine!



The first view of the Tour Eiffel and the damaged Notre Dame.



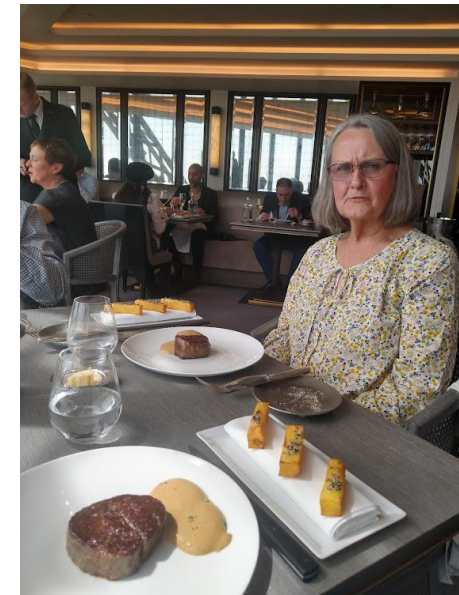


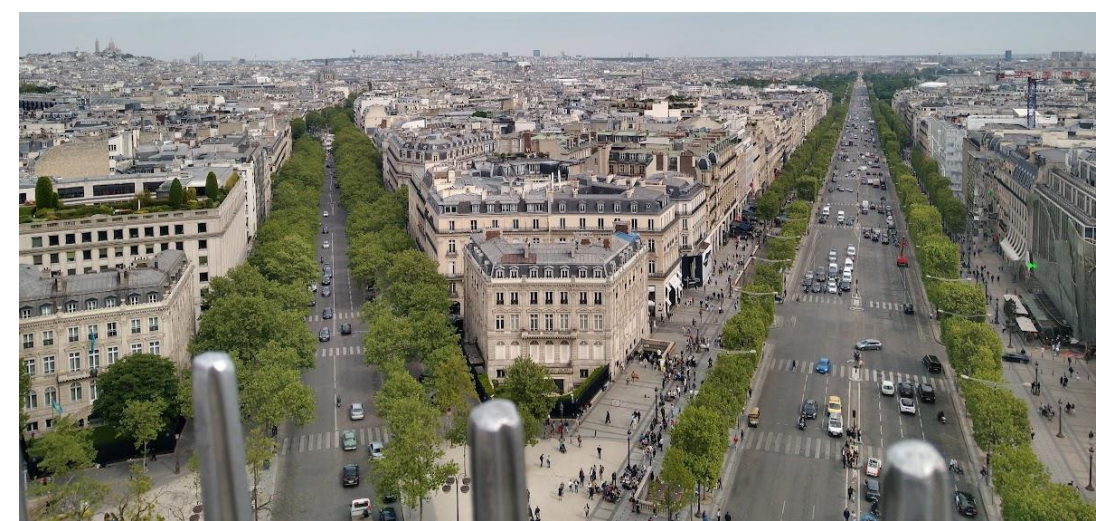
Sights walking around Paris, including Princess Diana's Memorial Tunnel.



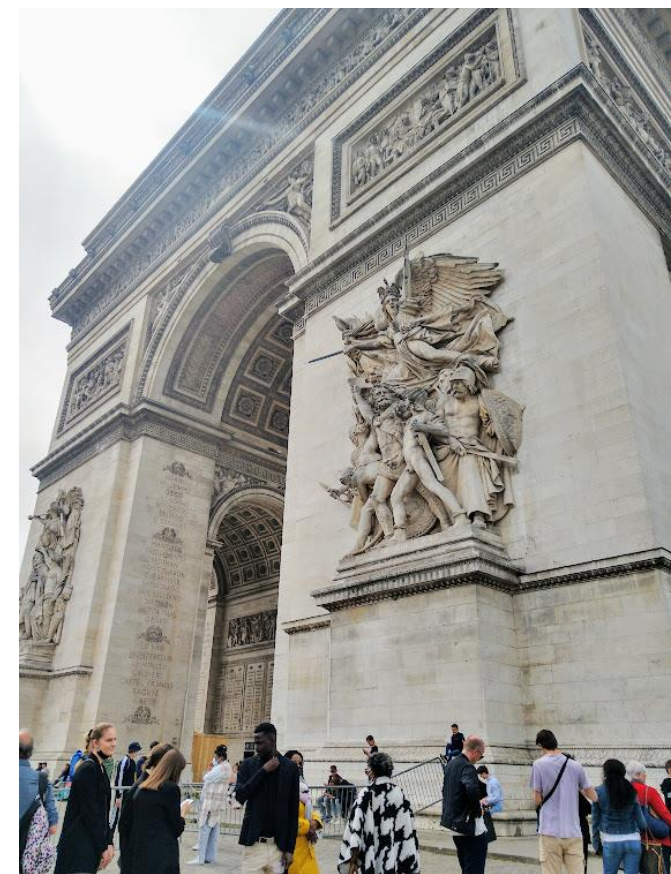
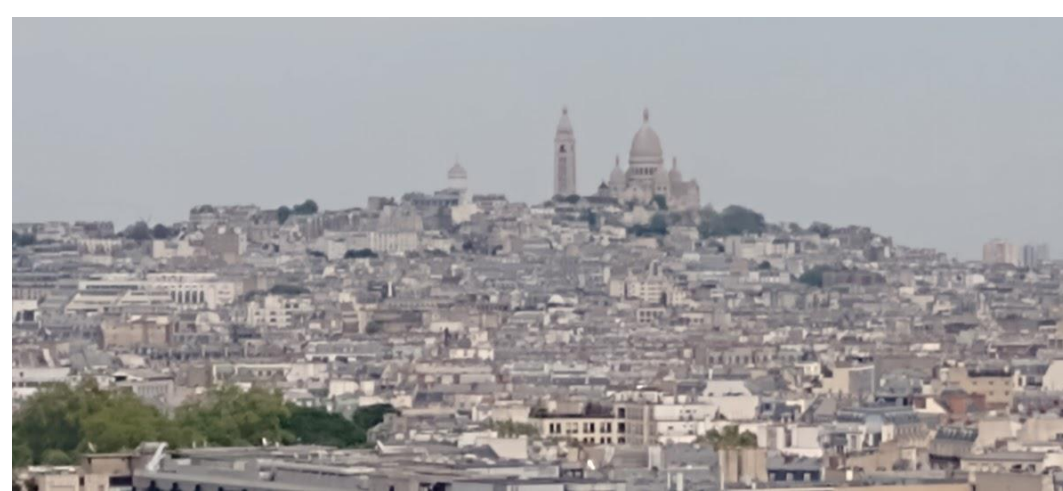


A fabulous lunch at La Jules Verne Restaurant on the 2nd level of the Tour Eiffel.





Great views
from atop the
Arc de
Triomphe.

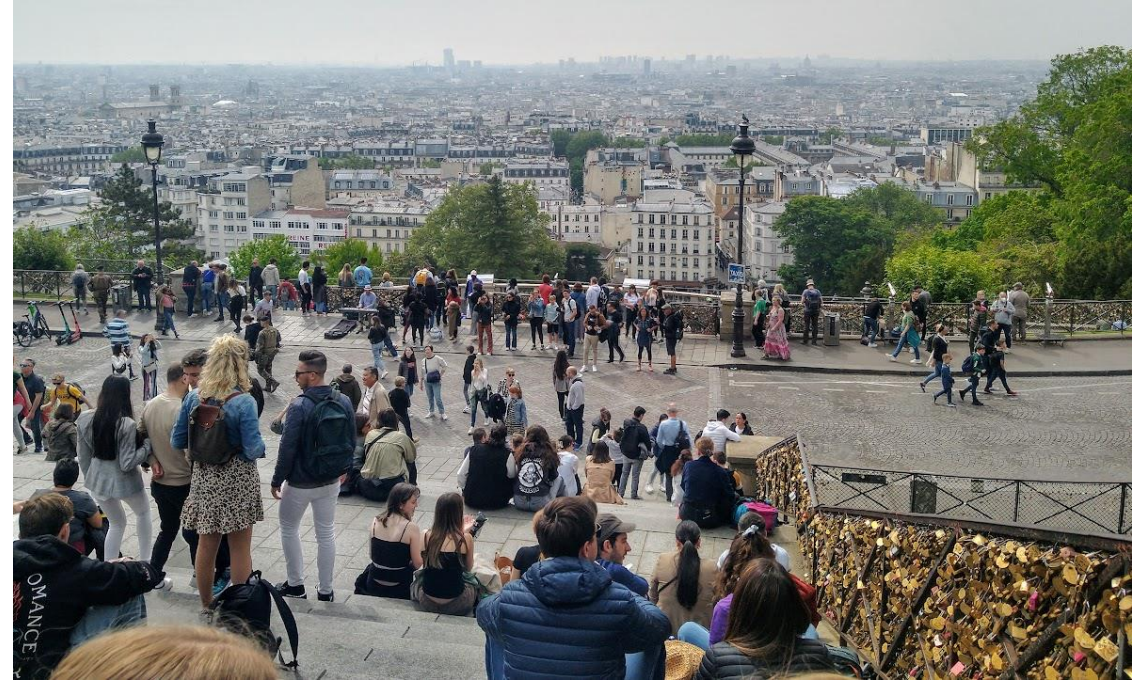




A delightful walk around Pigalle and Montmartre.

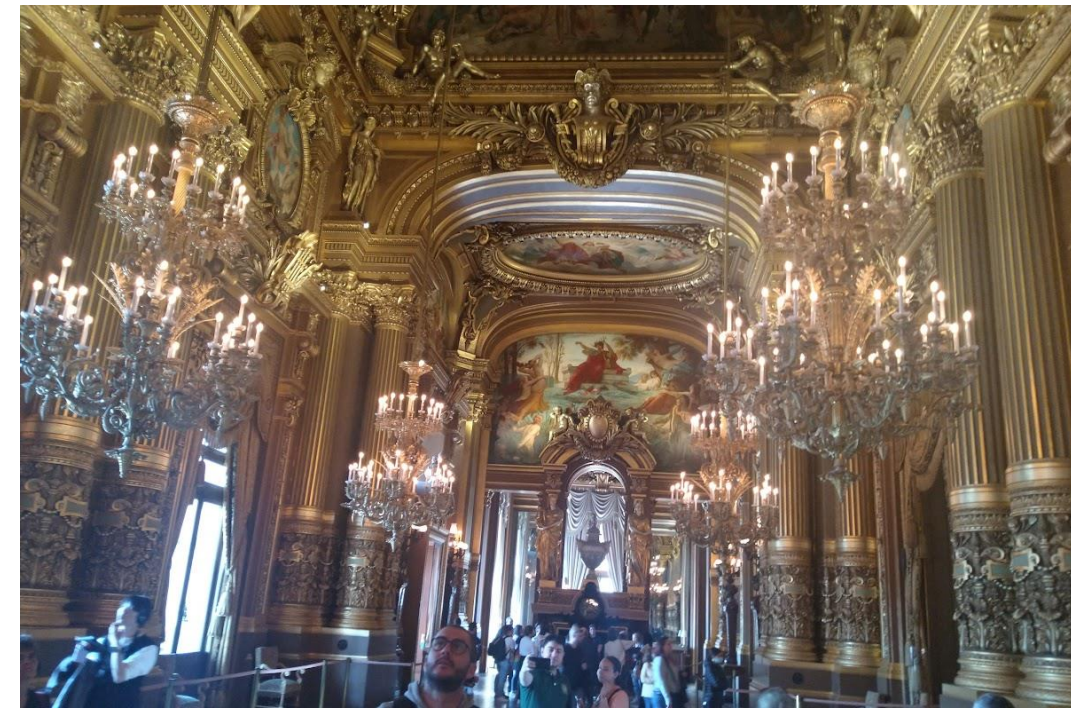
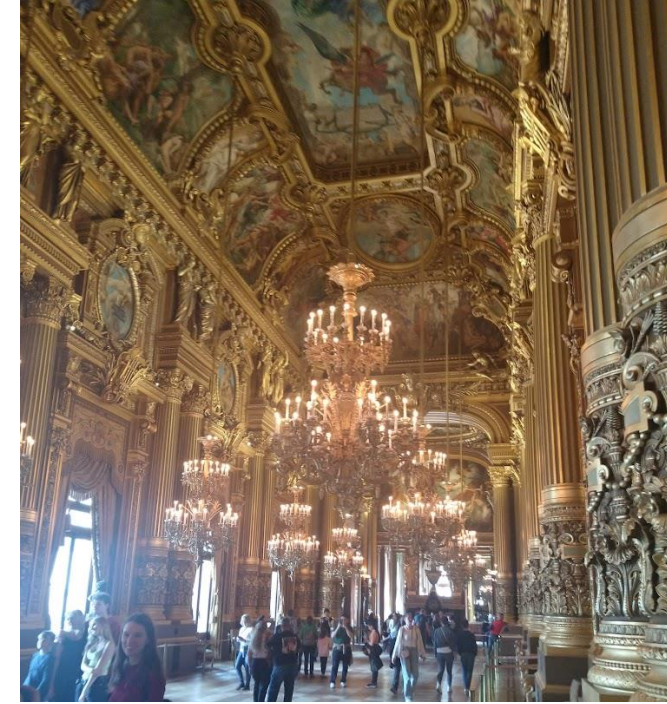


A funicular took us up the hill to Sacre Coeur.



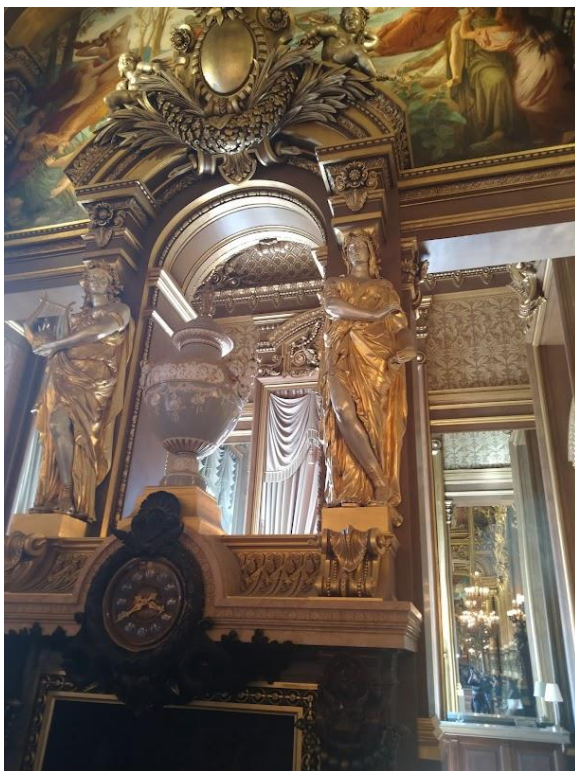
While Munro visits a high-class clock shop, Judi and I explore the grand, old, Opera House.

Unfortunately, the main hall is closed.



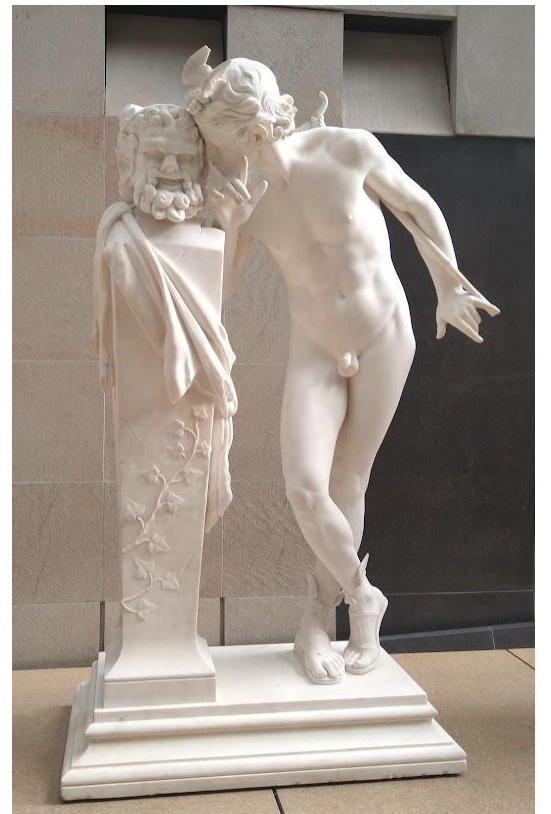


More in and
around l'Opera.





I went to the always amazing Musée d'Orsay by myself.





Some last images as we say "au revoir" to Paris.

