



BROOKLYN_BORN

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Which Way to Warsaw?

Friday, February 19, 2021



This is a footbridge over a river between Poland and Slovakia. We took our grandchildren (and their parents) there in 2014 to connect with their roots and meet their cousins.

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While we were able to WALK into Poland, the contract of our rental car did not allow us to DRIVE across the border. Good thing we didn't take a chance. This was the Slovak side of the border. While I have no problem reading signs or with basic communication, there was nothing to indicate this parking was only for residents.

They accepted my apology in my fractured Slovak, but visiting Poland would have to wait.



Fortunately, I am able to visit Poland now virtually with some Spark buddies while planning for the future.

Our virtual journey started out in London

Our family trip started in London too.

Our grandchildren and their Dad recreated that Abbey Road album.



Our family flew to our next destination
My Spark buddies and I “walked” across the Channel to Amsterdam



Joe and I have visited Amsterdam many times
Among the serene streets and canals there are reminders of the Nazi occupation during WWII. These bronze plaques in the sidewalk are memorials to those residents deported to concentration camps



The house where Ann Frank and her family were hidden is also along a canal

The next milestone on our virtual walk was Brussels, Belgium
Except for many times through the airport for a connecting flight, we have never been there.
From the photos and information on our virtual trek, this city will be added to our post Covid bucket list.



As we walked through Europe, there were continuous street views of the countryside and finally we crossed into Germany. Eventually our group reached Berlin

This is the famous Brandenburg Gate



We have visited Berlin several times, once even by bicycle. On one trip we took another set of grandkids (and their parents) to connect with history that was only known to them in textbooks and film. This section of the Berlin Wall is now maintained behind a barrier to prevent people from chipping off "souvenirs"



The most poignant memorials in the city include bronze plaques in front of the homes of those who were sent to their deaths and this little known set of sculptures near a railway deportation station. It includes a disinterested figure sitting on a bench some distance away representing the general apathy of people to what was going on around them.



It is 355 miles from Berlin to Warsaw.
It would take me 4 months to walk that far on my own.

We are almost there.
This is the view on the outskirts of Warsaw as far as my weekly steps got me.



BUT thanks to the steps of a spark buddy, we have reached Warsaw!
Definitely on my post Covid bucket list



That's exactly how Spark friends help us to reach all of our goals

Next we explore the countryside of Poland on our way north.
If anyone wants to see where all your steps would take you, come join us.

The website is www.worldwalking.org (it is free)
Once you register, search groups for Sparkpeople (there are several)
Ours was formed in 2020 and has a large bird in flight as its logo

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JSTETSER

I love poland! Thank you for your post. I haven't visited there in over 20 years!
103 days ago



POLSKARENIA

Maybe we can meet up when we both get to Lithuania or Poland again. Now that would be great!
103 days ago



DONNA_CPS2

What fun!! Thanks for showing us your pictures! I went to that same crossing in England just before the pandemic..
We passed Lennon, McCarney, and Ringo's streets. Maybe a church that one of them used to sing



in as a young lad!
103 days ago

AWESOME



AALLEY2

Loved this blog! thanks for sharing!
104 days ago



GRAMPIAN

Fascinating.
105 days ago

THANK YOU!



WANT2BTRIM

Thank you
105 days ago





MTN_KITTEN

105 days ago



SHAWFAN

I entered some 3000 steps just the other day but haven't been on since. My bad. Especially after the walk, we took yesterday. I'll get them added in as soon as possible. Hopefully, this week will be a nice week for walking outside. I know Carlie will love it. She's always begging for it. Thank you for sharing the great photos with us! Beautiful places for sure.

105 days ago



UPTOIT59

When my husband and I were married 28 years we celebrated our 25th anniversary with a walking tour of Tuscany- marvelous, and the only time, at the time that we had done anything like that. Of course I will not tell you what we came back to - 5 kids - 24 to 14, it wasn't all pretty, that is



another entire story unto itself, but it was worth it for the memories.

105 days ago



AKA_TROUBLE

I belong to two Spark groups on that site - love the walks and should post more often. One group is currently walking around the Med, the other is walking through southern Mexico, but the trail ends short of Cancun.

105 days ago



AZMOMXTWO

love it and thank you for sharing all the photos with the rest of us you are awesome

106 days ago



RACHNACH

KEEP SPARKING!

106 days ago



NANHBH

Very cool! Love the Abbey Road recreation!



106 days ago



JANROLG

I LIKE IT!

106 days ago



DEE797

Loved your blog and all the photos. Traveling vicariously through your blogs!

106 days ago



KITTYHAWK1949

THANK YOU! KEEP SPARKING!

106 days ago



ALIHIKES

Wonderful photos and wonderful memories of your trips. It will be so nice when we can travel again, but in the meantime, virtual traveling keeps our imaginations active!

106 days ago



JUNETTA2002

Thanks for sharing your virtual and real journey

106 days ago



THINCPL2004

Thanks for sharing your virtual tour of those great places! Been to a few of those can't wait to go back for real!

106 days ago





RHOOK20047



Thanks for sharing your pictorial tour. That is as close I will ever get there.
106 days ago



NASFKAB

Thank you for sharing your walk though its virtual now.
106 days ago



MSLZZY

106 days ago



THOMS1

What a trip! Great pictures!
107 days ago



PATRICIAAK

Love reading your adventures and how they link your passions.
Have you been to Cologne, Germany? 2 of my daughters represented Ohio in a marathon there in the 90's.
107 days ago



THROOPER62

107 days ago



PLCHAPPELL

Been to and in the Anne frank house a couple of times - so impressive to understand the context
107 days ago



ETHELMERZ

Very interesting story and pictures. I was born in Berlin, we immigrated here in 1950, happened to have some distant relatives here in California.
107 days ago



LIS193

Love your virtual trip!
107 days ago



SHAKERATTLEROLL

Thank you for again taking me on another beautiful journey to a place I have never been nor probably will ever be able to go.

How many places have Joe and you been to??
107 days ago



CHERIRIDDELL

I really enjoyed this many of the places were trips down memory lane for me. We lived in Germany when the wall fell. I have a piece of the wall in my china cabinet! My son-in-law is of Dutch heritage. I learned Dutch so I could speak to his Oma and Opa in their mother tongue.
107 days ago



MARYJEANSL

How fun to do a virtual trip when you can't do a real one! I have visited Amsterdam and Brussels, and Berlin, though not with enough time to do any of them justice. My biggest memory of Amsterdam is of walking out of the train station and having multiple young men asking me, "Want some hash?" Somehow, it didn't give me the best impression of the place.
107 days ago



NANANANA

Great journey. We were on a ship's excursion in Berlin but wandered Amsterdam on our own. Love your adventure.
107 days ago



BJAEGER307

How great you got to explore Europe plus take your grandchildren for them to experience the world. That is so great. What great memories for the both of you and your family. Happy travels in the future!





107 days ago



MSMOSTIMPROVED

I love the idea of a virtual walk. Are you using an app for your visit?
107 days ago



BKNOCK

AWESOME

107 days ago



DOVESEYES

Beautiful countries, memories not to forget, plans to see them in person a wonderful blog :)
107 days ago



LINDA!

This is so amazing. I love how they recreated the Abbey Road scene.
107 days ago



HAYBURNER1969

Hey, don't forget... Dad has been to Brussels! (with me, in 1989, for the symposium)
Great pictures and memories!
107 days ago



SAMMILESSACH

Holy cow! This is beyond awesome!!!!

It is amazing the places you have been! These virtual walks are awesome! I might go to check

those out!

107 days ago



WOOFERCOALBOY

I concur with everyone who liked your travelogue. More, more! And thank you.
107 days ago



DARLENEK04

What a terrific thing to be able to do, taking the family with you to visit.

I think I would like to go to Ireland, and no matter how long, I'd like to tour it from end to end and find the family roots....maybe meet someone who is a distant relative.

Love it.

107 days ago



ALEXSGIRL1



107 days ago



WHYNOTTRY45

AWESOME

107 days ago



QUARTERMASTER3

AWESOME

107 days ago



SCDALYNCH

Wonderful that you and family including the grandchildren get to meet relatives. My daughter traveled to Sweden with us on one of our trips.

Thank you for the photos and descriptions.




107 days ago



KOHINOOR2

Awesome! Thank you for sharing your beautiful virtual tour!



107 days ago



MORTICIAADDAMS

Nice pictures!!
107 days ago



HARROWJET

How nice that your family could travel together. Wonderful memories.
107 days ago



NANASUEH

Great travelogue!



107 days ago



JEANNESPARK

Thank you for the sharing your journeys, virtual and real, with us!
So enjoyable!



107 days ago



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