

Budget

Not much to say really except that we went massively over budget throughout the duration of our trip. Western Europe is very expensive and added to this we knew we were travelling in peak period where campsites were at their highest charge rates. Add to this - four of us travelling using 2 vehicles (re: ferries, campsite stays etc.).

We budgeted £120 - £150 per day to include ferries, campsite fees, food, diesel, site seeing - everything! In reality we spent £220 per day as we didn't anticipate the vehicle issues we incurred (almost £2K), subsequent unplanned hotel stays and resulting restaurant food. Disneyland was expensive at around £400 (£200 to get in) and all ferries taken (4 in total) were about £750 over the total 7.5 week period.

Back home, we also had normal bills over two months to contend with (i.e. mortgage) with no pay coming in (pre-planned unpaid leave from work).

All in all, a very expensive trip - we went at least 60% over our planned budget - and this has more than eaten into our big trip planned for 2010.

Would we change anything? Apart from wishing we'd won the lottery - No! - We had a great time, discovered and experienced lots of places, met nice people, learned loads and have some fantastic memories. Ultimately, we got to spend some really good quality time together outside of the normal 'day to day' - which was ultimately the purpose of our trip.

Four months later, we still look at the photos and the children (and us!) recall all kinds of experiences, details and things we did.