

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2009 (Days 31 - 32) - Valencia, Spain**



We visited Valencia today where there were lots of fountains. We all went on a tram. We searched and searched for somewhere to sit on the beach because it was so busy. I asked my mum if she could cut my hair and she did up to my shoulders and she did and I really like it.

This fountain of King Neptune, ruler of the sea was my favourite.

Our car broke again but we got it fixed.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2009 (Days 33 - 37) - Coast of Spain**



We spent a lot of time travelling along the coast of Spain. First to San Pedro then to Castell de Ferro near the Sierra Nevada mountains. We played a lot on the beach, got tattoos from crisp packets and got sun burned. We also stayed in a place called Aguilas and saw a huge firework festival at midnight. My mum got a speeding ticket for driving too fast.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009 (Days 38 - 42) - Morocco**



We arrived at Morocco by ferry from Algeciras. We saw the Rock of Gibraltar on the way. Spain was really hot but Morocco was even hotter. We arrived at Tangiers but weren't able to swim on the beach because of the Muslim religion.

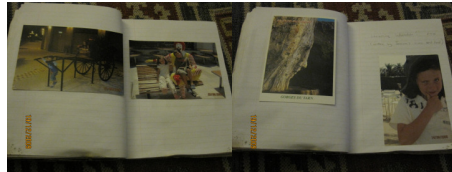
We stayed in Tangiers for one night and then got a train to Asilah and stayed for 3 nights in a guest house owned by an English lady called Christina.

We saw lots of camels, chickens, donkeys, dogs and cats. We got sore bottoms from taking a long journey by horse and cart to Paradise Beach, not far from Asilah.

Me, my brother and my mum got henna tattoos on our legs.

We saw a monkey called Linda in the market.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday 2nd September 2009 (Days 42 - 51)**



On the way back from Morocco we travelled back through Spain to the Pyrenees mountains.

We visited Burga, Andorra, Ax Les Thermes and Lourdes. Burga in Spain is famous for skiing and outdoor sports. Andorra is a country on its own with mountains around it. Ax Les Thermes is famous for its hot natural springs. We bathed our feet in the town square. The temperature was 70 degrees centigrade. Lourdes is famous for St Bernadette seeing St Mary visit her 18 times in total during the 1850's, over 100 years ago. The water there is believed to have great healing powers.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 (Day 52) - Going Home**

We finally made our way back from Bilbao in Spain, by ferry.

The journey took us over 34 hours by sea. Almost 2 days.

We had our own cabin.

A little boy had to be air lifted by helicopter to France because he had a very bad accident.

## Phrases Learned

Phrase	French	Spanish	Arabic
Hello	Bonjour	Ola	Labas
Thank you	Merci	Grathias	Shukran
Milk	Lait	Leche	Hlib
Yes	Oui	Si	Iyeh
Sugar	Sucre	Sugara	Sukhar
Excuse me	Excuse moi	----	Smeti Liya

## Interesting Information

(discussed with Jessica & AJ, mum and dad but written by mum)

We spent a total of 51 days in 3 different countries. We had to change our plans due to problems (breakdowns) with our vehicle as follows:

Country	Schedule	Outward	Return	Total
France	Planned	20	0	20
	Actual	27	4	31
	<b>Variance</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+11</b>
Spain	Planned	8	5	13
	Actual	10	6	16
	<b>Variance</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>+3</b>
Morocco	Planned	9	9	18
	Actual	3	1	4
	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-14</b>
Total	Planned	37	14	51
	Actual	40	11	51
	<b>Variance</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>0</b>

We spent 11 days more than planned in France and 3 days more than planned in Spain. We had only 4 days instead of the original 18 days planned to tour Morocco. I am glad we had less time in Morocco because it was too hot! Also because the campsies in France and the beaches in Spain were more fun. In Morocco it was difficult to swim in my swimming costume sometimes due to having to respect the Moroccan culture. Muslim women are not allowed to bare their arms, shoulders or legs as part of their culture and religion. Mum couldn't do any swimming and stay covered up. It was Ok for children though.

Not including ferries, coaches, trains and only using our car or hire vehicles, we drove a total of 5,086 miles. We think we covered about 6,000 miles in total.

### Places we Visited

We visited many places including the country Andorra which is sandwiched right in between Spain and France in the Pyrenees mountains. We did lots of sight seeing and swimming and cycling at lots of different places but stayed overnight at the following locations:

Days	Place	Country	Accommodation
7	Berny Riviere, Compiegne	France	Campsite
4	Sonzay, Loire	France	Campsite
3	Dieppe, Normandy	France	Hotel
1	Berny Riviere, Compiegne	France	Campsite
1	Lamote-Beauvron, Orleans	France	Hotel
3	Vitrac, Sarlat, Dordogne	France	Campsite
4	St Germain de Salle, Clermont Ferrand	France	House
4	Millau	France	Hotel & Campsite
3	La Torre de Fontaubella, Tarragona	Spain	House
2	Valencia	Spain	Hotel
1	Aguilas	Spain	Hotel
3	Castell de Ferro, Granada	Spain	Pension
1	Algeciras	Spain	Hotel
1	Tangier	Morocco	Hotel
3	Asilah	Morocco	Guesthouse
1	Castell de Ferro, Granada	Spain	Pension
1	Don Juan, Alicante	Spain	Hotel
1	La Torre de Fontaubella, Tarragona	Spain	House
1	Berga, Pyrenees	Spain	Hotel
1	Ax Les Thermes, Pyrenees	France	Vehicle
2	Millau	France	Campsite
1	Lourdes, Pyrenees	France	Hotel
1	Santurzi, Bilbao	Spain	Vehicle
1	Ferry	Sea	Cabin

Overnight stop points (excluding ferry home) = 23

Number of countries visited: 4  
(France, Spain, Morocco and Andorra)

Number of countries seen but not visited: 1  
(Rock of Gibraltar from Algeciras)

Number of Continents crossed: 2  
(Europe and Africa)

Number of time zones passed through: 4  
(UK - France, Morocco, Spain and finally back to UK)

Number of borders crossed: 8  
(England to France, France to Spain, Spain to Morocco, Morocco to Spain, Spain to Andorra, Andorra to France, France to Spain, Spain to UK)

### Types of Transport Used

Qty	Description	Where
1	Land Rover	France, Spain, Andorra
1	Caravan	France
4	Bikes	France
4	Ferries	France, Morocco, Spain, UK
1	Train	Morocco
1	Hire Van	France
1	Hire Car	Spain
6	Taxi Cabs	France, Spain, Morocco
2	Coaches	France
2	Trams	Spain
1	Shared Mini Bus	Morocco
2	Horse & Cart	Morocco
2	Canoes	France

### Total number of Vehicle Breakdowns: 4

Vehicle	Location	Fault
Car	Calais to Berny Riviere	Cam (Timing) Belt
Caravan	Dordogne to Clermont Ferrand	Tyre
Car	Clermont Ferrand to Valencia	Fuel Pump
Car	Aguilas to Castell de Ferro, Spain	Replacement part

		(initially gasket suspected)
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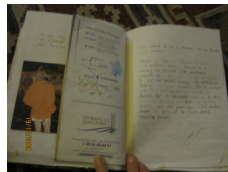
**Total Accommodation Types Stayed at: 6**

Accommodation Type	Number of times
Campsites	6
Hotels	10
Relatives	3
Pensions	2
Guesthouses	1
Vehicle	2

Remembering young soldiers who died in the war

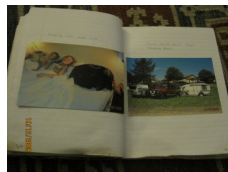


Ax Les Thermes France



We slept in the vehicle overnight because all the hotels were full. It was cold!

Sleeping with mad Lula & Famous vehicles which kept breaking down



## Interviewing Jessica

### Best things that happened on my trip:

- I learned to swim properly. I can swim underwater, do belly flops, handstands, cartwheels and swim a little bit in the deep end.
- Going to Disneyland and getting a driving license for driving a mini car
- Getting a henna tattoo in Morocco and seeing and holding a monkey
- Swimming and riding my bike
- Getting my mum and dad to buy me new orange trainers and some nice green shorts that I liked.
- Starting to prefer showers to baths

### Worst things that happened on my trip:

- Dad snoring, blowing bunnies (farting!) and slobbering
- Having to sleep in our vehicle for the night and getting cold because all the hotels were fully booked
- Our vehicle always breaking down
- Getting stomach aches, getting sick and having diarrhoea for days after visiting Morocco.
- Driving in the car for long periods of time.
- Hot weather
- Fighting with my brother

## The Family



THE END