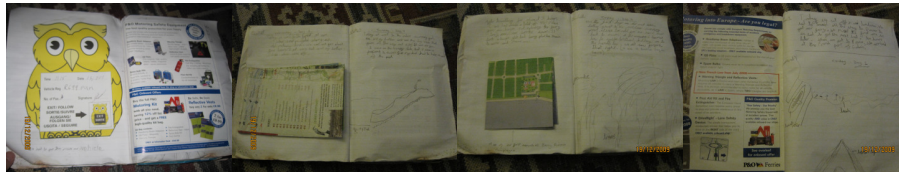


Jessica's Diary - Summer 2009



This summer holiday I am spending the whole holiday in France, Spain and Morocco (it is going to be so hot!). I am going with my mum and dad and my little brother. We are going for seven and a half weeks. We are travelling in a Land Rover and caravan (we are taking our bikes). We are crossing the English Channel.

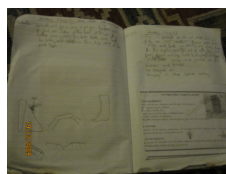
Monday 13th July 2009 (Day 1)



Today we set off in our Land Rover. We had to travel all the way to Dover to get our ferry. We missed the first one so we had to get the next boat, two hours later. When we got to France we arrived at the French port of Calais.

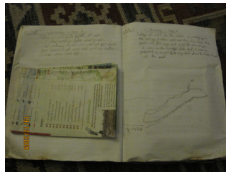
After driving for about 3 hours (we had driven a total of 351 miles from our house not including the ferry time), our car broke down. It took a huge flat bed lorry plus two taxis to come and rescue us.

Tuesday 14th July 2009 (Day 2) - Berny Riviere, Compiègne



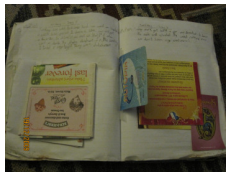
On the first day, me dad and little brother went to the outdoor swimming pool. It was too cold for me so I went back to mum at the caravan. I learned how to cycle without holding onto the handle bar. We all saw fireworks that night (it was St Bastille day in France).

Wednesday 15th July 2009 (Day 3)



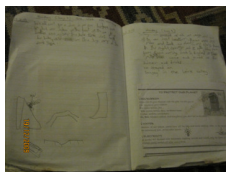
Today we went to the forest on our bikes. And we cycled along an old railway line. We were out for about four hours. I got very hot and my brother's bike chain came off.

Thursday 16th July 2009 (Day 4)



Today we went to the indoor swimming pool. Me and my brother went on the big slide that goes all the way outside! It was so fun. I went on the bumpy slide but I wasn't prepared to swim. So my dad had to help me out of the pool.

Friday 17th July 2009 (Day 5)



Today we went to Disneyland we went on buzzlightyear with laser gun ride. I drove a little car and got a licence to drive! How cool is that? I also went on dumbo the flying elephant. In the evening I tried frogs legs. They were delicious.

Saturday 18th July 2009 (Day 6)



Today mum got a hired car and scratched it down the side and smashed the wing mirror and now we don't have any wing mirror!

Sunday 19th July 2009 (Day 7) - One week into our trip

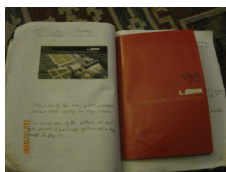
We all went for a drive in our new broken van. We had our bikes in the boot of the car. My brother was asleep the whole time. So I took his bike and rode on the big ramp there.

Monday 20th July 2009 (Day 8)



Today we packed up all our stuff and set off to our next location. It was over 200 miles and took us about five and a half hours. In the night George and Keith who were from Spain coming back to England on their motorbikes came and joined us for dinner and drinks. We stayed in Sonzay in the Loire Valley.

Thursday 23rd July 2009 (Day 11) - Azay le Rideau and Chenonceau



This is one of the many chateaux we have visited during our stays in France. This one was one of the prettiest and most fun because it had huge gardens and a big maze to play in.

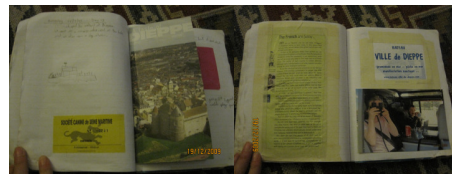
Friday 24th July 2009 (Day 12)



We arrived at Dieppe quite late this evening and stayed at a really nice hotel along the beach front. We were really glad to be able to sleep in proper beds for a change and have a proper bathroom all to ourselves.

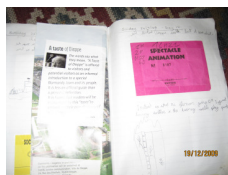
My brother asked if he was allowed to use the toilet and we had flat screen television.

Saturday 25th July 2009 (Day 13)



We spent the weekend at Dieppe. We went on a cruise and went on the beach and we also saw a dog show.

Sunday 26th July 2009 (Day 14)



We visited Dieppe castle but it was shut. Instead we spent the afternoon going on different bouncy castles in the bouncy castle play park.

Wednesday 29th July (Day 17) - Entry written by mum



We arrived to Vitrac, Sarlat in the Dordogne and met mum and dad's friends Lee, Helen and Bev who is aged 10. We spent the whole time on the campsite (3 nights and 2 days) doing lots of cycling and swimming. We had a good rest from all of the driving around the past few days.

Thursday 30th July 2009 (Day 18)



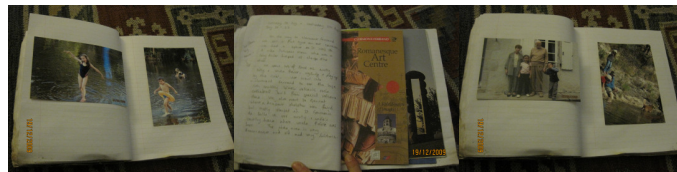
We also went canoeing in the Dordogne River. It was very hard because the current kept taking us back to the start.

Friday 31st July 2009 (Day 19) - St Germain, Clermont Ferrand



We were in the car for about 4 or 5 hours. We were heading for our grand aunt Kitty and grand uncle Pierre (our uncle Peter collects real swords).

Saturday 1st - Wednesday 5th August 2009 (Days 20 - 23) - Entry written by mum

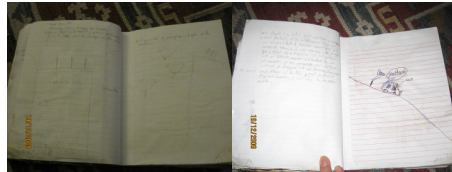


On the way to Clermont Ferrand we got a flat tyre on our caravan. We had a spare so it was OK. A nice Portugese man who was a lorry driver helped us change the wheel.

We spent lots of time at aunt Kitty's and uncle Pierre's cycling and playing by the river. We went into Clermont Ferrand to see the huge 12th century black volcanic rock cathedral. We also went to Gannat where a dinosaur skeleton was found but mostly stayed in St Gernain de Salle in our aunty

& uncle's country house where uncle Pierre was born. The whole area is very Romanesque and old and very historic.

Wednesday 5th - Sunday 9th August 2009 (Days 23-27)

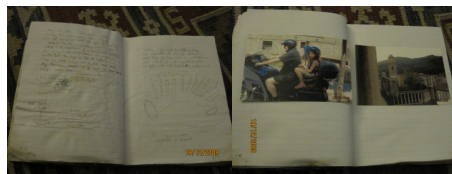


After we visited Clermont Ferrand we travelled onto Millau where the bridge in clouds is.

There were lots of paragliders high in the mountains.

We stayed at a hotel first and then a campsite. I liked the beds at the hotel because they were nice and warm. But I liked the swimming pool at the campsite because it was warmer. We stayed for a total of 4 nights. We had problems with our vehicle again and decided to leave our caravan at the campsite and carry on without it. Before we left Millau I learned to swim and dive into the pool without my armbands. I can also swim underwater.

Sunday 9th - Wednesday 12th August 2009 (Days 27 - 30) - Tarragona, Spain



We left France and drove into Spain to visit my aunty Breda. She has a holiday home in a tiny village in the mountains of La Torre de Fontaubella. There is a pool in the village where we went everyday. We also took the dogs on lots of walks. They are called Bonzo and Lula. Me and my brother had a go each on uncle Davy's motorbike.

On Tuesday it was my brother's 5th birthday. We celebrated with lots of presents, a night time barbeque where we pretended we were in the bush of South Africa. We had a cake with Felicidadas candles on it. Felicidadas means celebration in Spanish.

Thursday 14th - Friday 15th 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 15th - Tuesday 18th 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 19th - Sunday 23rd 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.

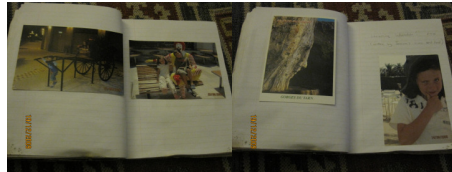
We stayed in Tangiers for one night and then got a train to Asilah and stayed for 3 nights in a guest house owned by an English lady called Christina.

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 23rd - 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 3rd 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
	Variance	+7	+4	+11
Spain	Planned	8	5	13
	Actual	10	6	16
	Variance	+2	+1	+3
Morocco	Planned	9	9	18
	Actual	3	1	4
	Variance	-6	-8	-14
Total	Planned	37	14	51
	Actual	40	11	51
	Variance	+3	-3	0

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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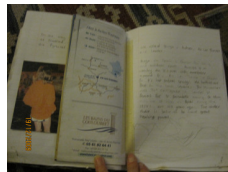
Total Accommodation Types Stayed at: 6

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

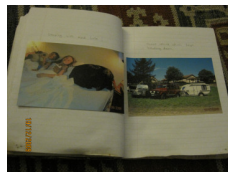


Ax Les Thermes France



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