

WWW.OVERLANDWITHKIDS.COM WHERE WE STAYED - OVERNIGHT STOP POINTS (SUMMER TRIP UK - MOROCCO 2009)

Actual No. Of Nights	Planned No. of Nights	Location	Accommodation Type	Accommodation Name	Justification
		FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE
1) 7 nights Mon 13- Sun 19 July (Days 1-7)	6 nights	Berny Riviere, Compiegne	Campsite	La Croix du Vieux Point	Planned stop which we had already booked before leaving the UK but stayed much longer than expected due to vehicle breakdown. Due to seriousness of the breakdown (cam belt snapped) and no repair date any day soon, we decided to hire a vehicle to help us to move onto next planned location. We placed caravan into storage in nearby Vic-Sur-Aisne. The plan being we would then return in a few days and collect vehicle from Amiens and drive back on ourselves into Berny again to collect caravan and then return hire car. Only reasonably sized hire vehicle available had to be collected from Eprenay - miles away in the Champagne region (more travelling off planned route but no great shakes).
2). 4 nights Mon 20 - Thurs 23 July (Days 8 - 11)	5 nights	Sonzay, Loire	Campsite	L'Arada Parc, 37360 Sonzay. Telephone 02.47.24.72.69 Website: www.laradaparc.com . Email: laradaparc@free.fr	Planned stop which we had already booked before leaving the UK. - used 9-seater hire vehicle (Renault Traffic) to house all equipment and bikes etc. and transport us to Sonzay. Vehicle hire provided by insurance company. We just had to pay for fuel.
3) 3 nights Fri 24 - Sun 26 July (Days 12 - 14)	NIL (we had hoped to visit Paris & Mont St Michel or both by this stage and/or the subsequent 2 days)	Dieppe, Normandy	Hotel	Hotel de la Plage	Unplanned. We were in fact heading for Amiens to collect vehicle but it wasn't ready as planned. We decided to head for the coast (Dieppe) as a reasonable location to stay for weekend. Insurance company paid for hotel for weekend while we waited to collect our vehicle the following Monday. Monday we headed for Amiens as planned
4) 1 night Mon 27 July (Day 15)	NIL (behind schedule as we had planned to be in Clermont Ferrand)	Berny Riviere, Compiegne	Campsite	La Croix du Vieux Point (as per previous)	Unplanned but from collecting vehicle at Amiens where we were finally re-united we then had to return to original arrival point where we started out in France (i.e. Berny Riviere) to collect caravan as we'd left in storage. We arrived early evening and the following day (Tuesday) we also had to return vehicle to Eprenay before finally being able to begin our trip 'proper' again.
5) 1 night Tues 28 July (Day 16)	NIL (as above)	Lamotte-Beuvron, Orleans	Guest House/Hotel	La Pergola	Unplanned - we just drove as far as we could to get back on our planned route and next planned stop point before it got too late to travel any further. Anne wanted to sleep in caravan on street (save money). Andrew didn't (worried about toilet for the kids etc.) so the La Pergola guest house (being nearest and only one open) was decided on.
6) 3 nights Weds 29 - Fri 31 July (Days 17 - 19)	5 nights	Vitrac, near Sarlat, Dordogne	Campsite	Le Soleil Plage	Planned. We had originally planned to visit Clermont Ferrand first but as we were running a bit late and had friends waiting, we switched our plans around slightly.
		FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE CONTINUED...
7) 4 nights Sat 1 - Tues 4 Aug (Days 20 - 23)	4 nights	St Germain de Salle, Clermont Ferrand	Homestay	Homestay	Planned but late arriving. We had planned to stay at La Grange Fort campsite in Issoire but cancelled this. Originally (as per above entry), we had planned to go Clermont first, then the Dordogne but as our itinerary was now bugged and we were running late, we switched our route plan around bit. While in Clermont we stayed with relatives. We got a flat tyre on our caravan en-route.

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8) 4 nights Weds 5 - Sat 8 Aug (Days 24 - 27)	1 night if that (we had planned to just pass through en-route to the Pyrenees before hitting Spain 'proper')	Millau, France	Hotel (2 nights) and Campsite (2 nights)	Deltours Hotel and Les Rivages campsite	Planned/unplanned stop. On arrival another issue with vehicle kicked in. Since repair Anne complaining could hear clicking sound - still not right - as if still issue with the belt but thought she was over reacting. Issue this time coming from what appeared to be the fuel pump. Engine boiling hot too and both vehicle and caravan have been struggling up all the steep, windy motorways and roads to get here from Clermont. We overtook nothing and could do only 10mph uphill. Decided to head straight into Millau and stopped right outside a hotel. It was getting late and the kids were getting tired. All hungry so we decided not to argue about staying in the hotel right next to where we were parked. We hung out for an extra night (getting used to good food and a nice pool) before calling a mechanic without joy (wanted to take vehicle away and we didn't know for how long) and then 'limping' to the other end of Millau to the campsite there. From here and conscious of time left on our trip, we decided to place caravan into storage on the campsite itself and continue to struggle on with faulty vehicle into Spain.
		SPAIN	SPAIN	SPAIN	SPAIN
9) 3 nights Sun 9 - Tues 11 Aug (Days 28 - 30)	3 nights	La Torre de Fontaubella, Tarragona	Homestay	Homestay	Planned but we should have arrived the previous weekend in time for the village fiesta. By now we should be almost at the other end of Spain heading for Algeciras to cross by ferry to Morocco. Vehicle still losing power but relief not to have caravan while this issue continues. Stayed with relatives.
10) 2 nights Weds 12 - Thurs 13 Aug (Days 31 - 32)	NIL (though would have stayed somewhere in Spain en-route to Algeciras)	Valencia	Hotel	Hotel Ronda, El Puig	Unplanned and we had arrived late. Earlier that day on leaving Tarragona we had phoned a garage (British Cars S.L.) ahead in an attempt to get vehicle fixed en-route and this tactic worked. We stayed overnight and vehicle was fixed next day - same day we brought to garage. We stayed an extra night before moving on. Very nice place - beaches all good - El Puig especially. Evening time plenty of barbeques
11) 1 night Fri 14 Aug (Day 33)	NIL	Aguilas	Hotel	??? can't remember name	Unplanned. Drove as far as we could having spent day on the beach (San Pedro) en-route first. Started to get late so headed for Aguilas along the Costa Calida. Chose the busiest day of the year to arrive. Place was heaving with people with a massive firework festival on the harbour front. Couldn't get into hotel until after midnight as no parking spaces in town. Spent evening feeding ourselves in restaurant then driving around waiting for a parking space to become available. Anne could still hear ticking sound like from the cam-belt.
12) 3 nights Sat 15 - Mon 17 Aug (Days 34 - 36)	NIL (though 1 night planned near to Malaga)	Castell de Ferro, Granada	Pension	Costa Sol	Unplanned. We were heading along the coast for Malaga, or thereabouts, when something happened with the Land Rover. Felt like something had broken or dropped off the rear axle as we were driving through a tunnel through the mountainous coastline of the Sierra Nevada. Gearbox shaking furiously. Vehicle unsafe to drive. Pulled into a small garage to let the engine cool and have a look. No improvement. Man directed us to a little beach town with beach Castell de Ferro - a couple of minutes away from where we had stopped. As the weekend, unlikely to find mechanic until Monday. Children and us needed the beach and a break. Lots recommended a local garage so decided to plump for this (Emilio Sanchez Barranco). On the Monday we phoned insurance company and arranged another hire car (a taxi took us inland into Granada city centre to collect) on realising we would not see our own vehicle again for about a week (suspected gasket failure but on further investigation turned out instead to be a fault related to the initial Amiens garage who had not fixed initial cam-belt problem correctly. Anne's

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					tick, tick ticking noise finally resolved).
13) 1 night Tues 18 Aug (Day 37)	1 night	Algeciras	Hotel	Reina Christina? Need to check name	With no caravan (in Millau, France) or Land Rover (in Castell, Spain), we decide to head for Algeciras using hire car. Hotel very near to port so decided we would leave vehicle near hotel and make our way to ferry for Morocco as foot passengers the next day. Spent day and evening at nice but busy industrial surrounded beach there.
		MOROCCO	MOROCCO	MOROCCO	MOROCCO
14) 1 night Weds 19 Aug (Day 38)	NIL (though we had planned to head for Cueta with car and caravan)	Tangiers	Hotel	Hotel Bristol	About 11 days late and vehicle-less we finally set foot on Morocco soil with just us and 2 small overnight bags (a far cry from how we had started out). Not quite as planned but we landed - yahoo!!!
15) 3 nights Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Aug (Days 39 - 41)	NIL (though planned to be somewhere in Morocco)	Asilah	Guesthouse	Christina's House	Unplanned stay. We should have been heading for Fes by vehicle. Instead we took a train from Tangiers to Asilah - a small fishing village - much nicer for the children. We have only a few days before heading back to Spain to collect vehicles from Spain and France and then our route to catch ferry to UK.
		SPAIN	SPAIN	SPAIN	SPAIN
16) 1 night Sun 23 Aug (Day 42)	NIL (should still be in Morocco)	Castell de Ferro, Granada	Pension	Costa Sol (as previous)	We head here after collecting hire car from Algeciras following ferry trip back to Spain. Purpose is in order to collect Land Rover the following day, return hire car to Granada and then head straight toward Millau to collect caravan.
17) 1 night Mon 24 Aug (Day 43)	NIL (should still be in Morocco)	Alicante	Hotel	Holiday Inn	Successful collection of Land Rover and return of hire vehicle and we travel on. Eventually arriving in Alicante where we decide to spend the night and very late check-out next day so children can enjoy the pool before moving on.
18) 1 night Tues 25 Aug (Day 44)	As above	La Torre de Fontaubella, Tarragona	Homestay	Homestay	Children un-well and plenty of toilet visits. Rest up back with family en-route back to Millau for 1 night, leaving very late the next day.
19) 1 night Weds 26 Aug (Day 45)	As above	Berga, Pyrenees	Hotel	Hotel Estel	Campsite is fully booked and we are too late to look for alternatives. It's the Estel or nothing and as virtually all the places we've stayed, it's very nice.
		FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE
20) 1 night Thurs 27 Aug (Day 46)	As above	Ax Les Thermes	On Street	On Street	We park up and sleep in Land Rover and use public toilets in town.
21) 2 nights Fri 28 - Sat 29 Aug (Days 47 - 48)	As above (should be heading up centre of Spain from Morocco)	Millau	Campsite	Les Rivages (as previous)	We arrive late afternoon, collect caravan and pitch on site. We stay for 2 nights so we can do chill and do some washing etc. We have the campsite virtually to ourselves (end summer kicking in).
22) 1 night Sun 30 Aug (Day 49)	As above	Lourdes	Guesthouse/Hotel	Campinile Lourdes? Need to check name	We dashed up through France alongside the Pyrenees before stopping at Lourdes for the night. No issues with vehicle or caravan. Too late to book campsite. Could have stayed on street but none of us keen.

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		SPAIN	SPAIN	SPAIN	SPAIN
23) 1 night Mon 31 Aug (Day 50)	1 night	Santurzi	On Street		Looked everywhere for campsite. When found - closed down and dilapidated. Stayed on street at port overnight in time to catch ferry next day
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1 night Tues 1 Sept(Day 51)	1 night	Ferry	Ferry	Ferry	Homeward bound from Bilbao (Spain) to Portsmouth (UK)