

Lucca's City Walls and more - October 23, 2017 - Lucca, Italy

This morning's first stop was the Lucca Botanical Gardens. The gardens were more like a park than most of the botanical gardens we have visited over the years. We spent a pleasant half hour just wandering the paths before we left to walk the city's wall.



City walls are not like your backyard wall. The first thing a city wall always surprises me with is its width. I remember the evening in Xi'an, China and I decided to walk a portion of the city wall. This city wall was built to accommodate 20 horses abreast to move from point to point on the wall. Again, not the width of your typical backyard wall.

Lucca's current city wall was built in the 16th and 17th century. The wall is about 36 feet high and 13 feet wide. Before this wall there were two other walls with the earliest being built 200 years before Christ.

We are standing on a bastion looking back at another (the pop out in the middle left of the photograph). The city is to the left of the wall and the open area to the right, and surrounding over half of the walled city, is used as a city park.



We spent an hour or more leisurely walking the wall before taking a set of steps down and back into the city. This desert born guy just can't help but take photos of cactus.



Everybody loves cactus including apparently the Italians.

We stopped in front of a museum and Nancy finally said, “Ooooh-kay, I know you are dying to go in”. Yes, the Torture Museum. Needless to say, Nancy went through it a lot faster than I did.

Are you tired and need a little “rack” time?



Note the roller in the center to help sooth those tense back muscles.

And we all have read about the Iron Maiden.



Museums are great to go to because you always learn something new. Such as, the Iron Maiden of Nuremberg is probably the most famous Iron Maiden but was

destroyed in a bombing raid in 1944. Glad to be of help in filling in the blank spots you may have in culture and history.

We continued our walk through the stone streets of Lucca and it seemed there was something to stop and look at every few steps.





This wall painting has a renaissance look but there is something that I can't put my finger on that makes me think this isn't all that old a painting.







This sign reminded us we needed a lunch break.



We chose one of the many tables and ordered lunch and a half-liter of red wine.



About mid afternoon we wandered back to our room to rest up for an evening walk and dinner. We chose the Trattoria da Leo for dinner. Lonely Planet says, "A much-loved veteran, Leo is famed for its friendly ambience and cheap food". No reason to go any further into the write up after reading "cheap food".

And yes, they have red wine.



For the most part we have stayed healthy during our travels. I was sick in India. Wine is not a common drink in India. Connecting the dots I must admit I am becoming a believer in that old saying, "A bottle of wine a day will keep the doctor away".