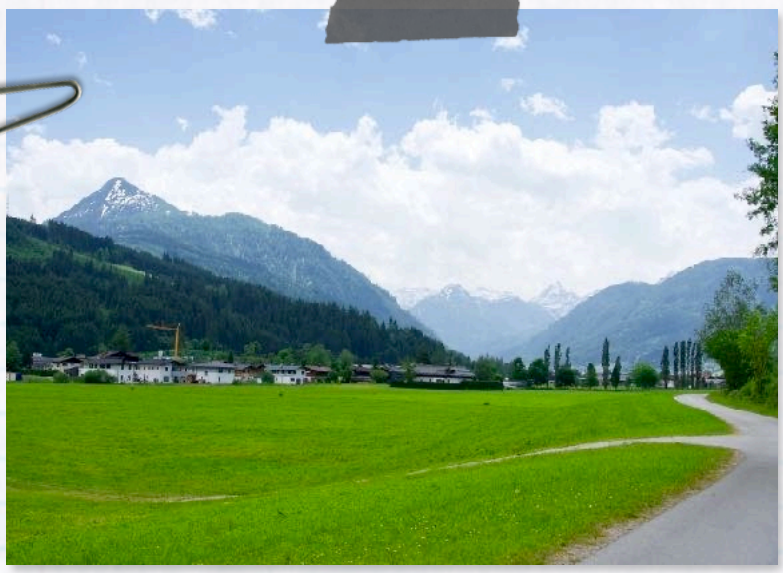
AUSTRIA



Altenmarkt

Deciding to stay another day here was a great idea. We rode into town early and managed to arrange haircuts for tomorrow plus get some food. On our return we did some van cleaning and generally enjoyed our spot beside the tinkling fresh water fountain. The water is freezing - as I discovered when I did some hand washing.

A ride was a perfect way to experience this rural environment. We are in a wide flat valley here, surrounded by mountains. The higher ones are still snow capped. After leaving the town environs we followed the river on a beautifully formed bike path. It went for kilometres. A snow melt stream hurtled beside us and the hills sported stately homes in the traditional Austrian style of render below and timbered upper stories. These homes are typically very large - maybe they house multiple generations. The fields are currently being cut for hay. The aromas of cut grass and of cow poo drifted from the fields and huge sheds. Some of the fields were covered in wild flowers. A great ride. The rest of the afternoon was given over to reading, writing and sleeping. "Life is about the journey, not the destination" - who said that?

Ambling along at our own pace …….

PHOTOS