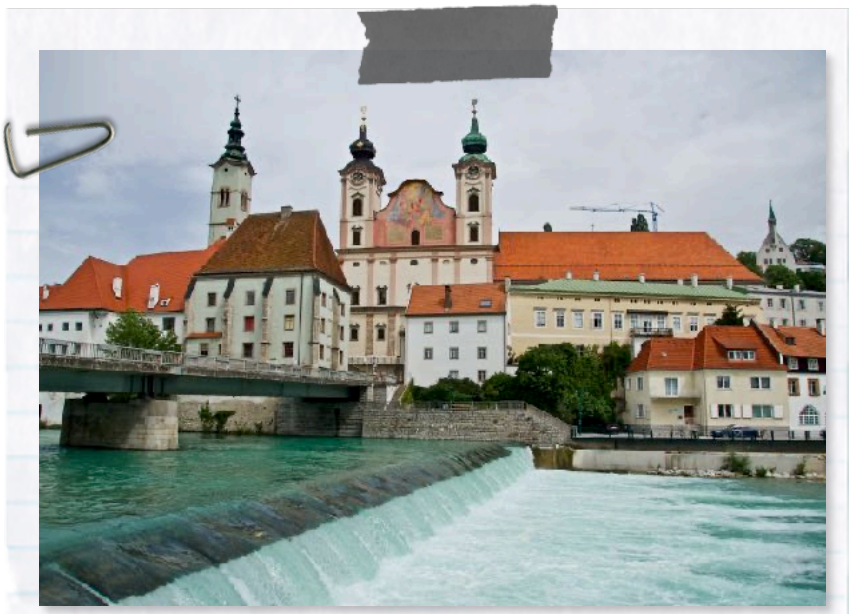
AUSTRIA



Segue

I can still remember first seeing this clever method of transport. Two wheels and a gyro to keep people upright. Bend forward to move and bend back to stop. Simple and clever. The technology pundits kept forecasting that this novel form of transport would change the world as we know it. Well it didn't, did it? We still see them in a few places. They still make people turn around and marvel at man's ingenuity. But they are far from being ubiquitous. What we have today is small groups of tourists paying to use them as a quirky method of seeing a town.

Steyr

It only took us 15 minutes to get into town from our camping place in the forest. We got a park right near the old town so went off on our bikes. Such a dramatic scene awaited us as we turned the corner to the bridge over the river(s). Two rivers - the Steyr and the Enns meet at that point. The convergence was so obvious because the Steyr is a lovely turquoise colour and the Enns is like milk starting to go mouldy. The rivers are running so wildly. It is no surprise to read that the town has suffered severe flooding many times in its past.

The buildings along the river and those looking into the Stadt Platz (main square - that was repaired after WW11) were very varied in their design and decoration. Beautiful. Steyr is about to celebrate its 1030th birthday.

We rode the various streets, got some nice chicken kebab "things" for tea in a specialty butcher shop and put some more time on our parking ticket. It was then up to the top of the town. The Schloss Lamberg sits pretty between the two rivers and provided a great view over the town. Being a Saturday we once again spied 3 wedding parties on our ride - one was being held at this rather grand location. We then made our way out of town and found a lovely shady place to camp. Unfortunately we were requested to move on by the police - a first for us. We ended up in a quiet but expensive camping park by the river. A thunderstorm has cooled things off.

FIT FOR PURPOSE? Long horns work well as back scratchers for goats. Just the right implement for getting at that pesky ichy place.

MONSTER DOG We both did a double take. Not sure of the breed but must admit we talked about the cost of feeding this massive beast.

PADLOCKED Weird trend creeping into every country we travel - locks are padlocked onto wire on bridges. Looked interesting at first - now its just stupid.

Beautiful confluence of two rivers …….

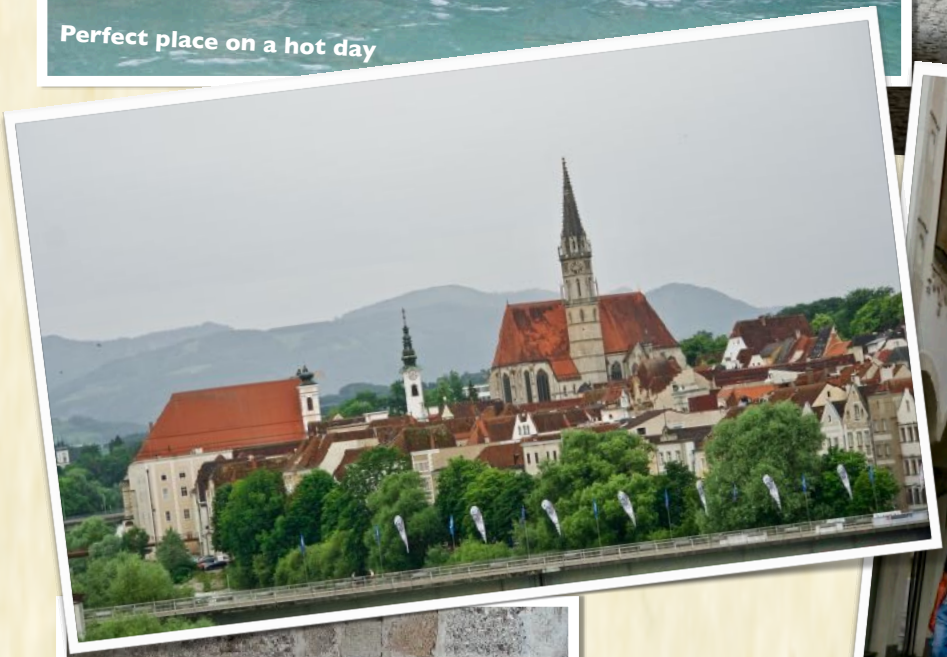
Note the obvious line where the two rivers join.

Found a wonderfully shady private spot. Neighbours must have complained. Told to move on by the authorities. Bugga

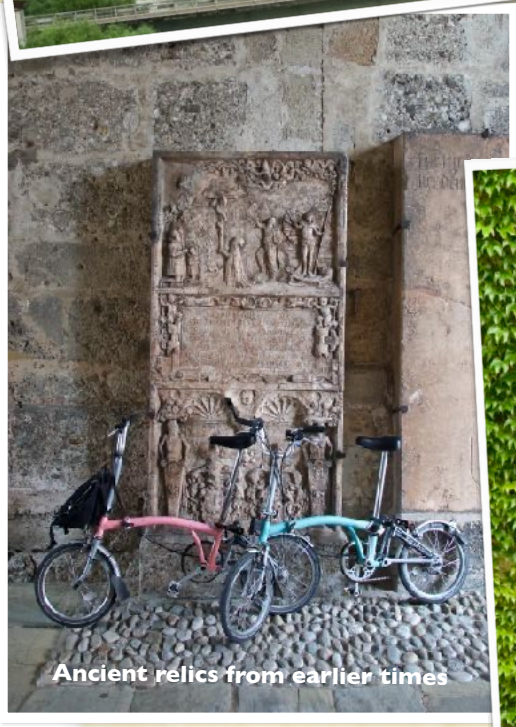
Flood heights over the years. Highest point 1572. Highest for recent centuries - 2002.

STEYR

Perfect place on a hot day



Steyr's main street.



Ancient relics from earlier times

STEYR

STEYR