

# 20 June Paris for a day....

Well a early start again. no brekky at the hotel, wanted to get to London. The bus arrives, and drops me off at the South airport terminal. There , I know the place now, headed tot he train staion to buy a ticket, and then board the "Gatwick Express" - which it is as the next stop was Victoria Staion, where I go tthe 'tube to Green PArk to change to a Picadilly line train to StPAcreas staion.



There I wandere dup one end to see where to check in, then back tot he other end to store my luggage, they have a baggage storage service so that menat I only had me and the camera. I then wandered back to the ticket area, printed my boarding passes, and then went through the customs etc tot he waiting lounge, much like a airport.



40 minuteds later the train was called much like a flight is. Because seats are allocated there was really no rush. To my dismay I got the seat allocation wrong, I had a rear facing window seat, but only 1/2 the window was useable, almost the same a aircraft viewing position. Still I were in the leadin passcar at the leading side, ie noone behind me except the driver !!!

My ride to Paris, ready to go

We took off, my first true high speed train. I believe the Eurostar is not as fast as other European Fast trains. Fast enough for me ! It was not too long before the Chunnel, after 15 minutes in a tunnel, one knew where one was ! Then daylight and France.



In the chunnel... not a lot t see







My ride in Paris.



Drama the the end of the line I had just walked out and remembered my boarding passes, on the seat, the security guard refused to let me back, even though I had just passed him, but I asked and asked and gave him my cameras as insurance, and he relented so I dashed to the train, 30 meters max as it was the first carriage, got the papers and dashed back, thanked the guy and got my camera. Later I found I could have printed it again, but at the time.

So what did I see of France? the station, a quick walk outside, around the corner, then back into the concourse. Sat down for lunch, took my time then went to book in for the return trip. All nice and easy. Used up most of my remaining Euros too by a nice chocolate ice cream. Then time to board.



This time the sea was good, on the other side of the train about 7/10th down the train from the Paris end. Presently we were off and more photos and video taken as we left Paris. Being the other side of the train I had a new view all the way back. No problems back at London where I went to get my hand luggage. I spied a small trolley I bought on sight, the bag was heavy to lug around, a great decision.

So it was off to the tube to return to T5 terminal at Heathrow. a wait for the bus and to the Ramada Hotel, where I booked in for the night and reclaimed my main bag. Then settling in I went for Dinner, then up to type this. Tomorrow I'll send it from the lobby as there is wifi down there.

So the last day in the UK looms.



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Back on the tube, note how platform levels were so different - in this case a high platform, a level platform. There were lower platforms too

One had to be careful when entering/exiting the tube !

