

6 Day trip To Malvern and Back 2023

Also known as don't forget the seat

Our next trip starts on the 22nd September and although this is a longer trip than our most recent trip it is not as long as most of our other trips. I suppose there is one good thing about that for anyone reading it, as it won't be a long read. The planned route is as usual is subject to change while we are on route but at the moment the trip will take us to Telford, Kidderminster, Malvern, Ludlow and a probably a few more places one the way there and back. We will keep you updated and let you know why this 6 day trip started, its safe to say that it has got something to do with someone, well me not reading things properly, Doh!

Day 1 22nd September

Here we go day 1 and it didn't start off bad considering that we didn't get Gloria packed up yesterday as we had our grandson yesterday and then last night we did Barb's charity food collection run. Considering that we had to pack Gloria this morning we still managed to leave home by 10.30 which for us is not a bad result at all, the weather isn't that good, just after 8am the rain was torrential if not monsoon, as we leave it is just pouring down instead of torrential, Barb is going to drive the first stint the first decision is wether to use our wonderful M6 or to head across country either on the A41 or A49 we check Google maps and it tells that there are no major delays on the M6 and at present that is the quicker route so motorway it is. Onto the M62 and after joining the M6 the weather isn't that bad but it gets worse much worse Mr torrential has made a return and seems to be following us, it certainly is not the best driving conditions we get to Sandbach and Barb has had enough and decides to swap seats even if she has got to put up with me driving. We leave the services and after being back on the motorway for less than 5 minutes the law of sod pops up, the rain stops and the sun comes out but its only kidding us and the torrential rain is back, this continues for the rest of the journey to Telford. We arrive in Telford at about 12.30, first job let's find somewhere to park after finding a number of car parks all with height restrictions we eventually find an open car park and hey it's £1 an hour, make note of that Liverpool One car park. The rain that had stopped decided to bucket down again just as we decide to get out of Gloria. Now Telford is not what I expected and to cut things short, basically we didn't stay long. Barb has found a pub stop over not far out of town and just outside Ironbridge which we had intended on visiting this afternoon but the weather has put a stop to that, hopefully we will be able to visit before we head off to Kidderminster, I will tell you tomorrow why we are going to Kidderminster I will say that it is by a small error by someone. On route to the stop over we find a tile museum that Barb fancies visiting, now as I am not a great fan of looking at old tiles I give it a miss and at £10.50 a ticket for less than an hour I am glad I did.

We arrive at the Half Moon Inn stopover which is situated on the banks of the river Severn which due to the amount of rain that has been falling is in full fast flowing flood, I head into the pub to book in and my way in there are 2 gents sitting outside and they ask me what I thought of the river, well it's wet, full of water and moving fast was the thought that came to mind, but I refrained and just said it's flowing quickly, they explained that they were thinking of going fishing and asked what I thought, I am not sure why they thought that I would know anything about fishing other than I like fish and chips but cod is a sea fish so that rules that out, anyway my response this time was that I thought any fish in that river would be half way to the Bristol Channel, I am not sure what they thought of that as there was no reply. I head into the bar to check that we were ok to stay overnight, yep that's not a problem, you pay £15 deposit which is taken off your food or drinks bill which I think is fair. Obviously there is temptation behind the bar in the form of beer pumps but as it is only just after 4pm that could be very dangerous so I head back to Glo to attempt to level her up as the car park is on a definite incline, Barb watches as Glo is taken as high as possible on the ramps and she is still not level but it ain't going to get any better and it's only for one night, so if you plan to use this as a stop over bring ramps, big ramps. All set up it's time for a read and a bit of internet stuff while the temptation of visiting the bar is put on hold until 6pm at the earliest (booked a table for 7pm) very pleasant pub and friendly staff, the foods ok but not going to win any culinary competitions, then it's back to Glo for a read and a catch up of some much needed sleep, until tomorrow that's your lot.

Day 2 23rd September

Today's destination is Kidderminster and I did say that I would tell you why this trip was all about going to Kidderminster but before I tell you the story we had an unplanned stop before we get there, but before we can go anywhere we need to prepare Glo for departure. First job tidy up second job drive Glo off the levelling ramps, the ones that were not high enough for her to be level on this car park. With everything ready for departure we head off to Iron Bridge, I suppose to see a bridge albeit an old and important bridge that when completed in 1779 it was the first Cast Iron bridge in the world. It's an impressive thing that is still looking good after standing there for 250ish years. The town itself is more of what I was expecting from Telford, not a M&S, Young Look, Primarny and the other high street stores in sight just local stores and there is also a fair amount of eateries and establishments selling alcohol. When we arrived we found a massive car park that is only a stone's throw from the bridge and you can park overnight for free, if we had known this yesterday we would have stayed there, plus points are it's flat, plenty of space, close to the town with a choice of eateries and take away's and we wouldn't have got mugged going to the tile museum, oh well we know for next time.



After a tea, coffee and a snack we head off to Bridgnorth to have a look around, when we arrive we find that it is market day which should make things more interesting however there is always a but. This but was that the car park that was being used was probably the one that was best suited for Glo to be parked in, no height barriers, plenty of space and long bays, next job car park hunt. The first one was rammed and there was definitely no room for Glo, now this might be interesting as when we drove in we had to get a ticket before the barrier would raise which meant that we would have insert the ticket get out, would it raise without expecting payment or was there going to be a long queue behind us while we sorted it out, upon insertion of the ticket the barrier raised, good job it did. After a drive around and just as we were about to admit defeat we find a space at the side of the road that allowed 40 minutes free with just enough space to get Glo into. I don't know why but I thought Bridgnorth was flat however I was totally wrong and after hiking up the north face of the Eiger we reach the town centre and the market place. Again I had built up my expectations of this market expecting to find stalls selling interesting hand made goods from the local area, but these expectations soon came crashing down to earth when it became obvious that it was full of the same old tat as other markets, I could have stayed at home and gone to Greaty sorry Great Homer Street Market and seen the same M&S seconds and cast offs. After a walk round we did find one local stall full of interesting and reasonable priced items so we made a purchase of a 750ml of Hammerite paint in a lovely copper colour, it will look great on display for Christmas, if this is as exciting as it gets it must be time to leave.

Next stop Kidderminster and confession time the reason this trip started in this direction was a little bit of an online shopping experience from a well known auction site. Not sure if you have seen the tv show about his glamping site and the purchase of an aging bus that he purchased from the same auction site when he had a couple of drinks to many and then realised that it was in Malta. Well luckily my purchase was not a bus and the item was not in Malta. It is actually a baby seat for Lucas but not any baby seat it is a red baby seat with a Ferrari emblem and it was in Kidderminster not Malta but it was collection only, that will teach me to read advertisements properly, anyway after a visit to the sellers house it has been collected and is now taking up space in Gloria.



Now to go and a look at Kidderminster, we drove into town looked unsuccessfully for a suitable car park so we left, the sun was shining and it seemed a shame not to be parked up sitting in the sunshine, time for interweb searching for a site and we found a Camping and Caravan club site for £22 which was about 30 minutes away, that will do us booked, paid for and on our way. Twenty minutes later and we arrived, now what should have been an easy booking in process turned out not to be, we get to a stop sign and stop then we see a sign on the office door that says open at 4pm as its 2.30pm this could be a pain, as we are parked in the middle of the drive and there are no signs saying the usual "new arrivals wait here" I beside to move forward a park in a more convenient position while I look if there is any further information on the office door. As I am looking for a phone number or some other helpful information a lady arrives, I say hello and her response was "can I ask why you didn't stop at the sign" I think here we go again someone has been given a badge and is in jobsworth mode. I explained that I had actually stopped at the sign but given the time on the door it seemed sensible to park in a more convenient space, huff have you booked online, yes I have, I can't find you on the list of arrivals, I only booked 30 minutes ago, huff again there you are, yes I am standing in front of you well that's what I wanted to say, fortunately before I completely see my arse, she says ok I will show you to a pitch huff, if you don't want to do the job then don't work for the self named "Friendly Club" bloody jobsworth, keep cool you're on your hollybobs. We are soon parked up with Gloria's n/s/r corner parked exactly in line with the marker post as per instructed, I was going to be pedantic and say can't I park with o/s/f corner parked in line with the post but I did refrain myself, anyway 10 minutes later Gloria is level, chairs and table are out in the sunshine and the kettle is on. After tea has been taken it's time for a very short walk to a public house which is on the side of the canal and is surprisingly named The Lock Inn we get our drinks and sit outside in the warm sunshine overlooking the canal, after one just the one Mrs

Wembley we return to Glo for an alfresco dinner and really that's your lot until tomorrow.

Day 3 24th September

A bit of a late departure this morning as we want to get our money's worth of the site, surprisingly when we do leave Mrs Jobsworth is not at the barrier to wish us farewell, our first stop is going to be Worcester there is not a great deal of places on route so it is straight down the A449 for a quick 45 minute trip. As Worcester is a larger town, parking is not a great problem and the car park even has spaces for larger vehicles, proper result, it's unfortunate that the weather is against us and making it unsuitable for going for decent country walks and we are just stopping at various towns that we have not been to before and may have some interesting streets and buildings. For us the most interesting building is the Cathedral after that we found it to be mostly the usual branded shops which meant we were back at the car park long before our ticket expired. Next stop is Malvern, this is another short 30 minute trip and for a small town parking is fairly easy task, Malvern is a very pretty town and is also fairly hilly and like most towns in the area has some interesting buildings the views over to the Malvern hills are spectacular, as it is a small town and it's Sunday lots of the smaller shops were closed which I thought was strange as I we have walked around and have seen most things so it is time to move on. As it's mid afternoon it's time to figure out where to stay this evening, we have found a couple of stop over points, car parks, lye by's but they do not take advantage of the views of the wonderful countryside. Then I find what looks to be a great place, Eastnor Castle estate which is exactly what is says on the tin a Castle with 23 acres of parkland, deer park and fishing lakes for which a licence is included in the price slight snag haven't got a rod with us so we will give the fishing a miss, other than that it sounds great 23 acres of back to good old camping days, park where you like, no facilities other than taps and chemical loo points, one of the conditions is that your vehicle has to be self contained and Gloria ticks this box. We book online and they send us all the details including the code for the gate, that's it we are on our way, another short 20 minute drive albeit in the wrong direction, we are soon through the gates, have picked a suitable park up, Gloria is level on her ramps, seats out and can open. It's idyllic and none of this your vans have to be 3 metres apart it's more like 20 metres and anywhere you like, again there are lots of walks around the grounds and beyond. However never mind a walk the table and chairs are soon back in Gloria as Mr Rain has come along and spoilt any outside activity. While sitting in Glo I think about the mileages we are covering between stops and our Australian friends will be laughing their heads off as these mileages would just get them to the end of the street and if you were on your way from Adelaide to Alice Springs our total trip mileage would not get you to the next petrol station, you just about get from one to the next on a full tank, as the signs keep reminding you. Also when I talk about 23 acres as being a large space, in Oz that's someone's back yard, on the way to Alice we found a sheep farm that was 1,028,960 acres yes that's correct over a million acres, the sheep dogs must be knackered and have good hearing, it has room for a campsite and it's a bit hotter than here.



That's about it for the day as the rest of it is spent looking out of the window at the rain then food and sleep so that's your lot.

Day 4 25th September

First good thing for this morning is that it's not raining and we are able to enjoy the views and the peace and quiet before we set off to our next destination which is Leominster another short 45 minute drive, we arrive and hey parking is simple and a tad strange as the car we park next to is from Two Mills Honda which unless you know me will have absolutely no relevance but to those who do it will. This again is a smallish town with lots of Tudor houses with black beams and white washed walls, if these buildings were modern buildings you would never get a mortgage as over the 300 ++ years they have been standing the walls have bowed, bent and suffered from subsidence, when you look at them with not a straight wall in sight it is amazing that they have stood so long and how they are still standing, they are amazing, the houses in the pictures are actually in Ludlow.



We spend our time walking around looking at the buildings, Barb finds a quilting and material shop which thank goodness is closed but unfortunately the note on the door says back in 10 minutes, guess what we are doing, correct waiting for 10 minutes. There

is a café next door so pop in for a tea and a coffee while we wait, we may as well have just stood outside the shop and waited as we seated ourselves and after nearly 10 minutes absolutely nothing has happened, not even hello we will be with you in a minute, time to vote with our feet and we walk out and take our money somewhere else, now I know I go on about it all the time but customers are the life blood of businesses and this goes hand in hand with customer service without customers your business will close, even if you are busy all you have to do is acknowledge the customer and explain, then most of the time they be happy to wait otherwise you will loose them, the stupid thing was it wasn't busy, mind you I found out later in the day that even if you are trying to spend a considerably larger amount, you still experience the same service, to put it politely this idea of customer service really does annoy me. Anyway we find a café willing to take our money while we wait for the shop reopens, after much longer than the 10 minutes we return and the shop is open, don't worry my love you go in, I will wait outside, amazingly no purchase is made. Ok time to move on, but first we need to return to a shop we past earlier to purchase some of the prepared salads, pasta, coleslaw, rice and stuff to go with tonight's dinner. Next stop Ludlow another short hope up the A49 we arrive and head for a car park that search for sites has listed as a good place for a night stop over, free parking from 6pm to 9am considering it's a small town it's a massive car park I suppose it's to service the many visitors the town has and it's good that the council has allowed overnight parking. The only snag is that it's on a pretty steep slope, we park up on a slopey bit but won't be staying there overnight there are some spaces that are more level and will probably be vacant when the shoppers and visitors go home. I am a bit excited about visiting the town as I have heard lot about it, albeit that has been when the food festival is on, the plan is to have a look around this afternoon then stay over and revisit tomorrow. It is another interesting town with lots of Tudor buildings which again are amazing in the fact that they are still standing after being built hundreds of years ago, if they had been built wholly of bricks they would have all fallen down but as the framework is built of large oak beams they been allowed to move to incredible angles and defying Sir Issac's theory. Ok we have done two tours of the town, visited the market a couple of shops and stopped for a glass of coke in a bit of an upmarket gaff, we sit outside on the large terraced area, we are accompanied by only 2 other couples in this large area of about 30 tables designed for four people comfortably. The male of one of the couples has decided that we would all like to take part in his me myself and I conversation about how important his job in a bank was (not my favourite institution banker rhymes with another word) anyway he was that loud everyone could hear every word. I thought that he was giving a speech to his minions that were obviously below his extremely important bankers position. I did think of saying you pompous ass could you keep your speech down as in can be heard in the next county, however instead of spoiling our day we moved to the similar sized lower terrace making sure to make my displeasure known, which did bring a smile and a muffled laugh from the 3rd couple, even on the lower terrace we could still hear his how important am I, needless to say we didn't stay long, what a dick. While trying to block out his voice we had a quick meeting of the planning committee and decided that as we had seen all there was to see, we would give to car park a miss and travel out of town to find a suitable place to stay. Our initial plan was just to park up somewhere but then we thought let's see if can find a reasonably priced site to chill out at, I find a farm that is a C&Mh CL site which has hard standings, ehu if you want it and brand new facilities, we don't need ehu so the price is very reasonable, after a quick phone call we are booked in and in 30 minutes we are there. It's a 5 pitch site which has obviously

only just had a considerable amount of cash spent on it, each pitch and the road leading to the pitches has been laid with posh stones that sparkle in the evening sun. The only thing I don't understand is, when people go to this expenditure they don't get the pitches level or even somewhere near level so that you can get the van level using ramps, even with Gloria teetering at the very top of our ramps she is still not level, if your doing it why not do it properly the cost difference would be negligible, anyway we can cope with it. We even manage to site outside to watch the sun setting over the mountains, it must a fantastic sunset if the clouds were not so low, back to the site facilities they are amazing, two separate bathrooms with wet room rain showers, a massive kitchen with fridge, induction hob, oven and washing facilities with the hottest water going, you could boil eggs in the sink.

We decide that we are going to stay another night and so I am going to include Day 5 as part of today's blog as we did absolutely bugger all apart from reading, chatting and while sitting out side in a bit of sun while it was blowing a proper hoolie I could see through binoculars a road going across the top of the mountain, me thinks that looks a great road so the next job is to check our "paper" maps and google earth to see how we get to it, I will let you know tomorrow if we find it rather than travelling home on the boring A49. Well again that's about your lot for today, let's play hunt a mountain road tomorrow.

Day 6 27th September

One day to go to Phil and my birthday and this morning we are heading home, I do have one stop planned on our way home, we are going to see "The Motorhome Man" who has a YouTube channel and his place is on our route home. Yesterday I did say that I had seen an interesting route over the distant hills and last night we plotted a route to include this road on our way home, plan made and we are looking forward to travelling a road with some hopefully great views. Now what I hadn't planned on was storm Agnus arriving early and covering the entire mountain with low cloud, well that has put paid to plan A, one reason why we go with the flow rather than a great deal of planning, this planning lark is vastly overrated and as you find shortly find out. Right back to plan B shouldn't be a plan never mind a plan B. out of the campsite to the main road and turn right not left as per the original plan, next easy trip straight down the A49 all the way home, well nearly all the way with two stops on route first stop is for coffee and a sandwich here is another plan that doesn't go to it. Garden centre with coffee shop that will do nicely, gets better when we get to the café they do a breakfast roll and coffee or tea for £4, as the queue goes down it is our turn to order, guess what the breakfast special finishes at 11.30 and its now 11.35, the lunch time menu is now in play and you can now have an egg mayo sandwich with a shred of lettuce for £8.75 plus your coffee or tea, this morning is definitely not going well. Next stop is to see the YouTube guy this going to be dead easy back on the A49 then after 20 miles turn left travel a further mile and that's it, what could go wrong well 17 miles along the road we come to a roundabout, sign says A49 straight on that is until you go around the roundabout and the road is closed follow diversion great this could be fun as there isn't a road of any kind that runs parallel to the A49. The diversion takes forever and eventually brings us back onto the A49 but then we have to take a different route to this YouTube guys sales site eventually after a right fuff we get there and guess what he is out, this ain't going to at all. Right let's get on that road home without a plan at least that way we will not be

disappointed if anything goes wrong, which it doesn't and we our home and emptying Gloria while the kettle is on in less than an hour, trip over that's your lot well there might be a very quick epilogue.

Epilogue

Well now wasn't that an adventure, I would think that this trip was one of our most stupid trips to date we covered 350 mile and what did we learn, firstly when you buy something from the well known auction site, check where the item is, check that it can be delivered and if its 100 miles away don't buy it if similar items are available closer to home, obviously there are exceptions to that rule. Next and this were some planning would have come in useful, check out the towns you plan to visit as Telford would not have even got on the route and probably never will again. Let's not knock the trip too much it did get us away in Gloria which is a relaxing place to be, its surprising how relaxed you feel when you are parked up in the middle of a field in your own little home on wheels. Next make the next trip more exciting to some research on your destinations (that's not the same as planning) on a short trip find somewhere you like, stop and chill out don't go chasing your tail. Anyway Lucas looks cool in his Ferrari Car Seat and it did get us away for a few days in our little home from home, looking forward to the next trip, until then that's your lot.