

Europe, July to September 2026

Hi everyone who is interested. I did get a couple of requests to post details of this trip, so here it is. The delay is because I started with a cold, plus I just now got my PC connected to the Internet, so have some catching up to do.

July 29 to July 31, London

Arrival in London Heathrow was a first for us. Not the airport. It was the first time we cleared customs without talking to anyone, without seeing a border patrol officer. It was all done with computer instructions and facial recognition. We were into the country in about 60 seconds.

Good thing I had shaved.

Not much else to say except I would like to make two complaints.

Hotels

The first is about a hotel. We stayed in two for our two nights here, arriving at both around 9:30 AM. Check in is posted as 3:00, but they often have some rooms available early. They both did, but the first hotel required us to pay £30 for “early maid cleanup”. I did. They immediately said the room was ready. The cleaning staff at that hotel are the most efficient I have ever seen.

The second hotel gave us a room gratis when we arrived, but that hotel was provided by the cruise line as part of a package.

British Museum

Complaint 2, but this is on me. Knowing we might not get into the hotel right away, we planned to go to the British Museum the morning we arrived. It was about a 20-minute walk. We did. It's summer, the museum was packed, and tickets have a time-admission to limit the number of people inside. No tickets (we were not sure we were going), so they routed us to a queue of the unfortunate. Tickets would be provided as available. There were none, at least not for the first hour or two, so we walked back to the hotel, paid our £30, and went to sleep. Not the best start.

Other days

Did stuff.

Pictures

People always ask for pictures. Don't get your hopes up, the trip has not really started.



This is where we parked the car at SFO. The picture was taken to send to a French couple who were going to pick the car up two days later.



I took this picture specifically for the blog, but, in my ignorance, took the wrong shot. The picture was taken from the bus transporting us to the ship dock. It is a picture of a house on Baker Street. Sherlock Holmes's fictitious address was 221B Baker Street. I thought it was 22B. Oh well. I wonder who lives there?

On the Ship

Had lunch waiting for our room to be available. Left lunch for a walk around the ship. A few minutes later, I went back to the restaurant to recover my jacket.

Next stop was making dinner reservations at the specialty restaurants. You are allowed to make one in advance, and a second after boarding. We sat down with the appropriate person, made them rather quickly, and left. A few minutes later, I went back to recover my jacket.

I see a pattern.