

# VISUAL WANDERINGS

Inspiring You To Explore Europe by River, Road & Rail

Issue 2 ~ Autumn 2023

## EXPLORING MOUNT NOVEGNO, ITALY

by Davide Tessaro

## FROM ITALY TO THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

by Alessia Carli

## INTERRAIL JOURNEY

by Megan Elisabeth

## THE CITY OF A THOUSAND WINDOWS; BERAT, ALBANIA

by Jess Holmes

## STOURBRIDGE; THE GLASS TOWN ON THE CANAL

by Sally Shillingford





VISUAL WANDERINGS

# ONLINE & IN PRINT

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Welcome to the second issue of Visual Wanderings! I am delighted to continue this journey, presenting you with narratives and visuals designed to capture the essence of a journey and kindle inspiration for your wanderings.

Visual Wanderings stands as a celebration of wanderlust and an invitation to explore Europe slowly, overland. Designed to pique your interest, allowing your imagination the freedom to roam, our pages are a curated gallery of experiences waiting to be explored. Just as one might leaf through the pages of a coffee table book, Visual Wanderings offers a visual feast that invites you to linger over the imagery, and allow the essence of each destination to seep into your consciousness whenever you need a momentary escape.

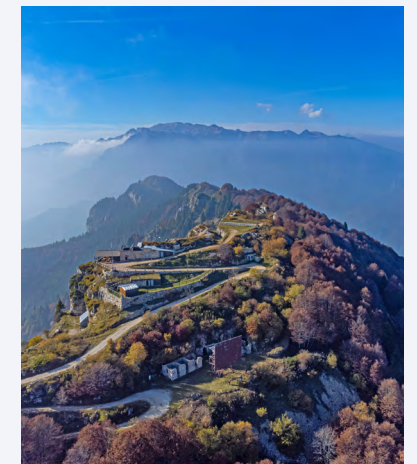
In the collaborative spirit that defines Visual Wanderings, our hand-picked contributors, enthusiastic about embracing the magazine's vision of overland travel, have once again poured their hearts into every page. It's truly an honour to have worked alongside each of you, and I express my heartfelt gratitude for your collective efforts in bringing issue 2 to life.

As you delve into the upcoming pages, filled with personal journeys of like-minded individuals who have turned their dreams of overland travel and outdoor exploration into tangible realities, overcoming obstacles and pursuing their passions, I can't help but wonder where your future wanderings will take you, dear reader. I hope that within these narratives and visuals, you find the seeds of inspiration for your own overland adventures.

Emily Goodwin  
Editor-in-Chief  
Visual Wanderings

## VISUAL WANDERINGS

Around Europe by River, Road, & Rail



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Mount Novegno by Davide Tessaro

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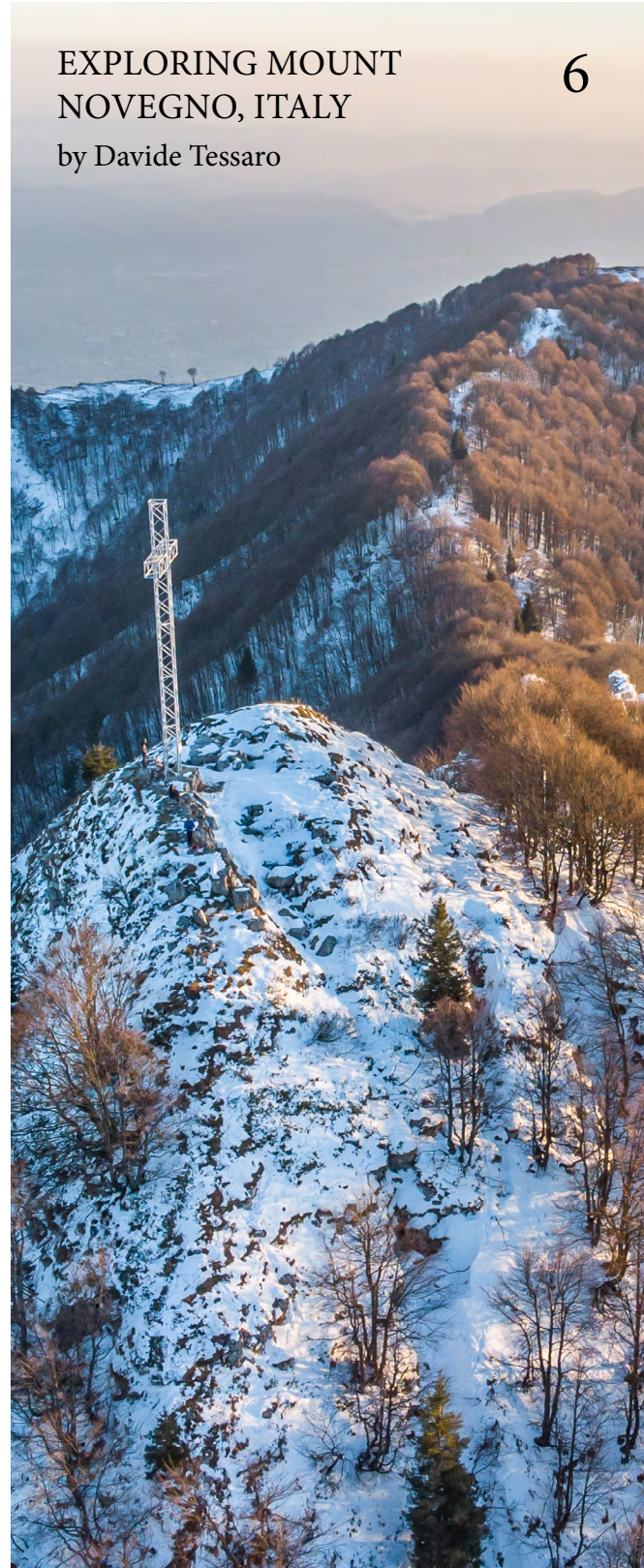
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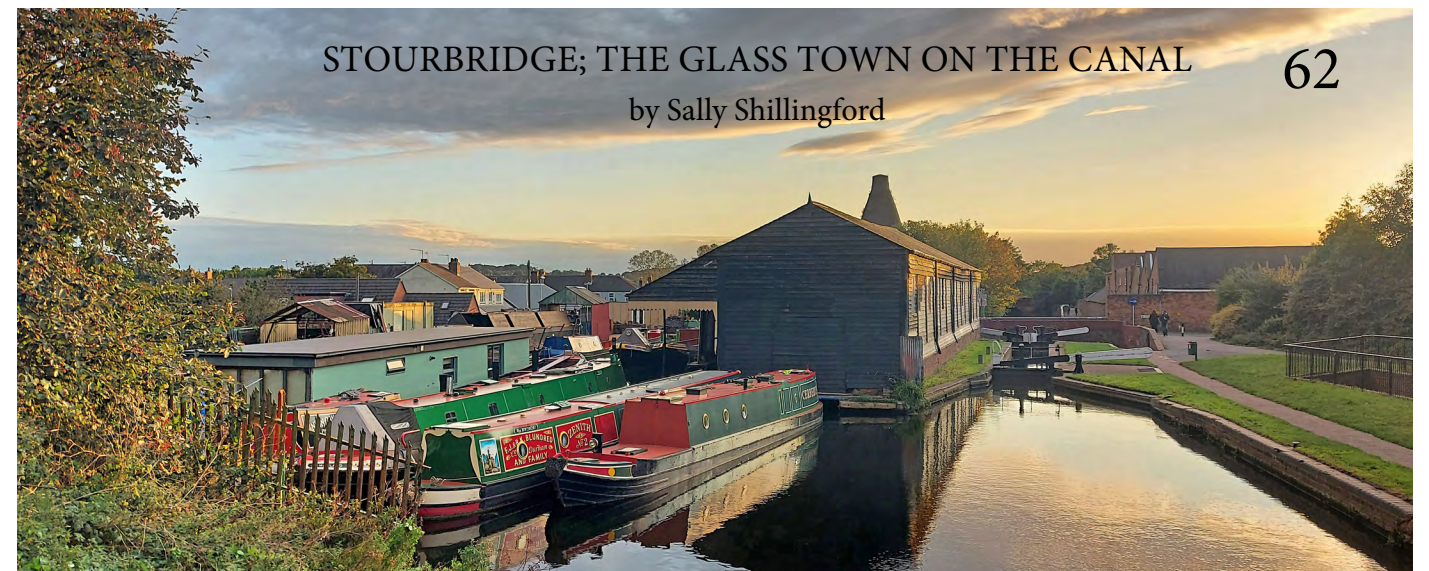
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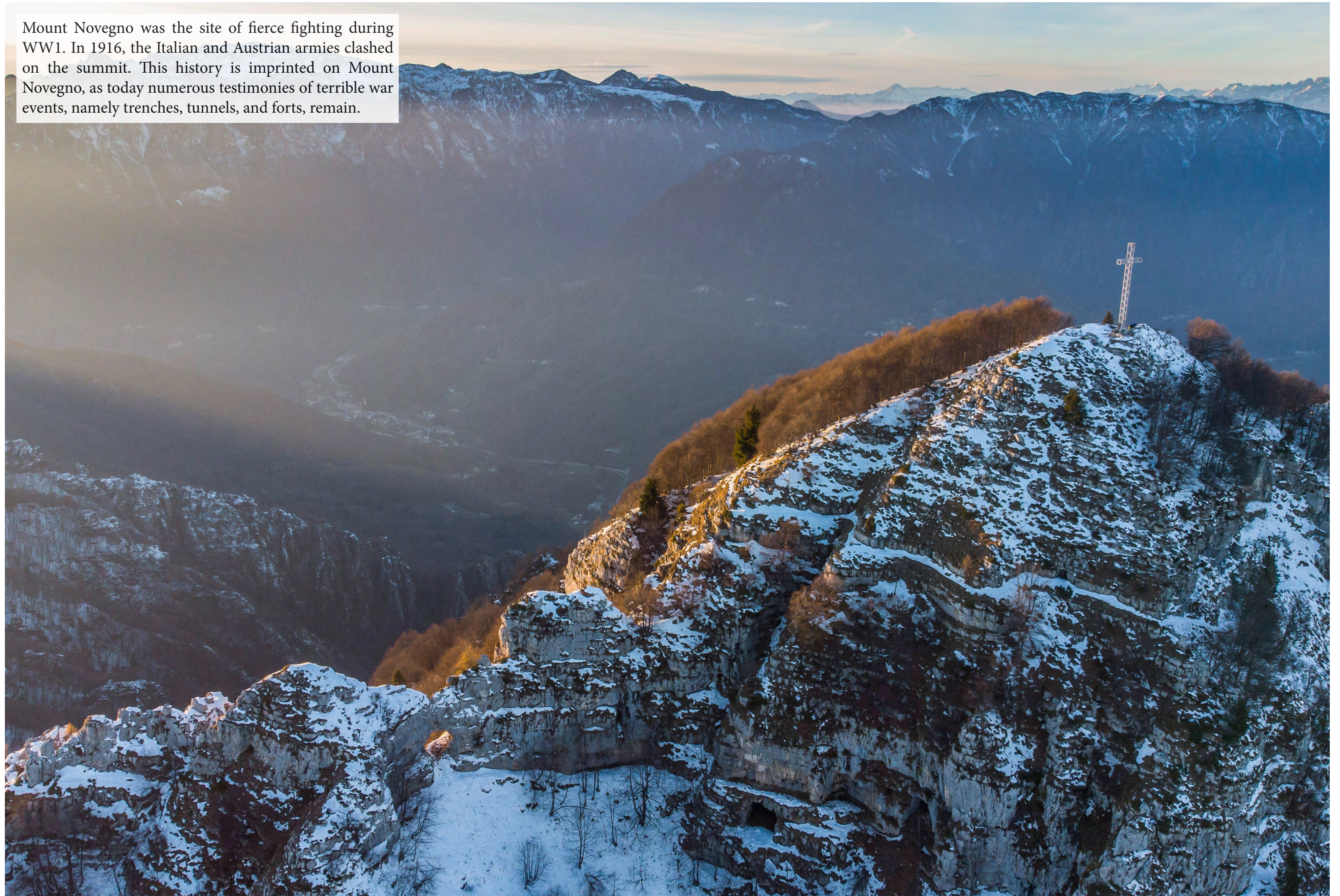
# Mount Novegno, Italy

Photos by Davide Tessaro  
Text by Sandra Sanchez

In the North of the Italian province of Vicenza, near Schio, Mount Novegno rises with its various peaks. A hike through diverse enchanting trails leads to each peak, every one of these offering unique views and its own history.



Mount Novegno was the site of fierce fighting during WW1. In 1916, the Italian and Austrian armies clashed on the summit. This history is imprinted on Mount Novegno, as today numerous testimonies of terrible war events, namely trenches, tunnels, and forts, remain.







The top of Mount Novegno is scattered with ruins of artillery emplacements. Trenches scar the landscape, offering a glimpse into the defensive strategies employed during the conflict.





Mount Rione (1,691m), the highest peak of Novegno. The fort stands as a stoic witness to the intense fighting.





A network of dirt roads built by the Italian army still crisscross the rugged terrain. They served a crucial logistical function, facilitating the movement of troops, equipment, and supplies.





As impactful as these scenes can be, Mount Novegno is a beautiful place where history can be remembered and honoured and where one can simultaneously enjoy its wonderful landscapes.





You can explore Mount Novegno on foot or by bicycle during the warmer months. It is an accessible mount, thanks to the numerous paths, trails, and dirt roads that run through it. This shot shows the main dirt road that reaches the top of the mountain.



The present and the past dance,  
now in peace, over the beautiful  
Priaforà peak.

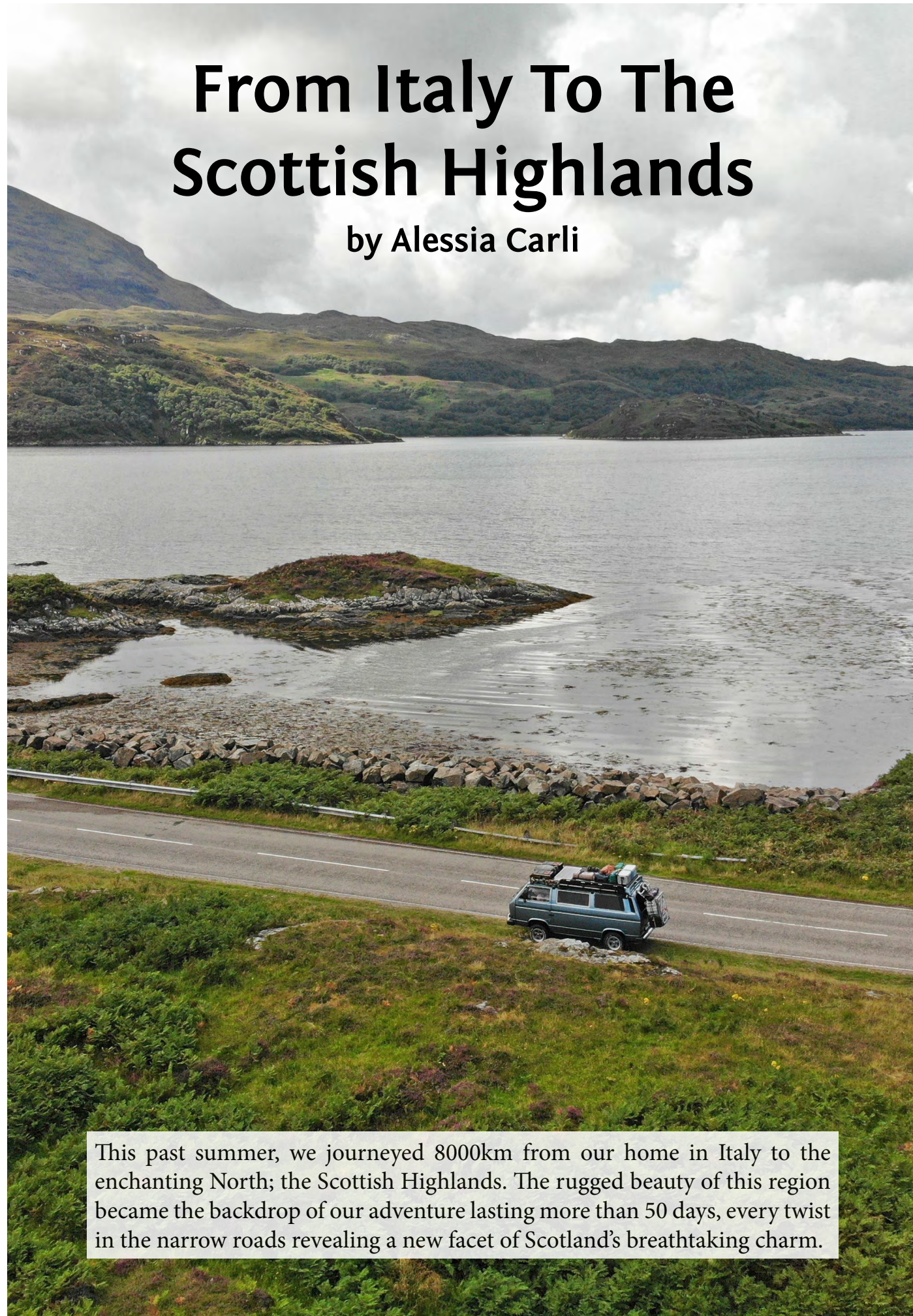


When Davide and Sandra immerse themselves in the great outdoors, they expand and connect with the deep source of strength within. Exploring nature together is a most wonderful gift, allowing them to grow and discover more about themselves and each other. When they return home, they find themselves more richly fulfilled in all areas of their lives. Davide captures the most significant moments of their outdoor adventures with his camera and drone which can be seen on [Instagram @davidetex79](https://www.instagram.com/davidetex79) and [davidetessaro.com](https://www.davidetessaro.com).



# From Italy To The Scottish Highlands

by Alessia Carli



This past summer, we journeyed 8000km from our home in Italy to the enchanting North; the Scottish Highlands. The rugged beauty of this region became the backdrop of our adventure lasting more than 50 days, every twist in the narrow roads revealing a new facet of Scotland's breathtaking charm.

We are a family of 4 plus 1. Our beloved Bullo, a Volkswagen T3 Syncro 1987, came to stay with us long before the children were born. It's a former Caravelle (9-seater van), that Tommaso converted into a multivan blue star with a Reimo pop-top sleeping roof to welcome our growing family. It took patience, years of work collecting original VW pieces, a lot of expertise plus a lot of travel to get Bullo to the point of being a self-sufficient off-grid and off-road van capable of facing the remote and the unknown, capable of going nearly everywhere.

Before I get ahead of myself, let me introduce our happy family, the Bullo's crew! We are Tommaso, an antiquarian and Alessia, an illustrator with Frida age 12 and Ester age 11. We are based in the Italian Alps and live in an old house in a town among the Dolomites in Trentino. Our family motto is "viva viva l'avventura!" which translates as "long live the adventure" and going on adventures, near or far, is what we mainly do.

We have already explored mainland Europe, our girls having stepped foot in more than 30 countries from the North Cape in Norway to Turkish Kurdistan in the southeastern part of Turkey.

Setting out for a whole-summer trip takes months of preparation as we have to ensure Bullo is reliable, safe, and comfortable enough for the duration of our trip. It's fair to say it takes lots of money to enjoy extended trips like this, not so much during the journey as our travel-style, and indeed lifestyle, is all about living cheap and wild, but just to make it possible; taking time off work and having a really reliable van.

Wild camping is the first step we take on our adventure and connecting with foreign lands and people. Our first rule is discretion, being respectful to nature and people. Sleeping on secluded beaches, in hidden forest clearings, at abandoned wee harbours, or on top of cliffs gives us the sense of freedom that comes with wild camping and it is unparalleled. No set itineraries, no fixed schedules, just us and the open road.

Our travel style allows us to explore off the beaten path, away from the touristy spots, yet takes us out of our comfort zone when it comes to amenities, adversities, the weather, insects, animals or even unexpected humans.



**Photos: Top to Bottom:**

- Me (Alessia) and my husband Tommaso (Tom).
- Our Girls - Ester (green top) and Frida (blue top).
- Us! As happy and crazy as we can be.



Having to cope with irrational thoughts and feelings is both scary and exhilarating. No matter the weather, location, or situation, every night and every morning we must brush our teeth and face the world outside the van. This can turn into a challenge with no facilities onboard, especially when you are far from everything. It might sound terrifying to most, but we love this wild side of van life. The girls are already quite good at it, welcoming the uncertainty, never complaining, and enjoying lots of wild swimming and barefoot walks as their patience, self-control, and sense of wonder increases.

The van is well organised to welcome the needs of 4 people and make it possible to live in. Bullo has tanks to hold 90 litres of water on the roof (which we use for cooking, washing dishes, brushing our teeth etc.), a Webasto heating system, a solar panel, a second (leisure) battery, a small boat fridge in a tiny kitchen and space to move (the pop-top roof allowing us to stand upright when the bed is not made). These are the ingredients that allow us to really push Bullo farther.

For sleeping arrangements, two of us can sleep in the pop-top roof (which Ester loves to do) and two in the van or, if needed, we can all sleep inside the van without popping the roof if, for example, we're in a city or there's a storm. We purposefully don't have bathroom facilities onboard. This means more space and fewer problems. In terms of showers, we can use the water stored in the tanks if needed, but we prefer to go bathing in the ocean, rivers, and lakes. When we need a hot shower, we'll go to a swimming pool, a campsite, or use the facilities on the ferries. One thing I have learned from travelling is that hygiene is very important, but at the same time, we have lost contact with our bodies and our real needs, meaning we generally need fewer baths/showers than we think!

We travel light and minimal, everything has its place. We carry a small box of essential medical supplies and a few clothes including hiking and swimming things. Board games, drawing supplies, and plenty of books are also included as we love to read aloud before falling asleep no matter where we are. Outside the van we store plenty of food in waterproof bags, our outdoor activity gear including skateboard and paddleboard, and spare parts and tools to fix Bullo in the unhappy event of a breakdown.



**Photos: Top to Bottom:**

- A moment of appreciation - We're so lucky to travel this way.
- Ester enjoying the sun while our swim items dry on the line.
- Our 'kitchen' with a 1 ring gas stove which Frida enjoyed making soup on.





## Our Journey North

We left home around the middle of July and returned around the middle of September, a day before school started! We crossed mainland Europe through familiar routes (Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, and France) in a few days, singing together and checking maps, arriving at the port of Calais where we jumped on the first ferry available.

We arrived in Dover in the middle of the night, but luckily we knew of a good spot right on the White Cliffs of Dover to park up and get some sleep. It was wonderful to wake up there in the morning, and walk along the cliff paths between fields of flowers and low-flying seagulls.

Leaving Dover, we made a stop at Canterbury which was my town long ago. Then, on one rainy day, we crossed the length of England, 550km in one go, arriving just before the Scottish border in the evening. The rain had finally stopped and although there was a northerly arctic wind, we went to sleep rocked by the sound of the ocean, dreaming of Edinburgh.

After 2 days in Edinburgh, we drove across the Fife peninsula to drive the stunning SnowRoad Scenic Route: 90 miles of rough beauty travelling North across the highlands from Blairgowrie, through the Cairngorms National Park, finally arriving at the coast of Inverness.

We lost a few days in the onboard log at this point as time lost substance and space overlapped and expanded - the landscape seeming apparently the same but constantly changing like the weather.

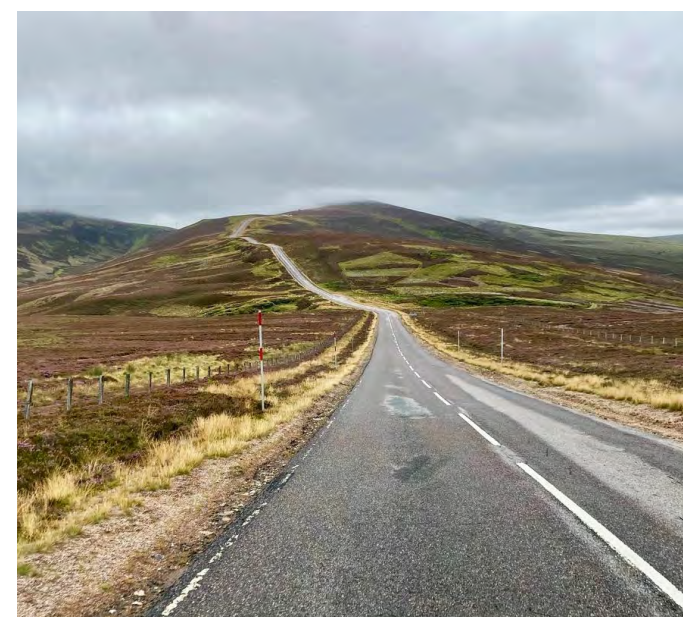
As we drove North, we forged a connection with the wild landscape. The wet moor scattered with sheep, and the stunning cliffs became our companions. The ocean was a comforting presence, our lullaby at night, our freezing cold shower in the morning.

We joined the coastal wonderland of the North Coast 500 (NC500) at Inverness, travelling along some of the 516 mile scenic route, some days driving miles, other days barely able to leave the beautiful beaches, but we eventually made it to the most Northerly point of mainland Britain; Dunnethead where we could see the Orkney Islands on the horizon.



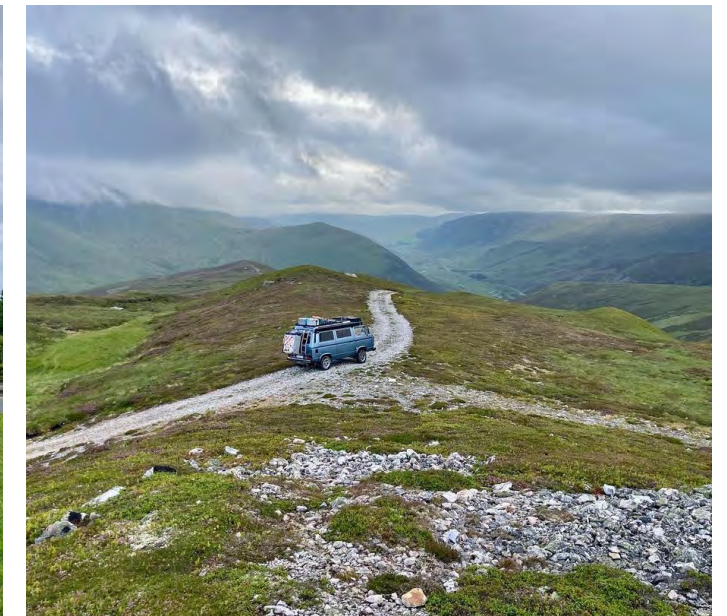
### Photos: Top to Bottom:

- Waking up to the White Cliffs of Dover, England.
- The Old Weavers House, Canterbury, England.
- Our last night in England just before crossing the border.



### Photos: Top to Bottom:

- Crossing the border, hello Scotland!
- Exploring Edinburgh with its beautiful Georgian architecture.
- On the Snow Road Scenic Route heading further North.



### Photos: Top to Bottom:

- Bullo powering up Glenshee Ski Slope!
- Tom admiring the view and checking the way
- At Dunnethead, the most northern point of mainland Britain.

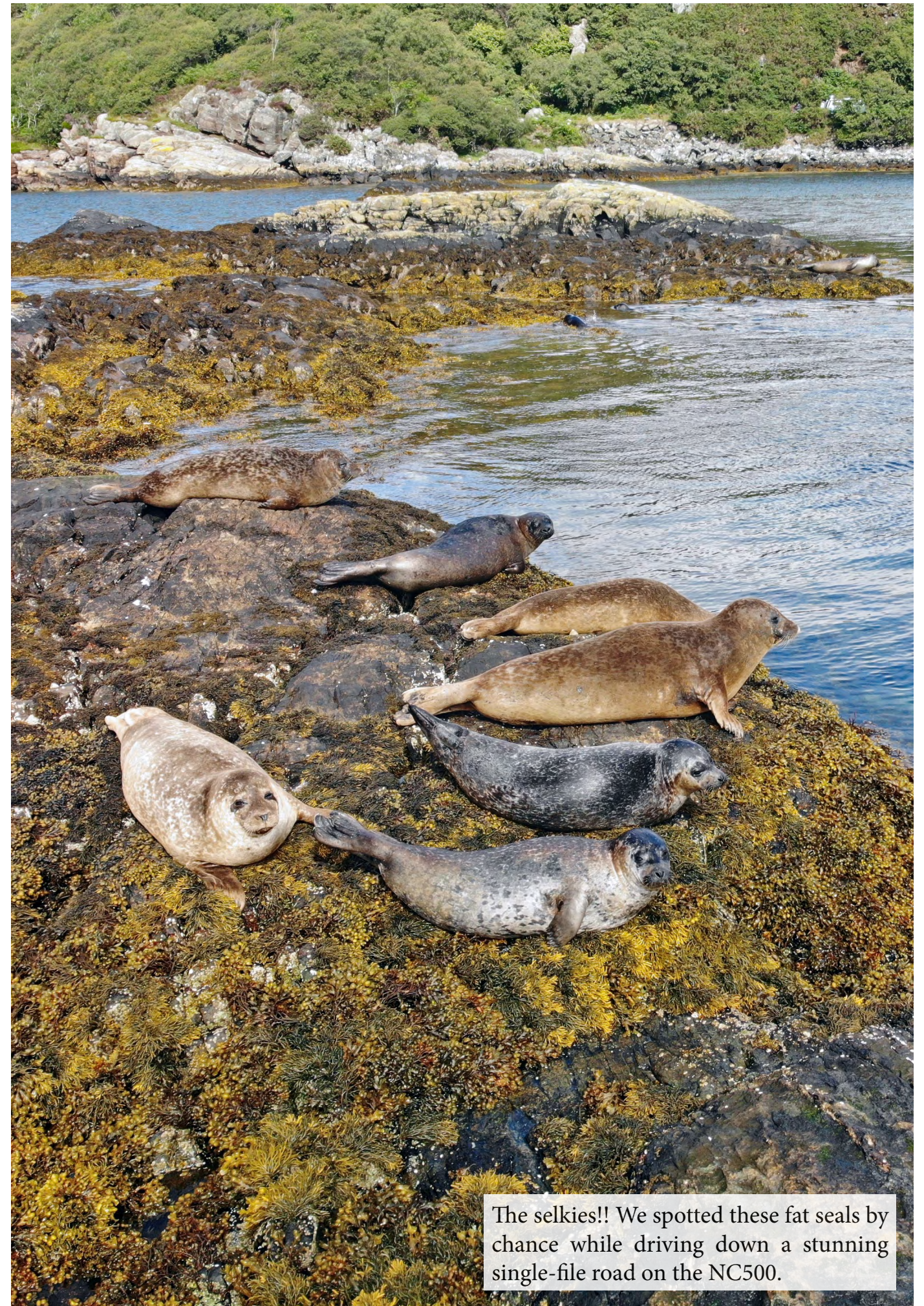




Sitting on the lighthouse wall watching the dolphins go through the cliffs of the little old marina in Lybster. This was once a busy herring fishing port, the lighthouse dating back to 1884.



We spent the night with the seals here at Freswick Beach, Freswick Castle visible in the background. I left the tents open, and once in a while, I looked into the dark sea, knowing a seal was there. In the morning we had our first sub-zero swim and went for a walk on the cliffs of Duncasby.



The selkies!! We spotted these fat seals by chance while driving down a stunning single-file road on the NC500.



Sailing to the remote Orkney Islands was our highlight, our 1.5 hour ferry crossing filled with dolphins jumping. As we got closer, it was like a dream taking shape, the red and green rocks getting clearer.

These small, majestic Islands were inhabited by the Vikings some 5,000+ years ago and are filled with enchanting standing stones and spooky burial grounds. It's a land soaked with water and history, with a magical and sacred aura bestowed on every rock. These islands give you a sense of being profoundly connected with yourself and your ancestors.

On an overcast day when the sky was hanging heavily over our heads, we visited Kirkwall, Orkney's largest town. It was the site of an ancient Norse town approximately 1000 years ago. We enjoyed looking around St Magnus Cathedral with the spooky skull and crossbone carvings engraved on ancient gravestones.

From Orkney, we had hoped to visit the Shetland Islands, but with no return boats within two weeks, we headed back to the mainland without any regrets to explore the West side of the Highlands, back on the beautiful NC500 route.

Between Torridon and the Applecross peninsula, the scenes were surprising and ever-changing. Despite the rain, the midges, and the wind, we kept emitting a great big 'wow' whether we were walking the coastal path, wandering in the rare woods, hiking across moors, rocks, or bogs or driving down single-lane roads.

We descended through the Bealach Na Ba mountain pass in Wester Ross, apparently one of the most dangerous roads in the UK, which is honestly mind-blowing and had an unexpected yet lovely stop in the village of Plockton.

From there, we ventured over to the Isle of Skye. Sleeping on top of a cliff was a precious moment with the reckless sheep cuddled up at night looking like still and silent stars. We also enjoyed our hike to the Coral Beach. However, because we had arrived at one of Scotland's top tourist attractions at the busiest time of the year, we soon decided to continue our journey and leave Skye behind - it was far too busy for us.



**Photos: Top to Bottom:**

- Waiting at the port of Scrabster en route to Orkney.
- Our first view of Orkney with The Old Man of Hoy sea stack.
- Arriving at Stromness on the main island of Orkney.



**Photos: Top to Bottom:**

- The Standing Stones of Stenness, Orkney.
- Connecting with history, it felt quite eerie here.
- Beautiful Highland cows on the roadside.



**Photos: Top to Bottom:**

- On the way to the Old Man of Stoer.
- A quiet piece of the Isle of Skye - we slept on top of the cliff.
- One of two Coral Beaches, accessible only by hiking.

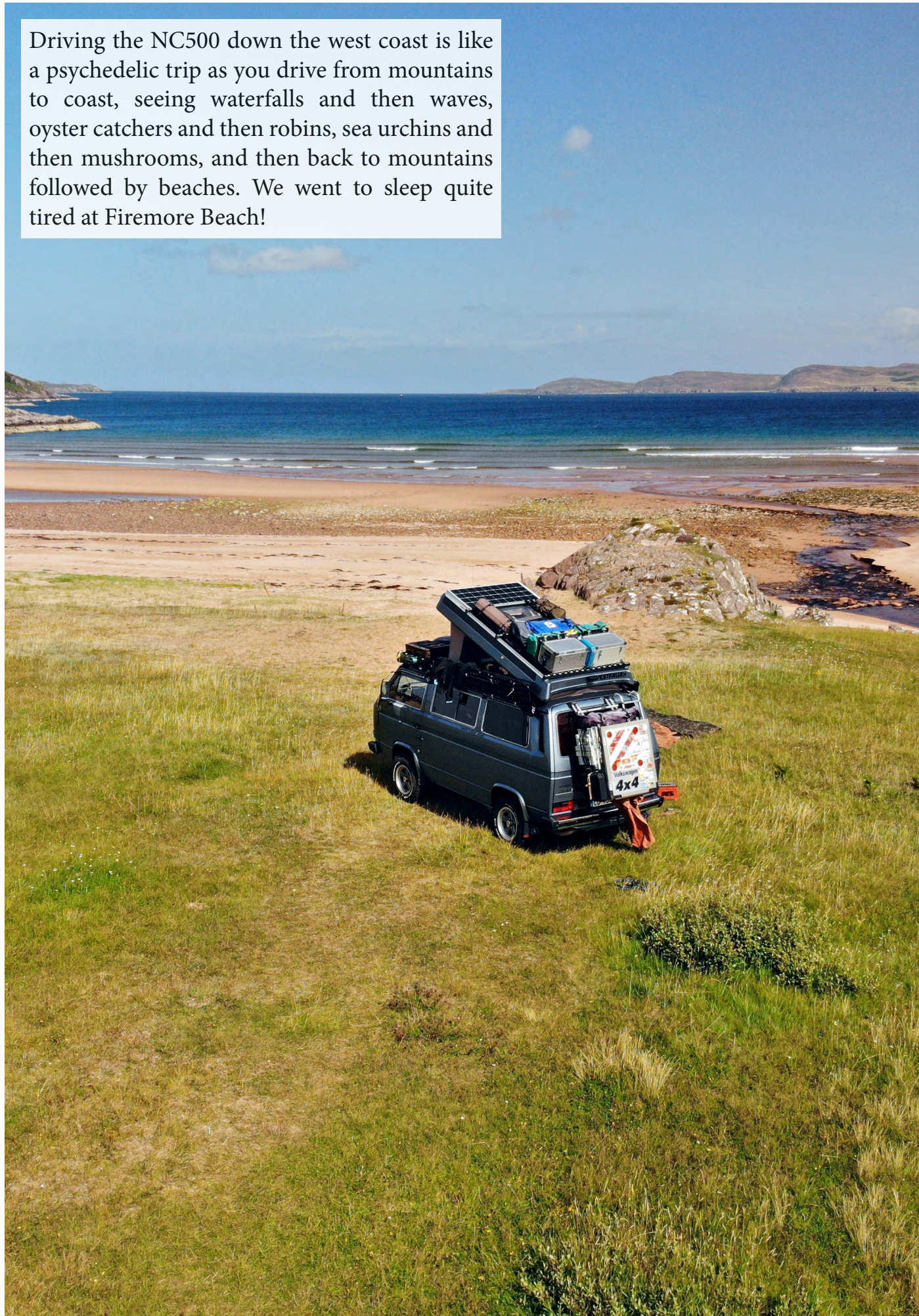




Driving among the fjords of the north coast was an awe-inspiring experience with clouds accumulated at the bottom of the fjords and the sky opening up to the sea. Islands, islets, rocks... the sea coming in, lakes going out and lochs as far as the eye could see.



Driving the NC500 down the west coast is like a psychedelic trip as you drive from mountains to coast, seeing waterfalls and then waves, oyster catchers and then robins, sea urchins and then mushrooms, and then back to mountains followed by beaches. We went to sleep quite tired at Firemore Beach!



After waving to Ireland from the forgotten Kintyre peninsula, we left Scotland with a hint of melancholy. The West Coast was absolutely amazing but at the same time, we were also kind of tired of enduring the midges that, at moments, were extremely annoying and forced us to stay literally locked inside the van!

After a month in the "wild emptiness of the North", we switched to cities: three days in London and then later, Paris. Being in the midst of such cities, visiting the museums (like the Tate Modern and the Musée d'Orsay) and navigating the bustling metro, made us think that people, not just landscapes, can make places valuable and unforgettable.

Descending the Normandy coast, we stopped literally everywhere, enchanted by the unique landscape of the "falaise". The marvellous yet fragile soaring white cliffs of Etretat with three natural arches were our goodbye to the sea. From France, we made our way through Germany, stopping to visit our favourite secret lake, a place dear to us, a pearl of peace and greenery.

We spent our last night among the clouds at 2,500m above sea level, between Austria and Italy, very close to our home. It was a sweet reminder that we live surrounded by beauty.

### Conclusion

Embarking on a journey in an old VW van is more than just a means of transportation, it's a symbol of freedom but it takes lots of creativity and a spirit of adaptation to embark on the joy of living life on your own terms, close together, out of conventional time and space. Embarking on a long journey can be filled with incredible highs but it is essential to acknowledge the lows and the lessons they bring. We are all human, vulnerable, and have limits. From time to time, we may desire something more normal and to release the fatigue of being constantly exposed to the unknown, and that's okay.

Slow travel, by whatever means, can show you more clearly your place on our planet, open up horizons and fill you with gratitude. We couldn't wish anything more for our daughters. Having time, staying together, and seeing the world is our dream come true.

If you enjoyed this journey, keep up with our latest adventures in Bullo on [Instagram @bus.bullo](#).



**Photos: Top to Bottom:**

- We left Bullo in a campsite and enjoyed the sights of London.
- The beautiful white Falaise d'Étretat, France.
- Nearly home! Sleeping on top of the clouds.



# THE CITY OF A THOUSAND WINDOWS; Berat, Albania

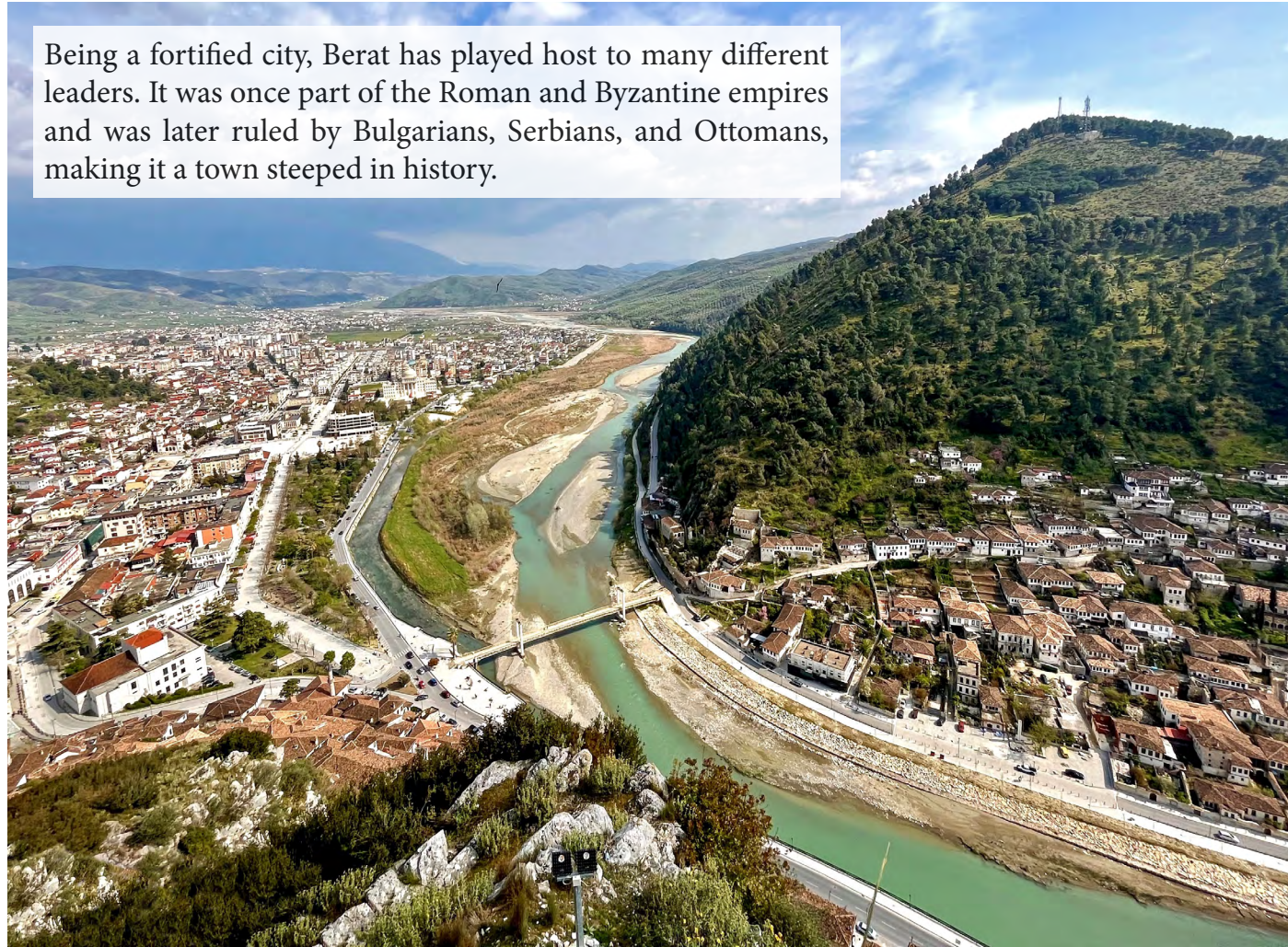
by Jess Holmes

The ancient UNESCO World Heritage city of Berat, located 98km South of Tirana, the capital of Albania, is surrounded by mountain ranges and sits in a valley on both sides of the River Osum. The striking Ottoman architecture that makes up the Old Town stacks upwards towards the hilltop 4th century B.C. castle and gives Berat its moniker of “The town of a thousand windows”.

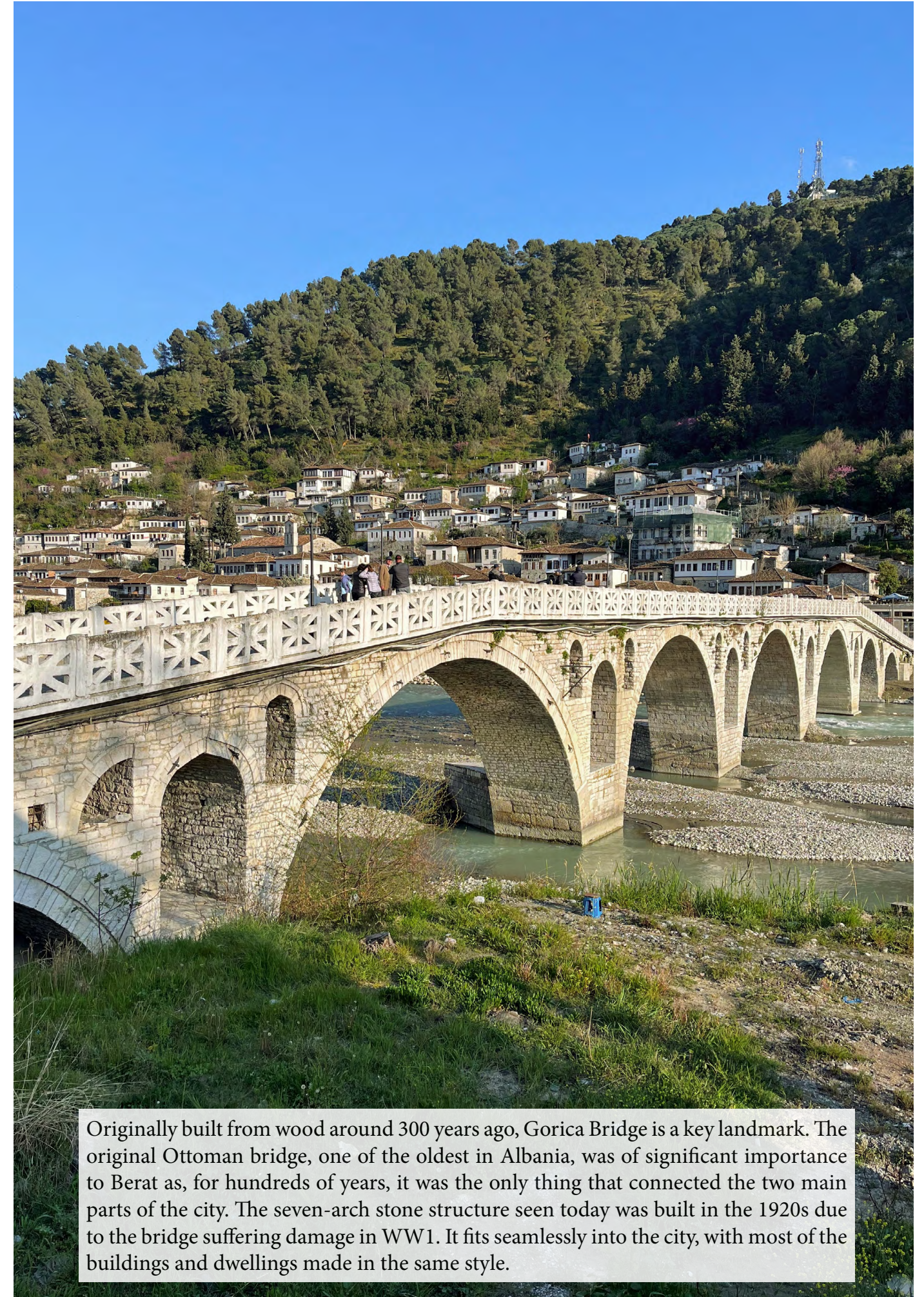
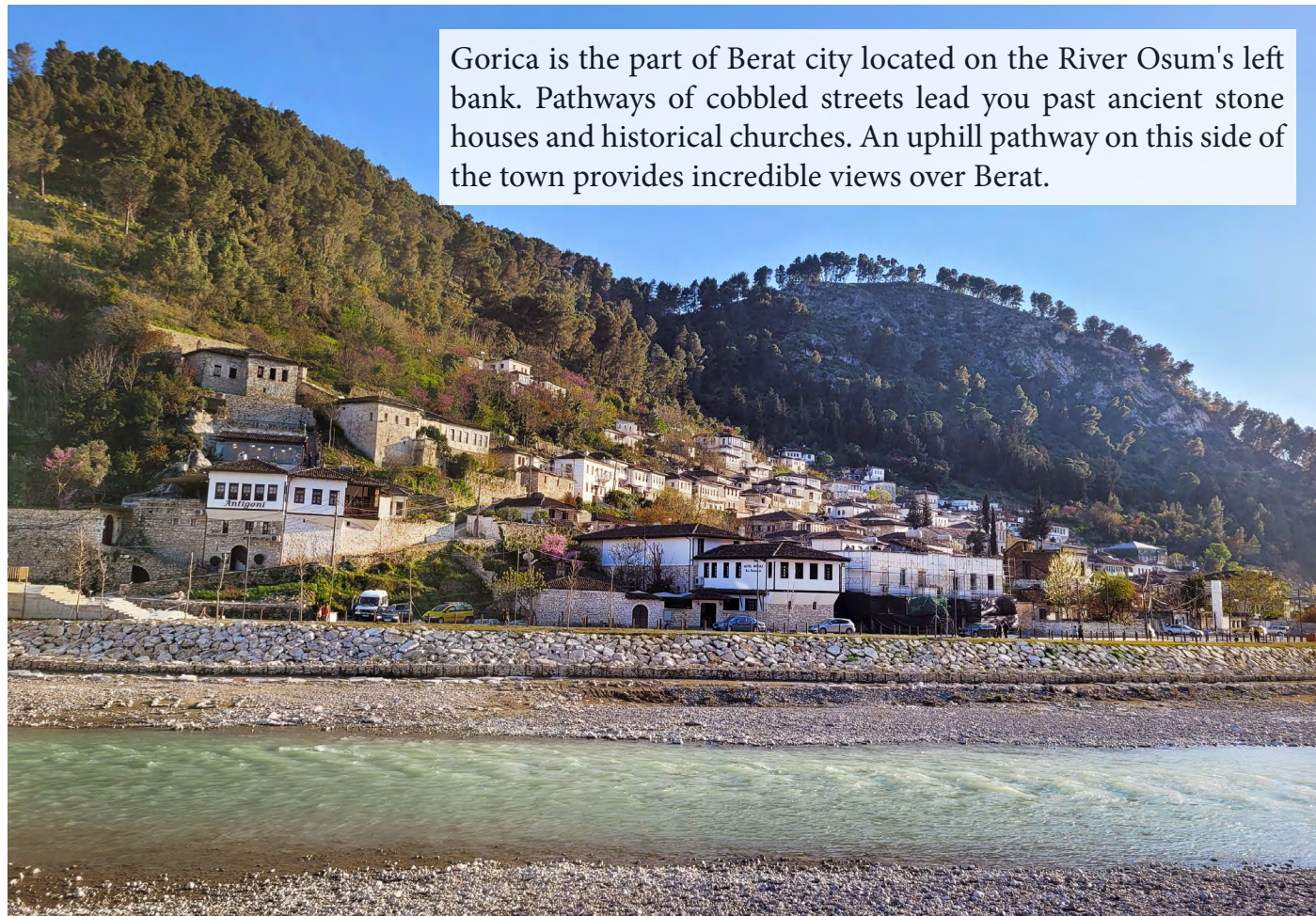




Being a fortified city, Berat has played host to many different leaders. It was once part of the Roman and Byzantine empires and was later ruled by Bulgarians, Serbians, and Ottomans, making it a town steeped in history.



Gorica is the part of Berat city located on the River Osum's left bank. Pathways of cobbled streets lead you past ancient stone houses and historical churches. An uphill pathway on this side of the town provides incredible views over Berat.

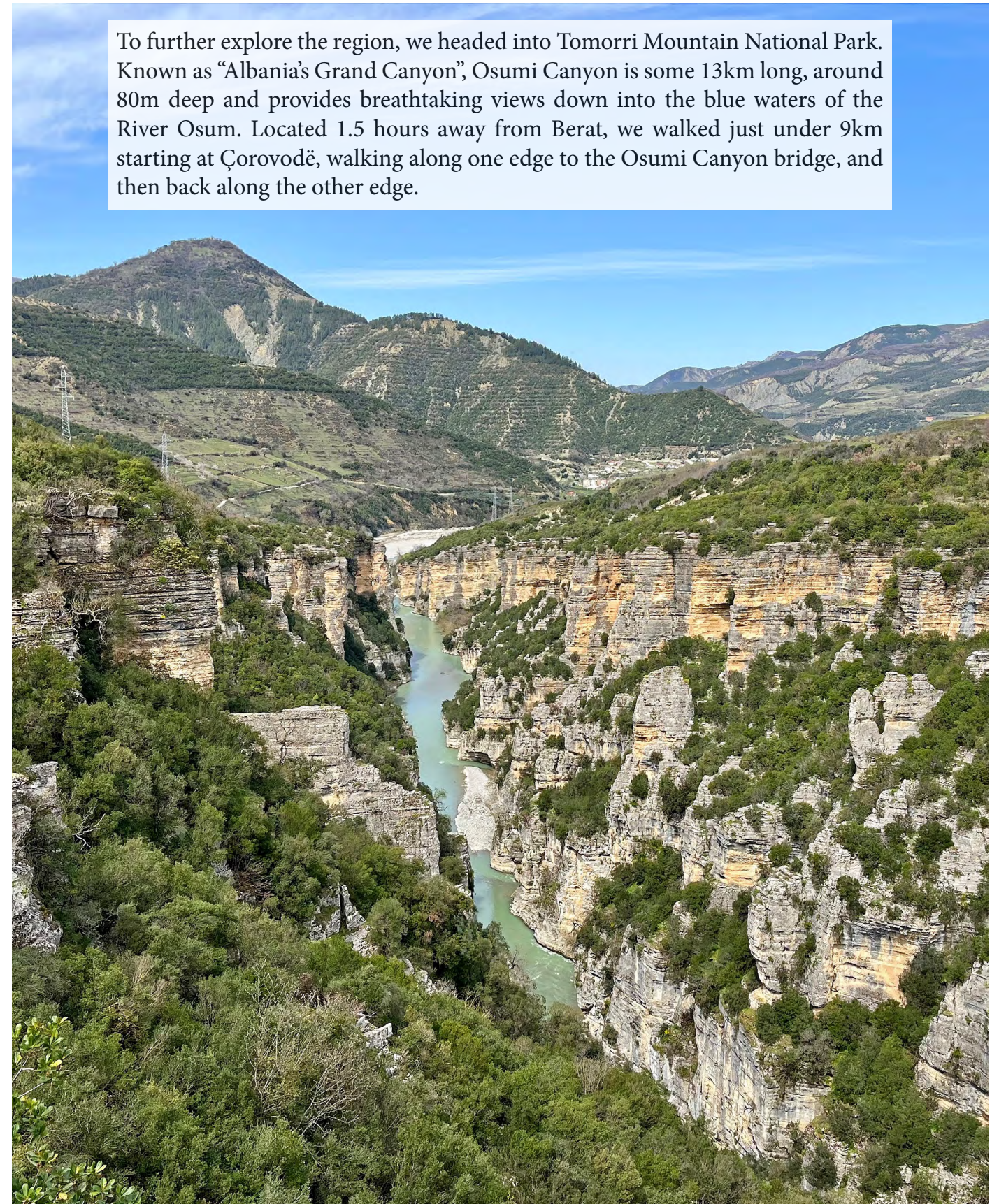


Originally built from wood around 300 years ago, Gorica Bridge is a key landmark. The original Ottoman bridge, one of the oldest in Albania, was of significant importance to Berat as, for hundreds of years, it was the only thing that connected the two main parts of the city. The seven-arch stone structure seen today was built in the 1920s due to the bridge suffering damage in WW1. It fits seamlessly into the city, with most of the buildings and dwellings made in the same style.





St. Michael's church, a tiny 14th-century Byzantine church is accessible by climbing a series of steep staircases.



To further explore the region, we headed into Tomorri Mountain National Park. Known as “Albania’s Grand Canyon”, Osumi Canyon is some 13km long, around 80m deep and provides breathtaking views down into the blue waters of the River Osum. Located 1.5 hours away from Berat, we walked just under 9km starting at Çorovodë, walking along one edge to the Osumi Canyon bridge, and then back along the other edge.



Jess and Tom Holmes have always had a passion for travel and have lived nomadically for long periods of their life. Determined to reduce the environmental impact of their travels, they sought a new path and now primarily travel over land. Wanting to find balance in their lives, they embarked on a journey of house sitting their way around the world. Their journey as successful house sitters inspired Jess to write a book “[The Housesitter’s Guide to the Galaxy](#)” which is available to purchase on Amazon. Their blog [hitchedandhiking.com](#) and Instagram [@hitchedhikingandhousesitting](#) give inspiration on how you could also slow travel the world.



# Interrail Journey

by Megan Elisabeth

Every year, DiscoverEU raffles Interrail travel passes among EU citizens aged 18. In October 2022, my boyfriend and I applied to win seven free train tickets to travel around Europe and on the 10th of January 2023, we got an email saying that we were two of the lucky participants!

Planning the trip was harder than we expected. We knew we wanted to visit Italy, Croatia and Switzerland but we didn't want to visit many of the capital cities. We had to adjust our route a few times, either because there weren't good train connections, the mandatory seat reservations were very expensive (we had to pay for these upfront but were reimbursed later), or the travel time was very long.

Eventually, we found the perfect route for us covering 17 days: Thun in Switzerland, Nuremberg in Germany, Split in Croatia, Ljubljana in Slovenia, Verona in Italy, and Grainau in Germany.



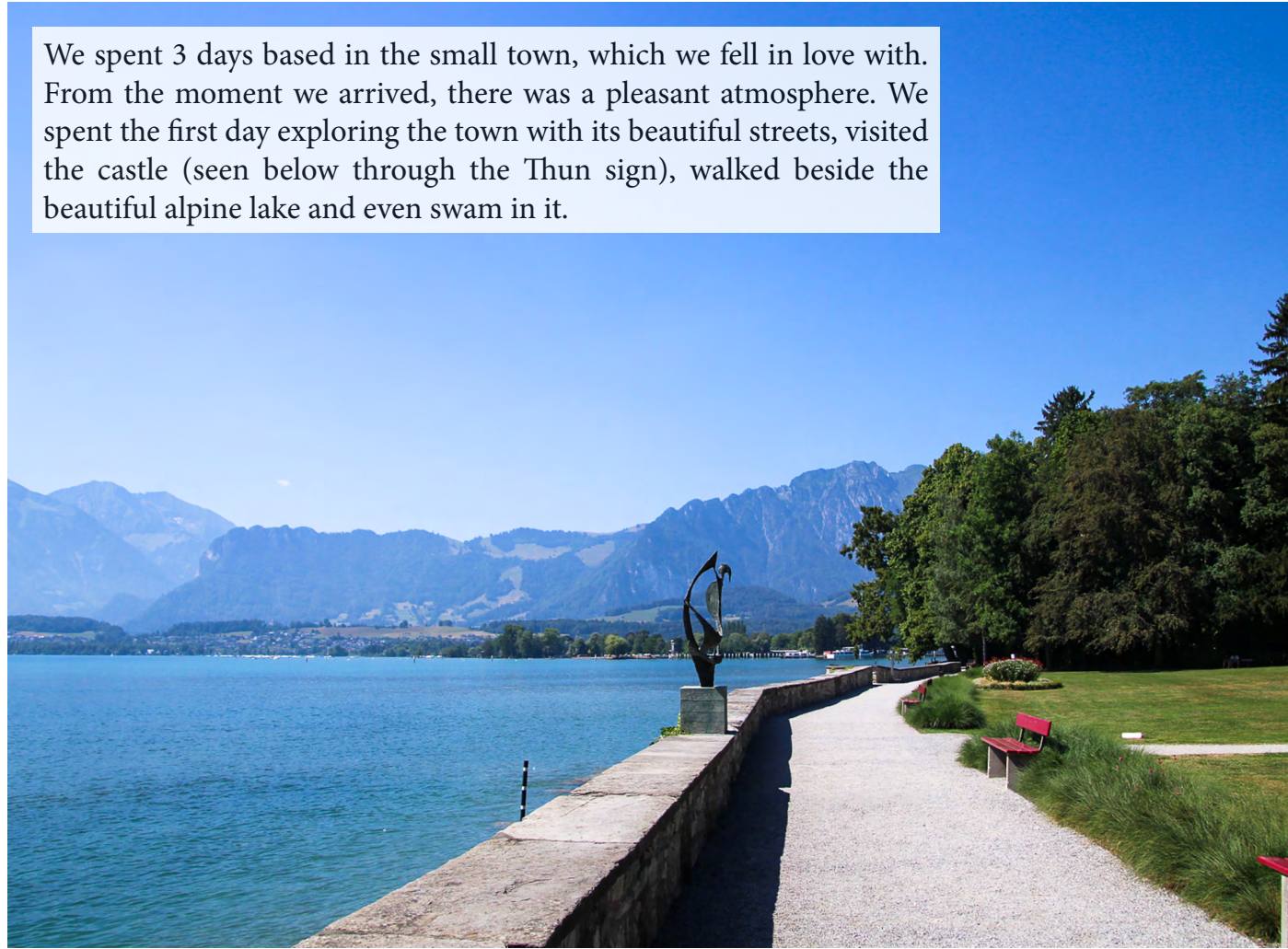
## Thun, Switzerland

We took several trains from our home in the Netherlands to the beautiful town of Thun in central Switzerland. Our journey Utrecht > Arnhem > Düsseldorf > Basel > Thun took roughly 12 hours including transfer time.





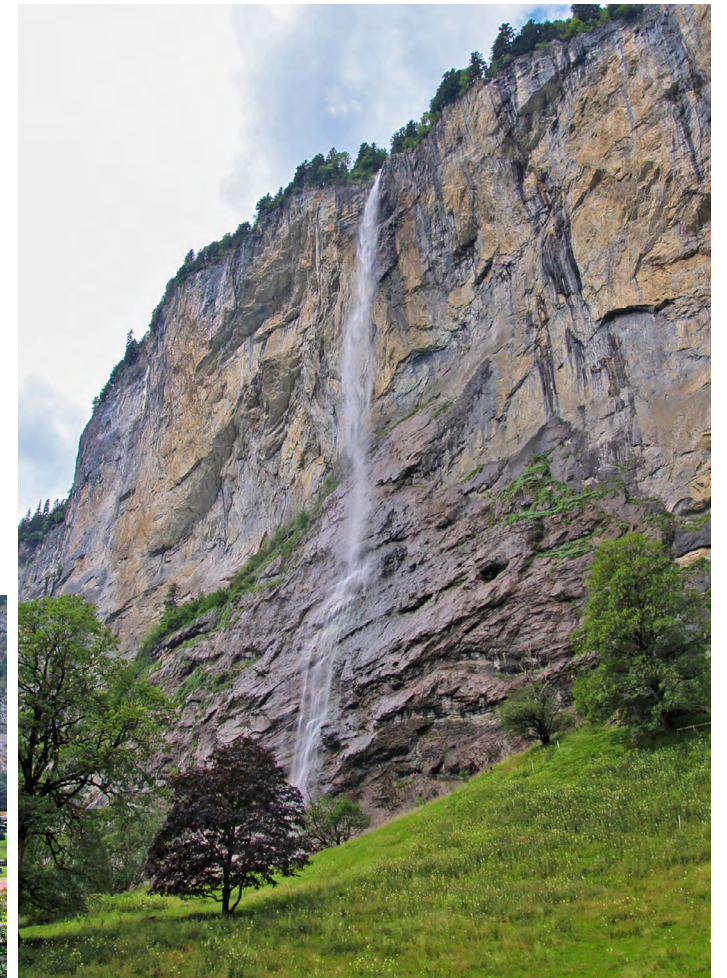
We spent 3 days based in the small town, which we fell in love with. From the moment we arrived, there was a pleasant atmosphere. We spent the first day exploring the town with its beautiful streets, visited the castle (seen below through the Thun sign), walked beside the beautiful alpine lake and even swam in it.



### Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland

On our second day, we chose to visit the Swiss Alps village of Lauterbrunnen located just over an hour away from Thun. This charming village is renowned for its numerous waterfalls, boasting a total of 72, including the iconic 300 metre tall Staubbach Falls.

Eager to immerse ourselves in the natural beauty of the area, we embarked on a 3.3km hike to Trümmelbach Falls. This waterfall is unique because it's formed inside a mountain from glacial meltwater. It measures an impressive 140 metres and can be viewed from a series of angles via walkways and viewing platforms.





## Nuremberg, Germany

After a 7.5 hour journey via Zurich, we arrived in our first German city. We were here for only one full day, so we used it to explore the winding streets and meandering alleys of the Old Town. It reminded us of Disney's Beauty and the Beast with its stunning medieval and Renaissance architecture, the Fachwerk (half-timbered) houses, characterised by ornate stone carvings.



The Kaiserburg, or Nuremberg Castle, is a well-preserved medieval fortress dating back to the 11th century. It served as a residence for emperors and kings of the Holy Roman Empire and now houses museums.







### Henkerbrücke & Henkerhaus Museum

The Executioner's Bridge is named after the neighbouring Executioner's House which is now a museum. Spanning the Pegnitz River, the 16th-century bridge connects the old town with the northern part of the city and is a beautiful example of Renaissance architecture.





## The Journey To Croatia

The train ride from Nuremberg to Split was the longest and most challenging of them all. We knew we had a full day of travel ahead, but we didn't anticipate the journey's difficulties. In total, we spent almost 22 hours travelling!

We departed Nuremberg early in the morning, arriving in Munich 1 hour and 15 minutes later only to discover that our train to Zagreb, Croatia had been cancelled. It was supposed to be a 6 hour train journey, so we were quite concerned about our options.

We were instructed to take a train to Salzburg then go to Villach HBF, also in Austria, and from there, catch another train to Zagreb, Croatia. The train from Villach HBF was overcrowded meaning we had to stand for the 2.5 hour journey to Zagreb and it was extremely hot as the air conditioning wasn't working - It was awful.

Fortunately, that initial delay didn't impact our connection because many other passengers also needed to catch the train to Zagreb. The subsequent train ride lasted another 4 hours, and after that, we had to embark on an 8.5 hour overnight journey from Zagreb to Split. We were so tired by the time we finally arrived in Split the next morning!

We stayed in Split, Croatia's second largest city, for four days which allowed us time to explore the city and some of the surrounding sights. On the first day we arrived, we relaxed, went for a swim in the Adriatic Sea, and explored some of the nearby sights

The next day, we took a 1 hour transfer to Krka National Park to see the stunning waterfalls and emerald-green pools located along the river. Skradinski Buk, seen here, is the most iconic waterfall within the National Park due to its multi-tiered waterfalls and impressive 45m drop. You can also visit cultural and historical sites within the park including watermills, ethnographic exhibits, and monasteries which offer an insight into the area's cultural and historical heritage.

From the waterfalls, you can take a boat to a small town called Skradin which is actually the gateway to the park. It's an adorable place to have a drink and a bite to eat before you head back if you don't start the day here.

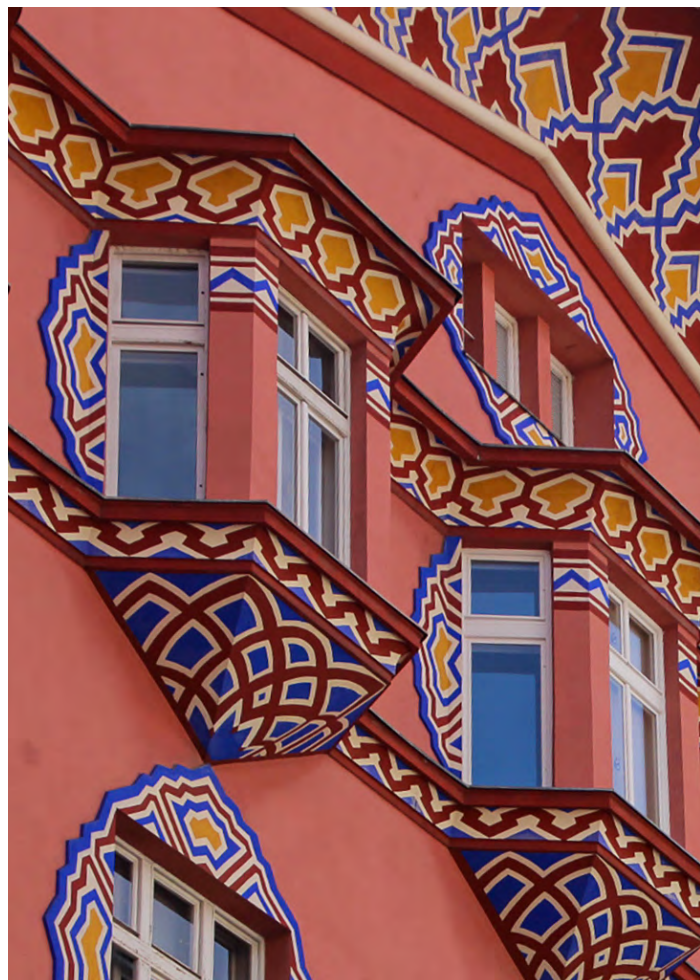
On our third day in Croatia, we went to the port town of Omiš which is located just 30 minutes by bus from Split. Here we did a kayak tour along the beautiful river where we saw some small turtles and ended up at the sea where we could go for a swim.





## Ljubljana, Slovenia

We arrived around 7am feeling more tired than we expected but with only 1 day to explore, we got some coffee and breakfast, and made the most of it! This view from Ljubljana castle, which we reached with the funicular, enabled us to see the whole of the city from above. We then walked down, exploring the streets along the way.



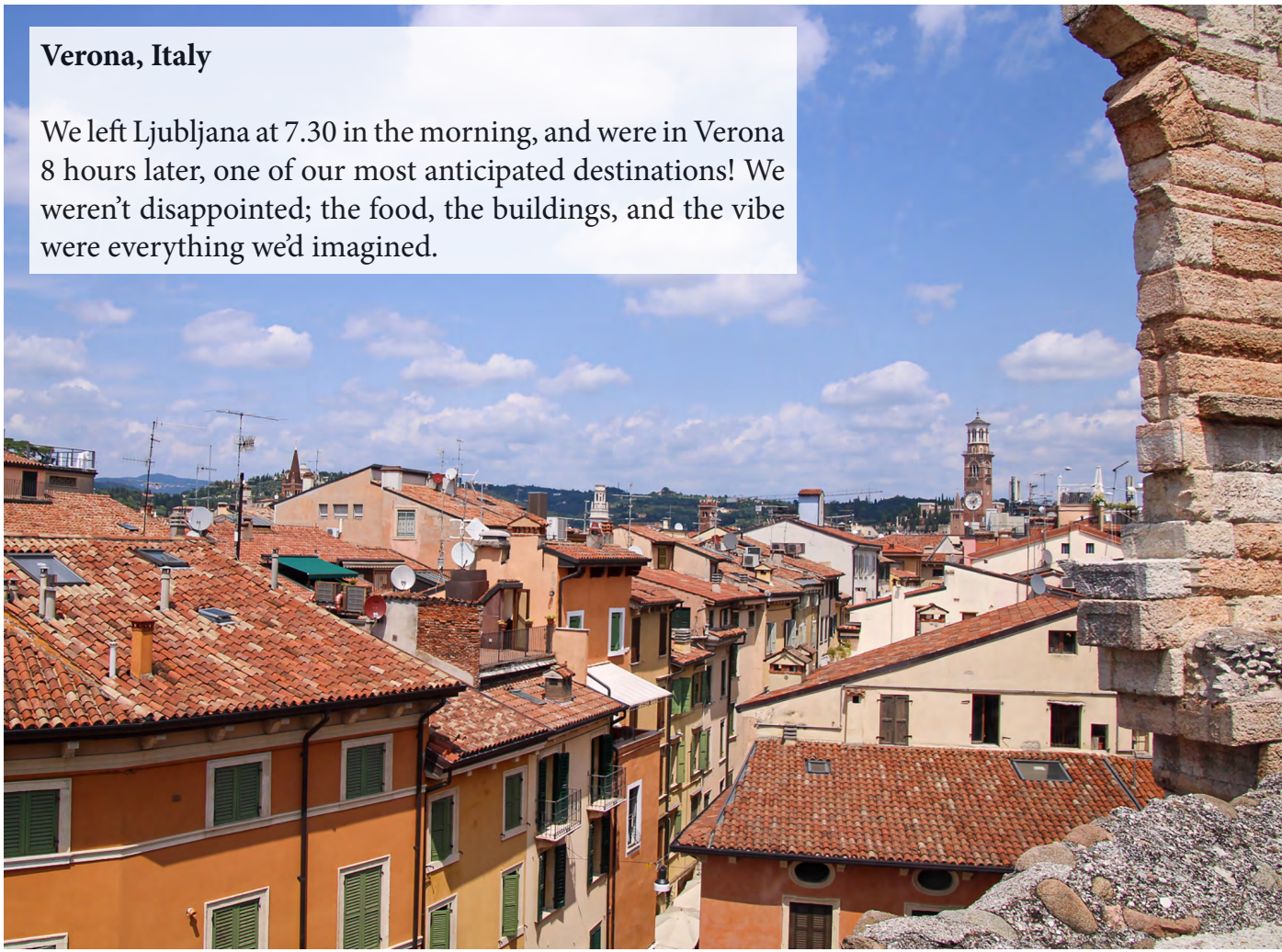
Despite such a short amount of time, we knew we had to see Lake Bled! It's only 1 hour from the capital with buses departing twice an hour. We enjoyed a walk along the water's edge, then hired a row boat and made our way across the lake to the island, soaking up the peaceful surroundings from the water.





## Verona, Italy

We left Ljubljana at 7.30 in the morning, and were in Verona 8 hours later, one of our most anticipated destinations! We weren't disappointed; the food, the buildings, and the vibe were everything we'd imagined.



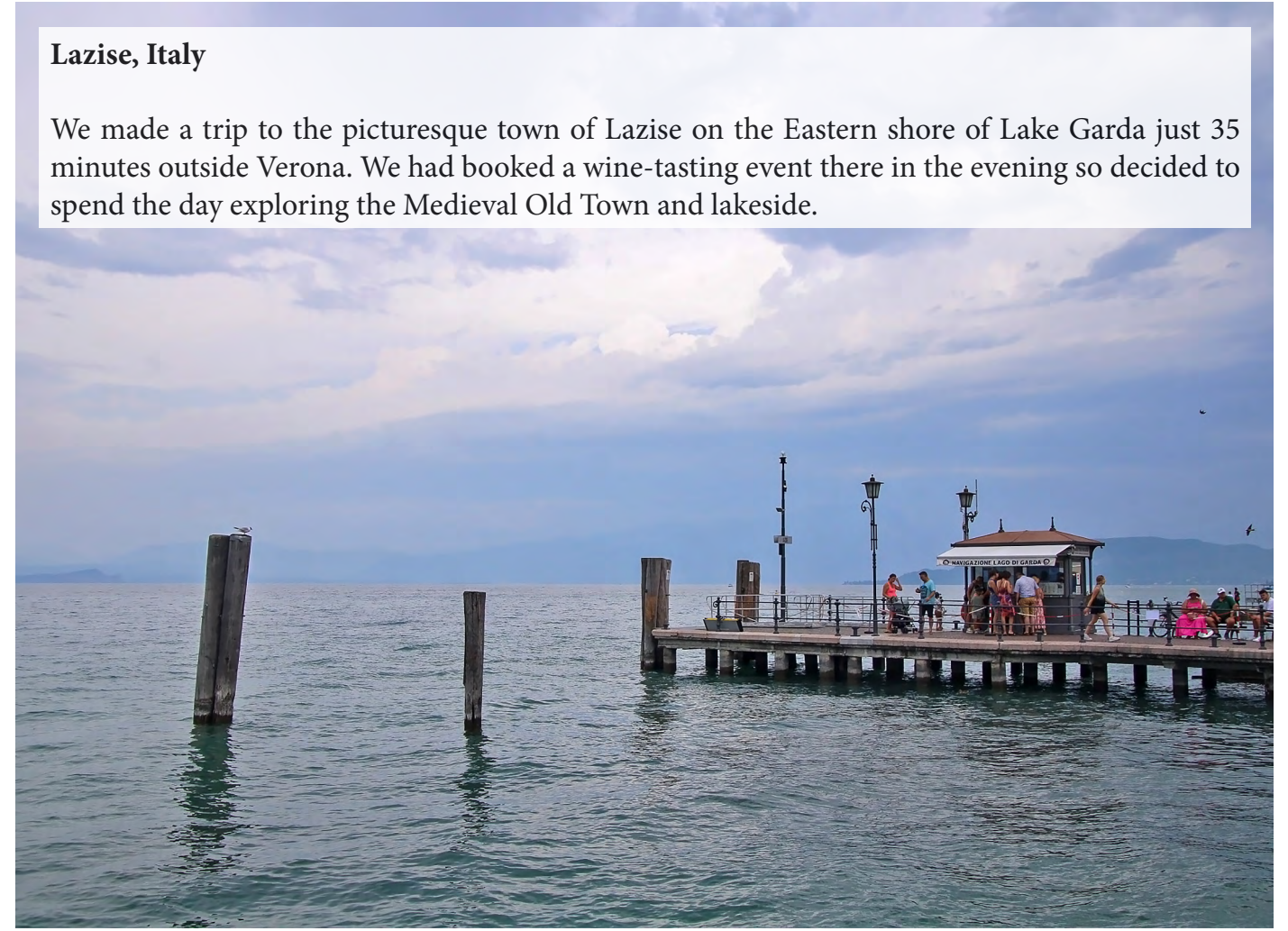


The Roman amphitheatre was built in the 1st century AD and is still used as a performance venue today, particularly for opera productions. It is surrounded by historical streets filled with amazing architecture.



### Lazise, Italy

We made a trip to the picturesque town of Lazise on the Eastern shore of Lake Garda just 35 minutes outside Verona. We had booked a wine-tasting event there in the evening so decided to spend the day exploring the Medieval Old Town and lakeside.







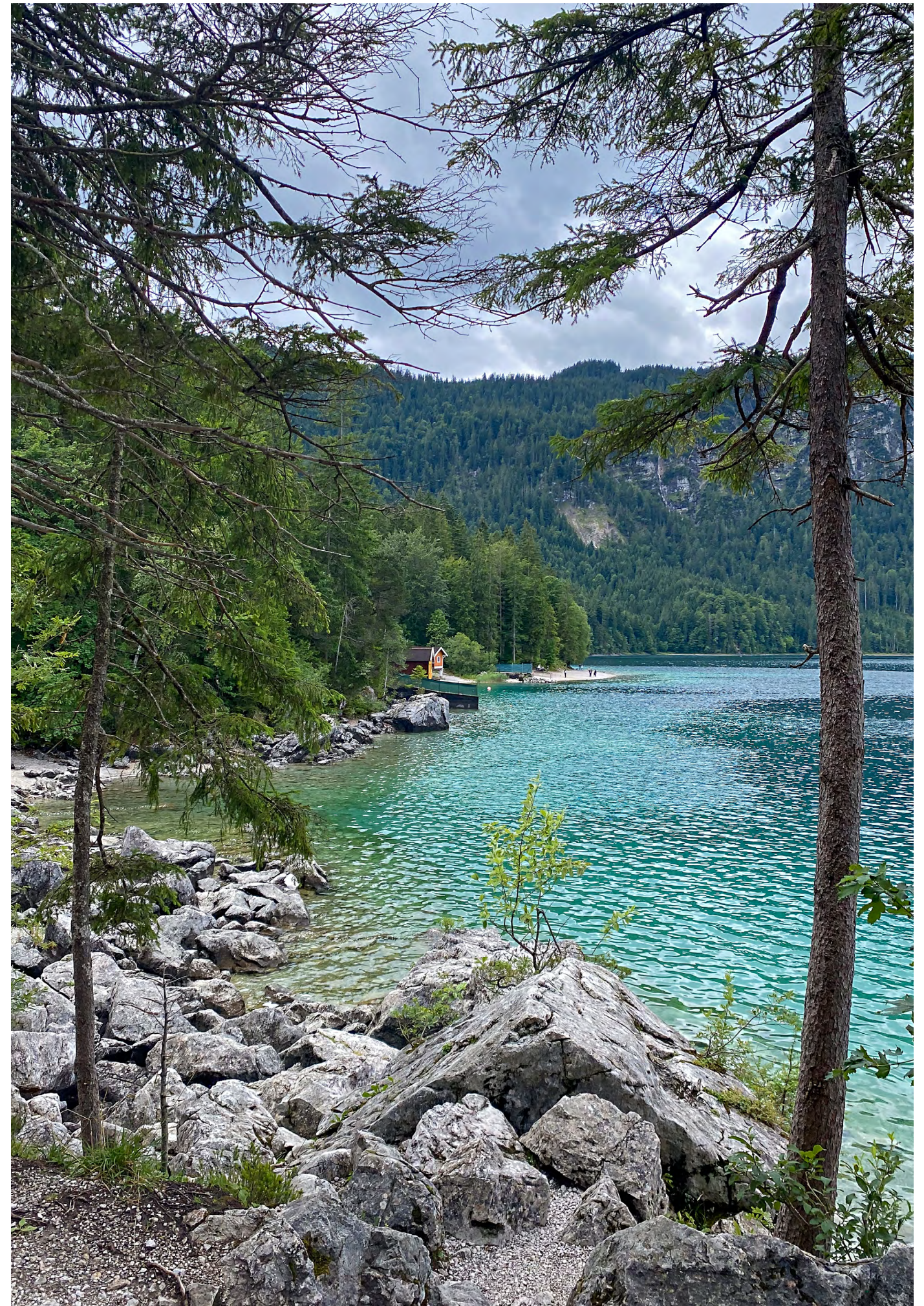
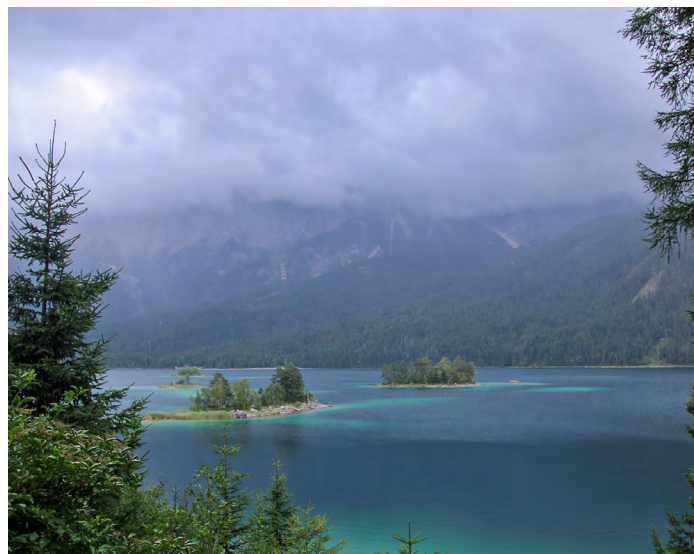
### Grainau, Germany

We decided that we wanted to spend our last stop somewhere quiet, so we opted for the village of Grainau in the Bavarian Alps. We left Verona in the afternoon, our train route taking us via Brenner and Innsbruck to Untergrainau then by bus to Grainau.

Eibsee Lake is just 4km from the village and is absolutely stunning and so peaceful. We enjoyed walking around the pristine mountain lake the next day. We watched the baby ducks, and soaked up the peacefulness of being in nature, leaving the tranquility of Grainau after 3 days for our journey back to the Netherlands.

On reflection, there are a few things we would have done differently, such as spending a minimum of 4 days in each place, avoiding night trains and night buses, and ensuring each connection had a transfer time of 20 minutes minimum as well as packing less! But overall, Interrailing was an amazing experience that I highly recommend, especially when tickets are available for free!

You can find more information about my Interrail trip along with travel tips and destination guides on my blog at [capturemomentsblog.com](https://capturemomentsblog.com). I also post on Instagram [@capturemomentsblog](https://www.instagram.com/capturemomentsblog).





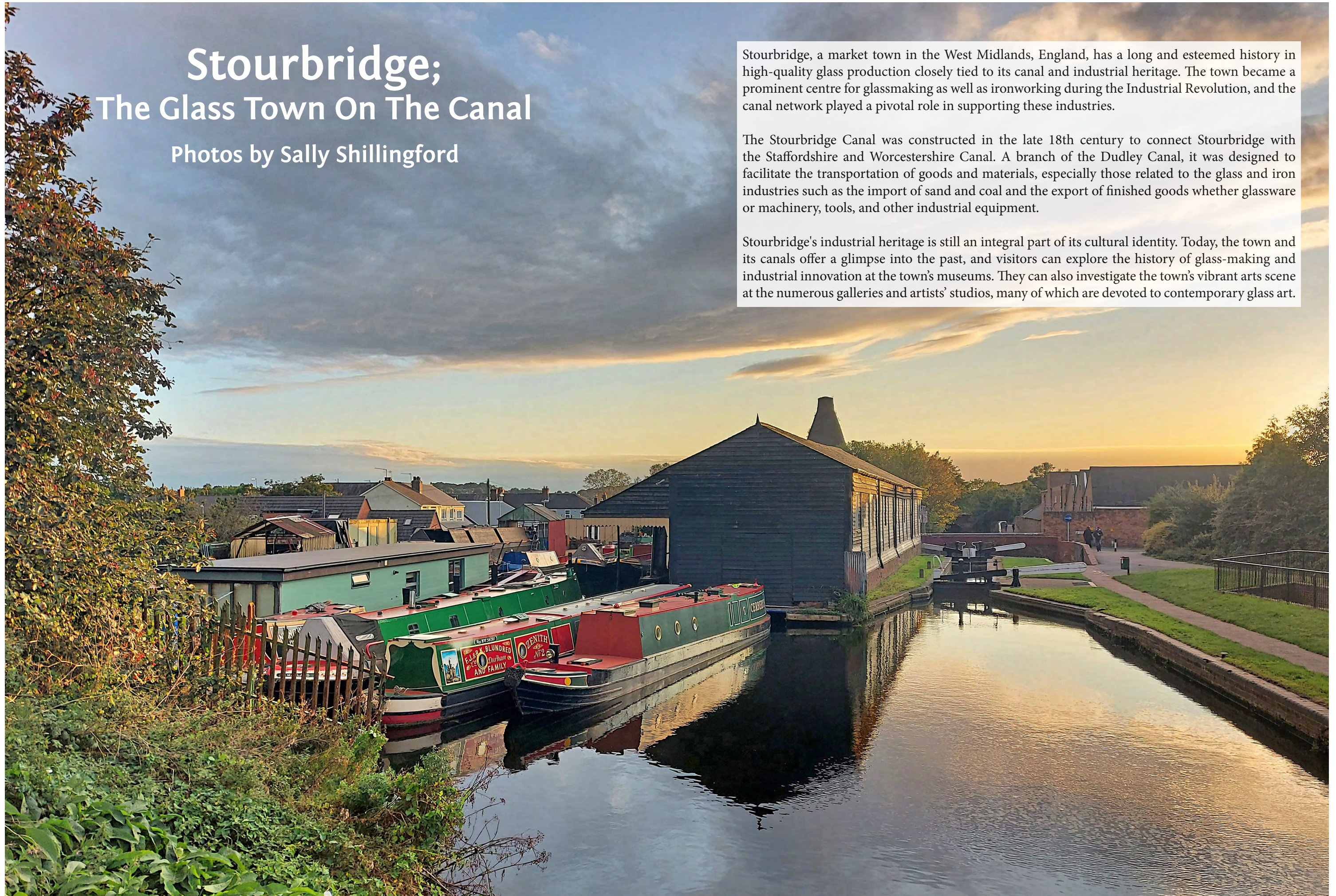
# Stourbridge; The Glass Town On The Canal

Photos by Sally Shillingford

Stourbridge, a market town in the West Midlands, England, has a long and esteemed history in high-quality glass production closely tied to its canal and industrial heritage. The town became a prominent centre for glassmaking as well as ironworking during the Industrial Revolution, and the canal network played a pivotal role in supporting these industries.

The Stourbridge Canal was constructed in the late 18th century to connect Stourbridge with the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. A branch of the Dudley Canal, it was designed to facilitate the transportation of goods and materials, especially those related to the glass and iron industries such as the import of sand and coal and the export of finished goods whether glassware or machinery, tools, and other industrial equipment.

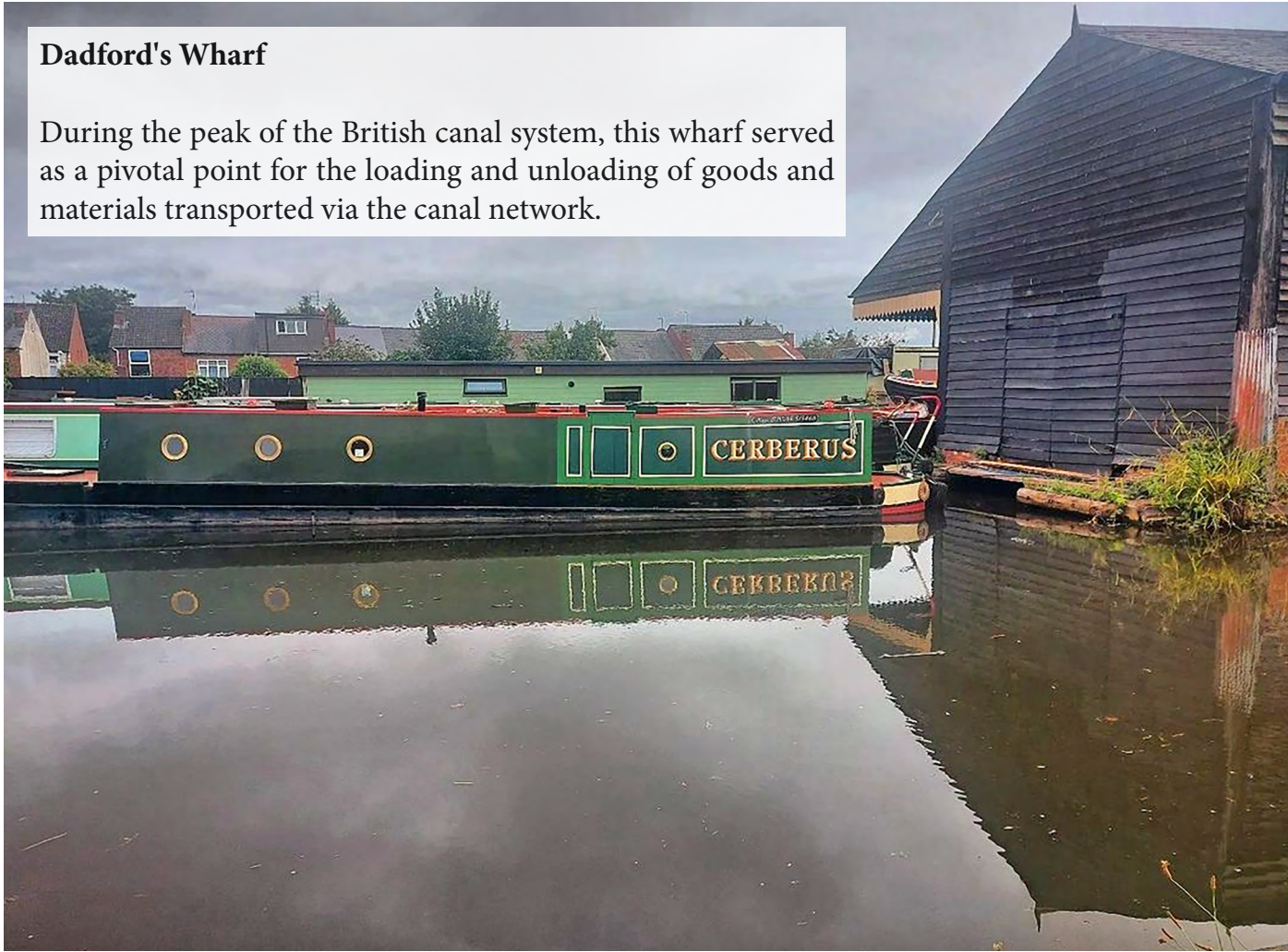
Stourbridge's industrial heritage is still an integral part of its cultural identity. Today, the town and its canals offer a glimpse into the past, and visitors can explore the history of glass-making and industrial innovation at the town's museums. They can also investigate the town's vibrant arts scene at the numerous galleries and artists' studios, many of which are devoted to contemporary glass art.





### Dadford's Wharf

During the peak of the British canal system, this wharf served as a pivotal point for the loading and unloading of goods and materials transported via the canal network.



### Stourbridge Canal Locks

There are a series of 16 locks at Stourbridge. This photo shows lock number 10, with the iconic Red House Cone just visible in the distance.



### Stourbridge Glass Museum, Wordsley

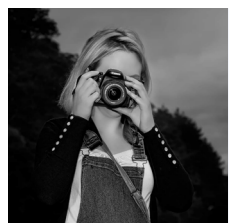
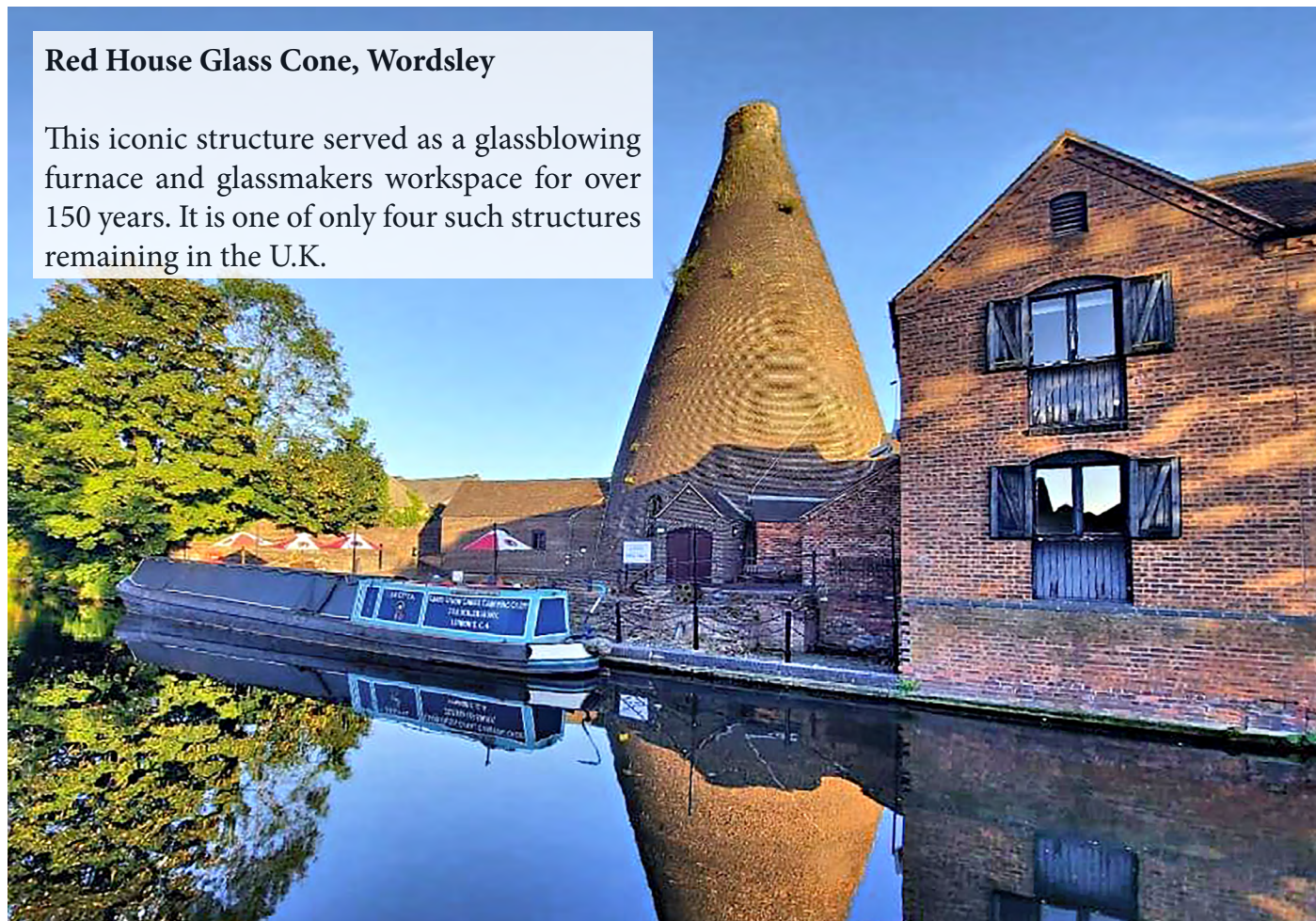
The Stourbridge Glass Museum in Wordsley backs onto the Stourbridge Canal and provides a picturesque backdrop to the historical charm of the location.





### Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley

This iconic structure served as a glassblowing furnace and glassmakers workspace for over 150 years. It is one of only four such structures remaining in the U.K.



Sally Shillingford is a photographer who enjoys going on walks in search of unique shots of the British countryside and its beautiful canals. She finds it refreshing to walk beside the canal, and this is where she discovered her passion for photography. While walking, she started to take some photos and received great feedback which prompted her to set up more social media pages dedicated to her photography. Sally regularly features on BBC Weather with her canal photos and has recently launched her first photo book. You can find her on **Instagram** [@sally\\_ann\\_photography\\_xx](#).

Issue 3 Coming  
February 2024

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"The Road Is There,  
It Will Always Be There.  
You Just Have To Decide  
When To Take It."

*Chris Humphrey*