

## Highlights of Aramuna 2018 tour to the Austrian Alps



After travelling through France and Luxembourg we first visited Motorworld near Stuttgart where several hundred special vehicles and bikes make up a daily changing collection that visitors can view in numerous different buildings.



From there it was on to the Zugspitz, Germany's highest mountain where a record breaking cable car delivers you to a panoramic view point nearly 3,000 metres high, giving clear views over 400 peaks in Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland.

Now time to drive the Grossglockner alpine pass which rises to a height of 2,500m and which first started construction in 1930 and was completed 5 years later. The road is 48km long with numerous hairpin bends.



The following day it was Eagles Nest which was built as a teahouse for Adolf Hitler on Kehlstein Mountain, Berchtesgaden at an elevation of 1,834m. One can only imagine what this extensive fortress like complex was like during the second world war and the reign of the Third Reich and where the dictator met with numerous high-ranking generals such as Goering, Himmler and Bormann to plan his campaigns.

Nearby at Salzburg airport is the home of Red Bull in Hanger 7, which houses the historical Flying Bulls aircraft fleet and a collection of Formula 1 race cars. Opened in 2003 this glass dome is made up of 1,754 transparent panels, no two which have the same dimensions, and houses Felix Baumgartner's specially adapted suit that he used when he jumped from 9,800m above the English Channel, and free fell 36km to Calais reaching a top speed of 360km/h.





Now wonder Red Bull gives you Wings !!.

Now the challenging part driving the Stelvio Pass and the equally hard SP29/42 from Bormio to Dimaro. Top Gear voted this the best driving road in the world in 2008 and with it 48 switchback turns climbing to a height of 2,757m it certainly is a dramatic mountain road, that must surely be on every petrol heads list of roads to drive.



It was then onto Lake Garda and the impressive tunnels that featured in the opening scenes of the James Bond movie Quantum of Solace. This is where you open your windows turn the radio off, drop it into 2<sup>nd</sup> gear and floor the accelerator to 6,000rpm and just listen to the noise howling from your exhaust. In the evening it was a very pleasant dinner in Desanzano del Garda where the Mille Miglia race usually stop for a check point.



Our next day was taken up with visiting the Mille Miglia Museum at Brescia, something of a must for enthusiasts of this famous race. First started in 1927 and continued as a race until a tragic accident in 1957 this famous 1000 mile event now consists of a regulated circular route for cars built during this period and today followed by thousands from all over the world.



Onto the Verzasca Dam, located near Locarno and Ticino and where another opening scene from the James Bond movie Goldeneye was shot. For the brave hearted amongst you, it's possible to replicate this jump of 220m by bungy.



Now in Meiringen, Switzerland where the Sherlock Holmes Museum and the Reichenbach Falls are located. It was here in 1891 that the famous detective crossed paths with his biggest adversary Professor James Moriarty and after an epic struggle, Dr Watson believes that both Holmes and Moriarty have been killed. However, after several years Holmes returns to 221b Baker and renews his adventures, hence "Sherlock Holmes – the man who never lived and never died".



Next was Piz Gloria, near Murren in Switzerland which at 2,970m must be the highest restaurant in Europe. The location featured in the James Bond movie *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* and today the sky view platform of Schilthorn is reached by 4 cable cars taking 32 minutes to enjoy a beautiful view of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains as well as 200 other summits.



That Aramuna guy, seems to get everywhere !!

Finally, on the way home we stopped at the picturesque town of Colmar and old Reims-Gueux motor circuit to view the old pits and grandstand which still survive to this day. At 7,826m it was one of the longest and fastest circuits that hosted the French Grand Prix between 1950 and 1966.



Thanks, go to young Will Bree - Grice for some superb photography and many thanks must go to Kieran our tour co-ordinator who along with Scenic Car Tours always put together an excellent package for us. So if in future years you would like to join us on one of these jollies please get in touch.