

Lens letter from the Via

Date 13/07/17

Location	Joune	KM's to Rome	1,253	Steps Today	35,852
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Pontarlier is a lovely small city surrounded by a wall and a river. The old centre is

largely intact with the main church having ceramic patterns in its sphere. There are definitely some messages hidden in these patterns.

As we get closer to Switzerland we have noticed a subtle change in the local culture and the style of living by the locals. Let's say a little more ordered at the expense of style at times, but as always on this trip have found the people very helpful to us wandering pilgrims. On the way out of the city two of my travelling companions decided to test

their height against the entry Porte. They have been doing this at various cities and villages in Europe but as you can see they are dwarfed by the entrance. Too many croissants and not enough growth food. Speaking of croissants, some of the pilgrims have taken a liking to the local variety arguing that they are not the processed version we are served back in Oz therefore it is ok to start the day off with pastry and a little butter. I have been taking down my muesli of a morning, we all know what travel can do to your bodies workings and I am not taking the risk of eating pastries for breakfast.

The walk today was mainly along a scenic disused railway track which unfortunately also ran alongside a major road.

We did divert up into a forest towards the end which necessitated a serious climb. This was our first real test and unfortunately, we didn't do so well. We lost the track and did not find it again for quite a while which lengthened our climb, I guess we had the chance for paradise but lost it on the way to Joune.

This local cat has certainly worked out how to control its slaves. It has had its own ladder built into the house through a raised window. When I get home I am going to start a company providing this service, it would have to be the most desired thing for cat lovers to have for their adorable cats. Anybody who wants part of the action can pay the money into my swiss bank account which I am just about to set up.

