

Lens letter from the Via

Date 15 & 16/07/17

Location	Lausanne	KM's to Rome	1,206	Steps Today	57,168
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Today was a big walk into Lausanne which meant an early start. It had its benefits though as breakfast could be purchased on the way at the local bakery rather than the ordinary fare that was being offered up at the hotel.

Most of day I could see the Swiss Alps in the background, they don't look so big from this distance even occasionally disappearing behind some of the smaller hills between here and Saint Bernard's pass. Spent a pleasant day trying to work out what the peaks on the range were, which has proved quite difficult. It brought home in very sharp relief the enormity of what I am trying to do, the distance to Rome is still over 1200km and I have two mountain ranges to negotiate my way through.

The walk was along quite country loans interspersed with forest walks, a long distance but not a difficult walk. I happened upon this eagle as I was walking and the attached photo has not been photoshopped, it is the moon in the background. The eagle was hovering about two meters away from me and about three metres high, as soon as I put my camera to my eye the eagle took flight, obviously a learned behaviour. There are lots of beautiful birds of prey about. Had my first equipment failure today, my boots have already developed a hole in one sole. I purchased the boots in



Melbourne and had hoped that they would see the distance to Rome. However, I went for a pair with softer rubber as I find the new hard rubber soles uncomfortable. The soles are inappropriate for the tarmac walking and gravelly tracks I have to travel on. A pity really as they are very comfortable, am currently attempting to extend their life by sewing string into the sole and applying glue to the string. This makes the string very strong so I live in hope. I will have to speak to Josef about his shoes perhaps I can buy the all-terrain sandals that the ancients used to wear.

Arrived into Lausanne in the afternoon and immediately went shoe shopping, brought a pair of the trusty Merrell's but with the dreaded vibram sole, not prepared to throw out my Siebel's yet. On our rest day caught up with Ed and Wendy who are also enjoying some time in Europe and trained up from Ancy for the day.

Enjoyed a good chat over lunch, you do miss the ability to have a conversation when you don't have the local language. Sunday the 16th was also the day of the Wimbledon tennis final. Carol watched Roger win his 8th title. By a strange coincidence the last time Roger won Wimbledon we were in Europe and Carol watched him win. Both times I didn't watch. This is an omen and Roger should fly us both back for next year's final as his lucky charm.

