



*Kate Bakker - Île Molène*

Elaine: Kate, er, can you tell me why you signed up for the visit to er Molène?

Kate: Yes, actually, erm, the reason I signed up was because I'd always had a dream about going out on one of these Zodiac inflatable boats, and that was my main motivation was, I can go out on one of these, it's fantastic, go and visit a beautiful Brittany island and, yeah just have a wonderful time

Elaine: So your dream was realised?

Kate: It was, it certainly was, it really was

Elaine: So can you tell us about the day there?

Kate: It started, er, interestingly quite strangely because off we went in our boat, we had two of these boats and we....

Elaine: You met first of all?

Kate: We met first of all there, yes in Le Conquet

Elaine: In Le Conquet?

Kate: In Le Conquet - and we all met there, it was beautifully organised, everybody was waiting for us. And we got into our boats, there were 11 people in each boat and two guides with the boat and we were the second boat to leave so off we went. After about five minutes the guide said "I'm ever so sorry, we're going to have turn, turn around because I've forgotten my handbag and my telephone." So we thought well that's no problem because we were having a lovely time on the boat so we went back again. She picked up her bag and then off we went, and of course because we were running a little bit behind the other boat we had full throttle and off we went and It was fabulous because what I wanted to do was to feel the spray, which unfortunately I didn't. Some people got soaked at the back, but it was just pounding through the waves, the fresh air, and I felt like I was 10 years old again. I wanted to giggle, you know, because it was is just so lovely, and then we made lots of stops around the little island because this part of the water apparently is one of the most dangerous stretches of water around Brittany and because of the currents etcetera, so we were told a lot about that, it was all in French and my French isn't actually.....

Elaine: This is where the channel actually meets the Atlantic

Kate: So that was really very interesting, we went around all these little islands. We were, of course, looking for natural fauna, like the Sea Lions (which we saw quite a lot of), er birds and, hopefully, dolphins, which sadly we didn't see - but it didn't make the trip any less wonderful. It wasn't disappointing really, not to see them, because I think most people have actually seen dolphins before, but it was just to be out there. And we had, er, our guide was really super, she explained lots of things about, there's one little island there, I've forgotten the name of it, there's a little island, you can stay er overnight in the farm there and I think it's a place, well sort of like a retreat, which appealed to me. I would really like to do that one day as well. Erm, interestingly, none of the islands had trees on them, which I found



quite interesting, being a bird person myself and bird watching so usually you have the trees for that, no, no trees on the island, nor also on the Île de Molène when we arrived, no trees at all. A lovely island, beautiful little houses, and I suppose we took about one and half hours to get there I think it was. And then we all disembarked, and erm toddled off to have a lovely lunch in, in the group, with er at a lovely Crêperie, where we sat outside and we got to meet other members of the group, which was, which was nice, because there were quite a lot of people that I didn't know, and sadly I would, I would have liked to have spent more time on the island because I understand there's a museum there, because one of our group gave us some information about the island which a lot of us, I think most of us probably, didn't know, that there'd been a erm a ship wreck way back in the day and it was the Drummond Castle and apparently there were apparently 250 passengers and crew, the majority of which were British people, and they drowned, and the people on the island were actually sort of sorting out the bodies that washed up on the shore, and they had made a museum dedicated to this shipwreck, but didn't sadly have time to find that, and erm you know which I would have like a little bit more there.

Elaine: So what would you say er was particularly special about the day, what stood out. I get a feeling it could be the boat trip?

Kate: Well, actually, you are absolutely right, I'm afraid for me it was the boat trip. It was the thrill of getting into that boat, being so close to the water, going so fast in the water, getting so close to the animals and the seals in between the islands. It was just the most wonderful feeling and we could not have had a better day. The weather conditions were superb and it was just fantastic. I was very worried before we went, because if the weather conditions weren't just right we would have had to go by ferry, which in itself is not a big deal, but, you know, a ferry is a ferry and then you go from A to B and then you get off, and then we would have longer on the island, I suppose, but I wouldn't have had that thrill, that excitement of being on this boat

Elaine: You were like 12 years old again?

Kate: I was, absolutely, absolutely, 12 years old again, and I would do it again tomorrow

Elaine: In a flash! Would you recommend friends to visit the island and if you did what advice would you give them regarding the trip perhaps, on the Zodiac?

Kate: OK. Yes, I certainly would. My advice suggest then that they go by the Zodiac because it's such an experience, and if they don't mind, you know, being out on open sea. Advice yes, we were told to take with us er waterproofs and warm clothing, but it was a beautiful day so I didn't take any waterproofs. Erm, I was lucky I didn't get wet

Elaine: You didn't heed the advice?

Kate: I didn't heed the advice, I didn't get wet, but some people fortunately did have waterproofs sitting at the back got absolutely soaked, so depending on where you are on the boat and er you know quite what the weather conditions are like you can get really wet so advice is definitely warm clothing, because it doesn't matter how beautiful the weather is, once you're out on that water, and you go so far out, it is cold,



Elaine: Absolutely, yes. So, er I mean it was a, I think, a very, very special day, I think 100% enjoyed by everybody?

Kate: Absolutely, it was, it was totally a success it was fantastic and I'm hoping there are going to be more of these trips, going to more islands on these sort of boats, obviously, preferably. It was fantastic and I yes would definitely recommend it to anybody.

Elaine: Well, thank you very much Kate, er...

Kate: You're welcome

Elaine: You really, really did enjoy it?

Kate: Oh, it was wonderful, it was wonderful, it was wonderful