

*Arriving late August in Munich this coincided nicely with an Austrian hiking week with brother and sister in law around 'Filzmoos', a picturesque village in the mountains about 70 kms from Salzburg.*

*The picture book scenery was such a treat to eyes and soul and I thoroughly enjoyed dayhikes in these glorious surroundings.*

*After a week on to my home town Erlangen to connect with family - siblings and my mother in a care facility.*

*From here on I had a job as labourer on my building site - assisting very physically and ably renovating an apartment - shifting rubble, trimming bricks, jackhammering floors - and more.*

*Whilst progress is being made it is much more time consuming, involved and costly than originally expected.*

*It is the journey, not the destination - it is said but I am rather much focused on the latter.*

*Labouring will be interrupted by a side trip to Ecuador for 4 weeks in November. A gruelling 16 hrs flight from Amsterdam to Quito - plus the hop across from Nuremberg to Amsterdam as an appetizer beforehand. The closer it comes the more I wonder -what was I thinking to put myself through such a long journey.*

*It should be worth it though. First about a week in Quito and then onto the Galapagos Islands for 10 days, cruising in a very small boat for 12 passengers only. There are other sights and destinations to explore for the remaining stay. The country is known for its volcanos (some rumble and grumble at times), hot springs and baths amongst other things.*

*Back to Germany for traditional Christmas markets and atmosphere at the beginning of December. It is meant to be harsh winter coming and I would be delighted if there was lots of snow -just for the look, smell, feel of it - and the change.*

*I expect an Australian visitor later in December and the plan is to see the New Year in in style at a Ball at the Hofburg in Vienna - ballgown, tuxedo and all.*

*There are some smaller side trips to be done in Jan/Feb to see relatives and friends in other parts of the Country.*

*By mid March it will be time to return to WA, recover and settle back into life there with a 'Return to Work' date set for May.*

*And as for dancing, well there is a very active 'Tanzhaus Erlangen' offering a range of folkdance events which I fit in as I go. There are also numerous Tango opportunities in both large and small towns, Argentine Tango is very popular in Germany. And the beforementioned Ball in Vienna - more suitable for waltzing, and perhaps foxtrotting.*

*With the relatively small distances and good infrastructure lots of events are quite readily accessible, so there is never shortage, or an excuse, to put on Dance shoes.*

*Happy Dancing to you All - and Travelling for those who are elsewhere around the globe.*

*Gisela*