



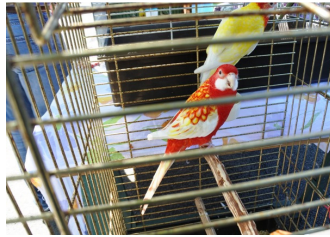
The River Seille



The River Seille branches off the Saone just below Chalons-sur-Saone, a tiny tributary of the Moselle- 39 km. of pure peace...an idyllic backwater that meanders through lush meadows and wooded slopes with two small villages, Cuisery and La Truchere, with pontoons to moor at, 4 small locks (3 of which are self-service! (think hard before you open the wrong gate!) and few boats. It was lovely.

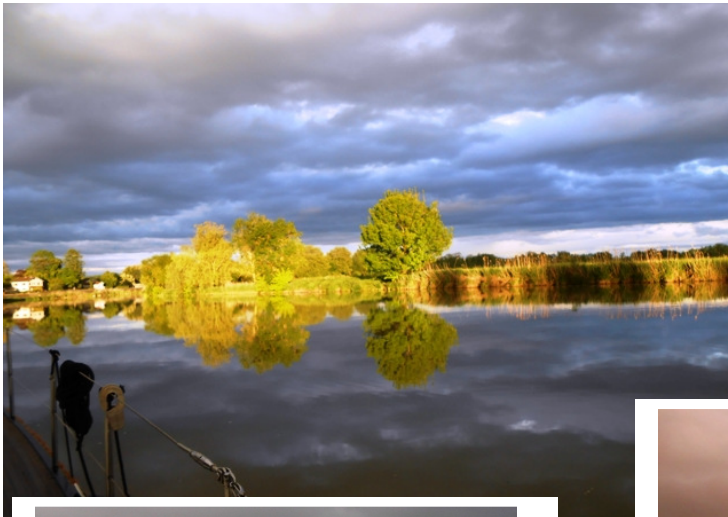


Within a few minutes, an otter and a kingfisher crossed our bow, and we had many visits from proud swan families.



I finally summoned up the courage to try the local delicacy- frog's legs...smothered in melted butter, garlic and parsley. Mais oui...very tasty, like chicken, lots of tiny bones, and just a tinge of green....

It was once a thriving waterway, providing river access to Louhans - "The City of Arches" which has the longest arcaded street in France, with 157 arches. It is, indeed, very picturesque but what everyone comes for is the poultry market which has been held every Monday since the 13th century, the heyday of the great fairs of the Middle Ages. Handsome birds of all sizes and colours - but crammed together in the harsh sun, we felt sorry for them and were a bit shocked. Combined with the monthly food and clothes market, the town was heaving! What an atmosphere. We loaded up with cheeses and salamis and fruits. Not cheap, but very good.



The weather may have been changeable, from sun to hail and thunder but it did produce the most amazing skies, and light.