

## **Day 14 – Ferry to South Island and Wine district [Friday 04-Feb-2011]**

The wind kept blowing into the night and the tent flapped in the wind. Later in the night, the rain started. It did not seem to last very long. We had set our alarms for 5AM. We were sound asleep when they went off. We quickly cleared out the tent and moved things into the car. We did not even bother to fold the tent or anything, knowing that we'd have dead-time when we got to the ferry.

The GPS is really helpful at night. It was pitch black outside when we hit the road. And since we were on the country side, roads are small and signs not always obvious (to us). We had to go over a pass to reach Wellington. It reached about 1,600ft or so. We literally drove through a rain cloud as we reached the top. The nominal speed limit was 100km/h but we were hard pressed to keep it above 40km/h due to rain and very windy roads.

It took us about 1 ½ hour to reach the ferry terminal. We immediately got into the “Check In” line and were then moved into staging. We were parked there for a little while and used that time to pack the tent and to figure out what to bring with us up on deck. We were moved up on the boat well before 7:30AM. The weather outside was still pretty crappy. This is our first rainy weather since we left Boston.



**We are in a ferry staging lane for South Island, NZ. Here we folded the tent, etc.**

We got up on deck and grabbed a small table and a pair of chairs. The place was empty when we got in but quickly filled up. I have to assume we arrived early. Lilli made some P&J sandwiches while got up to the cafeteria to buy some coffee. That was a bit complicated. I really wanted a plain cup of coffee with some half-n-half. That was what I had in mind. But all they had was milk. The closest I could get to a coffee that resembled what I usually drink at home was to order a large “Americana”. Tasted like espresso with milk in it.



**Leaving a dreary Wellington on the North Island behind**



**Arrival at the ferry terminal on the South Island, NZ. The skies were starting to clear up!**

They have WiFi on the ship but it costs you 7 NZD for up to 40MB of data transfer. That is not a lot of data. We have yet to encounter free WiFi on New Zealand. It seems like it is more of a luxury around here.



**We are renting a tiny room with a private door. 78 NZD/night. A bit expensive I think.**

After a brief snack, we headed out with the car to do some sightseeing of the Marlborough wine-district. I am hesitant to stop and taste since the prices we've seen so far are very high for NZ wine, compared to what we are used to back home. Taxes?



**One of many wine yards in the Marlborough district of the South Island**



**A lot of spectacular views in this part of NZ.**



**Not ready for harvest but you can tell these are grapes**



**Lilli is enjoying a fish-n-chips with a pitcher of local beer at the sports bar next door**

After eating we went back to our little room and did some diary work and reading. But first, I had to check out some camper hookups, including dump stations. It almost looked as if the lid on individual dump stations were Thetford! The weather forecast for this weekend pushes the temperature into the mid 80s (30C).