Vienna – Brno – Vienna. The many ways of travelling between two cities

Is travelling from one city to another more than just moving from A to B? How do people decide which road and means of transport to use, and how do they experience different routes? How much do they know and care about the steps taken (or not taken) to improve the connection? With these questions in mind, I went on two small journeys between Vienna and Brno in early April 2018, using four different means of transport (train, bus, Blablacar, hitchhiking).

When I first travelled from Vienna to Brno I didn’t get quite as much information as I would have liked to, mostly talking with tourists on the train. Thus, I decided to go on another adventure. This time I wanted to really experience the road and hitchhiking seemed perfect for this purpose. I got a ride to the border town in Czech Republic through Blablacar and hitchhiked back to Vienna.

It took three cars and one train to travel these less than 100 kilometres. I struggled finding good spots for the cars to stop, got honked at while walking along the road, found lots of trash thrown out of car windows, wondered why there are so many casinos by the roadside, and had interesting conversations with the drivers. Unfortunately my plan to talk to people at restaurants didn’t work out because the people on the Czech side didn’t speak English, and the only restaurant I saw on the Austrian side was closed. Although the experience was fascinating I was somewhat dissapointed about the results of my enquiries. Which means – all the more reason to return to the road.