

From Denmark to Scotland in a GT6

Di Martin Denni Nielsen

My name is Martin, I am 46 years old and live in Denmark. I want to tell you about a dream that came true.



The story goes way back to 1996 when I unfortunately crashed in my beloved Morris Minor and missed a classic car badly since then. My dad and I shared a big passion for classic cars, especially the British ones. He had a Morris 8, a Hillman Minx, a Humber Hawk and a Morris Minor, so when the GT6 turned up I immediately recognized it.

I bought the car in 1996 and drove it as it was for four years, then I took the number plates off and dismantled it. The car was in much worse shape than I could see, the rust was everywhere. My wife at that time and I got children and the car had to stay in boxes for many years. Then we built a nice house with a good garage so the frame was brought home and sandblasted but the outriggers were very bad so I needed some help to get them welded in place and to repair a few rust holes. The frame was then primed and painted, and I could go on with all the suspension bones and new bushings. I meant to build an original car or, at least, as original as I could get. So I went for standard bushings as the car was stiff enough. All parts were sandblasted, primed and used again and only the ones worn out or broken were replaced. I got new windscreen, rubbers and nuts and bolts here and there. The body was also sandblasted and primed and that was the big shock, because 60% of the body was rusted away: the car needed new sills, bottoms, inner-

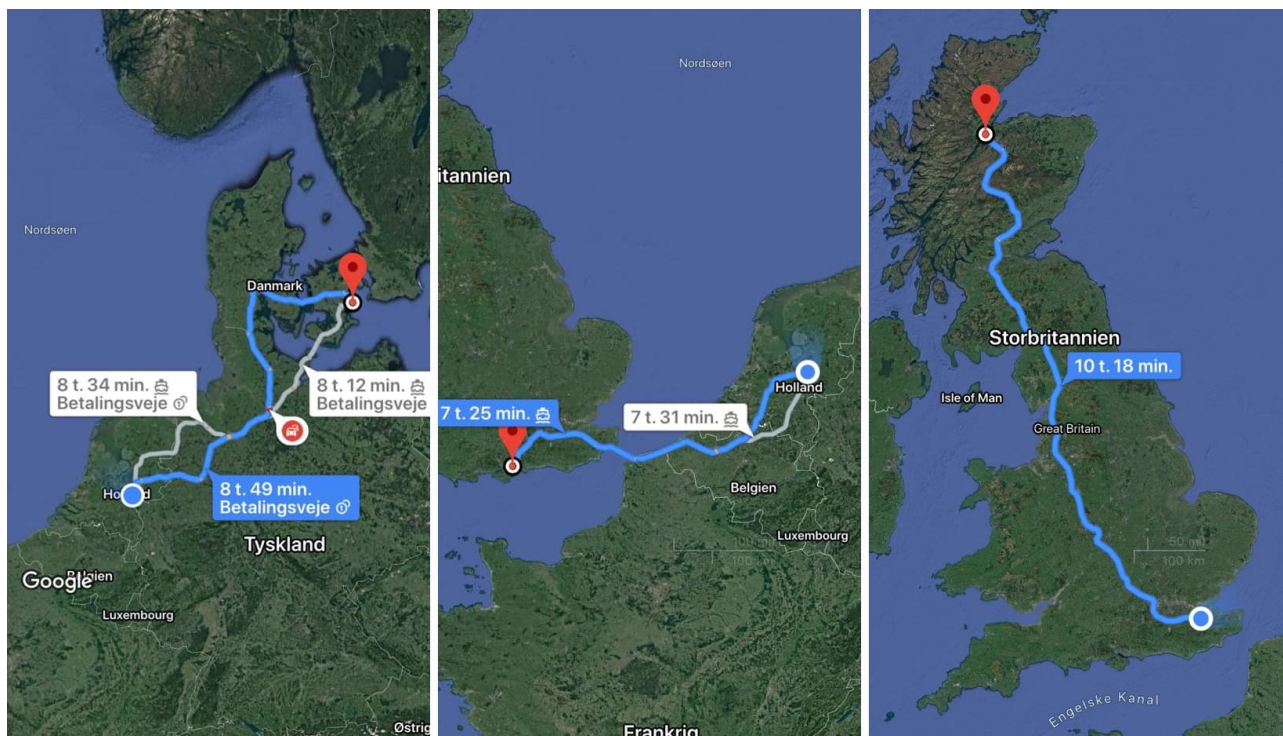
wings, outer-wings, door panels, rear panel, front and windscreen frame. New wiring loom was fitted with new H4 headlamps. The not original parts currently are the color of the body – not a Triumph color but Jaguar racing green no. 701 –, the gearbox – a Dolomite one with overdrive – and the wheels which came from a GT6 Mk3. I even fit a Pertronix electronic ignition to get a better spark. Anyway I still have the original gearbox and the original wheels.

It took me 13 years to build the car, working on it depending on time and money, but in 2013 I finally turned the key and the straight six was firing up. Now I drive my GT6 very often and it runs well. At 4000 RPM in 4th with overdrive it gets to 122 km/h and the elapsed time from 0 to 100 km/h is quite good for a 50 years old car.



Restoration in progress.

I've always wished to drive around Scotland and finally I had the chance to do it on a classic British car, so I planned the trip with Lochness as a destination, from Store Heddinge in Denmark to Inverness and back from July 15th 2020 to July 22nd. My son 12 years old Gustav was my faithful navigator through all, he likes the GT6 but he's more interested in old ships so we planned a stop in Portsmouth to see the HMS Warrior. Everything in UK was closed due to the pandemic, London was nearly a ghost town but we were able to see the Big Ben, the St. Paul cathedral and the Tower Bridge.



From Store Heddinge to Inverness in three days.

We reached Lochness on July 18th at 20:45, then home again on July 22nd, 19:40, after 4964 km without a single problem. We even drove from Inverness to Maidstone, in Southern England, in just one day, counting 999 km. The trip was a good test for the car, having run for several hours, from morning to evening, at 3000-4000 RMP with only fuel stops. The temperature inside the car was hot, and the gearstick is almost impossible to hold on because of the temperature, but the car kept going on and on just eating kilometers. I only topped up the engine oil and no cooling was added. The car used 365 liter of petrol E10 with additive for 4769 km with an average of 13 km/l.

I recommend everyone to do such a trip at least once, to see with your own eyes what your classic car can do.

If you want to contact me, feel free to add me on Facebook/Messenger: [Martin Denni Nielsen](#).



The final touches before the start.

Il contenuto di questo articolo è protetto dalla licenza definita a questo indirizzo: www.triumphitaly.it/disclaimer.html



Finally on the road!

From Denmark to Scotland in a GT6



An unusually deserted London.



Edinburgh.



Driving around.



Scottish landscapes (above and in the next pages).



