

Malta Trip – Thursday March 3rd 2016 to Thursday 10th March 2016



Eleven members of the Travel Group decided to escape the remains of the English winter by heading off to Malta - hopefully to find some early spring sunshine and warmth. Whilst the weather on arrival was relatively sunny, there was also an unwelcome gale, which did not die down for a couple of days.

We stayed at Qawra Bay in a large modern hotel (the Suncrest). It was generally very comfortable, although we would have preferred it to have been a bit more central. All our evening meals were at a large table just for us in a smaller dining room. The food was what you would expect from a large buffet - not wonderful but generally acceptable.

Our trips included an all day visit to the neighbouring island of Gozo; a wander around the Marsasloxxx Market (mainly food and fish, hence a bit smelly!), and the Aviation Museum. There we had the benefit of a knowledgeable guide who was part of a team that renovate planes.

Monday saw us visit Valetta and in particular St John's co-cathedral. This was extremely ostentatious, full of gold leaf and old masters on the walls. Whilst wonderful, it was obvious that the Knights of St John looked after themselves rather well when they were in control. Valetta generally was full of wonderful buildings, although many had needed to be rebuilt after bomb damage in WW2. The Grand Harbour was magnificent and the 12 o'clock gun was too loud to be ignored!

That evening some of the group went to an Elvis Tribute pub and had a wonderful time, with much laughter, dancing on the tables etc.

Wednesday's itinerary included San Anton gardens, but nobody told us that they closed early. By the time that we decided to depart all the gates were locked! After much wandering around, an armed soldier let us out through a locked gate. Our guide had decided to take herself off to a restaurant for coffee and cake while her charges were locked in. Customer care or what!

The best part of course was the wonderful company of the group as a whole. Everybody got on very well and we had a lot of fun.

(Thanks to Maurice van Mellaerts who provided this report).

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