

Malta – Expect More Unexpected

A photo gallery in chronological order from our trip to Malta from 24 June to 4 July. (See references to our 2nd trip to Malta under www.englishgoesglobal.de/download)

How about we start with a restaurant recommendation:



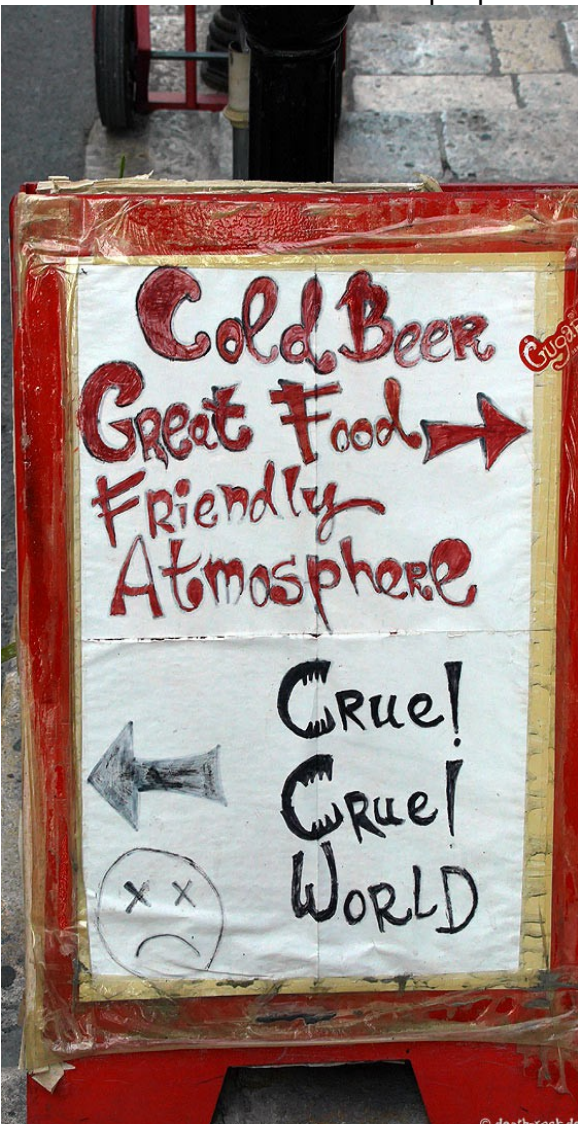
On the first evening we went to the high-standard restaurant Emperor of India in San Giljan. We expected – and quite rightly – received delicious food, but additionally had a very amusing evening with many thanks to the unexpectedly humorous waiters. It was so delightful that we went back for our last evening dinner and they could amazingly even remember what we had ordered on the first visit!



Due to the fact that we knew that the German toy company Playmobil has its ain factory on Malta and we had visited the Playmobil Fun Park at our previous trip to Malta in 2013, we were surprised to come across a life-size version of the Malta-Playmobil character front of a toy store in the Valetta, Malta's capital city.



This cute little cat was 'cleaning' the roads and unexpectedly didn't stop gnawing at the dead animal's body, which was obviously squashed right into the cracks between the cobblestone roads in Valetta. There was a crowd of people watching this and it took the cat about 15 minutes!



Many travelling books recommend to read between the lines when you see signs in foreign countries. We didn't expect such signs to be as direct as these two!





Who can guess what the sign above is about?



Neither did we expect the Blue Lagoon to really be so blue, nor did we expect only a few people to actually swim in the lagoon. Many people stayed either on the beach or in the shallow part.



Who would ever expect to encounter 'live' safety jackets? Thankfully, we were not forced to look under the seats in the boat from Malta to the Blue Lagoon island, Comino.



Our boat's skipper took us on a special – and unexpected – tour of Comino and we saw magnificent and also quite unexpected formations of the rocks.



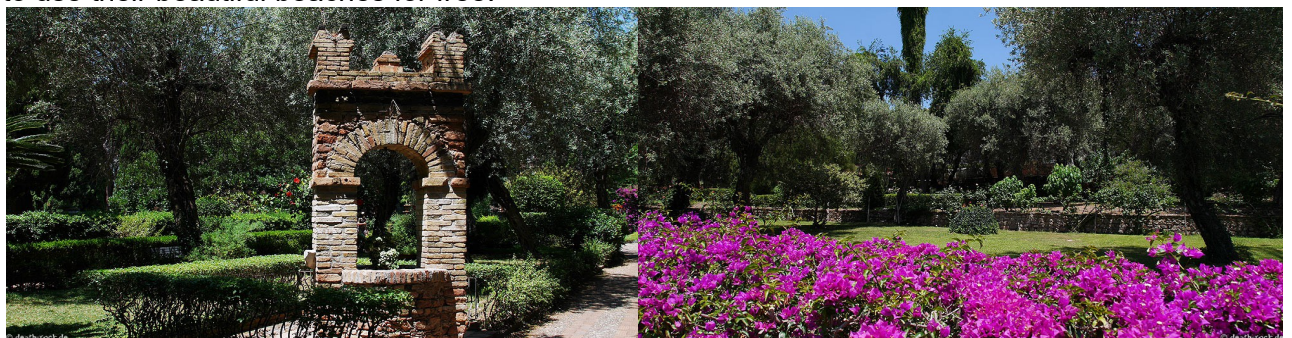
Back on the main island we found out that you can do sports in the ocean near Popeye's Town.



Wow! The St. Agatha Tower was used to defend the island from any intruders!



On a day trip to Sicily, we saw a magnificent little – private – island, whose owners allow the public to use their beautiful beaches for free!



In Taormina we took a relaxingly refreshing walk in the park which was unexpectedly a present which the former ruler of Sicily gave to his wife to support her love of watching birds.



We expected 'authentic' Sicilian food. What did they have to offer? Unexpectedly, hamburgers and hot dogs with chips, aka French fries!



Whenever you have the chance to see one of the world's wonders, you must go and see it. Mount Etna was expectedly gigantic, scary and at the same time amazing. We didn't expect to find snow which was still lying there from January. There was a slight explosion toward the end of January in this year and the layer of ashes isolated the snow's temperature, keeping it from melting.

Unexpectedly, my mother took a photo of exactly the same house that was covered with lava approximately 20 years ago!





The comparison of the sizes of the fort walls in Valetta to the cars parked below are amazing. Could we expect to create such massive walls nowadays!?

As mentioned beforehand, several signs we noticed quite clearly stated what the concerned issue was about. This notice board was amounted next to the door of a small pub in Valetta.



You have to travel to Gozo when you are on Malta – not only because of the delicious wine. Interestingly there is no river or any other kind of water supply apart from the salty Mediterranean water. On Gozo, however, there is a spring in the middle of the island and you can (un)expectedly see how it attracts many insects, snails and lizards, and also how the plants grow much greater and stronger than on Malta.



This photo was taken when we were on the way to snorkel in the Blue Hole on Gozo. There were many signs which indicated the great danger of climbing on top of the natural bridge, but several people either couldn't read or frankly wanted to take the risk to marvel the view from up there – unexpectedly, no one fell down!



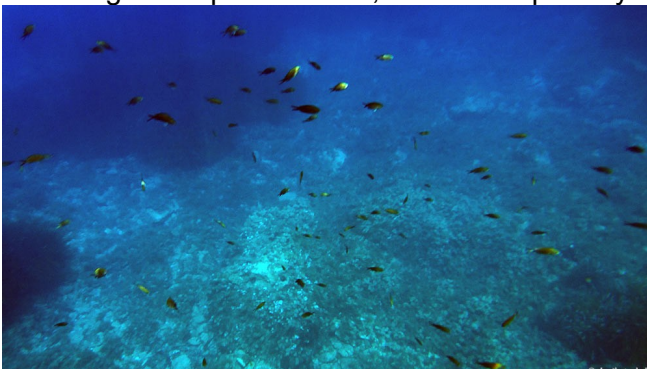
We were more interested in the Blue Hole and did not expect fish to enjoy swimming through the tight riff and not to show any surprise considering how many people were snorkeling – and diving – to watch them swim about oh so peacefully. And by the way, as you can see, we had a special camera case for taking excellent photos under water.



Unexpected street art.



To have a nice view of the sunset over the north-west part of Malta, we went to a very pleasantly arranged café / bar looking over. They also provided a children's playground, offering for example the swing in the photo above, which is especially usable for children in wheelchairs.



There are so many fish near the bay of our strongly recommenable hotel, Paradise Bay. The amount of fish was completely unexpected the first time we went snorkling in 2013. This time, 2016, there actually seemed to be even more fish than before! Quite unexpected considering what the press comment on the Mediterranean's pollution.



The Maltese people seem to truly adore cats. At this bumper car ride there was surprisingly only one bumper car painter as a cat. All the others were merely painted in different colours.



Take a look at the unexpectedly easy to remember bus number plates.



This imposing structure overlooking a southern European forest with citrus trees (Buskett Gardens), is actually a guest house for important state visitors.



From the flight back to Germany we had a very impressive view over Valetta and could clearly identify the only skyscraper on Malta – the Portomaso Tower. We would never have expected that to be possible, but it is definitely quite an eye-catcher!

For any more recommendations, don't hesitate to ask! We are most surely going to go back to Malta again. Maybe we will see you there!