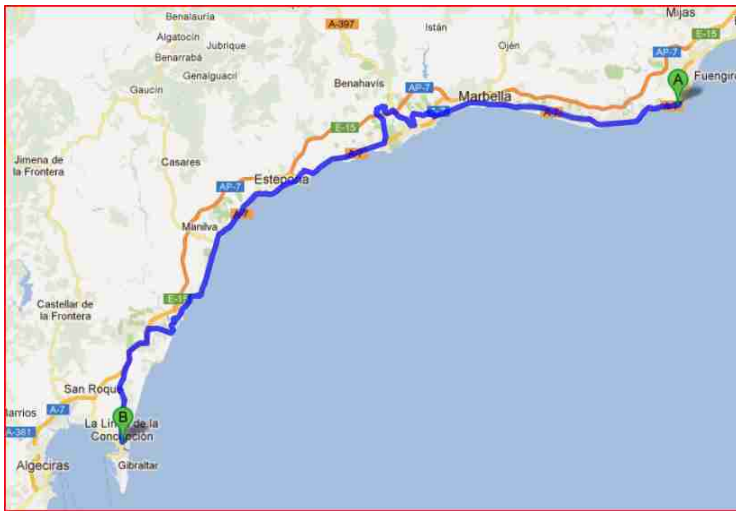


GIBRALTAR 20. - 22. JANUARY 2011

While we were staying in El Faro, we took a trip to [Gibraltar](#). We first took the bus to [Marbella](#). It took about 50 minutes. There we had plenty of time, so walked down in Marbella and had a glass of wine at a restaurant while we waited for the bus further. Then we took the bus to [La Línea de la Concepción](#), which took about 1 h 20 min. Here we had made a reservation at hotel called [Asur Hotel Campo De Gibraltar](#). It was right beside the bus station and close to the border to Gibraltar.



A picture of the hotel to the left

The travel route



The hotel was very OK, and it was not expensive, about 800 NOK for two overnight stops, breakfast inclusive.

The room was OK with all necessary outfit, and there was in addition a balcony with table and chairs.

We have not stayed at any hotel where the assortment at the breakfast buffet has been wider.



Gibraltar



Map



Flag



Coat of arms

The name Gibraltar originates from the Arabic جبل الطارق *Ġabal al-Ṭāriq*, which means «Mountain of Ṭāriq» (after Ṭāriq ibn Ziyād). Earlier the Phoenicians called it Calpe, one of the pillars of Herkules. Today Gibraltar is also known as «Gib» or «the Rock».

Gibraltar is today the only place in Europe where we can find wild monkeys, [barbary macaques](#).

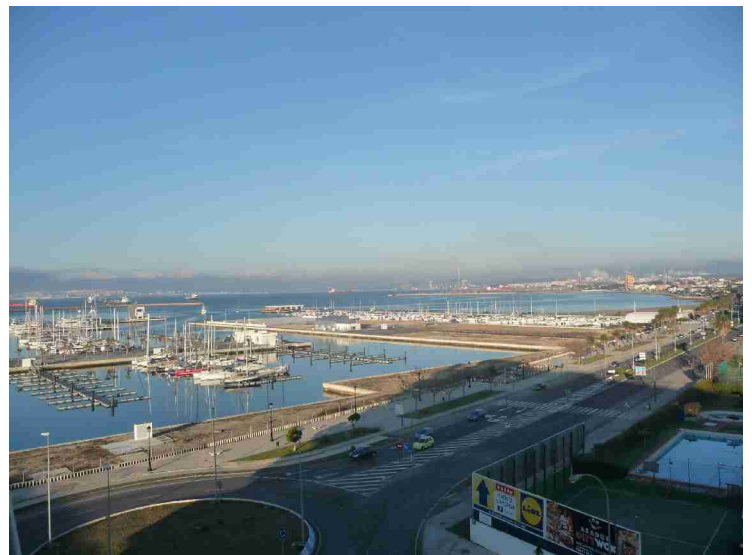
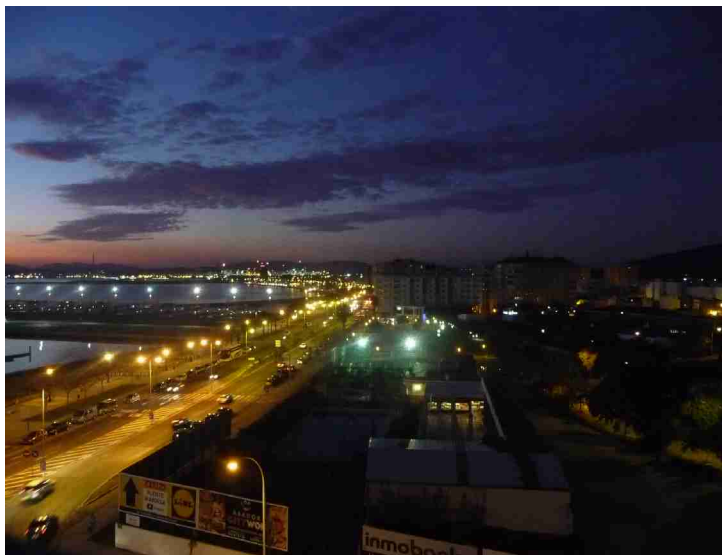
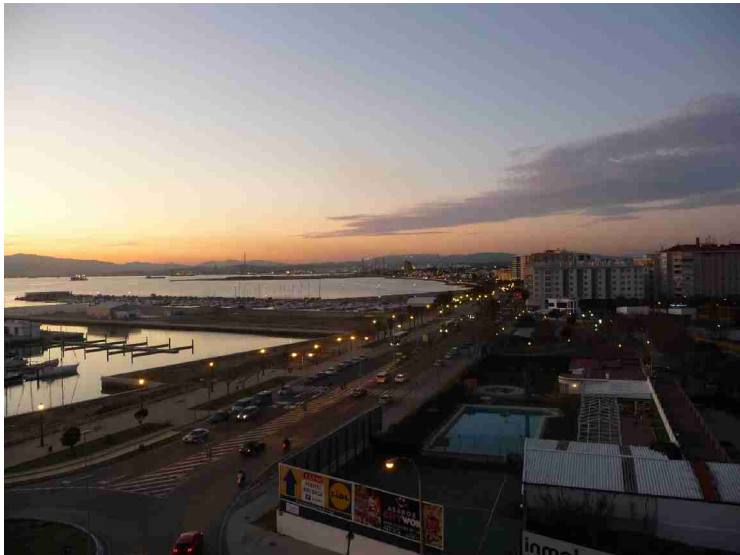
Migratory birds flying to Europe and Asia usually follow two main routes. The eastern route is via the Bosphorus strait and the western route is along the west African coast and via Gibraltar.

There are proofs of human settling in Gibraltar as far back as the Neanderthals. The first historic people who have settled down there are the Phoenicians sometimes around 950 BC.

The first permanent settlement was built by the Almohad sultan Abd al-Mu'min, who ordered the construction of a fort on the mountain The Rock. The remnants are still there as the Moorish Castle.

The Spaniards held Gibraltar occupied 1309–33 and from 1462 and constructed new fortifications. During [The War of the Spanish Succession](#) Gibraltar was captured by British and Dutch armies in 1704, and came to England by [the treaty in Utrecht](#) in 1713. By the opening of the Suez canal Gibraltar became of higher importance. During WWII Gibraltar played an important role in the allied warfare in the Mediterranean and served among others as a headquarter and fleet and air base in the landing in French North Africa. After the British fleet action against Oran in July 1940 Gibraltar was bombed by French air-plains, and several times by Italian and German air-plains.

Spain has emphasized their claim of Gibraltar various times since WWII. On F N's request there was in 1967 held a referendum, which gave as a result a overwhelming majority against incorporation into Spain (12 138 votes against 44). Spain then closed the border 1969–85. EU has pushed on to settle the dispute.



Pictures from our hotel balcony.



A little part of the breakfast buffet.



After breakfast we walked to Gibraltar. It took only a few minutes to walk from the hotel to the border.



A statue, which is erected for the Spanish workers in Gibraltar.



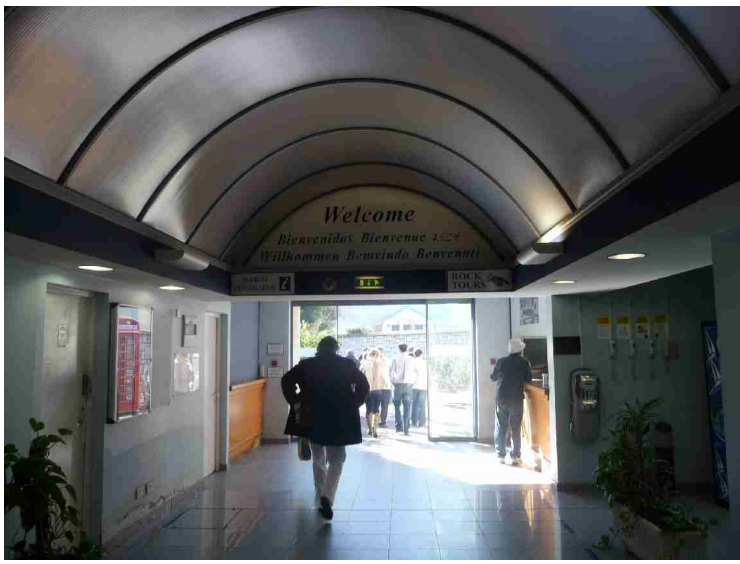
There is a road along the border on the Spanish side. Here we are looking west towards [Algeciras](#).



The border crossing on Spanish side.



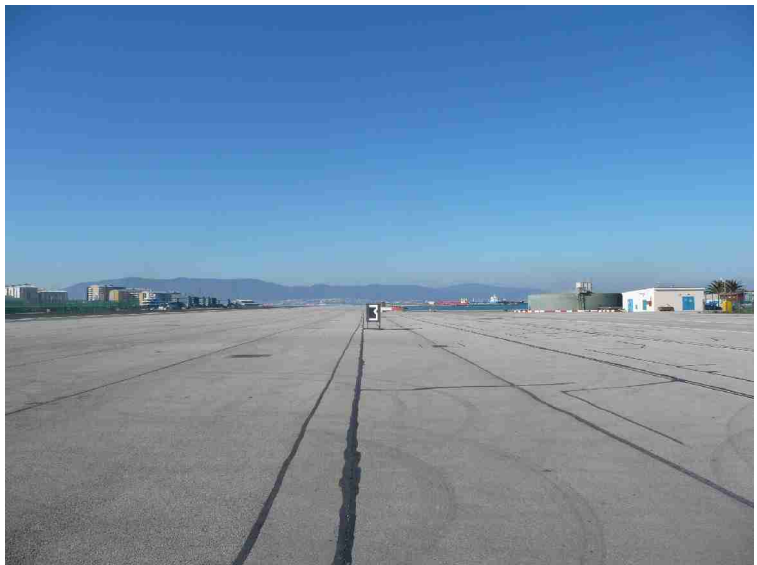
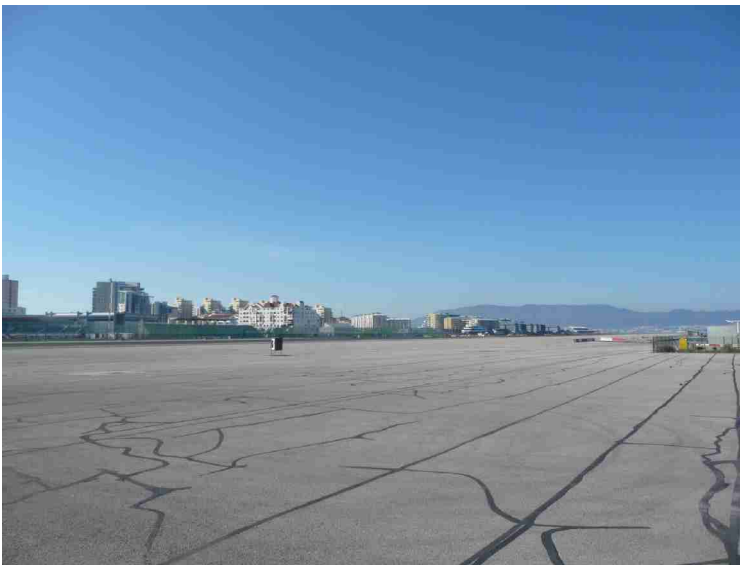
Passing the border.
The guard barely looked at the passport.



We had to walk through this building.

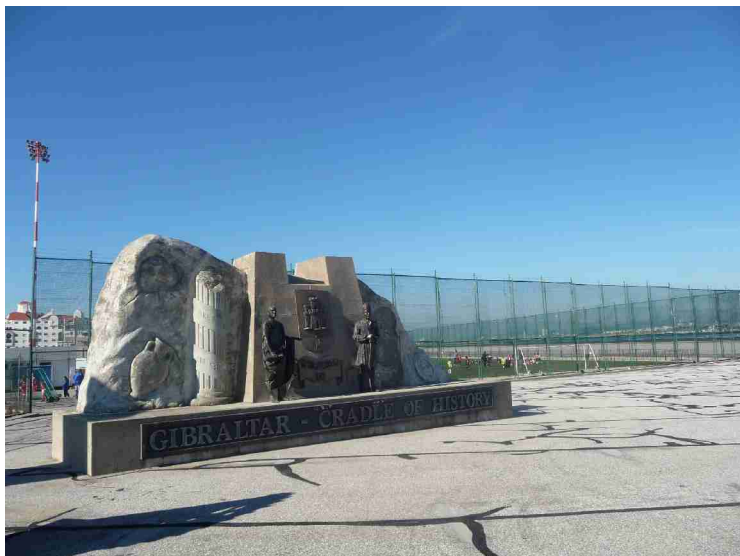


Typical English telephone booth.



Right inside the border is [Gibraltar Airport](#). Here we can see the runway, which runs parallel to the border. All who are entering Gibraltar has to pass the runway, but the road is closed each time a plain are landing or ready to take off.

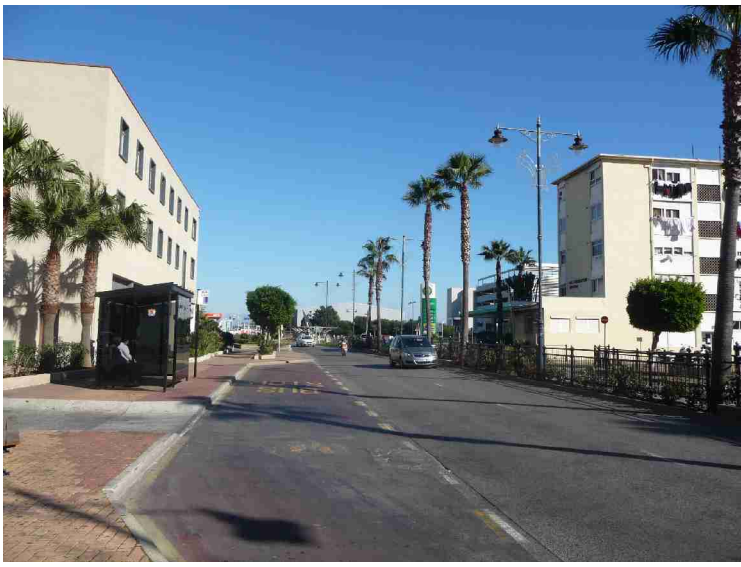
There are plans to construct a tunnel under the runway.



A monument with the inscription: Welcome to Gibraltar.



This is the name of the main street into Gibraltar.



Looking along Winston Churchill Avenue in direction of Spain.



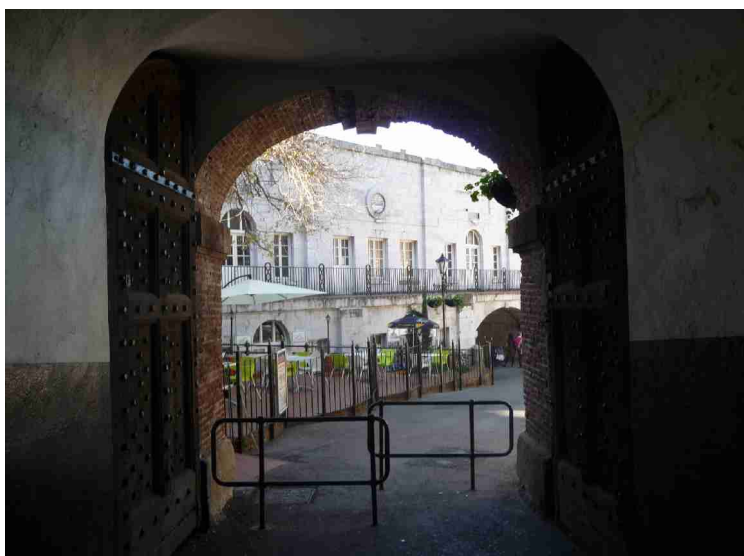
A view of the rock.



There is a path for pedestrians through the defensive walls around Gibraltar. Approaching one of the gates.



Large walls.



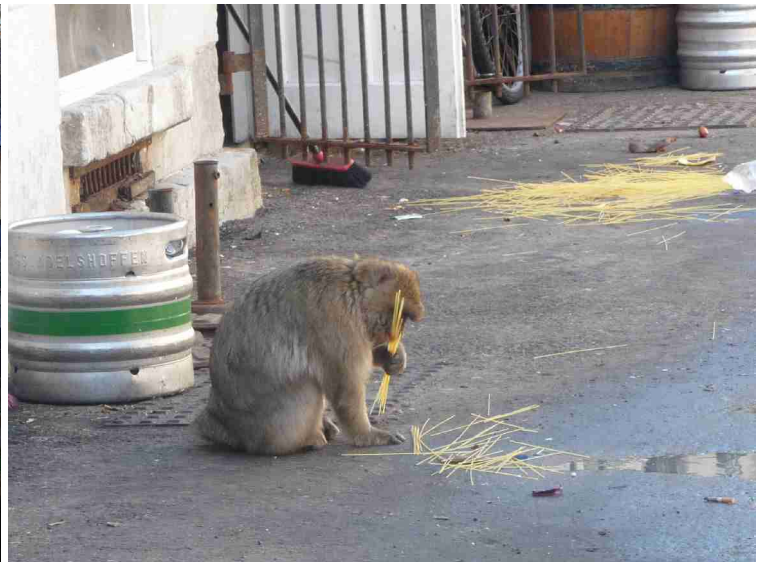
Almost through the gate in the wall.



On the other side of the wall we come to a long building, which used to be barracks for the soldiers.



There are restaurants here.



One of the monkeys has got spaghetti to eat.



Passing a gate through the barracks and out into a square on the other side.



The square is called Casemates Square.



There are restaurants around the entire square and a lot of people.



This is the gate, which we passed through.



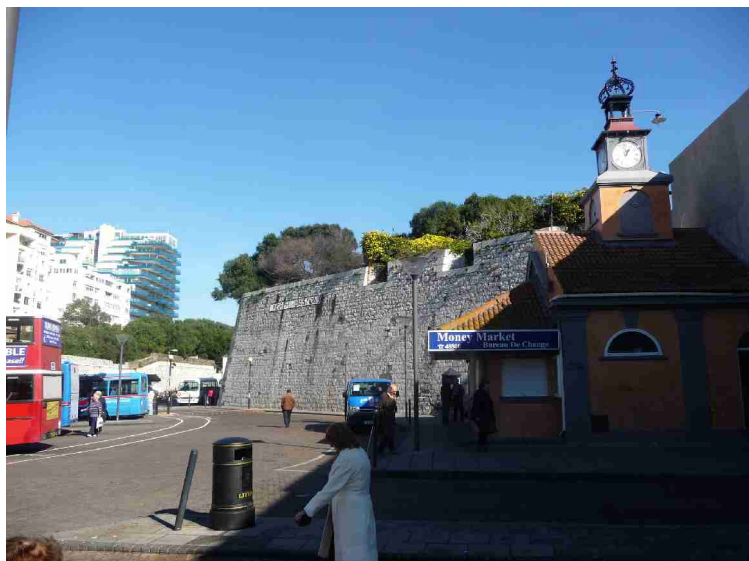
A picture of the square.



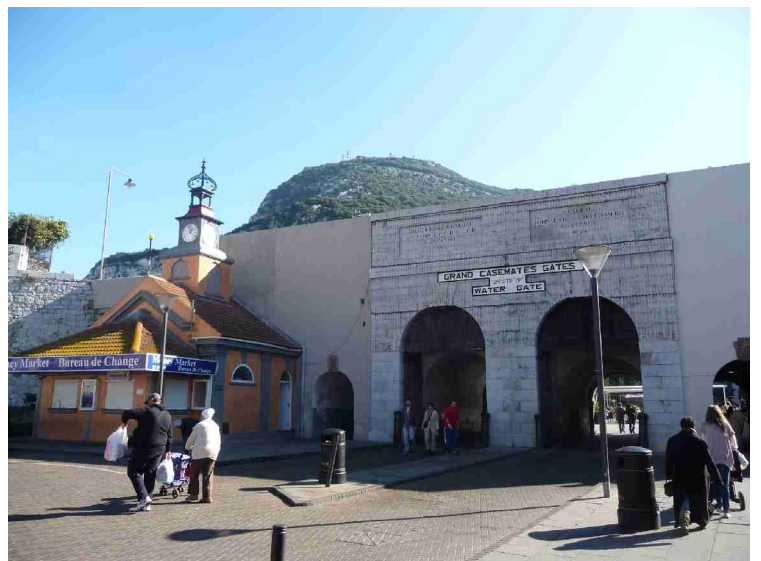
There is also a tourist office here and we got a map of the city.



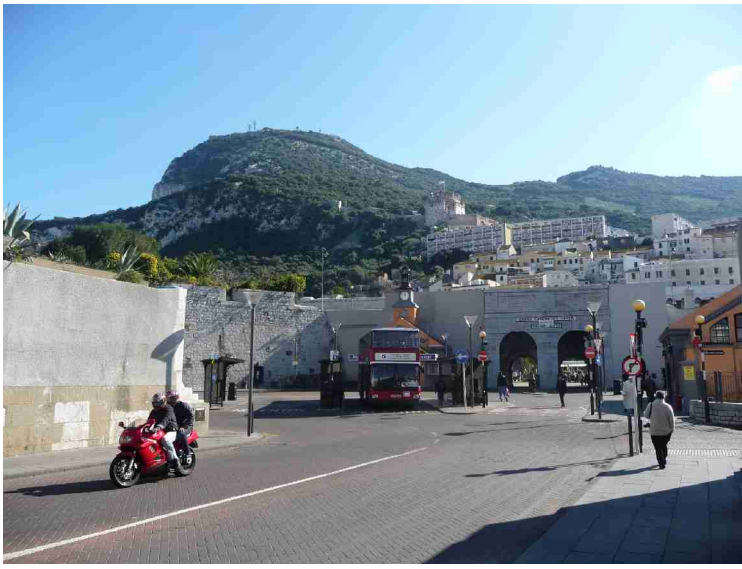
A police constable, Bobby.



This is the north bastion.



An exchange bureau in the building to the left.



The north bastion with the [Rock of Gibraltar](#) in the background.



This statue was erected in 1996 in honor of all those who defended Gibraltar during last world war.



We have entered the main street, [Main Street](#), and are looking back to Casemates Square.



View along Main Street.



This is a British war memorial.



We were sitting here for a while having a glass of wine.



This is another war memorial. Afterward we went by a taxi that did sightseeing trips.



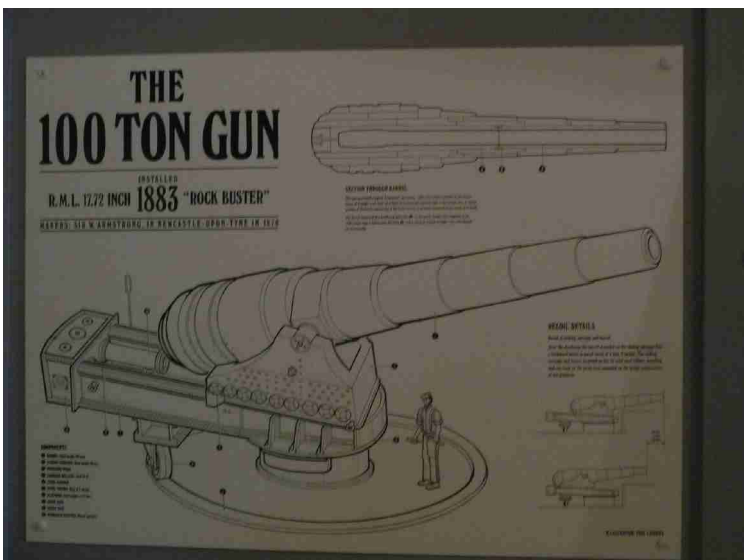
Here we are at the first stop on the sightseeing trip: [Napier of Magdala Battery](#) and the 100 ton canon.



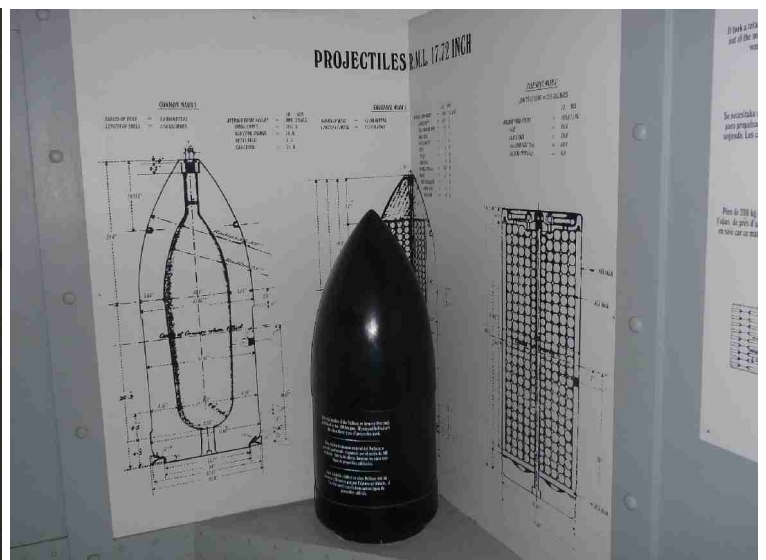
A small old canon.



Powder barrels.



A drawing of the big canon.



A bullet.



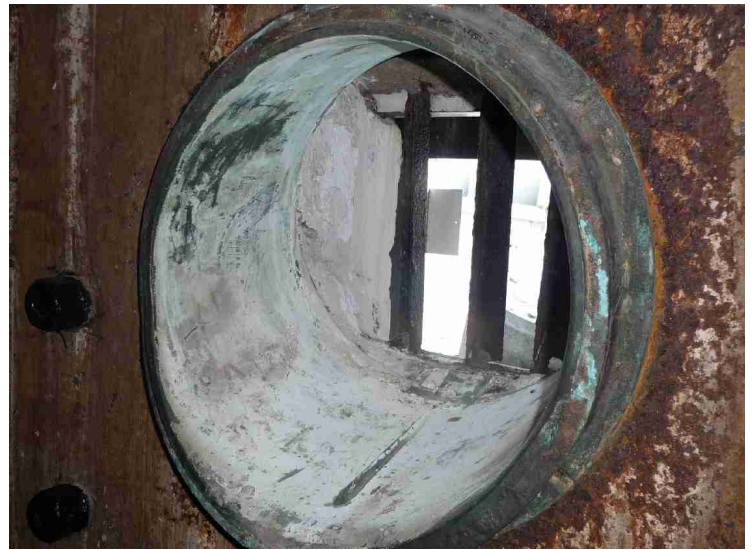
This is a military telephone from 1876 and it was probably one of the first in the British army for the communication.



During the first demonstrations of the cannon it didn't work properly and the most tiny of the soldiers had to be lowered into the cannon barrel to take out the charge.



A «Bren gun», which was used here.



Ventilation opening in the cannon site.



A bullet in the loading system.



Kjell beside the big cannon.



Kjell is operating the anti-aircraft gun.



From the cannon site we have good view up to the [cabel-car](#), which goes up to the rock in Gibraltar.



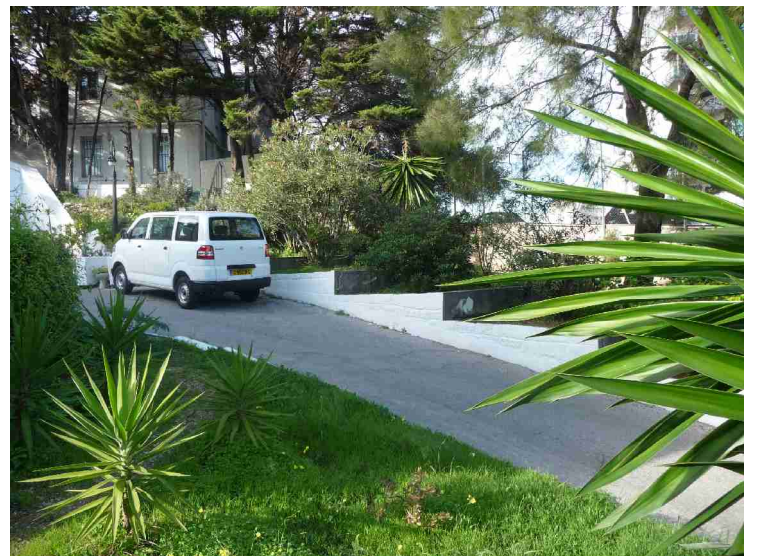
Flowers.



Anti-aircraft gun.



The big cannon seen from below.



Out again.



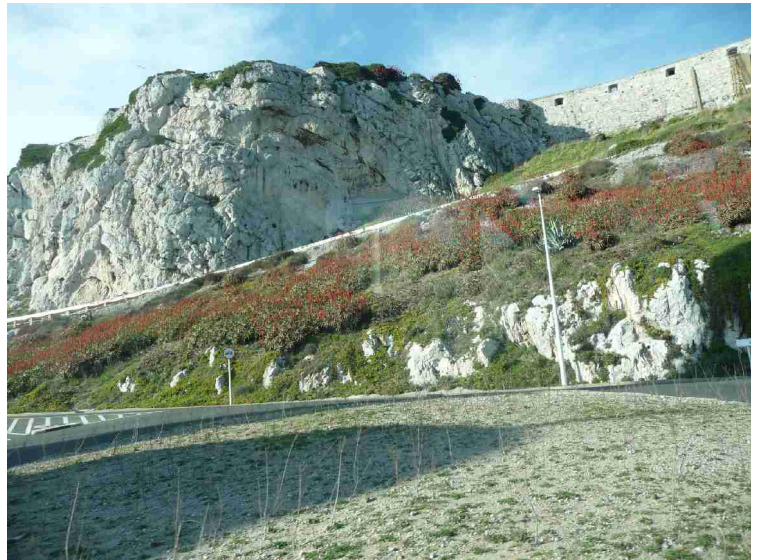
Next stop is the [Europa Point](#), the most southern point in Gibraltar. Here we look north to the Abraham-al-Ibrahim Mosque. The mosque is a gift from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. It took two years to build it and it was officially opened 8 August 1997.



Anne Berit is looking south across the [Strait of Gibraltar](#) towards Morocco. On the other side of the strait we can see the mountain Musa in Morocco.



Here is a light-house too. It was built 1838-41, and was fully automated in 1994.



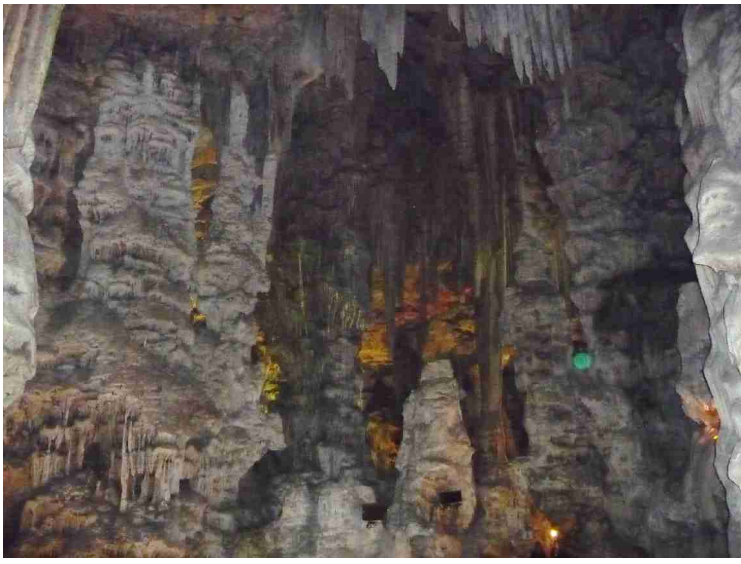
Driving further up on the rock.



A view of the Gibraltar bay towards [Algeciras](#).



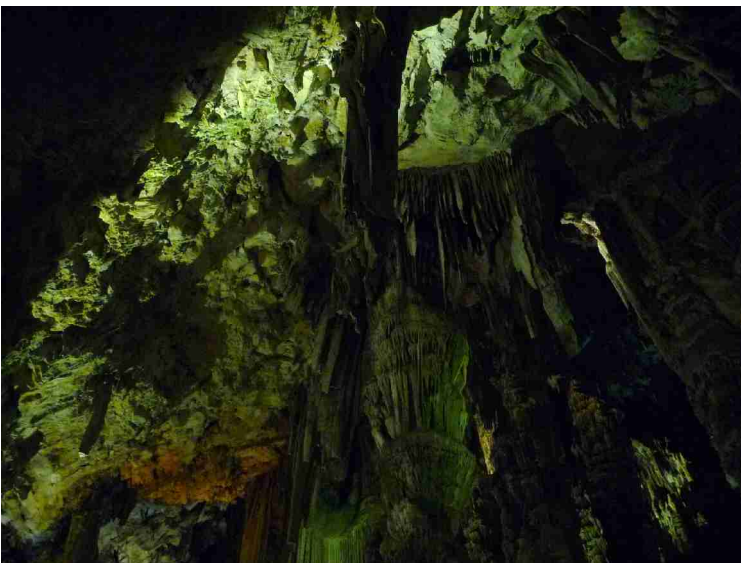
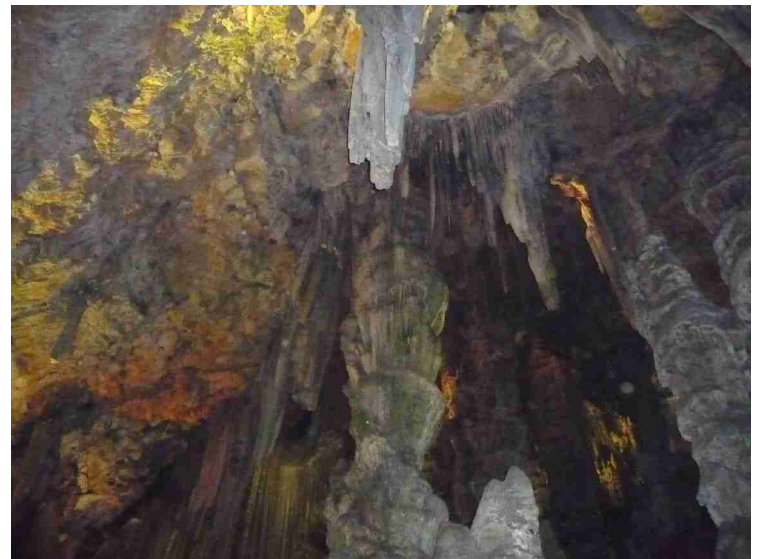
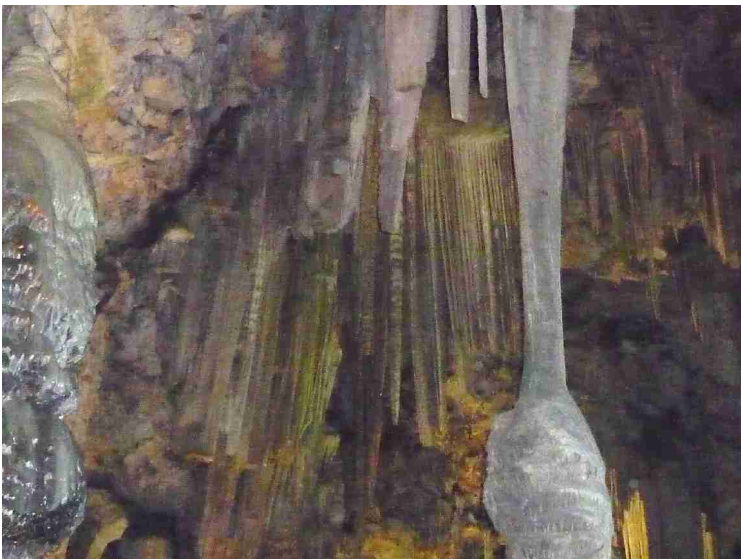
At the entrance to [St. Micheal's Cave](#).



The grotto has been used by man during ages, and there are found a lot of remnants and a few cave paintings.



There are many stalactites and stalagmites in the cave.



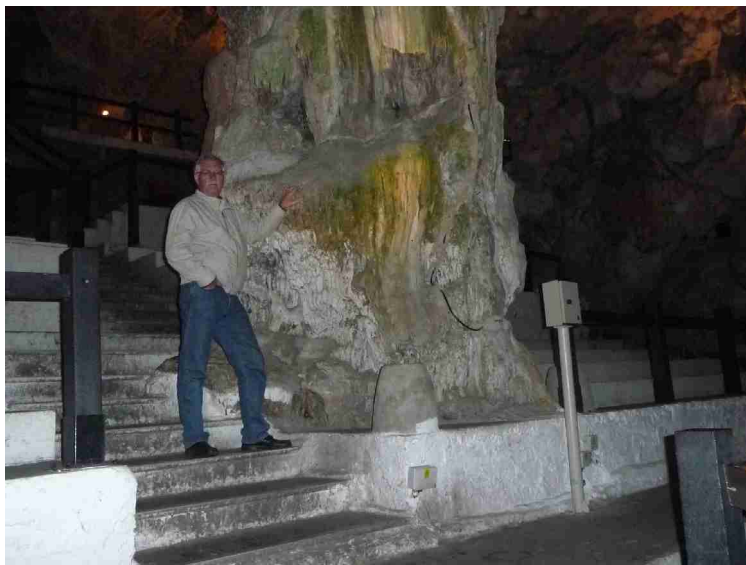
The cave is one of 150 caves, which have been found in the Gibraltar rock. The biggest chamber that is called Cathedral Cave is today used as an auditorium, and there are arranged all types of concerts there. There is a seating capacity of 100.



Anne Berit thought it was quite nice.



This is the auditorium.



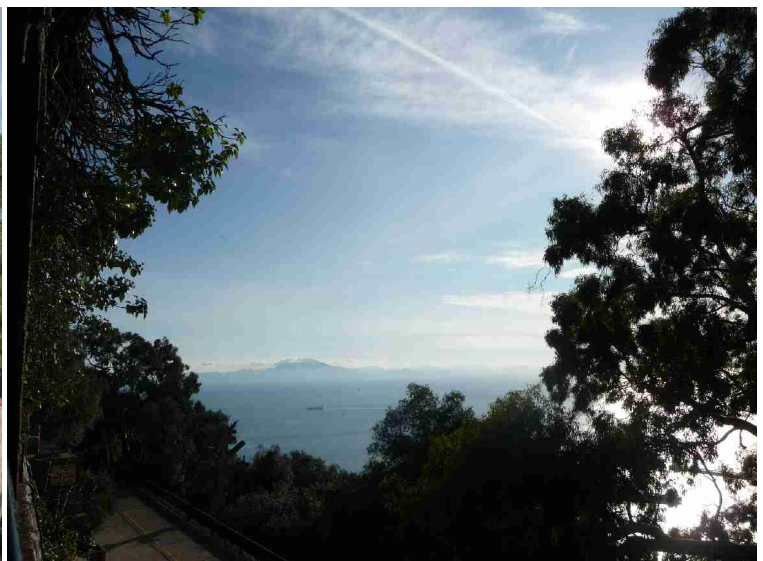
Kjell beside a column in the middle of the auditorium.



A plaque, which is made after Queen Elizabeth II and The Duke of Edinburgh visited the cave in May 1954.



Out again. A view across the Gibraltar Bay.



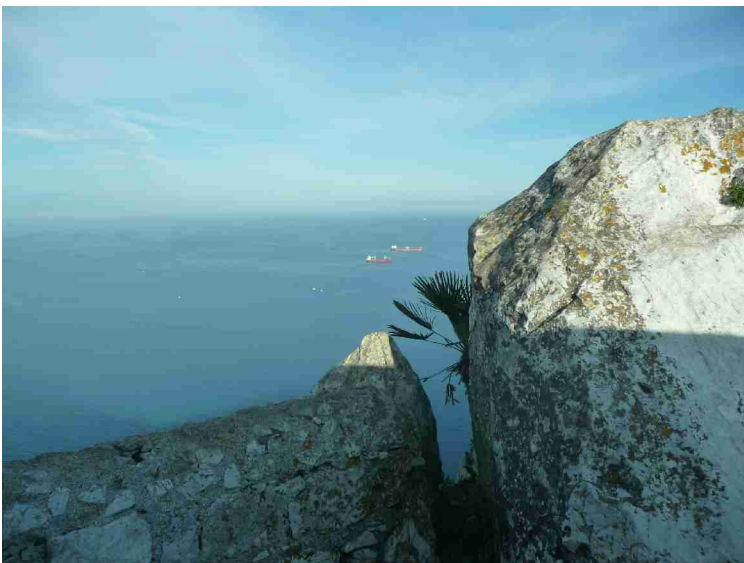
View across the strait of Gibraltar towards Morocco.



The road up to the upper entrance to the cave.



More views across the Bay of Gibraltar.



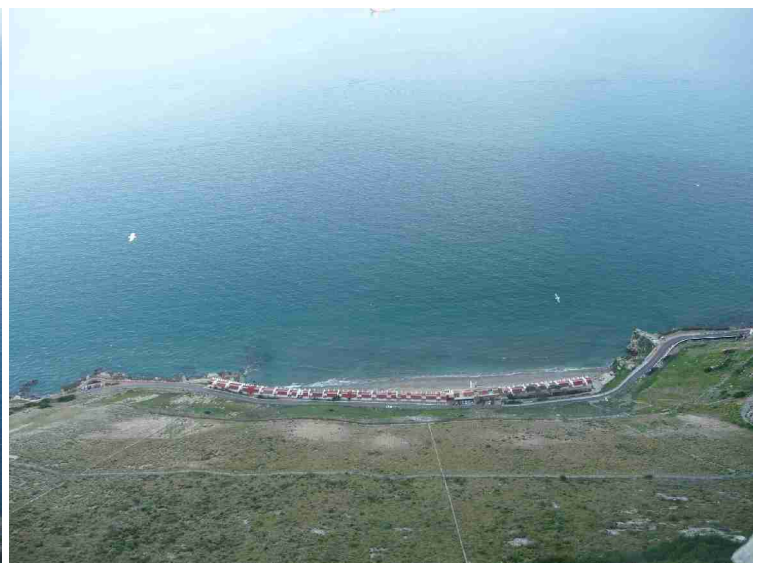
Here we have reached the upper view point.
Looking east to the Mediterranean.



Looking north-east.



Still looking north at the east side of the rock.
Down to the left is Catalan Bay.



Looking right down to Sandy Bay.

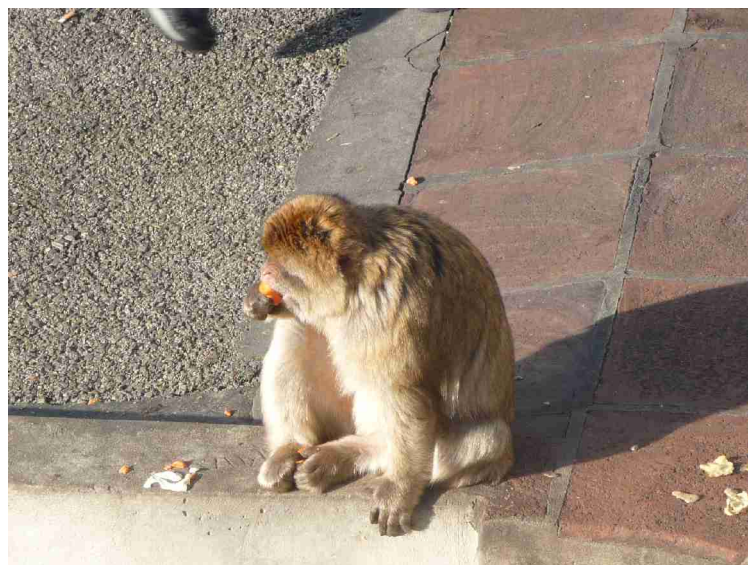


View south.



View straight north.

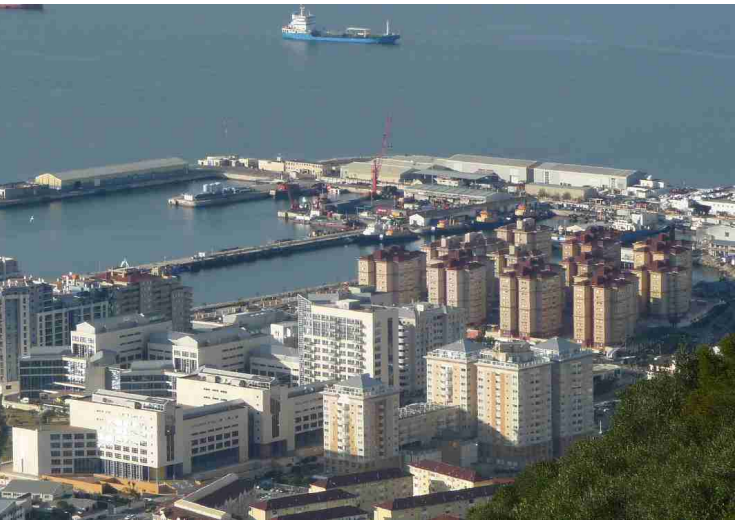
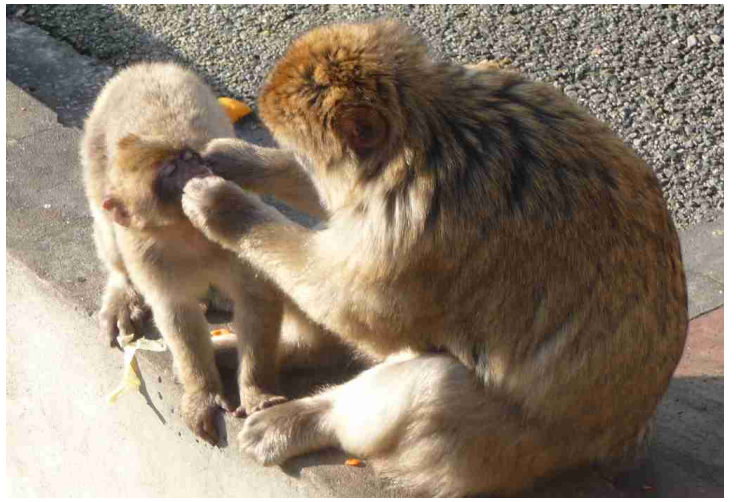
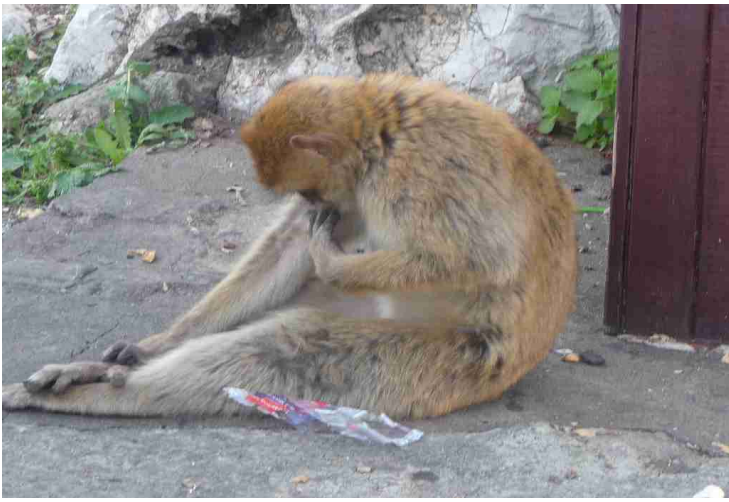
We are going to continue along the narrow road straight ahead.

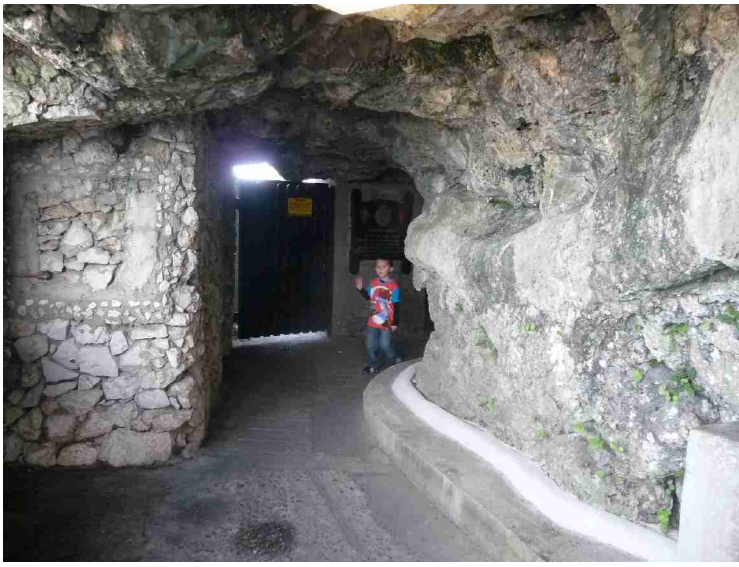


Up here the [monkeys of Gibraltar](#) are fed.

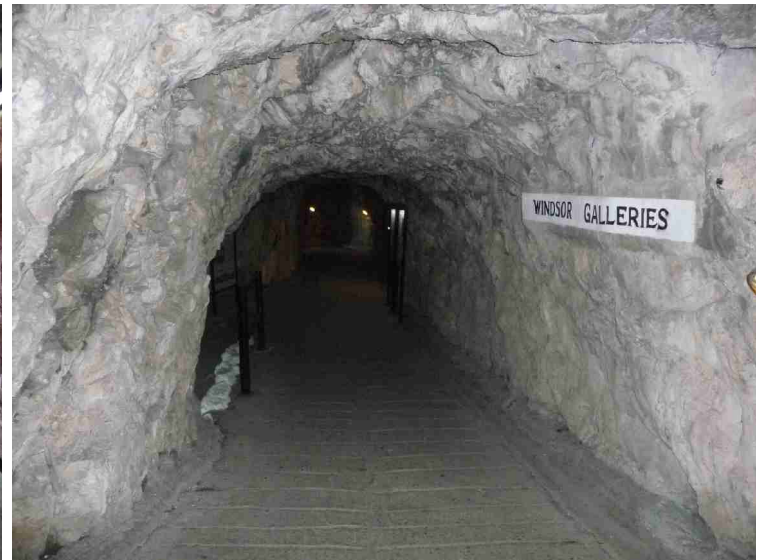
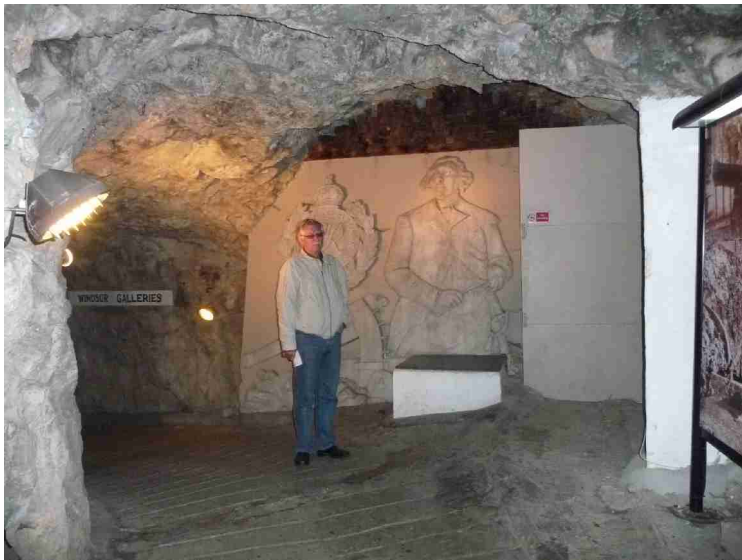
The monkey are the only wild monkeys to be found in Europe. They are well looked after by the inhabitants in Gibraltar and they all have a name.

When the population became a bit small during WWII, Winston Churchill arranged import of more monkeys from Morocco. It is a general belief in Gibraltar that as long as the monkeys exist in Gibraltar, the territory will remain under British rule.





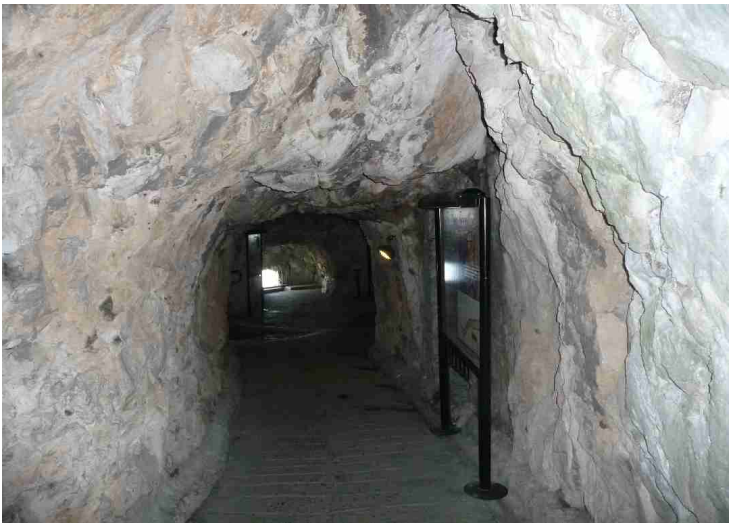
This is at the next stop, The Great Siege Tunnels.
They were made during [the great siege](#) in 1779-83 by simple methods and by use of powder.
It is an imposing tunnel system, taking into account the simple tools they had access to.



Inspection of the tunnel.



Cannon.



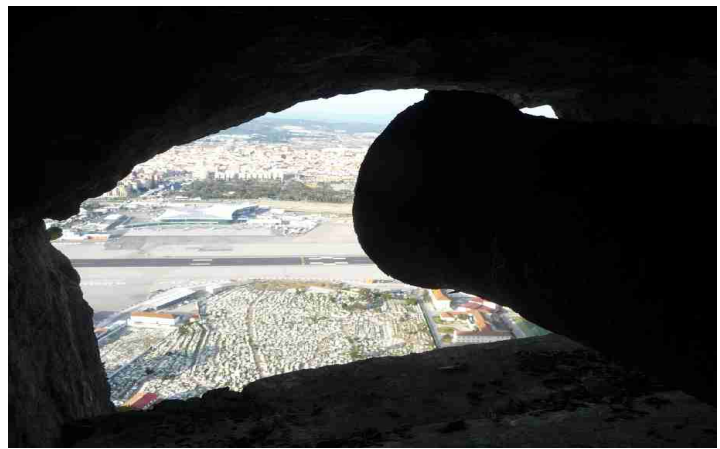
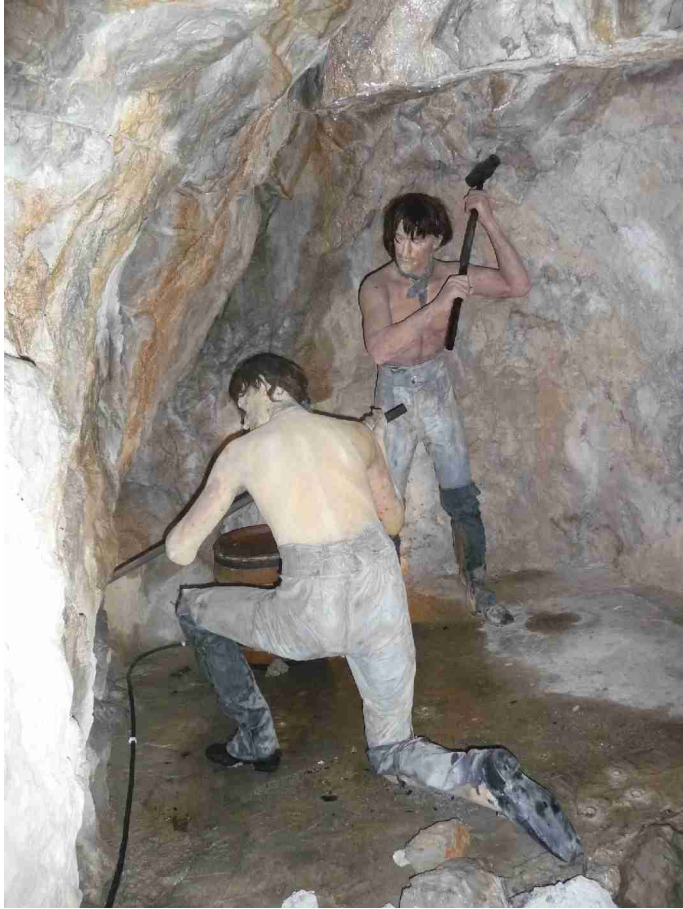
The Siege Tunnellers

This scene shows soldiers from the newly formed Artificers Company excavating the tunnel during the Great Siege.

The section of the tunnel that they are working on was probably abandoned when they realised that they were heading too deep into the rock or it may have been built as a temporary magazine for the storage of gunpowder until the purpose-built magazines further down the tunnel were created.

Esta escena muestra a soldados del recién formado Cuerpo de Ingenieros excavando el túnel durante el Gran Asedio.

Es probable de que los trabajos en esta sección de túnel fuesen abandonados al percatarse de que profundizaban demasiado en la roca. También cabe la posibilidad de que fuese construido para el almacenamiento temporal de pólvora, a la espera de que concluyera la excavación de polvoreros específicamente acondicionados para este propósito a lo largo del túnel.



It was the progress of the tunnel to Lt-General Elliott

It was the progress of the tunnel to Lt-General Elliott

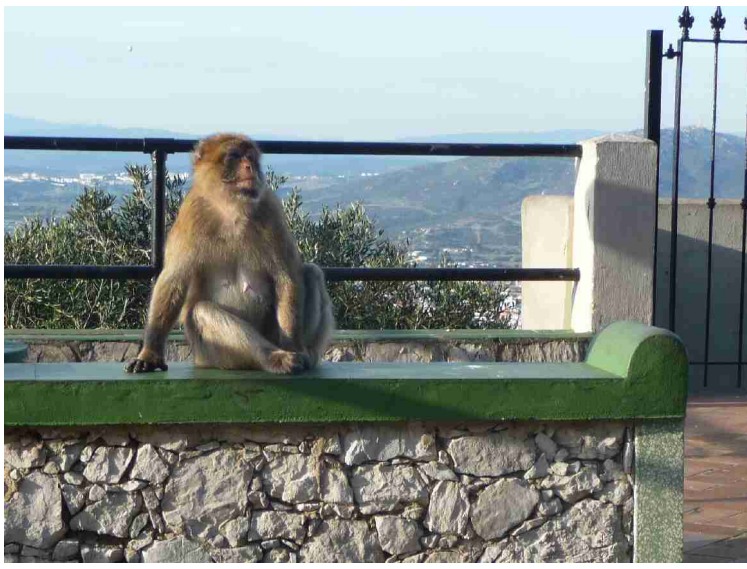
It was the Government of Gibraltar during the Great Siege and Everleigh, his Aide-de-Camp, was also in charge of the excavation of the tunnel. The original idea for this, however, belonged to Sergeant Major Bruce of the Military Artificers.

Workmen began work on the 20th May 1782 and it took them five weeks to dig an eight-foot square tunnel 82 feet into the rock. At the end of six weeks a hole to the outside was made, whether this was for ventilation, for the safe disposal of the excavated rock, or simply for the disposal of the rock for certain, but it was immediately obvious that this would make an excellent place to put a magazine.

On the 14th of January 1783 four days later movement in the town of Gibraltar was ordered by the British and the Spanish and the British was immediately ordered to be ready after the siege ended.

The British and Spanish were both in a state of readiness. During the Great Siege of Gibraltar, the British and Spanish were both in a state of readiness.





There are monkeys here too.



Walking down to the «The Moorish Castle»

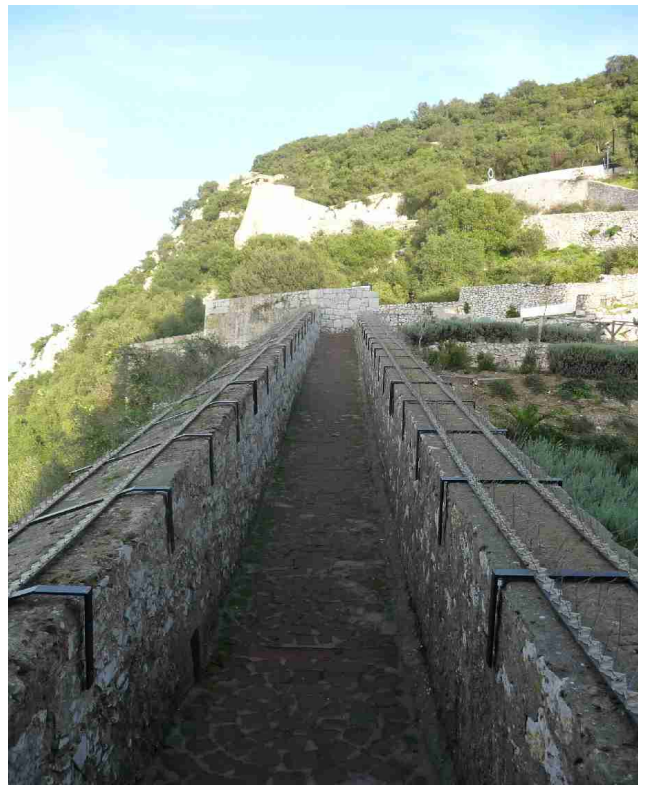


[The Moorish Castle](#) was built in 1160, but the tower was built in 1333, after Abu'l Hassan recaptured Gibraltar from the Spaniards.

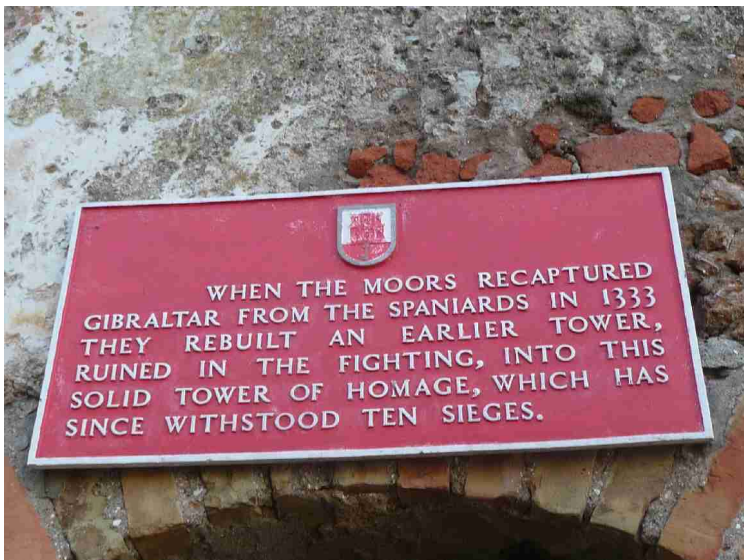
It was fortified too.



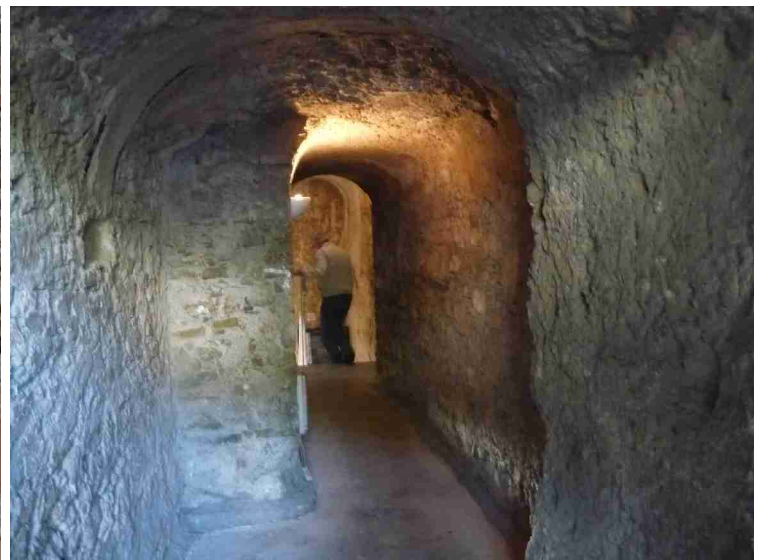
A path on the wall to the tower.



Looking outwards.



An information plaque.



Kjell on his way into the tower.





On our way up to the road again.

Up on the road. We are going to drive down here. We asked the driver to take us to the border to Spain.



Back in La Linea we entered this restaurant.

We had paella. It is looking like this after the waiter had arranged the food on our plates.

Gibraltar was an interesting experience, and it is absolutely worth a day-trip.