



Hagar Qim and Mnajdra was built several centuries before Stonehenge and the pyramids in Egypt was built. With that these temples are the oldest buildings one know about. The temples became in 1980 a part of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The name **Hagar Qim** means “standing stones” and before the excavations of these ruins it was only the top of the tallest stones that protruded.

Hagar Qim, was possibly built in various phases between 3500 BC and 2900 BC, and is built with some of the biggest stones that exist in any temple in Malta. An massive stone is 7 meter x 3 meter and weighs 20 tons.

The soft limestone walls have crumbled a lot during many thousands of years. Later on the temple builders used harder limestone, like those in the Mnajdra complex.

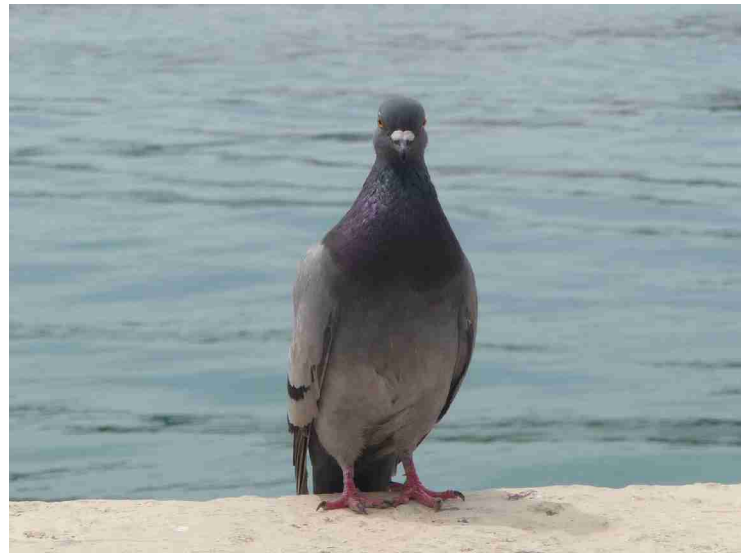
The ruins were for the first time examined in modern times in 1839. Further excavations were done in 1885 and 1910. Some of what was very damaged has been repaired.

The **Mnajdra** temple complex lies about 500 meters west of Hagar Qim, nearer the edge of the promontory at the sea. Mnajdra consists of two buildings, one main temple with two ecliptic chambers and a smaller temple with one chamber. Among possible mode of use are astronomic observations and function as a calendar. The main entrance is facing the east, and during the vernal equinox autumnal equinox the first beams of light hit a stone slab at the back wall in the second chamber. During winter solstice and summer solstice, the first beams of light lighten the corners of two stone columns in the passage that connects the most important chambers.

One does not know much about the people who built the temples. The first Maltese came probably from Sicily about 5000 BC. The temple builders harvested grain and kept domestic cattle. One know that there were performed animal sacrifices in the temples. The rooms in the temples are too small to hold many people simultaneously. Therefore it is supposed that special priests performed the rituals inside while the rest waited outside. The temples are big and complex and it must have been required large resource to build them. Therefore the temples must have had big importance for the people who lived at that time.



Here is the ferry which we followed.



A pigeon is keeping our company while we are waiting for the ferry.



The ferry goes past the [Manoel island](#), which lies in the [Marsamxett](#) harbor. The island is dominated by a large fort that was built in 1723 – 1755 by the [Maltese Knights](#) in Malta. It was in use until 1906, when the English put the canons out of function. The were mounted again during WWII. The fort was quite damaged during the war.



Here we are looking inwards the harbor.



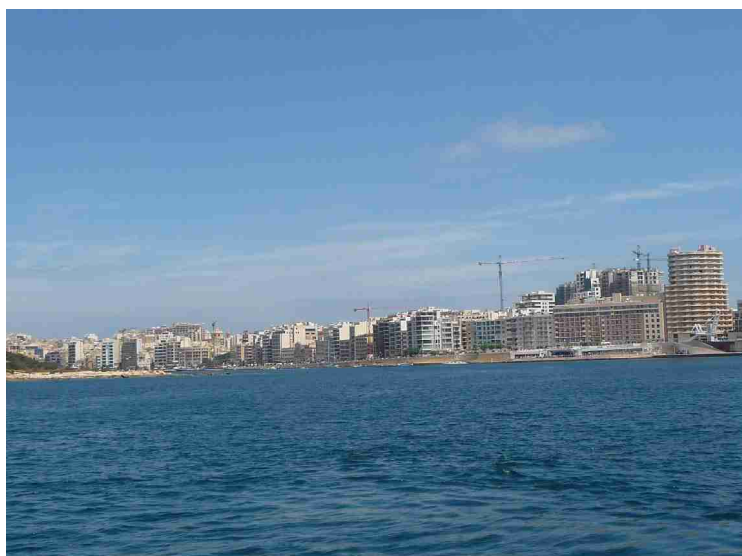
The quay in Valletta.



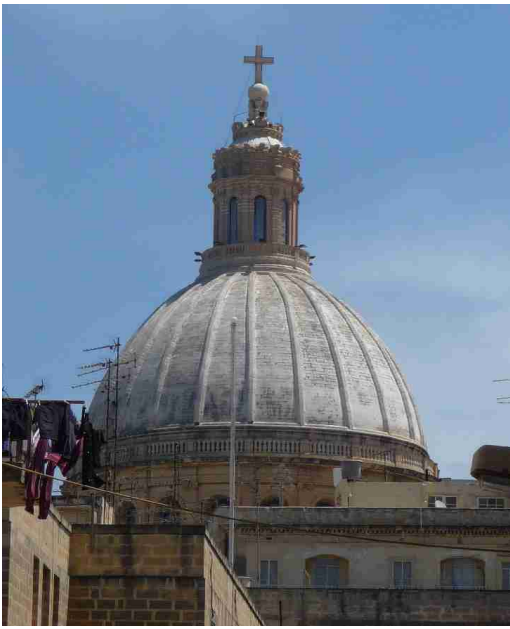
The crew is preparing to lay to the quay.



The view across to Sliema.



En restaurant on the quay.



A close view of the doom of the Carmelite church.



It is bit to walk up to the bus station.



There are steps in the sidewalks. They are made very low, because when the knights were in full amour, they could not manage higher steps. 😊



The independence statue at the bus station.



In the bus on our way to Hagar Qim.



When we arrived we had a stop here on [Hagar Qim restaurant](#).



This cat met us first.



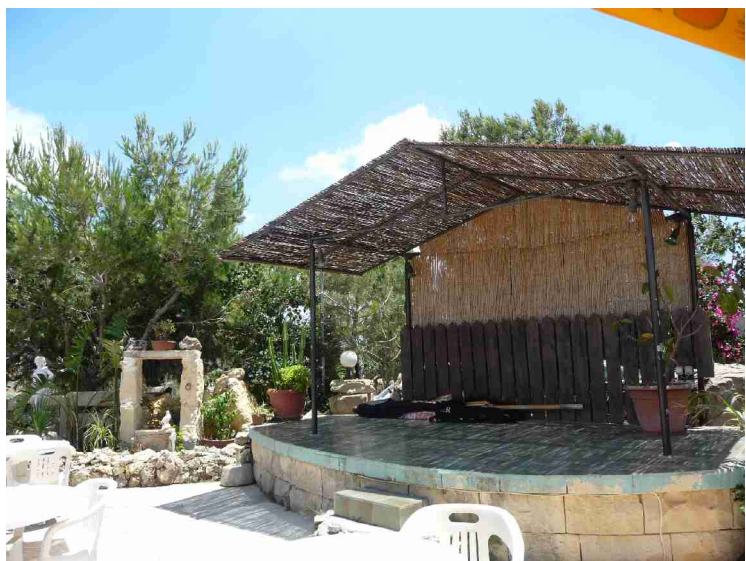
It hoped to get something to eat.



Here here it is begging.



When the cat understood that we only wanted a beer, then it dissapeered.



There was an outdoor scene here, so there are probably some entertainment from time to time.



Good view.



This guy is sitting below the ticket office trying to sell his motor bike.



Kjell is buying ticket.



We are first walking through the [museum](#).
Picture from Hagar Qim.



A model of Hagar Qim.



A model of Mnajdra.



A figure found during the excavations.



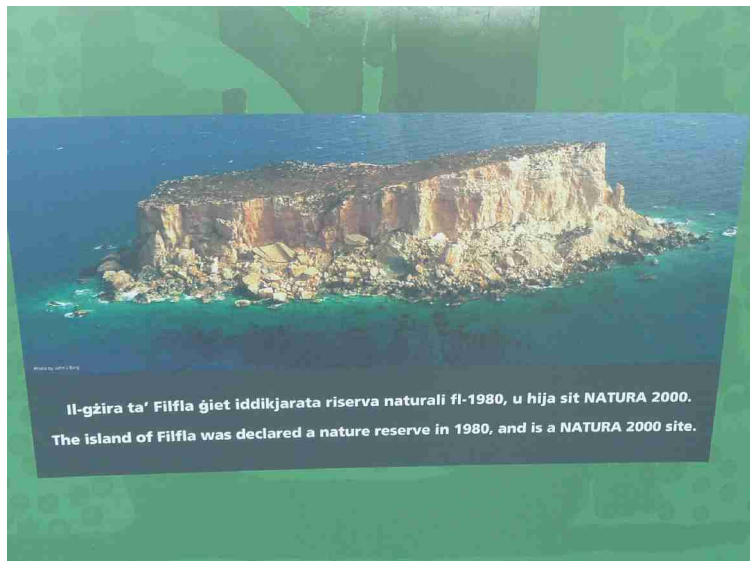
More items, which are found.



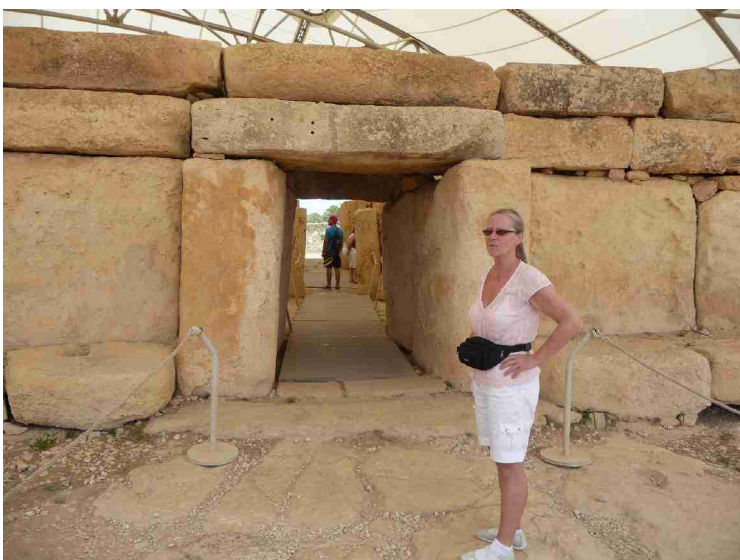
A model of a typical door opening inside the temple.



Typical decoration.



The small islet, [Fifla](#), lies just outside the coast and became a nature reserve in 1980 because of the geology.



Anne Berit at the entrance to Hagar Qim.



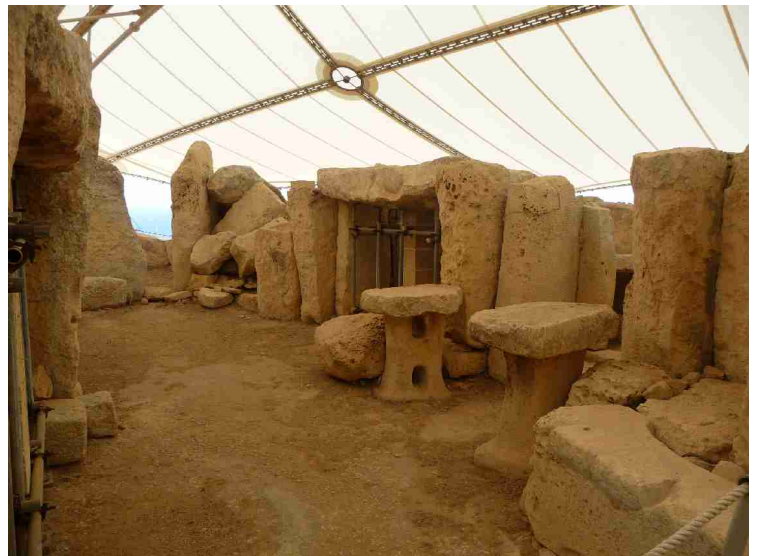
Because of the erosion of the stones, there is put up a tent for protection against the weather.
It was finished in 2009.



Nice tree.

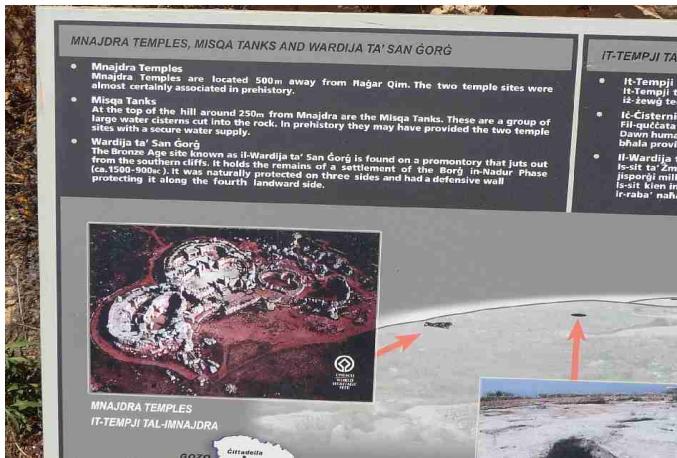
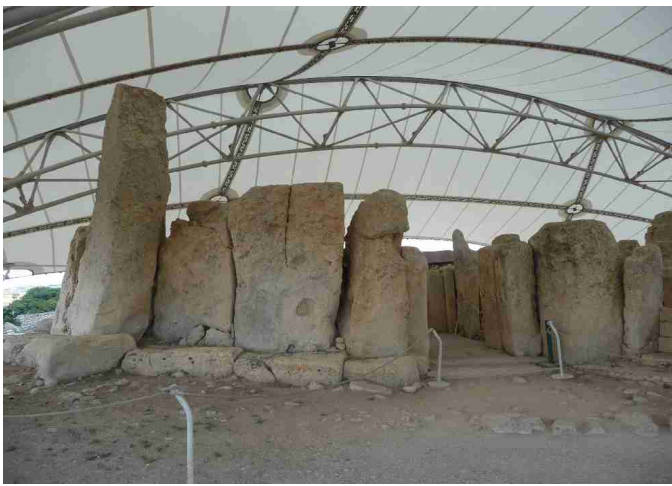


Here is told that there are laid thin slabs on the floor in the central room. To get into the inner chambers one has to go through square openings in vertical slabs.



Pictures from the inside.





A poster pointing the way further down to the Mnajdra temples.

These are protected by a big tent as well.



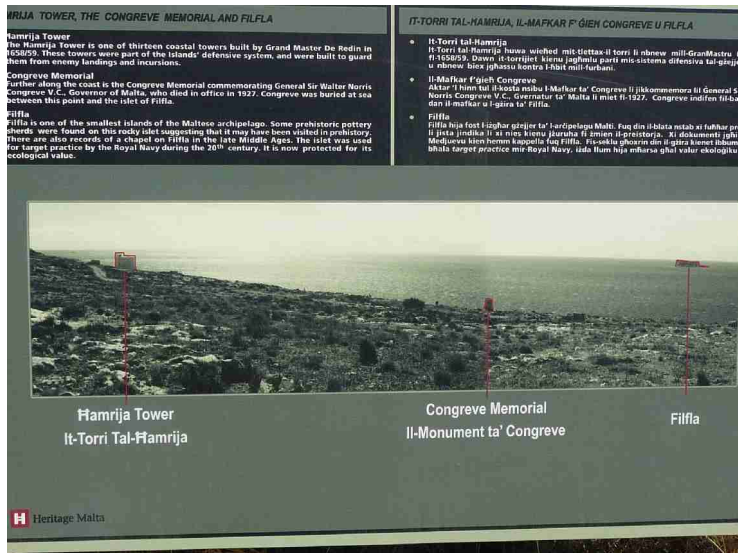
Nice flowers along the path downways.



The [Namrija tower](#) is one of 13 watch towers that were built in 1658/59 and was a part of the defensive system against enemies.



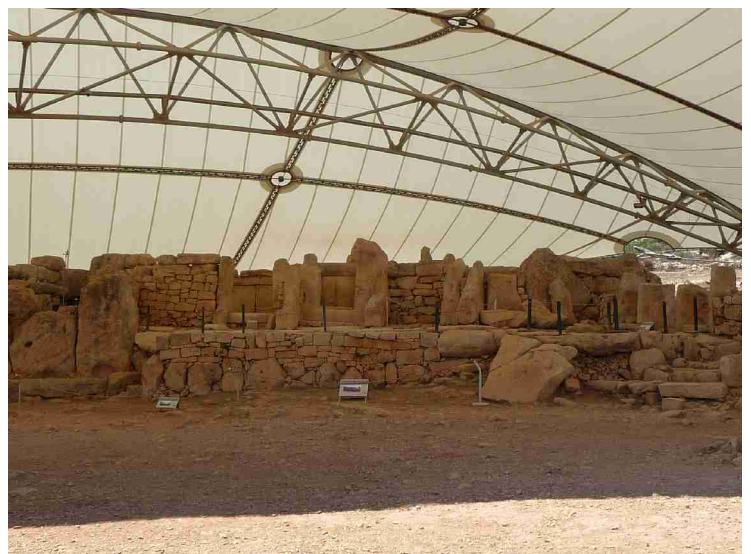
This is a memorial for an English general who died here in 1927.



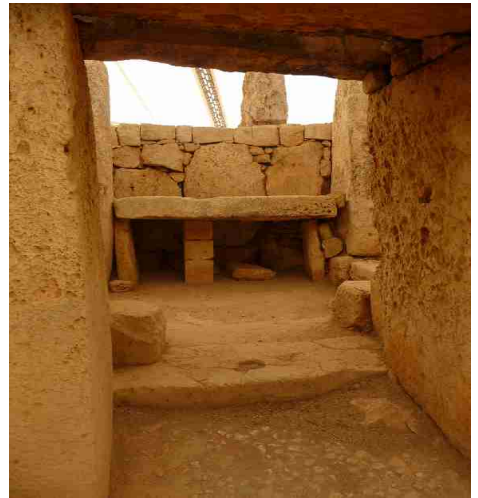
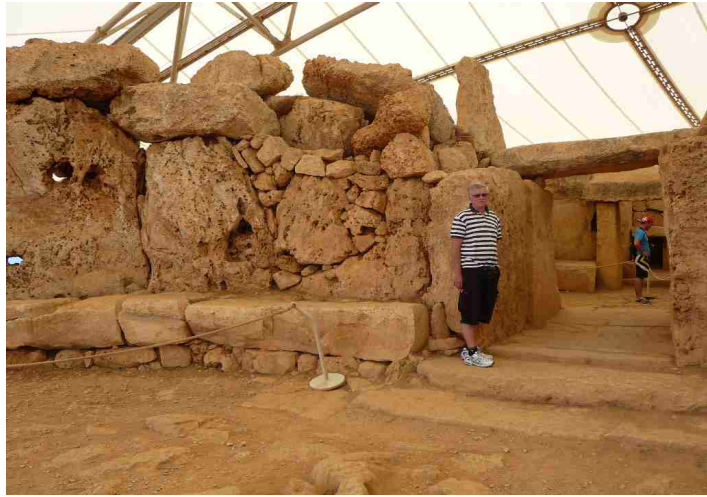
This poster is telling where these are located.

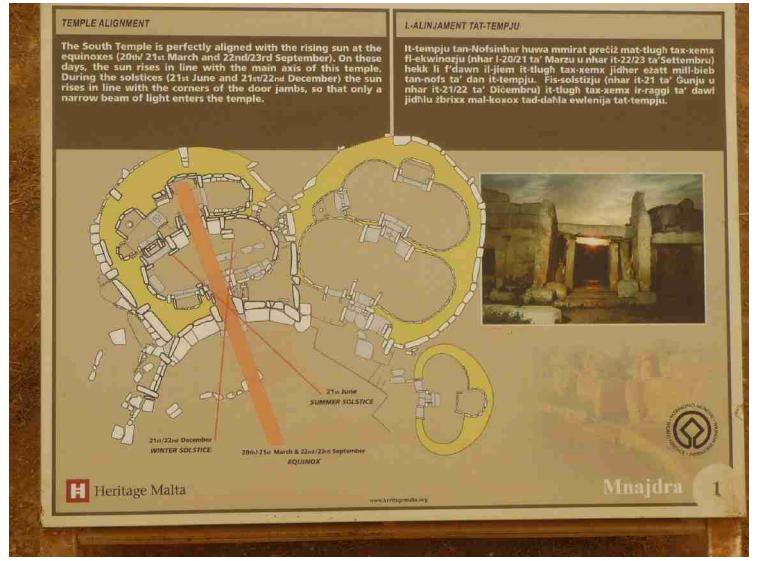
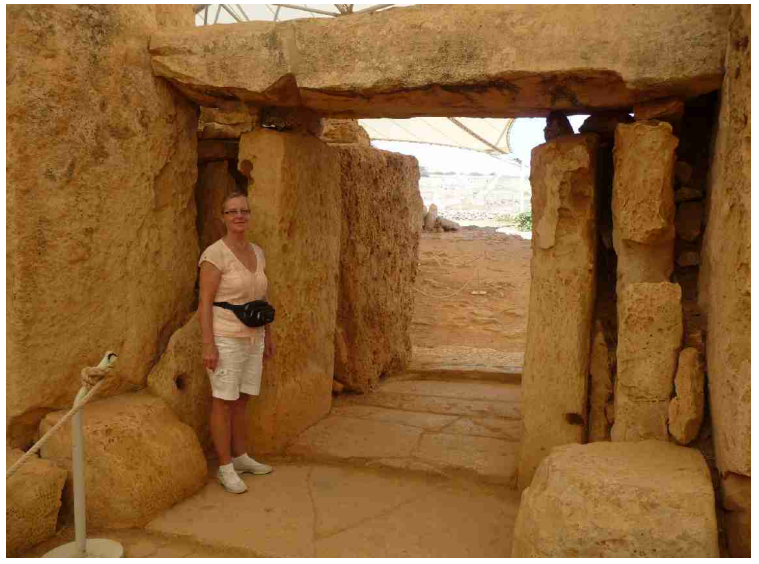


This is down in the Mnajdra temples.



Below follow more pictures from the Mnajdra temples.

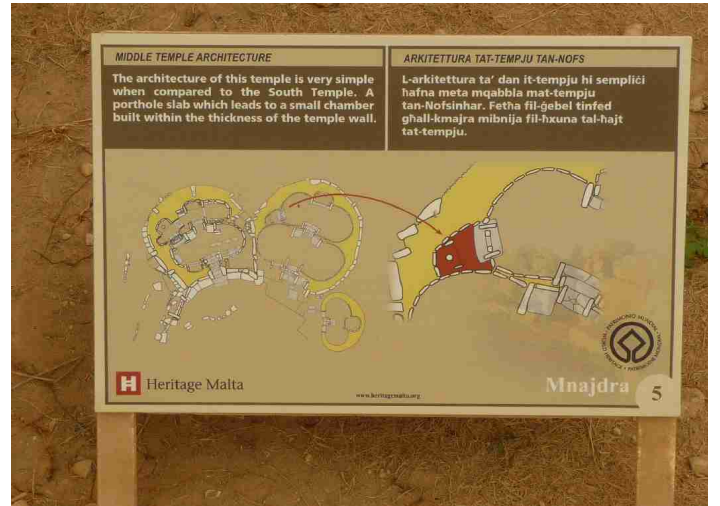
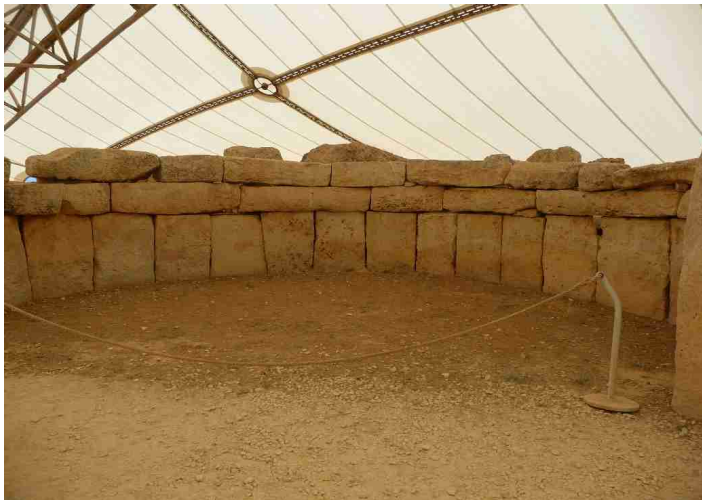




This poster is telling how the walls are sloping inwards, which is indicating that there has been a roof.

This poster is explaining how the sun beams is going during the vernal and autumnal equinox and during the winter and summer solstice,







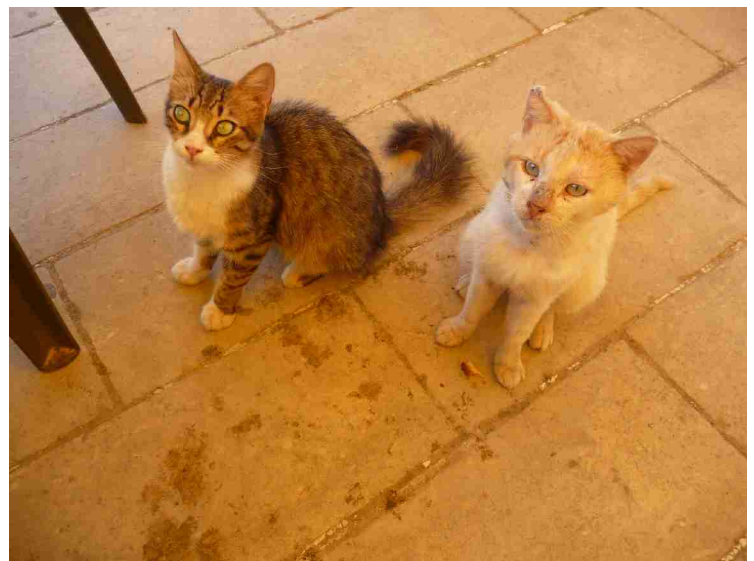
Back at Hagar Qim restaurant. After so old history we need some food.



At first som wine from Malta.



Then a lasagne with a Maltese touch. It is perhaps the best lasagne we have ever tasted.



The cats also wanted some, and of course the had to try some.



Nice flowering cactus.



A close-up of the flower.



On our way down to the bus stop we saw this drilling platform outside the coast.



Kjell is looking for the bus.



Strange rock formations.



Kjell is always talking about all the stones in [Jæren](#), but all the stones in Jæren have to be only a fraction of all this.



On our way back to the ferry landing in Valletta.



We had to wait for a while for the ferry, so we had beer while waiting.



It was at this cafe we were waiting.



This was the last day in Malta. The next day return home day. We had arranged with the taxi driver who took us from the airport to the hotel the first day to come and drive us back to the airport the day we were going back. He waited for us when we came down to the reception to check out.

Malta is a nice country with many nice cities, so there were a lot to see. Certainly we reached only a fraction during the visiting days.

Furthermore we were lucky with the weather. The week before there had been a lot of rain, while we had only sunny weather

Malta can absolutely be recommended as a holiday destination.