

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | MONDAY, 27 MAY 2013

Sardinia

Our fairy tale entry into Sardinia started with a woeful night. It was followed by a pretty awful morning. But at the end of the day we were very glad we could finally relax and get to enjoy what Italy's second largest island had to offer. Let me backtrack and tell the whole story.

We eventually did find the ferry embarkation point and we waited. We waited and waited along with a jumble of other cars and vans. The ferry was supposed to load at 10.30 pm.

After a delay of 4 hours the ferry finally did arrive and the assembled mass of vehicles rushed to get in. Except the motorhomes. We were all forced to back in directly to the hold or drive up the ramp and then turn around and back in at crazy angles. Madness. But the confusion did not end there.

We found our cabins OK but the rude staff on board did nothing to assist us. We were told absolutely nothing about safety on board, food availability or arrival time. We slept well but because of the late night, not for long. The best thing was that the showers were hot and the water outside was calm.

In the morning we decided to check out breakfast. What a disaster. There were more staff than diners and the food on offer was ridiculous - one apple and one pear plus dry bread and cheese. We chose the apple and pear plus juice and found later there were croissants and coffee served in the bar - a better alternative.

One great thing was that we enjoyed the company of two other motorhomers - once again Netherlanders. Why is it always the Dutch who are so wonderfully friendly?



Sunset from the 16th century tower near our camp

Departing so late meant we were arriving late - at about 1.30 pm, just in time for the afternoon siesta when many businesses close till 4 pm. Oh well, there was always Cagliari old town to check out.

We parked on the dock and hopped on our bikes to take a peek. We peddled around and were impressed with the handsome buildings and the surprisingly wide streets. We found an ATM but when Heather tried to get some cash it would not accept her code - it had done so only 2 days ago!! So it was back to the van to get mine but the guard at the port would not let us go back to the van.

Luckily we had our papers with us and eventually, after lots of gesticulating, we were able to collect our van and drive out of the dock. My ATM card worked. Thank heavens! We have had some fun with technology this trip!

We stocked up with petrol and food and even got a detailed map

of Sardinia - Heather was very happy about the latter. It makes her feel secure. We were finally on our way.

We made the decision to go south.

On the way out we passed by salty wetlands and watched as a large number of pink flamingos waded around. That was more like it.

Our destination was Chia but we did not have any idea where any caravan parks were. Fortunately we found one with little effort.

Around us in Chia are two very popular beaches and high on a promontory between the beaches is a 16th century guard tower. We checked that out before settling down for the night to read Lonely Planet info about Sardinia. We even have unlimited internet.

We have now planned our next 5 days on this island.

We hope to do it better than the mess we made of Sicily!

PHOTOS



One of Cagliari's many arched colonnades



One of Chia's famed white beaches



Old Roman ruins in Cagliari



Example of Cagliari's grand buildings



Chia's 16th century tower



Flamingoes on the Cagliari marshlands.