

# MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2013



Gala Gonone

## Beautiful Gulf

The delights of Sardinia were on full show today. Although the weather was overcast we traveled one of Sardinia's great drives - the road around the Gulf of di Orosei.

After a long sleep-in we exited our beach front caravan park. It was one of the cheapest we have been to so far and it had hot water and internet!

Our first port of call was Arbatax. The entry to the port area was through a narrow main road. Concerned that we might find

issues ahead with our big van, we parked on the outskirts and jumped on our bikes. We need not have worried. The nondescript entry opened up to a huge sea side area where a number of motorhomes had parked overnight. On the shore was a rich red outcrop of rock and, in the distance, we could just make out the mountainous terrain. This was the area we were going to drive through. The stunning view and the quiet swish, swish of the water lapping the shore was wonderful. We spent some time just gawking.

It was then on to the next small village where we again stopped

while Heather checked to see if she could have a trim. No luck, but the traditional dancing performed by the local school children kept our attention for a while. Traveling is all about savoring local experiences and this was a lovely interlude.

As the road started to rise we were passed by lots of motorbikes and we also noticed a large number of motorhomes. Obviously other people had read the same Lonely Planet guide book as us. In fact all day we continued to be amazed by the sheer mass of bikes and motorhomes.



**RED PALM TREES?** We did a double take when we passed these - all plastic and plugged in to glow in the night. Who would miss this? Yuk. Really really tacky.



**TRADITIONAL DANCING** We joined in with parents to witness these kids having a real ball. Teacher with accordion was the highlight as he played and sang along. Lovely.



**WOT THA?** Here we were on a little switchback road that wound up and up the mountain. Then all of a sudden the road suddenly turns into this - a very wide tunnel with a drop dead view out one side.

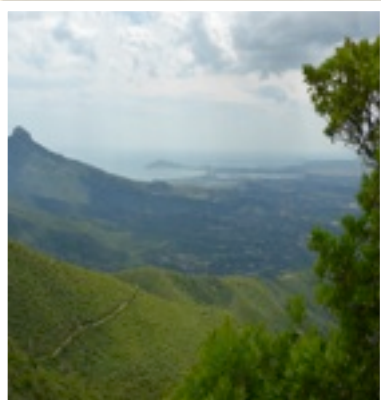
# We have seen more motorbikes and motorhomes here than we have seen on our trip so far.



Cliffs on edge of Gulf of di Orosei



Gala Gonone



View across Gulf of di Orosei from Arbatax red rocks

The dramatically steep mountains with the dappled green hues of the vegetation and the silver and grey of the rocky outcrops stayed with us all day.

The road wound round and round until it reached the highest point, only to do it again on the way down.

We stopped at many places to take in the view. Our photographs do not do justice to the sheer expanse and the height of the place. We could see for many kilometers across valleys and precipitous drops to the valley floor below.

At one point the Gola Su Gorropu came into view. Dubbed the “Grand Canyon of Europe” this spectacular gorge is flanked by vertical 400 meter rock walls.

Evidently the gorge, and the boulder strewn river valley below, are a mecca for rock

hoppers and climbers. The narrowest point at the bottom of the gorge on the Rio Flumineddu river is only 4 meters wide.

On the final stretch of our drive we took the minor road down to a pretty little fishing village called Gala Gonone.

We rode leisurely around the harbour area on our bikes.

Our attempts to find a hairdresser failed again! However the views to the mountains that we had just exited was quite stunning.

Our caravan park for the night is one of the most expensive we have been to and it does not have hot water.

A van shower for Heather tonight so she can tame her hair.



# PHOTOS



Gola Su Gorropu



Arbatax



Arbatax Red Rocks



White sox man



View from Gala Gonone harbour