

## Sun adds colour to Carnival



Children in Carnival costumes filled the streets of Malta and Gozo, including these two in traditional Chinese dress.

**Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi.**

The sunny day helped to raise Carnival's spirits yesterday, and float makers did not need to worry about the survival of their year-long work.

The colourful floats dominated the terminus outside City Gate, replacing the smoke-belching buses. Carnival entered its second day yesterday, kicking off with a focus on the children at Freedom Square, Valletta, where their dances and a défile took over.

Families trickled into Valletta throughout the afternoon for the event that continues to enthral children. It is primarily the toddlers who get dressed up - and most elaborately.

A group of Swiss said they visited Malta specifically for Carnival, and it was their third time. They were not just spectators but dressed for the occasion.

The Carnival dancing competitions hit Freedom Square in the afternoon, together with the King Carnival, triumphal and company floats, which invaded the enclosure to the tune of blaring music.

The activity was intended to carry on into the early hours for the first time, with a band and dance parade along Valletta's main streets and Carnival parties spilling out of the main squares.

The traditional Kukkanja was also revived after about a 10-year absence from Carnival, with the maypole-like structure that dates back to the Knights, was erected within the Royal Opera House ruins for games and entertainment.

Carnival continues today, with dancing competitions starting at 2.30 p.m. and the defile along Merchants, St John's and Republic streets to the enclosure.

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## Comments

Julian Zarb (1 week ago)

I am glad you liked the "atmosphere" but what worries me is that it had a "brazilian theme" even though there are several thousand kilometres between the two countries! Surely we could authenticate our themes and give them that local feel!

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Paul Zammit (1 week ago)

@Julian Zarb

I was there last night as well but it seems we were on different planets. I think the initiative was successful, colourful and lively with music most people around me were dancing to. I was also with some tourists visiting Malta who all agreed it was an enjoyable event with a Brazilian theme.

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Julian Zarb (1 week ago)

While the colours of carnival are indeed a sight - is it really Maltese? Last evening I attended a function at St. John's and afterwards as we made our way through the streets to a reception, the rather harsh experience of the carnival celebrations looked more like some rave party than a traditional festa! The gawdy and rather tacky floats were filled with the overpowering sounds from the large (and i would say unsightly) speakers...where are the bands that used to accompany each company and float? ; some of the floats were far too gargantune even for the streets of this baroque town. The music on St. George's Square was still blaring round the capital long after eleven o'clock at night. I would like to suggest to the committee (perhaps this time SOMEONE will listen to sense and reason) to celebrate a traditional Carnival instead of this poor excuse for a national celebration. Let us see real art and culture, the live bands and music, the satirical themes of the floats and the animation of the float players...this is the real carnival of malta and that is also what visitors want to see..

.Julian Zarb Tourism Journalist and Media Presenter

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