

Crete For Life Summer 2009



Sunshine, Sea, Photography, Football and Mamma Mia!

Hello!

Just a few lines to tell you about our fourth summer camp, which took place in Crete between June 28th and July 28th of this year.

Our cast included: fourteen children, one teacher and one translator, eight young volunteers, two photographers, two dancers and a number of friends from Crete and abroad.

Aside from a lot of swimming and fun by the sea, during the first week, the children got involved in a photography workshop, organized by two Italian professionals, Virginio Briatore and Marino Ramazzotti.

The photo equipment the children used was collected by asking friends, who generously donated several digital cameras. The aim of the workshop was to make the children aware, through their photos, of what and who was around them.

Each day, the children choose their favorite photos and carefully placed them in individual albums that were commented by the children and photographers and taken back as per-

sonal memento. Apart from the usual check up with dentists, doctors, etc. some of the highlights for the month were: a visit to a professional astronomer on a full moon night, looking through his telescope at a huge, bright moon; a visit to one of Minoan's main ships, including a private tour of the bridge!!; meeting Ross Daly in his Music school and being shown musical instruments from all over the world; a train trip through the winding roads of Elounda, a lot of Banana raids, two birthday parties, haircuts, sport kits and much more.

Around the middle of the stay in Crete, two children's themes appear to rule the mood of the camp, a passion for football, which was played in and around Ierapetra, and a mania for the Abba musical "Mamma Mia".

Jansen and Federica had prepared a choreography that the children learned very quickly. It did not take long before everyone, young and adults, was singing and dancing at all times and everywhere possible.

Present hopes and future plans

I continue to find many things surprising about Crete For Life's project: first of all it seems to attract many wonderful, and generous people from Crete and abroad. An example: a group of local women, housewives, teachers, etc, got

organized to produce, daily freshly baked snack for the children we hosted. Secondly, the island seem have an endless amount of fun and interesting activities that any child could enjoy, love and remember as a positive experi-

ence. With this in mind, we feel strongly about expanding our project to include disadvantaged children from different countries and background, and rooting it in this wonderful island. Kindest wishes,

Chiara

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