

Expedition Fund Report

During the summer of 2024, from the 30th of June to the 9th of July, Louis and I embarked on an adventure to the island of Malta to further our diving skills and abilities. We hoped that this experience would provide us with emergency skills and rescue experience in the realm of diving. Initially, we planned to complete our Rescue Diver certification.

However, during our time there,

we encountered unforeseen challenges that made the cost of completing the course financially unfeasible. Fortunately, we were able to strike a deal with a local dive shop,



which enabled us to arrange a total of 8 dives over 9 days. This included a night dive with underwater torches as our only light source, and a deep dive off the coast of Malta, where we experienced the physics concept of diffraction. As we descended deeper, our colour charts became desaturated, and our air consumption increased at a much faster rate.

This experience highlighted the importance of leaving enough time and air in the tank to complete multiple safety stops on the way up, ensuring proper decompression to avoid the risk of decompression sickness/injuries.

During our trip, we spent time with one of the UK's most qualified divers, who explained the mechanisms of dive injuries and the basics of dive rescue, which put us in good stead for completing the Rescue Diver qualification at the end of the next academic year.

However, we encountered our own medical challenge when we both contracted COVID-19 around the 4th day of our trip. Due to the





medical risks associated with diving while ill, we were pressed for time to complete all the dives we had arranged. Despite this, we had time to explore the history of Malta, visiting the old capital and the set of *Game of Thrones*, and riding horses featured in episodes. Once we recovered and both felt almost back to normal, we managed to double up on the number of dives each day, completing all the dives we had planned.

This felt like a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Whether diving through sunken shipwrecks or swimming above reefs with a wide range of biodiversity, including moray eels, cuttlefish, and rare sightings of octopuses, each dive provided a unique experience.

