

WORDS LAUREN JOHN

CLARE AGIUS

THE LOCAL TRAVELLER

LAUREN JOHN CATCHES UP WITH TV PRESENTER AND ACTRESS CLARE AGIUS, AND DISCOVERS AN ADVENTUROUS MALTESE LADY, WITH SOME GREAT TRAVEL TIPS AND IDEAS ON WHAT BIG SCREEN MOVIE CREWS SHOULD FILM ON THE ISLANDS TOO.

"The Twilight Saga prequel. The Volturi were in Volterra Italy on a sunny day, so perhaps they could come here to film a similar scene. My guest role would definitely be a vampire, and I could be cast out by the Volturi. They would not accept me since I turned vegetarian, and I could be Alice's best ally, who could show her around, as we try to find a great hideaway place for the Cullens to stay. I know a few underground caves that could probably do with a makeover, and turned into a magnificent home of theirs."

Clare Agius: pilot, TV presenter, storyteller, and it seems aspiring vampire! Clare has been working in TV for over 20 years, presenting and producing diverse content ranging from a 10-year run of an all-women talk show, to 'Airborne', a documentary

series showcasing her passion for aviation. As Clare says: "I put my passions into my projects. My curiosity and passion for life have always served me well, as through being open to learning I have met many different people, and experienced many things that I am grateful for, as they have been my university of life."

Clare's adventures have taken her all over Europe, but like many, she was grounded during the Coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, her passion for travelling found a new outlet closer to home, and 'The Local Traveller' was born. Now in its second season, this TV series plays out on local TV and is subtitled in English on YouTube to give everyone the best chance to "get to know Malta through the eyes of a local." As Clare comments she is every inch "a very

proud Maltese and Mediterranean girl, and I love the local feel, our history, our hidden gems, our cuisine and our seas". This has led to 'The Local Traveller' becoming a show that has turned one person's passion for their homeland into a series appealing to different loves and likes across all ages. Each episode may be different, but there is one must-have that runs throughout the series. "What is a must for me to bring in a local person who gives character and soul to the programme. I've met people from a Professor in Marine Biology to a 70-year-old local ice cream man. The gems are not only in the island's history and culture but in its people."

One of Clare's first suggestions if you're visiting Malta for the first time is to "make friends with the locals, and always ask them which is the best restaurant, what is going



on at the moment on the island, and what their favourite spot in Malta is?" Clare has a few suggestions herself, especially for families visiting Malta and the islands for the first time.

"One activity I think we should do more of with our kids is go snorkelling. We can encourage our children to have a greater appreciation of the sea, and its relevance to us as humans. I can mention a few places I have been with my children recently, one is Riviera Bay but snorkel towards the end part of the swimming line, when most of the time you will come across small rays. In Gozo, I have taken them to Qbajjar and the little bay just before it. We saw a starfish!" Other tried and tested places include the Foresta 2000 nature reserve in Mellieha, along with ice cream and a trip

to the Maritime Museum in Birgu. Clare's tip for any family visit would be "think outside the box, and opt to go to places where there are fewer crowds so you get to enjoy more quality time with them, and be as curious and fascinated as they are."

Between filming 'The Local Traveller' series, and off-camera family trips, Clare Agius has managed to keep her adventurous spirit alive during the most difficult of times and look to the future too. She has a bucket list of places and experiences which includes Africa, a trip to Scandinavia to see the Northern Lights, and Kayaking.

"I recently went kayaking and did just short of 15km during a three to four-hour morning which I truly enjoyed, and got

to see areas I had never seen before. Off the beaten track biking is also something I wish to do more of, so while I don't consider myself an athlete, I'm certainly an adventurer, so you will see me try anything that gives that excitement and awe of our beautiful islands."

This takes us full circle to the world of movies, and while Clare isn't baring her vampire fangs just yet, you can try and spot her in the recent Hallmark release 'To Catch A Spy' which premiered in June this year.

Film, theatre, and TV – it's certainly been an interesting journey for this Maltese adventurer and it's not over yet. Share in the beauty of Malta and the islands, and follow 'The Local Traveller' on Instagram, Facebook and Youtube for more. ✨