

Malta-St. Paul's Bay

LET'S GET
TOGETHER AND
TALK!



1 ORGANISATION • 7 LANGUAGES • 30 DESTINATIONS • COUNTLESS MEMORIES

WELCOME TO SPRACHCAFFE

You are obviously determined to not just have a holiday, but at the same time, learn a new language or improve your skills in a language you already know. This is why we would like to send you our warmest congratulations! It is great when people want to make the world a bit smaller for themselves.

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart." Nelson Mandela

It pleases us even more that you have chosen Sprachcaffe for your *language trip*. Lively teaching methods, a relaxed and stress-free atmosphere, learning through interaction and chatting (which helps you bond with others) - we have become experts with our 30 year experience in language teaching and with our 32 destinations worldwide.

In the enclosed documents you will find everything you need to know about your journey. **Please do not travel without this information sheet.**

Your Sprachcaffe Team



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The Trip

Your destination is Malta International Airport in Luqa, six kilometres from Valletta. Here, you will find, among other things, duty-free-shops, exchange bureaus, restaurants, car rental services and telephones. Taxis and buses are in front of the airport building. When packing, please remember that you are restricted to a certain luggage weight limit. You are, of course, allowed to take sports gear such as golf clubs, diving gear and bicycles with you, but you will have to declare these items as "special luggage" giving all measurements and weights when booking. We wish you a pleasant flight!

If you have booked a transfer from the airport to your accommodation, please note that our colleagues will welcome you at the airport. On arrival, please look out for a Sprachcaffe sign. **Make sure that we are informed of your flight number and arrival time at least 2 weeks before you leave home.** Should your transfer be delayed, we apologise in advance and ask for your patience. Our team may have to pick up several other students, and this might result in a slight delay.

If you did not book a transfer, we recommend you take a taxi from the airport. The distance between the airport and the Sprachcaffe facilities is about 15 km. The taxi takes about 40 minutes (depending on traffic) and costs about €25. White taxis are available at the airport but black taxis, which are private, have to be booked in advance. You may also take a bus from the airport. The X3 bus leaves from the airport and takes 90 minutes to get to Bugibba. The cost of a day ticket is €2.60 and buses run from 05:35 to 22:35.

Regardless of whether or not you have booked a transfer with us, we kindly ask you to **inform us of your arrival time at least 2 week in advance.** Arrival in Malta is usually on the Sunday before the beginning of the course, between 9 am and 10 pm. If you do not arrive on this day or within these times, reconfirmation from our Frankfurt office is compulsory. This reconfirmation has to be done with us not less than 3 days before your departure. Please understand that we cannot guarantee a smooth check-in if we are not informed in advance of arrival dates and times or delays.

In case of an emergency please contact the following phone number: 00356 (0) 21373 574/5!!!

Please note that Sprachcaffe cannot be held responsible for your first overnight stay if we are not advised of your arrival dates or delays in time. Students must inform Sprachcaffe about their arrival time and flight details at least 2 weeks before arrival. Failure to do so may result in problems with the student's accommodation on arrival.

Visa and Entry Conditions

As Malta is a member of the EU, EU nationals can enter the country with a valid passport or ID card. Non-EU nationals should check visa and entry requirements at <http://mhas.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Information/Travelling%20to%20Malta/Pages/Travelling-to-Malta.aspx>.

Accommodation

It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issue during your stay, please talk directly to the Accommodation Manager.

Your destination address in Malta is written on your voucher.

Hotel

The students who book a hotel room will be accommodated in The Bugibba Hotel. All the studios have twin beds (for 2 persons maximum), air conditioning, 1 bathroom + 1 kitchenette with fridge + hot plates/oven and cutlery.

According to high season availability, the accommodation may be located elsewhere but close to the language school.

If you have booked a double room, we will try to find the "right person" to share the room with.

Please note that the apartment is generally only available to course participants and not to friends or relatives.

If you have someone who wants to stay over, please ask for our permission and we will let you know if we have enough room capacity. For extra nights, which are not free of charge, you will also need our confirmation. Please contact us well in advance if you would like to make any additions to your accommodation booking.

Please note that our accommodation is not a hotel. This means that all course participants have to take care of the cleaning themselves. Sprachcaffe only organises a basic cleaning service once a week.

CLIENTS WITHOUT TRANSFER: Please be at the reception on Sunday between 12:00 and 13:00. A Sprachcaffe representative will be there to welcome you and to give you an introduction.

Host family

Living with a Maltese host family means living their lifestyle. You will be able to practise what you have learned during the course and you will gain confidence while communicating with the family.

Maltese host families are very open-minded, helpful and welcoming to their guests. Our host families are not always families in the traditional sense. They can also be active single people or elderly couples who will have a lot of time to spend with their guests. Dinner is the main meal for the Maltese and you will have the opportunity to try Maltese food, which is influenced by the Mediterranean cuisine. Breakfast is usually equivalent to a continental breakfast including toast, butter, jam and tea.

In general, the families will introduce you to their habits on the day of your arrival, for example, the handing over of the key, times for meals and use of the washing machine. Normally, you share the bathroom with other members of the family. Please make sure that you always leave your room and bathroom clean and tidy and that you do not damage the furniture.

Please take the family into consideration and avoid unnecessary noise, especially late in the evening and at night. We appreciate your consideration when asking you not to use the host family's telephone to call your family at home.

Please inform your host family beforehand if you will not be at home for a meal, if you plan to go on a trip for a few days or if you are going to be away overnight. Otherwise, your family will be worried unnecessarily.

In general, host families do not mind if you plan to invite new friends from the course back home. However, you should talk to your host family first if you plan to bring some friends home. When staying with a host family, bed linen and towels are provided by the family, but you should bring along your own beach towels.

The School

Lessons usually begin at 9am. On the first day of your course, you should be at the school **by 8:45am.** On the first day of school you will be welcomed by our school staff. Clients who have not done the online test will do the test then. Afterwards there will be the assignment into the different classes. You will then start with your first lesson. If you have done the online test by 12:00am on the last Friday before the course commencement, you will receive a letter when you check in telling you your teacher's name, your classroom number and the time of your lessons.

The address of the school is: Sprachcaffe St. Paul's Bay

2, Tropicana, Mons. Alfredo Mifsud Street c/w Tourists Street
Qawra SPB 1072
Malta
spb.education@sprachcaffe.com
Tel: 00356 21 575 272

The school office:

School office hours: Monday to Friday 8 am until 4:30 pm.

The school office offers many services, among which are:

- Individual advice regarding language courses
- Sale and rental of learning material
- Help in case of problems with a course

The school reception also offers many services including:

- Collection of post. Check at reception for any mails or messages which you may receive from abroad
- A communication board where you will find a list of activities planned by the school for the coming week
- Help in case of problems with accommodation

Sprachcaffe reserves the right to remove students from their booked programme for breaking the laws in Malta. Costs for repatriation shall be borne by the student.

Lessons

The teachers are all trained teachers of English as a Foreign Language, are proficient speakers of the language and teach only in English. The teachers are your advisors: competent and committed.

The topics of the lessons are varied. Our teachers use both published didactic material and original material such as newspaper articles part of their teaching. We find communication, such as through dialogue, a valuable teaching method. It is, however, also necessary to teach grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary!

We offer the following course:

Standard course of four 45-minute lessons daily, Monday to Friday.

Course groups are formed mainly according to language level. A student may change to a lower or higher level group, subject to space in the classroom after consulting the course teacher and verifying the change with the School Administrator. The maximum number of students in one group is 15. Lessons are not held on the public holidays listed in the catalogue and these lessons will not be made up. **In addition, lessons lost due to late arrival or early departure are not made up.** The timetable may vary for organisational reasons.

We will offer you a high quality language course and location during your stay with us. Our employees and teachers have a lot of experience with students. However, please remember that the teachers cannot be fully responsible for your language acquisition. Only if you participate actively in the lessons and communicate in English in your free time will you truly benefit from your course.

Lessons are not held during the following periods: 01.01.-21.06.2014 and 14.09.2014- 31.12.2014 and on following public holidays in 2014: 15.08. and 08.09.2014. Please note that lessons lost due to public holidays, late arrival or early departure will not be made up.

Please note! In the unlikely event the school is unable to create a group course due to lack of enough students at the same time/level, smaller group courses or single lessons for a reduced amount of time will be provided instead: 20 lessons = 12 lessons, 30 lessons = 18 lessons. In the rare circumstances of us being forced to cancel, all fees will be refunded.

We wish you a successful language course!

It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issue during you stay please talk directly to the school staff.

Language test

Sprachcaffe has an online placement test which we kindly ask you to do before you arrive at school. Doing the online exam in advance will allow you to start your lessons straight away.

To access the online test, please go to <http://shop.sprachcaffe.com/onlinetests/>. You can log in using your surname (or email address) and booking number (see our documents for the correct spelling).

The test can be done at any time up to 12:00pm (CET) Friday before the program begins. Thereafter the test will be switched off and you will no longer be able to access it. This deadline is to ensure that the school has enough time to assign you to an appropriate.

Please do not use a dictionary or any other aids when doing this exam as its purpose is to assess your language ability and place you in an appropriate class. It is better not to answer questions that you do not know, as guessing will affect your score and could result in your being placed in a class that is too difficult for you.

You have 45 minutes to do the exam from the moment you enter the site. Thereafter, the test will automatically shut down. If you finish before time runs out, you can click 'submit' at the bottom of the test. The test result will be forwarded automatically to Sprachcaffe. You will find out your teacher's name and classroom number on your first day at school.

Please note that you can only access the online test once!

General Information

Malta is a small and densely-populated island nation comprising an archipelago of three islands in the Mediterranean Sea. A country of Southern Europe, Malta lies south of Sicily, east of Tunisia, and north of Libya. The country's official languages are Maltese and English. Roman Catholicism is the official and most practised religion. The islands constituting the Maltese nation have been ruled by various powers and fought over for centuries, most recently the United Kingdom. Malta is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and has been a member state of the European Union (EU) since 2004. It is currently the smallest EU country in both population and area.

Visa and Entry Conditions

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Climate

The climate is Mediterranean (Köppen climate classification Csa), with mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. There is no real thermal dormant season for plants, although plant growth can be checked briefly by abnormal cold in winter (patches of ground frost may occur in inland locales), and summer heat and aridity may cause vegetation to wilt. Effectively there are only two seasons, which makes the islands attractive for tourists especially during the drier months. However, strong winds can make Malta feel cold during the winter months.

Month	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg High Temp °C (°F)	21 (71)	15 (59)	15 (59)	16 (61)	18 (65)	22 (72)	27 (80)	30 (86)	30 (86)	28 (82)	24 (75)	19 (67)	16 (61)
Avg Low Temp °C (°F)	15 (60)	9 (49)	9 (49)	10 (51)	12 (54)	15 (59)	19 (66)	22 (71)	22 (72)	20 (69)	18 (64)	14 (57)	11 (52)

Languages:

The national language of Malta is Maltese, a Semitic language which descended from Maghrebi Arabic, with many borrowings from Italian and, in particular, Sicilian. The Maltese alphabet is based on the Latin alphabet, but uses the diacritically altered letters *ż*, also found in Polish, as well as the letters *ċ*, *ġ*, *għ*, *ħ* and *ie*, which are unique to Maltese. The official languages are Maltese and English. Italian was an official language until the 1930s, and is widely spoken as a second or third language. French, German and Spanish, amongst other languages, are taught as foreign languages in secondary schools.

Health

Malta enjoys a well-earned reputation for its health standards. Medical facilities are available through the regional health centres and general hospital. Tap water is safe to drink but may taste slightly salty. Milk is pasteurised and available daily in cartons. All dairy products are safe for consumption.

Electricity

The electrical supply is 240 volts, single phase, 50 cycles. The UK 13 amp, three-pin rectangular sockets are used in Malta.

Customs

Personal belongings and clothing intended for own use are not liable to duty. The duty-free allowance for adults is 200 cigarettes or the equivalent in cigars or tobacco; one bottle of spirits and one bottle of wine; and a reasonable quantity of perfume and toilet water.

Money

The Euro is the official currency in Malta.

Banks

Banks are normally open between 8:30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday, and until 11:30am on Saturday. Some banks work longer hours. Summer and winter opening hours may differ.

Exchange Bureaux at Malta International Airport are open 24 hours a day. International bankcards are accepted and foreign currency is easily exchanged. Banks, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and exchange bureaux can be found all over the islands.

Many hotels and larger shops and restaurants accept foreign currency. Exchange rates offered by hotels, restaurants and shops may not be as competitive as those available at banks.

Credit Cards

Most hotels and restaurants, as well as many shops, accept Access, American Express, Carte Blanche, Diners Club International, Mastercard and Visa.

Tourism in Malta

The Island of Malta is situated between Sicily and the coast of North Africa. The sun shines the whole year round on this North African-style landscape. Malta has a more diverse culture and has played a greater role in history than almost any other island on earth. The Phoenicians, the Romans, the French and the British have all come and gone. Now it's your turn!

The Knights of Malta: Established after the First Crusade in 1100 A.D., the Knights of Malta were guardians and defenders of pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land.

Valletta: With its beautiful architecture, great scenery and intriguing history, Valletta, the capital of Malta, is a UNESCO's heritage site. Make sure you don't miss the view from the balcony over the Grand Harbour.

Culture in Malta

The culture of Malta reflects the various influences the islands have had over the last few millennia, especially Italian and British which left the biggest mark. Local festivals are quite common and include wedding celebrations, christenings and saints' days. Summer months are full of different towns' *fešta* celebrations and fireworks over the sea.

The Maltese Islands have often been referred to as the island of sunshine and history and with good reason. With a history boasting 6,000 years of civilisation, every square inch of its land, its temples and monuments bear witness to these past civilisations. For those of you with an appetite for culture, Malta and Gozo are strewn with fascinating historical and archaeological sites, some of which date back earlier than the Pyramids!

Museum lovers will find a variety of treasures to discover. Each museum houses artefacts from various fields and eras; be it art, archaeology, natural history, war time, the temples or our celebrated maritime history. And more treasures can be found in one of the 364 churches built on the island!

For those interested in old fortifications built at the time of the Knights of St. John, military and historical parades are regularly staged to allow visitors to be swept back in time and if you really wish to fully understand Malta's history, then visit one of the multi-vision shows which encapsulate Maltese history from its very beginnings to modern day.

No visitor should go to Malta without visiting her sister islands, Gozo and Comino. Gozo, aptly termed as *the island where time stands still* because of the tranquillity it exudes, is greener than Malta and more rural allowing for sweeping views of terraced fields, glimmering shore-lines, and imposing churches. Comino, a mile long and uninhabited, is a veritable paradise with a lagoon bluer than turquoise.

And for those who wish to take it easier, simply stroll around the charming towns and villages and enjoy the uniqueness and tranquillity that is so very typical of the Islands.

Gozo

Three main delightfully contrasting islands make up the Maltese archipelago. The largest of these, Malta, is sophisticated with a wide variety of superb hotels, excellent beaches and busy nightlife. Comino is the smallest, a haven for anyone who loves water-sports, with some of the best swimming in the Mediterranean. And then there is Gozo.

Gozo is a third the size of Malta, but greener and more rural. Its landscape has hills and deep valleys as well as rugged cliffs, which give natural protection to the island's small harbours and inlets. Life here moves at a leisurely pace, revolving around farming and fishing.

Feedback

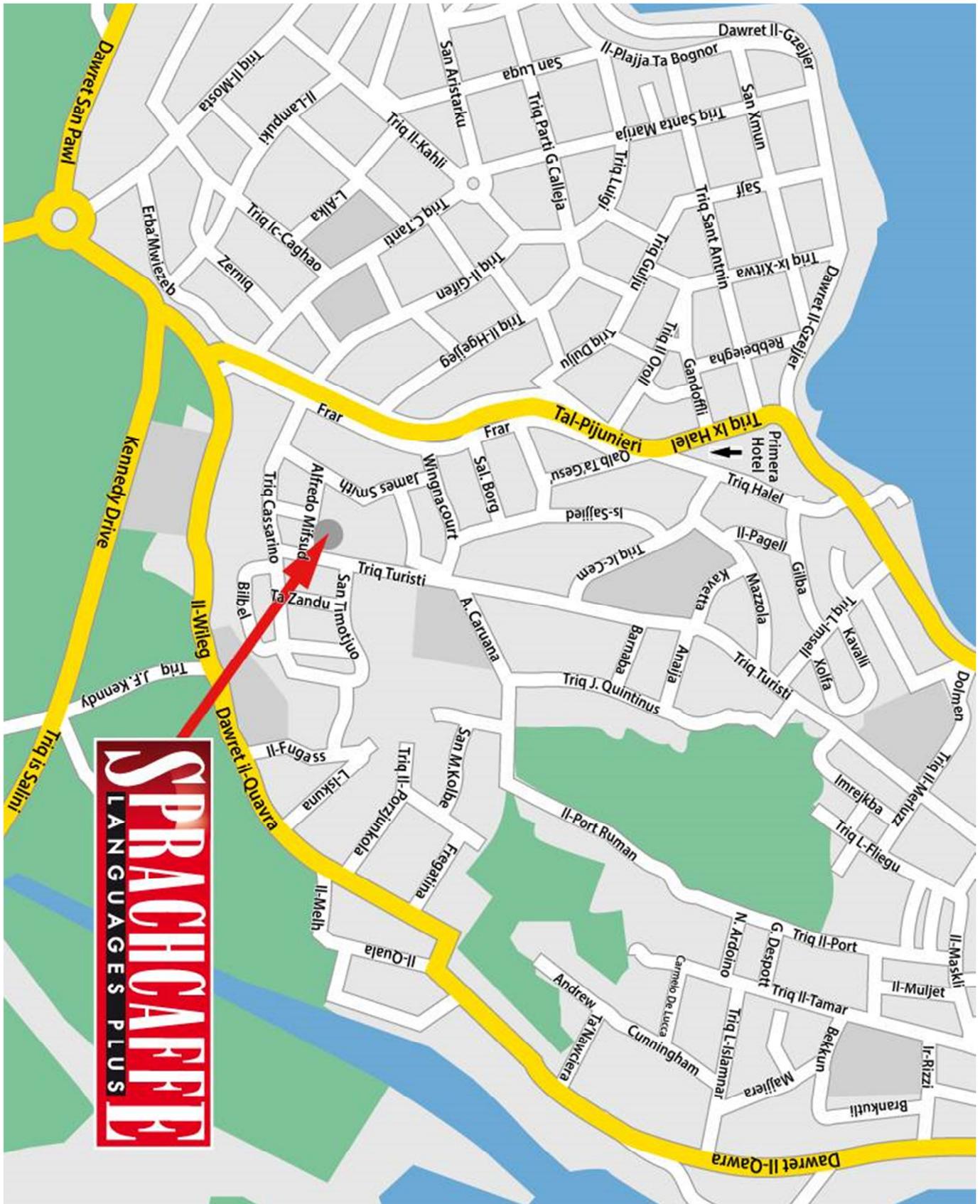
Before the everyday routine back at home sets in completely we would be very pleased if you could give us your feedback. As a participant you can tell us about your experiences. Just fill out the online form at <http://www.sprachcaffe.com/english/feedback.htm> We always welcome ideas, tips and constructive criticism!

Address: **Sprachcaffe Languages PLUS**
Headquartes Gartenstrasse 6
D – 60594 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: 069 6109 120
Fax: 069 603 1395
Email: info@sprachcaffe.com
www.sprachcaffe.com

We wish you a wonderful stay and a successful language course!

Your Sprachcaffe Team

School location



CHECK LIST BEFORE DEPARTURE

Things you might want to think of when packing your luggage

Important travel items

- travel guide
- reading material
- dictionary
- cash, credit card
- phone number of your credit card company, in case you have to block the card
- vaccination card
- inform Sprachcaffe about arrival time
- alarm clock
- sunglasses

First-aid kit

- sunscreen
- any medicine required
- insect spray
- medicine for stomach trouble
- plasters
- after-sun lotion
- tweezers

Travel documents

- identity card and/or passport
- flight or train ticket
- student ID
- Sprachcaffe travel documents

Sport/Hobby

- camera
- extra film, extra memory card
- music / radio
- batteries
- sports equipment

Insurances

- travel health insurance
- luggage insurance
- insurance card from your car insurance
- phone number of your car insurance

Checklist for returning home

- Buy souvenirs for friends and relatives at home
- Exchange addresses with people in the course, teachers and host family
- Pick up course participation certificate
- Tidy and clean up the room
- Pack and check the rooms for anything left behind