

Gozo

Malta

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Gozo is the smaller, quieter island of the Maltese archipelago. It has green fields, limestone villages, domed churches and a rocky coast with cliffs, coves and clear water. Life moves slower here than on Malta.

It suits travelers who want history, swimming, diving and walks without big crowds. Most visitors stay for a few nights. Others come for a day from Malta. Local legend says Gozo is Ogygia, the island of the nymph Calypso in Homer's *Odyssey*.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times. The weather is warm and sunny, and the sea is good for swimming. Summer is hot and dry, and beaches and ferries are busy. Winter is mild but wet and windy, and rough seas can cancel boat trips.

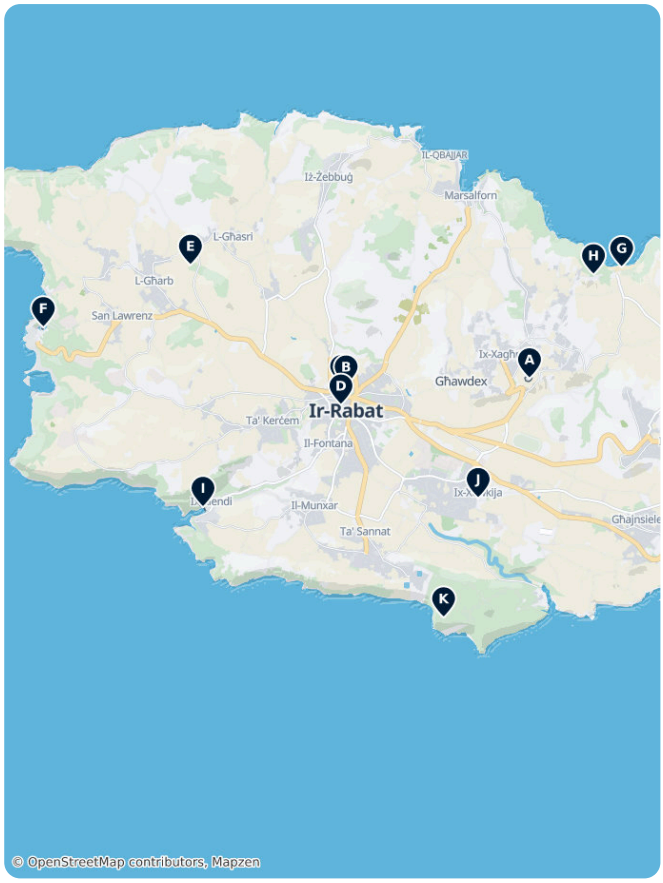
The biggest event is the Nadur Carnival. It takes place in the days before Lent, usually in February. People wear homemade, often dark-humored costumes and celebrate in the streets late into the night.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for hiking	14° / 17° Feels like 9°	12° / 9°	Dry air
February	Good Good for hiking	14° / 17° Feels like 8°	11° / 8°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	15° / 18° Feels like 10°	12° / 9°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	17° / 19° Feels like 13°	14° / 11°	Dry air
May	Great Great for hiking	20° / 23°	17° / 14°	23 sunny days
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 28°	20° / 17°	25 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	27° / 29°	23° / 20°	30 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	28° / 30°	24° / 21°	28 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for watersports	26° / 28°	22° / 19°	20 sunny days · Muggy, humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	20° / 17°	Humid air
November	Good Good for hiking	19° / 23° Feels like 16°	17° / 13°	Dry air
December	Good Good for hiking	16° / 19° Feels like 11°	14° / 10°	Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Ġgantija Temples are two Neolithic temples near Xagħra. They are among the oldest free-standing stone buildings in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Citadel is a walled hilltop fortress above Victoria, the island capital. Walk the walls for views over the whole island. Inside, B Cathedral of the Assumption has a famous painted ceiling that looks like a dome, and the C Old Prison shows how prisoners lived until the 20th century.
- D St. George's Basilica stands in the old center of Victoria, a short walk below the Citadel. Its rich baroque interior is worth a look.
- E Ta' Pinu Basilica is Malta's national shrine, in open countryside near Għarb. Many pilgrims visit it, and the walls hold many thank-you offerings.
- F Inland Sea at Dwejra is a sea lagoon linked to the open sea by a rock tunnel. Small boats run through the tunnel in good weather. Fungus Rock and the Blue Hole dive site are close by.
- G Ramla Bay is a wide sandy beach with reddish-gold sand. H Calypso's Cave is on the hill above it. The cave itself is closed, but the viewpoint is open.
- I Xlendi is a small resort in a narrow valley, with a seafront promenade and cliff walks.
- Also worth a stop: J Xewkija Rotunda in Xewkija, with a very large dome you can see from far across the island, and K Ta' Ċenċ Cliff, a high sea cliff on the south coast with wide sea views.

Gozo – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

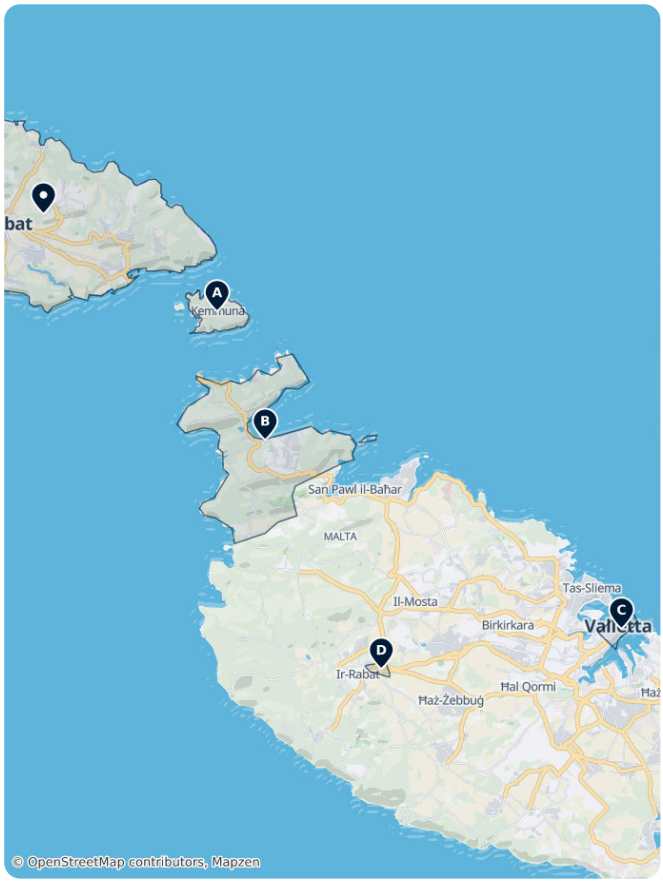
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Diving or snorkeling off the west coast. Gozo has many shore dive sites, including the Blue Hole and Dwejra. Local dive centers run courses and guided dives all year.
- Taking a small boat through the rock tunnel of the Inland Sea at Dwejra. The boats run only when the sea is calm.
- Watching sunset from the Citadel walls or from the west coast near Dwejra.
- Going to a village feast in summer. Streets are decorated with lights, bands play, and the evening ends with fireworks.
- Walking the coast between Marsalforn and Xwejni to see the old salt pans. Some families still collect sea salt there in summer.

Day trips

Most trips from Gozo are short boat rides or ferry crossings. Plan the whole day around the ferry times.



- A Comino: a small island with almost no residents, a short boat ride from Mġarr harbour. It is known for the Blue Lagoon, which has pale sand and clear water. Go early or late in summer to avoid crowds.
- B Mellieħa: about 25 minutes by ferry to Ċirkewwa, then a short bus or taxi ride. It is a beach town in northern Malta.
- C Valletta: the fast ferry from Mġarr takes about 45 minutes and carries foot passengers only. By car ferry and bus, allow about 1.5 hours. The capital has fortresses, churches and museums.
- D Mdina: about 2 hours each way by ferry and bus. The old walled city is quiet and good for an afternoon walk.

Where to explore

Gozo is part of Malta, and most visitors combine the two islands. For the main island, see Malta. For boat trips and mainland day trips, see the day trips section.

Getting there

- **By air**: Gozo has no commercial airport. Fly to Malta International Airport and continue by road and ferry. The trip from the airport to Mġarr, including the ferry, takes about 1.5 to 2 hours.
- **By ferry from Malta**: The car and passenger ferry leaves Ċirkewwa in northern Malta for Mġarr harbour in Gozo. The crossing takes about 25 minutes. Sailings are frequent through the day and there are fewer at night. You cannot book a seat. The fare is paid only on the way back, when you leave Mġarr. In summer, arrive early because queues for cars are long. Check times at Gozo Channel.
- **By fast ferry**: A passenger-only fast ferry runs between Valletta and Mġarr in about 45 minutes. It is useful if you stay near Valletta.
- **By bus to the ferry**: Public buses from Valletta, Sliema and Bugibba go to Ċirkewwa. Allow extra time for the transfer.

Getting around

- **Public buses**: Buses run from Victoria bus terminal to most villages, beaches and sights, and meet the ferries at Mġarr. They are cheap but infrequent on some routes, especially in the evening. See Malta Public Transport for routes and fares.
- **Car or scooter**: This is the easiest way to reach beaches, cliffs and small villages. Roads are narrow and signs are few.
- **Taxi**: Taxis wait at Mġarr harbour and in Victoria. Agree the price before the trip.
- **Guided tours**: Hop-on hop-off buses and jeep tours cover the main sights in a day.
- **On foot and by bike**: Villages and Victoria are good to explore on foot. The island is hilly, so cycling between distant sights is tiring in summer. Coastal paths are pleasant in spring and autumn.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Victoria and the villages are easy to walk, but sights are spread across the island and many are far from each other.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet country roads and coastal paths suit cycling in spring and autumn, but the island is hilly and hot in summer.

Driving

- **Car or not**: A car is helpful for beaches and villages away from the main bus routes. You can stay in Victoria and use buses if you only plan the main sights.
- **Rental**: Rent in Gozo, or take a Malta rental car on the ferry. Check with the rental company first.
- **Parking**: Parking in Victoria, Xlendi, Marsalforn and Dwejra is limited in summer. Arrive early.
- **Roads**: Traffic drives on the left. Country roads are narrow. Some villages have very tight streets, so use a small car.

Food & drink

Gozo is known for simple farm food. Look for *ġbejniet*, small fresh or dried sheep or goat cheeses. Try Gozitan *ftira*, a baked flatbread with toppings such as potato, cheese and local sausage. Rabbit stew is the classic Sunday meal. Local honey, capers and sun-dried tomatoes are common souvenirs, and the island also makes its own wine.

Good places to eat cluster in a few areas. In Victoria, look around the main square, It-Tokk, and the streets near the Citadel. For seafood, try the waterfronts of Marsalforn, Xlendi and Mġarr harbour. Small village squares such as Xagħra and Nadur have simple local cafés.

What to eat & drink

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Pastizzi
Flaky pastry parcels filled with ricotta or mushy peas, sold at small bakeries all day.

Ftira
A dense, chewy flatbread stuffed with tuna, capers, tomatoes, and olives.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Imqaret
Deep-fried date-filled pastries, sold as street food.

DRINKS

Kinnie
A bitter-orange soft drink unique to Malta.

Cisk
Malta's home-brewed lager, a common choice at bars and restaurants.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Fenkata
Rabbit stewed or fried with garlic and wine, traditionally eaten on Sundays and at village feasts.

Bragioli · beef olives
Thin beef slices rolled around a savory filling of egg, bacon, and breadcrumbs, braised in a wine sauce.

Gozo – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Gozo is very safe for visitors. Petty theft is rare, but do not leave valuables in a parked car or on the beach.

The sea is the main risk. Cliffs and rocky shores can be slippery, and waves can be strong in winter and on windy days. Check conditions before you swim or dive, and do not climb on cliffs. Jellyfish appear in

some summers. In July and August the sun is strong, so carry water and shade. Most visitors drink bottled water.

History

People built the Ġgantija Temples more than 5,000 years ago. They are some of the oldest large stone buildings in the world. Later the island was ruled by Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs and the Knights of St John.

In 1551 an Ottoman force attacked Gozo and took most of the people from the Citadel as slaves. After this, the Knights rebuilt the Citadel walls as a modern fortress. Today the Cathedral of the Assumption stands inside those walls, built between 1697 and 1711.

In 1883 a local woman said she heard a voice at a small chapel near Għarb. The chapel grew into Ta' Pinu Basilica, which is now a place of pilgrimage. In 2017 the Azure Window, a rock arch at Dwejra, fell into the sea during a storm.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Malta, including Gozo, at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

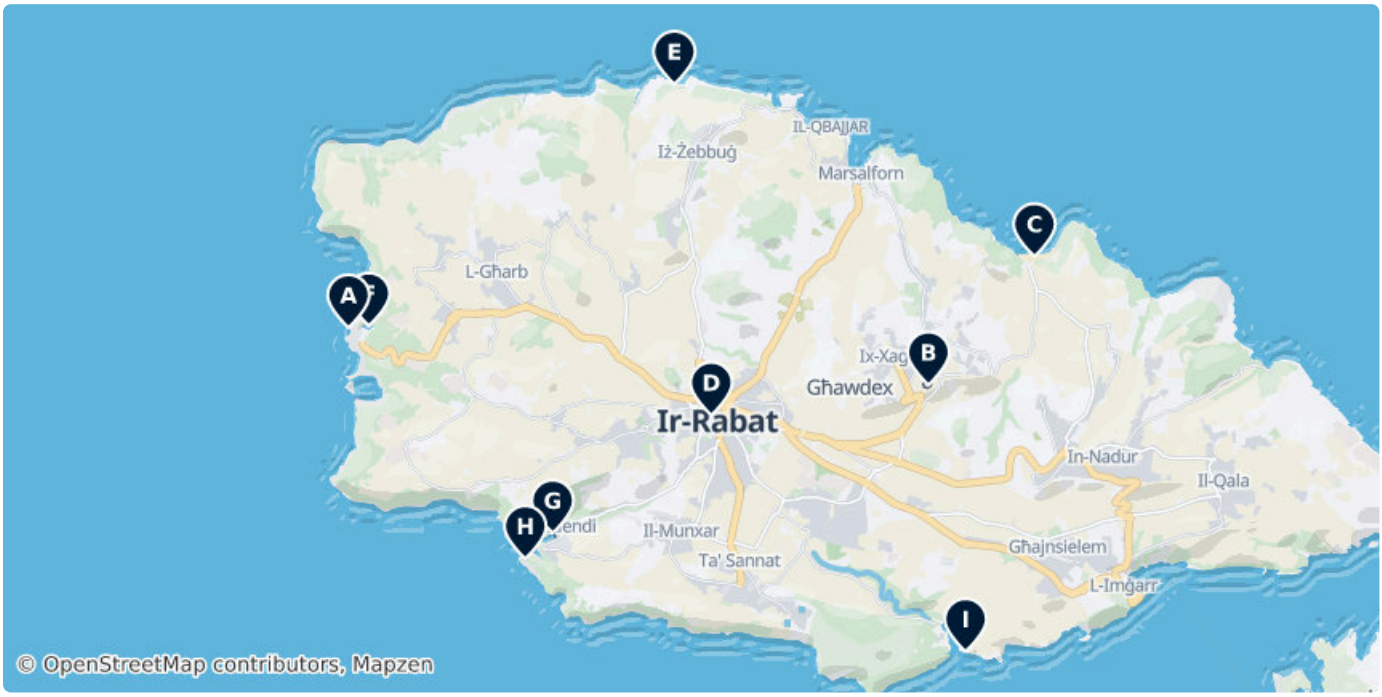
Type G
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, Maltese

TAP WATER
Use caution

Gozo's Essential Wonders

Gozo’s landscape is defined by its geological formations and ancient human history. This list features the Ġgantija Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage site dating back to 3600 BC, and the historic St. George's Basilica. Natural highlights include the red sands of Ramla Bay and the Dwejra Inland Sea, a lagoon connected to the Mediterranean through a natural tunnel. The island’s coastline is marked by traditional 350-year-old rock-cut salt pans and 17th-century watchtowers like those at Xlendi and Mgarr ix-Xini, originally built for coastal defense.





A Azure Window

The natural limestone arch used to be one of the most popular tourist attractions in Malta.

SLZ, Malta (36.05362, 14.18849)



B Ġgantija Temples

Ġgantija is a megalithic temple complex from the Neolithic era, on the Mediterranean island of Gozo in Malta.

John Otto Bayer Street, Xagħra, Gozo, Malta (36.04719, 14.26924)

heritagemalta.mt/explore/ggantija-arch... , +356 21 553 194



C Ramla Bay

Quite a spacious beach with colorful, almost red, sand. A good place to just enjoy a typical day at the beach, full of swimming, snorkeling...

XRA, Malta (36.06162, 14.28401)



D St. George's Basilica

St. George's Basilica or the Basilica and Collegiate Parish Church of Saint George, also simply known as San Ġorġ in Maltese, is a historic...

Charity Street, Victoria VCT 1200, Malta (36.04378, 14.23902)

Mo–Su 02:30

stgeorge.org.mt, +356 21 55 63 77



E Salt Pans

Traditional 350-year-old rock-cut pans used for sea salt production, stretching along the coast near Marsalforn.

(Unnamed Road), ZBB, Malta (36.08100, 14.23386)



F Inland Sea

The Inland Sea, sometimes called Qawra in Maltese and also known as Dwejra, is a lagoon of seawater on the island of Gozo linked to the...

(Unnamed Road), SLZ, Malta (36.05382, 14.19133)



G Xlendi Beach

A picturesque clean beach, faved by both locals and tourists alike. The cliffs only make the beach more charming.

Xatt ix-Xlendi, Ix-Xlendi MXR, Malta (36.03050, 14.21692)



H Torri tax-Xlendi

Xlendi Tower is a small watchtower near Xlendi Bay, within the limits of Munxar on the island of Gozo in Malta.

Il-Munxar, MT (36.02763, 14.21311)



I Mgarr ix-Xini Coastal Tower

The largest watchtower on Gozo, completed in 1661 by the Order of Saint John to defend the entrance of the Mgarr ix-Xini creek.

GSM, Malta (36.01717, 14.27440)

wirtghawdex.org

Gozo's Top Diving Spots

Gozo offers diverse dive sites including the Blue Hole's natural chimney and the scuttled ferries MV Karwela, MV Cominoland, and MV Xlendi off the Xatt l-Aħmar coast. Divers can explore the deep caverns of Billinghurst Cave or the seahorse habitats in the sheltered Mġarr ix-Xini bay. Professional dive centers in Marsalforn and Xlendi provide access to these shore and boat-accessible locations, ranging from shallow training bays to technical deep-water pinnacles like Ras il-Ħobż.





A Xwejni Bay

Xwejni Bay is a bay located in the northern part of Gozo, Malta, within the limits of the village of Żebbuġ.

Triq ix-Xwejni, ZBB, Malta (36.07917, 14.24808)



B Blue Hole

A natural rock chimney at Dwejra that drops into a 15-meter deep pool before connecting to the open sea through an underwater arch.

Malta (36.05301, 14.18872)

dive-links.com/tauchplatz.php

C Ħondoq ir-Rummien

A sheltered bay featuring shallow caves and clear waters, often used for training dives and night diving.

(Unnamed Road), QLA, Malta (36.02800, 14.32203)

D MV Karwela

An 82-meter former passenger ferry scuttled in 2006 as an artificial reef, sitting upright at a depth of 40 meters.

(36.01690, 14.28630)

E Wreck of the Xlendi

A former Ro-Ro ferry resting upside down on a sandy slope at a depth of approximately 42 meters.

(36.01724, 14.28550)

F Wreck of the Cominoland

A 34-meter former excursion boat scuttled in 2006, located at a depth of 40 meters near the MV Karwela.

(36.01751, 14.28632)

G St Andrew's Divers Cove

A dive center located in Xlendi Bay offering shore and boat diving services around Gozo and Comino.

Triq San Xmun, Ix-Xlendi MXR, Malta (36.02979, 14.21775)

gozodive.com

H Nautic Team Gozo

A dive center based in Marsalforn providing equipment rentals, guided dives, and certification courses.

Triq il-Munġbell, Marsalforn ZBB, Malta (36.07055, 14.25917)

nauticteam.com, +356 21 558507

I Bubbles Dive Shop

An eco-conscious dive center in Marsalforn specializing in small group excursions and training.

(36.07145, 14.25785)

J Utina Diving College

A dive shop and training facility located in the seaside village of Xlendi.

(36.03080, 14.21774)

K Atlantis Diving Centre

A family-run dive center in Marsalforn with its own equipment shop and training pool.

(36.07281, 14.25657)

L Calypso Diving

A dive shop located on the Marsalforn seafront offering guided dives to Gozo's northern sites.

(36.07124, 14.26050)

M Mġarr ix-Xini

A narrow, sheltered creek with a maximum depth of 15 meters, known for sightings of seahorses and flying gurnards.

(36.01776, 14.27288)

N Fessej Rock

A vertical pinnacle rising from the seabed at 50 meters, featuring steep walls and abundant marine life.

(36.01543, 14.27575)

O Ras il-Ħobż

Also known as the Middle Finger, this pinnacle rises from 40 meters to within 9 meters of the surface.

Malta (36.01563, 14.27940)

P Billinghurst Cave

A 50-meter long tunnel through the northern cliffs leading to a massive internal cavern with an air pocket.

Malta (36.08125, 14.23536)

Q Billinghurst Cave

A 50-meter long tunnel through the northern cliffs leading to a massive internal cavern with an air pocket.

(36.08118, 14.23543)

Gozo's Ancient Megaliths

Gozo’s landscape is home to some of the world's oldest free-standing structures, including the UNESCO-listed Ġgantija Temples dating back to 3600 BC. This collection highlights the island's prehistoric heritage, featuring Neolithic funerary complexes like the Xagħra Stone Circle, megalithic remains at Santa Verna, and mysterious Bronze Age cart ruts. These sites offer insight into the ritualistic and daily lives of Gozo’s earliest civilizations through their unique limestone architecture and archaeological findings.





A Ġgantija Temples

Ġgantija is a megalithic temple complex from the Neolithic era, on the Mediterranean island of Gozo in Malta.

John Otto Bayer Street, Xagħra, Gozo, Malta (36.04719, 14.26924)

heritagemalta.mt/explore/ggantija-arch... , +356 21 553 194

B Xerri's Grotto

Xerri's Grotto is a cave in Xagħra, Gozo, Malta. It was discovered by local resident Anthony Xerri in 1923 or 1924 while digging a well...

Triq l-Għar ta' Xerri, Ix-Xagħra XRA, Malta (36.05111, 14.26140)

+356 21 56 05 72



C Għar ta’ Għejżu

A small natural cave near the Ġgantija Temples where Neolithic pottery and remains were discovered, suggesting it was used by the community that built the nearby megaliths.

Vjal it-Tmienja ta' Settembru, Ix-Xagħra XRA, Malta (36.04748, 14.26587)



D Xagħra Stone Circle

The Xagħra Stone Circle, also known as the Xagħra Hypogeum or the Brochtorff Circle, is a Neolithic funerary complex located in Xagħra,...

(Unnamed Road), Ix-Xagħra XRA, Malta (36.04640, 14.26489)

E Santa Verna

Santa Verna is a megalithic site in Xagħra on the island of Gozo, Malta.

(Unnamed Road), XRA, Malta (36.04574, 14.25862)

F Il-Gebla ta’ Sasuna

A prehistoric dolmen located near Xagħra, consisting of a large horizontal capstone supported by smaller upright blocks, typical of Gozo's megalithic burial structures.

Triq il-Marga, XRA, Malta (36.05417, 14.25889)

G Megalithanlagen von Ta’ Blankas

Megalithic remains situated within an olive grove south of Xewkija, featuring scattered stones that indicate the presence of a prehistoric structure or temple site.

XWK, Malta (36.02755, 14.25569)

H Ta'_Cenc_Dolmen

Three prehistoric dolmens located on the Ta' Cenc plateau, dating back to the Early Bronze Age. These megalithic tombs overlook the southern cliffs of the island.

(36.02177, 14.25567)

I Cart Ruts

Deep, parallel grooves carved into the limestone plateau near Ta' Cenc. These prehistoric tracks are found across the Maltese islands, though their exact purpose is still debated.

(36.02102, 14.25377)

J Ġgantija Temples

A UNESCO World Heritage site comprising two megalithic temples built between 3600 and 3200 BC. They are among the oldest free-standing structures in the world.

Daħla tal-Ġgantija, XRA, Malta (36.04725, 14.26895)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Azure Window — "Malta, Gozo, Azure Window." by Berthold Werner, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Ġgantija Temples — "Temple de Ggantija, mur extérieur" by Hamelin de Guettelet, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Ramla Bay — "Ramla Bay, Gozo, Malta. Taken from the western cliff." by William Shewring, Public domain
- St. George's Basilica — "St. George's Basilica" by Johan Pihlemark, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Salt Pans — "Salt Pans" by Helga Martins, CC-BY-SA
- Inland Sea — "Inland sea gozo" by Kevin Millican, Public domain
- Xlendi Beach — "View on Xlendi Bay, Gozo island, Malta" by Karelj, Public domain
- Torri tax-Xlendi — "This media shows the protected monument with the number 00036 in Malta." by Continentaleurope, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Mgarr ix-Xini Coastal Tower — "Mgarr ix-Xini Torri" by Continentaleurope, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Xwejni Bay — "Xwejni Salt Pans (Marsalforn), Gozo, Malta" by G.Mannaerts, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Blue Hole — "Blue Hole by Werner Steinkasserer" by Werner Steinkasserer, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Ġgantija Temples — "Temple de Ggantija, mur extérieur" by Hamelin de Guettelet, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Għar ta' Għejżu — "Archeological site Għejzu Cave in Xagħra, Gozo, Malta." by Dreizung, CC BY 3.0
- Xagħra Stone Circle — "This media is about Maltese cultural property with inventory number 26." by Hamelin de Guettelet, CC BY-SA 3.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 13, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.