

Malta

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Malta is a small archipelago in the Mediterranean, roughly 80 km south of Sicily, made up of three inhabited islands: Malta, Gozo, and Comino. Limestone walls, Baroque churches, and sea forts define the built landscape. Prehistoric temples older than Stonehenge sit alongside 16th-century fortifications. The islands suit travelers who want history and beach time in one compact trip: distances are short, English is an official language, and public transport reaches almost everywhere.

In 1565, the Knights of St John withstood a months-long siege by the Ottoman Empire, an event now known as the **Great Siege of Malta**. The Knights' victory led to the founding of Valletta, built as a fortress capital and now a UNESCO World Heritage city. That layered history is still visible everywhere, from countryside temple ruins to the Baroque interior of St. John's Co-Cathedral.

Money & payments

Malta uses the euro, and ATMs are common in every town.

Currency

CURRENCY

€

EUR

1 EUR

1.106 USD

1 USD = 0.9043 EUR

Cards widely accepted

Keep some cash for the Sunday fish market in Marsaxlokk, small village bakeries, and buses if a transit card runs out. A budget traveler can get by on simple meals, buses, and free sights; mid-range travelers spend more on restaurant dinners, taxis, and paid museum entries.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, double room	70 – 160 € $77 – $177
Dinner (mid-range restaurant) sit-down restaurant, per person	20 – 40 € $22 – $44
Inexpensive meal pastizzi/casual lunch spot	8 – 14 € $9 – $15
Local beer	3 – 5.5 € $3 – $6
Coffee	1.8 – 3 € $2 – $3
Water	1 – 2 € $1 – $2
Transit ticket single bus ticket	1.5 – 2 € $2 – $2
Taxi (per km)	1 – 1.5 € $1 – $2

Tipping

Tipping in Malta is a courtesy, not an obligation. In restaurants, rounding up or leaving around 10% for good service is common, especially in tourist areas. Taxi drivers and hotel staff appreciate a small tip but rarely expect one, and tipping in bars is unusual.

Restaurant round up or ~10%	Optional
Taxi round up	Optional
Hotel small tip for porters/housekeeping	Optional
Tour guide a few euros	Optional
Bar	Not customary

Electricity

Malta uses UK-style **Type G** plugs at 230 V / 50 Hz, the same standard as the United Kingdom. Visitors from continental Europe will need an adapter.

ELECTRICITY



Type G

230 V · 50 Hz

Language

Maltese and English are both official languages, and nearly everyone in tourist areas speaks fluent English. Maltese uses the Latin alphabet. Road signs, menus, and museum plaques are usually bilingual or English-only.

Useful phrases

Hello	Bonġu
Thank you	Grazzi
Please	Jekk jogħġbok
Yes	Iva
No	Le
Goodbye	Saħħa
Excuse me	Skużi
Cheers	Saħħa Sah-ha

Staying connected

Travelers with an EU/EEA SIM plan can use their normal data allowance at no extra cost under EU roaming rules. Visitors from outside the EU can buy a prepaid SIM or eSIM at the airport or in any town for a modest weekly rate; a passport or photo ID is required to register the SIM, even for an eSIM. Mobile coverage is reliable across all three islands, including Gozo and Comino.

Safety & emergencies

Malta is one of the safer destinations in the Mediterranean for tourists. Petty theft and pickpocketing can happen in busy areas like Sliema and Valletta's main streets, so keep an eye on bags in crowds. Traffic can feel chaotic to visitors and roads are narrow in old town centers - take care as a pedestrian.

Emergency numbers

GENERAL EMERGENCY	POLICE	AMBULANCE	FIRE BRIGADE
112	191	196	199

Health

Tap water in Malta meets EU safety standards. It comes from a mix of desalination and groundwater, which gives it a distinct taste, so many locals and visitors prefer bottled or filtered water. Pharmacies, marked with a green cross, are widely available and can advise on minor ailments, with a rota system keeping at least one open late in every district. No special vaccinations are required for Malta.

Visas & entry

Malta is part of the **Schengen Area** and the European Union. EU/EEA citizens can enter with a valid ID card or passport and stay without restriction. Citizens of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and many other countries can enter visa-free for short tourist stays, typically up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Longer stays or other nationalities may need a Schengen visa arranged in advance.

> Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Modest dress is expected inside churches and cathedrals, including St. John's Co-Cathedral - cover shoulders and knees before entering. Malta is a Catholic country with an otherwise relaxed, informal culture: greetings are friendly, and a handshake is standard for a first meeting. Photography is usually allowed in churches but sometimes restricted or paid inside chapels with valuable artwork, so check signage. Bargaining is not common outside markets like the one in Marsaxlokk, where light haggling on souvenirs is acceptable.

Holidays & opening hours

Malta observes numerous religious feast days on top of national holidays, and many shops, banks, and offices close on these dates. Village feast days (*festa*) throughout summer can also close streets for processions and fireworks, even though they are not official public holidays.

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Feb 10	Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck
Mar 19	Feast of St. Joseph
Mar 31	Freedom Day
May 1	Worker's Day
Jun 7	Sette Giugno
Jun 29	Feast of St.Peter and St.Paul
Aug 15	Assumption Day
Sep 8	Feast of Our Lady of Victories
Sep 21	Independence Day
Dec 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Dec 13	Republic Day
Dec 25	Christmas Day
movable — Mar/Apr	Good Friday

Most shops open Monday to Saturday and close for a few hours around lunch in smaller towns; Sunday trading is limited outside malls and tourist areas.

Getting around

- **By bus**: Malta's public bus network connects nearly every town and village, including routes to the airport and ferry terminals. Pay by contactless card on board or buy a rechargeable transit card for lower fares. See the Malta Public Transport journey planner for routes.
- **By ferry**: A passenger ferry connects Sliema and Valletta across the harbor, and a separate car/passenger ferry runs between Ċirkewwa (Malta) and Mġarr (Gozo) every 30 to 45 minutes depending on the time of day. A small water taxi service also links Comino to both islands in summer.
- **By taxi and ride-hailing**: Metered taxis and ride-hailing apps operate across the main island; agree on a fare or confirm the meter before starting a trip with an unmetered taxi.

Malta drives on the **left**, so buses and traffic flow accordingly - keep this in mind when crossing streets.

Driving

- **Key rules**: Malta drives on the **left**, unusual for visitors coming from mainland Europe. Roads are narrow and roundabout etiquette can feel confusing at first - give way to traffic already in the roundabout.
- **Tolls and congestion**: Malta has no toll roads, motorway vignettes, or low-emission zones for tourists to worry about.
- **Parking**: Valletta and other town centers use paid parking with meters or park-and-ride at the edge of the old city; smaller towns mostly have free on-street parking, though space is tight.
- **Fuel**: Petrol stations are typically self-service and accept card payment; pumps are labeled **Unleaded 95/98** for petrol and **Diesel**.
- **Electric vehicles**: Public charging points exist but are still limited outside the main towns, so plan ahead if renting an EV.

URBAN	RURAL	PETROL	DIESEL
50 km/h	80 km/h	Unleaded 95, Unleaded 98	Diesel

Drive on the left

Food & drink

Maltese food blends Sicilian, North African, and British influences built up over centuries of foreign rule. Breakfast is usually light - pastries or bread with cheese - while lunch and dinner both lean toward hearty, home-style cooking: slow-braised meats, fresh fish, and vegetable stews served with crusty local bread.

The most-loved national dish is *fenkata*, a rabbit stew traditionally eaten on Sundays and at village feasts, alongside *bragioli*, thin beef slices rolled around a savory filling. For a quick bite, **pastizzi** - flaky pastry parcels filled with ricotta or mushy peas - are sold at small bakeries all day. *Ftira*, a dense, chewy flatbread stuffed with tuna, capers, and tomatoes, is another everyday staple.

Locals often eat at family-run trattorias or simple bars rather than formal restaurants, especially outside Valletta and Sliema. **Kinnie**, a bitter-orange soft drink unique to Malta, is worth trying alongside the local Cisk lager or a glass of Maltese wine, which has grown in quality in recent decades.

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.

Malta – 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
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Scan to download the app

Where to explore

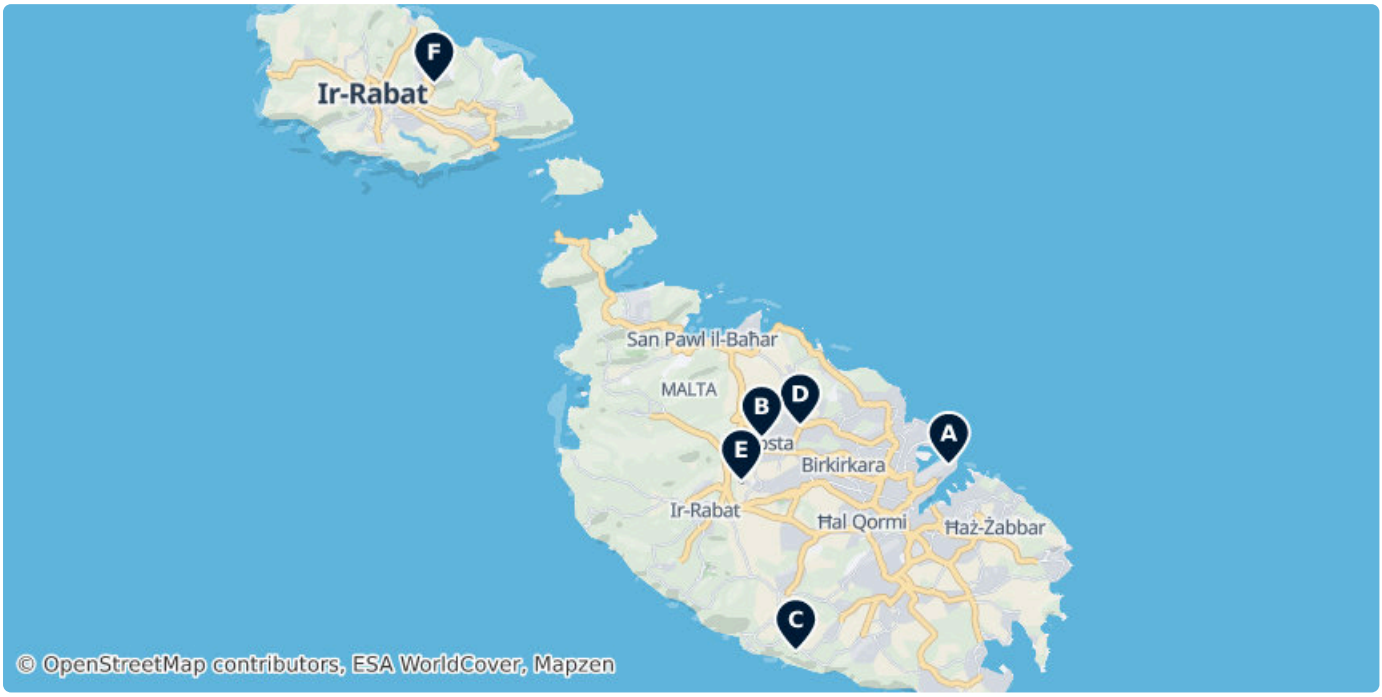
Valletta and the harbor towns Valletta, the fortress capital, packs Baroque palaces and a UNESCO-listed old town into a small grid of streets. Across the harbor, Birgu and its neighboring Three Cities offer a quieter, equally historic alternative with fewer crowds. Sliema and St. Julian's are the main seaside towns for promenade walks, swimming spots, and nightlife.

Inland and the south Mdina, the medieval walled "silent city," sits on a hilltop above Rabat, with its Roman-era ruins and catacombs. In the south, the fishing village of Marsaxlokk is known for its Sunday market and colorful *luzzu* boats.

The other islands Gozo is Malta's slower-paced sister island, with rolling countryside, a hilltop citadel, and quieter beaches. Tiny Comino, between Malta and Gozo, is a popular day trip for its turquoise Blue Lagoon.

Editor's Choice Malta

This curated collection highlights Malta's rich cultural heritage through six distinguished sites, including UNESCO-listed megalithic temples such as Ħaġar Qim and Ġgantija, grand palaces like Casa Rocca Piccola and Palazzo Parisio, and specialized museums like the Malta Aviation Museum. Each location offers insight into Malta's historical evolution, architectural grandeur, and archaeological significance.





A Casa Rocca Piccola

Casa Rocca Piccola is a 16th-century palace in Malta, and home of the noble Maltese family de Piro.

Triq ir-Repubblika 74, VLT 1117 Il-Belt Valletta, MT (35.89980, 14.51535)

Mo–Sa	10:00–16:00

casaroccapiccola.com, +356 2122 1499



B Rotunda of Mosta

The Sanctuary Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady, commonly known as the Rotunda of Mosta or the Mosta Dome, is a Roman Catholic parish...

Rotunda Square, Mosta, Malta (35.91024, 14.42587)

Mo–Fr	09:30–16:30
Sa	09:30–16:00
Su	12:00–16:00

mostachurch.com



C Ħaġar Qim temples

Ħaġar Qim is a megalithic temple complex found on the Mediterranean island of Malta, dating from the Ġgantija phase.

Triq Ħaġar Qim, Qrendi QRD 2501 (35.82765, 14.44221)

heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/hag... , +356 21 42 42 31



D Palazzo Parisio & Gardens

Palazzo Parisio, formerly known as Scicluna Palace, Palazzo Scicluna, and officially Palazzo Parisio and Gardens, is a 20th-century palace...

Victory Square 29, NXR 1700 In-Naxxar, MT (35.91497, 14.44424)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

palazzoparisio.com, +356 2141 2461



E Aviation Museum

Malta Aviation Museum is an aircraft museum situated on the site of the former Royal Air Force airfield in the village of Ta'Qali, on the...

Ta' Qali, ATD 4000 Ħ'Attard, MT (35.89340, 14.41609)

maltaaviationmuseum.com, +356 2141 6095



F Ġgantija Temples

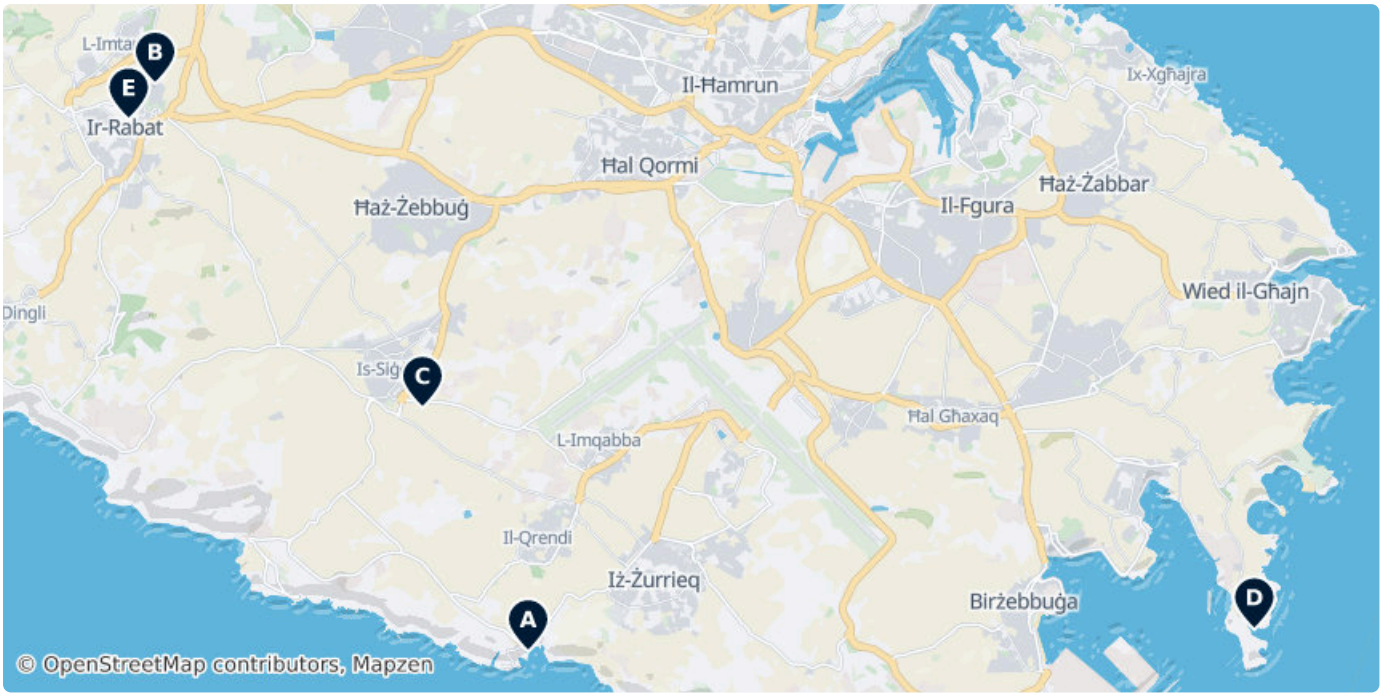
Ġgantija is a megalithic temple complex from the Neolithic era, on the Mediterranean island of Gozo in Malta.

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

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

Malta's Hidden Gems

Explore Malta's lesser-known sites including the Blue Grotto's sea caverns with their vivid blue waters, the medieval Palazzo Falson townhouse in Mdina, Malta's sole falconry center showcasing various bird species, the tranquil bay of Kalanka ideal for hiking, and the historic Casa Bernard.





A Blue Grotto

The Blue Grotto refers to a number of sea caverns on the south east coast of Malta, a short distance from the fishing harbour limits of...

Malta (35.82127, 14.45655)

youtu.be/K61pCyjCqyQ



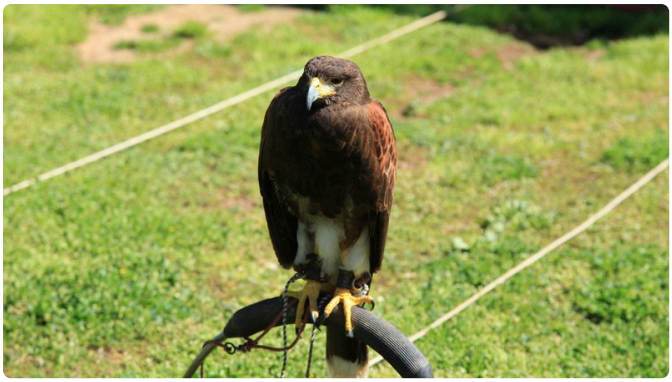
B Palazzo Falson

Palazzo Falson, formerly known as Palazzo Cumbo-Navarra, Casa dei Castelletti, and the Norman House, is a medieval townhouse in Mdina,...

Villegaignon Street, MDN 1191 L-Imdina, MT (35.88703, 14.40318)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00

palazzofalson.com, +356 2145 4512



C Falconry center

Visit the only falconry in Malta and see a huge variety of birds. Learn something new, attend a falconry course or just go see their display.

Imqabba Road, Siggiewi, Malta (35.84948, 14.44143)

maltafalconrycentre.com, +356 2146 0985



D Il-Kalanka

Secluded bay area known for hiking and coastal views.

Malta (35.82381, 14.56042)



E Casa Bernard

Triq San Pawl, Ir-Rabat RBT, Malta (35.88287, 14.39939)

Mo–Su	10:00–16:00

Historic Churches of Malta

Discover eight remarkable historic churches and cathedrals across Malta, showcasing exquisite Baroque and Roman Catholic architecture. This collection highlights significant religious sites such as the ornate St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta and the vast dome of the Rotunda of Mosta, each reflecting Malta's rich cultural heritage and centuries-old Christian traditions.





A St. John's Co-Cathedral

St John's Co-Cathedral is a Roman Catholic co-cathedral in Valletta, Malta, dedicated to Saint John the Baptist.

Triq San Ġwann, VLT 10 Il-Belt Valletta, MT (35.89763, 14.51251)

Mo–Fr	09:30–16:30
Sa	09:30–12:30
Su	Closed

stjohnscocathedral.com, +356 2122 0536



B St Paul's Cathedral

The Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint Paul, commonly known as St Paul's Cathedral or the Mdina Cathedral, is a Catholic cathedral in Mdina,...

Triq is-Sur, L-Imdina MDN, Malta (35.88644, 14.40407)



C Rotunda of Mosta

The Sanctuary Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady, commonly known as the Rotunda of Mosta or the Mosta Dome, is a Roman Catholic parish...

Rotunda Square, Mosta, Malta (35.91024, 14.42587)

Mo–Fr	09:30–16:30
Sa	09:30–16:00
Su	12:00–16:00

mostachurch.com



D Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Of Ta' Pinu

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu is a Roman Catholic minor basilica and national shrine located some...

Ta Pinu Sanctuary, Gharb GRB 1704, Malta (36.06190, 14.21491)

tapinu.org, +356 2155 6187



E St. Paul's Shipwreck

The Collegiate Parish Church of St Paul's Shipwreck, also known as simply the Church of St Paul's Shipwreck, is a Roman Catholic parish...

St.Paul's Street, La Valletta, Malta (35.89738, 14.51386)

+356 2122 3348



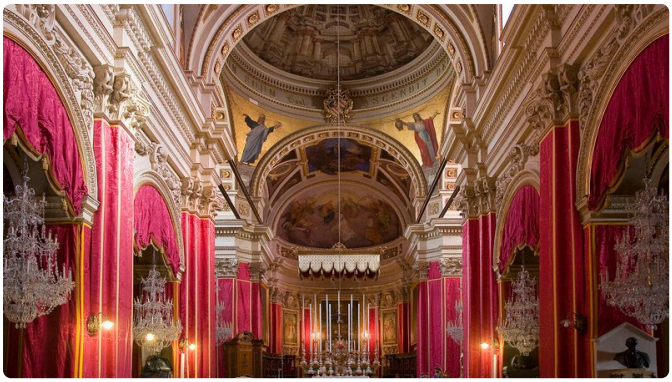
F St. George's Basilica

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



G Cathedral of the Assumption

The Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven is a Roman Catholic cathedral in the Cittadella of Victoria in Gozo,...

Triq il-Fosos, Ir-Rabat Għawdex VCT, Malta (36.04625, 14.23985)



H Ħaġar Qim temples

Ħaġar Qim is a megalithic temple complex found on the Mediterranean island of Malta, dating from the Ġgantija phase.

Triq Ħaġar Qim, Qrendi QRD 2501 (35.82765, 14.44221)

heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/hag... , +356 21 42 42 31

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