

Photo: CALIN STAN/Unsplash



Malta is blessed with nearly uninterrupted sunshine throughout the year, along with some of the mildest temperatures globally. The island's spectacular beaches and mouth-watering Mediterranean cuisine only add to its appeal, making it a formidable competitor among holiday destinations. With its neighbouring islands offering serene beaches and lively nightlife, Malta is a delightful island to visit in any season.

In Green/Shutterstock.com



Ferenc Horvath/Unsplash



Rob Wilson/Shutterstock.com











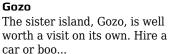
#### **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** This is a unique pre-historic site, accidentally discovered in 1902. Over 50...

Featured

#### **Hastings Garden** Just outside the city gate of Valletta lies the Hastings public

Valletta lies the Hastings public garden. From...

### Manoel Theatre This beautiful theatre from 1732, a contribution to Malta's cultural scene, ...



**Megalithic Temples** The remains of temples erected in the fourth and third millennium B.C. are a...



## Top 5

Valletta - The Capital of ... Valletta, the capital of Malta, was built by the Knights of St John in the 1...

## Mdina

Mdina, the old capital of Malta, is a typical medieval town situated on one ...

### Wied Iz-Zurrieg

Here one can have a swim or visit the Blue Grotto and the surrounding coastl...

#### The Three Cities of Cottonera Across the Grand Harbour, to the south of Valletta, are the historic fortifi...

## Marsaxlokk

Marsaxlokk is the main fishing village of Malta, known for its famous fish m...



Updated 13 February 2023

## THE ISLAND



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

The Island of Malta is an archipelago in the warm Mediterranean waters, some 93 km south of Sicily. Only the three largest islands Malta, Gozo (Għawdex), and Comino (Kemmuna) are inhabited. Numerous bays along the indented coastline of the islands provide good harbours while the landscape is characterized by low hills with terraced fields.

Malta is not just sun and beaches: historical Malta offers unique megalithic temples, fortified cities and other unique monuments. Valletta, the capital of Malta, has been listed as a UNESCO world heritage site due to the various monumental buildings. It is a baroque city which has often been described as an open-air museum due to the amount of historic buildings it packs. As a consequence of the strong historic and cultural links to Britain, Malta is bilingual, so the great majority of the Maltese can communicate in English.

If you plan your visit for special times like summer Festa season, Easter and carnival, be assured you won't be stuck for what to do – simply join the crowd for some incredible fun.

## DO & SEE



Nadezhda1906/Shutterstock.com

There are various places of interest in Malta, and most locations are easily reachable by public transport via Valletta. Plenty of different events are continuously held around the island, especially during the summer months. One of the most spectacular ones is the annual Malta Fireworks Festival in Valletta in the end of April for three days, different countries and firework suppliers compete in putting on the best firework show; almost every weekend, the different villages hosts religious Festas. For an entire week, they celebrate their saint with church bells, processions, confetti and (at the weekend) they end the folk festival with an outstanding firework show.

## Valletta - The Capital of Malta



Valletta, the capital of Malta, was built by the Knights of St John in the 16th-century. It is a baroque city which has often been described as

an open-air museum due to the amount of historic buildings concentrated in the area, such as St John's Co-Cathedral and the Grand Harbour, all built by the Knights as well as the over 25 churches all concentrated in an area of 900m x 630m. The city is officially recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Photo: Yuriy Biryukov/Shutterstock.com Address: Valletta, Malta Internet: www.cityofvalletta.org Email: valletta.lc@gov.mt

## Mdina



Mdina, the old capital of Malta, is a typical medieval town situated on one of the highest hills of the island. The "Silent City," as it is known,

commands a magnificent view of the island. It is one of the few remaining fortified Renaissance cities in Europe.

Photo: Calin Stan/Shutterstock.com Address: Mdina, Malta

## Wied Iz-Zurrieq



Here one can have a swim or visit the Blue Grotto and the surrounding coastline by a trip on the "dghajsa," a traditional Maltese

fishing boat. The Blue Grotto is famous for the clarity of the water and the brilliant colours around the rocks and in the caves.

Photo: vidalgo/Shutterstock.com Address: Wied Iz- Zurrieq, Malta

## The Three Cities of Cottonera



Across the Grand Harbour, to the south of Valletta, are the historic fortified towns of Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea, commonly

referred to as the three cities of Cottonera. If you only have time for one of them, Vittoriosa is the one most worth a visit. Here you find Fort St Angelo, the Inquisitor's Palace and the Vittoriosa Waterfront was refurbished in the early 2000's to once again reach up to its former glory.

Photo: Valery Bareta/Shutterstock.com Address: Cottonera, Malta

### Marsaxlokk



Marsaxlokk is the main fishing village of Malta, known for its famous fish market held on the docks every Sunday morning. It's a true spectacle and

something you shouldn't miss. It isn't just fish that's on sale here - souvenirs and handicrafts are up for grabs at decent prices too. There are, naturally, a multitude of seafood restaurants in the vicinity.

Photo: Calin Stan/Shutterstock.com Address: Marsaxlokk, Malta Phone: +356 216 525 25 Internet: en.marsaxlokklc.com/village Email: marsaxlokk.lc@gov.mt

### **Megalithic Temples**



The remains of temples erected in the fourth and third millennium B.C. are a unique sighting. Stone idols, animal representations carved in

relief, stone tablets, altars and screens decorated with spirals and other patterns enhance the attraction of these magnificent sanctuaries. Some of the places worth a visit are Hagar Qim in Qrendi, Tarxien Temples in Tarxien and Ggantija in Gozo.

Photo: mary416/Shutterstock.com Internet: whc.unesco.org/en/list/132

#### Diving



Malta is famous for its clear blue water and the perfect conditions for diving. Plenty of reefs, caves and remains of old shipwrecks make it an

unforgettable experience. Make use of the chance to go on a boat cruise and head towards one of these spots.

Photo: UnderTheSea/Shutterstock.com

### Gozo



The sister island, Gozo, is well worth a visit on its own. Hire a car or book one of the day jeep safari trips that are offered by multiple tour operators.

Upon disembarking, you will immediately notice the difference between the islands. Gozo has a more tranquil atmosphere and is packed with lush farms. While you are here don't miss the Citadel in Victoria, the Saltpans, the Inland Sea and the cliff where the Azure Window (formerly one of the most famous landmarks of Malta) once stood before its collapse in early 2017.

Photo: View Apart/Shutterstock.com Address: Gozo Island

### Hal Saflieni Hypogeum



This is a unique pre-historic site, accidentally discovered in 1902. Over 500 square metres of chambers, halls and passages date back

to the period between 3600 and 2500 BC. To conserve the stone precaution must be taken, and the number of visitors per day is therefore

## limited.

Photo: xiquinhosilva/Flickr(image cropped) Address: Burial Street, Paola Phone: +356 218 050 19 Internet:

www.heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/hal-saflieni-hypogeum More Info: Bookings are recommended to be made ahead via the website.

## Mediterraneo Marine Park



Just a short ride from St. Julian's is the marine park, a fun attraction for both children and adults. The park offers shows with sea lions, parrots

and dolphins (it is even possible to book a swim with the dolphins). Snakes, turtles, frogs and spiders - among others - also call the park home.

Photo: legenda/Shutterstock.com Address: Tul il-kosta, Malta Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 9:00 - 16:00. Phone: +356 213 72 218 Internet: www.mediterraneopark.com Email: info@mediterraneopark.com

## St. John's Co-Cathedral and Museum



St. John's Co-Cathedral is known as the home of knights and Grand Masters of Malta. The cathedral's golden, elaborate interior and

Baroque exterior count as one of Europe's finest. The adjacent museum contains works of art, among which "The Beheading of St John the Baptist" by Caravaggio.

Photo: McCarthy's PhotoWorks/Shutterstock.com Address: St John Street, Valletta Opening hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 - 16:30. Saturday 9:30 -12:30. Phone: +356 224 804 00 Internet: www.stjohnscocathedral.com Email: info@stjohnscocathedral.com

## **Hastings Garden**



Just outside the city gate of Valletta lies the Hastings public garden. From here majestic views over Sliema, Floriana and Manoel Island unfold. The

name of the garden comes from Marquis of Hastings, who was a governor of Malta. He died in 1827 and is buried in the garden.

Photo: Jean-Pierre Dalbéra/Flickr(image cropped) Address: Hastings Garden, Valletta

## **Manoel Theatre**



This beautiful theatre from 1732, a contribution to Malta's cultural scene, is well worth a visit. António Manoel de Vilhena himself

sponsored the construction, which was done in an incredibly short time span of 10 months. There is an adjacent museum inside.

Photo: aerogondo2/Shutterstock.com Address: 115 Old Theatre Street, Valletta Opening hours: Bookings: Monday - Friday 10:00 - 19:00. Saturday 10:00 - 13:00. Phone: +356 212 463 89 Internet: www.teatrumanoel.com.mt Email: bookings@teatrumanoel.com.mt

## Fort Rinella



This fort was built by the the British to support Malta in the resistance against Italy. To make it extra safe, a 100 ton gun, designed to be the world's biggest, was placed at its entry (fortunately, never to be used). Do not miss the on-site museum to learn more about military history of Malta.

Photo: arkanto/Shutterstock.com Address: St. Rocco Road, Kalkara Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 - 17:00. Phone: +356 218 009 92 Internet: www.fortrinella.com Email: info@wirtartna.org More Info: www.wirtartna.org

#### Limestone Heritage



The name Malta comes from Italian "Melita", or "honey". The reason for that is quite banal - when sailors first saw Malta, the islands' limestone

silhouette appeared dark yellow, not dissimilar to the colour of honey. Limestone Heritage Park & Gardens outline the stone's 22,000,000 year history.

Photo: TheLiftCreativeServices/Shuttrestock.com Address: Mons. M. Azzopardi Street, Siggiewi Opening hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 - 16:00. Saturday 9:00 -12:00. Phone: +356 214 649 31 / +356 214 644 37 Internet: www.limestoneheritage.com

Email: info@limestoneheritage.com

## Malta Film Tours (Game of Thrones tour)



Written and led by two local actors that took part in the GOT season number one, this tour will gives you insight into filming locations from

season 1 and 2 of the famous series. The tour includes pick up and drop off at your hotel and is a must-do for every GOT enthusiast.

Photo: ponsulak/Shutterstock.com Opening hours: Public tours take place on Saturday. Private tours are being held on weekdays and Sundays. Phone: +356 794 211 12 Internet: www.maltafilmtours.com/ Email: info@maltafilmtours.com

## Lascaris War Rooms



The hidden Lascaris War Rooms were Malta's best kept secret in World War II. British troops used the underground tunnels and chambers as their

Headquarters to coordinate their fight against the Axis powers. Gain deep historical insight into Malta's role in WWII.

### Photo: eFesenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lascaris War Rooms, Lascaris Ditch, Valletta Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 - 17:00. Phone: +356 218 009 92 Internet: www.lascariswarrooms.com/ Email: info@wirtartna.org More Info: Guided tours occur on the hour until 16:00.

# **BEACH LIFE**



telesniuk/Shutterstock.com

Maltese beaches are predominantly safe and rather well-kept. Good beaches are to be found both in the south and in the north of Malta, so wherever you're staying a nice beach is most probably just few minutes away.

### **Golden Bay**



This beautiful sandy bay is one of the most popular on the Maltese Islands. It attracts large numbers of local and international vacationers annually. The

area is excellent walking country, and a perfect venue for those interested in water sports such as windsurfing.

Photo: MEDIANA/Shutterstock.com Address: Golden Bay, Malta

## Mellieha Bay



This is Malta's largest and most popular sandy beach. There are no undercurrents here so the bay offers safe bathing and the shallow waters

make it ideal for children. There is a pleasant choice of activities, from banana boat rides to pedalo hire, windsurfing and water skiing.

Photo: Zoltan Gabor/Shutterstock.com Address: Mellieha Bay, Malta

## **Blue Lagoon**



This small beach is located on Comino and to get here you either must have your own boat or book one of the many boat trips going here or

around the islands. The sandy beach is really tiny so most people bathe from their boats. The water is crystal clear and it's a perfect place for snorkelling.

Photo: Jaroslav Moravcik/Shutterstock.com Address: Blue Lagoon, Malta

### Bugibba



The shore here is rather rocky, which has not barred the resorts' appeal in the least. The flat rocks provide plenty of spots for sunbathing and there

are access points for swimmers. The water is clear, deep, and safe for bathing. Located in the north of Malta island.

Photo: Olga Tselik/Shutterstock.com Address: Bugibba, Malta

#### **Pretty Bay**



Pretty Bay is a flourishing seaside resort in the south of Malta. It lies right in the town centre of Birzebbugia so there are plenty of shops and

restaurants along the coastline. The resort is rather popular with local holiday-makers thanks to its beautiful sandy beach.

Photo: Renata Apanaviciene/Shutterstock.com Address: Birzebbugia, Malta

#### **Gnejna Bay**



Close to the town Mgarr is the beautiful Gnejna Bay. It is mostly frequented by locals, which makes it less crowded with tourists

than many of the other Maltese beaches. Because the waters are so shallow, this is also a great place to come with your entire family.

Photo: lenisecalleja.photography/Shutterstock.com Address: Gnejna Bay, Malta

#### Ghajn Tuffieha



Tucked in between Golden Bay and Gnejna Bay is the smaller and quieter sandy beach, Ghajn Tuffieha. The long stairway down to the

beach makes it not the easiest to reach, but it is certainly well-worth the climb down. There is a sunbed rental and a small snack bar.

Photo: Balashnikoff/Shutterstock.com Address: Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta

### DINING



Nadezhda1906/Shutterstock.com

Eating in Malta is an exuberant experience--take a pick from different dishes ranging from fish and seafood to the traditional rabbit stew. Maltese cuisine reflects the rich cultural heritage of the country, with clearly traceable English and Sicilian (as well as other Mediterranean) influences. Most restaurants offer very good wine lists featuring both local and foreign wines.

## **Dinner In The Sky Malta**



Dinner In The Sky is a once-in-lifetime kind of a experience, an evening of dining on a suspended construction floating above the Maltese

capital. This one is not for the faint of heart, but

absolutely safe - the set up is sturdy, and guests are required to buckle up prior to "departure."

Photo: KieferPix/Shutterstock.com Address: Hal Ferh Golden Bay, Valletta Opening hours: Daily 19:00 - 20:30 & 21:30 - 23:00. Phone: +356 999 888 35 Internet: www.dinnerintheskymalta.com Email: reservations@dinnerintheskymalta.com

## **Medina Restaurant**



Set in one of the old Mdina's windy alleys, the Medina Restaurant brings guests a selection of local Maltese (with some French and Italian) dishes

in an enchanting, romantic setting. Service is above par, and seating is offered in an airy, majestic outdoor space.

Photo: funkyfrogstock/Shutterstock.com Address: 7 Holy Cross Street, Mdina Opening hours: Wednesday - Saturday 18:30 - 22:00. Sunday 12:00 - 14:30. Phone: +356 214 540 04 Internet: www.medinarestaurantmalta.com Email: medina@xaracollection.com

### Tmun



Venturing out to the island of Gozo, do consider the (arguably) finest establishment here, the Tmun Mgarr restaurant set by the

water, right next to the docked fishing boats. Both the menu and the restaurant's interior are marine-themed, and the menu overwhelms with seafood variety.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com Address: Martino Garces Street, Mgarr Opening hours: Breakfast/Brunch: Friday - Monday 12:00 - 14:00. Dinner: Wednesday - Monday 18:30 - 22:00. Phone: +356 215 662 76 Email: info@tmunmgarr.com

## The Cliffs



The elegant, modern restaurant is set on the cliffs of Dingli, with incredible views of the sunset unfolding from its beautiful, airy terrace.

Food served is made with locally-sourced, fresh ingredients - and very skillfully. One visit here is almost guaranteed to turn you into a return customer.

Photo: marco mayer/Shutterstock.com Address: Panoramic Road, Dingli Phone: +356 214 554 70 Internet: www.thecliffs.com.mt Email: thecliffsdingli@gmail.com

## **D'Office**



D'Office Bistro and Wine Bar lies in the city centre of Valletta. The menu consists of Mediterranean and European dishes - all artistically presented.

The restaurant's interior is decorated with collectibles and curiosities, enough to keep diners occupied in anticipation of the arriving order.

Photo: andrecastro/Shutterstock.com Address: 132 Triq l arcisqof, Valletta Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 11:30 - onwards. Phone: +356 272 214 75 Internet: www.d-officevalletta.com Email: info@d-officevalletta.com

#### Palazzo Preca



Palazzo Preca is an elegant restaurant, offering an appealing ambience combined with exquisite food. The establishment specializes

in fresh fish and seafood, with menu items ranging form fresh Scottish oysters and scallops to a wide selection of fish dishes.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com Address: 54 Strait Street, Valletta Opening hours: Lunch: Tuesday - Sunday 12:00 - 15.00. Dinner: Tuesday - Saturday 18:30 - 22:00. Phone: +356 212 267 77 Internet: www.palazzoprecavalletta.com Email: info@palazzoprecarestaurant.eu

#### **Tarragon Restaurant**



Restaurant Tarragon is a classy fine dining restaurant. Do not be surprised if the chef comes to your table to say hi and make sure you are

happy with your meal. The gorgeous

surroundings and the great views over St. Paul's Bay combined with the delicious food create one unforgettable experience.

Photo: RBerger/Shutterstock.com Address: 21 Church Street, St. Paul's Bay Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 18:30 - 23:00. Sunday 12:00 - 15:30. Phone: +356 215 737 59 Internet: www.tarragonmalta.com Email: experience@tarragonmalta.com More Info: Sunday's closed during July and August.

#### Zeri's



At a luxurious location in the Portomaso Marina with all its yachts is located the warm and welcoming Zeri's restaurant. The staff is

service-minded, and the chef is known to make some excellent fish and seafood dishes. The staff are trained to offer advice on wine pairings.

Photo: DonLand/Shutterstock.com Address: Triq Il-Knisja Portomaso, St.Julian's Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 19:00 - 23:00. Phone: +356 213 595 59 Internet: www.zerisrestaurant.com Email: zerisrestaurant@gmail.com

## **Blue Elephant**



Blue Elephant is set directly by the harbour, with some seating overlooking the shipyard. In 2008 the restaurant was awarded "Most

Romantic", perhaps at least partly due to its beautiful interior with orchids and waterfalls. The menu features top quality Asian and Thai food.

Photo: jutamas/Shutterstock.com Address: St.Julian's, Valletta Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 18:30 - 22:30. Phone: +356 213 833 83 Internet: www.blueelephant.com/malta Email: malta@blueelephant.com More Info: Hilton Hotel Portomaso

#### **Bacchus Restaurant**



Hidden away in one of the small alleys of the ancient Mdina is the fine dining Bacchus Restaurant. Under historic vaults, traditional Maltese dishes

are served. There is a "secret garden" on the rooftop terrace, where most diners head during the summer months. Serves Mediterranean cuisine.

Photo: Kris Wiktor/Shutterstock.com Address: 1 Inguanez Alley, Mdina Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 21:00 - 0:00. Phone: +356 214 549 81 Internet: www.bacchus.com.mt Email: reservations@bacchus.com.mt

#### Zest



The elegant Zest restaurant offers Asian and European fusion cuisine in a chic decor. The menu features an eclectic mix of dishes

with influences traceable to multiple Asian and European countries. Book a table overlooking the bay and indulge in some scrumptious creations.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com Address: 25 St. George's Road St. Julian's Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 19:00 - 23:00. Phone: +356 213 876 00 Internet: www.zestflavours.com Email: info@zestflavours.com More Info: Hotel Juliani

#### Barracuda



In one of the beautiful limestone buildings along the promenade from Sliema to St. Julian's you'll find the elegant, award-winning Barracuda

restaurant. It is one of the island's top restaurants that has served consistently high-quality dishes for over 30 years. Cuisine served is Mediterranean.

Photo: Mikhail\_Kayl/Shutterstock.com Address: 194 Main Street, St. Julians Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 18:30 - 22:30. Phone: +356 213 318 17 Internet: www.barracudarestaurant.com Email: barracuda@wgc-group.com

## Trattoria da Pippo



Trattoria da Pippo is a charming and rustic restaurant in the city centre of Valletta, mostly visited by locals. They are only open for lunch,

which makes it perfect place for a mid-day stop on a sightseeing tour of the Maltese capital. Serves Italian and European cuisine. Advanced booking is recommended.

Photo: Francesco83/Shutterstock.com Address: 136 Melita Street, Valletta Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 11:30 - 15:30. Phone: +356 212 480 29 More Info: Sunday closed.

### **Piccolo Padre**



Enjoy a delicious freshly-baked pizza at this family-run pizzeria and trattoria. Housed inside an 18th century Maltese villa with a fantastic view

over Balluta Bay, the restaurant is ideal for a romantic dining experience. Serves a wide selection of incredible dishes, from seafood to steak.

Photo: Marian Weyo/Shutterstock.com Address: 195 Main Street, St. Julian's Opening hours: Monday - Friday 18:15 - 22:30. Saturday 12:00 - 14:30 & 18:15 - 23:00. Sunday 12:00 - 15:00 & 18:15 - 23:00. Phone: +356 213 448 75

Internet: www.piccolopadre.com Email: enquiries@piccolopadre.com

## Hugo's Lounge



If you want to be close to some of the island's busiest nightlife venues, Hugo's Lounge is the right spot for you. In the heart of Paceville, the

party area in St. Julian's, lies the Asian restaurant and bar Hugo's Lounge. The menu features sushi, Indian and Thai food.

Photo: funkyfrogstock/Shutterstock.com Address: St. George's Road, Paceville Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 12:00 - 2:00. Phone: +356 201 624 99 Internet: www.hugosloungemalta.com Email: reservations@hugosmalta.com

#### **Bouquet Garni**



This restaurant specialises in contemporary yet traditional Mediterranean and French cuisine, as well as seafood dishes.

Run as a family business, the restaurants stands out for its friendly service and delicious food, each receiving rave reviews from patrons who have especially highlighted the octopus and steak.

Photo: Chester-Alive/Shutterstock.com Address: Triq Gorg Borg Olivier, Mellieha Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 18:00 - 22:15. Phone: +356 215 222 34 More Info: Booking in advance is recommended.

## CAFES



Curioso/Shutterstock.com

Within the walls of the historic Mdina or by the beautiful seafront dominated by colorful Maltese boats, cafes can be easily found throughout the area. Prices are normally very reasonable, and most of the cafeterias on the island offer a good choice of light snacks.

#### Mint



Perhaps a rather unexpected find in Malta, the Mint cafe is a New Zealand-themed establishment that serves excellent seasonal food

(vegan and vegetarian options available) and decadent desserts in the inviting outdoor seating area. Delicious muffins and home-made cookies are simply not to be missed.

## Photo: Family Business/Shutterstock.com

Address: 30/39 Luzio Junction/Stella Maris St, Sliema Opening hours: Tuesdya - Sunday: 8:00 - 16:00. Phone: +356 213 371 77 Internet: www.mintmalta.com Email: info@mintmalta.com

## 67 Kapitali



With its impressive selection of craft beers and tapas-style foods 67 Kapitali is nearly unbeatable in Valetta for a quick lunch or

afternoon break in a very modern, yet somewhat rustic atmosphere. Food served includes cheeses and meats, savory pastries, sandwiches, as well as coffee and dessert.

Photo: mavo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 67 Old Bakery Street, Valletta Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 12:00 -23:00. Thursday & Friday 12:00 - 0:00. Sundays 12:00 -22:00. Phone: +356 273 800 10 Internet: www.67kapitali.com

Email: info@kapitali.com

### Café Cuba



Café Cuba enjoys a presence in three different locations throughout Malta. They serve food and drink of rather high quality - from

filling mains and pizzas to lighter snacks and salads, as well as specialty coffees and even alcoholic drinks. Salsa nights are held every once in a while.

Photo: Denizo71/Shutterstock.com Address: Triq Ix - Xatt, Tas-Sliema, Malta Opening hours: Daily 8am-11pm Phone: +356 2010 1313 Internet: www.cafecuba.com.mt Email: info@cafecuba.com.mt

## Fontanella Tea Garden



Fontanella Tea Garden has indoor and outdoor seating, and offers breathtaking views of the picturesque island of Malta. They are famous

for their home-made cakes (especially the chocolate cake) and pastries. It is, perhaps, one of the cafes best fit for a mid-day break.

Photo: Coffee Lover/Shutterstock.com Address: 1 Bastion Street, Mdina Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 10:00 - 0:00. Phone: +356 214 542 64 Internet: www.fontanellateagarden.com Email: fontanellateagarden@gmail.com

#### **One Portomaso**



Caffè Portomaso is a great place for a snack, a cup of coffee, tea (herbal or other), a bite to eat or a hot chocolate. The latter comes in sixteen

different flavours - hazelnut, coconut, mint, you name it. In- and outdoor seating on the airy terrace, with free WiFi.

Photo: Coffee Lover/Shutterstock.com Address: Vjal Portomaso, Saint Julian's Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 8:30 - 22:30. Phone: +356 213 712 38 Internet: www.themarinarestaurants.com/restaurants/oneportomaso Email: info@oneportomaso.com

## Opera CaffeLounge



A beautiful waterside cafe overlooking the colorful Maltese boats in Marsaxlok, Opera serves very decent food and drink at rather

reasonable prices. Their menu features salads, pizza, sandwiches, steaks, marvellous fish and seafood dishes, as well as a selection of decadent desserts.

Photo: Luca Lorenzelli/Shutterstock.com Address: 74 Xatt Is - Sajjieda, Marsaxlokk Opening hours: Daily 8am-12am Phone: +356 7930 4873

## **Piadina Caffe**



A cosy little Italian cafe, Piadina serves a pleasant selection of focaccia, toasts and salads, as well as set breakfast menus and desserts. The atmosphere is casually authentic - sit down on one of the cushions at the entrance and imbibe as you watch the world go by.

Photo: Timolina/Shutterstock.com Address: 24 Triq Santa Lucija, Valetta Opening hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 17.00. Saturday 9:00 -0:00. Sunday 9:00 - 23:00. Phone: +356 212 259 83 Email: info@piadinacaffe.com

## Kantina Cafe & Wine



The refreshing outdoor cafe looks incredibly inviting with its sidewalk seating area, and delivers on its silent promises via a well thought-out menu

with unusual takes on menu items featured in many local cafe menus. Serves drinks and quality cocktails with just the right amount of ice.

Photo: Mikhail\_Kayl/Shutterstock.com Address: St John's Square, Valletta Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 22:00. Friday & Saturday 8:00 - 23:00. Sunday 9:00 - 22:00. Phone: +356 272 300 96 Email: kantinacafe@gmail.com

## **Caffe Cordina**



A longstanding local institution with an ornate and, perhaps, slightly pompous interior, the Cordina Caffe is a visitor must - for both the

atmosphere and the succulent food and desserts selection. Seating available in- and outdoors; some choose to simply stay at the bar.

Photo: rnl/Shutterstock.com Address: 244 Republic Street, Valletta Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 8:00 - 19:00. Sunday 8:00 - 16:00. Phone: +356 206 504 00 Internet: www.caffecordina.com Email: info@caffecordina.com

# **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



Olga Tselik/Shutterstock.com

The nightlife in Malta is lively, with Paceville, Bugibba, and Sliema known as some of the hot spots that offer a wide range of pubs, clubs, and discos to suit all tastes. The largest clubs often enjoy appearances of world-famous DJ's. During the weekend, pubs and discos normally stay open till four o'clock in the morning.

## **Fuego Speakeasy**



Housed in atmospheric venues, the skilled Fuego DJ's run the music formula whilst animation helps uplift the crowd. Free salsa classes are

taught to traditional Latin music. The two clubs are located in the most popular tourist areas of St. Julian's and Qawra.

Photo: ARENA Creative/Shutterstock.com Address: Triq Santu Wistin, Saint Julian's Opening hours: Daily 1pm-5am Phone: +356 2755 5057

#### Trabuxu



Trabuxu was once Malta's first authentic wine bar. The establishment is located in a 400-year-old wine cellar, which sets the mood to the night and

creates a fantastic atmosphere. It is a rather spot for a low-key evening drink in Valletta. Serves cheese and fruit platters to accompany wines.

Photo: Delpixel/Shutterstock.com Address: 2 Strait Street, Valletta Opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday 19:00 - late. Phone: +356 212 230 36 Internet: www.trabuxu.com.mt Email: winebar@trabuxu.com.mt

## **Gianpula Village**



Gianpula is an old farmhouse (occupying some 30 acres of land) that has been transformed into one amazing nightclub,

consisting of several smaller venues. The main room has been Malta's number one open air night club during the summer months for more than 20 years.

Photo: Maxim Blinkov/Shutterstock.com Address: Gianpula Village Phone: +356 214 502 38 Internet: www.gianpula.com Email: info@gianpula.com

## Hard Rock Cafe



Popular restaurant and bar chain known for its decor centered around rock music and with memorabilia displayed all over the walls. Service is casual in the typical Hard Rock Cafe fashion, food is American steaks and burgers.

Photo: Nitr/Shutterstock.com Address: Vault 17 Valletta Waterfront Floriana, Malta Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-10:30pm Phone: +356 2123 3346 Internet: www.hardrockcafe.com/location/malta-bar-(valletta)/ Email: hello@hardrockcafe.com.mt More Info: Bay Street Tourist Complex

## **Twenty Two**



This stylish lounge, located on the 22nd floor of the Portomaso Business Tower, attracts a rather exclusive crowd. In the early hours of the

evening, sip on a cocktail while taking in the view. After dark, the designer lounge transforms into a hip club with patrons filling up the dance floor.

Photo: Yeko Photo Studio/Shutterstock.com Address: Portomaso Business Tower, Portomaso Opening hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 - 2:30. Friday & Saturday 9:30 - 4:00. Sunday 9:30 - 0:00. Phone: +356 796 962 22 Internet: www.22.com.mt Email: party@twentytwomalta.com

## The Elvis Tribute Bar



For all Elvis fans, the Elvis Tribute Bar bar offers prime entertainment in the form of the "rock and roll king" impersonators

performing for eager crowds. The bar is quite a local hit, so do book a table in advance to ensure being seated. Drinks are priced more than reasonably. Photo: Sinelev/Shutterstock.com Address: Tourist Street Malta, Qawra Opening hours: Daily 6pm-1am Email: elvistributelounge@gmail.com

## Gugar Hangout & Bar



The establishment is a heaven for plant-based eaters in Malta, a place where the menu is dominated with vegan and vegetarian foods of

superb quality. It's great for an evening out on the town for meat-eaters just as much - food is universally delicious, complemented by a nice selection of drinks.

Photo: santypan/Shutterstock.com Address: 89A Republic Street, Valletta Opening hours: Tuesday & Sunday 18:00 - 1:00. Wednesday -Saturday 10:00 - 1:00. Phone: +356 270 328 37

## Cafe del Mar



With its white sunbed mattresses and infinity pool, Cafe del Mar breathes luxury. It is a day- and night-time venue for stylish

twenty-something socialites, who flock here to parade designer swim suits and savour elegant cocktails to lounge music and some of the best sunsets on the island.

Photo: Alliance/Shutterstock.com Address: Malta National Aquarium, St. Paul's Bay Opening hours: Opens in April. Phone: +356 225 881 44 Internet: www.cafedelmar.com.mt Email: info@aquarium.com.mt

#### Alex Bar



This hidden bar in Qawra serves drinks such as spirits, wine and beers. The fairly compact space features fun card games, which makes it easy to

make new friends and chat with locals, if you are so inclined.

Photo: BUY THIS/Shutterstock.com Address: Triq il Maskli, Qawra Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 - 23:30. Phone: +356 992 093 71

## The Thirsty Barber



This speakeasy bar serves fantastic cocktails, infusions, different origin whiskeys, rum and more. The special on their menu, however, is the

most luxurious cocktail on the island mixed with seasonal ingredients form around the globe. If you want to give your night a very special touch, try this cocktail (but do beware of the hefty price tag).

Photo: View Apart/Shutterstock.com Address: Triq Ball, St. Julian's Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 19:00 - late. Phone: +356 994 346 42 Internet: www.thethirstybarber.com Email: info@thethirstybarber.com

## SHOPPING



Ollyy/Shutterstock.com

For all your shopping needs the capital city Valletta is the ideal destination. This is where most shops and stores are located, with both local and international brands represented. For those looking to shop for fresh produce, the daily market at 8am is a good place to be. Sliema is another good destination to go shopping. Shops are normally open from 09.00 till 13.00 in the afternoon, and then open again at 16.00 till 19.00. Note that on the following public holidays most of the shops are closed: February 10, March 31, June 7, June 29, August 15, September 21 and December 13.

## **Shopping in Sliema**



Sliema is a good shopping destination, much due to the fact this is the place where the largest shopping centre in Malta - the Plaza Shopping

Centre - is located. Shops are open from 9:00 till 13:00 in the afternoon, and then open again at 16:00, to stay open till 19:00.

Photo: LuckyImages/Shutterstock.com Address: Sliema, Malta

## Ta' Qali Crafts Village



At Ta' Qali you will find lace, pottery, silver filigree jewellery, ironwork, woodwork and leather-work. Check out for bargain "seconds" in

the glassware - some products are greatly reduced in price for very minor blemishes. Other areas to check out for crafts include Bugibba, Sliema and Valletta.

Photo: Krzysztof\_Jankowski/Shutterstock.com Address: Attard, Ta' Qali Opening hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 - 16:00. Saturday & Sunday 9:00 - 12:00. Phone: +356 214 157 86 Internet: www.malta.com/en/attraction/shopping/ta-qali-crafts-village

## **The Point Shopping Mall**



In the newly developed Tigne Point is located The Point Shopping Mall, a relatively recent addition to the Maltese shopping scene that packs a punch

with its abundant stores that sell everything from latest fashions to electronics. There are a few cafes and a supermarket inside.

Photo: Andresr/Shutterstock.com Address: Tigne Point, Malta Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 - 19:30. Sunday 11:00 - 18:00. Phone: +356 224 703 00 Internet: www.thepointmalta.com Email: info@thepointmalta.com

#### Mdina Glass



To marvel at typically Maltese craft creations, drop into the Mdina Glass outlet and see the unique glass creations made by local craftsmen. Glass is

blown into a plethora of shapes and comes in many different colors - take your pick or visit the factory and watch the process of their creation.

Photo: sirichai chinprayoon/Shutterstock.com Address: 12 Mdina Rbt, Ta' Qali Phone: +356 214 157 86 Internet: www.mdinaglass.com.mt Email: info@mdinaglass.com.mt

## Soap Cafe



Enticing aromas fill the air at this boutique, where it's all about artisan, ecological soaps. These come in all the different shapes and sizes

- from cake slices to slates with a message (tongue-in-cheek quotes by well-regarded authors), all equally well-suited as gifts and useful souvenirs.

Photo: HalynaBahlyk/Shutterstock.com Address: 65 Triq San Duminku, Sliema Opening hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 - 14:00 & 16:00 -19:30. Saturday 10:00 - 17:00. Phone: +356 278 836 75 Internet: www.soapcafemalta.com Email: info@soapcafemalta.com

## The Silversmith's Shop



For authentic Maltese silver jewellery, visit the well-regarded Silversmith's Shop, where items are made directly on-site - if you're lucky,

you might even get to watch the jeweler in action. Pieces come in various shapes and sizes, and span various price ranges.

Photo: Luba V Nel/Shutterstock.com Address: 218 Republic Street, Valletta

## Souvenirs That Don't Suck - Prints of Wales



The shop's name says it all - Prints of Wales is where the savvy traveler goes to stock up on custom-made, Malta-themed souvenirs

that are a world of a difference away from your typical mass-produced magnets and post cards. Pick from magnets, mugs, buttons, T-shirts and other quirky designer items.

#### Photo: elwynn/Shutterstock.com

Address: 108 Triq Manwel Dimech, Sliema Opening hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 - 19:00. Saturday 10:00 - 18:30. Phone: +356 790 723 13 Internet: www.prints-of-wales.com Email: hello@prints-of-wales.com

## Vittoriosa Market



Every Tuesday, Vittoriosa comes alive with busy vendors' stalls selling all manner of fresh produce and local items. Shop for meats and cheeses,

honey, jams, freshly grown, organic produce, and even traditional clothing and souvenirs (the Sunday flea market is even better for non-edible items).

Photo: Photology1971/Shutterstock.com Address: Triq it-8 ta' Dicembru, Birgu

## **Publius Cutajar Parruccan Confectionery**



This hole-in-the-wall sweet and pastry shop is a good place to come for Maltese dessert delights perfect for both to have on the spot and possibly

even bring home and savour later. Pick and choose from the cakes in the glass display, and do try the traditional local nougat.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com Address: 3 Triq Sant, Kataldu Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 10:30 - 17:00. Phone: +356 998 258 52 Email: parruccan@hotmail.com

## **Bay Street Shopping Centre**



Bay Street Shopping Centre is an open-air mall, with shops that remain open till 10:00 (in pleasant contrast to much of the island, with most

shops calling it quits as early 19:30). Multiple local and international brand stores are represented, and there are quite a few great eateries.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com Address: Bay street, Saint Julian's Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 10:00 - 22:00. Phone: +356 237 194 19 Internet: www.baystreet.com.mt Email: marketing@baystreet.com.mt

## The Plaza Shopping Center



One of the biggest shopping malls on the island of Malta, the Plaza Shopping Center offers visitors an array of stores and boutiques, as well as

quite a selection of cafes perfectly fit for a daytime break. Items on sale range from clothing to beauty and household products.

Photo: michaeljung/Shutterstock.com Address: Bisazza Street, Sliema Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 9:30 - 19:00. Phone: +356 213 438 32 Internet: www.plaza-shopping.com Email: info@plazamalta.com

# **TOURIST INFORMATION**



Konstantin Aksenov/Shutterstock.com

### Passport/Visa



Malta can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and

most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a passport, but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

### Airport



Malta International Airport is located between the villages of Luqa and Gudja, 10 kilometres away from Valletta. The official

airport of the Maltese Islands is about 40 minutes away from popular tourist destinations such as Sliema and Bugibba.

The most viable form of transport on the island is buses. Special express lines X1, X2, X3 and X4 run frequently to and from the airport. For the timetables of these four routes, click here:

www.publictransport.com.mt/en/timetables

Taxi services between the airport and any destination in Malta are available 24 hours a day. You may book your rides directly through the Malta Taxi app. For more information, visit the official Malta Taxi Licensed Association website:

www.maltataxi.mt

Alternatively, you may also rent a car from one of the many car rental companies available at the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces Address: Malta International Airport, Malta Phone: +356 2124 9600 Internet: www.maltairport.com

### **Best time to Visit**



The weather in Malta is generally warm all year round. The months of June and July are characterized by high temperatures. Spring,

autumn and winter are warm and it is the best time to enjoy the numerous outdoor activities.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

#### **Public Transport**



Distances on the island are very short and getting about by bus is very cheap and easy. There is a good transport network and most places of

There are plenty of taxis,

especially in the most

popular tourist resorts.

anywhere in the island.

White taxis can be flagged down from

interest are accessible by local transport.

Malta bus transportation is operated by Malta Public Transport, prices and more information can be found on their website. Tickets may be purchased directly from bus drivers on board.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair Phone: +356 212 220 00 Internet: www.publictransport.com.mt

Taxi



Malta Taxi Online +356 999 777 61 hicabs Malta +356 213 721 37

GREENR Cabs +356 273 838 38

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post



Malta has an efficient postal service. Most towns and villages have post or sub-post offices. They are open Monday to Saturday from around

8:00 to 13:00 and in Valletta there is one post office that is open longer on week days. Stamps are available from hotels and souvenir shops.

Photo: Andy Fuchs Internet: www.maltapost.com

#### Pharmacy



Pharmacies are generally open from 9:00 to 13:00 and from 16:00 to 19:00. The Pharmacy at the airport is open daily, including Sundays &

public holidays between 7:30 - 22:00. Round-the-clock pharmacies operate on a rota basis.

St Julians Pharmacy George Borg Olivier St, St Julian's +356 213 694 26

Chemimart Pharmacy Floriana, Malta +356 212 393 10

Photo: Gemma Garner

## Telephone

Country Code: +356



Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity



230 V/50 Hz. Three-pin

plugs.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

**Population** 533,286 (2022)

**Currency** EURO €1 = 100 cents

#### **Opening hours**

Shops are generally open from 9am–1pm and from 4–7pm. Some shops in the tourist areas might not close in the afternoon.

Newspapers The Malta Independent – www.independent.com.mt Malta Today – www.maltatoday.com.mt

**Emergency numbers** 112 for Police, Fire Brigade & Ambulance service

#### Tourist information

VisitMalta Tourist Information Valletta 18, Floriana, Malta Opening hours: Sun–Fri 9am–5:30pm, Sat 9am–1pm



