Malta
SMART TOURISM GUIDE

equal partners FOUNDATION
SMART TOURISM GUIDE
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Malta
SMART TOURISM GUIDE
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General Information
Valletta

Valletta is the capital city of Malta. Maltese people call Valletta “Il-Belt”. “Il-Belt” means the city. Valletta is the smallest capital city in Europe.

There are many beautiful seaviews to be seen from Valletta. Over six thousand people live in Valletta.
Valletta is a historical city. Grand Master La Valette designed Valletta. He died before the building of Valletta was finished. Valletta is an old city with many stairs.

There are also many uphills and downhills. Many buildings do not have a lift or an escalator. Many parts of Valletta are not wheel-chair accessible.

To explore this city, you have to be ready to do a lot of walking. So wear comfortable shoes!
Emergency Numbers

112
Currency

€ Euro
Languages

In Malta people speak Maltese and English. These are some useful words:

**English:**  
Hello  
Bye  
Yes  
No  
Please  
Thank you  
How much?  
How are you?  
What’s your name?  
Bus  
Where is the bathroom?  

**Maltese:**  
Bongu  
Saħħa  
Iva  
Le  
Jekk jogħġbok  
Grazzi  
Kemm?  
Kif inti?  
X’jismek?  
Tal-linja  
Fejn hi l-kamra tal-banju?
Plugs

In Malta the plugs are 3 pin plugs.

When you are in Malta you need to use a 3 pin adaptor.
Valletta has a Mediterranean climate. This means that it is very hot in summer and winters are mild. The winter months are October, November, December, January and February. In winter it rains often and it is usually windy. If you go to Malta in winter you need:

- Warm clothes
- Boots
- Rain coat
- Umbrella

Valletta in the rain.
The warmer months are March, April, May, June, July, August and September. The summers are very dry. If you go to Malta in summer you need:

- Sun block
- Cap
- Sun glasses
- Light summer clothes
- Swim suit

Valletta on a summer afternoon
Transport
Most of Valletta is pedestrianized. Pedestrianized means you move around Valletta by walking, not by using cars or buses. Valletta is small so it is easy to walk around the city. These are different ways to get to Valletta:

**Buses**

Most buses in Malta leave from and go to Valletta. The Valletta bus terminal is at the entrance of Valletta, outside the city gate.
The following buses leave from and go to Valletta:

1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 61, 62, 63, 71, 72, 73, 81, 82, 83, 84, 91, 92.

All the buses go to different locations.

To find the right bus for you ask at the information desk at the bus terminal outside Valletta or ask a bus driver.

**Buses 130 and 133** drive around Valletta.
For more information on the buses go to the website: http://www.publictransport.com.mt

Or call Customer Care on +356 2122 2000.

PRICES

- 2 hour ticket: € 1.30 per person
- 1 day ticket: € 1.50 per person
- 7 day ticket: € 6.50 per person
Where to buy tickets

You can buy tickets on the bus: give the money to the bus driver and he will give you a ticket.

You can buy tickets from a machine at a bus terminal: insert the money and select the ticket you want to buy.
Ferry boat

You can travel from Sliema to Valletta, or from Valletta to Sliema by boat.
This is a fun way to travel.
The Ferry boat is an interesting way to enjoy the views of Valletta.

In summer, June to September, the boat crosses every 30 minutes.
PRICES

€

Adult one way ticket: € 1.50 per person
Adult return ticket: € 2.80 per person
Student 1 way ticket: € 1.00 per person
Student (return) ticket: € 1.80 per person

Taxi

Taxis are an easy but expensive way to get around. There are many taxi companies in Malta. One of the taxi companies is ecabs. Ecabs are reliable and trustworthy.
PRICES

From airport to Valletta: € 18.00
From Sliema to Valletta: € 13.00
From Valletta to Mellieha: € 27.00
From Valletta to Paceville: € 13.00

The prices are per taxi and not per person.

For more information check the website: www.ecabs.com.mt.
If you need a taxi call ecabs on +356 2138 3838.
Map of Valletta
Where to eat?
There are many restaurants in Valletta.

**Café Cordina**

Café Cordina is special because it is very old. It is in the centre of Valletta. To get to Café Cordina walk down Republic Street. You will find Café Cordina in a small square on the right called Republic Square. For directions follow **walk 1** of this guidebook. You can sit inside or outside. Inside it is a beautiful old building. It is nice to sit outside Café Cordina because you can enjoy the view. At Café Cordina you can eat a cheap snack and have a drink.
At Café Cordina you can eat typical Maltese food such as cheese and pea cakes and hobz biz-zejt (bread with tomatoes, olives and tuna). The ice cream at Café Cordina is delicious – you have to try it!

**Address:** 244, Republic Street, Valletta.
**Tel:** +356 2123 4385
Nenu the artisan baker

Nenu’s bakery is a restaurant that makes Maltese food. The food is cooked in typical Maltese stone ovens. The food is cooked using Maltese ingredients. At Nenu’s bakery you can see statues, photos and videos which will show you how Maltese bread is cooked. Here you can eat Maltese pizza or Maltese bread, baked rice, soup, stews and much more.

Maltese pizza.
You can also try typical Maltese snacks such as ‘kunserva’ (tomato paste) and ‘bigilla’ (bean dip). Before going to Nenu’s bakery you need to call them to reserve your table.

‘Kunserva’ Maltese tomato paste.

**Address**: The Bakery, 143, St. Dominic Street, Valletta.

**Tel**: +356 22581535

**OPENING HOURS**

Tuesday – Saturday: 11:00am – 11:00pm
Sunday: 11:00am - 2:00pm
Valletta Waterfront

You can eat a nice meal at the Valletta Waterfront. The Valletta Waterfront is at the Grand Harbour Cruise Terminal.

To get to the Valletta Waterfront you need to walk down Crucifix Hill from Valletta. Or catch bus 130 from the Valletta bus terminal. Or get the Valletta lift from the Upper Barrakka. When you come out of the lift walk right along the seaside for about 5 minutes, and then you will reach the Valletta Waterfront.

At the Waterfront there are a lot of nice restaurants near the sea.

Whilst you are eating at the Valletta Waterfront you
can see the boats and ships passing by. These are two of the restaurants at the Valletta Waterfront:

**Hard Rock Bar**

At the Hard Rock Bar you can eat salads, burgers, sandwiches and other good food. They make a lot of colourful cocktails and other drinks at the Hard Rock Bar. At the Hard Rock Bar you can listen to rock music, for example Queen and Pink Floyd.

**Address:** Hard Rock Bar (Valletta), Vault 17, Valletta Waterfront, Valletta.
OPENING HOURS

Everyday from 10:00am till late at night

Bistro 516

Bistro 516 is another restaurant at the Valletta Waterfront.

At the Bistro you can eat lunch and supper.
Here you can have a lot of different Italian and Mediterranean meals.
At Bistro516 you can eat gluten free pasta.

OPENING HOURS

10:00am – 11:00pm
Where to sleep
Inside Valletta

The hotels and guests houses in Valletta are very expensive.
These are two of the cheapest one.

The British Hotel

This hotel is an old house overlooking the Grand Harbor.
From here you can enjoy beautiful views.

Tel: +356 212 2473.

Email: reservations@britishhotel.com, info@britishhotel.com.

Website: www.britishhotel.com.
Hotel Osborne

This hotel is found in a side street just off Republic Street.
It is very central.

Tel: +356 212 243 656.

Email: reservations@osbornehotel.eu.

Website: www.osbornehotel.com.
Outside Valletta

There are many hotels outside of Valletta which are only one bus ride away.

These are two hotels in **Sliema** which you could stay at whilst visiting Malta:

**The Waterfront Hotel**

The Waterfront Hotel is found on the Sliema seafront. It offers lovely sea views. There is a bus stop across the road. Buses to Valletta pass every 10 minutes.

**Tel:** +356 2090 6899.

**Email:** info@water.mizzi.com.mt

**Website:** www.waterfronthotelmalta.com.
Diplomat Hotel

The Diplomat is also found on the Sliema sea front. It is across the road from a rocky beach. Buses to Valletta pass by this hotel every 10 minutes.

Tel: +356 2349 7000.

Email: sales@diplomat.com.mt.

Website: www.diplomat.com.mt.
Entertainment
Shopping

Shopping in Valletta is fun because there are many different shops to choose from. You can find clothes shops, jewellery shops, book shops, toy shops, sweet shops, food stores and souvenir shops. Most of the shops are found in Republic Street and Merchant Street.

OPENING HOURS

Most of the shops are open from Monday to Saturday 9:00am-7:00pm.
Embassy Cinema

In Valletta you can watch movies at Embassy Cinemas. At the Embassy Cinemas you can watch 3D and 2D movies.

To go to the cinema, enter Valletta through City Gate. Walk down Republic Street, and pass in front of McDonald’s. Keep walking straight. Pass the law courts and turn left between the Law Courts and Accessorize (shop). Walk down a few meters. On the right you will see a big door of the Embassy shopping complex.
Go inside.
The Cinema is on the second floor.

Here you can buy your ticket and watch a movie. You can buy drinks and snacks from the bar inside the cinema.

To find out what movies are showing and at what time, check the website www.embassycomplex.com.mt/embassy/home.aspx, or call on +356 2122 2225.
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<tr>
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<th>2D Films</th>
<th>3D Films</th>
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<td><strong>ADULTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MON - FRI</td>
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<td><strong>3D GLASSES</strong></td>
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Wine bars

In Valletta there are some very nice wine bars. Here you can have a drink and enjoy some snacks. We suggest you try Maltese wine. These are some of our favourite wine bars in Valletta:

Trabuxu

**Address:** 8/9, South Street, Valletta.

**Tel:** +356 2122 0357.
Jubilee

Address: 125, St. Lucy Street, Valletta.
Tel: +356 2125 2332.

Str.Eat

Address: Strait Str., Valletta.
Tel: +356 21 228 347.

Charles Grech

Address: 10, Republic Str., Valletta.
Tel: +356 2122 8848.
Different performances and plays are shown at different times of the year. You can watch a play at the Manoel Theatre and at St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity.

To find out what plays are showing, check the websites or phone and ask.

**Manoel Theatre**


**Tel:** +356 2122 2618
St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity

**Website:** www.sjcav.org
**Tel:** +356 21223200
City Feasts

In Malta there are many village feasts. Valletta has some of the nicest feasts. During the week of feasts you can see many colourful lights and decorations around Valletta.

These are the feasts of Valletta:
Feat of St. Paul – 10th February
Feast of St. Augustine – 3 weeks after Easter
Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel – 16th July
Feast of St. Dominic – 1st week of August
There will be a lot of beautiful fireworks – but these can be a bit noisy.

During the feast there will be a procession with a musical band around the streets of Valletta.
During the feast there will be many food stalls selling food such as hot dogs, pizza, burgers, candyfloss, doughnuts, date cakes and ice-cream.
Top 10 places to visit
The National Museum of Archaeology

The Museum of Archaeology is in Republic Street, opposite McDonald’s. To get directions to the National Museum of Archaeology look at walk 1 of this guide book.

The entrance to the National Museum of Archaeology.
At the Museum you can see things from the times of the first people who lived in Malta, thousands of years ago.

You can see statues, tools, jewellery, cooking utensils, bones and other interesting things.
Inside the National Museum of Archaeology there is the famous statue of the “Sleeping Lady”.

**OPENING HOURS**

Monday – Sunday: 9:00 am - 6:15 pm

**PRICES**

Adults - € 5  
Students - € 3.50  
Children (6-11 years old) - € 2.50
St. John’s co-Cathedral

St. John’s co-Cathedral is in St. John’s Square. Walk half way down Republic Street and you will see St. John’s Square on your right. Follow walk 1 of this guidebook to get there. From the outside, St. John’s co-Cathedral is very plain.

The inside of St. John’s co-Cathedral has loads of decorations covered in gold.
Inside St. John’s co-Cathedral there are many old beautiful paintings.

Inside the Cathedral you can see the Beheading of St. John. This is a famous painting by Caravaggio.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Closed on Sunday and Public holidays
PRICES

Adults - € 6
Students - € 3.50
Children (under 12 years old) – free

You cannot wear shorts, sleeveless tops or short tops.

Ladies cannot go inside with high heels because they can ruin the floor.

You can take photos inside but you are not allowed to use the flash.
St. George’s Square

St. George’s Square is also known as Palace Square. To go to St. George’s Square walk down Republic Street. Read walk 1 of this guidebook for directions.

St. George’s Square is a big open square. In the centre of the square there are many fountains. At night the fountains light up with different colours. In summer, when it is hot, you can wet your feet and legs in the fountains. This is refreshing. Around the fountains there are benches. You can sit on a bench and enjoy watching the fountains.
Grand Master’s Palace

The Grand Master’s Palace is in St. George’s Square. The entrance to the Palace is in front of the fountains. For directions to the Grand Master’s Palace read walk 1 of this guide book.

The Palace was first used by the Knights a very long time ago. The Grand Master’s Palace is used for Parliament. The government Ministers meet here to discuss what they are going to do for the country. If the government Ministers are not meeting, you can go inside the Grand Master’s Palace for free.
Inside the palace you can see beautiful old furniture, art and tapestries. You can also see the armour of the knights.

In one of the courtyards you can see the famous Pinto Clock. This clock has four faces: one for the time, one for the day, one for the month and another for the position of the moon. There are four figures on the top of the clock, which bang hammers every hour.
The National War Museum

The National War Museum is located at Fort St. Elmo.

This museum focuses on both World War 1 and World War 2.

When you visit this museum, you will learn about the story of World War 1 and World War 2. You will also learn about Malta during these times. You will see lots of photographs, weapons and even video clips.
OPENING HOURS

Open daily: 9am-5pm

PRICE

Adults: € 6
Youths (12-17 years) and Students: € 4.50
The Upper Barrakka Gardens

The Upper Barrakka Gardens are next to the Auberge de Castile.
To get to the Upper Barrakka follow walk 2 of this guidebook.
The Upper Barrakka Garden is built on the top of a bastion.
A bastion is a big wall which protects Valletta.

The Upper Barrakka is the highest point in Valletta.
From the Upper Barrakka Gardens you can see the Grand Harbour.
Inside the Upper Barrakka Garden you can see lots of old statues.
There are also many flowers, plants and a fountain. The Upper Barrakka can be a romantic place for couples.

On the terrace you can see cannons. These cannons are lit every day at 12:00 (midday). This is a spectacular thing to watch – don’t miss it!

Entrance to the Upper Barrakka Garden is free.

Inside the garden there is a small bar. Here you can buy a drink and snack.
Valletta Lift

You can use the Valletta lift to get from the upper part of Valletta to the lower part of Valletta. The entrance of the lift is in the Upper Barrakka gardens. The lift goes down to the seaside, near Valletta Waterfront and the Cruise Terminal.

This is a fun way to see and move around Valletta. From inside the lift you can see a nice view of the Harbour.
It is a big lift.
21 people fit inside this lift.
The lift is very fast.
It only takes 23 seconds to go up or down.

**PRICE**

€ 1 (to go and come back)

**OPENING HOURS**

7am-9pm
The National Museum of Fine Arts

The National Museum of Fine Arts is at the lower end of South Street in Valletta. The Museum of Fine Arts is in an old building. Inside the Museum of Fine Arts you can see very old paintings and statues and modern paintings. You can also see old, beautiful furniture.
OPENING HOURS

Monday-Sunday 9am-4.30pm

PRICE

Adults (18-59 years): € 5
Youth (12-17 years) and Students: € 3.50
Casa Rocca Piccola

Casa Rocca Piccola is a big old house. Casa Rocca Piccola is over 400 years old. Rich, important families used to live in this house. You can go inside Casa Rocca Piccola to see how rich Maltese people used to live. You can see lots of expensive, old, traditional furniture. Casa Rocca Piccola was built by an Italian Knight. A rich, noble Maltese family lived in this house.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Every hour on the hour (at o’clock) there is a guided tour.
The tour is in English.
Translations of the guided tour are available in French, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Japanese and German.

**PRICE**

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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
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<td>Students</td>
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**Directions**

Walk down Republic Street, pass St. George’s Square. Stop at number 74.
This is the entrance to Casa Rocca Piccola.
For more directions read walk 1 of this guide book.
The Malta Experience

The Audio Visual Show

The Malta Experience is found on St. Elmo’s Bastion, in Mediterranean Street. For directions read walk 2 of this guidebook.

At the Malta Experience you can watch a film show which tells you the history of Malta. This film is shown in 16 different languages: Maltese, English, German, French, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Swedish, Russian, Hungarian, Japanese, Greek, Danish, Portuguese, Finnish and Israeli.

You can choose the language you prefer.
You will be given headphones. It is a good idea to visit the Malta Experience when you are in Malta as it will help you understand all the history. After the show, sit at the Café. Relax and have a drink whilst enjoying the lovely sea view.

**Address**
St. Elmo’s Bastions, Mediterranean Street, Valletta.

**Tel:** +356 21243776

**The entrance to The Malta Experience**
OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday:
11:00 am-12:00 pm-1:00pm-2:00pm-3:00pm-4:00pm

Saturdays, Sunday and Public Holidays:
11:00am-12:00pm-1:00pm

PRICES

Adults € 10
Students € 7
Children (5 to 14 years old) € 5
Walking Tour 1
The City Centre

Enter Valletta from City Gate (near the Bus Terminal). City Gate is the main entrance to Valletta. The road in front of you is Republic Street. This is the main street of Valletta.

On the right you will see the new Parliament building being built. This is designed by the famous architect Renzo Piano.

Next door to the Parliament you will see the Opera Theatre. The Opera Theatre was a big beautiful building. It was destroyed during the war.
The parts which were not destroyed during the war have been preserved. It is now an open air theatre called **Royal Opera House**.

Opposite the parliament and opera house you will see **Burger King**. Keep walking down Republic Street. After around 100 meters you will see **McDonald’s** on your right.

Across the road there is the **National Museum of Archaeology**. Inside this museum you can see statues, tools and other interesting things from prehistoric times (see page 25).
You can keep walking down Republic Street. Along this street you will see many shops. Enjoy shopping.

After another 100 meters you will see a small square on your right. There is a small green kiosk. Turn right towards the square. The square is called **St. John’s square**. On your left you will see the front entrance of **St. John’s co-Cathedral**. The front of the Cathedral doesn’t look very interesting, but go inside and see the beautifully decorated walls and ceilings (see page 28).
After admiring the Cathedral go back to Republic Street.
On your left you will see the Law Courts.
On your right you will see a statue called the Great Siege Monument.
This bronze statue was made by a famous Maltese artist called Antonio Sciortino.
The statue is made of three figures: the man in the middle is the god of war.
One of the women is Faith and the other woman is Hope.

Keep walking down Republic Street and again on your right you will see another small square.
This square is full of cafes.
This Square is called Republic Square. Sit down at Café Cordina. Enjoy a drink and a Maltese snack such as a ricotta pie or a Maltese ‘ftira’.

Go to the back of Republic Square, under the arches.
Admire the beautiful ceilings.

Go back onto Republic Street.
Keep walking down the street and after a few meters you will come to a big square.
This is called St. George’s Square (see page 31).
Here you will see fountains.
You can sit on a bench and enjoy watching the fountains and people rushing by.
Opposite the fountains, on the right side of the square, you will see the main entrance to the Grand Master’s Palace. This is where the Grand master of the knights used to live. Inside the palace you can see gardens, old furniture and art. You can also see the old armour the knights wore during the war. The members of government meet at the Grand Master’s Palace when there is a parliament meeting. When they have a parliament meeting you cannot go inside the palace.
Keep walking down Republic Street.  
Walk for a few more minutes.  
Look out for door number 74 on your right.  
When you find door number 74 you can go inside.  
This is **Casa Rocca Piccola**.  
Casa Rocca Piccola is an old, big house that used to belong to rich, important families.  
Inside you can see old furniture and how rich important people lived many years ago (see page 42).

You have reached the end of this walk.  
We hope you enjoyed it!
Walking Tour 2
The Sea Side

If it is a nice sunny day you will enjoy this walk. However, we do not suggest this walk if it is very hot.

This walk starts at the Upper Barrakka Gardens. Go inside garden through the gate shown in this photo.

In the Upper Barrakka Gardens you can see lots of plants and statues. Walk through the arches towards the terrace. This is the highest place in Valletta. From here you can enjoy the best views of the Grand Harbour.

In the middle of the garden there is a small bar.
You can sit here and enjoy a drink and small snack (see page 38).

Right inside the garden, on the right hand side you will find the Valletta Lift (see page 39). This is a big lift that takes you down to the seaside. Go inside the lift. Enjoy the views of the sea (see page 37).

Once you come out of the lift walk towards the sea. Turn left and walk along the seaside. Try to spot a "Luzzu". The “Luzzu” is a typical Maltese fishing boat. The “Luzzu” is very colourful and has two small eyes painted on the front.
Enjoy the views and make sure to take lots of photos of the sea and **bastions**.
Bastions are the big walls built around the old cities. The bastions were built to protect the cities.

Keep walking along the seaside.
You are walking along a street called **Quarry Wharf**. You might see large ships coming into the cruise terminal.

On your left you will see high walls.
These are very old walls.
They are called the **Barbara Bastions**. The Barbara Bastions were built to protect Valletta during the war.
After about 5 minutes you will reach the Siege Bell War Memorial.
This giant bell was built to remember all the soldiers who died for Malta during the Second World War.

The bell is inside a tower.
You can go up the stairs, and inside the tower.
Stand under the bell.
It is a very big bell.
It weighs 10 tons.
The bell rings every day at 12pm (midday).
Make sure you are not standing under the bell at midday.
It is very loud and it can hurt your ears!
Keep walking along the seafront. You are now on Mediterranean Street.

On your left you will see a large building. This is the Mediterranean Conference Centre. The Knights used this building as a hospital for the soldiers who hurt during the war. The Mediterranean Conference Centre is now used for important meetings and events.

Across the road from the Mediterranean Conference Centre you will find the Malta Experience (see page 44). Here you can watch a short film about the history of Malta.
It is very interesting.
The film at The Malta Experience will help you understand the complicated history of Malta.

After watching the film, sit in the bar of Malta Experience.
Have a drink.
The bar is on the top of a bastion overlooking the harbour.
The view is spectacular, especially on a sunny day.
You have reached the end of the walk.
We hope you enjoyed it.
Places outside of Valletta
Paceville

Paceville is a small town. Here you can find many night clubs and bars. In Paceville there is also a bowling alley and cinemas. There are many restaurants and places to have a snack. But the main attraction in Paceville is the fun night life. Here you can listen to all sorts of music and dance the night away! Enjoy drinks such as cocktails and Maltese beers.
with your friends.
To get to Paceville from Valletta catch bus number 13 from the Valletta bus terminal.
The best time to go to Paceville is on Friday and Saturday evenings because all the clubs are open.

Mdina

Mdina is also known as the Silent City. It used to be the capital city of Malta before Valletta became the capital city. Mdina is a small city surrounded by bastions. It is found on the top of a hill. Enjoy walking around this beautiful city.
From Mdina you can see lovely views of all of Malta. If you go to Mdina make sure you go to Fontanella for a delicious piece of cake! There are also interesting museums and a cathedral in Mdina. To get to Mdina from Valletta catch bus number 52 or 53 from the Valletta Terminal.

**Gozo**

When you are in Malta we suggest that you visit Malta’s sister island called Gozo. Gozo is a small, beautiful, quiet island. Go to Gozo to relax and see some of the old villages and pretty beaches.
Enjoy the good restaurants as well as historical sites.
To get to Gozo from Valletta you first need to catch a bus number 41 or 42 from the bus terminal. This bus will take you to the Cirkewwa Ferry Terminal.

From Cirkewwa Ferry Terminal you will need to catch the Gozo Ferry Ship. The crossing between Malta and Gozo is about 25 minutes long.