

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

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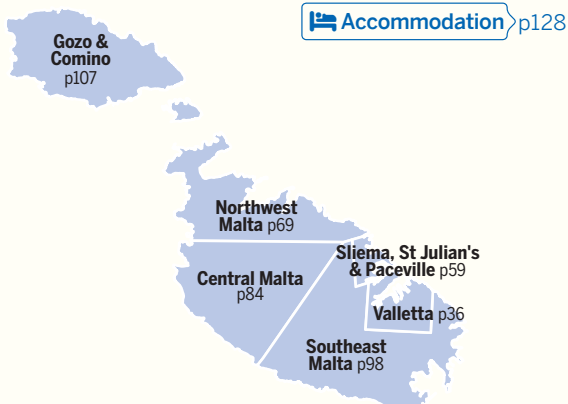
UNDERSTAND MALTA & GOZO

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

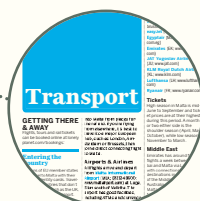
Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

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Malta & Gozo



Top Experiences >



Mdina
The jewel in Malta's architectural crown (p85)

Sliema, St Julian's & Paceville
Eat, shop, drink and play (p61)

Valletta
Tiny capital replete with historical gems (p38)

Vittoriosa
Quirky wine bars and atmospheric alleys (p52)

Hal Saflieni Hypogeum
Mysterious underground necropolis (p57)

Haġar Qim & Mnajdra Temples
Ancient megalithic marvels (p105)

Marsaxlokk
Sample fresh seafood in a charming fishing village (p99)

itineraries

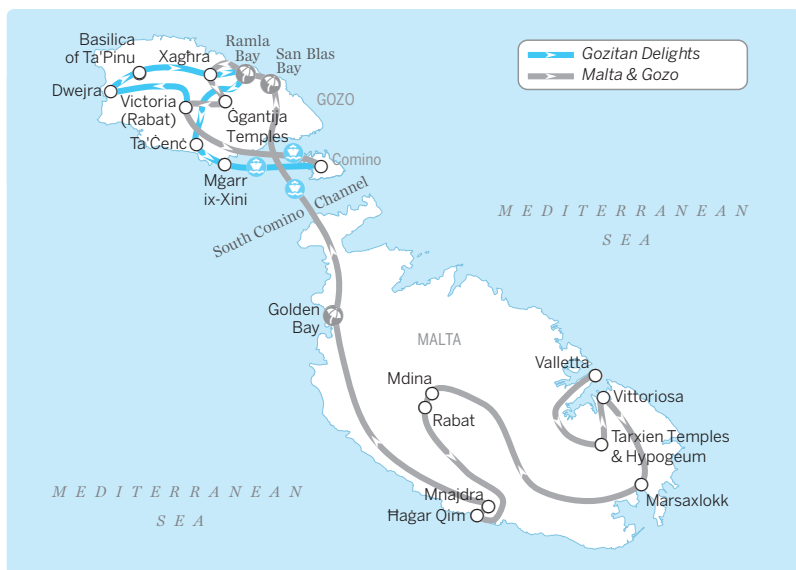
Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



One week Malta's Magic

Malta's diminutive dimensions mean that you can cover a lot of ground while taking it easy. Having your own car is an asset; otherwise, base yourself in Valletta, Sliema, Mdina or St Julian's for the easiest bus connections.

Begin by taking in **Valletta** – explore the narrow streets and walk around the fortifications. Feast your eyes on the views from the **Upper Barrakka Gardens**. On the second day explore the charms of **Vittoriosa** and **Senglea**, ideally taking a water taxi to make the dramatic harbour crossing from Valletta. On day three visit the **Tarxien Temples** and **Hypogeum**, close to Valletta in the suburb of Paola, en route south for a seafood lunch at **Marsaxlokk**. On day four spend the morning at the **Blue Grotto** and the temples of **Hagar Qim** and **Mnajdra**, and the afternoon in exquisite **Mdina** and **Rabat**. Day five would be best spent relaxing on a beach in the northwest, recharging your batteries for some physical activity on day six – a clifftop walk or maybe a scuba-diving taster. End on a high with a day trip to Comino's spectacular **Blue Lagoon**.



Five days to one week **Gozitan Delights**

The island of Gozo (14km by 7km) is much smaller than Malta, but you still need time to do it justice. Because of its modest size, you could base yourself anywhere to follow this itinerary, particularly if you have your own set of wheels (recommended). To get the most out of your stay, rent a rambling, idyllic Gozitan farmhouse.

Ideally your trip should start with a day exploring **Victoria**, wandering around majestic **Il-Kastell** and the laneways of **Il-Borgo**. Spend day two walking, swimming and snorkelling at **Dwejra** after paying your respects at the grand **Basilica of Ta'Pinu**. Begin day three with a visit to the temples and other attractions of **Xaghra**, then spend the afternoon reclining on **Ramla Bay**, where red sands meet blue water. Day four could be set aside for walking around **Ta'Ċenċ**, and for seeking out a lesser-known spot for swimming and snorkelling (nearly **Mġarr ix-Xini** is lovely, and a great place for a leisurely lunch). Spend day five visiting **Comino**, discovering the tiny island on foot and swimming in crystal-clear water. There's five days covered – but why not allocate a week and spend a few days relaxing poolside?

Two to three weeks **Malta & Gozo**

If you have more time to play with, you can explore the best of Malta and Gozo.

Start your odyssey by taking in **Valletta**. On day two, visit the **Tarxien Temples** and the **Hypogeum**, going on to wander around the narrow, unspoilt streets of **Vittoriosa**. Try to visit the colourful harbour town of **Marsaxlokk** on a Sunday, when the fish market is in full swing. On day four you can explore the many sights of **Mdina** and **Rabat**. Your next must-sees on Malta are the amazing temples of **Haġar Qim** and **Mnajdra**, before you chill out on a charming beach like **Golden Bay**.

Next slowooow your pace and take the ferry over to Gozo for some relaxation. Spend your first day on gorgeous **San Blas Bay**, or on **Ramla Bay's** russet sands. The following day explore the attractive small town of **Xaghra**, visiting the **Ġgantija Temples**. The next you could explore the hilltop citadel at **Victoria**. On your ninth day, take a trip to **Comino**, to swim, snorkel and ramble around the beautifully rocky island. The rest of your time take it easy, walking around the coast, visiting churches, relaxing by a pool, and exploring Gozo's many delightful coves.

➤ **Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first**

➤ **Look out for these icons:**



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITER



Abigail Blasi

Originally from London, Abigail has also lived in Hong Kong and Rome, and has been travel writing since 2002. She mainly divides her time between London, Rome and Puglia and, as often as she can, takes her young family on the road with her to assist with research. As well as writing for many newspapers, magazines and websites, Abigail has worked on Lonely Planet guidebooks to numerous Mediterranean destinations, including Italy, Portugal, Tunisia and now Malta. Having been bewitched by this cluster of islands, dotted by historic wonders and surrounded by intensely sparkling sea, she can't wait to go back.

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