Why Go?
Malta’s cool crowd flocks to this area to promenade, eat, drink, shop and party. This is also where many tourists base themselves: despite the lack of interesting things to see or any beach to speak of, these three districts form a buzzing base and are well connected by public transport.

St Julian’s was once a pretty fishing village, but its original charms have been all but obscured by the five-star hotels and apartment complexes rising along the rocky shoreline. It adjoins the small youth-oriented nightlife enclave of Paceville, which only comes to life after dark; you won’t spot many punters aged over 25 here. This is also where many of Malta’s English-language schools are located.

Sliema has a more exclusive feel than St Julian’s, and has long been associated with the Maltese upper classes. The elegant backstreets remain largely residential and the busy waterfront, while built-up, is dotted by some sophisticated eateries.

When to Go
Come in May, June, September and October if you’re looking for lower prices, guaranteed sunshine and few crowds. However, if you’re after a party atmosphere and lots of action, then head here during the peak summer months of July and August, when the weather will be at its sultriest and the nightlife at its most frenetic.
Sliema, St Julian’s & Paceville Highlights

1. Enjoying the early-evening people parade along Sliema’s waterfront promenade (p61)
2. Alfresco wining and dining on Spinola Bay (p65), Malta’s gastronomic epicentre
3. Bar-hopping on a big night out in Paceville (p62)
4. Living in luxury in one of the area’s fab five-star hotels (p132)
5. Taking to the waters on a boat trip (p63) out of Sliema