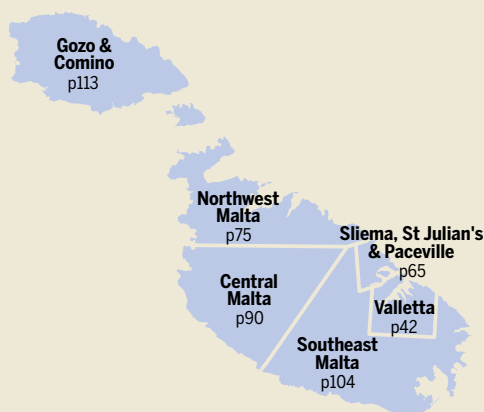




# Malta & Gozo



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

**Abigail Blasi**

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# Itineraries



## Essential Malta

Malta's diminutive dimensions (27km by 14.5km) 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, Naxxar, Sliema or St Julian's for the easiest bus connections.

Begin by taking in **Valletta** – explore the narrow streets, walk around the fortifications, feast your eyes on views across the Grand Harbour, and visit sights such as St John's Co-Cathedral and the Grand Master's Palace. On the second day, spend the morning at Fort St Elmo, visiting the wonderful National War Museum, before taking a scenic ferry ride across the harbour to explore the charms of **Vittoriosa** and **Senglea**. On day three visit the **Tarxien Temples** and **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** en route south for a seafood lunch at **Marsaxlokk**, then spend the afternoon relaxing at **St Peter's Pool**, a rocky bay with crystal-clear sea and flat rocks for sunbathing. Next morning take a boat trip to the **Blue Grotto** and the magnificent cliff-top temples of **Hagar Qim and Mnajdra**, then in the afternoon visit exquisite **Mdina** and **Rabat**. Spend day five relaxing on a beach, such as **Golden Bay** in the northwest, recharging your batteries for some physical activity on day six – a cliff-top walk or maybe some scuba diving. End on a high with a day trip to Comino's spectacular **Blue Lagoon**.



## Gozo

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 can base yourself almost anywhere, particularly if you have your own set of wheels (recommended). Another great way to get around is to hire a bicycle (available on Gozo) or an electric bike (to help with the hills) – the latter must be collected on Malta and brought to Gozo on the ferry. To get the most out of your stay, rent a rambling, idyllic Gozitan farmhouse.

Start your visit by spending a morning exploring **Victoria**, wandering around majestic Il-Kastell, with its astounding views, and the narrow lanes of Il-Borgo. Take a trip over to the huddled seaside resort town of **Marsalforn** for a lazy lunch with sea views and then visit the dramatically set salt pans just outside the town. On day two, head to the grand pilgrimage **Basilica of Ta'Pinu** with its poignant votive offerings, to pay your respects, then while away the rest of the day walking, swimming and snorkelling amid the fantastical moonscape scenery of **Dwejra**.

Set aside day three for walking around the soul-stirring clifftop scenery of **Ta'Ċenc**, and for seeking out a lesser-known spot for swimming and snorkelling (nearby **Mgarr ix-Xini** is lovely, and a great place for a leisurely lunch).

It's even easier to visit the tiny island of **Comino** from Gozo than it is from Malta, so arrange your boat trip and spend an afternoon paddling around the **Blue Lagoon**.

Begin day four with a visit to the extraordinary prehistoric **Ggantija Temples** and other attractions of **Xaghra**, then spend the afternoon reclining on **Ramla Bay** or more remote **San Blas Bay**, both of which are beautiful beaches where red sands meet blue water.

There's five days covered – but why not allocate a week and spend a few days relaxing poolside or on the beach?

# Map Legend

## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/S-train/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



## 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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, 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. As often as she can, she takes her young family on the road to assist with research. As well as writing for many newspapers and magazines, Abigail has worked for Lonely Planet in researching numerous Mediterranean destinations, including Italy, Portugal and Tunisia, but one of her favourites is Malta. Having been bewitched by this cluster of islands, dotted by

historic wonders, she can't wait to go back.

### Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

6th edition – Feb 2016

ISBN 978 1 74321 502 9

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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