



Gozo & Comino

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Why Go?

Gozo, called Ghawdex (*aow-desh*) in Malti, is a gloriously pretty island, with what the 19th-century nonsense poet Edward Lear called a 'pomskizillious and gromphibberous' landscape. He coined the words especially, looking for a way to describe the island's fairy-tale hillocks topped by enormous churches, its hidden, glittering coves, and its sculptured coastal cliffs. Gozo moves at a much slower pace than its bigger, busier neighbour. Although it is more than one-third the size of Malta, it has less than one-tenth of the population – only about 30,000 Gozitans live here (and they are Gozitans first, Maltese second). People leave their front doors unlocked; only one car has apparently ever been stolen, and the perpetrators were arrested before they reached the ferry.

This is a lovely place to kick back, with sandy beaches, rocky coves, excellent scuba diving and snorkelling, plus history in the form of megalithic temples and medieval citadels.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rew Rew (p122)
- ➔ Tmun Mgarr (p121)
- ➔ Boat House (p123)
- ➔ Oleander (p130)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Gozitan farmhouses (p144)
- ➔ Hotel Ta'Čenč (p144)
- ➔ Thirtyseven (p144)
- ➔ Quaint Boutique Hotel (p146)
- ➔ Mia Casa (p143)

When to Go

- ➔ Gozo and Comino are at their loveliest in spring and autumn, when the crowds have ebbed away.
- ➔ If you want to visit Comino's famous Blue Lagoon, it's much easier to enjoy its charms outside the summer months.
- ➔ Still, high summer is a great time for clubbing at the island's outdoor venues.
- ➔ It's also worthwhile being here during Carnival (February), Easter and Christmas to bask in local colour.

