

Gozo & Comino

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- → Gozitan farmhouses (p144)
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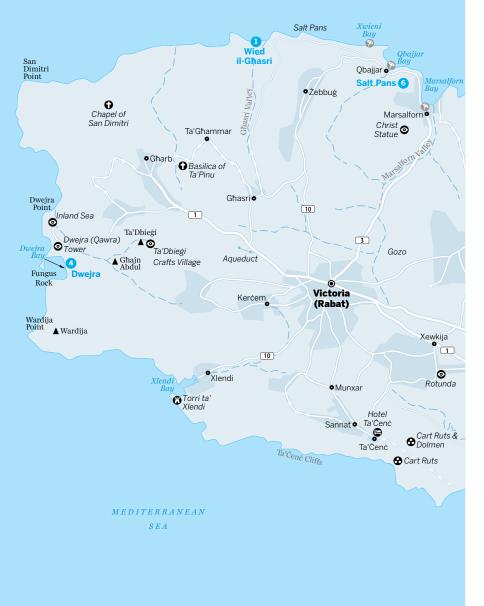
Why Go?

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.

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.



Gozo & Comino Highlights

1 Swim in azure coves such as **Wied il-Ghasri** (p127).

2 Get red sand in your shorts at lovely **San Blas Bay** (p132).

3 Take in the incredible 360-degree views from tiny **Comino** (p132).