Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We love to hear from travellers – your comments keep us on our toes and help make our books better. Our well-travelled team reads every word on what you loved or loathed about this book. Although we cannot reply individually to your submissions, we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors, in time for the next edition. Each person who sends us information is thanked in the next edition – the most useful submissions are rewarded with a selection of digital PDF chapters.

Visit **Ionelyplanet.com/contact** to submit your updates and suggestions or to ask for help. Our award-winning website also features inspirational travel stories, news and discussions.

Note: We may edit, reproduce and incorporate your comments in Lonely Planet products such as guidebooks, websites and digital products, so let us know if you don't want your comments reproduced or your name acknowledged. For a copy of our privacy policy visit lonelyplanet.com/privacy.

OUR READERS

Many thanks to the travellers who wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes:

Ailyn Garley, Anne Kent, Carl Boyer, David Betts, Jesmond Muscat, Judi Ewings, June Cahill, Lucy Connell, Maggie Gjessing, Monica Costoya, Neil Pearce, Peter Connors, Ron Wilcox, Sain Alizada, Sascha Kreuziger, Stefan Krista, Trevor Coultas

AUTHOR THANKS Abigail Blasi

Many thanks to Anna Tyler for commissioning me and her editorial knowhow, and to Helen Caruna Galizia, Julia Tomkins, Philip Manduca, Denise Briffa, Lisa Grech, Patti Piazzi, Chris Briffa, Giuseppe Bonanci Schembri, Sarah Williams, and Remco Slik for local recommendations and advice. Thanks to Simon Sciberras and Robert Magri for help with diving information, and to Steve Zammit Briffa for help with nightlife recommendations. Grateful thanks to Martin Morana and Jenciute Gabija at Malta Tourism, and to Marcia Grima at Heritage Malta.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 11, 163344.

Cover photograph: Valletta, Interpixels/ Shutterstock

THIS BOOK

This 6th edition of Lonely Planet's *Malta* & *Gozo* guidebook was researched and written by Abigail Blasi. The 5th edition was also written by Abigail Blasi and the 4th edition by Neil Wilson. This guidebook was produced by the following people:

Destination Editor

Anna Tyler **Product Editors**Penny Cordner, Vicky Smith,
Tracy Whitmey

Senior Cartographer Anthony Phelan Book Designer

Mazzy Prinsep **Assisting Editors** Nigel Chin, Anne Mulvaney, Kirsten Rawlings

Cartographer

James Leversha
Cover Researcher
Campbell McKenzie

Thanks to Joel Cotterell, Grace Dobell, Ryan Evans, Larissa Frost, Andi Jones, Anne Mason, Claire Murphy, Karyn Noble, Samantha Russell-Tulip, Dianne Schallmeiner, Angela Tinson, Lauren Wellicome, Amanda Williamson

Index

accommodation 134-46, see also individual locations costs 134-6 farmhouse accommodation 144 language 182-3 rental accommodation activities 22-31, 38 see also individual activities air travel 176 amusement parks Bugibba Water Park 85 Splash & Fun Park 89 Sweethaven 82 Anchor Bay 82 animals 23, 30, 88 archaeological sites 16. 110, 150, 165, see also temples cart ruts 99, 100, 101, Domus Romana 97 **Ġgantija Temples 128** Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum 108 Hagar Oim 12, 110-12, 111 Hal Saflieni Hypogeum 11, 64, 11 Mnaidra 12, 110-12, 12 Skorba temples 79 St Agatha's Crypt & Catacombs 95 St Paul's Catacombs 95 Ta'Hagrat Temple 79 Tarxien Temples 64 architecture 16, 17, 47, 165-8 baroque 166-7 books 168 churches 166 contemporary 167-8 military 166 prehistoric 165

Map Pages **000** Photo Pages **000** area codes 174 art galleries, see museums & art galleries Malta Arts Festival 19 Mdina Contemporary Art Biennale 19, 91 arts 163, see also crafts, music ATMs 173 audiovisual shows Gozo 360° 118 Malta 5D 44 Malta Experience 52 Mdina Experience 38 Valletta Living History 46 Azure Window 126, 2, 9

В

babysitting 38

bargaining 173

Bahar iċ-Ċaghag 89

baroque architecture 166-7 bathrooms 174 beaches 12, 16, 28 Baia Beach Club 84 Blue Lagoon 11, 133, 11, 29 Daħlet Qorrot 132 Ghain Tuffieha Bay 78 Ġnejna Bay 79 Golden Bay 78 Mellieħa Bay 80 Mgarr ix-Xini 122 Ramla Bay 132 San Blas Bay 132 Selmun (Imgiebah) Bay 84 Sliema Beach 67 St George's Bay 70 St Thomas Bay 109 Wied il-Għasri 127 heer 34 Farsons Great Beer Festival 19 bicycle travel 178 bird hunting 164

BirdLife Malta 164 birdwatching 30 BirguFest 19 Birkirkara 102-3 Blue Grotto 110 Blue Hole 126, 10 Blue Lagoon 11, 133, 11, 29 boat travel 81, 176-7, 180-1 traditional boats 108 boat trips Bugibba 87 Golden Bay 78 Mgarr 121 Sliema 67 books 148, 168 history 150, 152, 154, 155 Briffa, Chris 47, 167-8 budget 15, see also costs accommodation 134 food 171 Bugibba 85-9, 86 accommodation 141-2 bus travel 176, 178-9 business hours 173

C

also driving tours driving licences 179 hire 179 insurance 180 road rules 180 Caravaggio 51 Carnival 18 cart ruts 99, 100, 101 Cassar, Gerolamo 167 catacombs 95 cathedrals, see churches & cathedrals Calvoso's Cave 130 Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum 108 Ghar Hasan Cave 108

Xerri's Grotto & Ninu's

Cave 129

car travel 176, 179-80, see

cell phones 14, 174 Central Malta 40, 90-103, 92-3 accommodation 90, 142-3 climate 90 food 90 highlights 92-3 travel seasons 90 children, travel with 16, 36-8 Valletta 55 Christmas 19 churches & cathedrals architecture 166 Basilica of St George 118 Basilica of Ta'Pinu 124 Cathedral of the Assumption 116 Chapel of San Dimitri 124 Chapel of the Annunciation 110 Church of Our Lady of Lourdes 121, 2 Church of Our Lady of Victory 79 Church of St Helen 103 Church of St Mary 103 Church of St Paul's Bonfire 85 Church of St Paul's Shipwreck 51 Church of St Saviour 103 Church of Sts Peter & Paul 130 Church of the Visitation 124 Egg Church 79 Grotto of the Madonna 80 Mosta Dome 100 Parish Church of Our Lady 102 Parish Church of St

Catherine 109

45-7. **45**. **13**

St John's Co-Cathedral 12.

St Paul's Cathedral 91

St Paul's Church & the

Grotto of St Paul 97

cinemas
Bugibba 89
St Julian's 74
Valletta 57
Victoria 118
Clapham Junction 100
climate 14, 18-19, 170, see
also individual regions
Comino 40, 113, 132-3,
114-5
accommodation 146
climate 113
highlights 114-15
travel seasons 113
consulates 170
contemporary architecture 167-8
Cospicua 59-62
accommodation 138
costs 173
accommodation 134-6
daily budget 15
discount cards 170
food 33
courses
cooking 34
diving & snorkelling 23-4
language 172
crafts 163
Ta'Dbieģi Crafts Village 125
Ta'Qali Crafts Village 98
credit cards 173
culture 161-3
currency 14
customs regulations 170
cycling 178

D

dangers 174

Dingli Cliffs 100 Dingli, Tommaso 167 disabilities, travellers with 175 discount cards 170 diving & snorkelling 10. 22-8, 26, 29 courses & qualifications 23-4 responsible diving 24 diving & snorkelling sites Blue Hole 126, 10 Bugibba 87 Comino 133 Golden Bay 78 Gozo 123 Marfa Peninsula 82 Marsalforn 128

Mellieha Bay 81 Sliema 67 St Julian's & Paceville 71 drinks 34-5 driving, see car travel, driving tours driving tours Central Malta 99, 99

Marfa Peninsula 83. 83

Northern Gozo 131. 131

Dwejra 8, 125-6, 9

Easter Sunday 18 economy 148-9 Egg Church 79 electricity 170 embassies 170 emergencies 15 language 183 England, Richard 167 environmental issues 149 events 18-19 exchange rates 15

farmhouse

accommodation 144 Farsons Great Beer Festival 19 fenkata 34 ferry travel 81, 176, 180-1 festivals 18-19 Filfla 112 film 148, 156 Valletta Film Festival 18 Fireworks Festival 18 Floriana 58-9 accommodation 138 folklore 161 Fomm ir-Riħ 102 food 16-17, 32-5, 17 budget 171 fenkata 34 ftira 33 pastizzi 33 vegetarian & vegan travellers 35 Fort Rinella 64 fortresses Fort Chambray 121 Fort Manoel 67 Fort Rinella 64

Fort St Elmo 51

Red (St Agatha's)

Tower 82

Oalet Marku Tower 89

St Thomas' Tower 109 Wignacourt Tower 85 fossils 84 Fungus Rock 125

gardens, see parks &

gardens

gay travellers 171

G

Ġgantija Temples 128 Ghain Tuffieha 78-9 għana 163 Għanafest 19 Għar Lapsi 112, 12 Gharb 124-5 glass-blowing 163 Golden Bay 78-9 accommodation 140-1 Good Friday 18 Gozitan farmhouses 144 Gozo 40, 113-33, 114-15 accommodation 113. 143-6 climate 113 food 113 highlights 114-15 travel seasons 113 travel to/from 116 travel within 116

Grand Master's Palace

Great Siege of Malta

(1565) 153

guesthouses 135

47 50

Hagar Qim 12, 110-12, 111 Hal Saflieni Hypogeum 11, 64, 11 health 171 hiking, see walking history 16, 150-60 Arab rulers 152 books 150, 152, 154, 155 British rule 157 films 156 independence 159-60 internet resources 154 Napoleon 156-7 Norman conquest 152 prehistory 150-1 WWII 158-9 Holy Week 18 horse riding 31 hunting 174

II-Kastell 116-18, 117

immigration 148-9 independence 159-60 Inland Sea 126 insurance car 180 health 171-2 travel 171 internet access 172 internet resources 15, 170-5

itineraries 20-1, **20**, **21**, see also driving tours, walking tours

n

karrozzin 181 kayaking 30 kiteboarding 30 Knights of St John 152-6

L

la Valette, Jean Parisot de 154 lace-making 163 language 14, 162, 182-4 courses 172 Lear, Edward 113 legal matters 172 lesbian travellers 171 local produce 33-5

M

magazines 172
Malta Arts Festival 19
Malta International Air
Show 19
Malta Jazz Festival 19
Malta Jazz Festival 19
Malta National
Aquarium 85
Maltese balconies 167
Malti language 14, 162,
182-4
marathons 31
Marfa Peninsula 83
marine life 23, 88
markets
Bugeja Fish Market 121

Fresh Produce
Market 53
It-Tokk 118
Malta Artisan Markets
163
Street Market 57
Sunday Fish Market 105

Waterfront Market 105 Marsalforn 126-8, **127**

accommodation 145 Marsaskala 109 Marsaxlokk 105-8 accommodation 143 Mdina 13, 91-5, 96-7, 13 accommodation 142 Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale 19, 91 Mdina Ditch Garden 94 measures 172 medical services 121 Mediterranea 19 megalithic sites, see archaeological sites Mellieħa 79-82, 80 accommodation 141 Mgarr (Gozo) 120-1 accommodation 144 Mgarr ix-Xini 122 Mgarr (Malta) 79 migration 148-9 military architecture 166 Mintoff, Dominic 159 Mnajdra 12, 110-12, 12 mobile phones 14, 174 money 14, 172-3, see also costs Mosta 100-1 motorcycle travel 179-80 Munxar 144 museums & art galleries Archaeology Museum 116 Cathedral Museum (Mdina) 94 Cathedral Museum (Victoria) 116 Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum 108 Għarb Folklore Museum 124 Kelinu Grima Maritime Museum 130 Lascaris War Rooms 52 Malta at War Museum 62 Malta Aviation Museum Malta Classic Car Collection 85 National Museum of Archaeology 44-6 National Museum of Fine Arts 46 National Museum of Natural History 94 National War Museum 52

Map Pages 000 Photo Pages 000

Natural Science Museum Palazzo Falson 94 Pomskizillious Museum of Toys 130 St James' Cavalier 53 Tov Museum 51 Wignacourt Museum 98 music 163 għana 163 Ghanafest 19 Malta Jazz Festival 19

Nadur 130-2 accommodation 146 Napoleon 156-7 nature reserves Comino 132 Filfla 112 Ghadira Nature Reserve 81 Is-Simar Nature Reserve Park tal-Majjistral 78 Naxxar 102 accommodation 142-3 newspapers 172 Ninu's Cave 129 Northwest Malta 40, 75-89, 76-7 accommodation 75. 140-2

climate 75

food 75 highlights 76

travel seasons 75 Notte Bianca 19

O opening hours 173

Paceville 39, 65, 70-74, 72 accommodation 65, 140 activities 70-1 climate 65 drinking 72-4 entertainment 74 food 65, 71-2 highlights 66 sights 70-1 travel seasons 65 travel to/from 74 travel within 74 palaces Casa Bernard 95

Casa Rocca Piccola 51

Palazzo Falson 94 Palazzo Parisio 102 Palazzo Spinola 71 San Anton Palace & Gardens 103 Selmun Palace 84 parking 180 parks & gardens, see also nature reserves Mdina Ditch Garden 94 Palazzo Parisio 102 Rundle Gardens 118 San Anton Palace & Gardens 103 Upper Barrakka Gardens passports 175 Phoenicians 151 phonecards 174 photography 173 Piano, Renzo 168 Piazza Indipendenza 118-20 planning, see also individual regions activities 22-31 budgeting 15 calendar of events 18-19 children 36-8 internet resources 15 itineraries 20-1 Malta & Gozo basics 14-15 Malta & Gozo's regions 39-40 travel seasons 14, 18-19 politics 148-9 population 149 postal services 173 prehistoric architecture

Grand Master's Palace

Inquisitor's Palace 61

47, 50

Preti Mattia 52 public phones 174

165

Oala 132 accommodation 146 Oawra 85-9

accommodation 141-2

Rabat (Gozo), see Victoria (Rabat) Rabat (Malta) 13, 95-8, 96-7

accommodation 142

radio 172 Ramla Bay 132 religion 149, 162 rental accommodation 135 rock climbing 31, 123 Romans 151

safety 174 sailing 28-30 salt pans 82, 105, 123, 126, 127. 131 Saluting Battery 52 San Blas Bay 132 San Lawrenz 125 accommodation 145 Senglea 59-62, 60-1 accommodation 138 Sharklah 88 sharks 88 silver filigree 163 Skorba temples 79 Sliema 39, 65-70, 68 accommodation 65, 138-40 activities 67 climate 65 drinking 70 food 65, 67-9 highlights 66 medical services 70 shopping 70 sights 67 travel seasons 65 travel within 70 Smart City 64 smoking 172 snorkelling, see diving & snorkelling Southeast Malta 40, 104-12 accommodation 143 climate 104 food 104 highlights 106-7 sports 163-4, see also activities St Agatha 95 St Agatha's Crypt & Catacombs 95 St John's Co-Cathedral 12. 45-7. **45**. **13** St Julian's 39, 65, 70-74 72

accommodation 65, 140

activities 70-1

drinking 72-3

food 65, 71-2

highlights 66

entertainment 74

climate 65

shopping 74 sights 70-1 travel seasons 65 travel to/from 74 travel within 74 St Paul's Bay 85-9 accommodation 141-2 St Paul's Catacombs 95 St Paul's Cathedral 91 St Peter's Pool 105 stand-up paddleboarding Strait Street 56 student travellers 170 Süleyman the Magnificent 152-4 swimming 28, 174, see also beaches

Ta'Čenć 122 accommodation 144 Ta'Dbiegi Crafts Village 125 Ta'Qali Crafts Village 98 Tarxien Temples 64 taxes 173 taxis 181 telephone services 14-15, 174 temples 110

Ggantija Temples 128 Hagar Qim 12, 110-12, **111** Hal Saflieni Hypogeum 11, 64, **11** Mnajdra 12, 110-12, **12**

Skorba Temples 79

Ta'Hagrat Temple 79 Tarxien Temples 64 theatres 50.57 Astra Theatre 120 Aurora Opera House 120 Manoel Theatre 50 St James' Cavalier 53 theft 174 Three Cities 59-64 accommodation 138 Three Villages 102-3 accommodation 143 time 174 tipping 173 toilets 174 tourist information 175 tours 177-8, see also boat trips, driving tours, walking tours toy museums 51, 130 traditional arts 163 travel insurance 171 travel to/from Malta & Gozo 176-8 travel within Malta & Gozo 178-81 trekking, see walking TV 172

V Valletta 8, 39, 42-64, **48-9**, **2, 8, 17**

accommodation 42, 136-8 children, travel with 55 climate 42 drinking 56

entertainment 57 food 42, 53-6 highlights 43 history 44 itineraries 46 money 57 postal services 57 shopping 57-9 sights 44-53 tourist information 57 travel seasons 42 travel to/from 57-8 travel within 58-64 walking tours 54, 54 Valletta Film Festival 18 vegetarian & vegan travellers 35 Victoria Lines 89 Victoria (Rabat) 116-20, 119 accommodation 143-4 drinking 119 food 119-20 shopping 120 sights 116-18 viewpoints 17 visas 14, 175 Vittoriosa 10, 59-63, 60-1, 5. 11

W

walking 30 Dingli Cliffs 100 Marsalforn 126 Park tal-Majjistral 78 Ta'Čenč 122

accommodation 138

Victoria Lines 89 Xemxiia Heritage Trail 84 walking tours Valletta 54, 54 Vittoriosa 63. 63 watchtowers 69 watersports 16, 22-30, see also diving & snorkelling Bugibba 87 Comino 132 Golden Bay 78 Gozo 123 weather 14, 18-19, 170, see also individual regions weights 172 wildlife 23, 30, 88 windsurfing 30 wine 34 women in Malta 162-3 WWII 158-9

X

Xaghra 128-30, **129**accommodation 145
Xemxija 84-5
Xerri's Grotto 129
Xewkija 122
Xlendi 122-4
accommodation 145

Y yachting 177

Z Żurrieq 109-10



Map Legend

Sights

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

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kavaking
- 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
- (II) 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
- Parking
- Petrol station S-Bahn/S-train/Subway station
- Taxi
- +- Train station/Railway
- --- Tram
 - Tube station
 - U-Bahn/Underground station
 - Other Transport

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

Routes

Tollway Freeway Primary

> Secondary Tertiary

> > 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

©Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd



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 © Lonely Planet 2016 Pl

© Lonely Planet 2016 Photographs © as indicated 2016

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, meanincal, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or bired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com?!



© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'