

Welcome to Malta & Gozo

Malta packs glorious variety into its small archipelago. You'll find prehistoric temples, fossil-studded cliffs, hidden coves, thrilling scuba diving and a history of remarkable intensity.

A Legendary History

Malta's geographical location in the centre of the Mediterranean made it an alluring and much-fought-over prize in times when it was impossible for sea vessels to attempt long, continuous trips, and the islands are full of majestic above- and below-ground defences. The capital, Valletta, built by the Knights of St John, is a harmonious grid, Mdina and Victoria are fortress-like hilltop towns, and watchtowers dot the coast. Even Malta's fishing boats resonate with the past, their prows painted with eyes, just like the boats of their Phoenician predecessors.

Secret Coves & Glittering Sea

Malta's landscape contrasts rocky stretches of coast that end in dizzying limestone cliffs with sheltered bays that hide gin-clear water and red-gold beaches. The islands' many marinas jostle with boats, and you can take to the water in sky-blue traditional craft, stately yachts or speed-boats. Snorkellers and divers have much to explore underwater as well, in a world of caves, crags and wrecks.

A Mediterranean Cocktail

Malta is staunchly Roman Catholic but is also home to a beguiling mix of cultures that has stewed together over generations. Traditional Maltese food mixes Sicilian and Middle Eastern flavours, while making use of local ingredients such as rabbit and honey. The Maltese people are warm and welcoming: if you ask for directions, it's likely a local will walk with you to help you find the way. Plenty of 21st-century sophistication can be found, but there are also pockets where you feel you've gone back in time, especially on Gozo, where mammoth churches tower over quiet villages.

Mysterious Ancients

Malta and Gozo's astounding prehistoric sites were seemingly constructed by sophisticated temple builders, who also left miniature figurines and mammoth sculptures of 'fat ladies', which have survived millennia and are housed in Malta's fascinating museums. Out in the open, gigantic temples and towers from many different eras stand proud, continuing their endless watch over the sea. But the most extraordinary site of all lies underground: Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, a 5000-year-old necropolis carved from the living rock.



Why I Love Malta & Gozo

by Abigail Blasi, Author

Malta is packed with interest, yet is laid-back and easy. There are boat trips, beautiful towns, periwinkle seas, friendly people and soul-feeding views, and you can go from swimming in glinting sea to a clifftop prehistoric site, to a harbourside restaurant, all in the space of a few hours. Combine sightseeing and beaches on Malta with a relaxing stay on Gozo, with its hill-tops, small villages and carved-out coast, and you have the perfect holiday.

For more about Abigail Blasi, see page 192