



Malta & Gozo



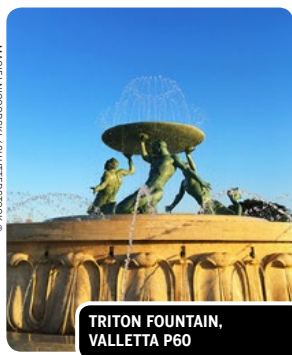
Brett Atkinson

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to	
Malta & Gozo.....	4
Malta & Gozo's Top 10...	8
Need to Know	14
What's New	16
If You Like	17
Month by Month	19
Itineraries	22
Accommodation	24
Getting Around	
Malta & Gozo.....	26
Activities	28
Eat & Drink	
Like a Local.....	38
Travel with Children	43
Regions at a Glance	47

ON THE ROAD

VALLETTA	50	SLIEMA, ST JULIAN'S & PACEVILLE	76
History	52	Sliema & Around	78
Sights	52	St Julian's & Paceville....	81
Courses	60		
Tours	60	NORTHERN MALTA ...	85
Eating	60	Golden Bay &	
Drinking & Nightlife.....	63	Ghajn Tuffieha.....	88
Entertainment.....	67	Mgarr & Around	89
Shopping	67	Mellieha & Around	89
Around Valletta	69	Marfa Peninsula	92
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum &		Xemxija	92
Tarxien Temples	69	Bugibba, Qawra &	
The Three Cities	70	St Paul's Bay.....	96
Vittoriosa	70	Baħar lċ-Ċagħaq	102
Senglea	75		



TRITON FOUNTAIN,
VALLETTA P60



BLUE LAGOON, COMINO
P148



Contents

UNDERSTAND

CENTRAL MALTA... 103

Mdina	106
Rabat	110
Dingli Cliffs	112
Mosta	114
Naxxar	115
Birkirkara & the Three Villages	115
Fomm ir-Rih	116

SOUTHERN MALTA... 117

Marsaxlokk	120
Birżebbuġa	121
Marsaskala	122
Żurrieq	123
Haġar Qim & Mnajdra ...	124
Ghar Lapsi	126

GOZO & COMINO... 127

Gozo	130
Victoria (Rabat)	130
Mgarr	135
Mgarr ix-Xini	136
Xewkija	137
Ta'Ċenċ	137
Xlendi	138
Gharb & San Lawrenz ...	139
Dwejra	140
Marsalforn	141
Xagħra	143
Nadur	145
Comino	148

Malta & Gozo

Today	150
History	152
The Maltese Way of Life	163
5000 Years of Architecture	167

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A–Z	172
Transport	177
Language	183
Index	187
Map Legend	191



CARMELITE BASILICA,
VALLETTA P61

SPECIAL FEATURES

Diving & Snorkelling ...	28
Eat & Drink Like a Local	38
Valletta Image Gallery	64
5000 Years of Architecture	167

Itineraries



Essential Malta

Malta's diminutive dimensions (27km by 14.5km) mean having your own car is an asset; otherwise, base yourself in Valletta, Naxxar, Sliema or St Julian's for the easiest bus connections.

Begin in **Valletta** – explore the narrow streets and fortifications, admire views across the Grand Harbour, and visit MUŻA, St John's Co-Cathedral and the Grand Master's Palace. On the second day, experience Fort St Elmo, visiting the National War Museum, before a ferry ride across the harbour to **Vittoriosa** and **Senglea**. On day three visit the **Tarxien Temples** and **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum**, en route south for a seafood lunch at **Marsaxlokk**. Spend the afternoon at **St Peter's Pool**, a rocky bay with flat rocks for sunbathing.

On day four take a boat trip to the **Blue Grotto**, explore the clifftop temples of **Hagar Qim & Mnajdra**, and then spend the afternoon in **Mdina** and **Rabat**. Allocate day five to relaxing on a beach, such as **Golden Bay**, recharging for physical activity on day six – a walk around **Park tal-Majjistral** or maybe scuba diving around the **Marfa Peninsula**. End on a high with a day trip to Comino's **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 (Rabat)**, wandering around recently restored 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 centre of **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'Ċenċ**, 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).

Begin day four with a visit to the extraordinary prehistoric **Ġgantija 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.

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.

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

Behind the Scenes

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Brett Atkinson

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THIS BOOK

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Destination Editor Anna Tyler

Senior Product Editor
Elizabeth Jones

Product Editor Paul Harding

Senior Cartographer
Anthony Phelan

Book Designer Fergal Condon

Assisting Editors Ronan
Abayawickrema, Michelle

Bennett, Helen Koehne,
Charlotte Orr, Simon Williamson

Cover Researcher
Naomi Parker

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Index

A

accessible travel 172
 accommodation 24-5, 45
 activities 28-37, 45 *see also*
individual activities
 air travel 177
 aquariums 96-7, **46**
 amusement parks 44
 Bugibba Water Park 97
 Popeye Village 90
 Splash & Fun Park 102
 Arabs 153-4
 archaeological sites 17, 167
 cart ruts 114
 Domus Romana 110
 Ġgantija Temples 143
 Għar Dalam Cave &
 Museum 121-2
 Hagar Qim 13, 124-5
 Hal Saflieni Hypogeum
 9, 69, **9**
 Mnajdra 13, 124-5
 Skorba Temples 89
 St Agatha's Crypt &
 Catacombs 110
 St Paul's Catacombs 110
 Ta'Ħagrāt Temple 89
 Tarxien Temples 69-70
 architecture 17, 167-70
 Armoury 73
 art galleries, *see* museums
 & galleries
 artists
 Caravaggio 170
 Preti, Mattia 159
 arts 165-6
 ATMs 175
 audiovisual shows
 Gozo 360° 132
 Malta 5D 60
 Malta Experience 60

Mdina Experience 107
 Valletta Living History 60
 automobile associations 180
 Azure Window 140

B

babysitting 44
 Baħar l-Ċagħaq 102
 bargaining 175
 basilicas, *see* churches &
 cathedrals
 bathrooms 176
 beaches 17, 34, 45
 Adeera Beach Complex 91
 Baia Beach Club 92
 Dahlet Qorrot 146
 Għajin Tuffieħa Bay 88
 Ġnejna Bay 89
 Golden Bay 88
 Hondoq ir-Rummien 146
 Mellieħa Bay 90
 Ramla Bay 144
 San Blas Bay 146
 Selmun (Imġiebah)
 Bay 90
 Sliema 78
 Wied il-Għasri 144
 Xwieni Bay 141
 beer 41
 Bethlehem Village 135-6
 bicycle travel 178-9
 bird hunting 166
 Birdlife Malta 35, 148
 birdwatching 37
 BirġuFest 20
 Birkirkara 115-16
 Birzebbuga 121-2
 Blue Grotto 123
 Blue Hole 141
 Blue Lagoon 12, 148, **2, 12**
 boats 122
 boat travel 27, 97, 178, 179
 boat trips
 Bugibba 99
 Golden Bay 88
 Mgarr 136

Sliema 78
 Xlendi 138
 Żurriq 123
 Bonaparte, Napoleon 158-9
 books 150
 archaeology 169
 architecture 169
 cooking 41
 culture 163, 165
 history 152, 154, 157, 158
 Briffa, Chris 169
 Bugibba 96-101, **98**
 Bugibba Water Park 97
 bus travel 27, 179-80
 business hours 15, 175

C

Calypso's Cave 144
 car travel 180-2, 267
 Caravaggio 170
 Carmelite Basilica 61, **3**
 Carnival 19
 cart ruts 114
 Casa Bernard 110
 Casa Rocca Piccola 58
 Cassar, Gerolamo 169
 castles & fortresses 44
 Dwejra (Qawra) Tower 141
 Fort Campbell 90-1
 Fort Rinella 71
 Fort St Angelo 71, **13**
 Fort St Elmo & National
 War Museum 53, 56
 Il-Kastell 10, 131, **133, 10**
 Red (St Agatha's) Tower
 92
 St John's Demi-Bastion
 132
 St Mary's Tower 148
 Wignacourt Tower 97-9
 catacombs
 St Agatha's Crypt &
 Catacombs 110
 St Paul's Catacombs 110
 cathedrals, *see* churches &
 cathedrals
 caves 44
 Calypso's Cave 144
 Għar Dalam 121-2
 Għar Hasan Cave 122
 Ninu's Cave 144
 Xerri's Grotto 143-4
 cell phones 14, 176
 Central Malta 103-16
 driving tours 113, **113**
 food 103
 highlights 104-5, **104-5**
 travel seasons 103
 children, travel with 43-6, **46**
 churches & cathedrals 168
 Basilica of St George 134
 Basilica of Ta' Pinu 139
 Carmelite Basilica 61, **3**
 Chapel of San Dimitri 140
 Chapel of St Mary
 Magdalene 112
 Chapel of the
 Annunciation 123
 Cathedral of the
 Assumption 132
 Church of Our Lady of
 Lourdes 135
 Church of Our Lady of
 Victory 90
 Church of Our Lady's
 Return from Egypt 148
 Church of Saints Peter &
 Paul 146
 Church of St Helen 116
 Church of St Mary 116
 Church of St Paul's
 Bonfire 97
 Church of St Paul's
 Shipwreck 58
 Church of St Saviour 116
 Church of the Visitation
 140
 Egg Church 89
 Grotto of the Madonna 90
 Mosta Dome 114, **94**
 Our Lady of the Grotto 111
 Parish Church of Our
 Lady 115

churches & cathedrals
continued
Parish Church of St Catherine 123
Rotunda 137
St Agatha's Chapel 110
St John's Co-Cathedral 10, 52, 59, **59, 11**
St Paul's Cathedral 106
St Paul's Church 110
cinemas 84, 101
Cliffs, The 112
climate 14, 172, *see also individual regions*
coffee 42
Comino 27, 127, 128, 148, **128-9**
consulates 173
cooking courses 41, 60
Cospicua 70-5
costs 15
courses
cooking 41, 60
diving 29-30
language 174
crafts 165-6
credit cards 175
cruises 182
culture 163-6
currency 14
customs regulations 172
cycling 178-9

D
Dahlet Qorrot 146
dangers 175-6
Delimara Point 120
Dingli Cliffs 112-14
Dingli, Tommaso 169
disabilities, travellers with 172
discount cards 52, 132, 172-3
diving & snorkelling 9, 13, 28-35, **35, 13, 31, 32**
dive schools 29-30
Bugibba 99
Comino 148
Dwejra 141
Golden Bay 88
Marsalforn 143
Mellieha 91
Mgarr 136
Sliema 78
St Julian's 81

Domus Romana 110
drinks 38-42
driving 26-7, 175, 180-2
driving tours
Central Malta 113, **113**
Gozo 147, **147**
Marfa Peninsula 93, **93**
Dwejra 140-1
Dwejra Marine Environmental Education Centre 141

E
economy 150-1
Egg Church 89
electricity 173
embassies 173
emergency 15
Esplora 70
etiquette 15
events, *see* festivals & events
exchange rates 15

F
farmhouse
accommodation 25, **25**
Feast of Santa Marija 20, **21**
fenkata 39
ferry travel 97, 178, 179
festivals & events 19-21
BirguFest 75
Feast of Santa Marija 20, **21**
Malta Classic 107
Malta International Food Festival 107
Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale 107
Fiflia 123
film 20, 60, 150, 161
Fireworks Festival 19
Fomm ir-Rih 116
food 18, 38-42, **40, 41**
football 166
Fort Campbell 90-1
Fort Rinella 71
Fort St Angelo 71, **13**
Fort St Elmo & National War Museum 53
fortresses, *see* castles & fortresses
fossil sites 100

G
Gafa, Lorenzo 169
galleries, *see* museums & galleries

gardens, *see* parks & gardens
Gardjola Gardens 75, **65**
garnija 148
gay travellers 174
Ġgantija Temples 143
Għadira Nature Reserve 90
Għajn Rasul 99
Għajn Tuffieha 88-9
Għanafest 20
Għar Dalam Cave & Museum 121-2
Għar Hasan Cave 122
Għar Lapsi 12, 126, **12**
Għasri 144
Għarb 139-40
glossary 185
Gnejna Bay 89
Golden Bay 88, 88-9
Gozo 127-47
driving tours 147, **147**
food 127
highlights 128-9, **128-9**
travel seasons 127
Gozo Nature Museum 132
Gran Castello Historic House 132
Grand Master's Palace 52-3
Great Siege 154-7
Grotto of the Madonna 90

H
Hagar Qim 9, 13, 124-5, **124, 9**
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum 8, 69, **9**
health 173
Heart of Gozo 134
highlights 8-13, **6-7**
Central Malta 104-5, **104-5**
Comino 128, **128-9**
Gozo 128-9, **128-9**
Paceville 77, **77**
Sliema 77, **77**
St Julian's 77, **77**
Northern Malta 86-7, Southern Malta 118-19, **118-19 86-7**
Valletta 51, **51**
hiking 36-7, 96, *see also* walking
historic sites
Armoury 73
Casa Bernard 110
Casa Rocca Piccola 58
Gantry House 75

Grand Master's Palace 52-3
Manoel Island 78
Mellieha Air-Raid Shelters 90
Mgarr Shelter 89
Old Prison 132
Saluting Battery 57
St Agatha's Crypt & Catacombs 110
St Paul's Catacombs 110
Ta'Kola Windmill 143
Victoria Lines 102
Villa Dragonara 81
War HQ Tunnels 57
history 152-62
Holy Week 19
Hondoq ir-Rummien 146
horse racing 166
horse riding 37, 88, 114, 144
hunting 175

I
Il-Borgo 134
Il-Kalanka Bay 121
Il-Kastell 10, 131, **133, 10**
immigration 163
independence 161-2
Inland Sea 141
Inquisitor's Palace 71
insurance 173
internet access 173-4
internet resources 15
Isle of MTV 20, 165
Is-Simar Nature Reserve 96
Is-Suq Tal-Belt 16
itineraries 22-3

K
Karmni Grima Museum 140
karrozin 179
kayaking 36
kiteboarding 36, **18**
Knights of St John 154, 155, 168

L
language 165, 183-5
courses 174
Lascaris War Rooms 57
Lear, Edward 127
legal matters 174
lesbian travellers 174
LGBT+ travellers 174
Lost & Found 19, 165
Lower Barrakka Gardens 60

M

magazines 174
 Malta Arts Festival 20
 Malta at War Museum 71
 Malta Classic 20, 107
 Malta Classic Car Collection 97
 Malta International Air Show 20
 Malta National Aquarium 96-7, **46**
 Manoel Island 78
 mansions 169
 Marfa Peninsula 92, 93, **93**
 Maria Rosa Winery 116
 markets
 Bugeja Fish Market 136
 Malta Artisan Markets 166
 Sunday Fish Market 120
 Waterfront Market 120
 Marsalforn 141-3, **142**
 Marsaskala 122-3
 Marsaxlokk 120-1, **18**
 marathons 34
 Mdina 11, 106-9, **108-9, 11**
 Mdina Cathedral
 Contemporary Art Biennale 20, 107
 Mdina Ditch Garden 106
 measures 174
 medical services 173
 Medieval Mdina 19
 Mediterranea 20
 megalithic sites 125, 167,
 see also archaeological sites
 Mellieha 89-92, **91**
 Merisi, Michelangelo 170
 Mgarr (Gozo) 135-6, **95**
 Mgarr (Malta) 89
 Mgarr ix-Xini 136-7
 Misrah ir-Rebha 73
 Mnajdra 13, 124-5, **13**
 mobile phones 14, 176
 money 14, 15, 175
 monuments
 Christ Statue 141
 City Gate (Valletta) 57
 Ghajn Rasul 99
 Triton Fountain 60, **2**
 Victory Monument 73
 Mosta 114-15, **94**
 motor racing 166
 motorcycle travel 180-21
 Munxar 139
 museums & galleries 44-5
 Archaeology Museum 132

Cathedral Museum 106
 Fort St Elmo & National War Museum 53, 56
 Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum 121-2
 Gozo Nature Museum 132
 Gran Castello Historic House 132
 Heart of Gozo 134
 Inquisitor's Palace 71
 Karmni Grima Museum 140
 Lascaris War Rooms 57
 Malta at War Museum 71
 Malta Aviation Museum 110-11
 Malta Classic Car Collection 97
 Malta Postal Museum 57
 Maritime Museum 71
 MUZA 16, 57
 National Museum of Archaeology 53
 National Museum of Natural History 106-7
 Pomsikizillious Museum of Toys 144
 Sacra Infermeria 60
 The Cliffs 112
 Toy Museum 60
 Wignacourt Museum 110
 music 165
 MUZA 16, 57

N

Nadur 145-8
 Napoleon 158-9
 National Museum of Archaeology 53
 National Museum of Natural History 107
 national parks & reserves
 Ghadira Nature Reserve 90
 Is-Simar Nature Reserve 96
 Park tal-Majjistral 88
 Salina Nature Reserve 99
 Naxxar 115
 newspapers 174
 Ninu's Cave 144
 Northern Malta 85-102
 food 85
 highlights 86-7, **86-7**
 travel seasons 85

O

opening hours 15, 175

P

Paceville 81-4, **82**
 drinking 76
 food 76
 highlights 77, **77**
 travel seasons 76
 packing 15, 45
 Palazzo Falson 106
 Palazzo Parisio 115
 parking 181
 parks & gardens, *see also* national parks & reserves
 Gardjola Gardens 75, **65**
 Lower Barrakka Gardens 60
 Mdina Ditch Garden 106
 San Anton Palace & Gardens 115
 Upper Barrakka Gardens 56-7, **64**
 Villa Rundle Gardens 134
 Park tal-Majjistral 88
 parliament building 58, **64**
 Pasha, Mustafa 156-7
 passports 177
 Phoenicians 153
 photography 175
 Piazza Indipendenza 134, **94**
 planning 16
 activities 28-37
 budgeting 15
 calendar of events 19-21
 children, travel with 43-6
 highlights 8-13, **6-7**
 internet resources 15
 itineraries 22-3
 Malta & Gozo regions 47-8
 packing 15
 travel seasons 14, 45
 travel to/from Malta & Gozo 15, 177-8
 travel within Malta & Gozo 26-7, 178-82
 politics 150-1
 Pomsikizillious Museum of Toys 144
 Popeye Village 90, **94**
 population 151, 163
 Portomaso 81
 postal services 175
 Preti, Mattia 159

Q

Qala Windmills 146
 Qalet Marku Tower 102
 Qawra 96-101

R

Rabat (Gozo), *see* Victoria (Rabat)
 Rabat (Malta) 11, 110-12, **108-9**
 radio 174
 Ramla Bay 144
 Ras il-Qammieh 92
 Red (St Agatha's) Tower 92
 religion 151, 164
 road rules 181-2
 rock climbing 37, 139
 Rolex Middle Sea Race 36
 Romans 153
 Rotunda 137
 Royal Malta Yacht Club 36
 Royal Opera House 60

S

Sacra Infermeria 60
 safe travel 175-6
 sailing 36
 Salina Nature Reserve 99
 salt pans 99, 120, 138, 140
 Saluting Battery 57
 San Anton Palace & Gardens 115
 San Blas Bay 146
 San Lawrenz 139-40
 scuba diving, *see* diving & snorkelling
 sea travel 27, 97, 178, 179
 Selmun (Imgiebah) Bay 90
 Senglea 70-5, **72-3**
 sharklab 96
 Skorba Temples 89
 Sliema 78-81, **79**
 Sliema
 drinking 76
 food 76
 highlights 77, **77**
 travel seasons 76
 smoking 174
 snorkelling, *see* diving & snorkelling
 soccer 166
 Southern Malta 117-26
 food 117
 highlights 118-19, **118-19**
 travel seasons 117
 Splash & Fun Park 102
 sport 166, *see also* individual sports

St Agatha 112
 St Agatha's Crypt & Catacombs 110
 St George's Bay 81
 St John's Co-Cathedral 10, 52, 59, **59, 11**
 St John's Demi-Bastion 132
 St Julian's 81-4, **82**
 drinking 76
 food 76
 highlights 77, **77**
 travel seasons 76
 St Paul's Bay 96-101
 St Paul's Catacombs 110
 St Paul's Cathedral 106
 St Peter's Pool 120
 St Thomas Bay 122
 stand-up paddleboard-
 ing 36
 Strait Street 68
 sweets 40-2
 swimming 34, 175-6, *see also* beaches
 Blue Lagoon 12, 148, **2, 12**
 Il-Kalanka Bay 121
 St Peter's Pool 120

T
 Ta' Mena 144
 Ta'Ċenċ 137-8
 Ta'Ċenċ sea cliffs 137
 Ta'Dbiegi Crafts Village 139
 Ta'Haġrat Temple 89
 Ta'Kola Windmill 143
 Ta'Qali Crafts Village 111
 Tarxien Temples 69-70
 taxes 175
 taxis 182
 tea 42
 telephone 14, 176

temples
 Ggantija Temples 143
 Haġar Qim 13, 124-5, **124**
 Hal Saflieni Hypogeum 9, 69, **9**
 Mnajdra 13, 124-5
 Skorba Temples 89
 Ta'Haġrat Temple 89
 Tarxien Temples 69-70
 theatres
 Astra Theatre 135
 Aurora Opera House 135
 Malta 5D 60
 Malta Experience 60
 Manoel Theatre 58
 St James' Cavalier Centre for Creativity 67
 Valletta Living History 60
 theft 176
 theme parks 44
 Bugibba Water Park 97
 Popeye Village 90
 Splash & Fun Park 102
 Three Cities 70-5
 Tigné Point 78
 time 14, 176
 tipping 175
 toilets 176
 Torri ta'Mgarr ix-Xini 136-7
 tourist information 176
 tours 182, *see also* boat trips, diving tours, walking tours
 Toy Museum 60
 transport 26-7, 177-82
 travel to/from Malta & Gozo 15, 177-8
 travel within Malta & Gozo 26-7, 178-82
 Triton Fountain 60, **2**
 TV 174

U
 Upper Barrakka Gardens 56-7, **64**

V
 Valletta 8, 50-75, **54-5, 5, 8, 64-5**
 attractions 52-60
 courses 60
 drinking & nightlife 50, 63-7
 entertainment 67
 food 50, 60, 62-3
 highlights 51, **51**
 information 67-8
 itineraries 53
 shopping 67
 tours 60
 travel seasons 50
 travel to/from 68
 travel within 68-9
 walking tours 59, 61, **59, 61**
 Valletta Film Festival 19
 Vedette 75, **65**
 vegetarians 42
 Victoria Lines 102
 Victoria (Rabat) 130-5, **131, 94**
 viewpoints 17
 Villa Bologna 115-16
 Villa Dragonara 81
 Villa Rundle Gardens 134
 visas 14, 176
 Vittoriosa 13, 70-5, **72-3, 74, 13**

W
 walking 36-7
 walking tours

St John's Co-Cathedral 10, 52, 59, **59, 10**
 Valletta 61, **61**
 Vittoriosa 74, **74**
 watchtowers 136-7, 156
 water polo 166
 water sports 18, 88, 138
 weights 174
 Wied il-Ghasri 144, **32**
 Wignacourt Museum 110
 Wignacourt Tower 97, 99
 windsurfing 36
 wine 41-2
 wineries
 Maria Rosa Winery 116
 Ta' Mena 144
 women in Malta 164
 WWII 160

X
 Xaghra 143-5, **145**
 Xemxija 92, 96
 Xemxija Heritage Trail 96
 Xerri's Grotto 143-4
 Xewkija 137
 Xghajra Smart City 70
 Xlendi 138-9
 Xlendi Walk 35
 Xwieni Bay 141

Y
 yachting 178

Z
 Żebbuġ 141
 Żurrieq 123-4



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, Dublin, 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 WRITERS



Brett Atkinson

Brett is based in Auckland, New Zealand, but is frequently on the road for Lonely Planet. He's a full-time travel and food writer specialising in adventure travel, unusual destinations and surprising angles on more well-known destinations. Craft beer and street food are Brett's favourite reasons to explore places, and he is featured regularly on Lonely Planet's website and in newspapers, magazines and websites across New Zealand and Australia. Since becoming a Lonely Planet

writer in 2005, Brett has covered areas as diverse as Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Morocco, California and the South Pacific.

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