

Malta

The enigma of prehistory

Key sites and museums

In Malta

The Museum of Archaeology



Housed within the Auberge de Provence, this museum brings together a number of beautiful and rare collections of objects recovered from Neolithic, prehistoric, Punic and Roman sites.

Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum

This cave is a veritable depository of semi-fossilised remains of a number of animals, such as dwarf elephants and hippopotami. This proves that Malta was attached to Sicily and the European continent. This cave provided shelter to the Island's first inhabitants, when they landed here in 5000 BC.

Hagar Qim Temples



This is one of the most spectacular megalithic temples in Malta, thanks to its position overlooking the open sea. The massive walls are particularly impressive. The temples date back to circa 3200 BC.

Mnajdra Temples

Mnajdra is only 500 metres away from Hagar Qim and like its twin temple occupies a site of exceptional beauty. Its circular spaces, chambers, pediments and passage-ways of pitted stone prove that the builders of these stone marvels left nothing to chance when they planned and built them in circa 3200 BC.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum

This fascinating underground monument, hewn out of rock in circa 2400 BC, is considered to be an invaluable site within the framework of world archaeology. The numerous remains excavated there show that it was used for

burial and worship, because several altars and libation holes were found there. The famous "Sleeping Lady", now exhibited at the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta, was found at the Hypogeum.

Tarxien Temples



This four-temple complex is the most intricately decorated of all the temples in Malta. It was built between circa 2700 and 2000 BC. Several decorate objects, statuettes, pottery items and bas reliefs were discovered there. The most striking are the superb spiral motifs.

St. Paul's Catacombs

These catacombs are typical of the underground Christian cemeteries common in the 4th and 5th century AD. A striking feature is the presence of round stone tables ("agape" tables), round which parents and friends ate a farewell meal in honour of the one who had just died.

Museum of Roman History and Antiquities – The Roman Villa

This museum is housed within an old Roman villa and contains many valuable remains, like lamps and glass and gold objects. Definitely worth seeing are the beautifully preserved mosaics.





GOZO

XAGHRA

VICTORIA (RABAT)

COMINO

MGARR



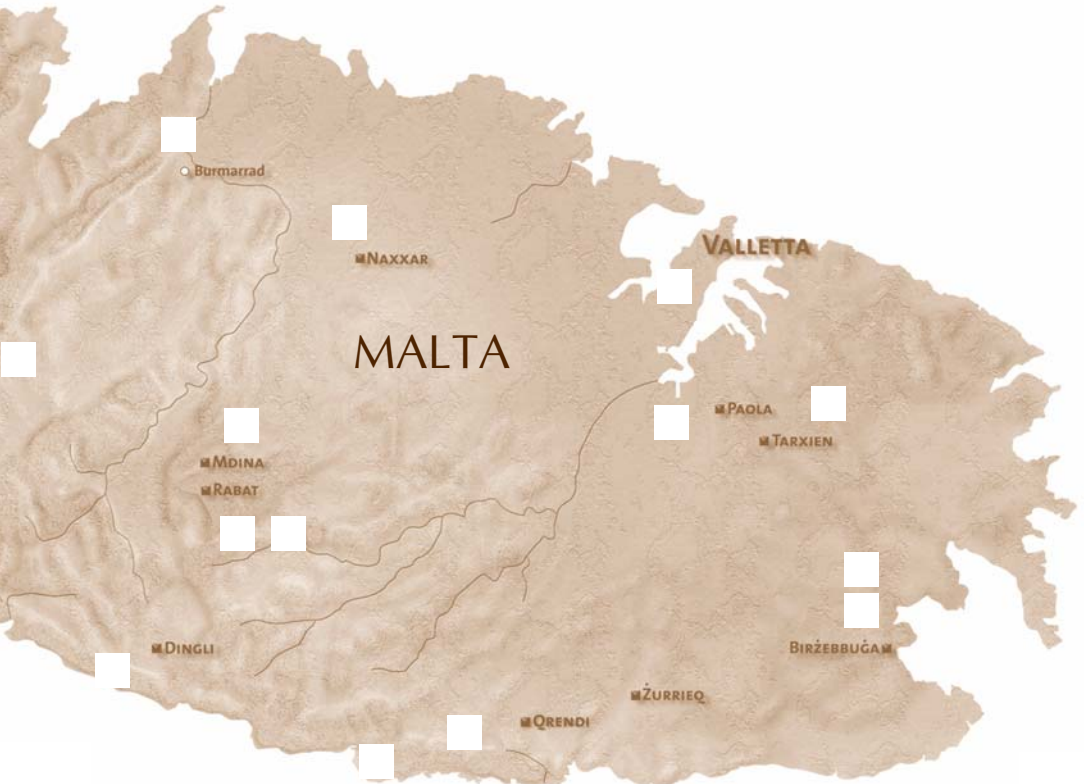
In Malta

- 1 National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta
- 2 Tarxien Temples (2700 – 2000 BC) – Tarxien
- 3 Hal Safflieni Hypogeum (circa 3000 BC), Paola
- 4 Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum (circa 5000 BC)
- 5 Borg in-Nadur Temple
- 6 Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples (3200 BC)
- 7 St. Paul's Catacombs, Rabat

- 8 St. Agatha's Catacombs, Rabat
- 9 Museum of Roman History and Antiquities – The Roman Villa
- 10 Clapham Junction (cart ruts)
- 11 Cart ruts at San Pawl tat-Targa
- 12 Roman remains and church at San Pawl Milqi
- 13 Roman Baths
- 14 Ta' Hagrat Temples

In Gozo

- A Museum of Archaeology - Victoria
- B Ggantija Temples, Xaghra
- C Brocktorff Circle





Mediterranean Sea

OPENING HOURS

14

In Malta

National Museum of Archaeology: Valletta

Tarxien Temples: Tarxien

Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum

Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples

St. Paul's Catacombs: Rabat

Museum of Roman History and Antiquities – Roman Villa

Open every day (except Public Holidays):
Monday to Saturday: 8.15 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Summer opening hours (16/06 to 30/09):
Monday to Sunday: 7.45 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

In Gozo

Museum of Archaeology: The Citadel - Victoria

Ggantija Temples: Xaghra

Open from Monday to Saturday:
8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (01/10 to 31/3)
8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. (01/04 to 15/06 and 16/09 to 30/09)
8.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. (16/06 to 15/09)
Sundays: 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

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In Gozo

The Museum of Archaeology

This museum is housed in Casa Bondi', a 17th century house inside the Citadel in Victoria. It contains the oldest remains found in Gozo (4000 BC), as well as Punico-Greek vases, Roman amphorae and Arab funerary tablets.

Ggantija



A group of two very important temples erected side by side on the Xaghra plateau circa 3600 BC. This makes them older than the pyramids of Egypt (2800 BC) and Stonehenge in England (2400 BC). The stone slabs weigh

several tons and the outside walls are up to six metres high. According to local legend, a giant called Sansuna carried them on her head all the way from Ta' Cenc, a fair distance away. Other sites worth visiting are the menhir at Qala and the ones at Tal-Qighan and Ta' Marziena. At Ta' Cenc, you can observe and wonder about the long deep troughs in the rock, known as cart ruts. In spite of several theories, their origin remains an enigma.

The Brocktorff Circle

This is an ensemble of natural caves clearly modified by man. They were discovered and explored by Brocktorff in 1785. Excavations have unearthed a number of funerary remains (4200 – 2500 BC), as well as several interesting objects, the most important of which are a number of stylised figurines.

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