

MALTA

THE SUN, THE SEA
AND 7000 YEARS OF HISTORY

MALTA
GOZO
COMINO



SUNNY MEDITERRANEAN TREASURES

In the middle of the Mediterranean, an archipelago awaits you
with unbelievable treasures. You'll set out on a journey through time
that starts on Islands living passionately in the present.

Here, history comes vividly to life like nowhere else,
and blends with a Mediterranean joy of living
that guarantees holiday pleasures of every kind.





Malta's harbours: a regular port-of-call for cruise-liners



Getting away from it all is easy

MALTA

cultures. First were the temple-building people who sailed from Sicily in around 5000 BC, then came the Phoenicians followed by the Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, the Order of the Knights of St John, the French and British.



St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta

In contrast, the 250-year rule of the Knights of St John is well documented in archives, architecture and the folklore of the Islands. It was from Malta that the Order defended Christianity from the Ottoman Empire, defeating their long-standing enemy at one of Europe's famed battles, the Great Siege of 1565.



Malta boasts a variety of traditional Maltese cuisine

In Malta, we realise that most people like variety. And that's the real advantage of a holiday on Malta. Wherever you stay on the Islands, you'll be able to plan a holiday that's as action packed or as relaxed as you make it. You'll never be far from the Islands' rich archaeological and cultural treasures, a beach, café life or shopping. Malta is holidaying à la carte – you decide as the mood takes you.

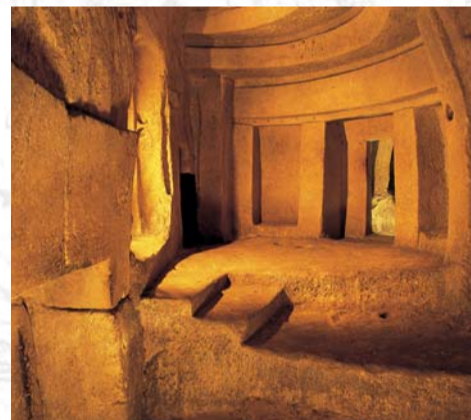
you'll rarely exhaust the day-to-day possibilities. If you're interested in sports, from rock-climbing to diving, the Islands cater as much for the seasoned enthusiast as the casual first-timer.

But whatever your preference, Malta's historic sites and spectacular coastline provide a memorable backdrop to your stay.



Even on the shortest of stays you'll be able to enjoy a taste of everything the Islands offer. And if you've more time,

And whenever you choose to visit, you'll be guaranteed relaxation, sun, some of the clearest waters in the Mediterranean and a very warm welcome.



The unique prehistoric Hypogeum

What makes Malta unique is that so much of this rich past is clearly visible today. The Islands have an astonishing number of World Heritage Sites for their size: the numerous prehistoric temples, the Hypogeum: a labyrinthine, prehistoric underground chamber probably used for burial and ritual, and Valletta, the Baroque capital founded by the Knights of St John.

Other important sites include Malta's medieval capital Mдина, the fortified Citadel in Gozo, and the extensive fortifications surrounding Valletta.

The Islands' temples are the world's oldest standing monuments, but the reason for their existence, how they were built and the rituals and lives of their builders remain shrouded in mystery.

Malta's former capital city Mдина sits enthroned and well-fortified atop a rocky plateau in the centre of the island. Horse-drawn carriages roll over ancient cobblestone streets, the utter stillness of the „Silent City“ broken only by the sound of church bells. The Cathedral is a treasure chest of religious art, with works by Albrecht Dürer on display in the Cathedral Museum



Pageantry, an important feature of the Maltese cultural calendar

Valletta, renowned as a „city built by gentlemen for gentlemen“, is a masterpiece of the Baroque and a cornucopia of Europe's finest art and architecture. The co-cathedral of St John's houses Caravaggio's „Beheading of St John“, just one among many art treasures. This city of the Knights remains virtually intact: wandering among the narrow streets and squares you'll chance upon the Grand Master's Palace, the Order's magnificent hospital, their auberges, fountains and fortifications, all built on a peninsula in one of the world's largest and deepest natural harbours.



MALTA
GOZO
COMINO



One of the first things to strike you though will be the Islands' cultural and historical riches. The Maltese Islands have been described as one big open-air museum. Every town, village and stretch of countryside offers a glimpse of the past.

Situated at the heart of the Mediterranean, the Islands have been a crossroads for ancient and modern seafarers for millennia, which means a vast number of cultures have left their mark. The Islands have provided a home, stronghold, trading post and refuge over 7000 years to numerous

The maritime city of Vittoriosa was the Knights of St. John's first home. It was also the scene of fierce fighting during the Great Siege of 1565. Vittoriosa nowadays houses Malta's Maritime Museum



MALTA



Malta has a varied culinary tradition

In Malta, Mother Nature is the greatest of all architects. On the west coast of the island of Gozo, the surf has shaped a powerful gate in the rocks, known affectionately among the Maltese as the „Azure Window.“ Boat trips embark from the Inland Sea at Dwejra and sail through a rock tunnel out into the open sea



GOZO



In Malta, everything is within easy reach. A cultural programme in the morning, an afternoon swim in the sea, an evening shopping spree – no problem



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In some villages, time seems to have stood still. But you don't need to remain a mere observer. You can make yourself at home among the Maltese villagers, especially on Gozo, where you can stay in a restored farmhouse, some of which even have their own private pool



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Colourful fishing boats dominate Malta's harbours and coves. Their catches make it to market every morning – and fresh fish can be enjoyed at nearly all restaurants. The favourite fish of the Maltese is the „Lampuki,“ and whether fried, baked, grilled or steamed, it tastes delicious



The Maltese Islands at a glance



MALTA
GOZO
COMINO



Malta's sister islands of Gozo and Comino open up your stay into a holiday within a holiday – a tempo and scene change from Malta itself. Gozo, a short half-hour by ferry, is steeped in myth and mysteries of its own. Thought to be the legendary home of the nymph Calypso, it is a tranquil haven of ancient villages, sleepy byways and stunning sea- and landscape. Gozo is the ultimate getaway, though not without its own cultural life and array of sports to help you make the most of the island hop.



The Isle of Comino, midway between Gozo and Malta, is a paradise for snorkellers, yachtsmen, divers, windsurfers and trekkers. Bathing in the Isle's Blue Lagoon, with its turquoise waters, makes an idyllic day out.

The Maltese Islands though are more than an outdoor museum. The archipelago exudes a palpable sense of fun. Its people explore today's arts, culture and sports as passionately as the Islands' history. The attraction of Malta lies in a blend of old and new and in the way the past works alongside the present.

Across the Islands, you'll find a full calendar of events, including village festas, regattas, historical pageants, theatre, art exhibitions, concerts and conferences. While the popular resorts of Sliema, St Julians, Paceville and Bugibba offer pavement cafes, restaurants and clubs bustling with night-life to help you while away time well into the early hours, all year round.

When it comes to dining out, Malta's restaurants reflect the best of local cuisine – seafood, fish and sun-ripened fruit and vegetables – with continental European and international fare. But few things surpass freshly-baked Maltese bread bought straight from a village bakery. Perhaps this epitomises a stay on the Maltese Islands – you can enjoy life at its simplest one day and at its most cosmopolitan the next.

Unlike the mariners of old, you'll find getting here fast and easy. Most major European cities are just a few hours away by air and excellent connections are available all year round. Experiencing Malta is always within your reach!



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