



PLACES OF INTEREST IN MALTA

- **Valletta**

Valletta (aka *Città Umillissima* or Il-Belt Valletta) is the capital city of Malta, which is located in the harbour region of the main island. It sits on a peninsula between Marsamxett Harbour to the west and the Grand Harbour to the east. Valletta is the southernmost capital of Europe and at just 0.61 square kilometres; it is the European Union's smallest capital city. It was founded on 28th March 1966, and was named after Jean Parisot de la Valette, who succeeded in defending the island from an Ottoman invasion during the 1565 Great Siege of Malta. The city is Baroque in character, with elements of Mannerist, Neo-Classical and Modern



architecture and it has fortifications on its periphery, consisting of bastions, curtains and cavaliers. It was severely impacted though the Second World War, causing a lot of buildings (such as the Royal Opera House) to be destroyed. The city was officially recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1980. Today, Valletta is one of the densest monuments areas in the world since it consists of approximately 320 monuments and in fact, it is occasionally referred to as an "open-air museum". In 2018, Valletta was chosen to be the European Capital of Culture.

- **Mdina**

Mdina (aka *Città Vecchia*, *Città Notabile* or the Silent City) is a fortified city in the Northern Region of the main island of Malta that served as the island's capital from antiquity to the medieval period. The city is still confined within its walls and has a population of just under 300. The city was founded as *Maleth* at around the 8th century BC by Phoenician settlers. It was later renamed *Melite* by the Romans. Ancient *Melite* was larger than present-day Mdina, and it was reduced to its present size during the Byzantine or Arab occupation of Malta. During the latter period, the city adopted its present name, which derives from the Arabic word Medina. The city remained the capital of Malta throughout the Middle Ages, until the arrival of the Order of St John in 1530, when Birgu became the administrative centre of the island. Mdina experienced a period of decline over the following centuries, although it saw a revival in the early 18th century. At this point, it acquired several Baroque features, although it did not lose its medieval character. Mdina is one of the main tourist attractions of Malta.



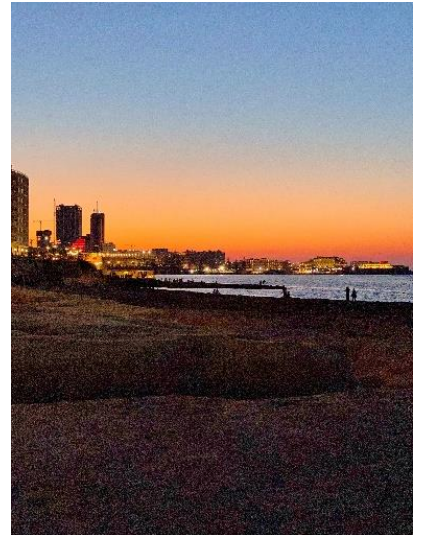
- **The Three Cities**

The Three Cities is a collective description of the three fortified cities of Birgu (Vittoriosa or *Città Vittoriosa*), Isla (Senglea or *Città Invicta*) and Bormla (Cospicua or *Città Cospicua*) in Malta. The oldest of the Three Cities is Birgu, which has existed since prior to the Middle Ages. The other two cities, Isla and Bormla, were both founded by the Order of St John in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Three Cities are enclosed by the Cottonera Lines, along with several other fortifications. The term Cottonera is also synonymous with The Three Cities, although it is sometimes taken to also include the nearby town of Kalkara.



- **Sliema**

Sliema is a town located on the northeast coast of Malta in the Northern Harbour District. It is a major residential and commercial area and a centre for shopping, bars and dining. Lining the coastline is a promenade known as the Sliema Front that has become the ideal spot for joggers and walkers, as well as a prolific meeting place for locals, especially during the summer season. Sliema is also known for its numerous rocky beaches, water sports and hotels. Sliema, which means 'peace, comfort', was once a quiet fishing village on the peninsula across Marsamxett Harbour from Valletta and has views of the capital city. The population began to grow in 1853 and the town was declared a parish in 1878. Now Sliema and the coastline up to neighbouring St Julian's constitutes Malta's main coastal resort.



- **St Julian's**

St Julian's (in Maltese: San Ġiljan) is a town in the central region of Malta. It is situated along the northeast coast next to Sliema. It got its name from its patron saint. St Julian's is known for tourism-oriented businesses, such as hotels, restaurants and nightclubs that are centred mainly in the areas known as Paceville and Spinola Bay.

- **Gozo**

Gozo (in Maltese: Għawdex) is Malta's sister island. As of 2021, the island has a population of around 31,000. The island is much more rural in character and less developed than the island of Malta. It is known for its scenic hills, which are featured on its coat of arms. To reach Gozo, one can catch a 25-minute ferry trip from Ċirkewwa, situated in the North of Malta, or a 45-minute ferry from Valletta.



- **Comino**

Comino (in Maltese: Kemmuna) is a small island situated between the islands of Malta and Gozo, measuring 3.5 square kilometres (1.4 sq mi) in area. It is named after the cummin seed that once flourished in the Maltese islands. Comino is rural and mostly uninhabited. However, several nationals and foreigners visit it throughout the year. Administratively, it is part of the local council of Ġhajnsielem, in south-eastern Gozo. To reach Comino, one can catch a short boat ride either Gozo or from Ċirkewwa in Malta. The seas around Comino are wonderful, with the famed Blue Lagoon and the Crystal Lagoon being the top attractions.



- **Megalithic Temples**

The Maltese Islands are known for various Temples and Archaeological Sites from various eras, including unique Megalithic Temples. Some of these prehistoric monumental buildings were constructed during the 4th and 3rd millennium BC, ranking amongst the earliest free-standing stone buildings in the world. They are remarkable noting their diversity of form and decoration, a depiction of exceptional prehistoric culture. Malta is also home to the one of a kind Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum, constituting an underground maze of chambers.



For more information:

- <https://www.mta.com.mt/en/home>
- <https://www.visitmalta.com/en/>
- <https://heritagemalta.mt/>

MALTESE WORDS & PHRASES

Maltese Word/Phrase	Phonetic Pronunciation	English Meaning
Bongu	<i>Bon-ju</i>	Good morning
Ħello	<i>Hello</i>	Hello
Merħba	<i>Mer-heba</i>	Welcome
Iva	<i>Ee-va</i>	Yes
Le	<i>Le</i>	No
Kif int?	<i>Kiff int</i>	How are you?
Jien tajjeb grazzi (M)	<i>Yee-in tai-yeb, grats-ee</i>	I'm fine, thank you
Jiena tajba grazzi (F)	<i>Yee-ina tai-ba, grats-ee</i>	I'm fine, thank you.
X'jismek?	<i>Shee-yis-mek</i>	What is your name?
Jisimni...	<i>Yis-im-nee</i>	My name is...
Għandi pjaċir	<i>Aan-dee pya-cheer</i>	Nice to meet you
Jekk jogħġbok	<i>Yek yoh-jbok</i>	Please
Grazzi ħafna	<i>Grats-ee hawf-na</i>	Thank you very much

Skużani	<i>Sku-za-nee</i>	Excuse me / I am sorry
M'hemmx minn xiex	<i>Memsh min shish</i>	You're welcome
Mhux problema	<i>Mush prob-lay-muh</i>	No problem
Ma nifhimx	<i>Maa ni-fimsh</i>	I don't understand
Titkellem bl-Ingliż?	<i>Tit-kell-em blin-gleez?</i>	Do you speak English?
Ċaw	<i>Chaw</i>	Goodbye (informal)
Saħħa!	<i>Sah-ha</i>	Cheers!