



EAQUALS– Malta
Handbook



General Information

Climate

Malta's climate is typically Mediterranean and thus strongly effected by the sea. The Maltese Islands have a pleasantly sunny which avereges around 6 hours of sunshine in mid-winter.

Driving

In Malta and Gozo, driving is on the left. Keep this in mind when crossing the roads. The speed limits are set at 80 km/h on the open road and 50 km/h in residential areas, unless otherwise specified on road signs.

Electricity

The electrical supply is 230 volts +/- 10%, with a frequency of 50 hertz. In Malta the three-pin rectangular plug system is used (the same as in Britain). Adapters may be needed in accordance with the respective country of origin.

Language

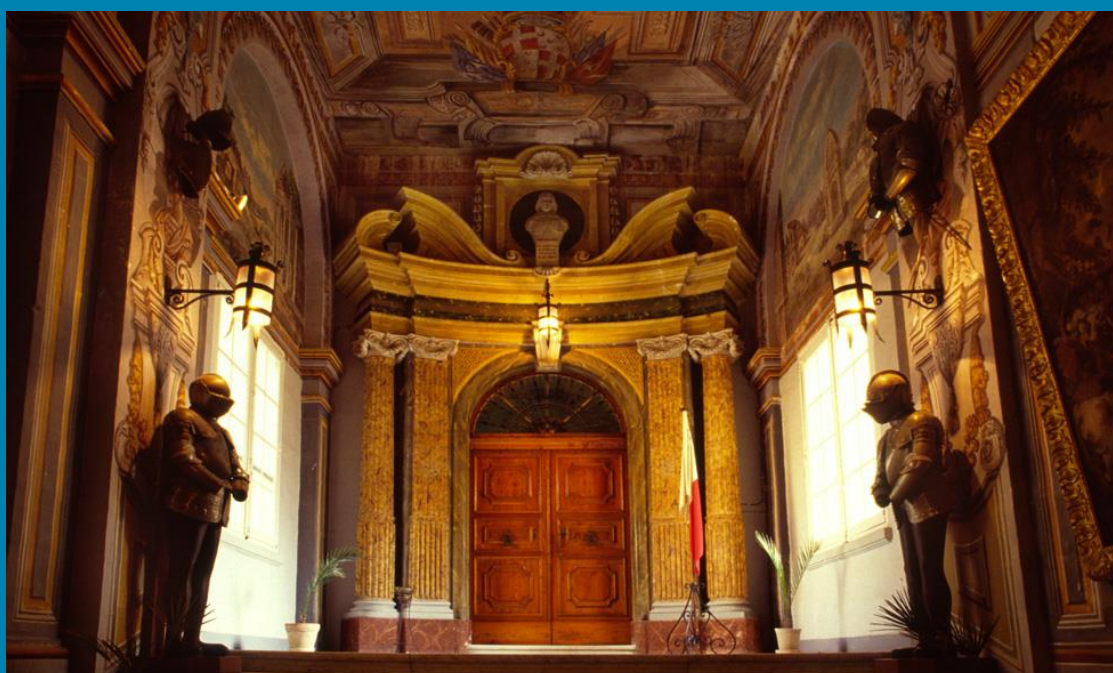
The official languages of Malta are Maltese and English. Maltese, a language of Semitic origin written in the Latin script. Italian is also widely spoken.

Historical overview of the Maltese Islands

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The history of Malta is a long and colourful one dating back to the dawn of civilisation. The Maltese Islands went through a golden Neolithic period, the remains of which are the mysterious temples dedicated to the goddess of fertility. Later on, the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans and the Byzantines, all left their traces on the Islands.

In 60 A.D. St. Paul was shipwrecked on the island while on his way to Rome and brought Christianity to Malta. The Arabs conquered the islands in 870 A.D. and left an important mark on the language of the Maltese. Until 1530 Malta was an extension of Sicily: The Normans, the Aragonese and other conquerors who ruled over Sicily also governed the Maltese Islands. It was Charles V who bequeathed Malta to the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem who ruled over Malta from 1530 to 1798. The Knights took Malta through a new golden age, making it a key player in the cultural scene of 17th and 18th century Europe. The artistic and cultural lives of the Maltese Islands were injected with the presence of artists such as Caravaggio, Mattia Preti and Favray who were commissioned by the Knights to embellish churches, palaces and auberges.



In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte took over Malta from the Knights on his way to Egypt. The French presence on the islands was short lived, as the English, who were requested by the Maltese to help them against the French, blockaded the islands in 1800.

British rule in Malta lasted until 1964 when Malta became independent. The Maltese adapted the British system of administration, education and legislation.

Modern Malta became a Republic in 1974 and joined the European Union in May 2004.¹

¹ www.visitmalta.com

Things to do while in Malta

“ Malta is the largest island and the cultural, commercial and administrative centre.

In Malta you'll explore 7000 years of history yet live passionately in the present. Here you can span the millennia with an astonishing array of things to discover. And wherever you go, the scenery and architecture provide a spectacular backdrop. The colours are striking, honey-coloured stone against the deepest of Mediterranean blues.



Malta has been described as one big open-air museum. What makes it unique is that so much of the past is visible today. Delve into the island's mysterious prehistory, retrace the footsteps of St. Paul or see where the Knights of St. John fought their most famous battles.



In just 48 hours and a kilometre or two, you can try a new sport, laze on an island cruise and tour the most important historic sites, and still have time to join in the nightlife. That's the real advantage of a stay here.



For a tempo and scene change from Malta itself, hop to the sister islands of Gozo and Comino. Here, you'll holiday within a holiday and at the most relaxed of Mediterranean paces.²

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² www.visitmalta.com

Finding your way around

The options for getting around are numerous and varied. Public transport is inexpensive. Renting a car or a motorcycle provides the freedom to explore the territory at your own pace. Hiring a bicycle or mountain bike is the ecological alternative, and at the same time provides some physical exercise whilst touring the island. Then there are taxis, coaches and minivans, horse-drawn carriages, ferries, pleasure



If you want to do your own thing, the Malta Tourism Authority has an online 'Travel Planner' can be a good place to start. Try it out by logging in to www.visitmalta.com

Important contact numbers & links

Taxi Service

<https://www.maltairport.com/passenger/getting-here/taxi-service/>

Bus Service

<https://www.maltairport.com/passenger/getting-here/bus-service/>

Car Rentals

<https://www.maltairport.com/passenger/getting-here/renting-a-car/>

Country code +356

Ambulance: 112

Police: 112

Emergency at sea: 21824220

Fire Brigade: 112

Heritage Malta: 22954000

Malta International Airport: 21249600

Contact Person at the Elt Council, Ministry for Education and Employment

Sue Falzon: 99443812