

Valletta Travel Guide

Discover Valletta: Europe's Smallest Capital City

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Things to do in Valletta

Landmarks & Monuments

Valletta's magnificent **fortifications and landmarks** tell the story of the Knights of St. John and Malta's strategic importance in Mediterranean history. The entire city is a living monument to **16th-century military architecture** and urban planning.



Must See

Fort St. Elmo & National War Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This **star-shaped fortress** at the tip of the Valletta peninsula has guarded the harbors since 1552. Fort St. Elmo played a crucial role in the Great Siege of 1565 when the Knights defended Malta against the Ottoman Empire. Today it houses the **National War Museum**, chronicling over 7,000 years of Maltese military history from the Bronze Age to EU membership. Interactive exhibitions, WWII bunkers, gun emplacements, and two beautiful chapels make this a fascinating visit. The views across the Grand Harbour are spectacular.



Must See

Upper Barrakka Gardens

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

These **stunning public gardens** perch on the bastions above Grand Harbour, offering Malta's most breathtaking views across the water to the Three Cities. Originally the private gardens of the Italian Knights, the terraced space features arches, columns, statues, and perfectly manicured greenery. Witness the daily **noon gun salute** at the Saluting Battery below (12:00 & 16:00 daily) - a dramatic cannon-firing ceremony dating back centuries. The free panoramic lift connects the gardens to the Valletta Waterfront below.



Top Pick

City Gate & Triton Fountain

15-30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Valletta's **dramatic entrance** features the striking modern City Gate designed by Renzo Piano, flanked by the monumental Triton Fountain (1959). This impressive baroque fountain depicts three bronze Tritons holding up a massive basin, creating a memorable first impression. The contrast between the ultra-modern bridge-like gate and the classical fountain symbolizes Malta's blend of old and new. Perfect photo opportunity and the starting point for exploring Republic Street.





Top Pick

Saluting Battery

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Experience Malta's living military tradition at this **historic gun battery** where cannons fire daily at noon and 4pm. The ceremony dates back to when guns signaled the time to ships in the harbor. Costumed gunners in period military uniforms perform the dramatic firing ritual. Visitors can explore the battery's tunnels, exhibitions on Malta's military history, and enjoy unrivaled Grand Harbour views from the bastion walls beneath Upper Barrakka Gardens.



Notable

Lower Barrakka Gardens

20-30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A more **tranquil alternative** to the Upper Gardens, these neoclassical gardens feature the Temple of Remembrance monument honoring Malta's WWII fallen. The gardens offer beautiful harbor views from a different perspective, with elegant columns and peaceful atmosphere. The Saluting Battery used by the Maltese Armed Forces is located here. Less crowded than Upper Barrakka, perfect for quiet reflection and photography.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- **Noon Gun:** Arrive at Upper Barrakka by 11:55am for the spectacular cannon firing ceremony
- **Best Photos:** Upper Barrakka offers stunning sunrise and sunset views over Grand Harbour
- **Free Lift:** Take the panoramic elevator from Upper Barrakka to the Waterfront (€1 down, free up)
- **Timing:** Visit Fort St. Elmo early (9am) to avoid cruise ship crowds
- **Combined Tickets:** Consider Heritage Malta multi-site passes for savings



Museums & Galleries

Valletta's compact size belies its **extraordinary cultural wealth**. The city boasts world-class art collections including original Caravaggios, comprehensive archaeological displays, and fascinating insights into Malta's unique history.



Must See Book Ahead

St. John's Co-Cathedral

2-3 hours Book Ahead



Map

Malta's **most important cultural treasure** and one of Europe's finest examples of high Baroque architecture. Behind the plain limestone facade lies an absolutely breathtaking interior - every surface encrusted with gold leaf, intricate carvings, and stunning frescoes by Mattia Preti. The floor is entirely covered with ornate **marble tombstones of 400+ Knights**. The highlight is the Oratory housing Caravaggio's masterpiece "*The Beheading of St. John the Baptist*" (1608) - his largest work and only signed painting. Also see "*St. Jerome Writing*" in the new Caravaggio Wing. Eight chapels represent the different langue (nationalities) of Knights. Audio guide highly recommended.



Must See

Casa Rocca Piccola

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **magnificent living 16th-century palace** still occupied by the de Piro family, Maltese nobility who've owned it for centuries. This intimate house museum offers a rare glimpse into aristocratic Maltese life with opulent furniture, family portraits, silverware, and bold, colorful interiors far more exciting than typical stately homes. Tour the elegant rooms, pretty courtyard garden, and fascinating **WWII bomb shelter** beneath the house where the family sheltered during air raids. Guided tours or self-guided visits available.



Top Pick

National Museum of Archaeology

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Housed in the beautiful **Auberge de Provence** (1571), this museum showcases Malta's incredible prehistoric heritage dating back 5,700 years. See artifacts from the world's oldest free-standing stone temples - **older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids**. The collection includes the famous "Sleeping Lady" statuette, temple pottery, tools, and jewelry providing insights into Malta's Neolithic civilization. Well-presented exhibits explain the UNESCO-listed Megalithic Temples found across the islands.



Top Pick

Grandmaster's Palace & Armoury

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The former **seat of power for the Knights of St. John** and now home to Malta's President and Parliament. The State Rooms showcase magnificent tapestries, portraits of Grand Masters, ornate ceilings, and the splendid Throne Room. The **Palace Armoury** displays one of world's finest collections of medieval and Renaissance armor and weapons - over 5,000 pieces including suits of armor, swords, cannons, and firearms used by the Knights. Some of the most beautifully crafted armor in Europe.





Top Pick

Lascaris War Rooms

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Step into **WWII history** at this underground complex of tunnels and rooms that served as the secret headquarters for Allied forces defending Malta during the war. From these rooms deep beneath the Upper Barrakka Gardens, **Operation Husky** (the invasion of Sicily) was planned and coordinated. See the operations rooms, communication centers, and war maps exactly as they were left. Malta was one of the most heavily bombed places in WWII, and these rooms tell that dramatic story.



Notable

National Museum of Fine Arts (MUŻA)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Malta's premier **art gallery** housed in a stunning Baroque building. The collection spans medieval to modern art with works by Maltese and international artists. Highlights include Italian Renaissance paintings, works by Mattia Preti, Caravaggio's followers, and 20th-century Maltese art. The museum underwent major renovation and reopened as MUŻA (Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti) with contemporary exhibition design. Beautiful architecture and well-curated collections make this a cultural highlight.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- **Book St. John's Early:** Co-Cathedral tickets sell out - book online weeks in advance for summer visits
- **Audio Guides:** Essential for St. John's Co-Cathedral - incredibly detailed and worth every minute
- **Photography:** Most museums allow photos (no flash) but St. John's Cathedral prohibits all photography
- **Heritage Malta Pass:** Multi-site pass offers great value if visiting 3+ museums
- **Opening Hours:** Most museums close on certain holidays - verify before visiting
- **Dress Code:** St. John's requires covered shoulders and knees - no shorts or sleeveless tops



Religious Sites

As the city built by the **Knights of St. John**, Valletta boasts magnificent churches and religious architecture. Beyond the famous Co-Cathedral, numerous historic churches dot the compact city.



Notable

Church of St. Paul's Shipwreck

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Built in 1580, this church commemorates **St. Paul's shipwreck** on Malta in 60 AD, a pivotal event in Maltese Christian history. The ornate Baroque interior houses relics including a piece of the column where St. Paul was beheaded in Rome, and a bone from his wrist. Beautiful painted ceiling, gilded decorations, and the silver statue of St. Paul carried in annual processions. One of Valletta's oldest and most important parish churches.



Optional

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

An elegant **neo-classical cathedral** built in the 1840s for Malta's British garrison and Anglican community. Designed by William Scamp in Greek Revival style with a distinctive spire visible across Valletta. The interior features beautiful stained glass, memorials to British servicemen, and a peaceful atmosphere. Represents Malta's British colonial period and offers architectural contrast to the Baroque Catholic churches. Regular services still held in English.



Optional

Our Lady of Victories Church

20-30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Valletta's **very first building**, constructed in 1566 immediately after the foundation stone was laid for the new city. Built to commemorate the Great Siege victory of 1565, making it symbolically and historically significant. Simple exterior but beautiful Baroque interior. The church marks the birthplace of Valletta and remains a working parish church. Often overlooked by tourists but deeply meaningful to locals.

Tips for Religious Sites

- **Modest Dress:** Cover shoulders and knees when visiting all churches
- **Mass Times:** Avoid visiting during services unless you wish to participate
- **Free Entry:** All churches are free to enter (except St. John's Co-Cathedral which is technically a museum)
- **Quiet Respect:** Maintain silence and turn off phone ringers inside



Neighborhoods & Districts

Valletta's **grid-pattern streets** slope down from Republic Street toward the harbors on either side. Every narrow alley reveals honey-colored limestone buildings with traditional **enclosed wooden balconies** (gallarija), creating one of Europe's most photogenic cityscapes.



Must See

Republic Street (Triq ir-Repubblika)

30-60 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Valletta's **main thoroughfare** runs straight through the city from City Gate to Fort St. Elmo. This bustling pedestrian street lined with classic honey-yellow buildings houses shops, restaurants, cafés, and major attractions including St. John's Co-Cathedral and the Grandmaster's Palace. The street perfectly showcases Valletta's uniform Baroque architecture. Best photographed early morning to avoid crowds. Everything in Valletta is accessible from this central spine.



Top Pick

Strait Street (Strada Stretta)

1-2 hours (evening) No Booking Needed



Map

Once known as "*The Gut*," this narrow alleyway was Valletta's **notorious red-light district** in the 19th-20th centuries, where British servicemen sought entertainment. Today it's been beautifully restored as Valletta's hippest nightlife area with wine bars, restaurants, and live music venues. Vintage signage, Victorian-era buildings, and traditional townhouses create atmospheric charm. Perfect for evening exploration with venues like Rocks Wine Bar and Yard 32 offering great ambiance.



Notable

Merchants Street (Triq il-Merkanti)

20-30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A charming parallel street to Republic Street, slightly quieter but equally beautiful with **colorful traditional balconies** and local shops. This street offers a more authentic feel with bakeries, small boutiques, and everyday Maltese businesses. Perfect for photographing the iconic gallarija (enclosed wooden balconies) that characterize Maltese architecture. Less touristy than Republic Street while maintaining all the architectural beauty.



Notable

St. George's Square (Misraħ San Ġorġ)

15-30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

The **political heart of Valletta**, this elegant square fronts the Grandmaster's Palace (now the President's office) and hosts the Main Guard building. Palm trees, outdoor cafés, and the imposing palace facade create a quintessentially Mediterranean atmosphere. Street performers and events often take place here. The square serves as a popular meeting point and perfect spot for people-watching while sipping Maltese coffee.





Notable

Victoria Gate & Victoria Street

20 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

One of Valletta's original city gates, Victoria Gate offers **stunning views** down winding streets to the sea, with colorful flags, traditional balconies, and red geraniums in window boxes. The British red telephone box at Victoria Gate adds a touch of colonial charm. Bridge Bar nearby offers drinks with harbor views. This photogenic spot perfectly captures Valletta's character with all roads leading picturesquely to the Mediterranean.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- **Early Morning:** Republic Street is magical 7-9am before crowds arrive - perfect for photos
- **Wear Comfortable Shoes:** Cobblestones and steep slopes - avoid high heels!
- **Get Lost:** Wander side streets for authentic discoveries and fewer tourists
- **Evening Atmosphere:** Strait Street comes alive after 6pm with buzzing bars and restaurants
- **Balcony Photography:** Merchants Street and side alleys offer the best traditional balcony shots



Parks & Gardens

While Valletta is a dense stone city, it offers several **beautiful garden spaces** perfect for rest, harbor views, and escape from the Mediterranean sun.



Notable

Hastings Gardens

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A **romantic terraced garden** on the bastions offering stunning sunset views over Marsamxett Harbour and the Sliema yacht marina. Less crowded than the Barrakka Gardens, Hastings is popular with couples and features palm trees, pathways, and benches perfect for quiet contemplation. The lower section provides golden hour photo opportunities overlooking the marina. A favorite spot for proposals and romantic moments.



Optional

Argotti Botanical Gardens

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Malta's **oldest botanical garden** (1805) tucked away in Floriana just outside Valletta's walls. This peaceful oasis features Mediterranean and exotic plants, mature trees, and quiet pathways away from tourist crowds. The garden's elevation provides pleasant breezes and shaded spots. Perfect for botany enthusiasts and those seeking tranquil green space. Often overlooked, making it a hidden gem for peaceful relaxation.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- **Sunset Spot:** Hastings Gardens offers the best sunset views in Valletta
- **Water & Sun Protection:** Limited shade in garden areas - bring sun hat and water
- **Quiet Escape:** Gardens provide welcome respite from crowded streets
- **Free Entry:** All public gardens are free to access



Tours & Activities

Experience Valletta beyond walking tours with **unique activities** from harbor cruises to theatrical experiences that bring the Knights' history to life.



Must See

Valletta Walking Tour

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Discover Valletta's secrets with knowledgeable local guides on **2-3 hour walking tours**. Tours typically cover major sights including St. John's Co-Cathedral area, Upper Barrakka Gardens, Republic Street, and hidden gems like quiet courtyards and lesser-known streets. Guides share fascinating stories of the Knights, Great Siege, WWII, and modern Malta. Free walking tours (tip-based) depart daily from City Gate, or book premium tours for smaller groups and deeper insights.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Grand Harbour Cruise

1-2 hours Book Ahead

See Valletta from the water on a **scenic harbor cruise** offering unique perspectives of the fortifications, bastions, and Three Cities across Grand Harbour. Traditional wooden boats (dghajsa) or modern vessels provide commentary on the harbor's 7,000-year history. Some cruises combine with swimming stops or include sunset timing. The honey-colored limestone walls and Fort St. Angelo views are spectacular from sea level. Various departure points including Valletta Waterfront and Sliema.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Valletta Resounds: The Caravaggio Experience

1.5 hours Book Ahead

A unique **theatrical and musical concert** performed inside the stunning Oratory of St. John's Co-Cathedral beneath Caravaggio's masterpieces. Classical Baroque music by Vivaldi and Bach combines with narration about the Knights of St. John, atmospheric lighting on the paintings, and exclusive after-hours cathedral access. Performed weekly evenings (doors 6pm, show 6:30pm). A sophisticated cultural experience blending music, art, and history in an extraordinary setting.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Valletta Food Tour

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Taste your way through Valletta discovering **authentic Maltese cuisine** with local guides. Tours typically include 6-8 tastings: pastizzi from historic bakeries, ftira bread, traditional rabbit stew, Maltese wine, and desserts. Learn about the island's culinary influences (Italian, Arabic, British) while exploring hidden courtyards and local eateries. Some tours include market visits. Perfect introduction to Maltese food culture with insider knowledge from passionate foodies.





Notable

Malta 5D & The Malta Experience

45-60 minutes No Booking Needed

Immersive **audio-visual shows** chronicling Malta's dramatic 7,000-year history. The Malta Experience (45 min) uses film and narration to explain the island's turbulent past from prehistoric temples through Knights, Napoleon, British rule, WWII heroism, and independence. Malta 5D adds sensory effects (vibrating seats, wind, water) to battle and historical scenes. Both offer air-conditioned comfort and comprehensive introduction to Maltese history - particularly helpful at trip start.



Notable

Traditional Dghajsa Water Taxi

15-20 minutes No Booking Needed

Experience authentic **17th-century transport** across Grand Harbour in a traditional hand-rowed Maltese water taxi. These colorful boats with pointed bow and stern have ferried people for centuries. Boatmen charge €2-5 for atmospheric crossings from Valletta to the Three Cities (Vittoriosa). Passing beneath the golden walls of Fort St. Angelo creates unforgettable photo opportunities. A romantic and historical way to cross the harbor.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- **Book Harbor Cruises:** Reserve sunset cruises in advance during summer - they sell out quickly
- **Walking Tour Timing:** Take tours early in your visit to orient yourself and get local recommendations
- **Caravaggio Concert:** Limited seating - book weeks ahead for this exclusive experience
- **Water Taxi Bargaining:** Dghajsa boatmen may overcharge tourists - agree on price before boarding
- **Combo Tickets:** Some operators offer package deals combining multiple activities



Day Trips & Excursions

Valletta's central location makes it perfect for exploring Malta's **incredible historical sites**, picturesque fishing villages, and stunning natural beauty across the compact island nation.



Must See

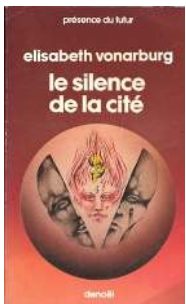
The Three Cities (Vittoriosa, Senglea, Cospicua)

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Just across Grand Harbour, these **atmospheric fortified cities** predate Valletta and played crucial roles in the Great Siege of 1565. *Vittoriosa (Birgu)* features narrow medieval streets, the impressive Fort St. Angelo, Maritime Museum, and beautiful waterfront. *Senglea (Isla)* offers stunning views back to Valletta from its Gardjola Gardens. *Cospicua (Bormla)* boasts massive fortifications. Less touristy than Valletta but equally historic. Easily reached by ferry (10 min) or traditional dghajsa water taxi. Perfect half-day trip.



Must See

Mdina & Rabat (The Silent City)

Full day No Booking Needed



Map

Malta's **ancient fortified capital** perched atop a hill in the island's center. Mdina's medieval walls enclose a car-free maze of narrow alleys, honey-stone palaces, and baroque churches creating an utterly magical atmosphere - hence its nickname "*The Silent City*." Key sights include St. Paul's Cathedral, Mdina Dungeons, city walls with panoramic views, and elegant Palazzo Falson. Adjacent **Rabat** features St. Paul's Catacombs and Roman villa mosaics. Combined with a stop at **Mosta Dome** (Europe's 3rd largest unsupported dome). Bus 51/52 from Valletta (30-40 min). Essential full-day trip.



Must See

Haġar Qim & Mnajdra Temples

Half day No Booking Needed



Map

Extraordinary **UNESCO World Heritage megalithic temples** dating to 3600-3200 BC - among the world's oldest free-standing structures, predating Stonehenge and Egyptian pyramids. Set dramatically on clifftops above the Mediterranean near the Blue Grotto, these prehistoric sanctuaries showcase sophisticated Neolithic engineering. The visitor center features excellent exhibitions explaining Malta's Temple Period. During summer solstice, sunlight illuminates specific temple features. Combined with nearby **Blue Grotto** boat trips. Located 30 min from Valletta by bus 74.





Must See

Gozo Island

Full day minimum No Booking Needed



Map

Malta's **sister island** offers a more rural, relaxed atmosphere with stunning landscapes, beautiful beaches, and incredible historical sites. Key attractions include the *Ggantija Temples* (even older than Malta's temples), the dramatic *Azure Window remains* and Inland Sea, capital *Victoria* with its hilltop Citadel, picturesque *Xlendi Bay*, and the striking *Ta' Pinu Basilica*. Gozo is greener and more agricultural than Malta. Reach via 25-minute ferry from Ċirkewwa (1 hour from Valletta by bus X1). Rent a car or take organized tours. Full day minimum, overnight recommended.



Top Pick

Blue Grotto & Southern Cliffs

Half day No Booking Needed



Map

Malta's most spectacular **natural wonder** - a series of sea caves with electric blue water created by sunlight reflection. Traditional Maltese boats (*luzzu*) take visitors on 20-minute tours through the caves when seas are calm (best morning 9-11am for light). The clifftop viewpoint offers stunning photo opportunities even when boats aren't running. Nearby fishing village **Marsaxlokk** features colorful traditional boats, Sunday fish market, and excellent seafood restaurants. Easily combined with Ħaġar Qim temples. Bus 74 from Valletta.



Top Pick

Marsaxlokk Fishing Village

Half day No Booking Needed



Map

Malta's most picturesque **traditional fishing harbor** famous for colorful painted *luzzu* boats with protective "eye of Osiris" on the prow. The village retains authentic character with working fishermen, waterfront seafood restaurants, and relaxed Mediterranean vibe. Sunday morning **fish market** is the main event - fresh catch, local produce, and souvenirs. Perfect for lunch of grilled fish at harbor-side restaurants. Less touristy than other villages. Bus 85 from Valletta (45 min). Ideal half-day trip, especially Sunday.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Comino & Blue Lagoon

Full day Book Ahead



Map

The tiny island between Malta and Gozo is home to the **famous Blue Lagoon** - a stunning bay with impossibly turquoise water, white sand, and excellent swimming/snorkeling. Peak summer (July-Aug) sees crowds, but spring and autumn offer perfect conditions with fewer people. Boat trips depart from Sliema, Bugibba, and Ċirkewwa. Some tours include Comino's other bays (Crystal Lagoon, Santa Marija Bay) and swimming stops. No cars on Comino - just nature, one hotel, and the iconic Tower. Book boat trips in advance during summer.



Notable

Sliema & St. Julian's

Half day to evening No Booking Needed



Map

Modern seaside towns offering complete contrast to historic Valletta. **Sliema** features a long waterfront promenade perfect for sunset walks, modern shopping malls (The Point, Plaza), restaurants, and harbor views back to Valletta. **St. Julian's** (San Ġiljan) is Malta's entertainment hub - Paceville nightlife district, high-end hotels, restaurants, and Spinola Bay's picturesque harbor. Excellent for dining, shopping, and beach clubs. Ferry from Valletta (10 min) or frequent buses. Popular for evening outings and modern amenities.



Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- **Bus System:** Efficient and cheap (€1.50-2 per journey, €21 for 7-day pass) - get Tallinja Card
- **Ferry to Three Cities:** Most scenic way across Grand Harbour (€1.50, runs until 6pm)
- **Mdina Timing:** Visit early morning or late afternoon to avoid cruise ship crowds and heat
- **Blue Lagoon Strategy:** Go in May-June or Sept-Oct for good weather but fewer crowds
- **Gozo Car Rental:** Worth renting a car on Gozo for flexibility - roads are quieter than Malta
- **Sunday Markets:** Marsaxlokk fish market is Sunday morning only - arrive by 10am



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Valletta, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

O'Sole Rooftop Garden★★★★★ 4.9 (581)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

O'Sole Rooftop Garden is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.9★ from 581 reviews. Located at Level 5, The Manoel Hotel, 55 Old Theatre Street, Valletta VLT 1427, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM

Must See

1522 a food story★★★★★ 4.9 (1,389)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

1522 a food story is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.9★ from 1389 reviews. Located at 188a St. Lucia's Street, Il-Belt Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 4:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

il Boccone★★★★★ 4.9 (360)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

il Boccone is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.9★ from 360 reviews. Located at VGX6+GV4, Strait St, Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Risette★★★★★ 4.9 (300)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Risette is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.9★ from 300 reviews. Located at VLT1429, 81 Old Theatre Street, Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Beati Paoli Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (1,061)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beati Paoli Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.8★ from 1061 reviews. Located at 240 St Paul St, Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Il Ristorantino Italiano★★★★★ 4.8 (989)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Il Ristorantino Italiano is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.8★ from 989 reviews. Located at 40 Ordnance St, Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: Closed
- Thursday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM

Must See

Elephant Shoe★★★★★ 4.7 (1,114)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Elephant Shoe is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.7★ from 1114 reviews. Located at Dar l-Emigrant, Castille St, Valletta VLT 1062, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Must See

Palazzo Preca Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (2,311)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Palazzo Preca Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.7★ from 2311 reviews. Located at 54, Strait Street Valletta, Valletta VLT 05, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 9:45 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 3:45 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:45 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:45 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Legligin Restaurant★★★★ 4.7 (2,034)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Legligin Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.7★ from 2034 reviews. Located at 116, 119 St. Lucia's Street, Il-Belt Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 – 4:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 4:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 4:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 4:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 4:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Must See

Sotto Pinsa Romana Valletta★★★★ 4.7 (5,101)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Sotto Pinsa Romana Valletta is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.7★ from 5101 reviews. Located at 32 South St, Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM

Must See

Angela's Valletta★★★★ 4.6 (976)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Angela's Valletta is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.6★ from 976 reviews. Located at 84 Triq San Gwann, Il-Belt Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM



Must See

The Rooftop Restaurant & Lounge Valletta★★★★ 4.6 (2,527)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Rooftop Restaurant & Lounge Valletta is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.6★ from 2527 reviews. Located at Level 7, The Embassy Valletta Hotel, 173 Strait St, Valletta VLT 1432, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:30 – 11:30 PM

Must See

Grain Street★★★★ 4.6 (875)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Grain Street is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.6★ from 875 reviews. Located at 167 Merchants Street Valletta VLT, II-Belt Valletta 1174, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Must See

Mina's★★★★ 4.6 (1,188)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mina's is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.6★ from 1188 reviews. Located at Shop 8 city gate, Ordinance, Valletta, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

MUŻA Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (918)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

MUŻA Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Valletta, rated 4.6★ from 918 reviews. Located at Merchants St, Valletta VLT 1100, Malta.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Practical Information

Optimal Travel Seasons

Spring (April-May): Ideal weather with temperatures 18-25°C (64-77°F), wildflowers blooming, fewer crowds, and perfect conditions for sightseeing and outdoor activities. Easter celebrations add cultural richness.

Fall (September-October): Warm sea temperatures (23-26°C), summer crowds dissipating, pleasant weather for walking, and cultural events like Notte Bianca (all-night arts festival in October).

Summer (June-August): Hot and crowded with temperatures 28-35°C (82-95°F). Peak tourist season means higher prices and fully booked attractions. Best for beach lovers but challenging for extensive city walking. Book accommodations and popular sites well in advance.

Winter (November-March): Mild winters (12-18°C) with occasional rain. Fewer tourists, lower prices, and authentic local atmosphere. Some attractions have reduced hours. Perfect for budget travelers and those seeking cultural immersion without crowds.

Best overall: May or September-October offer the sweet spot of great weather, manageable crowds, and reasonable prices.

Getting Around Malta

🚌 Public Buses

Malta Public Transport operates comprehensive bus network covering entire island. Purchase **Tallinja Card** (€15 including €10 credit) for best value: €1.50 summer/€2 winter per journey vs €3 cash. Buses run 5:30 AM-11 PM with night routes on weekends. Main terminus outside Valletta City Gate. Download Tallinja app for real-time schedules.

➔ Airport Transfer

Malta International Airport to Valletta (8km): Express bus X4 runs every 30 minutes (€2 with card, €3 cash, 25-30 minutes). Taxis cost €15-20, pre-book for best rates. Bolt and eCabs apps available for ride-sharing (slightly cheaper than taxis).



☐ Taxis & Ride Apps

White taxis are metered; always ensure meter is running. **Bolt** and **eCabs** offer transparent pricing via apps. Short rides within Valletta €8-12. To Sliema/St. Julian's €10-15. Negotiate rates for day hire (around €80-100).

☐ Ferries

Valletta-Sliema Ferry: Regular crossings (every 30-60 min, €1.50 one-way, 7 minutes). Scenic route with harbor views.
Gozo Channel: Ċirkewwa-Mġarr crossing (every 45 min, €4.65 adult return, 25 min). Pay on return. Car transport available (book ahead in summer).

☐ Car Rental

Driving is on the LEFT. Narrow streets make Valletta challenging for drivers; parking extremely limited and expensive (€2-3/hour). Better to stay outside Valletta if renting car. International companies at airport from €25/day. Useful for exploring rural Malta and multiple day trips.

☐ Walking Valletta

City is compact (600m x 300m) and mostly pedestrianized. Entire city walkable in 20 minutes. Steep hills require moderate fitness. **Valletta Lift** from waterfront to Upper Barrakka Gardens (free, eliminates steep climb).

Money-saving tip: 7-day Tallinja card (€21 unlimited travel) pays off if taking 15+ bus journeys.

➔ Airport Transfer

Malta International Airport (MLA) to city center:

- **X1 Airport Express bus:** Direct route to Valletta in about 30 minutes, tickets from €3 one-way
- **Taxi:** Fixed-rate airport taxi booth fare to Valletta in around 15 minutes for approximately €22
- **Bolt or eCabs ride-hailing:** App-booked car to Valletta in 15 to 20 minutes, typically €12 to €18
- **Private transfer:** Pre-booked door-to-door shuttle to your Valletta hotel in about 20 minutes, from €30

Shopping in Valletta & Malta

☐ What to Buy

- **Mdina Glass:** Beautiful hand-blown glass from Mdina workshops. Distinctive swirling colors. Prices €10-200+ depending on size/complexity. Buy directly from factory in Mdina for best prices.
- **Maltese Lace:** Intricate handmade lace (bizzilla) from Gozo. Authentic pieces from €20-100+. Ensure it's genuine local craftsmanship, not imports.
- **Filigree Silver:** Delicate silver jewelry in traditional Maltese designs. Crosses, earrings, brooches from €15-150. Look for hallmarks guaranteeing silver content.
- **Local Food Products:** Honey (especially thyme honey), gbejniet (sheep cheese), sun-dried tomatoes, capers, Maltese nougat (qubbajt), carob syrup. Ta' Qali Crafts Village excellent source.
- **Local Wines & Liqueurs:** Maltese wines (Marsovin, Meridiana wineries), limoncello, Bajtra (prickly pear liqueur). Wine tours available at vineyards.
- **Paintings & Art:** Local artists sell work at galleries along Republic Street and Valletta Contemporary art center.

☐ Shopping Areas

Republic Street, Valletta: Main shopping street with international brands, souvenir shops, jewelry stores, and bookshops. Typically open 9 AM-7 PM (closed Sunday).

Merchants Street, Valletta: More local shops including hardware, fabrics, household goods, and family businesses.

Valletta Market (Is-Suq tal-Belt): Merchants Street covered market selling fresh produce, fish, meat, cheese, and local specialties. Open Monday-Saturday mornings. Authentic local atmosphere.

Ta' Qali Crafts Village: Former airfield converted to artisan workshops. Watch glass-blowers, potters, and lace-makers. Buy directly from craftspeople. 15 minutes from Valletta by bus.



Sliema/St. Julian's: Modern shopping with The Point and Bay Street complexes featuring international brands, restaurants, and entertainment.

📦 Shopping Tips

- **Bargaining:** Not customary in shops; fixed prices expected. Possible at outdoor markets and with street vendors.
- **VAT Refunds:** Non-EU residents can claim VAT refund (18%) on purchases over €100 from participating stores. Keep receipts and validate at airport.
- **Opening Hours:** Shops typically 9 AM-1 PM and 4-7 PM. Many close Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Summer hours may extend.
- **Authenticity:** Buy crafts directly from workshops or certified shops to ensure genuine Maltese products, not imports.

Annual Events & Festivals

📅 Major Cultural Events

Malta Arts Festival (July): Three weeks of theater, music, dance, and visual arts. International and local performers transform Valletta into open-air stage. Many free outdoor events.

Notte Bianca (October - First Saturday): All-night cultural festival when museums, palaces, and churches stay open until dawn. Free admission to major sites. Street performances, concerts, art installations throughout Valletta. Massive crowds; arrive early.

Malta International Jazz Festival (July): Three-day festival at Ta' Liesse waterfront. International jazz legends perform against stunning harbor backdrop. Tickets €45-70 or free standing area.

Isle of MTV (July): Free mega-concert featuring international pop acts. Floriana Granaries host 50,000+ attendees. Announced few months in advance.

📅 Traditional Celebrations

Carnival (February - week before Lent): Colorful parades, costumes, floats, and dancing in Valletta streets. Dating back to Knights' era. Family-friendly with grotesque mask competitions and children's events.

Holy Week (March/April): Solemn processions in Valletta and villages. Good Friday features seven parish processions with life-size statues, hooded penitents, and brass bands. Deeply moving religious tradition.

Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck (February 10): Valletta's patron saint celebrated with religious processions, band marches, and fireworks. St. Paul's relics displayed publicly.

Village Festas (May-September): Every parish celebrates its patron saint with elaborate week-long festivities: church decorations, band marches, fireworks displays, and street food. Different village each weekend. Authentic local tradition.

📅 Historical Commemorations

Birgufest (October): Candlelit celebration in Vittoriosa (Birgu). Historic Three Cities illuminated by candles, concerts in atmospheric squares, and cultural activities celebrating maritime heritage.

Malta International Fireworks Festival (April/May): Grand Harbour becomes canvas for spectacular pyrotechnic displays. Teams from different countries compete. Best viewed from Valletta bastions or Three Cities.

📅 Public Holidays (businesses closed)

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- St. Paul's Shipwreck (February 10)
- St. Joseph (March 19)
- Good Friday
- Freedom Day (March 31)
- Workers' Day (May 1)



- Sette Giugno (June 7)
- Feast of St. Peter & Paul (June 29)
- Assumption (August 15)
- Victory Day (September 8)
- Independence Day (September 21)
- Immaculate Conception (December 8)
- Republic Day (December 13)
- Christmas Day (December 25)

Note: Many shops and attractions close on public holidays; restaurants remain open. Plan accordingly.

Sample Day Itineraries

☐ Day 1: Essential Valletta

Morning (9 AM-12:30 PM): Start at City Gate, walk Republic Street to St. John's Co-Cathedral (arrive at opening to avoid crowds). Spend 90 minutes marveling at Caravaggio and baroque splendor. Walk to Upper Barrakka Gardens, arriving before noon cannon ceremony. Enjoy harbor views and saluting battery.

Lunch (12:30-2 PM): Grab pastizzi at Crystal Palace or lunch at Leglign Garden Caffè with terrace views.

Afternoon (2-5:30 PM): Visit Grand Master's Palace State Rooms and Armoury (closed Wednesday). Walk to Fort St. Elmo and National War Museum. Explore waterfront area and Lower Barrakka Gardens.

Evening (6-9 PM): Sunset from Hastings Gardens or Upper Barrakka. Dinner at Rubino or Nenu the Artisan Baker. Evening stroll through illuminated Strait Street for drinks.

☐ Day 2: Culture & Hidden Gems

Morning (9 AM-1 PM): National Museum of Archaeology in Auberge de Provence. Continue to MUŻA art museum. Coffee break at Caffè Cordina on Republic Street (historic café since 1837).

Lunch (1-2:30 PM): Traditional Maltese food tour or lunch at Guzé Bistro.

Afternoon (2:30-6 PM): Casa Rocca Piccola guided tour for aristocratic life insights. Explore Merchant Street's local shops. Visit smaller churches: Carmelite Church, St. Paul's Shipwreck.

Evening (6-9 PM): Grand Harbour cruise at sunset. Dinner at Valletta Waterfront overlooking Three Cities. Return for evening drinks with harbor views.

☐ Day 3: Three Cities & Maritime Heritage

Morning (9 AM-1 PM): Ferry from Valletta to Vittoriosa. Explore Vittoriosa Waterfront, visit Inquisitor's Palace, and Malta Maritime Museum. Walk narrow medieval streets to Fort St. Angelo viewpoint.

Lunch (1-2:30 PM): Seafood lunch at Tal-Petut or Ta' Frenċ overlooking marina.

Afternoon (2:30-6 PM): Water taxi to Senglea. Visit Gardjola Gardens for incredible Valletta views. Walk to Cospicua, exploring authentic neighborhoods rarely visited by tourists.

Evening (6-9 PM): Return to Valletta via ferry. Relaxed evening at Strait Street wine bars or rooftop venues like The Harbour Club.

☐ Day 4: Ancient Malta (Day Trip)

Morning (8:30 AM-1 PM): Bus to Mdina (bus 52/53, 40 minutes). Explore Silent City: St. Paul's Cathedral, city walls, Mdina Dungeons. Walk to Rabat for St. Paul's Catacombs and Domus Romana.

Lunch (1-2:30 PM): Fontanella Tea Garden for famous cakes with cathedral views, or Medina Restaurant for fine dining.



Afternoon (2:30-6 PM): Visit Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra megalithic temples (UNESCO sites, 5500 years old). Continue to Blue Grotto for boat tour of sea caves (weather permitting). Stop at Marsaxlokk fishing village.

Evening (6-9 PM): Return to Valletta. Light dinner; you've had big lunch. Evening walk or rest.

☐ Day 5: Gozo Island Adventure

Early Start (7 AM-9:30 AM): Bus X1 to Ċirkewwa (90 minutes). Ferry to Gozo (25 minutes). Rent car/scooter or join organized tour.

Morning (9:30 AM-1 PM): Visit Ġgantija Temples (older than pyramids), Victoria Citadel with panoramic views. Explore Xlendi Bay.

Lunch (1-2:30 PM): Fresh seafood at Xlendi waterfront restaurants.

Afternoon (2:30-5 PM): Swim at Ramla Bay (red sand beach) or Dwejra (Azure Window site). Visit Ta' Pinu Basilica. Browse crafts at Ta' Dbiegi.

Evening (5-8 PM): Return ferry and bus to Valletta. Casual farewell dinner at local favorite.

Customization Tips: Adjust pace to your interests. Museum lovers: add extra time. Beach seekers: replace museums with coastal visits. Foodies: book specialized food tours. Each itinerary adaptable to personal preferences.

☐ Best Photo Locations

☐ Sunrise Spots (6-8 AM)

Fort St. Elmo Tip: Capture first light hitting Grand Harbour with Three Cities. Nearly empty at dawn. Golden hour illuminates honey-colored fortifications beautifully.

Lower Barrakka Gardens: Shoot across to Senglea and Fort St. Angelo with soft morning light. Siege Bell monument creates foreground interest.

☐ Sunset Locations (6-8 PM)

Hastings Gardens: West-facing views over Marsamxett Harbour toward Sliema. Watch sun sink behind modern skyline contrasting ancient bastions. Less crowded than Upper Barrakka.

Upper Barrakka Gardens: Classic sunset over Grand Harbour and Vittoriosa. Crowds gather but views spectacular. Arrive 30 minutes early for good position.

Sliema Waterfront: Shoot back toward Valletta's skyline silhouetted against colorful sunset sky. Ferries add dynamic elements. Particularly stunning from Tigné Point.

☐ Architectural Photography

Republic Street: Early morning (7-9 AM) for empty streets. Shoot down steep cross-streets for dramatic perspective. Colorful Maltese balconies best in side light (morning or late afternoon).

St. John's Co-Cathedral: Interior photography requires proper technique: steady hands (no tripods allowed), use columns for stabilization, shoot during quieter moments. Arrive at opening for fewer people in shots.

City Gate: Modern architecture contrasts baroque city. Best angles from Triton Fountain square. Evening blue hour enhances contemporary design with internal lighting.

☐ Unique Perspectives

From Vittoriosa Waterfront: Shoot back toward Valletta for stunning skyline with boats in foreground. Best 2-3 hours before sunset when light rakes across fortifications.

Merchant Street Market: Capture authentic local life. Early morning when vendors set up. Colorful produce, character-filled faces, atmospheric covered market.



Strait Street: Evening blue hour (30 minutes after sunset) when street lights create warm glow against deep blue sky. Jazz bars spill light and musicians onto streets.

Grand Harbour Cruise: Water-level perspectives impossible from land. Shooting from boats challenging but rewarding. Use fast shutter speeds. Sunset cruises offer best light.

📷 Detail Shots

- **Door Knockers:** Valletta famous for ornate brass door knockers. Shoot close-ups on Melita Street and Old Theatre Street.
- **Balconies:** Colorful enclosed wooden balconies (gallariji) define Maltese architecture. Best examples on Republic Street and Strait Street.
- **Street Signs:** Bilingual Maltese-English signs with historic tile work. Collect alphabet or create photo series.
- **Church Details:** Baroque ornaments, ceiling frescoes, marble floors. St. John's offers incredible details at every turn.

📷 Photography Tips

- **Golden Hours:** Malta's honey-colored limestone glows beautifully in morning/evening light. Midday creates harsh shadows.
- **Weather:** Cloudy days excellent for eliminating harsh contrast in narrow streets.
- **Equipment:** Wide-angle lens essential for architecture. 24mm or wider recommended for street photography.
- **Permits:** Commercial photography may require permits. Personal use generally unrestricted except where posted.
- **Respectful Shooting:** Be mindful in churches (no flash), private spaces, and when photographing locals (ask permission).
- **Drone Photography:** Requires permit from Malta Aviation Authority. Strict regulations near fortifications and harbors.

Instagram Hotspots: Upper Barrakka arches framing Three Cities, colorful balconies on Republic Street, Fort St. Elmo ramparts, St. John's ornate ceiling, Strait Street at dusk, Valletta waterfront sunset.

⚡ Electricity & Plugs

Voltage: 230V

Frequency: 50Hz

Plug Type: Type G (UK-style three-pin rectangular blade)

🔌 Do You Need an Adapter?

- **UK/Ireland/Singapore/Malaysia:** No adapter needed - same Type G plugs
- **Europe (Schengen countries):** YES - adapter required (Type C/F to Type G)
- **USA/Canada:** YES - adapter required (Type A/B to Type G) plus voltage compatible devices
- **Australia/New Zealand/China:** YES - adapter required (Type I to Type G)

🛒 Where to Buy Adapters

- **Airport:** Available at Malta International Airport shops (€8-15) - expensive but convenient
- **Local stores:** Hardware shops, supermarkets like Pavi, or electrical stores in Valletta (€3-8)
- **Hotels:** Many provide adapters at reception (free loan) - ask when booking
- **Bring from home:** Universal travel adapters best option, purchased before trip

🔌 Charging Tips

- Most modern electronics (phones, laptops, cameras) are dual voltage (110-240V) - check device specifications
- Older appliances may require voltage converter, not just adapter
- USB charging available at hotels, cafés, and public spaces
- Power banks useful for day trips and long sightseeing



- Bring multi-port USB charger to charge multiple devices from single outlet

☐ Maltese Cuisine Guide

☐ Must-Try Dishes

Pastizzi: Flaky pastry pockets filled with ricotta (pastizzi tal-irkotta) or mushy peas (pastizzi tal-piżelli). Malta's beloved snack, best from hole-in-the-wall bakeries. Try: Crystal Palace near bus terminus (€0.40-0.50 each). Eat fresh and warm.

Fenkata (Rabbit Stew): Malta's national dish. Slow-cooked rabbit with wine, garlic, tomatoes. Traditional Sunday family meal. Restaurants serve with spaghetti and roast rabbit. Try: Nenu the Artisan Baker or Ta' Kolina in Marsaxlokk.

Ftira: Traditional Maltese bread ring filled with tuna, capers, olives, tomatoes, onions, olive oil. Perfect lunch. Try: Is-Suq tal-Belt market or Malata restaurant.

Gbejniet: Small sheep/goat cheese rounds, served fresh, dried, or peppered. Distinctive tangy flavor. Accompanies many dishes or enjoyed with bread and tomatoes.

Aljotta: Traditional fish soup with rice, tomatoes, garlic, and fresh fish. Light yet flavorful. Popular in coastal villages.

Bragioli: Beef olives - thin beef slices rolled with breadcrumb, bacon, egg stuffing, slow-cooked in wine sauce. Rich comfort food found in traditional restaurants.

Timpana: Baked pasta pie with macaroni, meat sauce, cheese, encased in pastry. Hearty traditional dish served at festas and family gatherings.

☐ Sweets & Desserts

Qagħaq tal-Għasel (Honey Rings): Treacle-filled pastry rings spiced with anise. Not actually made with honey despite name. Traditional Maltese sweet for celebrations.

Imqaret: Deep-fried date pastries, crispy outside, sweet inside. Street food classic, especially at village festas. Best served warm.

Kannoli: Sicilian-inspired ricotta-filled pastry tubes. Excellent at Italian-influenced cafés and bakeries.

Helwa tat-Tork: Halva-like sweet made from crushed almonds and sugar. Dense, crumbly texture. Traditional sweet shops sell by weight.

☐ Drinks

Maltese Wine: Local wineries (Marsovin, Meridiana, Delicata) produce quality wines from indigenous and international grapes. Ġellewża (red) and Girgentina (white) are native varieties worth trying.

Kinnie: Malta's iconic soft drink, bitter-sweet orange flavor with aromatic herbs. Acquired taste but quintessentially Maltese. Try original or diet version.

Cisk: Local lager beer, light and refreshing in Mediterranean heat. Available everywhere. Pronounced "chisk."

Bajtra: Prickly pear liqueur, deep purple color, sweet flavor. Makes excellent souvenir or digestif.

☐ Where to Eat in Valletta

Fine Dining:

- **Rubino:** Family-run institution since 1906, traditional Maltese cuisine in authentic setting. Reserve ahead.
- **Guzé Bistro:** Intimate bistro serving Mediterranean-Maltese fusion. Excellent wine list.
- **Leglign:** Modern Maltese cuisine in elegant setting with lovely garden courtyard.

Casual/Traditional:

- **Nenu the Artisan Baker:** Authentic ftira, rabbit, and Maltese home cooking. Rustic atmosphere, excellent value.



- **Malata:** Local favorite for traditional dishes, generous portions, friendly service.
- **Café Society:** All-day dining, local and international menu, people-watching on Republic Street.

Budget/Quick Bites:

- **Crystal Palace:** The pastizzi place. Basic but authentic. Open early morning.
- **Cheeky Monkey Gastropub:** Burgers, casual food, craft beers, lively atmosphere.
- **Is-Suq tal-Belt Market:** Various food stalls, fresh produce, authentic local snacks.

Seafood:

- **Valletta Waterfront:** Multiple restaurants with harbor views, fresh catch displayed.
- **ION Harbour:** Upscale seafood with stunning location, modern preparation.

📋 Dining Tips

- **Lunch menus:** Many restaurants offer excellent value lunch deals (€12-20 for 2-3 courses)
- **Reservations:** Essential for popular restaurants, especially Rubino, Guzé, and Leglign
- **Tipping:** 10% customary for good service; check if service charge already included
- **Opening hours:** Restaurants typically 12-3 PM lunch, 7-11 PM dinner. Many close Sunday/Monday
- **Water:** Tap water safe but tastes heavily treated; locals drink bottled water
- **Pace:** Maltese dining leisurely; don't rush. Enjoy slow Mediterranean meal rhythm
- **Markets:** Early morning (7-10 AM) for freshest produce, fish, and local atmosphere

Tourist Passes

Heritage Malta Multi-Site Pass

Access to **over 20 museums and archaeological sites** managed by Heritage Malta across Malta and Gozo. Includes: Fort St. Elmo, National Museum of Archaeology, MUŻA, Haġar Qim temples, Ġgantija temples (Gozo), and many more.

Adult pass: €50 (valid 30 days), **Youth pass (12-17):** €28, **Senior (60+):** €35. Excellent value if visiting 4+ sites. First Sunday of each month offers **free entry** to most Heritage Malta sites (expect crowds).



heritagemalta.org

Tallinja Card (Public Transport)

Rechargeable smart card for **unlimited bus travel** across Malta and Gozo. **7-day card:** €21 unlimited travel (excellent value for tourists), **Single journey:** €1.50 summer/€2 winter with card vs €3 cash. Purchase at airport, ferry terminals, or Valletta terminus. Also available: **12 Single Journey** pack (€15) and **Explore card** variants. Essential for day trips and budget travelers. Download Tallinja app for routes and real-time updates.



www.publictransport.com.mt

Malta Pass

All-inclusive digital pass combining **attractions, tours, and transportation**. Flexible options: choose attractions from list including St. John's Co-Cathedral, harbor cruises, Mdina experience, hop-on-hop-off bus, and more. Prices vary based on selections (typically €60-150 for 3-5 attractions). Provides skip-the-line access at some venues and mobile convenience. Compare carefully with individual ticket prices best value depends on your specific itinerary.



www.maltapass.com



City Sightseeing Hop-On Hop-Off

Open-top **double-decker bus** with multiple routes covering Valletta, Sliema, Three Cities. **1-day pass:** €25, **2-day pass:** €30. Audio commentary in 16 languages. Convenient for orientation and reaching multiple sites without planning. Includes Grand Harbour cruise option. Routes operate 9 AM-5 PM (reduced winter schedule). Useful first day to get bearings, but Valletta itself very walkable.



city-sightseeing.com

