



Gozo

Intro

Sometimes known as the island of Calypso, Gozo is Malta's sister island where people who want to get away from it all go. Gozo is much greener than Malta and is a lot less built up. It is a much more peaceful and tranquil version of Malta and can be easily explored by car, taxi, bus or on foot.

Gozo has something for everyone. It boasts beaches for the sun worshippers and the oldest free-standing temples of Ggantija for those of you more interested in history. Religious enthusiasts will enjoy visiting the stunning church of Ta' Pinu. While those of you who prefer to explore through the local cuisine, Gozo has an abundance of fine family-run restaurants offering the freshest produce the island has to offer. Like Malta, the Gozitans are very friendly and proud of their island. They are family-oriented and deeply religious.

Towns and Villages in Gozo

Gozo's towns and villages are picturesque and have hardly changed in the last one hundred years. These towns are built around the central church or 'pjazza' – the heart of village life. Tourists and visitors will be welcomed by the locals and encouraged to enjoy the gems that each town has to offer. I suggest you visit a local bar and order a hot glass (not cup) of coffee and try a delicious snack called *pastizzi*. Often bars will have free snacks on the side of the bar similar to tapas or assaggi

Fontana

This village takes its name from a spring at the bottom of the road leading to Xlendi. During the 16th century, an arched shelter was built over the spring for the convenience as people flocked there to wash their clothes. Although less common now, once can sometimes still see the someone washing clothes in the spring.

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Gharb

This is the westernmost village in Gozo. The parish church of Gharb is one of the most architecturally perfect churches of Gozo and was based on the designs of Francesco Borromini's Sant' Agnese in Piazza Novana, Rome. It is dedicated to the Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.

Ghasri

This is the smallest village in Gozo and is easy to find. Just look out for the lighthouse on Gordan hill. Gordan lighthouse, rising 180 metres above sea level, was inaugurated in 1853. Its beam can be seen up to 50 kilometres away.

Kercem

Kercem is the village closest to Rabat and takes its name from a family living in the area in the 15th century. This fertile valley is one of the most picturesque in Gozo which includes a spring dating back to 1698.

A traditional procession used to wind its way from the cathedral in the Citadel to the parish church of Kercem on 12 March.

Marsalforn

This is Gozo's most popular seaside resort. This area is well served with hotels, apartments, restaurants, bars and is a great place to dine outside.

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Nadur

This village is spread over the top of a tale-flat hill. It is renowned for its Carnival which takes place here in February of each year. Tourists and Gozitans alike get dressed up to enjoy a week-end of music, dance and drink. Traditionalists complain that the real religious significance has been lost.

Xaghra

Situated on a hill, in the central northeast of Gozo, Xaghra boasts the impressive Ggantija Temples which are a must-see. It is also home to an impressive windmill which was credited in saving many from starvation during the war. It is still in good working condition and is not expensive to visit.

Xlendi

This is a typical fishing village and a popular summer resort. It is nestled between majestic cliffs and is probably the most picturesque fishing village in Gozo. There are a variety of restaurants where one can enjoy the beautiful glow of sunset while sipping a cool drink or eating a freshly caught fish.

Victoria (or Rabat) is Gozo's capital city and was named after Queen Victoria. It is found in the centre of the island and is Gozo's most populated town. Victoria is the administrative centre, which includes the main schools, the only hospital, and the law courts, serving the island's community. Its main square is Pjazza Indipendenza where an open market is held every morning and a bargain can be found. A visit to this charming capital is incomplete if it does not include a walk to the citadel where one can enjoy breathtaking views of the island.

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