



Malta

Intro

The Maltese archipelago consists of three main islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino. Malta, the largest, has an area of 246 square kilometers and a total of 400,000 inhabitants. The Maltese landscape is characterized by a series of low hills with terraced fields. The shoreline, which is 137 kilometers long, has many bays and harbours, with a good selection of sandy beaches and rocky coves for you to explore. Malta offers a warm and mild climate throughout the year.

Temperatures average 14 degrees Celsius in winter and 32 degrees Celsius in the summer months. The hottest time is from the middle of July to the middle of September. It has had a long relationship with various nationalities over the centuries and this has created a marriage of styles and traditions, giving the islands a fascinating and rich culture. The British, for example, occupied Malta for around 180 years which is why English is so widely spoken around the island. The two official languages spoken here are English and Maltese although many of the islanders speak more than two languages.

Malta is renowned for having a friendly, safe and laid back lifestyle. It has a fantastic nightlife, crystal clear waters for swimming and diving and 7,000 years of intriguing history. It boasts the world's oldest freestanding temples and was once the home of the Knights of the Order of St John. For such a small island there is plenty to see and do while learning English all year round. Malta is therefore the ideal location for combining learning English with a pleasurable and relaxed holiday.

Did you know?

- The first significant civilisation here flourished in the third millennium BC, leaving behind fascinating megalithic temples
- The island was occupied by the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians and the Romans
- The Maltese islands have been described as one big open-air museum
- Visitors can explore medieval walled citadels and splendid baroque churches and palaces
- Tourists also come for the beautiful clear blue waters, secluded bays, sandy beaches and traditional villages

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- Valletta's Manoel Theatre is the second-oldest theatre in Europe and hosts operas, ballets and plays almost all year round
- In summer you can immerse yourself in village life and attend village festivals with spectacular fireworks

Towns and Villages in Malta

Attard

Attard is well known for being the home of the President's Palace. It is a mostly residential area, which makes it a relatively peaceful place. It is situated between Mdina and Valletta and transport makes it easy to get to. San Anton Gardens surround the President's Palace and are open to visitors.

Bugibba

Bugibba is one of Malta's largest seaside resort towns. The coastline promenade stretches from Salina Bay to St Paul's Bay taking in some of the islands' best open sea views and a vista over to St Paul's Island. The water is deep, but generally clean, clear and safe for bathing. It tends to be quite busy and full of tourists and has a nice variety of restaurants, bars and cafes.

Mdina

Mdina is the old medieval capital of Malta. It is also known as the "Silent City" and commands a magnificent view of the Island as it is built high on a hill. The city displays an unusual mix of Norman and Baroque architecture, including several palaces, most of which serve as private homes. The Cathedral is worth visiting and is fronted by a large square. A number of tea and cake shops can be found within the walls and are popular with local and tourists alike. Recently there have been a number of new museums, most

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notably [Palazzo Falson](#), which is a perfect example of a two-storey medieval palace full of a number of curiosities and object d'arte.

Mellieha

Mellieha is to the north of the island and boasts the largest sandy beach. This is only a short bus ride away from the school. It is a very popular area during summer.

Qawra

Most of the large cheap hotels are situated in Qawra. It is very busy, and is mostly populated by tourists however it is quieter than its neighbouring Bugibba. It is within walking distance of Bugibba where you can find a number of bars and restaurants. It offers various types of accommodation that are within walking distance from the various beach lidos.

Sliema

Sliema is the heart of shopping in Malta. It is a mixture of residential and commercial properties. There is a great walking promenade that runs for several kilometers, that takes you all the way from Gzira to St Julian's. It is central to most places and is easy to get to with public transport. This is the place to come and people-watch on a Saturday afternoon while sipping a cappuccino.

St Julian's

This was once a quiet fishing village that has now been transformed into the island's main area for wine bars, cafes and restaurants. It is within walking distance to Paceville where all the nightlife is based. Picturesque Spinola Bay is still used by fishermen whose traditional boats are housed just below the restaurants. The bay is particularly attractive at night and as a venue for open-air dining.

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Valletta

Built at the time of the Knights, the Capital City Valletta has plenty of historical value as well as being a World Heritage City. St John's Co-Cathedral draws hundreds of tourists to the capital as well as the beautiful baroque architecture and palaces. Valletta was the first city to be built on a modern grid system with parallel streets. The City is busy day and night, and is the island's main business centre and houses the seat of government and

law courts. Most of the museums are found here and it is full of cafes and shops. The main bus terminus is in Valletta and most busses stop here so getting to Valletta is fast and easy.

Recently there has been a drive to revive Valletta by night. This has led to various events such as 'Notte Bianca' where the arts are showcased. Renzo Piano, a world-renowned architect, has been appointed to help redesign the entrance to capital city and re-build the opera house which was once a majestic building

Valletta is also home to the Manoel theatre, one of Europe's oldest theatres. There are various shows throughout the year and bookings can be made online. See the [A Class Activities](#) page for links to the Manoel.

Well worth a visit is [St James' Centre for Creativity](#) which offers a feast of visual arts, cinema, theatre and music.

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