



Gozo, meaning 'joy' in Castillian, is known as the Island of Calypso. Despite its size, a mere 67sq km, Gozo is inhabited by slightly more than 30,000 people and forms part of the Maltese archipelago. The rural and urban aspects of the island blend together, creating a small world in itself; full of historical, cultural and religious traditions.

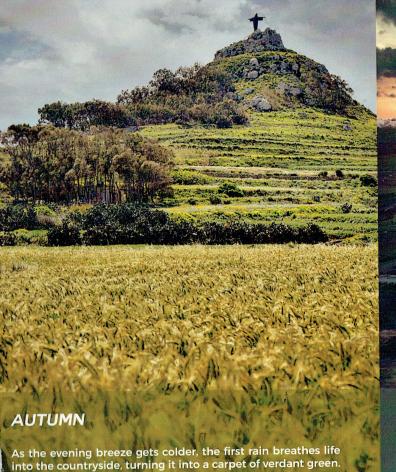


SPRING

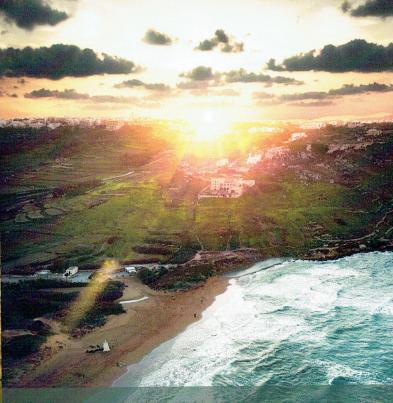
As the weather warms up in Spring, consider a picnic in the countryside or at one of the many beaches around the island. Combine this with a stroll or a more energetic activity like cycling or a climbing adventure. Spring is also synonymous with Easter celebrations where the deeply rooted faith and traditions give rise to devotions, re-enactments, exhibitions, and processions. Not to mention the time for delightful almond-filled sweet pastry called *figolli*!

SUMMER

In Summer, the crystal-clear blue waters are incredible. Gozo's coastline is full of amazing caves and beaches where to dive, snorkel, enjoy boat rides or other water sports. Also, no vacation is complete without indulging in Gozitan dishes at local restaurants. The village feasts are the heart of a Gozitan summer, where culture comes together in one impressive display of fireworks, band marches, decorated streets and churches.



As the evening breeze gets colder, the first rain breatnes life into the countryside, turning it into a carpet of verdant green. Autumn is the ideal time to explore - whether on foot or on bicycle, it is all about enjoying the tranquility of the island. This period marks the glamourous October Opera Season as Gozo's main opera houses provide the yearly spectacle to classical music lovers.



WINTER

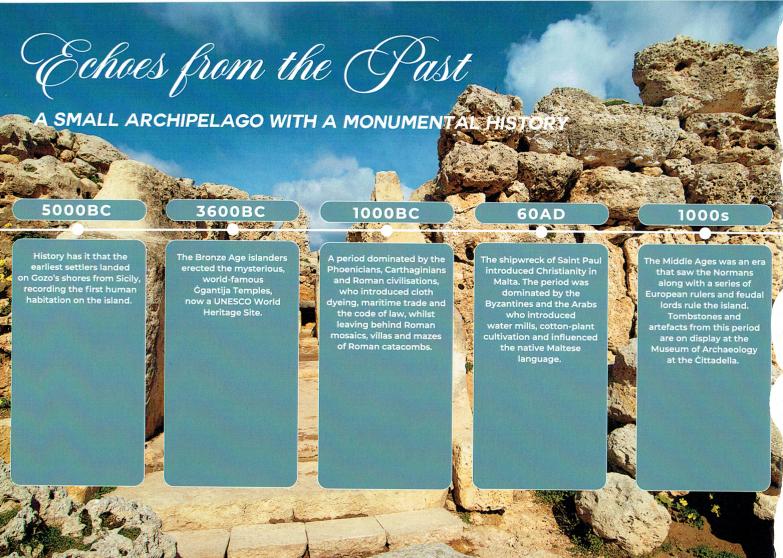
Gozo's mild winters are blessed with sunny and bright days most of the time, enabling adventure activities to continue year-round. Although having a small period of chilly weather during the coldest months, the diving season remains open as the waters are relatively warm. Meanwhile, Gozo is awakened at Christmas time for joyous festivities and again at Carnival for a dose of pure fun and foolery.



After landing at the Malta International Airport, your journey to Gozo is just a few kilometers away. Whether using public transport, getting a taxi or hiring a car, your next destination is Cirkewwa where the Gozo Channel ferry operates frequent 30-minute trips to the Mgarr Harbour. As an alternative, go to Valletta's Grand Harbour where a fast ferry service promises to take you to Gozo in less than 45 minutes.



Once in Gozo, public transport, taxis, sightseeing buses, as well as vehicle hiring are all available options to discover the island. Alternatively, opt for a holiday with a lesser carbon footprint by choosing to cycle or hike around.





GOZO

COMINO



Beaches



Battery



Gozo ferry



Diving site



Touristic attractions



Hospital



Windmill



Water Sports



Tower



Scan me



GOZO TRAVEL - CHEATSHEET

CURRENCY

The Euro



Local beer & wine

Imgaret

LANGUAGE

Maltese, English



PLUG OUTLET

UK Standard 3-pin Type G



ROAMING

No charges for EU citizens



EXPERIENCE GOZO

Historical tours

Horse Riding

Hiking

Ftira

Diving Cycling Sightseeing





Scan for more

Water sports Dining out

Wellbeing



Abseiling

Swimming

Boat trips



GETTING AROUND GOZO



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INSIDER TIPS



Scan for more

MUST TASTE



Gbejniet

 Seafood Pastizzi



· Comino · Ċittadella

· Ta' Pinu Church

· Ramla Bay

MUST VISIT

· Ġgantija UNESCO World Heritage Site

· Xewkija Rotunda

· Xwejni Saltpans





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HIDDEN GEMS



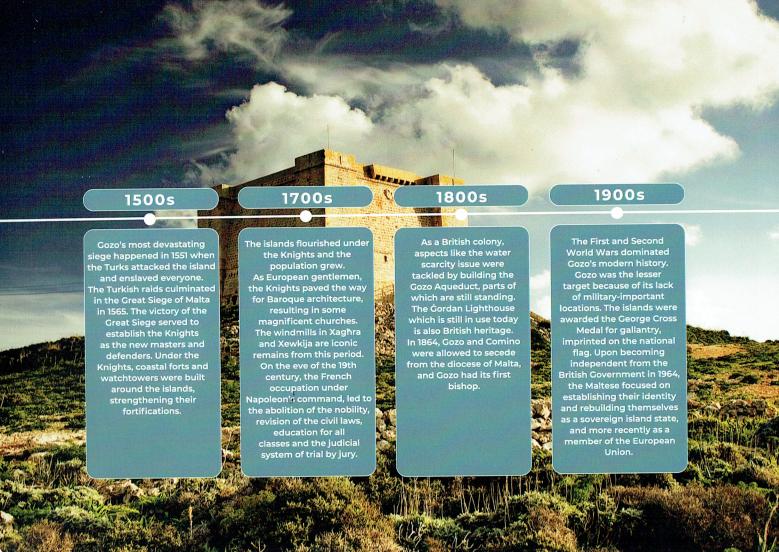
· Bamberin Beach

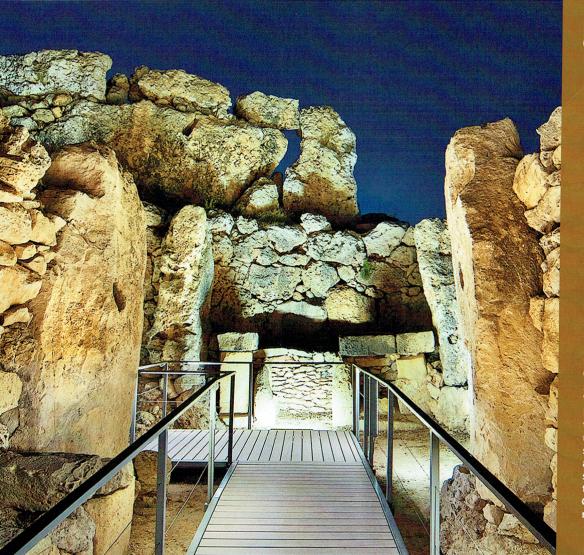
· San Blas Bay · Wied il-Mielaħ

· San Dimitri Chapel

· Inland Sea







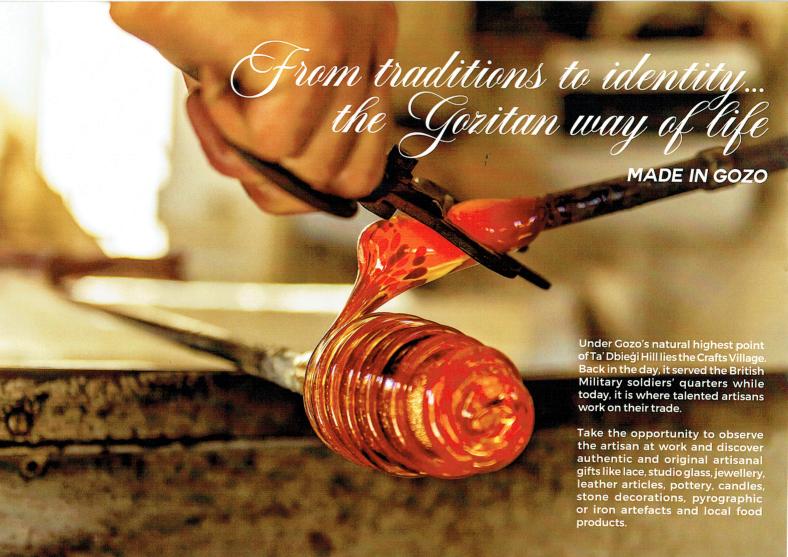
ĠGANTIJA TEMPLES

Dating back to 3600-3200 BC, the Ġgantija Temples consist of two structures, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Older than the Pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge, the two temples were constructed using huge limestone boulders, some exceeding 5 metres in length and weighing over 50 tons. Legend states that giants built these sacred temples, hence deriving the name Ġgantija from the word ġgant, meaning giant in Maltese.



CITTADELLA

Start at the Visitors' Centre and proceed to the main square where the splendid baroque Cathedral dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the Law Courts and the Bishop's Palace are located. From here, it is easy to follow the narrow cobbled streets and visit several museums, the grain silos and the military architecture.





Lacemaking is the most significant traditional craft synonymous with Gozo. Known as *il-bizzilla*, it became popular around the mid-1840s, giving women of the time a way to earn money with their crafting skills. Gozitan lace is worked in silk or linen threaded onto bobbins that are pinned over a tall, thin and upright hard pillow called a *trajbu*.

ANNUAL CULTURAL EVENTS

February: Carnival

Having Catholic origins, Carnival is a time of feasting before Lent. Fusing together old and new customs, the feast boasts a display of elaborate costumes, celebrations, colourful floats and parades.

One of the older traditions is the Kummittiva, a kind of folklore dance originating from the village of Xaghra where dancers go round a maypole with ribbons.

The more eccentric and spontaneous Nadur Carnival is a unique spectacle in itself. People wear all kinds of funny and grotesque costumes, some satirical, and most remain silent to aid their disguise.

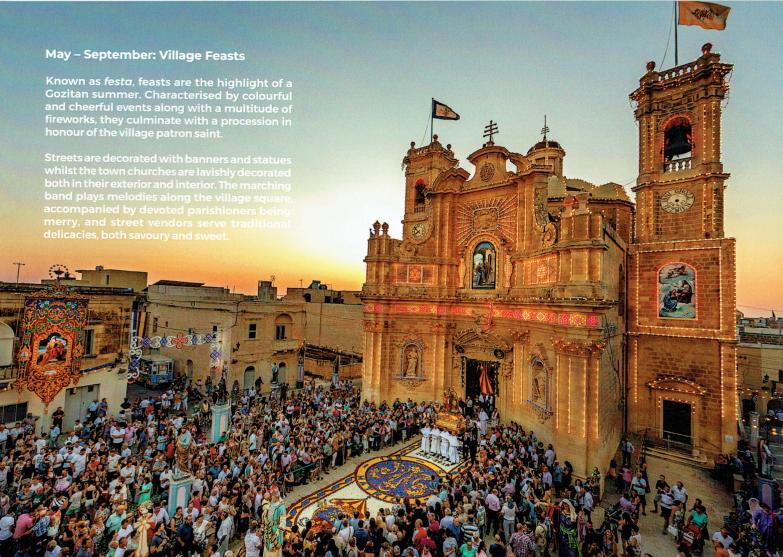


March – April: Lent, Holy Week & Easter

From the Lent and Holy Week celebrations to the triumphant Easter festivities, Gozo's faith and religious traditions are fully expressed through devotions, pilgrimages, processions and ceremonies.

The churches are dressed for the occassion as people are invited to pray and attend liturgical celebrations. A popular event includes the Good Friday processions where participants dress as biblical figures to visually narrate the passion of the Christ. Moreover, Easter Sunday Morning means joy as processions of the Resurrected Christ ensue while indulging in figolli and Easter eggs is a must.







October – November: Opera Season

Gozo is the place to be during this time of year for classical music lovers. International soloists, orchestra musicians, choristers and locals unite to take pleasure in all things opera. The yearly festival includes two fully staged operas performed at Gozo's opera houses, the Astra Theatre and Aurora Theatre in Victoria. Both the experienced and the novel opera enthusiasts can take delight in the recitals, opera appreciation workshops and



December - January: Christmas in Gozo

Gozo surely lives up to its name 'joy' at Christmas time.

Shimmering lights decorate the streets and carol singing sets the tone for a festive atmosphere. The Villa Rundle Gardens in Victoria are transformed into a magical wonderland complete with stalls selling typical Gozitan foods and artisanal gifts. Victoria also hosts the Gozo Christmas Parade, full of live-dancing, floats and costumes along the popular Republic Street.



Soak up the Christmas spirit in the villages, where squares and main streets are lit up with festive decorations and houses set up cribs, displays and lights. Every village has the traditional procession with a statue of baby Jesus and the Midnight Mass held on Christmas Eve. Choir singing and musical concerts are always on the calendar during this time. Visit the many crib exhibitions and do not miss out on Betlehem fChajnsielem where fields are transformed into a live animated nativity village.

To welcome the new year, Gozo hosts New Year's Eve Celebrations in Independence Square and St George's Square in Victoria, where an end-of-year spectacle awaits.



LOCAL DELICACIES

A popular ingredient in Gozitan traditional cuisine is cheeselets made from sheep's' milk. It is small and round in shape and can be savoured fresh, dried, salt-cured, marinated or peppered. Gozitan dishes like homemade ravioli, pastizzi and ftira tal-gbejniet.

Olives, zalzett (coriander-flavoured Maltese sausage), bigilla (broad bean paste), galletti (traditional Maltese water crackers) or crusty Maltese bread and olive oil are often served as complimentary starters or appetizers along with a glass of local wine.

For the full experience, taste some of Gozo's own artisanal products like tomato paste and sundried tomatoes or local sea salt harvested from the famous saltpans in Xwejni. On the sweeter side, one can delight in authentic honey and carob syrup. As for local beverages; traditional liquor, wines (including DOK and IGT wines), and craft beer are the most sought after.

A handful of traditional bakeries with their wood-fired ovens, bake the traditional Gozitan ftira. It is a kind of traditional pizza made from unleavened dough and is most popularly served either with anchovies or with fresh cheeselets. Here's a tip: when buying a ftira, make sure it is fresh out of the oven for the ultimate experience!

Sunday lunch in a Gozitan home often involves dishes like ross fil-forn (baked rice), imqarrun (baked macaroni), and rabbit meat dishes. Moreover, freshly caught fish is a consistent feature of Maltese cuisine, simply grilled with flavourful Mediterranean tomatoes and local capers.





Hobż biż-żejt is the typical Gozitan summer snack. It is made of thick slices of crusty Maltese bread, rubbed with juicy, red tomatoes, topped with some raw onion flakes, anchovies, a sprinkling of mint leaves and sheep's cheese, all soaked in cold-pressed green olive oil.

For winter lovers, Gozo also has its fair share of traditional soups ideal for colder days. These include the *minestra*, a very thick vegetable soup; the *aljotta*, a delicious garlicky fish soup; *kusksu*, made primarily from seasonal broad beans, small pasta beads, and fresh gbejniet; and lastly the *soppa tal-armla* (the widow's soup), made up of various vegetables complete with poached eggs and cheeselets.



Local confectioners bake treats like pastini tal-gharusa (the bride's biscuit) with a distinctive swirl of pink icing and the almondy bonconcini with the edible rice paper base. Gozo also boasts a number of sweets that are associated with specific events. The prinjolata is the Carnival pine-nut cake, while Easter is about figolli, the sweet pastries in particular shapes enclosing a filling of almond paste.

Summer feasts are a treat for those who love *imqaret* (date pastries) and *qubbajt* (nougat), sold from local food vendors. *Qagħaq tal-għasel* (honey rings) are a favourite Christmas treat along with the hot and spicy cocoa-and-chestnut-based Maltese drink known as *Imbuljuta tal-Qastan*.



VILLAGES AND TOWNS - THE HEART OF GOZO

line island is dotted with charming villages, each with a parish church dominating the central square, and surrounded by traditional limestone houses.



Villages come to life during annual feasts when the main town squares and streets are dressed up in a multitude of lights and decorations. Fireworks are one of the main attractions in every village, where many viewers gather together to watch the amazing visuals that local people craft with passion each year.



You might wonder if time stands still as life moves at a slower pace. It is not rare to spot older men or women hanging about, sitting on wooden benches and having a chat. Do not be surprised if you are approached for a friendly conversation as Gozitans tend to be welcoming and they will most likely provide some useful insider tips!



Old-fashioned street games are also synonymous with the village life. In Charb, this takes the form of brilli, a bowling type of setup, but where the objective is not to strike all the wooden pins out. In other places, villagers still gather for a regular game of boċċi.



The hub of each village is the 'pjazza' or main square. These are some of the best spots for absorbing the local ambience of Gozitan village life over dinner and a glass of wine.



ADVENTURE ENTHUSIASTS

A haven for adventure enthusiasts, Gozo's scenic views are the ideal setting for those who are looking for adrenaline-filled fun.

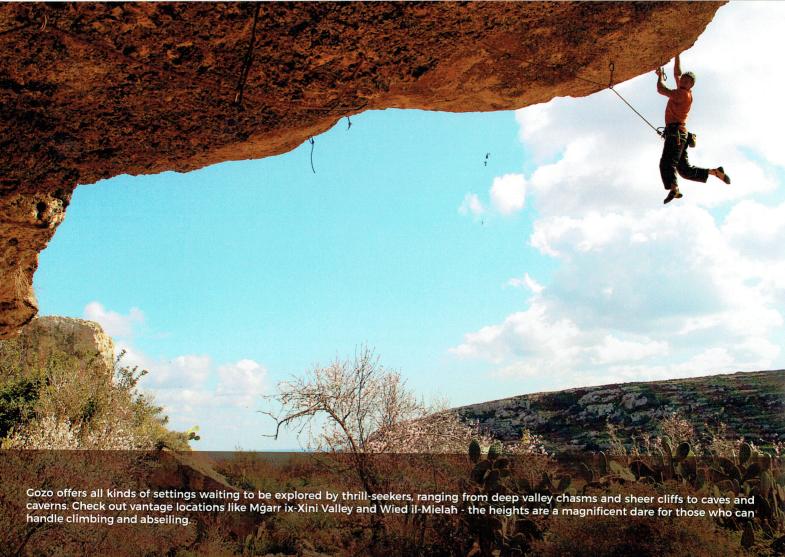
Consider exploring one of Gozo's valleys - Mġarr ix-Xini, Lunzjata, Xlendi and Marsalforn - or else scout through a coastal cliff path, like Ta' Ċenċ and Sanap Cliffs. The limits of Dwejra are a must to visit as the protected Natura 2000 site offers geological attractions such as the Fungus Rock and the Inland Sea.

Spend a day hiking on the barely inhabited island of Comino. All landscapes are sure to guarantee a celebration of Gozo's wonderful wildlife and unique habitats.





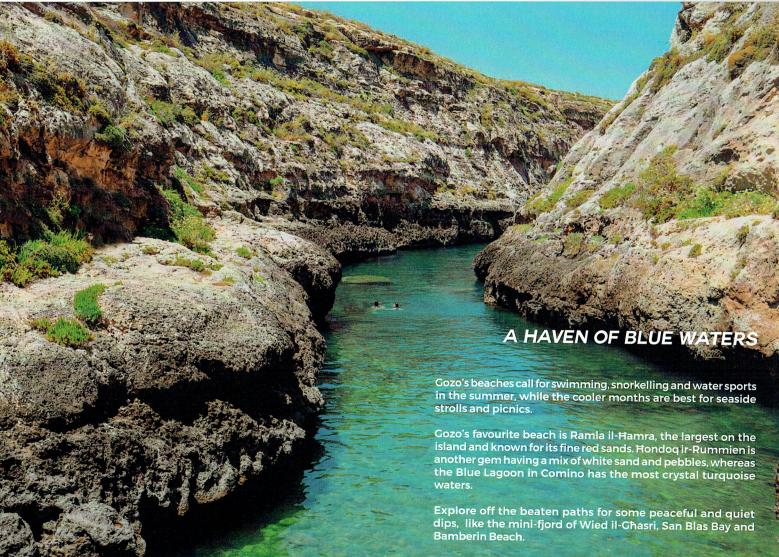
Mountain bike lovers appreciate the diverse cycling routes around the island. The mild temperatures from October to May offer photogenic coastal and countryside paths with varying difficulty levels.





For a more relaxed yet adventurous way to explore the island, opt for the eco-friendly Segway, which is both easy to learn and fun to drive around. Discover Gozo's natural beauty and hidden gems on hired e-vehicles, quad bikes and tuk-tuks.

Otherwise, consider a horseback adventure in the countryside - horse stables will provide for both the beginner and the more accomplished rider, guaranteeing a captivating experience for all.





THE ISLAND OF COMINO

Comino is the perfect escape for beach lovers and adventure-seekers as it is a haven for hiking, climbing and water sports. The waters of the Blue Lagoon resemble paradise, while Santa Marija Bay and the Crystal Lagoon are equally delightful. The island is also a pleasure for divers, offering a rich coast of caves and inlets as well as a patrol boat wreck to explore.

A major landmark on the island is the Santa Marija Tower, dating back to 1618. As you hike around, look out for the quaint chapel in the limits of Santa Marija Bay, the abandoned Grand Master's Palace and the semi-circular battery on the southern side of the island.

Organising a visit to Comino is easy and the trip is a short one. Several water taxis depart from Cirkewwa in Malta or Mgarr in Gozo. Whether you love nature, the sea or adventure, Comino will not disappoint!





CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES



The Basilica of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu is a Roman Catholic Church located on the outskirts of Gharb. The present sanctuary, built in the 1920s, still retains the 16th-century chapel. Both Saint John Paul II and Pope Francis honoured the Basilica with a papal visit. The area in front of the church is embellished with mosaics representing the 20 mysteries of the rosary.



Roasting the third largest unsupported dome in the world, the Xewkija Rotunda is a masterpiece in local stone. Adorned with fine sculptures and paintings, the dome serves as a viewpoint showcasing magnificent views of Gozo.

Tat-Tmien Kantunieri windmill in Xewkija, the oldest surviving windmill in Gozo, dates back to 1710. It has a unique octagonal shape and was recently renovated to serve as a cultural hub, welcoming visitors and hosting folklore events. Additionally, the Ta' Kola Windmill in Xaghra offers visitors the possibility to check out antique tools, furniture and items related to Gozitan crafts that provide a glimpse into the island's rural life in past centuries.



Visiting during leaner months allows you to explore the Gozitan surroundings more freely. Yet, the island still offers alternative options if you are looking to escape the crowds during busier months.

Dine alfresco at the seaside villages of Marsalforn, Xlendi and Mgarr. Savour Mediterranean dishes and a glass of wine at restaurants situated on the seafront whilst listening to the calming sound of waves.

For a more romantic experience, head over to one of Gozo's tranquil beaches at dusk. Locations such as Dwejra, Xwejni, Xlendi and Tal-Mixta Cave are excellent viewpoints for sunset lovers, where the setting sun meets the horizon and paints the sky with the most beautiful colours.







AN IDEAL FAMILY HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Gozo is a safe and familyfriendly holiday destination for families with children of all ages.

Some of Gozo's beaches are equipped with accessibility features to make it easier for handling buggies or wheelchairs. Family-engaging activities on the island are many. Captivate your child's imagination with a tour of the coastal towers, the Cittadella, museums, cultural sites and historic places.



Water activities are guaranteed fun, taking your mind off everyday life. For diving-enthusiasts, some diving-schools offer courses aimed at giving children a taste of the experience. Alternatively, opt for a boat ride along the coast for a more laid-back sea adventure. Other family activities to explore the outdoors include nature walks, trekking, cycling and horse riding.

TYING THE KNOT: WEDDINGS IN GOZO

Gozo is not only an ideal romantic escape or honeymoon destination but also a compelling location for your dream wedding. From charming and romantic to rustic, modern or luxurious, the sun-soaked island offers a magical setting for all styles and tastes.

If you are a history fan, places like the majestic Cittadella make for an amazing backdrop. Or for a grander ambient, consider a ceremony at one of the luxury hotels, where a lavish stand-up or seated reception is usually the norm. If you are organising an intimate ceremony, choose one of the many prestigious villas and let outside caterers organise your feast.







MEETINGS, INCENTIVES & CONFERENCES

In Gozo, you will find an extensive choice of suppliers to ensure that meetings, conventions, incentive trips or other corporate events turn out to be a success.

Accommodation options for guests include not only a choice of hotels but also five-star farmhouses, exquisite villas with pools and even luxury cruisers and yachts. State-of-the-art communication facilities and support services are readily available to cater for a smooth and safe event.



Escape to Gozo

CHOOSING YOUR FAVOURITE STAY



Accommodation in Gozo is as unique as the island itself. Experience Gozitan hospitality with a touch of style when staying at one of the island's luxurious hotels, restored traditional farmhouses complete with pool areas, shaded courtyards and thick stone walls, or the more intimate and artistic boutique hotels.





CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN GOZO

Sustainable tourism is an important concept in the industry today which is central to the island's economy. Gozo as a destination is not only land and sea, but an identity, which is best represented by its historical traditions and culture.

The island aims to ensure that these aspects are at the forefront of the VisitGozo brand, among other landmarks of historical importance like the UNESCO World Heritage site. Gozo is proud to find itself listed in the Top 100 Global Sustainable Destinations every year and is recognised as the island of several Blue Flag Beaches.

Gozo is an all-year-round destination, offering different experiences throughout all seasons. The island is blessed with 300 days of sunshine per year, also allowing outdoor adventures on most winter days.

Visiting during leaner months sustains the local industry, which strives to remain as authentic as possible.

Taste and buy local as many family businesses offer a genuine Gozitan product with passion. It is only visitors like you who can ensure their sustainability and future.

Gozo is highly popular with day-trippers, but at times these can leave an undesired impact. Gozo cannot be appreciated fully in a day. Support the local industry by staying for one night or more and we promise you will not regret it!

We ask you to respect the environment, avoid non-reusable materials, litter responsibly, and make sustainable use of energy and water. We urge you to take all safety precautions and adhere to local guidelines. Enjoy our island and stay safe!

visitgozo# www.visitgozo.com







Hospital



Tourist attraction



Churches / Cathedrals



Historic site / Museum



ATM / Bank



Free Wifi



Public Toilets



Tourist Information Office



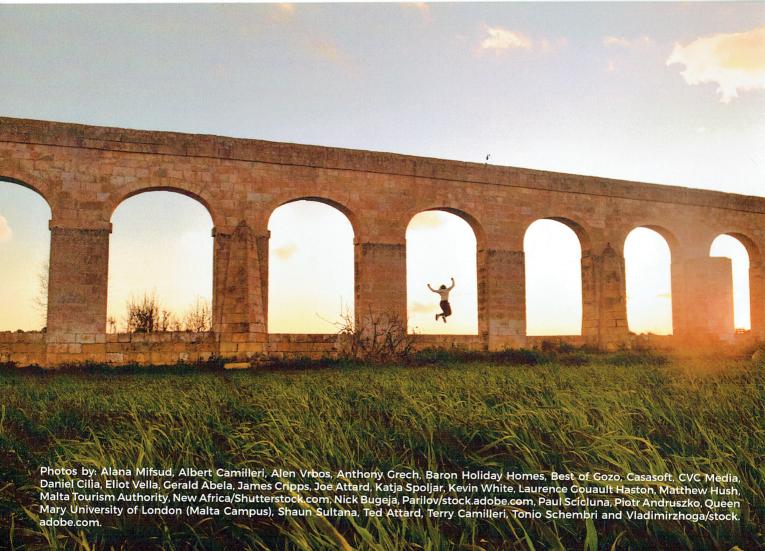
Car Park



Victoria Local Council



Post Office





GOZO, YOUR NEXT STOP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Experience Gozo's gems, secrets and magnificence, a perfect blend of history and myth, mediterranean culture and cuisine.

History and culture have carved their own story on this island, symbolised by its prehistoric temples, magnificent churches and the towering Citadel. Blessed with a wonderful countryside, pristine beaches, and unique coastline, Gozo is there for you to discover.

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MALTA

