



Incentives and Meetings in Malta

Malta, Gozo and Comino are set against a backdrop of their 7,000 year history in the middle of the crystalline Mediterranean Sea. Due to the strategic position, the Islands have hosted some of the most influential peoples in the prestigious history of the Basin. These include the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Spanish, the Knights of St John, Napoleonic Troops and Napoleon himself, as well as the British. All of these left their mark, making Malta the island of rich cultural heritage, which it is today. Pre-historic temples which predate the pyramids in Egypt and Stonehenge, fortifications, natural harbors, palaces and catacombs still stand tall for all to admire. Mdina and Valletta, the medieval capital and the capital city respectively are masterpieces of artistic architecture. These are some of the factors which make visits to the Maltese Islands an outstanding and enriching experience with long-lasting memories of its beauty and magic.

The Islands' inherent attractions set the scene for successful meetings, bringing people together in an environment which fosters communication. The gathering of people in Malta is simplified by the fact that the islands are easily accessible from the main European gateways, via a three hour flight.

Additionally, the smart and flexible local meetings industry is always at hand to provide solutions tailored to the needs of particular conference and incentive groups. This willingness to personalize events is further enhanced by the multitude of languages spoken by local professionals, which ensures a clear understanding with clients. Communication is also facilitated as English is the official business language of the Islands. In addition, the Maltese Islands, are members of the European Union, the Eurozone and the Schengen agreement.

The Island's 5- and 4-Star hotels include internationally renowned chains, as well as boutique up-market properties. While the conference venues also add to the local infrastructure supporting the meetings industry. Local Quality Assured Destination Management Companies (DMCs) develop innovative programs, utilizing the scenic historic buildings as striking venues for events. Furthermore, experience in the meetings industry, coupled with their ability to negotiate with other suppliers will ensure that clients receive a solid value-for-money offer.

The local meetings industry players come together to ensure the success of the event, providing specialist on-the-ground support to develop event programs which successfully meet clients' needs.

Contact Information

Malta Tourism Authority, MICE Segment Team
 Merchants Street,
 Auberge D'Italie
 VLT 1170 Valletta
 Malta

Contact: Ms Nadine Brincat,
 Senior Marketing Manager MICE

Phone: +356 2291 5206

Fax: +356 2291 5398

Email: nadine.brincat@visitmalta.com

Website: www.visitmalta.com/business-travel

Member of: ECM, ICCA, SITE, ISMP, CIMPA

Convention Bureau Services

- Information and literature on Malta and its activities during the convention
- Audio-visual materials for presentations to meeting planners and association executives
- Establishes local contacts for international organizers
- Assists in selecting suitable conference venues, accommodation and conference suppliers
- Advises and assists in developing social programs and pre/post tour packages for delegates and accompanying persons
- Assists in planning and coordinating site inspection visits for organizers
- Assists in the facilitation of immigration, customs and health clearance for delegates

Arriving in Malta

Malta International Airport is located 6 km/4 miles from Malta's capital city of Valletta, which can be reached via bus in 25 minutes. Driving conforms to the British model and is on the left-hand side of the road. International and British driving licenses are accepted. Buses are available from just outside the airport and taxi stands are situated available at the arrival lounge at the Malta International Airport. As Malta is a small island, transfers between hotel and airport will take on average 30 minutes.

By Air From	Hrs
Sicily	0.30
Rome	1.25
Geneva	2.10
Munich	2.10
Zurich	2.25
Paris	2.40
Madrid	2.50
Frankfurt	2.55



Public Transportation

Buses

Bus service is regular and efficient. Its extensive network covers the whole of the island, with the main service running through Valletta, the capital city. One can travel from one end of the island to the other for less than one Euro.

Taxis

Taxis can be identified by their all-white livery and indicative number-plates. Black taxis usually indicate part of a network and are usually more cost-effective; however it is advisable to agree on the cost of the journey with the driver beforehand. Since Malta is a compact island, there is no need for trains or underground transportation facilities.

General Information

The Island's picturesque beauty, the warm local hospitality and the advantageous geographical position, have attracted various conquerors and pirates to our shores. Situated at the center of the Mediterranean (93 km/72 miles south of Sicily and 288 km/187 miles north of Africa), the history of the Maltese Islands is full of epic battles, typical of the noble history of the Basin.

Despite being small, various civilizations, from the Phoenicians to the Romans, the Arabs, the Normans, the Knights of the Order of St John, the French and the British have coveted the Island, as either merchant or military posts.

It was the Knights of St John (later known as the Knights of Malta) who bestowed upon the Islands the wealth of Baroque buildings that still proudly dot the streets of the picturesque old cities. These buildings have aged with sublime grace and have been restored with equal elegance and therefore stand tall as a reminder of Malta's glorious past, which still has an active role to play in the present.

One of the most outstanding buildings, which dates back to the beginning of their stay in Malta is Saint John's Cathedral, built to honor their patron saint, housing Caravaggio's chiaroscuro masterpiece, 'The Beheading of Saint John'. Another imposing edifice inherited from the Knights is the 'Sacra Infermeria'. Originally the Knights' hospital, this is now known as the Mediterranean Conference Centre, which like other palaces and auberges has been refurbished and fitted with high-tech equipment, transforming it into a conference venue fit for royalty. In fact, it hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2005, which was attended by Queen Elizabeth II of England, as well as various heads of state and political leaders.

Gozo

The sister island is greener and is more distinct in character. There are regular ferry-crossings and seaplane departing from Malta to Gozo that makes it an ideal place especially small meetings, pre and post tours and incentive activities. Gozo is renowned for its diving, walking, cycling and abseiling sites. This island features a variety of hotels and farmhouses, which offer an alternative authentic accommodation product, contributing to the overall unique experience.

Comino

The smallest island can be reached by ferry. There is only one hotel on the island and a handful of farmers. On this peaceful island, there are no cars or noisy activities, just small beaches and the breath-taking Blue Lagoon.

Venues For Group Events

The Bay Arena in the popular St. Julian's area, offers a large uninterrupted floor space, as well as a significant amount of non-core space. It has the capacity of comfortably accommodating up to 5,000 patrons, which makes it an ideal venue for large parties, conferences, fairs or launches.

The Hilton Malta Conference Centre can accommodate up to 1,400 delegates in the main meeting room. The Centre is situated in the St Julian's area, which boasts a high concentration of 5-Star hotels equipped with high-end conference facilities.

The Malta Fairs and Convention Centre can accommodate a crowd of 10,000 seated and 22,000 standing, and can be adapted to host two or more activities back to back. The fully air-conditioned structure measures 50 m by 130 m /165 ft to 430 ft and has a pillar-less open space of 7,000 sqm/75,355 sqft.

The Mediterranean Conference Centre A 16th century landmark, constructed in 1574 by the Knights of St John, has been tastefully refurbished to provide state-of-the-art conference facilities. It covers an area of 7,000 sqm/75,355 sqft.

Other Venues Other venues include private Palazzos and converted old farmhouses around Malta and Gozo which can host wine parties, themed events and Maltese evenings. Historic castles offer exclusive settings and scenic views for medieval banquets. Moreover, Malta boasts a number of internationally-branded 5-Star and 4-Star hotels which offer a variety of in-house venues, to meet the needs of various group functions.



Places Of Interest

The 16th Century Walled Capital City with 5 gates was built by Jean de La Valette, French Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, after the epic siege of 1565. Places to visit include St. John's Cathedral, The Palace of the Grand Master, the National War Museum and various other museums and churches.

The History of Mdina is as old as the history of Malta itself. Its origin can be traced back more than 4,000 years. Mdina, the old capital of Malta, is a typical medieval city. The silent city, as it is known, commands a magnificent view of the island and although it is fully inhabited, silence reigns supreme. Places of interest include the Cathedral, the Cathedral Museum, and the National Museum of Natural History.

The Three Cities across the Grand Harbour to the south of Valletta are the historic fortified towns of Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea. They contain some of the most historic and cultural monuments in Malta. Particularly worth visiting is the Folk Museum, housed in the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa, formerly the site of the Inquisitions in Malta, and the Maritime Museum, also located in Vittoriosa.

The Citadel in Victoria Gozo was refortified in the 16th century by the Knights and it provided refuge for the numerous attacks on Malta's sister island, Gozo, by the Turks and the Corsairs during that time.

Hypogeum is located in Tarxien. This is a megalithic temple which was used as a burial place dating back to ca. 3,600 BC. It was built during the megalithic period and was discovered in 1902.

The Manoel Theatre Built in 1732 in the capital city of Valletta, during the Grandmastership of the Grandmaster Manoel de Vilhena. During the years, it fell into neglect but its doors opened again after the Second World War and today it is considered as a prestigious and historic theater, which seats an audience of about 400.

St. Paul's Catacombs These are the largest catacombs found in the area of Rabat, dating back to the 4th and 5th century AD, when they served as a burial place for the early Christians.

Ggantija Temples, Gozo "the Giant's Tower", attributed to a mythical giantess, is actually a temple, erected about 3500BC, and so one of the very first free standing buildings in the world. Actually it is two adjacent temples, the southern one, on the left, having had part of its wall removed to allow the northern one to be built up against it.