

Foreign Investment

Strong inward flows into Malta's growing business centre

Real Estate

Steady growth is leading to more five-star high rise developments

SmartCity

Malta partners with Dubai to drive innovation in Europe's ICT sector

CountryPro[🌐]filer

MALTA

THE MEDITERRANEAN'S
KNOWLEDGE-BASED
SMART ISLAND

Economy: Holding its own
in an uncertain world

Malta's Financial Centre
Heads for the Top:
Increased investment
underpins rapid growth

Europe's iGaming Capital:
A growth story that shows
little sign of slowing



LOGISTICS HUB

Malta's location could be its golden ticket

MEDITERRANEAN LIFESTYLE

Continental charm in an idyllic island environment

€10.00





A breathtaking vista



a haven for health and spa



A clear morning dive



An uplifting experience



Catch of the day



A fireworks spectacular in Senglea



A religious masterpiece



megalithic magnificence

Spoilt for Choice!

If you're looking for a short break destination that offers everything for everyone, and all within easy reach, then a short visit to the Maltese Islands will definitely leave you spoilt for choice. The warmth of its people has made Malta as famous for its hospitality as much as its diversity. Now is a great time to relax and enjoy 'the life' for a few days. You may find more about Malta on the shelf at your travel agent or simply by immersing yourself in www.visitmalta.com.

Malta's unique position and size make it the envy of the Mediterranean - check it out for yourself and you'll see how much more you can pack into your short break on the Maltese Islands! **There are daily flights to Malta from most major European cities.**



Malta... The Mediterranean's best kept secret

www.visitMALTA.com

VISITING MALTA

Business meetings in Malta offer the chance to explore some of the island's most beautiful treasures and experience the charms of a truly Mediterranean lifestyle



Grand Harbour © Alan Conville

Voted the best climate in the world by International Living, Malta's balmy weather and sparkling blue seas make for a holiday or business environment that is virtually second to none. With delightful natural scenery, magnificent architecture, warm and friendly people and a Mediterranean cuisine bursting with natural sun-ripened flavours, Malta's charms work their magic on everyone who comes to visit: business people on a two day meeting, tourists on a two week vacation and expats relocating their home to the island.

MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND

The Maltese islands consist of Malta, Gozo and Comino (all inhabited) and the uninhabited islets of Cominotto and Filfla. Anchored in the crystal clear waters of the central Mediterranean, the Maltese archipelago is situated just 93 km south of Sicily and 290 km north of Africa.

Malta's strategic position midway between Europe and Africa made it a key possession for the many different conquering nations that ruled it throughout its 7000 years of history: from Neolithic man to the Ancient Romans, the Byzantines, the Moors, the Normans, the Knights of St John, the French and the British, all of whom have left a wealth of architectural and cultural treasures.

EASY ACCESSIBILITY

Popular for decades with European tourists from across the continent, Malta's proximity to the mainland means it has always been relatively easy to get to the island. With the advent of low-cost airlines a few years ago, improving both pricing and seat availability, getting to Malta is now as easy as catching a train into town. Just an hour away from Rome and three hours from London or Frankfurt, the island offers northern Europeans the chance to experience a few days of balmy sunshine in the middle of a dull grey winter.

SIGHT-SEEING BETWEEN MEETINGS

For those coming on business trips, Malta's main business and financial centres are located in Valletta, Floriana, St Julians and Sliema, and most meetings will be concentrated in or around those areas. The city of Valletta, built in the 1560s by the Knights of St John, is situated on the tip of Mount Sciberras peninsula, a stretch of land that extends into the heart of the Grand Harbour, embraced on either side by the Three Cities and Sliema respectively.

The views from any vantage point in the city are spectacular: sparkling blue sea shimmering towards the horizon, framed by the indented coastline of the surrounding land. Ships, tug boats, yachts, sailing boats and fishing vessels keep both sides of the harbour busy with activity, and high on the skyline above the Three Cities and Marsa further inland the cranes and structures of the Dockyards and shipyards reinforce the maritime atmosphere that pervades this unique city.

VALLETTA

Within Valletta itself, a protected UNESCO World Heritage site, you'll be seduced by the stunning Baroque architecture of the palaces, mansions and town-houses that fill its hilly streets. Valletta is one of Europe's most beautiful cities, replete with museums, churches, galleries, shops, open-air markets and an atmosphere all of its own. At its centre lies the remarkable St John's Co-Cathedral (its floors are paved with the marble-inlaid tombstones of long-dead Knights), home to Caravaggio's beheading of St John the Baptist. Go to the 400 year old Casa Rocca Piccola in Republic Street, one of the very few, lovingly maintained, ancestral homes in Malta that are open to the public, where you can also visit the Museum of Costume that it houses.



© Paola Meitre Liberatini, MTA

PREHISTORIC TEMPLES

If you have time to explore further afield between meetings try to visit at least one example of remains from each of Malta's most important historical periods. 7000 years of history has left an abundant legacy of historically important sites and monuments on the island, including archaeological sites that pre-date the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge.

The Megalithic temples in Malta and Gozo, which are the oldest freestanding stone structures in the world, and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum are all inscribed on the UNESCO World heritage list as having special universal value.

THE SILENT CITY

The old capital Mdina is another popular attraction. Dubbed Malta's 'Silent City' this magnificent and totally unspoiled walled town quietly evokes the grandeur of a bygone era, especially in the evening when its cobbled streets are almost deserted. Visit the Cathedral in Mdina; the Cathedral Museum, which, among many other things boasts an extensive collection of Duhrer woodcuts; and Palazzo Falzon, built in 1233, for a glimpse at what Medieval Maltese life was like.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

If you're the active type or simply want to blow off steam, you might want to try one of the myriad of sporting activities available on Malta: from golf and tennis, to skydiving, rock-climbing, scuba diving, horse riding, walking or bird-watching, there's plenty to do for anyone seeking an adrenaline rush or a blast of fresh air. Keen ramblers will discover the charm of the Maltese rural landscape; a patchwork tapestry of terraced fields, olive trees and honey-coloured stone walls.

VIBRANT NIGHTLIFE

Whatever you choose to fill your free time with, eating out and evening entertainment will put the final touches to your days. Malta offers a great choice of restaurants, bars, jazz clubs, nightclubs, discos and casinos and the island's vibrant nightlife draws crowds from across Europe every weekend and throughout the summer. Dine by the sea on fresh-caught fish, sipping a glass of ice-cold local chardonnay and gazing up into the starry night sky for an unforgettable evening. And if you're visiting Malta between June and September, find out where the nearest village *festa* is being held and round off your evening by sharing in the lively celebrations, fireworks and fun commemorating the village patron saint.

SHOPPING AROUND

Shopping in Valletta, Sliema or St Julians is excellent, and apart from all the high-street brands from the UK, Italy and France, you will also find boutiques selling designer wear at incredibly low prices. If you're shopping for traditional arts and crafts to take home with you, look out for the renowned Malta lace, delicate silver and gold filigree or the colourful and creative Malta hand-blown glass. ■



© Maysun Abu-khdeir Glanados, MTA

Island Hopping

Gozo – Get a ferry across the Gozo channel to Malta's sister island of Gozo. This tiny, rural island, swirling with myth and romance has a legendary charm that enchants any visitor. Beautiful landscapes of gentle hills and undulating valleys, with a rocky coastline punctuated with occasional sandy beaches and deep sheltered bays, cliffs and bluffs, Gozo is a genuine island delight. Far less developed than Malta, Gozo's rural communities and coastal fishing villages slumber under the Mediterranean sun in picturesque somnolence. Places to visit include the Citadel, the tiny walled city at the heart of the capital, Rabat (Victoria), Dwejra (the Inland Sea) and Ramla il-Hamra, one of the most beautiful sandy beaches on the islands. Ggantija Temples are absolutely fascinating and not to be missed, and while you're there, take a look at Marsalforn, the busiest summer resort on the island, and Xlendi Bay, an erstwhile tiny fishing village sitting astride a deep narrow fjord-like bay that's become very fashionable as a summer resort in the last few years.

Getting There: Gozo Ferry from Cirkewwa runs frequent services, increasing on particularly busy days to cope with demand. For a timetable visit www.gozochannel.com




CORINTHIA PALACE HOTEL

De Paule Avenue, San Anton, Malta
T: (+356) 2144 0301
F: (+356) 2146 5713
Email: palace@corinthia.com
www.corinthiahotels.com

At the centre of the Island, opposite the Presidential Palace and San Anton Botanical Gardens, Malta's premier five star hotel, offers the best in accommodation, comfort and facilities. Set in its own mature and landscaped gardens, the Corinthia Palace Hotel & SPA, is the perfect base from where to explore the island as it is only 4km away from the Walled City of Mdina, 6km away from the Capital Valletta and 7km from the resort of St Julians, yet far enough to offer a world of tranquility and relaxation.




CORINTHIA SAN GORG HOTEL

St George's Bay, St Julian's, Malta
T: (+356) 2137 4114 • F: (+356) 2137 4039
Email: sangorg@cbr.corinthia.com
www.corinthiahotels.com

This elegant hotel is splendidly located at the entrance to St George's Bay, St. Julians. Virtually surrounded by the Mediterranean, and designed around cascading pools that lead down to a Lido, where locals and other foreign guests are welcome. The Hotel offers unparalleled luxury and comfort. The Executive Club suites on the top floors have separate facilities while the self contained Conference and Business Centre offers total flexibility for a wide range of meetings and conferences.




HILTON MALTA

Portomaso, PTM01, Malta
T: (+356) 2138 3383
F: (+356) 2138 6386
www.hilton.com

Forming part of the prestigious Portomaso development, Hilton Malta offers an unparalleled combination of an ideal location and outstanding facilities. The hotel has a total of 294 deluxe rooms and a wide range of facilities and restaurants to suit different moods. State-of-the-art meeting facilities, including 9 meeting rooms in-house and the Hilton Malta Conference Centre, offering the combination of a Mediterranean setting and the very latest equipment.




INTERCONTINENTAL MALTA

St. George's Bay, St. Julians STJ3310 - Malta
Tel: (+356) 2137 7600 • Fax: (+356) 2137 2222
Email: info@intercontinental.com.mt
Website: www.malta.intercontinental.com

InterContinental Malta redefines the meaning of elegance with its contemporary design and modern ambience. All designer-led rooms are superbly furnished combining stylish materials and tasteful bright colours. The hotel's top three floors house Club InterContinental rooms and suites, with the Club Lounge offering a range of exclusive services for the most discerning business traveler. The hotel offers total connectivity (WiFi and broadband) and boasts over 5,000 sqm of meeting, banqueting and exhibition space, including 22 separate meeting rooms. Facilities also include 7 restaurants and 3 bars, with InterContinental Beach Club being an extension of the hotel's amenities.




KEMPINSKI HOTEL SAN LAWRENZ

Triq ir-Rokon, San Lawrenz, SLZ 1040, Gozo - Malta
T: (+356) 2211 0000 • F: (+356) 2211 6372
Email: reservations.sanlawrenz@kempinski.com
Website: www.kempinski-gozo.com


The Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz is more than just an exclusive hideaway resort with all the comforts 5 stars can offer. Surrounded by 30,000 sqm of gardens, it has been built to blend into the yellow limestone in a traditional style. The entire resort creates an elegantly rustic atmosphere in the lobby with natural stone floors, palm trees, flower beds, local woods and Mediterranean colours - add to that the award-winning Spa & Ayurveda Centre, and you have the ideal surroundings to relax body and mind. Its 122 airy rooms, 48 of which are Suites, are tastefully decorated in traditional Maltese style. Four meeting rooms with all state-of-the-art facilities accommodate up to 300 delegates.



LE MERIDIEN ST JULIANS HOTEL + SPA

39 Main Street, Balluta Bay, St Julians STJ1017, Malta
T: (+356) 2311 0000 • F: (+356) 2311 0001
Email: infolmsj@lemeridien.com
Website: www.lemeridienmalta.com

Le Meridien St.Julians Hotel + Spa is situated on the grounds of a 19th century Maltese villa on the sea front of picturesque Balluta Bay. A combination of innovative and contemporary design awaits. Located on the St.Julians promenade, the area is a Mecca for restaurants, cafes and shopping. Incorporating 276 rooms + suites, inspiring cuisine, meeting facilities and reviving spa.



RADISSON SAS BAY POINT RESORT

St. George's Bay, St. Julians STJ02
T: (+356) 2137 4894 • F: (+356) 2137 4895
Email: info@radisson.com.mt
www.radisson.com.mt

The five star Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort Malta is situated in St. George's Bay on the island's north coast, directly overlooking the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean and with views stretching from the historic Grand Harbour in the East to the sister island of Gozo in the West. This location provides the best of both worlds. St. George's Bay is a quiet area, ideal for getting away from it all.



THE XARA PALACE RELAIS & CHATEAUX

Misrah il-Kunsill, Mdina MDN 1050 - Malta
T: (+356) 2145 0560 • F: (+356) 2145 2612
Email: info@xarapalace.com.mt
Website: www.xarapalace.com.mt

The Xara Palace Relais & Chateaux is Malta's finest, privately owned, luxury boutique hotel offering 17 individually designed suites. Here one can discover and savour the past whilst enjoying every amenity and comfort of the present. Situated in the medieval town of Mdina this unique 17th century palazzo offers the highest standard of service, accommodation and cuisine. Mdina is a short drive away from the Island's major attractions. The award winning 'de Mondion restaurant' enjoys spectacular panoramic views and offers the best of Modern cuisine prepared by our award winning Executive Chef, Kevin Bonello and his Brigade.

HEALTH TOURISM

Excellent hospitals, top quality specialists, services and facilities plus a holiday in the sun. Thousands of overseas patients are choosing to have their medical treatment in Malta and it's not difficult to work out why

With a reputation for excellent health care that is almost 500 years old, Malta, the 'Nurse of the Med', is raising the standard again, offering patients from across the world the opportunity to secure top quality, timely treatment in state-of-the-art hospitals and clinics on one of Europe's favourite holiday islands.

Situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, with a well-developed and flourishing tourist industry already geared up to welcoming visitors with the most diverse of exigencies, Malta knows that it enjoys specific advantages as a medical and health tourism destination, and the island's hospitals, clinics and hoteliers are joining forces to offer patients and their families the perfect solution to the waiting list woes that plague so many major European countries.

Top of Malta's list of natural advantages is the international reputation of its health service and medical professionals. One of the most highly respected and successful health services in the world, ranked in the top five in the world in a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) study, it is manned by UK or EU trained surgeons, consultants and specialists, whose familiarity with British and European systems adds a dimension of familiarity and comfort to the overseas patients' experience.

Malta's medical and health facilities include the recently opened state-of-the-art Mater Dei Hospital, several private hospitals such as St James Hospital and St Philip's Hospital, and various Spa hotels, such as the Fortina Hotel, a purpose-built five star spa hotel that is ideal for post-operative recovery. A large number of hospitals, clinics and health centres in Malta are equipped to carry out everything from basic blood tests to cardiac surgery using the latest equipment and most advanced techniques.

Already the island is seeing a steady influx of overseas patients choosing to have treatment or surgery abroad for all types of operations and interventions: from cardiology and ophthalmology to knee and hip replacement operations, kidney transplants and dentistry to name but a few, as well as cosmetic surgery such as breast reduction or augmentation, face lifts and lipo-suction.

For British patients and their families, Malta is about to become even more attractive as an alternative to their local hospitals. Besides Malta's historical links to the UK, the common usage of English and the short traveling time required that have long made the island a natural choice for British people seeking private medical treatment overseas, recent ECJ rulings suggesting that EU patients facing 'undue delays' at home are entitled to seek treatment elsewhere in the EU at the expense of their home country means that NHS patients too could soon be opting to have their timely treatment in Malta financed by their own health service.

Malta's leading medical and health tourism operators are fully aware of the opportunity this development opens up for the island, and together with the Malta Tourism Authority, have appointed a consultant in the UK to present Malta's proposals to various UK Healthcare Trusts. With costs in Malta typically 30% cheaper than in the UK and no compromise on quality, it is expected that numbers of overseas patients receiving treatment in Malta could go up by 100,000 patients annually.

For private patients or for operations not covered by either the NHS or private insurance, such as cosmetic surgery, Malta has introduced a Health Card: an innovative finance plan that allows patients to repay the costs of any procedure including flights, accommodation and recovery time, over a number of years, making top quality, timely treatment fully available to anyone, whatever his or her circumstances. ■



MEETING PLACE IN THE MED

Warm sun, sparkling sea and welcoming smiles make Malta an ever popular travel destination with visitors, while excellent conference facilities and convenient international connections make the island ever more attractive as a meeting place for business

Not many destinations have thousands of years' experience as a meeting place but Malta has played host to everyone from St Paul to latter-day presidents, and to gatherings ranging from EU conferences to small groups. Companies and organizations such as the EU, the Commonwealth, WHO, UNDP, Microsoft, IBM, Bayer, Roche, Cable & Wireless, Cadbury, Sony, Dell Computers, Eriksson, UPS, Opel, Deutsche Telecom and many others have already chosen Malta as their meeting place and the reason is not difficult to discern: whatever the size, formality or informality of your event, Malta has the expertise, the venues and the track record to ensure an unforgettable experience for all. Excellent facilities, year round good weather and convenient connections to all Europe's major airports are only a few of Malta's attractions as a Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events (MICE) destination. And Malta's tourism operators are doing their best to maximise the natural advantages of the island in order to attract this highly competitive market. Millions of euro have been invested in improving and extending the facilities and services offered, and the last few years have seen five-star hotels banding together to promote Malta and collectively offer a truly advantageous package to conference organisers.

ROOM FOR ALL

Small though Malta is, its tourism industry has invested heavily in creating the right environment and facilities for the MICE market. Within the last decade alone a significant number of five-star hotels have been built, all within walking distance of each other. The area in which they are located, between St Julian's Bay and St George's Bay, has been designated the 'Golden Mile' and each of these hotels houses large conference areas able to accommodate hundreds of delegates, as well as state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Four and five-star hotels in other areas are similarly equipped, offering conference organizers the facility of accommodating delegates in city, countryside or seaside locations. The short distances between localities also means that delegates can be accommodated in different hotels, as travel times between towns rarely exceed 15 minutes.

VENUES

An impressive selection of function venues are available, any of which would be sufficient alone to turn the occasion into a memorable event. From the 16th Century Mediterranean

Conference Centre in Valletta, to magnificent castles, stunning palazzos and impressive forts, adding a historical accent to the function is easy in Malta, where such venues abound. For a more contemporary note, available venues include theme parks, village squares, luxury yachts and exclusive sea front properties among others.

ENTERTAINMENT

Malta's small size, rich heritage and glorious Mediterranean scenery have been key to the island's success at attracting traditional tourism, and are proving to be equally important drivers in the lucrative MICE sector. Conference delegates are able to enjoy a host of diverse experiences, ranging from historical tours to one of Malta's several World Heritage Sites, including 7000-year-old temples and burial sites, diving in the crystalline waters surrounding the island or taking a nature ramble across the delightful patchwork scenery of Malta's countryside. A host of sporting activities are available, ranging from tennis and golf to skydiving and rock climbing, while those with gentler tastes could opt for a traditional horse and carriage ride through the ancient walled city of Mdina.

FLYING SOUTH

Frequent connections between Malta and all major European cities mean comfort and convenience for the delegates participating in the conference or enjoying an incentive break. Travel times vary from three hours (from London) to just one hour (from Rome). Malta International Airport offers excellent facilities, and is located less than 30 minutes away from most hotels.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Malta Tourism Authority offers a variety of services designed to help events organisers, both through its MICE Division and through its website, www.visitmalta.com, provides specific information on hotels, facilities, service providers and venues, as well as contact details for destination management companies, audio visual companies, exhibition stand designers and events organisers.

PERFECT COMBINATION

Excellent conference facilities and an abundance of extra curricular attractions in addition to its glorious Mediterranean climate make Malta the must-visit destination for thousands of conference delegates every year: With great food, shopping, cultural and musical events, historical sites and sports of all types all within a few minutes distance of each other adding extra value to every conference or incentive package, Malta is rapidly taking the lead over competitors in this lucrative sector of the tourism market. With its European heritage and tradition for both professionalism and hospitality, the island remains one of the most interesting and charming MICE destinations available today. ■

EXCELLENT

QUALITY OF LIFE



St. Julian's © AirMalta

Life on the Mediterranean island of Malta can be totally satisfying, providing the possibility of a work/leisure balance that few other locations can offer

Living in Malta is a unique experience, especially for those used to hectic city environments and long commutes between work and home. The island's small size and wealth of entertainment options means that in Malta, it is possible to have it all: work hard, play hard and relax by the sea, all in one day.

Measuring quality of life can be tricky and universal yardsticks don't often work but one thing that most people agree on is that a balanced life makes for a happy life. The proverbial eight hours work, eight hours play and eight hours sleep aren't easy to achieve in a big city environment where long commutes and even longer traffic jams eat away at dwindling leisure time and frayed tempers in equal measure.

Living on a tiny island, however, changes all that, and most expats in Malta cite the comfortable, relaxed lifestyle as one of the main reasons for their move. Malta is small: nowhere is more than 30 minutes away from wherever you are and the sea, the cafes, the restaurants, cinemas, theatres, sports clubs or gyms are almost always within walking distance of your office or home.

A recent EU survey on happiness in the EU found that Maltese people, despite earning less than their northern European neighbours are among the happiest people in the Union. Life by the sea, where precious time can be used for work, pleasure and essential sleep in satisfactory chunks goes a long way towards creating happiness.

But it's not only time issues that give Malta its edge over other European locations. The Maltese character is imbued with the British legacy of strong work ethic and powerful ambition, softened by the natural southern Mediterranean temperament. Doing business in Malta is both

satisfying and pleasant because the same balance that adds value in terms of time is also present in the nature of the people you're working with. Add to that the fact that the Maltese health service is one of the best in the world, the postal service works at a high level of efficiency, the infrastructure is robust and continually being upgraded and schools, colleges and universities are among the best in Europe, and an already pretty picture becomes even more attractive.

Your Maltese neighbours will speak three languages fluently: Maltese, English and Italian, and will probably have at least a working knowledge of French or German. The cost of living remains one of the lowest in Europe, yet banking, taxation, insurance, social security, utilities and communications services are sophisticated, professional and reliable, often surpassing those offered in many European nations. All of this, of course, under a Mediterranean sun that sparkles on the cleanest and clearest water in the region, and that gives the island hot, dry summers, short, mild winters and gloriously warm spring and autumn weather.

Does it get any better? Well yes, actually. The Maltese cuisine, a Mediterranean diet based on fresh seasonal ingredients, is one of the healthiest and tastiest in the region, crime is almost nonexistent, making Malta one of the safest places in the world, and the population's strong Catholic tradition, evident in the hundreds of beautiful churches and chapels to be seen in every town, village or hamlet, bursts into joyous street celebrations with every feast day marked by processions, spectacular fireworks displays, band marches and general feasting.

Malta offers residents and expats the unique opportunity to live every aspect of life to the full, with warm sunshine and sparkling seas providing an enchanting backdrop to a pleasant Mediterranean lifestyle. ■

USEFUL NUMBERS

The following is a list of useful telephone numbers when you are visiting the Maltese Islands:

Ambulance **196**

Consumer Protection **21250221**

Direct Dialling Code (Malta) **356**

Directory Enquiries **1182**

Directory Enquiries (Go Mobile) **1187**

Directory Enquiries (Vodafone) **1189**

Emergency **112**

Emergency Rescue by Helicopter **21244371**

Emergency Rescue by Patrol Boat **21238797**

Fire Brigade **199**

Flight Enquiries **21249600**

Government Information Service **153**

Gozo Channel Co. Ltd **21556114**

Hospital – Gozo **21561600**

Hospital – Malta **21241251**

International Code **00**

Lost Property **21224781**

Overseas Operator **1152**

Passport Office – Gozo **21560770**

Passport Office – Malta **2122286**

Police **191**

Time Check **195**

Weather Forecast **50043848**