



Country Information

MALTE

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About the country

General

Name of the country: Malta

Area: 316 sq km

Population: 401,880 inhabitants

Capital: Valletta. Population: 6,315

Government: Republic. Gained independence from the UK in 1964.

Geography: The Maltese archipelago is situated in the middle of the Mediterranean, with the largest inhabited island, Malta, lying 93km south of Sicily and 290km from North Africa. Gozo and Comino are the only other inhabited islands. The landscape of all three is characterized by low hills with terraced fields. Malta has no mountains or rivers. Its coastline is indented with harbors, bays, creeks, sandy beaches and rocky coves. Gozo is connected to Malta by ferry and is more thickly vegetated, with many flat-topped hills and craggy cliffs. Comino, the smallest island, is connected to Malta and Gozo by ferry and is very sparsely populated.

Language: Maltese (a Semitic language) and English are the official languages. Italian is also widely spoken.

Time: GMT + 1 (GMT + 2 from the last Sunday in March to last Sunday in October).

Religion: 91% Roman Catholic.

Electricity: 240 volts AC, 50Hz. UK-style three-pin plug are in use.

Money

Currency: Euro (EUR; symbol €) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Exchange Rates:

Currency Exchange Rates*			
€1.00 =	US\$ 1. 34746	£ 0. 88431	CHF 1. 51257

* Date's rate: 18 May 09

Credit cards: American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. ATMs are available.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0830-1230, Sat 0830-1130. Some work longer hours and summer and winter hours may differ.

Tipping: 10 to 15% is expected in hotels and restaurants when not included in the bill.

International travel

International airports

The national airline is [Air Malta](#) (KM)

[Malta International](#) (MLA) (Luqa) is 5km south of Valletta (journey time – 15 minutes). To/from the airport: Buses depart regularly to and from Valletta City Gate. There is a regular service to the main bus

terminal in Valletta. There is a full, 24-hour, taxi service to all parts of Malta; fares are charged at a fixed rate. A shuttle service also runs to Circewwa to connect with ferries.

Getting There by Water

Main ports: Valletta, Marsaxlokk and Mgarr/Gozo.

Services operate to the Sicilian ports of Catania and Pozzallo. These routes are served by high-speed hydrofoils and catamarans (journey time – 1 hour 30 minutes) and car ferries (journey time - 3 hours).

There are also sailings to Italy (to Reggio Calabria, Genoa and Salerno). For information on the ports in Malta, contact the [Malta Maritime Authority](#).

Passport/Visas

Nationals of more than 100 countries or territories who wish to come to Malta must obtain entry clearance before they travel, whatever the purpose of their visit.

Central Visa Unit
Pjazza San Kalcidonju,
Floriana FRN 1530
Tel: (+356) 2204 2310
E-mail: visa.mfa@gov.mt

Venue

Radisson SAS Golden Sands & Spa Malta
<http://www.islandhotels.com>

Hotel Booking Form

www.ibo.org/events/w015MYPMell09/documents/ReservationBookingForm.doc

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the event.

Health & Safety

There are no health risks attached with travel to Malta, and water and food is safe for consumption. Visitors should, however, take out adequate medical and travel insurance in case medical evacuation or further treatment is required.

Climate

Malta has a typically Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild winters. In summer temperatures can reach 30°C, but the heat tends to be tempered by sea breezes. In spring and autumn a hot wind, known as the Xlokk, sometimes brings high temperatures and humidity. There is little rainfall, and it occurs only in winter.

Communications

Country code: 356. There are no area codes.

Emergencies: 112

Useful links

- Visa and Passport Information
<http://www.visahq.com>
- Visit Malta
- <http://www.visitmalta.com/main>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<http://www.mfa.gov.mt/>
- World Travel Guide
<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/malta>