

MALTA

GOZO & COMINO



crystal clear
VISION

The Maltese Islands were voted the third best dive destination worldwide in 2009, by the readers of 'Diver' magazine, UK. The Professional Diving Schools Association together with the Malta Tourism Authority have produced this brochure to highlight the splendid dive sites and facilities the Islands have to offer.

The Association was originally formed in 1982 in order to represent the interests of the diving community in Malta. Its aim was to liaise with the Maltese government and its various departments, on all matters connected with scuba diving, presenting a common and coherent view point. The various members of the Association have a genuine concern for issues such as diver safety, diver education and the environment; all areas that require constant monitoring.

From its inception, the Association has increased in size from a handful of centres to well over 30, distributed throughout the Maltese Islands. The centres range in size from small to large and continue to increase in number each season. The Maltese government, realising the increasing importance of diving tourism to the Islands, is taking a pro-active role in the promotion of the industry through the Malta Tourism Authority.

For a list of up to date licensed dive centres visit www.visitmalta.com

AFTER 4 DECADES
STILL A FAVOURITE DIVE
DESTINATION

MALTA, GOZO, COMINO
**VOTED THIRD BEST
DIVE DESTINATION
WORLDWIDE***

20 + 20

see beyond 40m

* VOTED BY DIVER MAGAZINE

THE WARMTH OF MALTA! YOU WILL FIND WARMTH IN OUR WEATHER, WATER AND WELCOME. ALREADY FAMOUS FOR OUR AMAZING VARIETY OF DIVE SITES, ALL WITHIN EASY REACH, AND FOR GREAT UNDERWATER VISIBILITY ALL YEAR ROUND. THERE IS SO MUCH MORE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO ENJOY.

BLUE HOLE Reportedly one of Jacques Cousteau's favourite dives and Gozo's most famous dive site. Descending through the 'hole' and under the 5m Arch towards the base of the Azure window, you can see some of Gozo's largest Groupers, Amberjacks, Barracuda and Tuna feeding.

MGARR IX-XINI The caverns at 10m and 16m in this bay can be reached from both Mgarr ix-Xini and Ta' Cenc making this a versatile dive site and ideal for a shallow second dive.

MV KARWELLA A 1957 German passenger ferry, which was converted locally as a tourist pleasure cruise boat, was purposely sunk in 2006, along with the MV Cominoland, to provide an interesting artificial reef off the south-east coast of Gozo.

CIRKEWWA REEF One of our Marine Protected Areas providing a great dive site for all levels of divers, the rock formation allows for depths of 5-35m. This area is home to the Madonna statue and a variety of overhangs, swim-throughs and archways.

ROZI and the P29 Located within the Northern Marine Protected Area at Cirkewwa, these two wrecks are easily accessible from shore. They lie in 32m and 35m and make a great day for the more experienced diver. Excellent for u/w photographers!

DOUBLE ARCH For the experienced diver this world renowned unique double arch is a must. Located off Marsalforn on the north side of Gozo, this very scenic swim through, with the added attraction of shoals of fish, is easiest by boat but equally well worth the swim from shore.

SANTA MARIJA CAVES One of Comino's delightful cave dives, a most enjoyable dive for those wanting to expand their experience.



stunning dive sites around the Maltese Islands

locations and depths are specified overleaf

LANTERN POINT Renowned for its chimney like swim-through cavern filled with cardinal fish. This popular site offers multilevel opportunities and an abundance of marine life for the avid diver.

HMS STUBBORN This unique fully intact submarine wreck is a technical diver's delight at 55m. After a distinguished service record she was finally scuttled off Qawra Point in 1946 for sonar target practice. Her sheer size is a worthwhile, breathtaking sight.

IMPERIAL EAGLE A favourite boat dive for the more experienced diver, this former Malta-Gozo ferry offers an excellent wreck dive at a max of around 38m. Whether you penetrate the wreck or stand at the helm or take the opportunity to size yourself up against the 8m statue of Christ situated near the shot line - always a memorable experience.

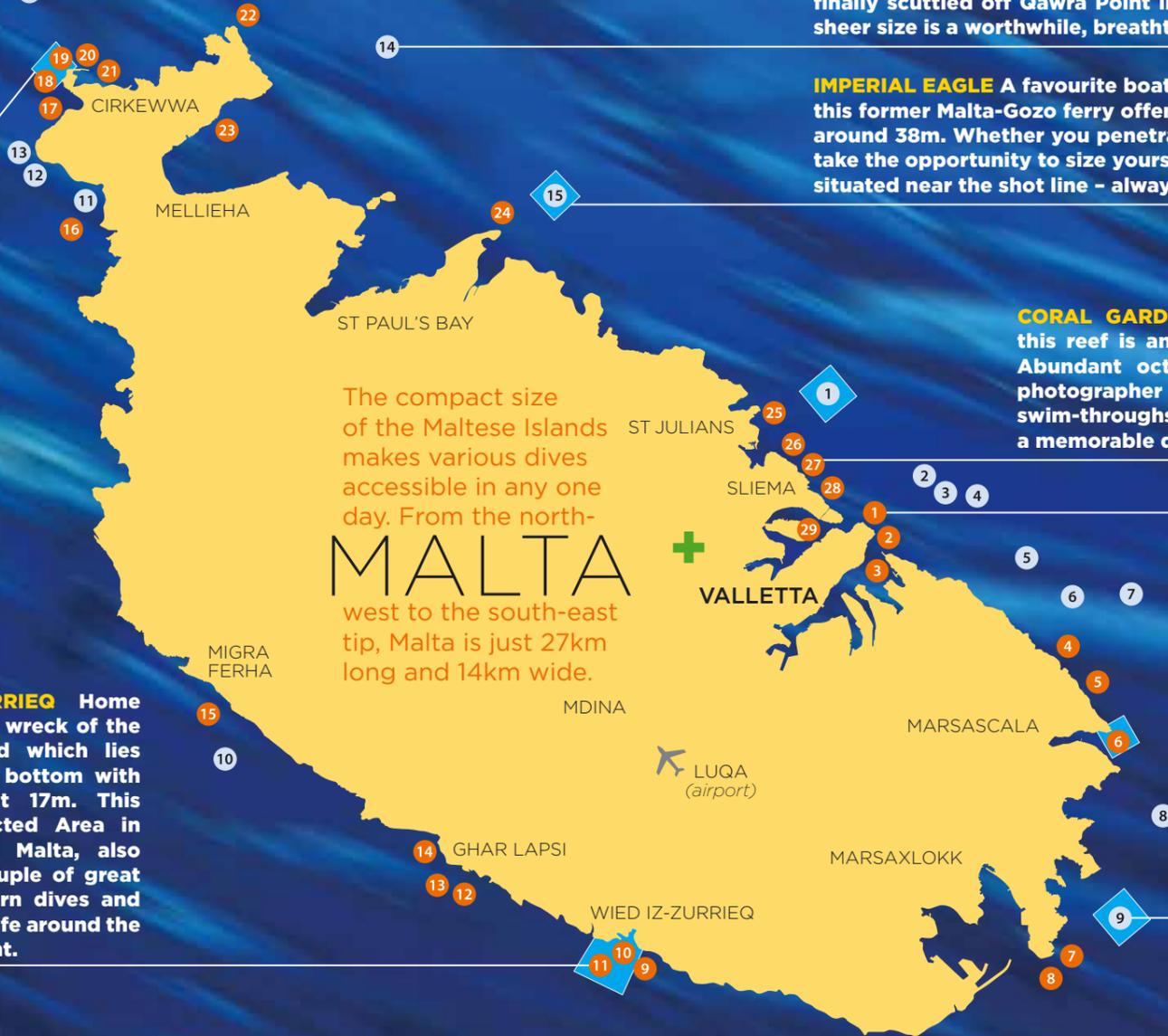
CORAL GARDENS The variety of marine life on this reef is an underwater photographer's dream. Abundant octopus and moray eels provide the photographer with endless colour and variety. The swim-throughs and tunnel are all within 12m, making a memorable dive for all levels of experience.

HMS MAORI Sunk in 1942 in St Elmo Bay, Valletta, the forward section of this Tribal Class British Destroyer, at between 11m and 15m, provides divers of all experience levels with a chance to explore and enjoy a piece of history. Recent storms have given this wreck a whole new look!

BRISTOL BLENHEIM BOMBER Only one of 5 known wrecks of its kind, located only a short boat ride off Zonqor Point. Lying at a max of 42m this WWII plane provides the experienced diver with something a little out of the ordinary.

The compact size of the Maltese Islands makes various dives accessible in any one day. From the north-west to the south-east tip, Malta is just 27km long and 14km wide.

WIED IZ-ZURRIEQ Home to the famous wreck of the Um El Faroud which lies on the sandy bottom with the funnel at 17m. This Marine Protected Area in the south of Malta, also provides a couple of great reef and cavern dives and much marine life around the entry/exit point.



- SHORE DIVING SITES
- BOAT DIVING SITES
- MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The Maltese Islands have much more to offer - for a full list of dive sites visit: www.visitmalta.com

0m

metres		MALTA	
5-10	Slugs Bay	23	
5-12	Mercanti Reef – Paceville	25	
5-15	Coral Gardens – Sliema	28	
5-15	Fortizza – Sliema	27	
5-20	Qawra Point North	24	
5-25	Tunnel & Reef – L'Ahrax	22	
7	Mini Blue Hole – Marsascala	4	
14	HMS Maori – St Elmo Bay, Valletta	1	
10-16	Middle Reef – Ghar Lapsi	12	
10-20	Anchor Bay	16	
10-20	Exiles – Sliema	26	
10-20	Cirkewwa Arch – Cirkewwa	21	
10-25	Zonqor Point North – Marsascala	5	
10-27	Paradise Bay – Cirkewwa	17	
GOZO			
1-15	Mgarr Ix-Xini	33	
5-35	Xatt L'Ahmar (Red Bay)	30	
10-20	Tunnel & Reef – Xlendi	35	

15m

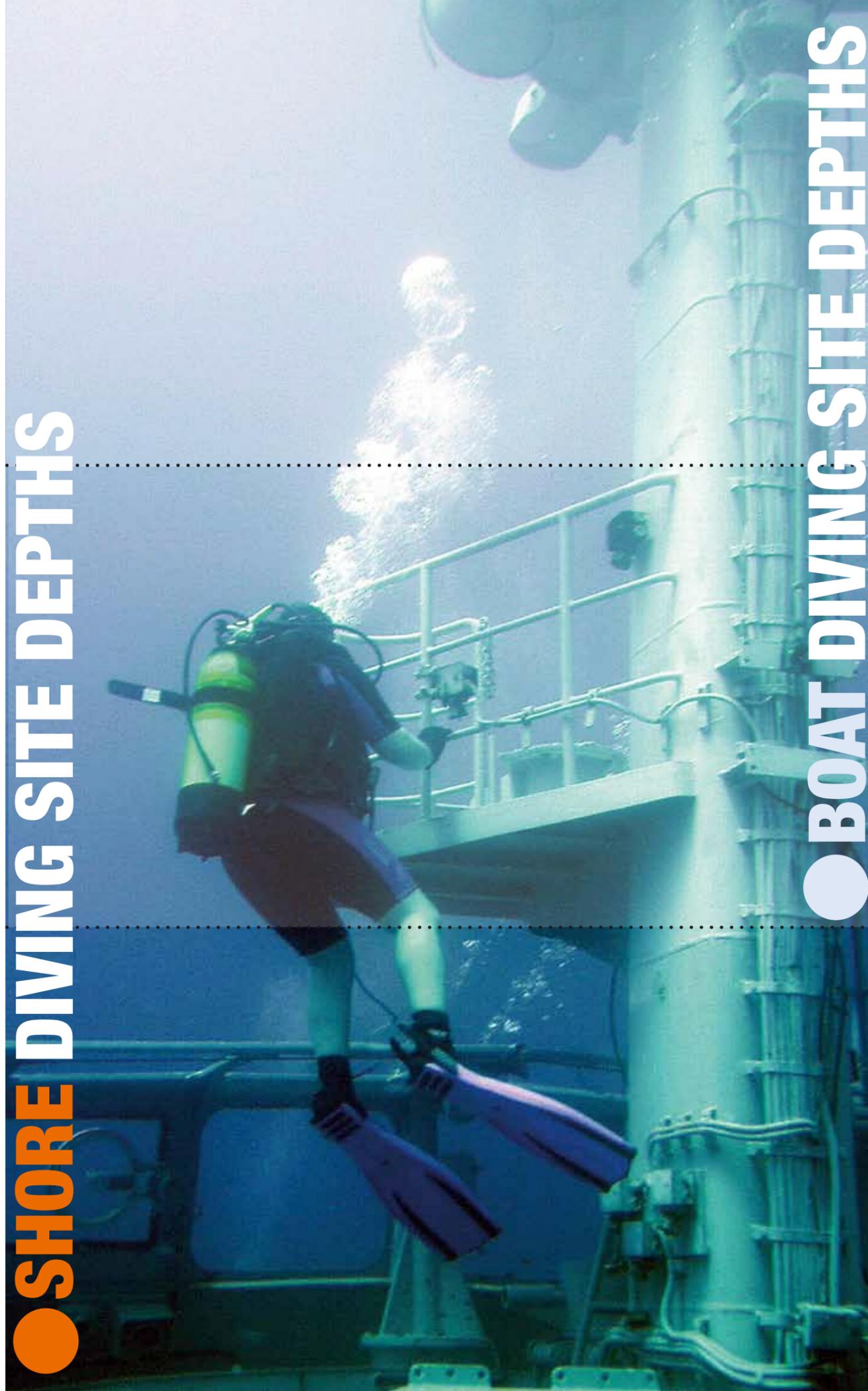
metres		MALTA	
8-22	Lighter X127 – Manoel Island	29	
12-26	South Reef – Delimara Point	8	
16-30	East Reef – Delimara Point	7	
16-36	Migra Ferha	15	
20	Fort St Elmo – Valletta	2	
20-22	Finger Reef & Crib – Ghar Lapsi	13	
20-25	Sugar Loaf & Madonna – Cirkewwa	19	
20-25	West Reef & Caves – Wied iz Zurrieq	10	
22	Tug boats – Zonqor Point	6	
25	Black John – Ghar Lapsi	14	
25	SS Margit – Kalkara Creek	3	
GOZO			
10-35	Anchor Reef – Marsalforn	44	
15-35	Reef and Cave – Ta' Cenc	34	
15-40	Cathedral Cave – Ghasri Valley	42	
15-45	Blue Hole & Azure Window – Dwejra	39	
14-45	Blue Hole & Coral Gardens – Dwejra	38	

30m

metres		MALTA	
20-38	P29 Patrol Boat – Cirkewwa	18	
25-36	East Reef – Wied iz-Zurrieq	9	
25-36	Migra Ferha	15	
32	Tug Boat Rozi – Cirkewwa	20	
35	Um el Faroud – Wied iz-Zurrieq	11	
GOZO			
20-35	Big Bear & Coral Gardens	37	
20-45	Little Bear to Crocodile Rock – Dwejra	36	
20-45	Reqqa Point – Marsalforn	43	
25-45	Inland Sea & Tunnel – Dwejra	41	
25-60	Inland Sea to Blue Hole – Dwejra	40	
30-42	Karwela & MV Cominoland	31	
30-42	MV Xlendi – Ghanjsielem	32	
30-45	Double Arch – Marsalforn	45	

NUMBERS REFER TO DIVING SITE LOCATIONS ON PREVIOUS PAGE

SHORE DIVING SITE DEPTHS



BOAT DIVING SITE DEPTHS

28	Halq Hamiem	6-20	
29	Hekka Point	15	
35	Qala Quarry	15-30	
25	San Dimitri Point	15-30	
21	Ulysees Cave	15-40	
22	Zurzeip Reef	15-40	
COMINO			
42	Crystal Lagoon	5-10	
38	Elephant Rock	10-15	
37	Santa Maria Caves	10-15	
39	Sultan Rock	10-18	
43	Alex's Cave	10-20	
45	The Canyon	10-20	
40	Lantern Point	10-50	
36	Santa Maria Reef	15-25	
41	Lantern Point West	15-30	
46	Patrol Boat P31	18	

20m

metres		MALTA	
11	Scot Craig	20	
GOZO			
34	Calypso Tunnel/Cave	20-35	
18	Ta' Cenc Reef	20-35	
20	Dawra Tas-Sanap	20-45	
24	Fungus Rock	20-45	
17	Newwiela Point	20-45	
32	Fomha Cave	25-35	
19	Sanap Cliffs	25-35	
27	Ta' Camma	25-35	
26	Wied ir Raheb	25-35	
33	Billinghurst Cave	25-40	
31	Il-Margun	25-40	
30	Tac-Cawla (Gudja Cave)	25-40	
COMINO			
44	Cominotto Reef (Anchor Reef)	25-45	

40m +

metres		MALTA	
1	Beaufighter	38	
15	Imperial Eagle	38	
9	Bristol Blenheim	42	
2	HMS Hellepont	45	
6	Italian E-Boat	45	
12	Devil's Reef	50	
10	Migra Ferha	50	
8	Le Polynesien	53-70	tec dive
4	St Angelo	55	tec dive
3	HMS Eddy	56	tec dive
14	HMS Stubborn	57	tec dive
13	Qammieh Point	60	
7	Southwold	70	tec dive
5	Schnellboot	73	tec dive
GOZO			
23	Wardija Point	25-45	
16	Fessej Rock	25-50	

MALTA ESTABLISHED ITS FIRST FEW DIVE CENTRES IN THE LATE 1960s. SINCE THEN THE INDUSTRY HAS FLOURISHED. THE ENJOYMENT OF DIVING IN MALTA TODAY IS AS A RESULT OF THE MALTESE DIVING INDUSTRY'S DEDICATION BEING IN THE FOREFRONT OF SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES.

MALTA

GOZO & COMINO

A DIVING CULTURE

The opportunities for diving abound. For their size the Maltese Islands have more shore and boat dive sites within its small radius than any other island or resort. The shore dives offer convenience and variety while the large number of possible boat dives will satisfy even the biggest appetite for exploration.

Recreational Diving

Our clear, calm, warm water, with its lack of significant tidal movement, makes the Maltese Islands a recreational diving delight. The dive sites are easily accessible for all levels of divers. The development of a number of artificial reefs has provided an even wider variety of diving experiences.

Technical Diving

Maltese waters are unique in their opportunity for technical expeditions. The three elements vital to the satisfying technical dive experience are water clarity, depth and wrecks/caves. We have a number of technical centres which cater for technical and rebreather divers, providing on-site mixes and ancillary equipment.

Recreational Courses

Our island's reputation for diving education is second to none. Our dive centres provide the widest variety of certifications from all the main training organisations, for divers from all countries. Centres run courses in a number of different languages. Whether you are a novice or an experienced diver there is something to suit and challenge you.

Technical Courses

Again, our ideal water conditions make technical training more relaxed. Learning complex and challenging new skills and drills in this environment provides a safe platform for your technical diving development.

Professional Courses

The Maltese Islands dive centres are renowned for producing competent dive professionals. Due to our year-round favourable conditions, Pro courses are conducted throughout the year.

Unlike many dive destinations equipment replacement, upgrade and servicing are easily available for all major brands. Many of our dive shops are retail and service centres for a range of dive equipment brands.



Image: www.visitmalta.com



A variety of measures including continuous improvement of dive sites, such as access ladders, kitting up benches, regular clean ups, and a new on-line reporting system to identify any infringement of Marine Protected Areas, are all contributing to an even greater increase in marine life at dive sites and a more pleasurable diving experience.



what's on in

MALTA

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The Maltese Islands are a reflection of the Mediterranean in their architecture, people, traditions and their festivities...

Enthusiasts of prehistory will be astounded. The megalithic temples are the oldest freestanding structures in the world and traces of civilisation can be dated back 7000 years.

Dramatic cliffs, patron saints and fortifications

Malta, Gozo and Comino offer a wide variety of landscapes from dramatic cliffs to pretty bays and quaint fishing ports; rural villages dominated by their churches and patron saints; stunning fortifications enclosing the Grand Harbour cities of Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua; the silent city of Mdina characterised by mediaeval and baroque architecture and the capital Valletta, a World Heritage Site, encased in impregnable fortifications built by the Knights of Malta, making it one of the richest artistic cities of Renaissance art. The Knights built splendid palaces, churches, auberges, monuments... all waiting for you to discover.

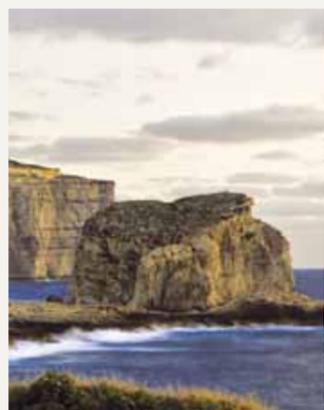
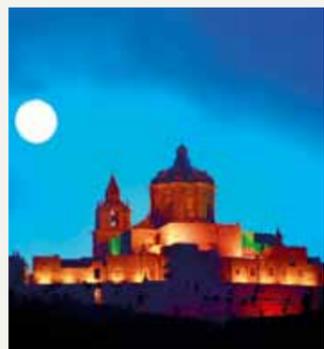
A perfect destination for all seasons

The Islands are at their most beautiful in spring, adorned with a carpet of wild herbs and flowers – perfect for country walks. You will find the turquoise blue Mediterranean just as inviting where you can enjoy an endless variety of water sports all the year round – Malta, Gozo and Comino were voted the world's third best dive destination in 2009. Other activities are plentiful, such as cycling, sailing, horse riding, go-cart racing, golf, tennis...

Night life, restaurants and festas

Bright lights, nightclubs, casinos, discos and restaurants offering multi-national cuisine are abundant. During the summer months you can experience the delights of al fresco dining, open air concerts, art festivals and at the weekends the traditional village festas with their colourful street banners, illuminations, brass bands, beautifully decorated churches and extraordinary firework displays.

Images: www.visitmalta.com



The Maltese Islands Facts

WEATHER

A typical Mediterranean climate, statistics show sunshine in winter average about 6 hours a day and in summer averaging about 12 hours a day. Average rainfall is rather low averaging only 578mm a year. Due to this low rainfall, water is produced by reverse osmosis.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical supply is 240 volts, 50 hertz. The three-pin rectangular plug system is used, as in Britain. Adapters are very easy to find.

CURRENCY, CREDIT CARDS & BANKS

Malta adopted the Euro in Jan 2008. Many hotels and larger shops and restaurants accept foreign currency. Banks are normally open between 08.30 and 13.30 from Monday to Friday, and up to 12.00 on Saturday but this may vary. Summer/winter opening hours may differ. Banks, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and exchange bureaux can be found all over the Islands.

HEALTH

Hospitals are modern and supported by a regional network of health centres. Travellers do not normally require certificates of vaccination or inoculations to enter the Maltese Islands. It is advisable to take out a personal medical insurance policy. European visitors are recommended to bring an E111 health card to obtain free emergency medical treatment.

TIME ZONE

The Maltese Islands are on GMT+1.

GEOGRAPHY

The Maltese Islands are some 93km south of Sicily and some 288km north-east of Tunisia.

AREA

Malta: 246km²
Gozo: 67km²
Comino: 2.7km²

POPULATION 400,000

CAPITAL Valletta

AIRPORT

Situated at Gudja. Taxi service and car rental available. The airport includes a heliport for transfers to Xewkija, Gozo.

LANGUAGE

Maltese / English. Italian is also spoken fluently.

DRIVING

Left hand drive.

BUSES

The service is frequent and fares are inexpensive.

FERRY

Journey between Malta and Gozo takes approximately 25 minutes.

Local Diving Regulations

MEDICALS

Divers will be required to complete and sign a medical questionnaire. If any prescribed medical condition is indicated, divers will be required to produce a 'fit for diving' medical, signed by a doctor specialising in hyperbaric medicine.

INDEPENDENT DIVERS

Under Maltese regulations divers are only permitted to dive independently if they are certified PADI Advanced Open Water, CMAS 2 Star Diver or equivalent and must otherwise be accompanied by a licensed instructor.

MINIMUM AGE

There are no age restrictions. The decision on minimum age will be as stipulated by the training agency for courses. Written parental/guardian consent required for all divers under 18 years of age.

INSTRUCTORS

Instructors can only offer diving services through an MTA licensed dive centre and must produce proof of certification, 3rd party insurance cover and full diving medical.

ILLEGAL FISHING

The following are prohibited:

- Spear fishing with SCUBA.
- Spear fishing in the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- Spear fishing between dusk and dawn.
- Any form of fishing within the MPAs.



NOTES

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looking for adventure

For further information on Diving and the Maltese Islands: www.visitmalta.com

With the support of the
Malta Tourism Authority
and the Professional
Diving Schools Association

