

MALTA

WELCOMES

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GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU—MALTA

INTRODUCTION

FEW COUNTRIES can claim such a wide variety of amenities in such a small space as may be found in Malta.

The sporting life of the Island is varied and comprehensive. In addition to the different Service Associations, there is an all-round sporting programme. Polo, football, cricket, golf, tennis, badminton, squash, horse-racing, regattas, boat-racing, bathing and water polo are very popular, and their attraction is enhanced by the ideal climate obtaining. Malta has a gaiety and an attractiveness that is all its own, to which the uniforms of the Services lend much colour and splendour. The social programme begins in November and lasts well into May. Carnival, held in February or March, is a splendid time for public dances and gaiety. During their stay in Malta, tourists may become honorary members of the British Institute, Garrison Library, Union Club, Sliema Club and Marsa Sports Club. For those who prefer solitude and quiet, the beautiful and enchanting gardens of San Anton and Buskett are the ideal places to go to.

All the towns and many of the bigger villages have cinemas, showing British, American and Italian productions. Concerts and theatrical per-

performances are given from time to time by local companies and by well known touring companies. There are restaurants and bars, night clubs and cabarets. And in the shops — well you can buy anything you may fancy, free from purchase tax or the surrender of coupons or any other restrictions.

The Malta Government maintains an Office in London and another in Melbourne which are at the service of prospective visitors. The former is at 39, St. James's Street, S.W.1., telephone Regent 7361 and the latter is at Vaughan House, 108, Queen Street, Melbourne, C.1 Australia.

There is a Public Relations Office in Valletta; it is at 81, Queen Adelaide Square; telephone Central 4513.

There is the GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU; it is at Queen's Square, Valletta, telephone Valletta 3248 where enquiries of every description receive prompt attention.

THE ISLAND.....

Malta, which is a self governing British Colony, is an Island in the Central Mediterranean, lying 60 miles south of Sicily and 180 miles north of the mainland of Africa. Its area is 95 square miles, about two-thirds that of the Isle of Wight; and its population 306,000. The greatest length from North to South is 9 miles and from East to West 17 miles. Malta's position in the Mediterranean is of the utmost value towards keeping a clear highway to the East and to India.

Along the northern and eastern shores the coastline is frequently broken by deep indentations and bays. The geological formation is Oligocene and Miocene, the prevailing rocks being white, grey, reddish or yellow sandstone with some beds of marl and coral limestone, in many parts abounding in fossils. The surface of the country is diversified, the highest point is just over 1,000 feet. On the west and south the cliffs rise sheer from the sea to a height of 400 feet.

The main towns are Valletta, Senglea, Cospicua, Vittoriosa, Mdina, Sliema and Hamrun.

.....AND ITS CLIMATE

The climate is considered to be equable and healthy. It can be justly claimed for Malta to be a health and pleasure resort in winter for continental people.

Wine — Sherry	...	7s/-	per bottle
Port	... ..	7s/-	do.
Vermouth	... ..	5s/6d	do.
Chianti	... ..	5s/6d	do.
Local	... ..	2s/-	do.
Whisky	... ..	1s/6d	per tot
Beer (local)	... ..	-/9d	per pint
Beer (imported)	...	1s/4d	do.
Cigarettes (Virginia)		from 1s/2d	to 2s/2d per 20
Cigarettes (Turkish)	...	from 1s/4d	to 1s/10d per 20

There is a wide range of fruit and vegetables, plenty of eggs and milk.

The housing position is at present difficult, but rents are not correspondingly high though; a small unfurnished house with modern conveniences may be obtained after some time at under £60 a year.

The shops are plentiful stocked with a large variety of footwear, wearing apparel and household utensils at reasonable prices. And, as Malta is in the sterling area, the visitor from Britain may spend as much as he chooses.

CLOTHING

The clothes you will need depend, of course, on the time of year you come. Tweeds are recommended for the winter (you will also need a rain-coat), flannels for spring and autumn and the lightest possible wear for summer.

TRAVEL

Malta is now known as the cross-roads of the Mediterranean so excellent are its air communications. Six lines operate regular schedules between Valletta and such important cities as London, Paris, Rome, Naples, Marseilles, Cairo, Tunis and Tripoli.

There are steamship services to and from Britain, Italy, France, Egypt, Tunis and Tripoli.

Few territories of comparable size can boast of a highway system equal to that of Malta; 242 miles of asphalted roads provide all weather communications between the main centres of populations. In addition, there are 180 miles of secondary roads.

Buses run between all the main towns and villages, at very frequent intervals and the fares are moderate. For those who prefer to travel more comfortably, there are plenty of taxis for hire.

There is an excellent postal and telegraphic service.

CUSTOMS

Used personal effects are admitted free of duty.

Private Yachts are exempted from the payment of any port duties.

MOTORING

Motoring conditions are good and the countryside offers lovely views. Petrol is still rationed and

the price is 2s/9d per gallon. Visitors are however allowed a very generous allocation of petrol to enable them to see all the beauty spots and places of interest.

Subject to certain conditions, motor vehicles are admitted free of duty. International Driving Permits are recognized. Cars and bicycles are available for hire by the day, week or as required.

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

Malta has a history which is undoubtedly very interesting, it having been always held by the predominant nation of the world. The prehistoric remains found in Malta and Gozo are evident proofs that the Maltese Islands were inhabited from very early times.

The following are some of the places which the visitor should in no circumstance miss :—

The prehistoric underground temple and Necropolis at Pawla and the Neolithic Temples at Tarxien, both dating 3,000 B.C.

The pleistocene deposits at Ghar Dalam Cave and the Megalithic temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra ;

The well preserved remains of a fine set of 3rd Century Christian Catacombs at Rabat ;

The 16th Century Conventual Church of the Order of the Knights of St. John of

Jerusalem with its marble and bronze monuments, excellent pictures and frescoes, Flemish Tapestries, and over 400 marble slabs commemorating the noblest families of Europe ;

The 16th Century Palace of the Grand Masters with its friezes depicting scenes in the history of the Order ;

The Armoury consisting of over 5,000 genuine pieces, including Maximilian, French, Milanese and English specimens ;

The Royal Library with a greater part of the Archives of the Order, among which are a great many Papal Bulls and original documents bearing the signature of rulers of the 16th Century.

Visitors interested in technical problems can obtain reports of various departments from the Government Printing Office, Valletta.

HOTELS

Some of the hotel accommodation compares favourably with that of Western Europe ; and where it does not reach that standard, the visitor may rest assured that the establishments are clean and the service offered is willing and attentive. Cooking is generally excellent and on Continental lines and the wide range of dishes on each day's menu will come as a revelation to the visitor from rationed countries.

Malta is an all-the-year round resort and although large numbers of visitors come every year, accomodation is generally available.

The leading hotels are :—

Valletta :

Mayfair	...	...	21/- per day
Phoenicia	...	...	35/- „
Osborne	...	...	25/- „
Westminster	...	...	13/6 „

Mdina :

Guest House	...	...	12/6 „
Point de Vue	...	...	17/- „
Xara Palace	...	...	17/6 „

Sliema :

Adelaide House	...	...	14/6 per day
Astra	...	...	27/- „
Crown	...	...	16/- „
Meadowbank	...	...	18/- „
Metropole	...	...	25/- „
Modern Imperial	...	...	21/- „
Plevna	...	...	12/6 „
Regina	...	...	25/6 „
Savoy	...	...	10/- bed & b'fast
Seacliff	...	...	14/- per day
Tigne Court	...	...	18/- „

Balzan :

Melita	...	...	13/6 per day
Royal	...	...	18/- „

Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq :			
Palm Beach	...	15/-	„
Għajn Tuffieħa :			
Riviera	... ..	16/-	„
Mellieħa :			
Mellieħa Bay	...	17/6	„
St. Paul's Bay :			
West End	... ..	18/-	„
Mgarr (Gozo) :			
Royal Lady	...	15/-	„
Victoria (Gozo) :			
Duke of Edinburgh		12/6	„

The above list is not arranged according to any system of degree or quality. All prices quoted are "en pension".

CURRENCY — WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Maltese pound is equivalent to the English pound and, like it, is divided into 20 shillings and a shilling is made up of 12 pence.

Most weights are expressed in terms of the ratal, which is equivalent to $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. There are 23 ounces to the ratal and 1280 ratal make a ton. English weights are, however, also used.

HISTORICAL DATA

Stone Age (about)	3,000 B.C.
Bronze Age (about)	1,500 B.C.
Phoenicians	1,100 B.C.
Carthaginians	550 B.C.
Romans	218 B.C.
Arabs	870 A.D.
Normans	1090 A.D.
Aragonese	1283 A.D.
Castilians	1412 A.D.
Knights of St. John	1530 A.D.
French	1798 A.D.
British	1800 A.D.
Grant of Self Government ...	1921 A.D.
Withdrawal of Self Government	1933 A.D.
Award of G.C. (George Cross)	1942 A.D.
Restoration of Self Government	1947 A.D.

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