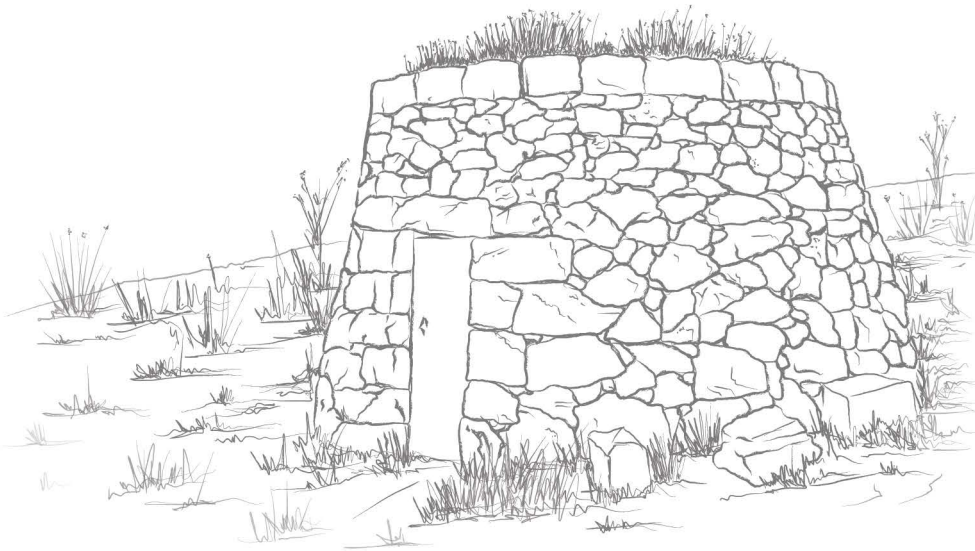
Perspettivi

A Gozo Review

Issue 5



PUBLISHED BY

GOZO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
75, Republic Street, Victoria - Gozo, Malta
Tel: +356 22156338

Publication date: October 2024

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Gozo Regional Development Authority. Any errors are the authors' own.

Front page illustration - The Maltese Girna, Nadur, Gozo.

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The Gozitan Diaspora

Chev. Dr Raymond C. Xerri

Abstract:

'The Gozitan Diaspora' paper is the very first attempt ever in our nation's history to present scientific, data driven, thoroughly researched estimated information as to how many people of Gozitan origin live around the world. Global Gozo with 410,000 Gozitans who live outside Gozo makes Gozo one of the world's tiniest set of islands which has one of the highest Diaspora world-wide. Besides the numbers which are crucial, this paper talks about what these numbers can mean economically to the Gozitan homeland and its people - what the many successful Gozitans around the world can contribute in win-win situations to elevate Gozo's economy to highest never achieved or ever-imaginable before. It brings to light that the Gozitan nation is far larger than we imagine, an international people with global outreach and incredible potential.

Keywords:

Gozo, Global Gozo, Gozitan nation, Gozitan Diaspora world-wide, Gozitan migration, Gozitan return migration, Gozitan re-migration, Gozitan population world-wide, Gozitan identity, Gozitan success stories, Notable Gozitan international personalities, Gozitan economy.

Authors' Bio-Note:

Chev. Dr Raymond Christian Xerri, a father of two teens, a career diplomat for 30 years serving in seven countries, the local, national and European expert of Gozitan and Maltese Diaspora and elected as Malta's Diaspora representative within Europe's largest organisation, European Throughout The World (E.T.T.W.) based in Brussels. Today, he heads the Gozo Diaspora & International Office (GD&IO) within the Ministry for Gozo and Planning (MGP). He has sat for a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations (U.S.A.), European Community Scholarship in European law (Germany); certificate, diploma and Masters of Arts (Malta) and a Doctorate in Philosophy (Australia). As an international academic guest lecturer and pioneer in local and regional civic education in the Maltese Islands. Chev. Dr Xerri is the founder and co-founder of a number of associations and organisations in Gozo, Malta and in diaspora countries. A Roman Catholic catechist in diaspora countries for 25 years; donated 132 bags of blood, an artist, edited and authored the production series, "Gozo and the Gozitan". He is a Catenian, a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and a volunteer of the Order of Malta Association in Gozo. Chev. Dr Xerri has received numerous awards in Gozo, Malta and internationally, he recently was honoured with the Gozo Rotary Club's Pride of Gozo - Community Service Award 2024.

The Gozitan Diaspora

Introduction

Gozo in the world and the world in Gozo - is the title of my doctoral thesis which I presented to the Victoria University (VU)[1] in Melbourne, Australia twenty-three years ago. Born and raised in New York City, a universe away from the lifestyle of 1970s Gozo. My strong interest in origins of my paternal and maternal surnames - Xerri and Buttigieg, my researched forty generational genealogy and millennium-old heraldry heritage since a child, discovering my family history and comprehensive DNA scientific reports, all led to my keen focus on identity studies. Obviously, this interest led me to ask the very basic questions all humans ask - who are we and therefore what does it mean to be of a Gozitan origin? Is there such a thing as a Gozitan?

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[1] Victoria University is one of Australia's largest universities with more than 24 campuses in Australia and a number around the world. More than 40,000 students are enrolled and it has a network of 240,000 graduates, including 30,000 professionals living and working abroad. VU ranks 711-820 QS in the world out of 29,257 universities around the world. Over 750 Gozitan and Maltese students are presently enrolled in all campuses.

Three decades ago, I started a journey to learn all that is possible to know about the Gozitan Islands[2], its people, their identity, history and what are the main ingredients that constitute what is distinct from and/or similar to the islands of Malta, the Maltese people and in a bigger picture to the rest of the world.

My published doctoral thesis[3] is now a best selling publication and presently utilised as an identity studies university textbook at three universities across the globe, ***Gozitan Crossings – The Impact of migration and return migration on an island community***[4], was the first attempt ever globally to confront the then taboo subject of the Gozitan islands having a distinct identity to the mainland Malta. Yes, there is such a thing as a distinct Gozitan identity, and thankfully over two decades after *Gozitan Crossings*, it's no longer a taboo subject. This paper attempts to not only revisit *Gozitan Crossings* more than two decades on but to attempt to further bring to light this rich diversity in our country, Malta, which extends around the world wherever Gozitans reside. We must never forget the lost or forgotten Gozitans throughout our history[5].

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[2] Gozo is not a lone island, it's a group of islands besides the isle of Gozo, Comino and Cominotto are islands both forming part of the locality of Għajnsielem in Gozo. Therefore the Islands of Gozo consist of Gozo, Comino and Cominotto.

[3] This thesis is the first doctoral thesis about Gozitan Diaspora in any university anywhere around the world.

[4] Published in English in April 2005 in soft and hard bound format as a first production of Gozo and the Gozitans Series, published by A&M Printing, il-Qala, Gozo, Malta carries ISBN: 99932-692-3-9 with 317 pages. Thousands of copies have been sold world-wide and is an integral anthropological and identity studies textbook at the VU in Australia, VU in Canada and the University of Fiji in the Oceania.

[5] Here reference is made to the Gozitans who were dragged to village of Tarhuna, in the Murqub District, Libya following the worst day in Gozitan history, the siege of 1551; the Gozitans who were stranded on the pacific island of New Caledonia after the racial ordeal of 'The Gange' in the 1920s; the 260 Gozitan farmers and labourers left stranded in Guyana in the 1840s after a missionary ship shipwrecked and they could not return to Gozo and other similar cases.

A leap forward in mentality, education and recognition must be made of the absolute importance of realising that Gozo is a global nation, a distinct people. Quintessentially Gozitan should mean that all Gozitans must give their utmost care to their islands, especially how to plan and utilise every square metre of the Gozitan Islands. The Gozitan Islands and its people's millennia-old history is characterised by a constant thread, the lack of good employment opportunities and always followed by - forced migration and remigration.

Global Gozo - 410,000 Gozitans live outside of Gozo

Gozo is one of the tiniest inhabited islands in the world but for its size, its one of less than a dozen islands in the globe which has a huge diaspora, far greater than its present population, with thousands of sons and daughters of several generations living in 171 countries and territories[6] around the world. For clarification, when reference is made to Gozitan diaspora, this includes not only those who were born or are citizens of the Republic of Malta, however, all those who are of Gozitan descent with the potential to become citizens of Malta. Again, we must not forget the lost or forgotten Gozitans in several countries around the world during different periods in history[7].

During my three decades plus of research I also formed part of Malta's Diplomatic Corps and was posted to Malta's main Gozitan diaspora countries: the Commonwealth of Australia (1995-1998), the United Kingdom (2001-2005), the Commonwealth of Canada (2019-2022) and was born, raised and studied in the United States of America between 1969-1978 and 1986-1990. Furthermore, between

[6] DMLA, DG-PA, MFA, Valletta.

[7] DMLA, DG-PA, MFA, Valletta.

December 2012 and April 2019, I was the first and only director[8] of the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad (DMLA) within the Directorate General - Political Affairs (DG-PA) of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) in Valletta, Malta.

These opportunities provided me with access to decades of ship and aircraft manifests carrying Gozitans to many destinations, thousands of passport applications, the ability to scan White Pages[9] and databases to decipher crucial information and statistics. In Malta, the databases of Santo Spirito National Archives, the National Archives in Gozo, the Gozo Curie lists, the Malta Migration Museum (MMM) Archives and the former Malta Emigration Department centuries' old documents which closed down in 1995 provided the bases for arriving to the below unique data.

Snapshot of Gozo's Estimated Diaspora

(January 2024)

Country	Total Maltese and Gozitan Diaspora Population*	Total Maltese living abroad	Total Gozitans living abroad**
Australia	270,000	139,000	131,000
Canada	144,000	69,000	75,000
United States	133,000	65,000	68,000
France	123,000	38,000	85,000***
United Kingdom	74,000	39,000	35,000
In all other countries / on sea	45,894	32,648	13,246
Total	789.894	382,648	410,046

[8] After my seven-year tenure as Director of the Directorate for the Maltese living abroad, in 2013 it was amalgamated with the Consular Directorate. This measure has resulted in the downgrading of this very important sector which effects two-thirds of our nation world-wide.

[9] Residential addresses and telephone numbers in all regions, states and provinces.

* Includes Maltese and Gozitan citizens of the Republic of Malta and those who are of Maltese and Gozitan descent of the first to the fifth living generations.

** This includes those who are citizens of the Republic of Malta and those who are not citizens but of Gozitan descent with the potential to becoming citizens of the Republic of Malta.

*** Unlike the rest of the countries on the list this number includes the sixth and seventh generation Gozitans in France who originally migrated mainly to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco then went to France to settle there.

Margin of error ranges from +/-2.5% to +/-4%.

For the first time ever Gozo has a reliable estimated amount of its people living around the globe, particularly in the former migrant countries during the last two centuries, namely, Australia, France, Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom as the top five countries. Proportionally, far larger number of Gozitans live abroad, return home, and remigrate compared to the Maltese, and their respective populations in both the islands of Gozo and Malta.

This clearly confirms that unlike Malta, Gozo is the island of constant migration, return migration and remigration. The above snapshot has excluded the thousands of Gozitans who migrated permanently to Malta over the past century and a half due to employment reasons. In recent times, such Gozitans who migrate to Malta are now followed by their parents and grandparents, allowing both categories to live close to their children and to be closer to their grandchildren. This is resulting in transforming Gozo into a home for the elderly with very few youth left and over-populated with Maltese and foreign residents.

List of Estimated Number of Gozitans Living Abroad

(January 2024)[10]

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
1.	Afghanistan	1		0	**1**[11]
2.	Albania	89		64	**25**[12]
3.	Algeria	746	700*	41 / 220	**5**[13] **/ 480**[14]
4.	Andorra	6		4	**2**[15]
5.	Angola	3		2	**1**[16]
6.	Antigua and Barbuda	4		2	**2**[17]
7.	Argentina	43		39	**4**[18]
8.	Armenia	11		9	**2**[19]
9.	Australia	270,000	170,300	139,000	**131,000**[20]
10.	Austria	134		101	**33**[21]
11.	Azerbaijan	38		36	**2**[22]

[10] The list is in alphabetical order, the total research compilation time frame 1994-2024 with the latter part of the study commencing June 2023 and was concluded on January 2024. Such statistics have a margin of error of +/-6 percentage points.

[11] Military personnel.

[12] Mainly academic, religious, missionary and volunteers.

[13] In business and students.

[14] First generation Gozitans left in the 1890s to 1920s and they represent the subsequent fourth to fifth generations.

[15] CEO and managerial position.

[16] Volunteer.

[17] Managerial and tourism positions.

[18] Mainly financial sector.

[19] Business and advisory roles.

[20] Multiple spectra of occupations.

[21] Mainly managerial, aviation and tourism sectors.

[22] In the oil and gas Industry.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
12.	Bahamas	14		11	**3**[23]
13.	Bahrain	23		19	**4**[24]
14.	Bangladesh	9		8	**1**[25]
15.	Barbados	14		12	**2**[26]
16.	Belarus	10		8	**2**[27]
17.	Belgium	701		660	**41**[28]
18	Belize	4		3	**1**[29]
19.	Benin	3		3	**0**
20.	Bhutan	2		2	**0**
21.	Bolivia	9		6	**3**[30]
22.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	11		9	**2**[31]
23.	Botswana	4		4	**0**
24.	Brazil	185		170	**15**[32]
25.	Brunei	2		2	**0**
26.	Bulgaria	102		96	**6**[33]
27.	Bukina Faso	3		3	**0**
28.	Burundi	1		1	**0**

[23] Managerial and tourism industry.
[24] Aviation and financial sectors.
[25] Medic.
[26] Managerial and tourism sector.
[27] Business and academic.
[28] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[29] Student.
[30] In business, student and volunteer.
[31] Academic and student.
[32] Mainly in the oil and gas exploration industry.
[33] In business, students and academic.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
29.	Cambodia	6		5	**1**[34]
30.	Cameroon	7		6	**1**[35]
31.	Canada	144,000		69,000	**75,000**[36]
32.	Cape Verde	3		3	**0**
33.	Central African Republic	5		4	**1**[37]
34.	Chad	2		2	**0**
35.	Chile	21		18	**3**[38]
36.	China	234			**15**[39]
37.	Colombia	6		4	**2**[40]
38.	Comoros	6		4	**2**[41]
39.	Congo	5		4	**1**[42]
40.	Costa Rica	10		8	**2**[43]
41.	Cote d' Ivore	2		1	**3**[44]
42.	Croatia	82		70	**12**[45]
43.	Cuba	61		41	**20**[46]

[34] In business.
[35] Medic.
[36] Full spectrum of occupations.
[37] Geologist.
[38] Student, volunteer and religious.
[39] Mainly managerial and in the oil and gas exploration industry.
[40] Student and in the oil and gas industry.
[41] Student and Managerial position.
[42] In the oil and gas industry.
[43] Students.
[44] Military personnel, academic and student.
[45] Managerial, tourism sectors, volunteers and students.
[46] Business, religious, academic and students.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
44.	Cyprus	245	2800**	201 / 300	**44**[47] **/ 2500**[48]
45.	Czech Republic	106		99	**7**[49]
46.	Denmark	205		98	**7**[50]
47.	Djibouti	4		3	**1**[51]
48.	Dominica	7		5	**2**[52]
49.	Dominican Republic	13		9	**4**[53]
50.	Ecuador	17		14	**3**[54]
51.	Egypt	111	12600**	107 / 11,400	**4**[55] **/ 1200**[56]
52.	El Salvador	11		9	**2**[57]
53.	Equatorial Guinea	8		7	**1**[58]
54.	Eritrea	4		3	**1**[59]

[47] Mainly in the IT, aviation, tourism, and agribusiness.

[48] The mostly Gozitan migrants emigrated to Cyprus in the late 19th Century to work as construction workers in major projects of the British Empire. They settled throughout the island and commuted regularly to Greece before the partition in 1974.

[49] Technical, IT and tourism sector.

[50] Managerial, IT, high technology and technical sectors.

[51] Controller of Port of Djibouti.

[52] In the tourism industry.

[53] Managerial, entertainment and tourism sector.

[54] Business, religious and volunteer.

[55] Business and student.

[56] In 1926, there were 19,500 Maltese and Gozitans residents living and working in Egypt. However, the Suez Crisis of 1956, when Malta was used as a point of deployment by the British and French for troops to invade Egypt, was followed by the expulsion of Maltese immigrants, along with many other groups, from the country. This means that the our diaspora in Egypt was dismantled within weeks and all the accumulated property and wealth by them was seized and confiscated by the Egyptian Government.

[57] Academic and student.

[58] Military personnel.

[59] Volunteer.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
55.	Estonia	49		40	**9**[60]
56.	Ethiopia	37		25	**12**[61]
57.	Fiji	19		16	**3**[62]
58.	Finland	29		22	**7**[63]
59.	France	123,000		38,000	**85,000**[64]
60.	Gabonese Republic	2		1	**0**
61.	Gambia	9		2	**7**[65]
62.	Georgia	29		22	**7**[66]
63.	Germany	1101		699	**402**[67]
64.	Ghana	76		55	**21**[68]
65.	Greece	1002*	3500**	968* / 850**	**34**[69]*** / 2650**[70]******
66.	Grenada	4		3	**1**[71]
67.	Guatemala	6		2	**4**[72]
68.	Guinea	2		1	**0**

[60] Multiple spectra of occupation.
[61] Religious, missionaries, volunteers and aviation sector.
[62] Academic and students.
[63] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[64] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[65] Missionaries and volunteers.
[66] Students and military personnel.
[67] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[68] Medical staff, academic, managerial and in the diamond industry.
[69] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[70] These are the fifth and sixth generation Gozitans of mainly labourer migrants who were given employment opportunities primarily on the Islands of Corfu and the surrounding islands of Paxos and Antipaxos where infrastructural projects were being build by the British Empire.
[71] In the tourism industry.
[72] Religious, missionary and volunteers.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
69.	Guinea-Bissau	4		3	**1**[73]
70.	Guyana	4	264**	2 / 2	**2**[74] **/ 262**[75]
71.	Haiti	3		2	**1**[76]
72.	Holy See	65		49	**16**[77]
73.	Honduras	33		20	**13**[78]
74.	Hungary	59		49	**10**[79]
75.	Iceland	17		13	**4**[80]
76.	India	72		58	**14**[81]
77.	Indonesia	89		57	**32**[82]
78.	Iran	11		9	**2**[83]
79.	Iraq	5		4	**1**[84]
80.	Ireland	206		161	**45**[85]

[73] Volunteer.

[74] Managerial role.

[75] Mostly Gozitans from the western villages of Gozo sailed with a priest through the Atlantic and were shipwrecked on the arrival at the then British Guiana or British West Indies, since 1966 is called Guyana. They did not have resources to purchase or rebuild a ship to take them back and therefore remained there. No assistance was offered by the Maltese authorities and/or the British Government. They were attracted to the growing prosperity and vast plantations of this colony during the Victorian era, others migrated to New Orleans in the US and Queensland in Australia during the same period. They are considered amongst the lost or forgotten Gozitans list.

[76] Volunteer.

[77] Academic, religious and volunteer staff.

[78] Managerial, religious, volunteers and students.

[79] Business, managerial, tourism and aviation sectors.

[80] Academic, maritime and students.

[81] Multiple spectra of occupations.

[82] Multiple spectra of occupations.

[83] In Business and student.

[84] In the oil and gas industry.

[85] Multiple spectra of occupations.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
81.	Israel	67		53	**14**[86]
82.	Italy	2450	2000	2296 / 1,750	**154**[87] **/ 250**[88]
83.	Jamaica	6		5	**1**[89]
84.	Japan	81		65	**16**[90]
85.	Jordan	7		5	**2**[91]
86.	Kazakhstan	2		2	**0**
87.	Kenya	57		43	**14**[92]
88.	Kiribati	6		6	**0**
89.	Korea, North	3		2	**1**[93]
90.	Korea, South	33		22	**11**[94]
91.	Kuwait	51		40	**11**[95]
92.	Kyrgyz Republic	4		3	**1**[96]
93.	Kosovo	48		42	**7**[97]
94.	Laos	8		6	**2**[98]

[86] In business, managerial, students and religious personnel.

[87] Multiple spectra of occupations.

[88] Out of the 2000 Maltese that were sent to concentration camps in different parts of Italy during World War II (rounded up in May 1940 and deported to Italy in January 1942) of which 250 were Gozitans, when Italy thought they were British spies in Libya, at the time an Italian colony.

[89] Student.

[90] Multiple spectra of occupations.

[91] Academic and student.

[92] Religious, missionaries and volunteers.

[93] Student.

[94] High technology industry and military personnel.

[95] Academic, students and in the oil industry.

[96] Student.

[97] Technical, academic and students.

[98] Manager and student.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
95.	Latvia	63		58	**5**[99]
96.	Lebanon	18		14	**4**[100]
97.	Lesotho	4		4	**0**
98.	Liberia	3		2	**1**[101]
99.	Libya	73	2,400	71 / 2	**2**[102] **/ 2,400**[103]
100.	Liechtenstein	4		3	**1**[104]
101.	Lithuania	36		31	**5**[105]
102.	Luxembourg	321		299	**22**[106]
103.	New Caledonia (French Terr.)	61	550	9 / 30	**52**[107] **/ 520**[108]
104.	North Macedonia	19		18	**1**[109]
105.	Madagascar	3		3	**0**
106.	Malaysia	166		144	**20**[110]
107.	Maldives	5		4	**1**[111]

[99] Mainly in the shipping, transhipping and managerial roles.
[100] Academic, businessman, medic and student.
[101] In the maritime industry.
[102] In the oil and gas industry.
[103] The ancestors of the forgotten Gozitans who were taken into slavery by the Ottoman forces in 1551 and exiled in the village of Tahuna, today also known as Tarhoona or Tarhuhah situated 65 kilometres to the southeast of Tripoli, in the Murqub District as encountered by the late Professor Godfrey Wettinger in 2007, prior to passing away.
[104] Student.
[105] Academic, technical and students.
[106] Linguistic, academic, financial and managerial sectors.
[107] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[108] The mainly Gozitans migrants who arrived and remained living in New Caledonia after their migrant steamship, The Gange,' was rejected entry into Australia in 1916.
[109] In the travel industry.
[110] Academics, aviation sector and students.
[111] Manager in the tourism sector.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
108.	Mali	2		2	**0**
109.	Marshall Islands	4		3	**1**[112]
110.	Mauritania	2		2	**0**
111.	Malawi	3		2	**1**[113]
112.	Mauritius	8		7	**1**[114]
113.	Mexico	201		170	**31**[115]
114.	Micronesia	4		1	**3**[116]
115.	Moldova	6		4	**2**[117]
116.	Monaco	8		6	**2**[118]
117.	Mongolia	3		2	**1**
118.	Montenegro	14		13	**1**
119.	Morocco	21	190**	3 / 10**	**18 / 180****
120.	Mozambique	4		2	**2**
121.	Myanmar	2		2	**0**
122.	Namibia	6		4	**2**[119]
123.	Nauru	2		0	**2**[120]
124.	Nepal	6		5	**1**[121]
125.	Netherlands	303		270	**33**[122]

[112] Academic.
[113] Student.
[114] Managerial role.
[115] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[116] Academic and students.
[117] Military personnel.
[118] Manager and students.
[119] In the tourism sector.
[120] Academic and student.
[121] Traveller.
[122] Multiple spectra of occupations.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
126.	New Zealand	423		374	**49**[123]
127.	Nicaragua	11		9	**2**[124]
128.	Niger	10		2	**8**[125]
129.	Nigeria	62		52	**10**[126]
130.	Norway	101		30	**71**[127]
131.	Oman	34		30	**4**[128]
132.	Pakistan	19		17	**2**[129]
133.	Palau	6		3	**3**[130]
134.	Palestine	33		29	**4**[131]
135.	Panama	12		9	**3**[132]
136.	Papua New Guinea	14		4	**10**[133]
137.	Paraguay	8		5	**3**[134]
138.	Peru	16		2	**14**[135]
139.	Philippines	230		199	**31**[136]
140.	Poland	178		155	**23**[137]

[123] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[124] Manager and volunteer.
[125] In the oil and gas industry.
[126] Religious, Missionaries and volunteers.
[127] Mostly in the oil and gas industry.
[128] In the oil and gas industry
[129] Business and petroleum sector.
[130] Aviation and entertainment sectors.
[131] Medical staff and volunteers.
[132] In the maritime industry.
[133] Academics, students and mineral sector.
[134] Students and academic.
[135] Academic, student, religious, missionaries and volunteers.
[136] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[137] Multiple spectra of occupations.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
141.	Portugal	66		60	**6**[138]
142.	Qatar	47		41	**6**[139]
143.	Romania	88		64	**24**[140]
144.	Russian Federation	139		99	**40**[141]
145.	Rwanda	5		4	**1**[142]
146.	Saint Lucia	8		7	**1**[143]
147.	St. Vincent & The Grenadines	4		3	**1**[144]
148.	Samoa	1		1	**0**
149.	San Marino	3		3	**0**
150.	San Tome and Principe	6		1	**5**[145]
151.	Saudi Arabia	41		39	**2**[146]
152.	Senegal	2		2	**0**
153.	Serbia	81		61	**20**[147]
154.	Seychelles	7		4	**3**[148]
155.	Sierra Leone	3		3	**0**
156.	Singapore	209		188	**21**[149]

[138] Managerial, academic and technical sector.
[139] In the aviation industry, academic and students.
[140] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[141] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[142] Medic.
[143] CEO.
[144] Student.
[145] In the Cocoa and sugar sectors.
[146] In the oil and gas industry.
[147] In the managerial, technical, technology and tourism industries.
[148] Student and in tourism sector.
[149] Managerial, scientific, academics and tourism sectors.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
157.	Slovakia	18		16	**2**[150]
158.	Slovenia	38		35	**3**[151]
159.	Solomon Islands	3		2	**1**[152]
160.	Somalia	2		0	**2**[153]
161.	South Africa	530		429	**101**[154]
162.	Spain	2067	6,700	1944 / ND	**123**[155] **/ ND**
163.	Sri Lanka	7		5	**2**
164.	Sudan	4		1	**3**
165.	Sudan, South	3		2	**1**[156]
166.	Suriname	1		1	**0**
167.	Swaziland	3		2	**1**[157]
168.	Sweden	167		130	**37**[158]
169.	Switzerland	334		292	**42**[159]
170.	Syria	3		2	**1**[160]
171.	Tajikistan	2		2	**0**
172.	Tanzania	4		2	**1**[161]
173.	Thailand	47		30	**17**[162]

[150] In managerial roles.
[151] Student and in the tourism industry.
[152] Academic.
[153] Volunteers.
[154] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[155] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[156] Volunteer.
[157] Volunteer.
[158] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[159] Managerial, technical, aviation and tourism sectors.
[160] Medic.
[161] Volunteer.
[162] In the tourism, entertainment and managerial sectors.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
174.	Timor, (East)	6		4	**2**[163]
175.	Togo	4		3	**1**[164]
176.	Tonga	4		2	**2**[165]
177.	Trinidad and Tobago	7		2	**5**[166]
178.	Tunisia	144*	500**	110*/ 5**	**34**[167] **/ 495****[168]
179.	Turkey	289*	6,700	222* / NDA	**67**[169]*** / NDA**
180.	Turkmenistan	4		2	**1**[170]
181.	Tuvalu	5		2	**3**[171]
182.	Uganda	8		7	**1**[172]
183.	Ukraine	34		30	**4**[173]
184.	United Arab Emirates	1160		1098	**62**[174]
185.	United Kingdom	74,000		39,000	**35,000**[175]
186.	United States of America	133,000		65,000	**68,000**[176]
187.	Uruguay	7		2	**5**[177]

[163] Volunteer and student.
[164] In the aviation sector.
[165] Academics.
[166] Tourism sector and students.
[167] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[168] First generation Gozitans left in the 1890s to 1920s and they represent the subsequent fourth to fifth generations.
[169] Multiple spectrums of occupations.
[170] In the oil and gas industry.
[171] Academic position and students.
[172] Volunteer.
[173] Academic positions and the Tourism sector.
[174] Mainly in the aviation and tourism sectors and in the oil & gas industry.
[175] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[176] Multiple spectra of occupations.
[177] In the banking and financial sectors.

	Country / Territory / Sea	Total Estimated Maltese & Gozitan Diaspora (January 2024)	Total Estimated known Maltese & Gozitan Ancestry	Persons of Maltese Ancestry	Gozitans and / or of Gozitan Ancestry
188.	Uzbekistan	3		2	**1**[178]
189.	Vanuatu	14		2	**12**
190.	Venezuela	12		6	**6**[179]
191.	Yemen	NDA		NDA	**NDA**
192.	Vietnam	17		15	**3**[180]
193.	Zambia	7		5	**2**[181]
194.	Zimbabwe	5		4	**1**[182]
195.	Offshore Oil / gas / fracking rigs****				**2,800**
	TOTAL			**674,375**	**410,046**

* Total estimated number of citizens are included in the total estimated persons of Maltese and Gozitan ancestry.

** Between 5th and 6th generation since first known settlement.

*** Of the first to the fifth living generations, Maltese citizens and of persons of Maltese and Gozitan ancestry living outside the territories of the Maltese Islands.

**** Mainly found in French Territorial Waters world-wide, North Sea and around the Mediterranean.

NDA – No data available.

Major Sources:

1. Individual National Office of Statistics;
2. Academic / Statistical articles from publications and research conducted by universities and institutes;

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[178] In the oil and gas industry.
[179] Managerial and in the oil and gas industry.
[180] In the tourism industry.
[181] Volunteer.
[182] Volunteer.

3. The Institute of Maltese Studies, University of Malta, L-Imsida, Malta;
4. Diaspora Institutes and Research centres around the world;
5. National and regional censuses;
6. National, Regional and Local White Pages;
7. Malta Desk Officers at the respective Ministry for Diaspora Affairs or Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the respective countries;
8. The Malta Migration Museum Archives, il-Belt Valletta, Malta;
9. The Curie Archives in l-Imdina, Malta and il-Belt Victoria, Gozo;
10. The Santo Spirto National Archives, ir-Rabat, Malta;
11. The Europeans Throughout The World Organisation (E.T.T.W.) Archives;
12. The International Migration Organisation (I.M.O.), migration statistics; and,
13. Oil / Gas International / OPEC statistics and publications.

Gozo's Diaspora is Gozo's success story and a fundamental part of Gozitan identity

According to the October 2023 Electoral Register there are only 16,100[183] 'actual' Gozitans left living on Gozo. For such a tiny island having 410,000 diaspora worldwide and some 60,000 Gozitans who moved to Malta[184], the influence of such large scale mobility and effects on Gozo's identity are an integral part and overwhelming, to say the least on Gozo and the Gozitans.

Gozitans in Gozo have always viewed their diaspora as part of a larger family - (1) Gozitans who left the island since they either were not capable of finding employment in Gozo; (2) not capable of creating employment; and, (3) ruled out completely the possibility

[183] Which includes Gozitans from birth to the age of sixteen. The rest of the population are Maltese residents and foreign nationals living in Gozo.

[184] Since the end of World War II. The number is far larger when taking into account the thousands of Gozitans who moved to Malta permanently prior to this period.

of daily commuting for work in Malta or (4) the other option to move permanently to Malta to be close to their employment and avoid the hassle of wasting two to three hours daily in traffic back and forth from Gozo. In other words, thousands of Gozitans preferred to migrate thousands of kilometres away from their islands rather than choosing their only other option which is to commute or move permanently to Malta.

On the other hand, since time immemorial Gozitan return migrants[185] were for the Gozo's economic engine, being the biggest investor, transferring remittances and funds from diaspora countries to Gozo and generate wealth by spending their savings and wealth in constructing their relatively larger than average house, purchase or import one or several motor vehicles, pleasure craft(s), all the new gadgets which remind them of where they spent their prosperous years, etc. This strong economic momentum not only transformed Gozo's economy but also created a culture which created an admiration for these returnees, their newly acquired wealth and lifestyle. Furthermore, the acceptance of the values of the western world were cemented into Gozitan culture and the Gozitan way of life.

Returnees also bring with them tremendous know-how and talents which the Gozitan and Maltese economies so desperately needed and benefited. Ensuring the progressive evolution and updating with the rest of the marketplace and in the same time keep up with or exceed certain standards in Malta. Many of the high tech, specialised, precision engineering jobs created in the early 1990s and throughout the 2000s were filled by the many Gozitan returnees from Canada and the United States of America.

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[185] As early as 14th century notarial deeds in Gozo indicate remittances and wealth transfer from abroad.

Gozo's Diaspora is an untapped goldmine

Whilst the overwhelming majority of the Gozitan diaspora are hard working blue collar workers who carried their excellent work ethic to the country(ies) they settled in and became successful, a growing number excelled beyond our wildest imagination, once they found fertile ground for risk taking and larger economies. There are Gozitans around the world who own ten and twenty times larger land than the size of the Maltese and Gozitan islands[186], whilst there are no known Gozitan billionaires yet there are nearly two dozen Gozitan millionaires worldwide. Moreover, there are Gozitan CEOs who run businesses that have a budget ten, twenty times and even more then the entire budget of the economies of Malta and Gozo. This is just the tip of the iceberg of the Gozitan diaspora success story. Countless Gozitans throughout the diaspora countries have been part of this success story.

Gozitans who have made their islands and people proud

There are countless Gozitans in many parts of the world that have made a name for themselves and have made the Islands of Gozo and its people proud. The below tables are a small representative sample of just a few of the thousands of Gozitans worldwide who have left or are still carving their mark, with achievements in the respective diaspora countries they lived or live in.

[186] As agricultural land and/or operating mega businesses.

Gozitan Diaspora Personalities who are making Gozo Proud

Country	Gozitan Diaspora Personality	Achievements / Title	Capital / Village of Origin in Gozo
Algeria	Fr Peter Paul Cachia (1953-)	Augustinian Missionary	Victoria
Australia	Joe Axiaq (1954-)	Author, broadcaster, Head of Maltese Programmes on SBS, 3EA in the State of Victoria	Iż-Żebbuġ
Australia	Professor Maurice Cauchi (1936-)	Medicine Professor and diaspora author. Medical researcher and ethnographer	L-Għarb
Australia	Dr Barry York (1951-)	Historian	Għajnsielem
Belgium	Pierre J. Meylak	European Award winning novelist, short story writer and works at the European Commission	Il-Qala
Guatemala	Fr Joseph Camilleri	Missionary	Ix-Xewkija
Holy Sea	H. E. Mgr. Mario Grech	Cardinal	Il-Qala / Ta' Kerċem
Peru	Fr Dr Raymond Portelli (1969-)	Missionary and Medical Doctor	In-Nadur
Turkey	H.E. Dr Theresa Cutajar	Ambassador	L-Għasri
United States of America	Raymond Buttigieg (1955-)	Singer, Designer and Poet	Il-Qala
United States of America	Professor Mgr Emmanuel Magro (1965-)	Professor of Catechism and Religious Education	Victoria
United States of America	Fr Joseph C. Vella (1942-)	Pastor in various parishes and Chaplain of the US Air Force	Iż-Żebbuġ

Notable Gozitan Diaspora Personalities who left their mark

Country	Gozitan Diaspora Personality	Achievements / Title	Capital / Village of Origin in Gozo
Algeria	Fr Seraphin Borg OSA (1932-2017)	Augustinian Missionary	Ix-Xewkija
Algeria	Odorik Grima (1889-1964)	Astronomer	Philippeville, Algeria of Gozitan parents from Għajnsielem
Algeria Australia Tunisia	Fr Mikiel Mizzi (1890-1980)	Augustinian Vicar Provincial General for North Africa[187]	Ix-Xagħra
Algeria France	Laurent, Ropa (1891-1967)	Prolific author of Maltese literature in French.	Ix-Xagħra
Australia	Fr Emmanuel Bonello (1956-?)	Maltese and Gozitan Parish Priest	Ix-Xagħra
Australia	Joseph Camilleri (1927-?)	Politician. Mayor of Stirling, Western Australia	L-Għarb
Australia	Emmanuel Attard (1898-1996)	Leader, 'giant' Gozitan migrant part of the 'Gange' saga and an ANZAC	Il-Qala
Australia	Fr Victor Bonello OFM Conv. (1920-2013)	Franciscan Conventual Friar	Ix-Xagħra
Australia	Fr Manuel Spiteri	Parish Priest of various diaspora parish and spiritual director of the Friends of Australia (Gozo)	Ta' Sannat
Australia India United States of America	Fr Pietru Zerafa (1929-2011)	Missionary	In-Nadur
Brazil Italy	Fr Jose' Galea (1933-2005)	Missionary	Ta' Sannat

[187] Algeria and Tunisia.

Country	Gozitan Diaspora Personality	Achievements / Title	Capital / Village of Origin in Gozo
France	Mgr Angelo Camilleri	The most prominent Maltese and Gozitan priest in France - 'The Angel of Marseille.	Il-Qala
Gibraltar[188]	Mgr Coronato Grima	Prominent Priest	Victoria
India	Fr Karm Attard SDB (1911-2005)	Missionary	In-Nadur
India	Fr Paul Bartolo OFM Cap. (1926-?)	Missionary	Il-Qala
India	Fr Michael Buttiġieġ (1907-1983)	Missionary	Il-Qala
India Sri Lanka	Fr Ġiġi Camilleri (1929-2006)	Missionary	Ix-Xagħra
India	Fr George Muscat SJ (1929-2002)	Missionary and teacher	In-Nadur
India	Fr Joseph Portelli SJ (1904-1986)	Missionary and founded many schools, hospitals, youth centres and many institutions	Il-Qala
United States of America	Fr Ġwann Muscat (1925-2002)	Pastor in various diaspora parishes	In-Nadur
United States of America Canada Tunisia	Carmelo Xuereb (1910-1997)	Maltese Folk Singer	Il-Qala

Conclusion

The Gozitan Diaspora represents the overwhelming majority of Gozitans, both past and present living anywhere. These are not only our brothers and sisters who left the islands and should not be forgotten since they left our islands or labelled in anyway, 'losers'

[188] Pg 50, The Sunday Times of Malta, August 9, 2020.

who were not able to find or create employment for themselves, their families and/or the Gozitan nation and were forced to leave.

Imagine if there was no migration, return migration and/or remigration, Gozo today would roughly have a population of 32,000[189] + 410,000[190] + 60,000[191] = **502,000**, that means roughly half a million people on Gozo today. Would they be able to all live on the Gozitan Islands? Sure. The Gozitan Islands[192] are approximately the same size of Manhattan[193] in New York, which is home to 1.63 million people and 9 million people commute to and from Manhattan everyday makes this possible. Why am I projecting this comparison? These fellow Gozitan made space for us today to live in Gozo comfortably and uncrowded, even though today we are endeavouring to fill the Gozitans Islands with thousands of Maltese and foreigners. They sent a staggering estimate of 8-9 billion US$[194] over the past century and a half as remittance and invested directly into Gozo and directly/indirectly into the Maltese economy. They brought know-how which substantially enriched Malta and Gozo's economy and placed knowledge on a completely new bar, therefore keeping pace with the advancements in a mirage of sectors in par with most countries in the world. With the slightest doubt, Gozo would have been left decades behind if it was not for our Gozitan Diaspora's risk taking, diliginous, boldness, massive sacrifices and injections of monetary, financial and material investments. Hence, Gozo's Diaspora should be given the title as 'our pioneering national builders'.

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[189] Gozo's present population.

[190] Gozo's estimated diaspora worldwide.

[191] Estimated number of Gozitans who migrated permanently to Malta over the past century or so.

[192] 67 square kilometers.

[193] 59 square kilometers

[194] Various studies and estimates by multiple researchers over the past six decades in various countries.

The Gozitan nation is far larger than we imagine, an international people with global outreach and unimaginable potential. I hope we Gozitans world-wide realise this potential, not discard or dismiss it, and we should not only embrace it but include our Diaspora in all our decision-making processes. It's time that we Gozitans mature as a nation and embrace this fascinating and enriching reality.

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