

TRAFFIC BOTTLENECKS IN GOZO

The most obvious blockage hits you as you disembark from the boat on arriving in Gozo. In contrast to the extremely well-controlled traffic on the embarkation side, that on the outflow is simply chaotic. Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

1. There is no one controlling the flow of traffic out from the ship. Heavy vehicles, which naturally occupy the central lanes on the ship, are allowed to get out first, thus slowing down the traffic on the Mgarr uphill road. There is no reason while these heavy slow trucks should not be directed to disembark last from the boat.

2. The presence of not one, but two supermarkets half-way up the hill ensure that there is constant traffic jam in this region. In an age when most clients own cars, it is beyond comprehension how permission was given to carry on a supermarket business where there are hardly any parking facilities to speak of.

A second most annoying bottleneck occurs at Maingate Street where it hits St Francis Square, Victoria. Here you can be guaranteed a sweaty passage as traffic converge on an uncontrolled roundabout. To make things worse, there are buses coming from Sannat which have to go against the one-way traffic to the bus terminal. Most of the congestion is due to the fact that the zebra crossings are uncontrolled, and therefore any individual pedestrian can stop the traffic at any time. I believe that simple traffic lights at the zebra crossings here could improve things dramatically.

The other bottleneck occurs at the junction of Republic with Marsalforn roads, but the problem here seems to be beyond anyone's power to control adequately. One suggestion is to eliminate right-hand turns at this 'roundabout', but I dare not make any suggestions since none seem to work. The presence of the occasional policeman or traffic warden might help.