



Gozo

Gozo meaning “joy” in Castilian, is the second largest Island of the Maltese archipelago, with a population of approximately 30,000.

Though separated from mainland Malta by a mere 5km stretch of sea, Gozo is distinctly different from Malta. The Island is a third the size of Malta, more rural and tranquil. Its culture and way of life are rooted in tradition and yet open to the present. Gozo is known for its picturesque scenery, pristine coastline and untouched country trails. Baroque churches rise from the heart of small villages, and traditional farmhouses dot the rural landscape.

Developed just enough but not too much, Gozo is a masterpiece wrought by nature and shaped by 7000 years of culture. Myth and reality meet here on what is believed to have been the Isle of Calypso in Homer’s Odyssey, where the sea nymph held Odysseus (Ulysses) in her thrall for seven years.

Gozo and its inhabitants have their own distinct character and identity, with noticeably different lifestyles, accents and dialect. Gozitans are known for their friendliness and warm welcome, going out of their way to help a visitor find their destination.

Gozo’s attractions stretch well beyond the towns, villages and countryside. Gozo is one of Europe’s top diving destinations with a remarkable range of shore as well as boat dives – all within easy reach of each other. Gozo has some world-class dive-sites. As well as awe-inspiring natural underwater landscapes, Gozo has several sites where vessels have been scuttled creating interesting wrecks for divers to explore and new breeding grounds for marine life. Infrastructure servicing the diving industry has been amply developed on the island, which also boasts top medical services in this regard – including decompression facilities. Testimonials from divers who have visited and revisited stress the complete experience which only Gozo can offer.

There is already so much for the visitor to discover: from peaceful, well-restored farmhouses in picturesque villages to five-star luxury hotels; close encounters with nature on land and sea to chats with friendly locals; breathtaking dive sites to mouth watering Mediterranean cuisine, and always the island’s remarkable history and archaeology.

There is something for everyone on the sun-drenched, warm-hearted eco-island of Gozo. If Odysseus arrived today, he would find it even harder to leave.

Need to know

- + Capital city; Victoria
- + National Language; Maltese and English
- + Population; 37,288
- + Area; 67 km²
- + Currency; €uro
- + Calling Code; +356
- + Time Zone; CET (UTC+1)

