

MALTA & ITALY 2018



NEWSLETTER 01 JANUARY 2018

Dear All

Welcome to the first newsletter for those going or thinking of going on the Malta and Italy pilgrimage. This is the first of several newsletters that will be organised to give additional information. This newsletter has a Malta focus.

At the moment there is a small group who have paid their deposit and we know of others who are considering coming and we encourage them to pay their deposit as soon as possible please so we know what numbers we have... There is room for more to come so tell your friends about this special trip—If you want additional brochures and welcoming letters— please let us know and we will send them out to you...

Important Dates for your diary

Monday 4th June 2018— Final payment is due

Saturday 4th August 2018 - Pre-trip gathering so that we can all get-to-know each other before we travel – more details coming in the next newsletter.

MALTA

Malta is a southern Mediterranean Catholic country; socially conservative. For a few chunks of rock in the southern Mediterranean, Malta is a hugely versatile destination. Like its unique language, the country is an intriguing blend of Italian, Arabic and British influences, a legacy of centuries of invasion and assimilation. Malta's main island is a fun-sized 27km by 14km Valletta, Malta's capital, seems built for aimless wandering. Its grid of sun-dappled Baroque streets is punctuated by vintage shop signs, red British-era pillar boxes and ornate timber balconies.

Inside the gloriously over-the-top St John's Co-Cathedral ("co" as it shares duties with another cathedral in Mdina), you'll find two masterpieces by Caravaggio, completed while a guest of the Knights of St John in 1607 (that the painter was a wanted murderer at the time appears to have been a detail the knights were happy to overlook). A block away, gleaming suits of armour stand guard along the marble corridors of the Grand Master's Palace, worthy of a visit if only for its stunning tapestries depicting the exotic wildlife of the New World.

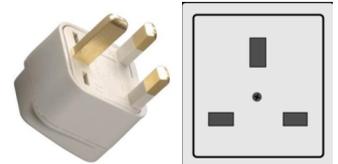
MONEY



The official currency of Malta is the Euro (since 2008). Australian Dollars can easily be exchanged at banks and foreign exchange bureaus. Whilst it is possible to use VISA cards and travel cards be aware that euros in the form of cash is the main currency. Some travel cards will not work in many ATMs.

ELECTRICITY

When in Malta—if you want to charge batteries, ipads, camera etc you need to make sure you have the right adapter. In Malta the electrical supply is 230 volts. The three-pin rectangular plug system is used, as in Britain (see right). Adapters are very easy to find.



ENGLISH

The official languages of Malta are **Maltese** and **English**.

Maltese, a language of Semitic origin written in the Latin script, is the national language of Malta. Over the centuries, it has incorporated many words derived from English, Italian and French. **Italian** is also widely spoken.

English is very common in Malta but if you would like to learn a few Maltese words or phrases see below...

Hello	Merħba	(Mair ha ba)
How are you?	Kif inti ?	(Keef in tee ?)
Good morning	Bonġu	(Bon Jew)
Good evening	Lejl it-tajjeb	(Lay-l it tie-ebb)
Good Bye	Saħħa	(Sah Ha , H as in How)
Please	Jekk Jogħġbok	(yekk Yoj Bok)
Thank you	Grazzi	(Grutzi)
That one	Dak	(Duuck)
How much?	Kemm?	(K as in back ..mm)
Yes	Iva	(ee vah)
No	Le	
Sorry	Jiddispjaċini	
don't understand	Ma nifhimx	
What's your name?	X'jismek	
go away	Itlaq l'hemm	

FOOD IN MALTA

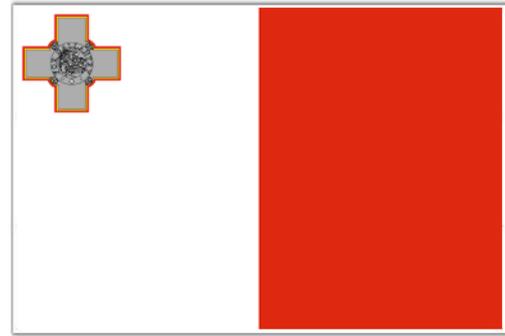
Food in Malta is a pretty big deal. The Maltese love food and their cuisine is so full of flavour it's undeniable that passion, love and dedication are the key ingredients. Very much inspired by local produce, traditional recipes passed on through the generations and having similarities in flavour influences to neighbouring countries, yet unique in its approach to freshly available ingredients, traditional Maltese food is something you just need to try.

Savoury dishes make up for the largest part of Maltese cuisine, although the Maltese definitely know how to work with pastries and sweets.

Being a country surrounded by the sea, fish is traditionally the most popularly used protein, although beef and pork also feature in a few of the most popular traditional Maltese dishes.

WEATHER IN MALTA IN SEPTEMBER

On average, September is sunny, warm and dry in Malta, although the temperatures during this month aren't usually as hot as they are in July and August. At this time of year, the average temperature starts off at 25.5°C at the beginning of the month and gradually drops to 23°C during the final few days.

**MALTA'S FLAG**

Officially adopted on 21 September 1964, the Malta flag is a basic bicolor flag of white and red. The hoisting side (left half) of this bicolor flag is white while the flying side (right half) is red.

The upper left side of the flag of Malta displays the George Cross that has a red outline at the edges. The George Cross was added to the Maltese flag when it was presented to the Maltese people by Britain's King George VI to the Maltese in recognition of exceptional bravery during the Second World War (1942), when Malta was still part of the United Kingdom.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MALTA

The name Malta may have come from the Greek word *Melite*—Although the origin of the name Malta isn't 100% certain, it is often suggested that the ancient Greeks called the island Melite (honey-sweet), with voyagers from Greece possibly referring to the country's unique production of honey, thanks to an endemic species of bees found in Malta.

Malta is a popular filming location for big-budget productions. Believe it or not, this small island is an attractive destination for big budget movies, with major blockbuster productions shooting on various locations around the islands. Scenes in movies like *Gladiator* and *Captain Philips* as well as TV series like *Game of Thrones*.



Cross of the Knights of Malta

Malta's known 11 foreign rulers in the past two millennia—During the last 2,000-odd years, Malta has known 11 foreign rulers that left behind various traces that can be found and admired around the Maltese islands. Nowadays, though, Malta is an independent republic, having gained independence from the British Empire in 1964. The country is still part of the British Commonwealth.

It's no surprise the vast majority of the Maltese are Christian—According to the Holy Bible, St. Paul was shipwrecked in Malta and converted its inhabitants to Christianity in 60 AD—There are approx. 365 Churches in Malta.

Malta has about 16,000 hunters out of a population of 400,000. They kill 2-3 million birds each year. Gun toting hunters are often seen so be aware.

The Knights of St John left a big mark on Malta—The Knights of St John of Jerusalem (also referred to as the Knights of Malta) were given control over Malta in 1530 by Charles V of Spain and left their mark on the island until capitulating to Napoleon's advancement in 1798. The Knights of Malta are most remembered for successfully defending the island against the Ottomans during The Great Siege of 1565. The eight-point Crusade cross often associated with the Knights of Malta later became known as the Maltese Cross.

QUESTIONS

Fr John and Carolyn are happy to talk with you and to answer questions or concerns at any time.

Feel free also to talk to Christine at Inner Faith Tours especially if you want to travel onto Europe after our tour or to discuss travel insurance etc.

We are looking forward to travelling with you on this once in a life time adventure.

Please feel free to talk to us about this pilgrimage....

Yours in Christ

John & Carolyn

Fr. John and Carolyn Mathes