



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Malta

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Valletta
- ✓ **Language:** Maltese & English
- ✓ **Population:** ± 502,653
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 316
- ✓ **Currency:** Euro (€)
- ✓ **Country code:** +356
- ✓ **Visa:** Schengen visa, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 112
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



History Recap Over 1 Drink

5200BC: Arrival of man. 3200BC: Megalithic temples. 2000BC: Bronze Age. 900BC: Iron Age. 800BC: Phoenician colonialization. 480BC: Carthagian domination. 218BC: Roman domination after Punic Wars. 60: St. Paul shipwrecked on Malta. 395: Byzantine domination. 870: Arabs. 1090: Normans. 1194: Swabians. 1266: Angevins. 1283: Aragonese. 1350: Maltese nobility. 1530: Order of Knights of Malta, granted by Roman emperor. '61: Inquisition. '65: Great Siege of Malta by Ottomans. '66: Founding of Valletta. 1798: France (Napoleon) capture Malta from Knights of Malta. '99: Britain rules. 1814: Treaty of Vienna ends Napoleonic Wars + colony of Britain. 1914-'18: WWI. '21: Self-government. '39-'45: WWII: Heavy bombing by German and Italian air forces. King George VI awards George Cross (heroism), appears on flag. '47: Self-government restored. '64-71: Independence. Conservative Nationalist Party: pro-Western. '71: Labour Party: reorients Malta towards Libya and Communist bloc. '74 : Republic. '79: Closure of last British military base. '87: Nationalist Party marks move toward European integration. '89: Malta hosts first summit between Soviet Gorbachev and US Bush. '90: EU application. '95: Joins Nato, leaves in '96 to maintain neutrality. '04: EU. '08: €. '11: Divorce allowed.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 253m (highest point). Climate: Mediterranean climate (Csa).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Free sights:** Blue Grotto, Blue Lagoon, Saluting Battery (*noon/4PM*), Siege Bell War Memorial, Red Tower, Dingli Cliffs, Xwejni Salt Pans, Inland Sea & [more](#)
- ☺ **Hikes:** Round of Malta (179km) & suggested Malta Day Hikes and Gozo Hikes can be found [here](#).
- ☺ **Interesting Cities:** Three Cities, Valletta, Mdina, Rabat, Marsaxlokk, Marsaskala, Safi, Zurrieq, Mosta, Victoria. Check the Malta Best Cities Blog!
- ☺ **Top beaches:** Tuffieha Bay, Paradise Bay, Ramla Bay (Gozo) – check the Malta Best Sand Beaches Blog!

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 **Sights / Museums:** A [Heritage Malta Multisite Pass](#) costs €30 (*adults*) / €20 (*students*) and gives access to: Citadella incl. museums, Ġgantija & Ta' Ħaġrat & Skorba & Tarxien & Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples, Ta' Kola Windmill, MUZA, Palace Armoury & State Rooms, Fort St. Elmo & St. Angelo, Inquisitor's Palace, Ghar Dalam, Borg in-Nadur, Maritime Museum, Domus Romana, St. Paul's & Ta' Bistra Catacombs. Separate: [Hal Saflieni Hypogeum](#). More museums [here](#)
- 👍 **Outdoor sports:** [Scubadiving](#), kayaking, sailing / boat tours, rock-climbing.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Lidl, Park Towers, Greens, Chain, Valyou, Scotts, Pavi, Pama, Smart.

⌘ **Markets:** Every town has their own. Interesting ones: in Bormla (tue), Marsaxlokk (sun), Ta'Qali (tue/sat), Rabat (sun) and Qormi (sat).

⌘ **Local food:** Pastizzi (*peas or cheese pastries*), Stuffat Tal-Fenek (*Rabbit Stew*), Stuffat Tal-Qarnit (*octopus stew*), Lampuki (*dolphin fish / dorado*), Aljotta (*fish soup*), Bragioli (*beef olives*), Maltese sausage, Widow's Soup / Soppa tal-Armla (*potoes, veg and cheese*), Imqarrun il-Forn (*macaroni dish*), Spaghetti Rizzi (*with sea urchins*), Brungiel Mimli (*stuffed eggplants*), Gbejnet (*local sheep cheese*), Ftira (*Maltese sandwich - usually with tuna*), Maltese Platter (*tapas*), Kwarezimal (*lent cookies*), Prinjolata (*cake*). Malta has fantastic wines, my favorites being: Bel, Melqart and Nexus from the [Meridiana Estate](#) (*tasting available*). Local beer: Cisk.

⌘ **Go vegan:** Going veg is rather complicated in Malta, unless you want to stick to falafels. Local veg dishes are limited: Pastizzi, Bigilla & Gbejnet. Every supermarket has vegan and vegetarian products and there are some (but not many) veg-friendly restaurants: [Happy Cow - Malta](#).

Mama Said

☠ You can often see cars with the keys still in... that's how safe Malta is. Take your general precautions as usual, but don't worry here.

☠ Boycott zoos like the National Aquarium, where animals are held in captivity.

☠ Tap water is drinkable, but might taste a bit funky depending on the area. Boiling in advance is recommended.

☠ Siesta is a thing here and in the afternoon most businesses are closed for several hours.

☠ Some Maltese like foreigners, some do not. The phrase "go back to your country" is rather famous and heard by every expat every now and then.

Next?

➔ International destinations close by: Italy, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt.

Sleep Cheap

❖ There's a massive difference between low and high season. Spring is the most beautiful time in Malta, when everything is green and flourishing and the climate pleasant. Accommodation can be as low as €7 for a hostel room then, and €15-20 for a private. In high season (Jun-Sep) this at least triples, and Malta turns into a dry yellow desert of up to 49 degrees Celsius.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) / [house-sitting](#)! Check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

☼ Il-Karnaval ta' Malta: Canival, Feb.

☼ Malta International Arts Festival: Jun-Jul.

☼ Rock 'n Malta: Music, Aug. *More festivals* [here](#)

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Paceville, St. Julian's, Sliema.

◆ **Theatres:** Manoel Theatre.

Free-Riding?

■ Entire Malta has the size of about a decent city (*30km in a straight line*). Everything can reasonably be walked – however, in summer it's too hot for that. That said, every "neighbourhood" is considered a separate city here with their own identity. Within every "city" everything is at walkable distance.

■ Cycling is very dangerous here, as there is no regards whatsoever for cyclists. Same goes for scooters / motorcycles.

■ Public transport comes in buses. Honestly, it sucks. Often buses come too early or too late, or not at all (*as some go hourly, you can imagine how annoying that is*). Sometimes the driver doesn't see you and won't stop. That said, if you want to get around on a budget: €1,50 per 2 hrs in low season, €2 in high season. At Transport Malta (*also at the airport*) you can buy discount cards. For long-term guests: order a Talinja card (adult / kids / student / senior) for ± €0,75 a ride. Ferries connect Malta and Gozo: [Ic-Cirkewwa ferry](#) (*also for cars*) / [summer fast ferry](#) – discounts for Talinja Card holders. Comino is reached by private charters (± €13 return).

■ There is no Uber here, people use either [Bolt](#) or [eCabs](#).

■ Airport: Malta International Airport (*MLA*).

■ Hitch-hiking is rather uncommon due to the short distances and circulating traffic.