



An island of mystery, history and faith

Gozo's charm is apparent the moment you step off the 25 minute ferry journey which brings you over from Malta. The intimate setting of a small, island community with a long tradition of warm hospitality will make you feel at home within moments of arriving. Greener, more rural and just one third the size of Malta, Gozo moves to a strikingly different, more leisurely, rhythm than its sister island.

Our island is steeped in myth. According to legend, this was Homer's isle of Ogygia, where the nymph Calypso held the Greek hero Odysseus as her companion for seven years. Today though, visitors willingly surrender themselves to Calypso's charms as they gaze over the glimmering red sand of Ramla Bay from the vantage point at the cave which, legend has it, served as the nymph's home.



Mystery surrounds the prehistoric stone builders who left us the awe-inspiring temples of Ggantija, believed to be the world's oldest free-standing structure, and today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Ggantija temples take their name from the Maltese term "Ggant" meaning "giant", a name which testifies to the size and height of the megaliths from which the temples are built. There's no mystery about the Romans' impact on our island though. Calling it Gaulos, they considered Gozo important enough to be administered separately from Malta, and even gave us the right to mint our own coins.

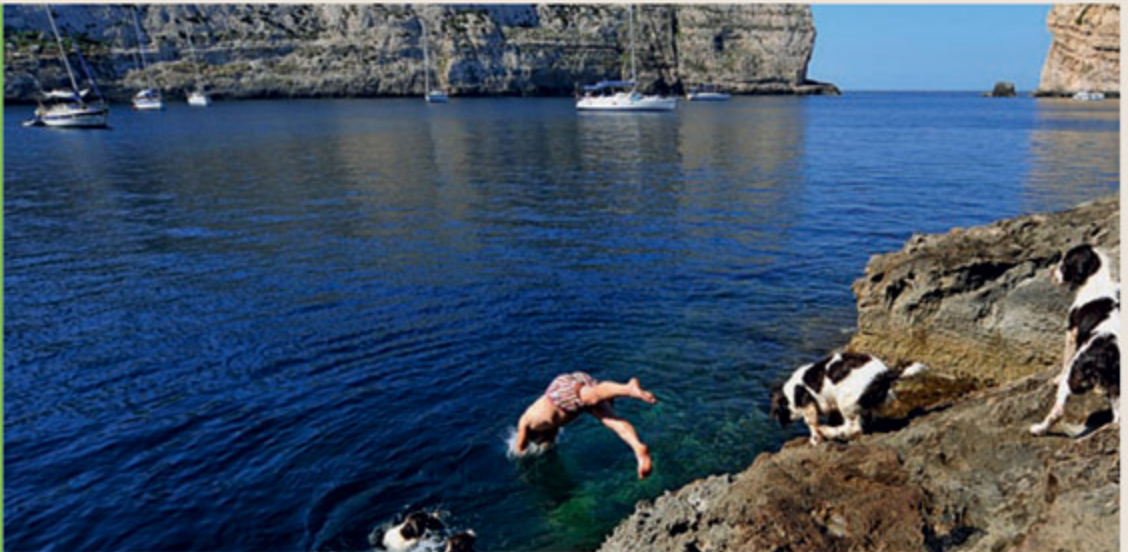


Many ways to relax

The sense of timelessness and apparent isolation which pervades Gozo makes it the ideal getaway. Although our beautiful beaches are natural magnets for those seeking to escape the hustle and bustle, leisurely walks in the countryside or through quaint village alleys are just an enticing alternative. Getting around in Gozo is extremely stress-free, with good roads and a regular bus service linking the main localities. If you do get lost, we will be only too glad to direct you to the nearest main road.

Boat trips around the island offer many sights and easy access to beautiful beaches, some quite difficult to get to by car or on foot. From the sea, you can enjoy a very special view of the towering cliffs and the many coves and caves which have formed over the millennia, now home to various bird species and other wildlife. A day trip usually includes a stop at the mythical Blue Lagoon in Comino, which is world-renowned for its crystal clear waters.

Relaxation will also be a major consideration when selecting your accommodation in Gozo. Traditional countryside houses, most of which come equipped with a private swimming pool, are a popular option with visitors. However, if you really intend to pamper yourself, the island also offers a range of world class hotels specializing in wellness which are frequented by the rich and famous.



History, culture and much more

Whenever you decide to visit Gozo, there will always be something to look forward to. Our events calendar is replete with an array of cultural and other happenings to suit everybody's taste: from art and crafts exhibitions, folk festivals and opera nights, to religious feasts, sports events and nightclub gigs by local rock groups.

On the other hand, if you'd like to delve into our island's past don't miss out on a visit to some of the several small museums which showcase the island's rich history and culture. Many of these are located in Victoria's citadel, including the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, the National Science Museum, the Folklore Museum and the Old Prisons.

Should you happen to be in Gozo in the summer, be sure not to miss the experience of one of our festas. The passion which goes into these festivities is impressive even by Maltese standards. Beautifully decorated churches, band marches playing jolly tunes, delicious traditional food, all take place under an illuminated canopy of spectacular fireworks displays. Carnival in Gozo is generally a time for fun and colour, and the spontaneous celebrations in the village of Nadur are certain to be a memorable experience. For a more romantic evening taking in the fresh sea breeze, a stroll along the promenade in Marsalforn or Xlendi will be the perfect prelude to a waterside dinner.



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GOZO
(Ghawdex)

COMINO
(Kemmuna)

Main photography

- Nathaniel Attard
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- Rene Rossignaud
- George Saguna
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