



IAESTE App: Country Information

General information:

Country: Malta

Capital: Valletta

Population: 460,297

National language(s): Maltese, English

Currency: Euro

Time zone: GMT+2

Voltage: 230V

Phone country code: +356

Cities with IAESTE Lcs: Msida

Climate: Mild wet winters & hot, dry Summers. The Temperature never drops down to 0 degrees Celsius.

Travel tips:

Fun facts about the country: Many parts of Game of Thrones Season 1 were filmed around Malta. Parts of The Gladiator and World War Z were also shot in Malta, in Valletta.

Malta has as many Churches as there are days in a year (about 365 churches) in such a tiny nation and the main religion is Roman Catholicism.

Our language (Maltese) descends from Arabic and is written in a latin alphabet. It contains many Italian (Sicilian) English and even some French words in the language. This makes Maltese a fusion language.

Our stone age temples are actually older than the Pyramids of Giza.

We have a population of just about half a million locals but we have tourists visiting absolutely all year round. This makes Malta one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

Valletta was the capital city of European Culture in 2018.

Cities/towns that you recommend visiting: *Valletta (Capital city) a medieval city of which, many parts have just been refurbished so it's looking fantastic. This city is packed with monuments and historic buildings everywhere.*

Birgu (the prettiest of the old 3 cities just opposite Valletta) it was the old seating point of the

Knights of St. John before Valletta was built

Rabat - it is the highest city on the island and you can visit catacombs there and have viewing points of the island.

Mdina - situated inside Rabat. This was the old capital of Malta and is concentrated in every corner with history. There is a Cathedral you can visit there. The streets in Mdina are very narrow and fun explore.

Other places you recommend visiting: *Sliema - it's where most of the expensive shops are and contains the biggest, most modern shopping mall on the island. From some parts of it you get amazing viewpoints of Valletta. Sliema is at sea level too so the sea views are all around.*

St. Julians - this is the centre of the night life, where all the restaurants and bars are.

Paceville - this is a small area within St. Julians composed of literally a few streets where all the clubs are.

Golden Bay - in the north and is one of the nicest beaches on the island

Ghajn Tuffieha - just beside Golden Bay and is also the most beautiful beach on the island

Mellieha - very pretty city in the north of the island. Amazing landscapes.

Marsaxlokk- this is a very traditional fishing village situated in the very south of the island. Contains a lot of pretty fishing boats and restaurants by the sea

Airports with budget airlines: Malta only has one airport, the Malta International Airport. Budget Airlines that travel to and from Malta include Ryanair, EasyJet & Wizz Air

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country <http://www.transport.gov.mt/>
<https://www.publictransport.com.mt/> <https://www.goto.com.mt/>

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying: Rabbit- the most traditional meat on the island. Ftira- A traditional sandwich type of snack with a tomato paste, tuna, olives and more ingredients inside. Helwa tat-Tork- a Turkish crumbly sweet made of flour, sugar and almonds. Gbejna- Local Goat Cheese, Stuffed olives- typically stuffed with tuna & anchovies. Qawrat- our local Sea Bream fish, the most common fish in Maltese waters. Galletti - Maltese crackers that have various flavours. Bigilla- a local dip made from crushed beans. Typically eaten with Galletti. Twistees - a cheesy Maltese snack which also has many new flavourings now. Kinnie-our local softdrink made from bitter oranges and lemons. Cisk- Maltese beer.

Tipping in the restaurants: It is common but usually just a few coins are enough, such as 1 or 2 euro.

Discounts for transportation : In Malta it is now highly recommended to apply for a bus card before arrival/on arrival to make the most of your travel experience and receive the best prices.

What is the common greeting in your country: A handshake between strangers, 1 kiss on both cheek or hugs with relatives or close friends.

Emergencies – numbers:

Police: 112

Ambulance: 112

Any other interesting or useful information: Sunblock/ Suncream is necessary for people

used to colder climates from May till around October.

There is currently a load of construction going on everywhere, road widening so early planning is essential. The rent prices have also skyrocketed in the last few years due to high demand so most young visitors share apartments or rooms to afford the rent.



