

Malta

Destination profile Megalithic temples, medieval dungeons and Calypso's cave – the Mediterranean island of Malta is positively mythic. The islanders' millenia old relationship with the various nationalities that have occupied Malta in the past has created a marriage of styles and traditions giving the island an eclectic culture and a natural penchant for hospitality. Today Malta has established itself as the destination of choice for MICE organisers seeking something different.

How to get there Malta is easily accessible from the UK with a selection of carriers offering scheduled and chartered direct flights from several gateways. Flying time is just over three hours from London. Malta International Airport (MIA) is 20 minutes from the capital Valletta. MIA has recently opened the La Valette Lounge for VIP guests and offers a range of red carpet services via its La Valette Club.

Getting around Malta's geographic size plays to organisers' advantage as short transfer distances leave more opportunities for quality programme time. Malta's sister island Gozo is a 20-minute ferry crossing away or a short panoramic seaplane flight. Cruise companies can organise one-day sailing trips around the Maltese Islands with lunch served on board.

Where to stay Most of Malta's collection of elite conference hotels are clustered within walking distance of each other thus facilitating accommodation logistics for larger groups. Properties include internationally renowned chains as well as independent boutique hotels steeped in history. All conference hotels offer flexible in-house meeting spaces with dedicated staff.

Where to eat & drink Maltese cuisine is a testament to the island's eclectic past. Traditional food is rustic and seasonal and features Lampuki fish pie, rabbit stew, gbejniet goats' cheeselets and local olive oil served with Maltese crusty bread. The restaurant scene is vibrant and varied. Malta's wines are on par with international vintages and major wineries offer guided tours and tastings.

Where to meet Malta's versatile conference venues range from state-of-the-art facilities steeped in history, to ultra-modern structures fit for a crowd of thousands, from intimate luxurious meeting rooms to floating spaces.

Incentive ideas Malta's unique landscape and rich heritage coupled with the creative energy of local DMCs lend themselves to producing innovative programmes for those who dare think outside the box.

Past clients Coca Cola, Bosch, General Electric, Givenchy, IBM, Johnson and Johnson, Thomas Cook, BP, Shell Norway, AXA Insurance France, Opel, Novartis, Microsoft, Toyota, Toshiba and Vodafone.

Client testimonials Porsche AG: "Despite the logistical challenges faced when organising such a high-profile event, everything went like clockwork. [The DMC] proved itself a very reliable business partner and fully met with the high requirements of the Porsche company at our importers Conference 2005 in Malta. We received very positive feedback also due to your passion and great attention to detail."

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