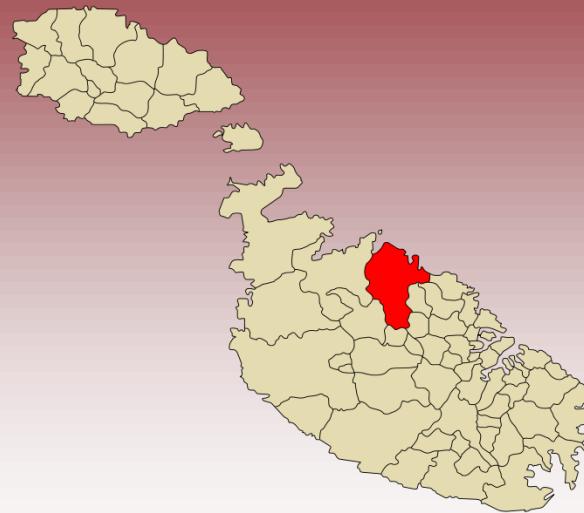


In-Naxxar

History

In 60 AD when St. Paul was shipwrecked on Malta on his way to stand trial in Rome, there was already a settlement where Naxxar stands today. It was St. Paul who introduced Christianity to the Maltese as he would often preach on the hillside close to the settlement and the locals were amongst the first to hear his words. As a result Naxxar's motto is profoundly Christian: "Prior Credidi" which means "I was the first to believe".

It is not easy to determine when the first settlers built their shelters on the high ground where Naxxar stands today, but there are traces of pre-historic life that would indicate this area has always been considered important. At Tal-Qadi, for example, there are the traces of a megalithic temple and cut into the rock are deep cart ruts from the same period leading from Salina on the coast to the Ta' Allu u Ommu hill and Tal-Wej.



In religious terms it is not easy to identify the year Naxxar was designated a parish in its own right by the Church. But we do know that it was Malta's countryside parish, having been proclaimed a parish sometime after the city of Mdina and the Borgo were declared individual parishes. It is assumed that the parish was already well established by 1400, a few years before the parish of Birkirkara was established in 1402.



The name Naxxar may derive from the word 'nassar' which means conversion to Christianity or, as many historians also claim, it might stem from the words 'nsara' or 'nazaroei' which mean people who believe in the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.



1. Naxxar Parish Church

It is a charming Baroque parish church dedicated to the Nativity of Our Lady and is the centrepiece of the town of Naxxar.

The church was built between 1616 and 1630, and then enlarged and embellished over the centuries. Known generally as Il-Vitorja, it houses a number of art Treasures and each year it celebrates its patron saint's feast day on 8 September with a week of special events in the church and in the neighbourhood streets.

Address: 26, Pjazza Vittorja

Telephone: +356 21435376; +356 21437767

Email: bambinanaxxar@gmail.com

Opening hours (Hours of Daily Mass):

Weekday: 6.00am, 6.45am, 7.45am, 8.45am and 6.30pm

First Friday of the Month: 5.00pm

Sundays and Feast Days: 6.00am, 7.00am,

8.30am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 5.00pm and 6.30pm

Saturday Evenings: 5.00pm and 6.30pm



2. Naxxar Parish Church Museum

The Museum is situated at the back of the Church's building.

Address: Pjazza Toni Bajada

Opening Hours: By appointment, contact Parish Office.

Telephone (Parish Office): +356 21435376; +356 21437767.



3. Palazzo Parisio

A unique 19th century Maltese Palace that was lavishly decorated as a home for a noble family. Its interiors are rich with frescoes, marble, mirrors, important paintings and extravagant gilding and it has a glorious Italianate.

Address: Pjazza Vittorja

Telephone: +356 21412461

Email: info@palazzoparisio.com

Website: www.palazzoparisio.com

Opening hours: Open Daily for visitors (except 1st January)

from 9.00am to 6.00pm.

Last admission for tours is at 5.15pm

Entrance Fees:

Adults: €12.00 inclusive of a €2.00 voucher to spend in the Palace

Seniors: €10.00 inclusive of a €2.00 voucher to spend in the Palace

Students (over 15 years): €7.00

Children (5-15 years): €5.00

Children (under 5 years): Free



4. Torri Gauci (Gauci Tower) and Torri tal-Kaptan (Captain's Tower)

These two fortified structures are situated at the area known as San Pawl tat-Targa.

Both were built in the mid-16th century and have distinctive drop-box balconies which enabled the soldiers within the tower to drop stones or pour oil into attackers forming below whilst being shielded by the balconies' structures. Torri tal-Kaptan was established as the house of the Captain of the Naxxar Militia by Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette, the Grand Master who led the islands to victory in the Great Siege of 1565. This rank of the Captain of the Naxxar Militia was always held by a Knight who was appointed to the position by the Grand Master.

Address: Triq San Pawl (Captain's Tower); Triq il-Konverżjoni (Gauci Tower)





5. Santa Marija Ta' Xaghra Church

This church was built in 1500 and rebuilt in 1690 because it was in a very bad condition.

It was rebuilt by the devotees who visited the church often. Tradition says that it was first built by the Knight Xara, who made a vow he would build a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary if he survived a shipwreck.

The name of the chapel comes from “xaghra”, meaning a waste tract of land. It was built on a barren rocky stretch.

On top of the chapel, lies a bell-cot rising from the pediment.

Address: Triq F.W.Ryan

Contact Person: Fr. Michael Agius

Telephone: +356 21581353 +356 79618727

Opening hours: Daily Adoration, Monday to Friday:
9.00am – 12.00pm and 4.00pm – 7.00pm

6. Nativity of Our Lady and St. Lucy, twin churches

In 1486, Leo Ebejer left monies for the construction of the church of the Assumption. From 1588 onwards, the church had its dedication changed to the Nativity of Our Lady. The church was rebuilt at the request of the people between 1618 and 1628. Attached to the Nativity of Our Lady, is its twin church, the church of St. Lucy.

Address: Triq Santa Lucia

Contact Person: Rev Carmelo Catania

Telephone: +356 21435376; +356 21437767

Opening hours: Mon – Fri: 7.00am



7. Chapel of the Shipwreck of St. Paul

The chapel of St Paul's shipwreck was built in the last years of the 17th century, replacing another which was of much earlier origin but which had been completely destroyed in the beginning of that century.

In this chapel there is one of the most impressive paintings of Francesco Zahra, the prominent 18th-century Maltese painter depicting St Paul preaching to the Maltese after the shipwreck. In the 20th century, the church was patronized by the late Marquis John Scicluna. Mass is held here regularly on Sundays and feasts of obligation. The large statue of St Paul in front of the church was built in 1770 as an act of devotion by the people. Facing the statue on the other side of the road is a column with a cross at the top which marks the position of the earlier church demolished in the early 17th century.

Address: Triq San Pawl

Telephone: +356 22915440

Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 8.30am

Wed, Fri, Sat: 6.00pm

Sunday and Feast Days: 8.00am



8. Il-Widna tal-Magħtab (The Ear of Magħtab)

Il-Widna tal-Magħtab is a sound mirror (an arc-shaped structure) built before World War II. It is apparently the only sound mirror built outside Britain. It was intended to help detect the sounds of approaching enemy aircraft as far away as Sicily (60km away). It was never actually used during World War II since by that time the radar as we know today was invented and used during the war. Il-Widna points towards Italy.

Address: Triq it-Targa

Opening hours: By appointment, contact Go plc.

Telephone: +356 25943985



9. Gun Post

Known as the Pillbox, this gun post was constructed around 1939 and is situated on the steep hill of Ta' Alla u Ommu. Soldiers were stationed here to protect the countryside and act as a lookout in case the enemy lands on the coastline. The pillbox-like building was painted in a way as to represent a rural building or farmhouse.

Address: Telgħa t'Alla u Ommu

Opening hours: By appointment, contact Fondazjoni Wirt Artna.

Telephone: Fondazjoni Wirt Artna: +356 21800992.



10. Ximenes Redoubt (Fugassa)

The Ximenes Redoubt was built by the Knights with a six-foot wide fougasse. Used for coastal defence, a fougasse is a deep hole cut into the rock and lined with explosives and filled with boulders to face the enemy at sea. When the fuse was lit, the rock showered the ships approaching shore.

Address: Coast Road

Opening hours: Public place, can be visited at any time



11. Torri tal-Ġħallis (Għallis Tower)

Ġħallis Tower is approximately 12m high and has a 9m square base. The walls consist of an inner and outer skin of masonry with a solid gravel infill. The external wall is made of coralline limestone (tal-qawwi) which is weather resistant and the inner wall is glo-bogerina limestone (tal-franka). The Ġħallis Tower has been recently renovated and is now under the management of Din l-Art Ħelwa.

Address: Coast Road

Contact Person: Din l-Art Ħelwa, National Trust of Malta

Telephone: +356 21225952

Opening hours: By appointment, contact Din l-Art Ħelwa



12. Torri ta' Qalet Marku (Qalet Marku Tower)

This tower, along with the Ghallis Tower, was erected on the orders of Grand Master De Redin (1657-1660) to form part of his network of 13 towers that encircled the islands as defensive posts and watchtower. Each tower could see its neighbour and by means of lighting a bonfire on its roof could relay a warning to headquarters in Valletta that an enemy fleet was approaching.

Address: Coast Road

Contact Person: Din l-Art elwa, National Trust of Malta

Telephone: +356 21225952

Opening hours: By appointment, contact Din l-Art elwa



13. Victoria Lines

The Victoria Lines are long defensive infantry parapets stretching from coast to coast, from Madliena to Bingemma, in order to protect Valletta and the Grand Harbour from a land-borne invasion coming from the north. It was named the Victoria Lines to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Its patrol path protected by the parapet is now a walkway popular with families in the cooler months.

Address: Triq il-Fortizza Tal-Mosta

Opening hours: Public/open place, can be visited at any time



14. Cart Ruts

The Cart Ruts on the Naxxar Gap (San Pawl tat-Targa) are spectacular when combined with the geology of the area. Located on the Great Fault line the ruts themselves can be very narrow but still deep. They curve down the slope and there is also a lot of very puzzling "doubling" effect.

Address: Triq il-Fortizza Tal-Mosta

Opening hours: Public place, can be visited at any time

15. Tal-Qadi Temples

This site is the only known example of a Maltese temple which is not orientated south-east/south since this would have opened on to a steep slope.

The temple has a 4-apse plan and appears to show an axis facing to the north-east.

The walls are built of the usual large blocks but have, for the most part, tumbled. In the lane on the north side the tumbled wall looks more like a dolmen than a temple. Within the walls two of the four apses are substantially complete and have a niche or small inner apse between them. There are no traces of the facade or outer pair of apses although a communicating passageway between them is apparent.

Steps descending on the west side of the site are modern.

Address: Triq I-Imdawra, overlooking the plain of Burmarrad

Opening hours: Public/open place, can be visited at any time



16. Salina Catacombs

These catacombs are an important record of the sizeable community that must have lived in the area in around the last half of the first millennium AD. The catacombs open on to a low ridge facing a Roman Harbour, making the small site archaeologically important. The site comprises five hypogea cut into the vertical surface of a small quarry. A number of other openings can be seen in rocky outcrops around the site and at least one hypogaeum has been damaged by further quarrying, resulting in the destruction of a number of burials.

Address: Triq II-Katakombi

Opening hours: Some catacombs are open and could be viewed anytime. Visitors will have to go through a narrow passageway on one side of a field. To view the closed catacombs one has to contact Heritage Malta on Telephone: +356 22954000



17. Splash & Fun Water Park

Splash & Fun Water Park has one of the largest wave pool in Europe with heart-pounding waves for an exciting experience.

Address: Coast Road

Telephone: +356 21374283; +356 79374283

Email: info@splashandfun.com.mt

Website: www.splashandfun.info

Entrance fees: Children (3-12 years): Full day €12, Half day €8

Adults (13+): Full day €20; Half day €14

Senior Citizen (60+): same as Children

Disabled & Infants (under 3 years): Free of charge

18. Mediterraneo Marine Park

Mediterraneo Marine Park is a great way for adults and children to understand more about the marine life and its inhabitants through entertainment. Spend a fantastic and unforgettable day at the Marine park in Malta where you can swim with dolphins, see sea lions, exotic birds, reptiles and more.

Address: Coast Road

Telephone: +356 21372218;

+356 21376519

Email:

info@mediterraneopark.com

Website:

www.mediterraneopark.com



Places of Refreshment

1. Ape Miele

Address: 21st September Avenue
Opening Hours: Monday – Sat: 6am - 3pm

2. Cellini Bar and Bistro

Address: 2, Triq Toni Bajjada
Telephone: +356 2143 3670, +356 9921 8279
Email: info@celliniwinebar.com
Opening hours: 7.00pm – late

3. Coastline Hotel & Restaurant

Address: Coast Road
Opening Hours: Lunch & Dinner daily
Telephone: +356 21573781
Email: info@coastline.com.mt

4. Creme Cafè at Yorkdale

Address: Labour Avenue
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri: 6:30am - 8pm; Sat - Sun: till 2pm
Telephone: +356 21410549

5. Marmiton

Address: Labour Avenue
Opening Hours: 7:30am - 8pm (Sat till 6pm)
Telephone: +356 21437908

6. Naxxar Lions Bar

Address: Pjazza Victorja
Telephone: +356 21411974
Opening hours: 7.00am – late. Food served daily from 2.00pm

7. Palazzo Parisio – Cafè Luna

Address: Victory Square
Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 9am – 6pm
Telephone: +356 21412461

**8. Palazzo Parisio – Luna di Sera**

Address: Victory Square

Opening Hours: Friday & Saturday evenings from
7:30pm until 10:45pm (last dinner orders)

Telephone: +356 21412461

11. Ta' Marku

Address: Alley 6, St Lucy Street

Opening Hours:

Telephone:

9. Peace Band Club Bar - Traditional Village Bar

Address: Labour Avenue

Opening Hours:

Telephone: +356 21431621

12. Ta' Stringi

Address: Labour Avenue

Opening Hours: Daily: 7pm - 12am

Telephone: +356 27041122

10. Pizza Planet

Address: 21st September Avenue

Opening Hours: Mon: 6pm - 11pm; Tue - Sat: 9am -
11pm; Sun: 10am - 11pm

Telephone: +356 21422327

13. Victoria Band Club Bar - Traditional Village Bar

Address: St. Lucy Street

Opening Hours: 5:15pm - 11:30; Sun: 8:30am - till late

Telephone: +356 27414189

Local Information

Naxxar Local Council

Civic Centre, 21st September Avenue

Telephone: +356 21416341

Fax: +356 21416363

Email: naxxar.lc@gov.mt

Official website: www.naxxar.com

Other website: www.naxxarwalks.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NaxxarLC

Opening Hours:

Winter Hours (1st October – 15th June):

Monday – Friday: 8:00am – 12:00pm & 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am – 11:30am

Summer Hours (16th June – 30th September):

Monday – Friday: 8:00am – 1:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am – 11:30am

1st August – 31st August:

Monday – Friday: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am – 11:30am

Information Available

Information available from the Local Council office:

Locality maps (free)

Bizniss – A directory of businesses and services offered at Naxxar. Includes also information about the history of Naxxar, bus schedules etc (free).

Four walks to discover Naxxar – A book consisting of directions for four walks around the locality (€2.50).



Naxxar Public Library

Address: Civic Centre, 21st September Avenue

Telephone: +356 21419103

Opening hours: Monday (October – June):

2.30pm – 7.00pm

Monday (July – September): 8.30am – 12.00pm

Wednesday: 8.30am – 12.00pm

Saturday: 8.30pm – 12.00pm

Maltapost Office

Address: Civic Centre,

21st September Avenue

Telephone: +356 21437000/1

Opening Hours: Monday – Saturday: 7:30am – 12:45pm



Accessibility

Public Transport (Buses)

From Valletta to Naxxar: Bus 31, 35, 36, 37, 43, 45

Bus Stop: Parroċċa

Customer care: +356 21222203

Email: info.tm@transpor.gov.mt

Website: www.transport.gov.mt



Yearly Events

Holy Week Exhibitions: Triq il-Bjad

Triq Korfu

21st September Avenue

Triq Hal-Dgħejf

Triq I-iSkola

Parish Church

Good Friday Procession

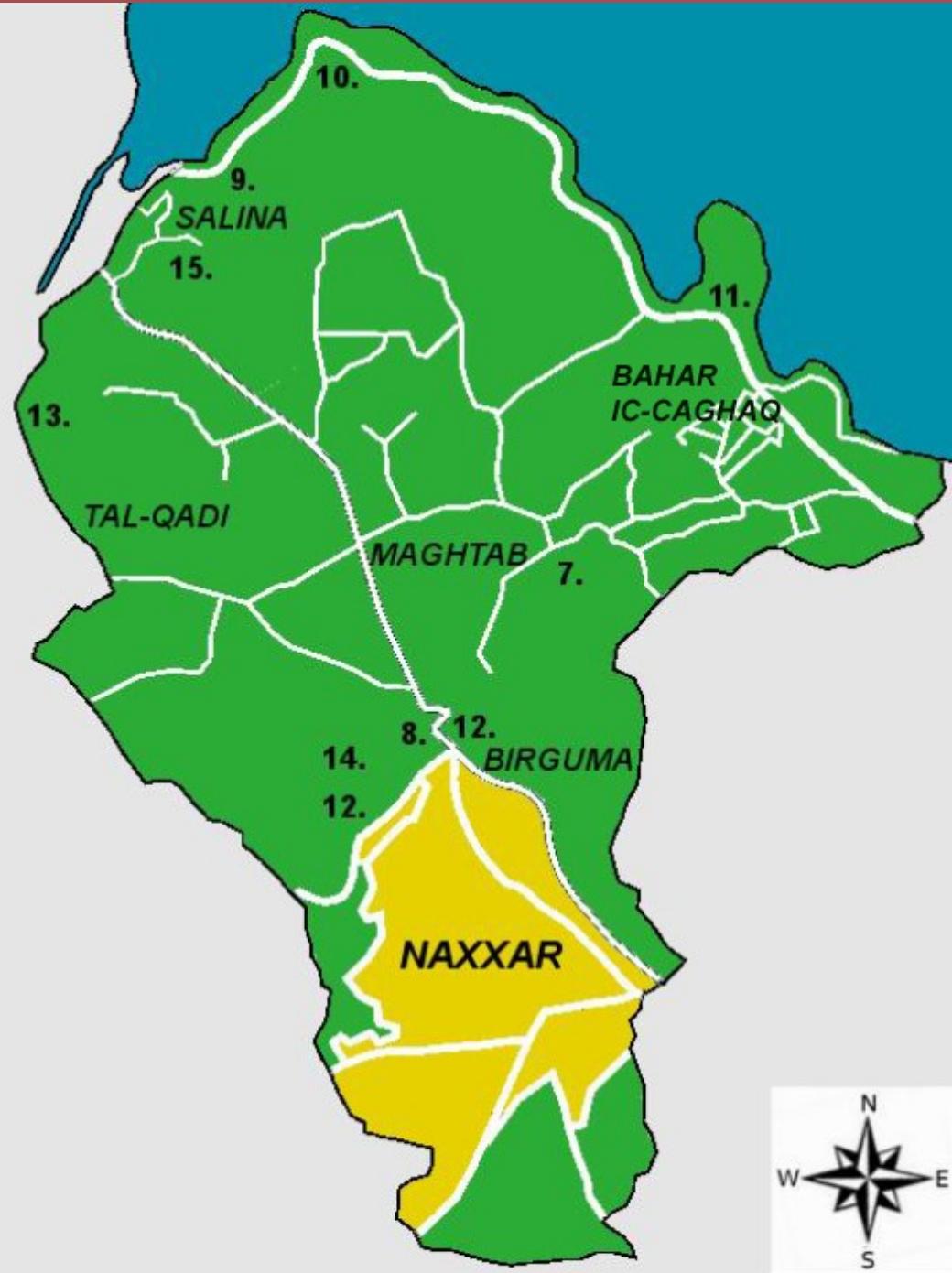
Feast of Baħar ic-Čagħaq – St. Mary of the Angels – 2nd August

Village Feast – Nativity of Mary – 8th September

Arts Hobbies & Crafts Exhibition – First weekend of November

Christmas Event – Beginning of December





Naxxar. You're invited

