

Malta

Continent: Europe

Languages Spoken: Maltese, English

Population: 514,000

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Area: 316

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Valletta', 'writeup': 'The capital city known for its Baroque architecture and historical fortifications.'}
- {'name': 'Mdina', 'writeup': "An ancient fortified city also called the 'Silent City', rich in medieval and baroque architecture."}
- {'name': 'Hypogeum of ■al-Saflieni', 'writeup': 'A prehistoric underground burial site dating back to 4000 BC, UNESCO World Heritage Site.'}
- {'name': "St. John's Co-Cathedral", 'writeup': 'A 16th-century cathedral famous for its ornate interior and Caravaggio paintings.'}
- {'name': 'Blue Lagoon', 'writeup': 'A scenic lagoon on the island of Comino known for its crystal-clear turquoise waters.'}

Head of State / Government:

President George Vella

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Malta International Fireworks Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event showcasing spectacular fireworks displays from local and international teams.'}
- {'name': 'Carnival', 'writeup': 'A vibrant pre-Lenten festival featuring colorful parades, costumes, and street parties.'}
- {'name': 'Isle of MTV Malta', 'writeup': 'A large open-air music festival attracting international artists and thousands of attendees.'}
- {'name': 'Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck', 'writeup': 'A religious celebration commemorating the shipwreck of St. Paul on Malta, featuring processions and festivities.'}
- {'name': 'Malta Jazz Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event featuring performances by renowned jazz musicians from around the world.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Maltese cuisine blends Mediterranean flavors with influences from Italy and North Africa, featuring dishes like rabbit stew (fenek), pastizzi (flaky pastry filled with ricotta or peas), and lampuki pie (fish pie).

Brief History:

Malta has a rich history dating back to prehistoric times, known for its megalithic temples. It was ruled by the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Knights of St. John, French, and British before gaining independence in 1964 and becoming a republic in 1974.

Important People:

- Dom Mintoff - Former Prime Minister and key figure in Malta's independence.
- Joseph Calleja - Renowned operatic tenor.
- Edward de Bono - Influential thinker and author known for developing the concept of lateral thinking.
- Agatha Barbara - First female President of Malta.
- ■u■è Ellul Mercer - Noted Maltese writer and politician.

Current Conflicts:

Malta is currently not involved in any armed conflicts. It focuses on regional cooperation and Mediterranean security issues.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Malta: A Mediterranean Gem
- Top 10 Things to Do in Malta
- Malta Travel Guide 2024
- History of Malta in 10 Minutes
- Malta Food Tour: Traditional Maltese Cuisine