

Complete Gozo

Tour Style: European walking holidays

Destination: Maltese Islands

Trip code: GZLCL-7

2 & 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Fondly known as Malta's little sister, rural and peaceful Gozo is the second-largest of the three islands that make up the Maltese archipelago. Complete with lovely beaches, pretty villages, interesting archaeological sites, and reliably good weather, life here is gloriously slow-paced. This holiday will be spent exploring the island's coastal paths leading to secluded coves and rocky headlands backed by the glittering Mediterranean Sea.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Heathrow, including baggage and transfers (flights available from other airports - price may vary)
- A choice of 2 guided walks per day with local leaders (on walking days)
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights' accommodation in Mgarr
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- All in-destination transport

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Admiring the stunning interiors at Victoria's cathedral
- Stopping for a coffee at Mgarr-ix-Xini
- Taking a boat ride through the caves to the open sea
- Sampling island-grown produce
- Enjoying a mid-walk swim at San Blas Bay
- Discovering the 17th-century Dwerjra Tower

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 3 graded Activity, Easier walks: 4 to 7 miles (6½ to 11km) on stony island and coastal paths. Up to 800 feet (240m) of ascent in a day. Harder walks: 8 to 10 miles (13 to 16km) on stony island and coastal paths. Up to 1,400 feet (420m) of ascent in a day.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Grand Hotel. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Xlendi And The Southern Coast

Today we explore the coastal area along the south coast of Gozo. Here you'll find precipitous cliffs and deep-cut fjords, rocky headlands and little urbanisation.

Option 1 - Along The Coast To Xlendi

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 600 feet (180m)

Following the coast path, we take in dramatic views of the cliffs. We continue along the coastline passing Xlendi Tower, the oldest freestanding watchtower on Gozo. Beautiful fossil embedded limestone formations and Xlendi Tower perched magnificently on a cliff top.

Option 2 - The Southern Coast To Xlendi

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

We walk from our hotel and cross scenic countryside towards the inlet of Mgarr-ix-Xini. We then walk along the coastal path through one of Gozo's most remote areas taking in spectacular cliff-top views.

Day 3: Ta Pinu And Sculpted Cliffs

The Church of Pilgrimage at Ta Pinu starts the day. From here the north coast offers some spectacular cliff scenery. Heading eastwards there are some beautiful 'wind sculptures' to admire as well as quaint fishermen's storerooms, formed in the softer rock of the higher cliffs, on our way to Marsalforn or Victoria

Option 1 - Ta Pinu, Sculpted Cliffs & Marsalforn

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 150 feet (40m)

Descent: 450 feet (140m)

Our day begins at the sanctuary church of Ta Pinu with time to explore. We'll then head to the coast via the village of Ghasri. On reaching the coast we'll see the beautiful inlet of Ghar il Qamh, fascinating salt pans and weather-sculpted cliffs. We finish at Marsalforn with refreshments.

Option 2 - Marsalforn Via Hekka Point

Distance: 7½ miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 300 feet (90m)

Descent: 600 feet (190m)

We too start with a visit to Ta Pinu, but then begin walking uphill to Ta Ghammer with its stations of the cross. We then head for Hekka Point via the village of Gharb. We'll then follow the other party to Marsalforn via the salt pans and cliffs.

Day 4: North Coast Beaches And Caves

Both walks follow quiet countryside roads to Marsalforn and the scenic northern coastline taking in Ramla Beach, the longest sandy beach on Gozo and the spectacular viewpoint from Tal-Mixta Cave.

Option 1 - Ghasri To Ggantija Temples

Distance : 5.5 miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 500 feet (140m)

Our walk today starts at the impressive Corpus Christi Church in Ghasri, then we make our way towards the coast at Marsalforn, where the beautiful bay is set between hilltop towns. We continue back inland, through the countryside and ascend towards Xaghra, passing a traditional 18th century windmill, before we reach the fascinating Ggantija Temple.

Option 2 - Ghasri To San Blas

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

We begin walking from Ghasri towards the coast at Marsalforn, from here we follow the rugged northern coastline past Ramla Bay and the iconic viewpoint at Tal-Mixta cave. We then continue past San Blas beach and the beautiful San Blas gardens to finish at Nadur Observatory.

Day 5: Free Day

Today there are no organised walks, allowing you time to explore the local area or relax in the Hotel or at the beach.

Ta'Mena Estate

The Ta'Mena estate, which the Spiteri family owns, is situated in the picturesque Marsalforn Valley between Victoria and Marsalforn Bay. The estate includes a fruit garden, an olive grove with about 1500 olive trees, an orange grove, and over ten hectares of vineyards. It enjoys the panoramic views of the Gozo Citadel and the surrounding hills and villages. They cultivate vines, olives, lemons, oranges, various fruit trees, strawberries, tomatoes, melons, watermelons and other vegetables. They produce their own wine. There is also an opportunity to buy. HF Holidays groups have visited in previous years and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Malta Trip

There is an excellent scheduled ferry service between Gozo and Malta and the crossing takes approximately 25 minutes. The ferry leaves Gozo from Mgarr and arrives on Malta at Cirkewwa. The ferry timetable is available from www.gozochannel.com

Trip to Valleta

There is a high speed catamaran service operating from Gozo to Valletta, if you would like to explore this historic city in your free time.

Day 6: Xlendi Bay And Fungus Rock

A combination of man's burrowing and gigantic sea erosion has shaped the landscape of today's walks. On the Harder Walk, we'll descend by cliff paths to Xlendi before a spectacular ascent of the cliffs to the west leads to Dwerja Point. Both walks visit Dwerja Point where once stood the dramatic sea-arch known as the Azure Window. Sadly, due to a combination of sea erosion and high winds, the Azure Window collapsed in March 2017. If time and weather permit, a boat trip can be taken from the Inland Sea through a tunnel in the rock out to view the nearby cliffs and Fungus Rock. Both walks continue on into Victoria, the island's capital, for well-earned refreshments

Option 1 - Fungus Rock & The Inland Sea

Distance: 6 miles (9½km)

Ascent: 550 feet (180m)

The day starts with a gradual descent to see Fungus Rock - prominently guarding the entrance to Dwerjra Bay and onto Dwerjra Point where we can see the site of the collapsed Azure Window sea arch. We then circle the Inland Sea before heading for some sightseeing in Victoria. There's opportunity to take a boat ride through the caves into the open sea.

Option 2 - Xlendi Cliffs & Dwejra Bay

Distance: 9 miles (14½km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (380m)

Our walk starts at the village of Munxar and follows a dramatic coast path to the resort of Xlendi. After a spectacular ascent to the cliff tops we'll walk on to Wardija Point and then follow the route of the other party all the way to Victoria. Take a look inside the 17th Century Dwerjra Tower - one of only four surviving coastal watchtowers on Gozo.

Day 7: Rocky Strand To Secluded Coves

Today's walks offer extensive views over the straits to Comino and Malta. Our groups traverse a delightful flat rock shore and then enjoy charming coves, verdant gardens and wonderful wild flowers. Both walks visit the beautiful Dahlet Qorrot beach with the opportunity for a dip. Continuing, both groups make their way through the outskirts of Nadur, arriving at one of the most stunning viewpoints on Gozo.

Option 1 - Qala, Dahlet Qorrot And Nadur

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240m)

We start our day at Qala for great views of the strait to Comino and Malta. We then walk through open countryside to the small harbour of Dahlet Qorrot, before taking lunch at the lovely San Blas Gardens. We finish by walking through a fertile valley to Nadur, and back to our hotel.

Option 2 - Strait, Strands And Coves

Distance: 9 miles (16km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (420m)

We walk in the remote north-east corner of the island, walking the coastline for fantastic views of Comino and Malta. We'll visit St Anthony's gun battery, then the beautiful secluded bay of Dahlet Qorrot, before picking up the route back to the hotel via Nadur.

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

ACCOMMODATION

Grand Hotel - Gozo

The charming 4-star Grand Hotel with its comfortable accommodation, and friendly efficient service, occupies a commanding location overlooking Mgarr harbour and has views across the straits to Comino and Malta. Winner of three HF Hotel Awards in 2018 based on outstanding guest feedback. The hotel features indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a well equipped bar and two restaurants.

Rooms

The hotel has 93 en-suite bedrooms, many of which have a balcony with either sea views over Mgarr Harbour or the open countryside.

All bedrooms have:

- En-suite bathroom with bath with shower
- Air conditioning
- TV
- Telephone
- Mini-bar
- Hairdryer
- Free Wi-Fi

About Your Stay

The hotel has a range of facilities to enjoy after a day's walking, including a:

- Lounge bar
- Games room
- Mini cinema
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Sauna
- Jacuzzi
- Gymnasium
- Indoor pool

Food & Drink

Our holidays at the Grand Hotel are on a half-board basis and include breakfast and evening meal.

Breakfast

There is an extensive selection of hot and cold options for breakfast from a self-select buffet.

Lunch (Payable Locally)

You can buy picnic lunches from the hotel (order the evening before). Alternatively you can buy ingredients from the supermarket in the village or eat in a café during the walks; your leaders will advise you of all the options.

Evening Meal

The Grand Hotel has a buffet dinner, comprising a choice of soup, antipasti/salad dishes, plus hot pasta. Main courses always include a choice of meat or fish, plus hot vegetables. The sweet course is usually fresh fruit/fruit

salad or gateau. There will be a vegetarian option if requested; we recommend that you discuss any special dietary requirements with the restaurant manager or chef.

Drinks

The hotel has a well-stocked bar serving beer, wine and spirits.

Your Evenings

The friendly atmosphere of our holidays continues into the evening.

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer before hearing about the next day's walks.

On most evenings there will be some kind of entertainment: watch a film in the hotel's own cinema: relax in the hotel with a drink and chat with your fellow guests.

Your leader will inform you of what options are available.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Grand Hotel
St Anthony Street
Mgarr
Gozo
GSM 9026

Tel: [00356 2156 3840](tel:0035621563840)

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

Shared group transfer

You can still purchase a seat on our group airport transfer, but you must arrive in destination prior to the main group. It is your responsibility to book flights which allow enough time to meet our shared transfer.

Please note, all flight times are subject to change. If your arrival and/or departure time changes and no longer fits our group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur, we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the accommodation or we can book a private taxi transfer (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

Private taxi transfer

Depending on your destination, we may be able to arrange a private taxi transfer for you. Please call us up to 5 weeks in advance to enquire about availability and costs for this option on 0203-974-8865.

*Subject to availability

Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

Useful Information

The local languages are Maltese and English.

Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialling the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a Maltese number 00356

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

HF Holidays Airport Transfers

Guests booking HF Holidays airport transfers, will travel to Gozo as foot passengers on the ferry, with separate transfers on each side between the port / hotel. The ferry service Malta to Gozo is approx 30 minutes.

Local Currency

The local currency is the Euro (€)

Electricity

Same 3-pin plug as in the UK.

ATM Availability

There are several ATM machines in Mgarr where you can obtain money.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

Document produced: 28-03-2025

