

Complete Gozo

Trip style: Guided Walking Holidays

Destination: ☺ Maltese Islands & Malta

Trip code: GZO07-LCL09

Trip Walking Grade: ul 2 & 3

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 1052kg CO2



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 YOU'LL LOVE

- 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

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

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

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.

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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 - 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 clifftop views.

Option 2 - 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.

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 - 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 saltpans and cliffs.

Option 2 - 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 saltpans and weather-sculpted cliffs. We finish at Marsalforn with refreshments.

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 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.

Option 2 - 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.

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 Valletta

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 - 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.

Option 2 - 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.

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 - 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.

Option 2 - 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.

Day 8 Departure day

We hope to see you again soon.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Good paths but walks are a bit longer. Some walks, particularly in mountain areas, may have sections over rough or steeper terrain.



Medium Walks

Walks follow well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough or steep in sections and will require reasonable fitness.

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.

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 gâteau. 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.

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

Travel Details

Address

Grand Hotel
St Anthony Street
Mgarr
Gozo
GSM 9026

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

Useful Holiday 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 (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)

Trip Information

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel.

As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure.

Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting.

For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice.

Passport Requirements

This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long.

We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues.

If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website.

Visa Requirements

Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling.

British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Tripnote validity

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.

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