

# Gozo Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** European Centre Based

**Destination:** Maltese Islands

**Trip code:** GZLCL

1 & 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Gozo is the second biggest of the three islands which make up the Maltese archipelago. It provides an idyllic place to escape daily life with its laid-back atmosphere, wonderful coastal walks and historical sites. Greener than Malta, much of the land is given over to agriculture; melons, grapes and vegetables are all grown here. The week will be spent exploring the island's coastal paths which lead to secluded coves and rocky headlands all backed by the azure blue waters of the Mediterranean.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- A full programme of guided walks with 2 options every walking day
- All transport to and from the walks
- The services of experienced HF Holidays' leader
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- 5 nights accommodation in en-suite rooms
- Half Board - continental breakfast and evening meal

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Don't miss Victoria's cathedral. It's an imposing building with an elaborate and unique interior
- Mgarr-ix-Xini is the perfect location for a picturesque coffee stop
- The village of Gharb has a spectacular basilica built between the 17th and 18th centuries.
- Take a boat ride through the caves into the open sea.
- Discover the 17th Century Dwerjra Tower - one of only four surviving coastal watchtowers on Gozo.
- San Blas Bay the perfect place to stop for a mid-walk swim.

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 1 and level 2 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, Victoria 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. From Xlendi we enjoy a common route inland to the Gozo capital Victoria, where there should be time for sightseeing.

#### Option 1 - Xlendi & Victoria

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Total ascent:** 500 feet (150m)

**In summary:** We start our walk with a short walk to the coast path, then head north taking in dramatic views of the cliffs. We then make for the delightful resort of Xlendi before turning inland to the island's capital, Victoria.

**Highlight:** Don't miss Victoria's cathedral. It's an imposing building with an elaborate and unique interior.

## Option 2 - The Southern Coast To Xlendi

**Distance:** 10 miles (15km)

**Total ascent:** 1,000 feet (300m)

**In summary:** 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. On reaching Xlendi, we then follow in the other party's footsteps to Victoria.

**Highlight:** Mgarr-ix-Xini is the perfect location for a picturesque coffee stop.

## Day 3: Ta Pinu And Sculpted Cliffs

The Church of Pilgrimage at Ta Pinu starts the day, after which we visit the interesting Folklore Museum in Gharb. 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 (9½km)

**Total ascent:** 400 feet (120m)

**In summary:** 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 Gharb and its folk museum. 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.

**Highlight:** Don't miss the fishermen's sheds cut into the cliff face.

### Option 2 - Marsalforn Via Hekka Point

**Distance:** 8 miles (13km)

**Total ascent:** 800 feet (240m)

**In summary:** 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.

**Highlight:** The village of Gharb has a spectacular basilica built between the 17th and 18th centuries.

## Day 4: 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)

**Total ascent:** 500 feet (150m)

**In summary:** The day starts with a gradual descent to see Fungus Rock - prominently guarding the entrance to Dwerja Bay and onto Dwerja 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.

**Highlight:** There's opportunity to take a boat ride through the caves into the open sea.

### Option 2 - Xlendi Cliffs & Dwerja Bay

**Distance:** 10 miles (16km)

**Total ascent:** 1,200 feet (360m)

**In summary:** Our walk starts at the village of Sannat 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.

**Highlight:** Take a look inside the 17th Century Dwerja Tower - one of only four surviving coastal watchtowers on Gozo.

## Day 5: 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. The harder walk descends to the secluded San Blas Bay for the opportunity of a midday swim. The easier group stays high and lunches in local gardens. Continuing, both groups make their way through the outskirts of Nadur, arriving at one of the most stunning viewpoints on Gozo.

### Option 1 - Qala, Strands And Nadur

**Distance:** 7 miles (11km)

**Total ascent:** 800 feet (240m)

**In summary:** 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 our walk by walking a fertile valley to Nadur, and back to our hotel.

**Highlight:** We'll look out for beautiful wildflowers and verdant gardens on our way to San Blas.

## Option 2 - Strait, Strands And Coves

**Distance:** 10 miles (16km)

**Total ascent:** 1,400 feet (420m)

**In summary:** We walk in the remote north-east corner of the island, walking the coastline for fantastic views of Comino and Malta. We'll visit San Blas Bay, before picking up the route back to the hotel via Nadur.

**Highlight:** San Blas Bay is a wonderfully secluded spot, reached by a relatively steep descent. The bay is perfect for a rest stop and a mid-walk swim.

## Day 6: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### 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.

### Accommodation Info

#### 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

#### Facilities

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 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.

### 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

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### *THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION*

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Book your holiday 'with flight' and choose between Heathrow and Manchester flights to Malta airport. For flight times and prices please see the Dates & Prices tab.

If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approx 2 hours to the Grand Hotel, including the scenic ferry crossing between Malta and Gozo.

### *THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION*

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Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to

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book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

- We can book you a seat on the **HF Holidays' transfer coach** from Malta airport. This is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flights\* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Cost per single journey is £25
- Why not let us book you a **private taxi transfer**; price on request

Transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details

\* Please note that HF Holidays is not responsible for your onward travel if you fail to meet the transfer coach

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

#### Passport Requirements

You may need to renew your British passport if you're travelling from 1 January 2021.

On the day you travel, you'll need your passport to both:

- have at least 6 months left
- be less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left)

Use the [government website](#) to see if your passport is valid for this holiday

#### EHIC Cards

The UK government has officially launched the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), which will replace the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). UK residents can now apply for one of the GHIC cards, which will gradually replace the EHIC cards as they reach their expiry dates. Every family member travelling requires a GHIC. You can make an application for yourself and on behalf of your partner and any dependent children under the age of 16. Both cards will offer equivalent protection for emergency and medically necessary healthcare needs when in the EU on a temporary stay, which includes holiday, study and business travel. Necessary healthcare includes things like

- emergency treatment and visits to A&E
- treatment for long-term or pre-existing medical conditions
- routine medical care for pre-existing conditions that need monitoring
- oxygen and kidney dialysis

The public only need to apply for their free GHIC cards when their current EHIC expires. The process is likely to take two weeks. For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>.

The GHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. We advise all holidaymakers to also invest in travel insurance that covers healthcare, so they are covered for other issues that may arise, as well as cancellations and lost luggage.

#### Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents.
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares).
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended.
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers.
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner.
- Thermos flask for hot drink.
- Water bottle (at least 2 litre).
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch.
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Sun cream.

## Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents.
- Insect repellent.
- Camera.
- Gaiters.

## 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

## Local Currency

The local currency for Gozo 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.

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

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Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

## **PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT**

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

## **NON-MEMBER FEE**

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

## **BACS PAYMENTS**

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

## **MANAGE MY BOOKINGS**

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

## **YOUR FINAL BALANCE**

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## **PEACE OF MIND**

### **ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

### **MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you

have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

### 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.

### PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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