

Facts About Malta 1

- Island republic.
- 50 miles south of Italy and 176 miles northeast of Africa.
- Main inhabited island: **Malta**.
- Second inhabited island: **Gozo**.
- Third inhabited Island: **Comino** (population 3).²
- A few minor islands.



Malta Facts 2

- Only 122 square miles (one of the world's smallest countries).
- **Malta would fit in London 5 times!**
- **Tampa, FL is 175 sq miles!**
- Population Total 553,000 (2023)
- **Malta Island** 514,000
- **Gozo** 39,000
- **Comino** 2

Malta Facts 3

- Malta island: Indented coastline with good harbors.
- Capital **Valletta** – smallest capital in the EU, only 0.8 sq miles.
- **Naples FL = 14 sq miles.**
- Main economic center: Sliema (across a bay from Valletta).

Malta Facts 4

- Member of the European Union.
- Official languages: Maltese (Malti) and English.
- **100% speak Maltese.**
- **Also, 88% speak English.**
- **66% speak Italian.**

Religion: Catholicism is the official religion in Malta, but there is freedom of religion by law.

Maltese Language (Malti)

IL-KOSTITUZZJONI MALTJA

Il-Kostituzzjoni Maltija ġiet adottata fil-21 ta' Settembru 1964 u għadha sal-lum tikkostitwixxi l-qafas legali ta' pajjiżna. Il-Kostituzzjoni Maltija s'issa ġiet emendata erbgħa u għoxrin darba, u l-aħħar waħda kienet fl-2007.

THE CONSTITUTION OF MALTA

The Maltese Constitution was adopted on 21 September 1964 and has been the country's legal order ever since. It has been amended twenty-four times, most recently in 2007.

Malta Facts 5

- Unicameral Parliament (65 elected members).
- President (head of state) is appointed by Parliament.
- Prime Minister (head of government) is the leader of majority party in House.

So neither President nor PM is directly elected by the people!

**Prime Minister
Robert Abela
since Jan 13,
2020**



**President
Myriam Spiteri
Debono
since Apr 4,
2024**



Abortion

Hugely contentious and illegal in Malta.

President Maria Louise Coleiri (2014-2019): Supported woman's right to choose.

President George Vella (2019-2024): Medical doctor. Totally against abortion. Said he would resign before signing any law allowing abortion.

President Myriam Spiteri Debono (Since April 2024): Favors a public referendum.

Malta Facts 6

- Water supply: tap water is desalinated sea water.
 - **No rivers, lakes, reservoirs.**
 - **Low amount of rainfall.**
- Produces just 20% of food needs.
- No domestic energy sources.
- Economy depends on shipping manufacturing, financial services, and tourism.

Malta Facts 7

- Drive on Left.
 - Sunshine: 3,000 hours a year.
Naples 2,900. London 1,461.
 - Temperature High-Low-Mean:
 - **Jan-Feb: 61 - 55 - 50 F.**
 - **July-Aug: 89 - 81 - 74 F.**
- Life expectancy:
- **80 years men, 84 women.**

The whole of Malta's capital Valletta is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



**This is a preview.
First, a bit of history...**

Malta History 1

- **8th C BC** Phoenicians conquered Malta.
 - **Phoenicia included today's Lebanon, Israel, and Crete, plus many colonies.**
- **218 BC** Romans conquered Malta.
 - **60 AD** St Paul arrived via shipwreck. Brought Christianity.

Malta History 2

- **518 AD** Malta conquered by Byzantines (aka Eastern Roman Empire – Christians).
- **870 AD** Malta conquered by Muslims from North Africa.
- **1091** Normans conquered Malta. Christianity returned.
- **1130 to 1530 AD** Malta was part of the Kingdom of Sicily.

Malta History 3

- **1530** Charles I of Spain (and Sicily) gave Malta to the Order of Knights of St John.
- **1530-1798** Malta was ruled by the Order of Saint John as a vassal state. Built defensive walls.
- **1565** Great Siege of Malta by Ottoman King Suleiman the Magnificent. He failed.

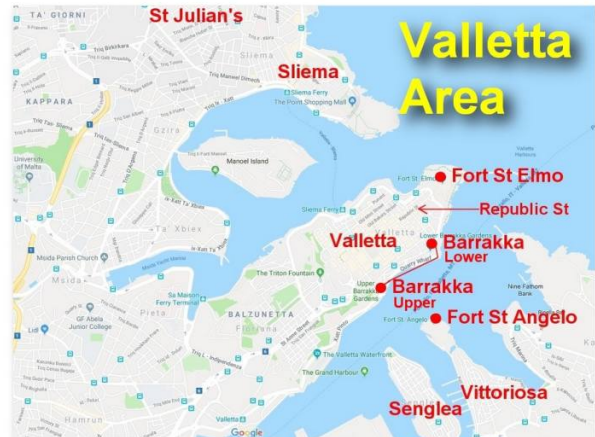
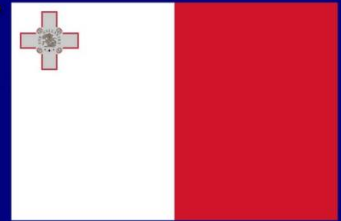
Malta History 4

- **1798** Knights reign ended. Napoleon captured Malta.
- But he did not have the forces to hold Malta. Two years later...
- **1800** British captured Malta.
With the full support of the people of Malta!
- **1800-1964** British colony.
- **1964** Independence.

Recap of Malta's Varied History:

700 BC-218 BC: Phoenician.
218 BC-518 AD: Roman.
518-870: Byzantine.
810-1091: Muslim.
1091-1130: Norman (French).
1130-1530: Sicilian.
1530-1798: Spanish vassal state.
1798-1800: French (again).
1800-1964: British.
1964 to today: Independent.

Flag of Malta, adopted Sept 21, 1964. Cross of St George given to the entire Malta nation by King George VI for gallantry during World War 2.

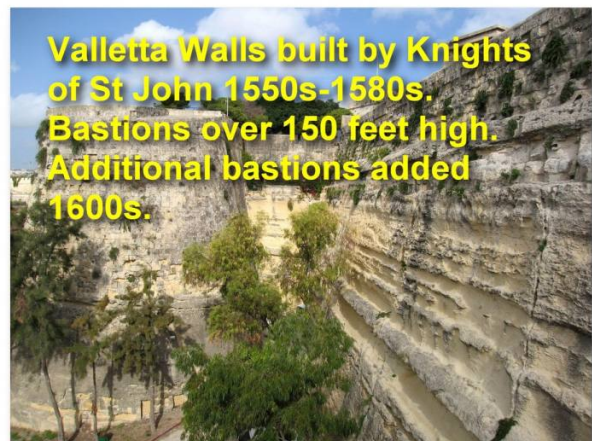


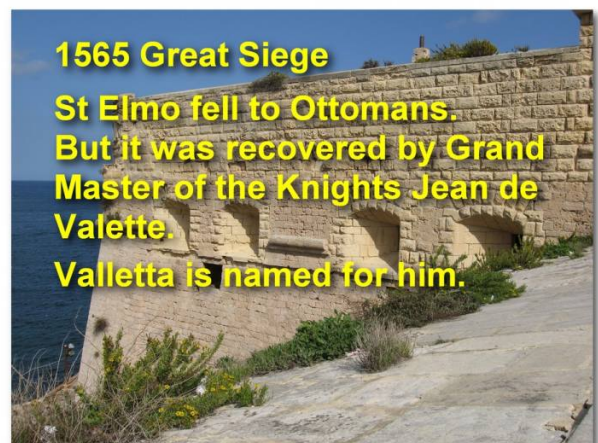
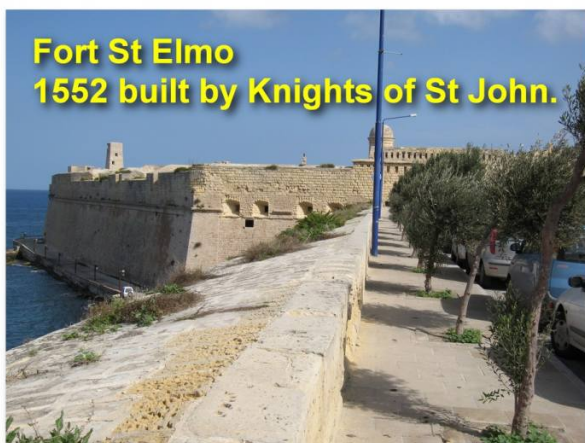
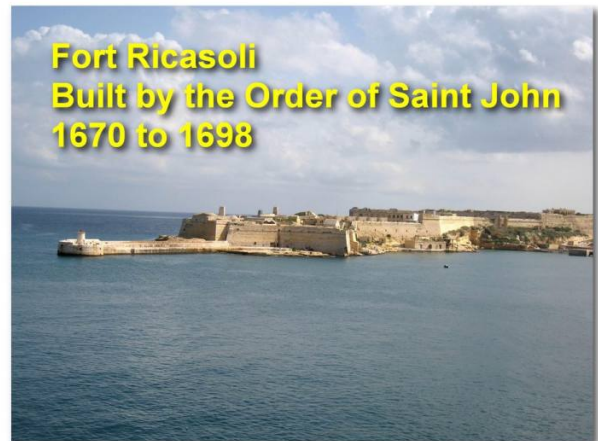
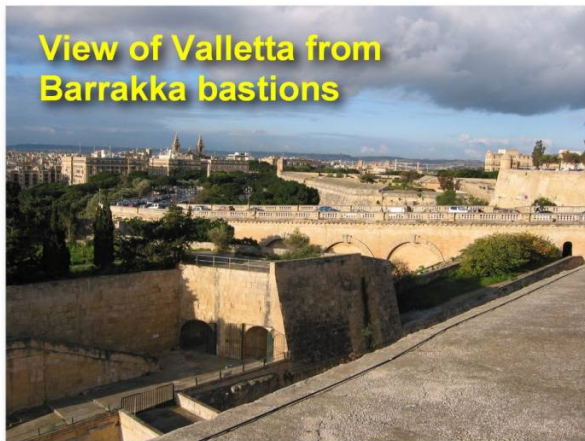
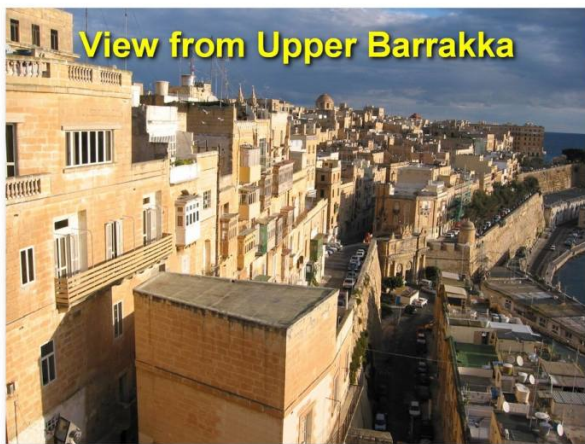
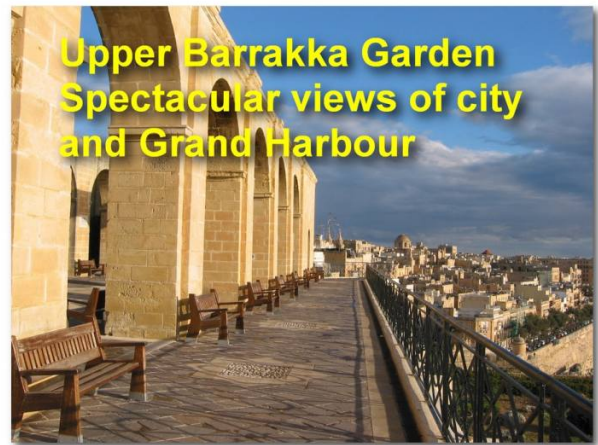
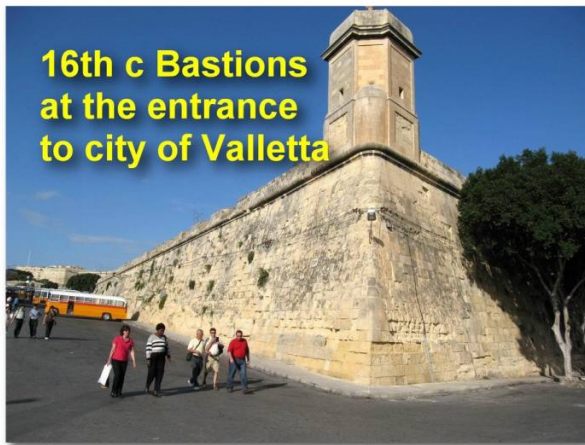
Valletta Capital of Malta

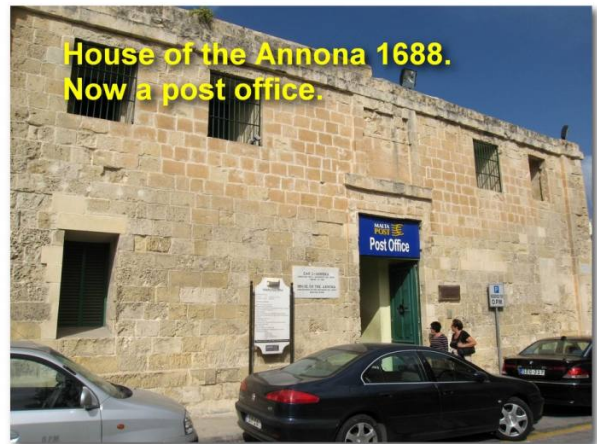
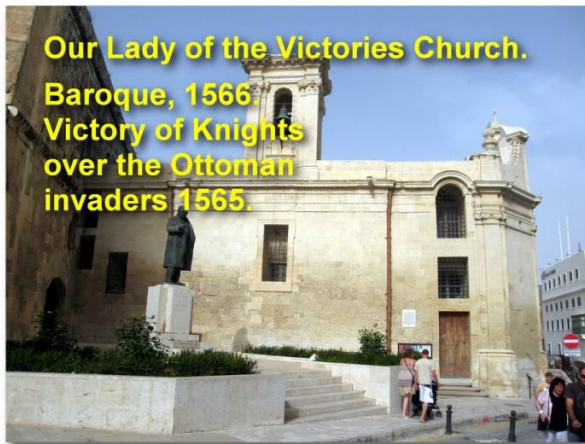
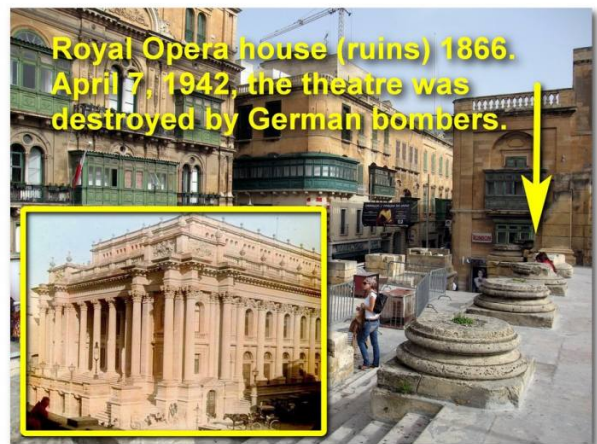
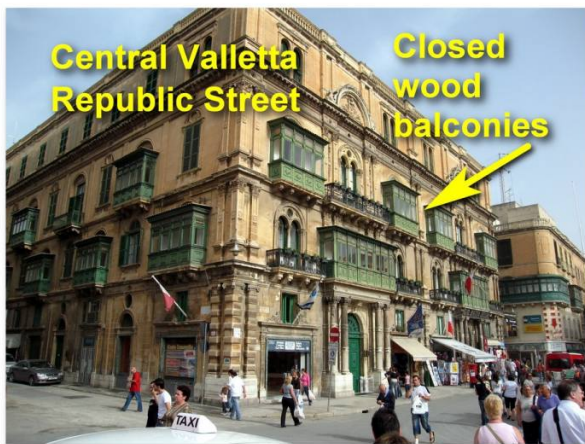
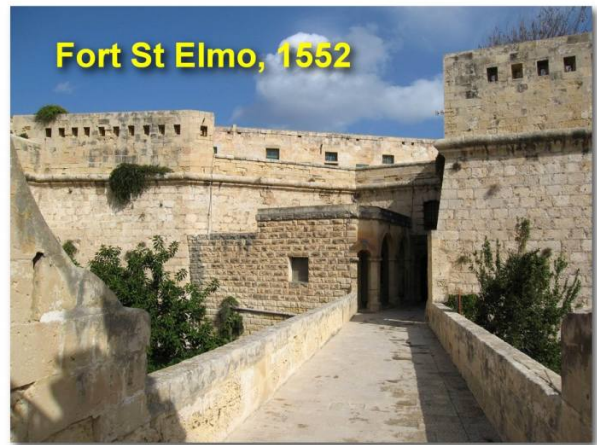
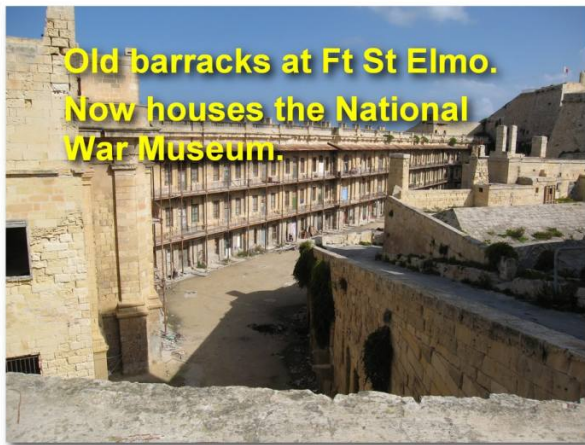


Valletta Pop (2020): 5,876.

Valletta Walls built by Knights of St John 1550s-1580s. Bastions over 150 feet high. Additional bastions added 1600s.





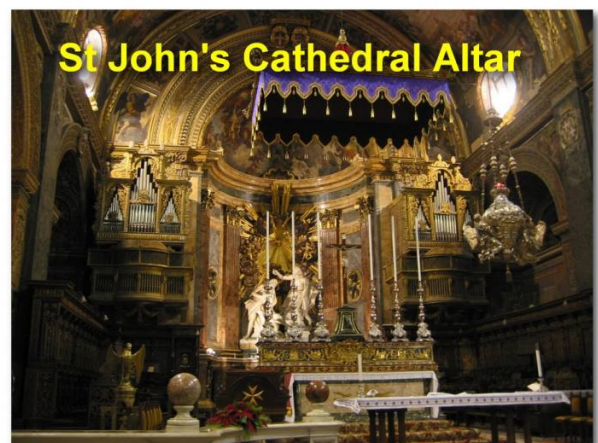
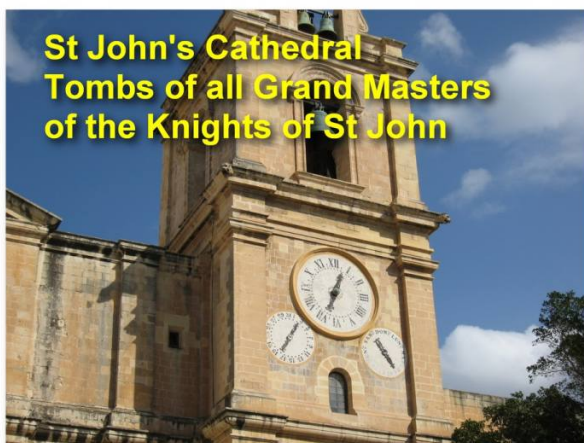


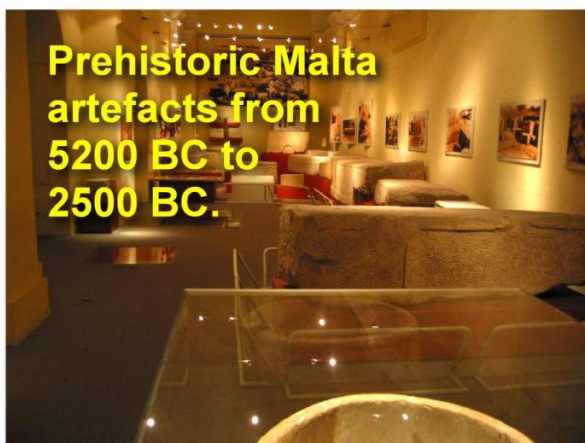
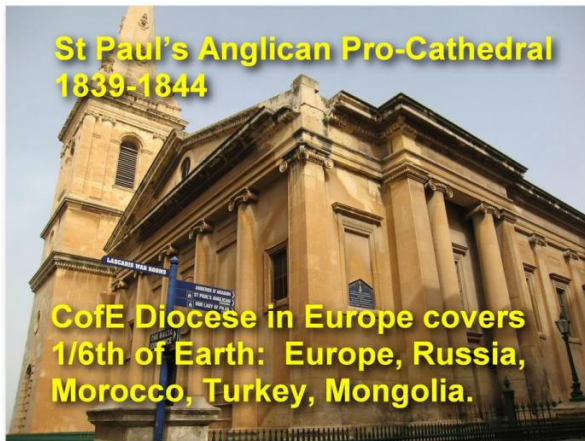
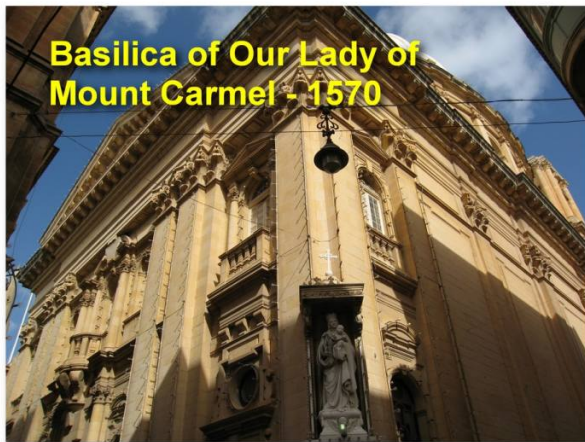
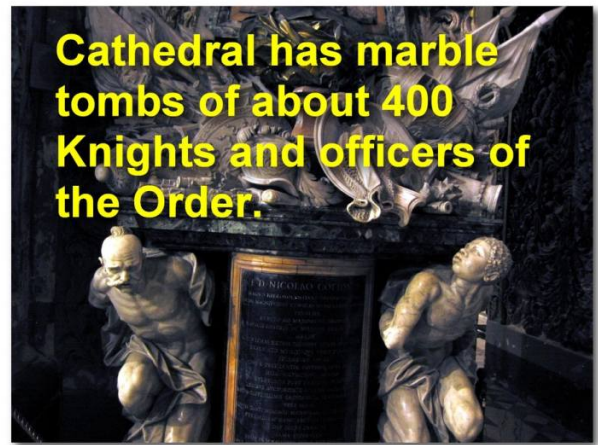
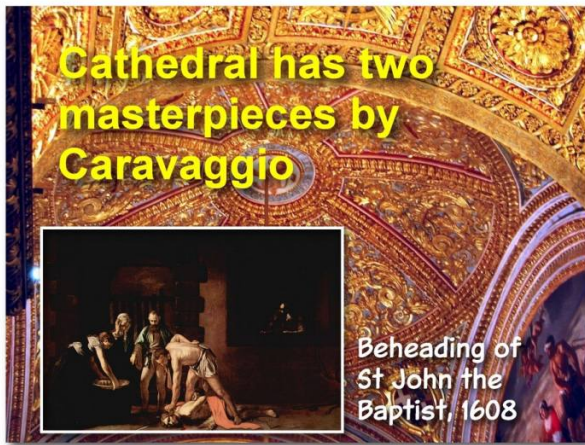
Malta Currency

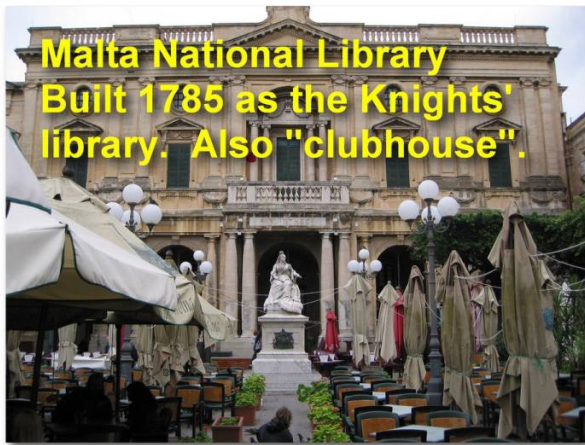
Until 1972:
Pound

1972-2007:
Lira

Since 2008:
Euro

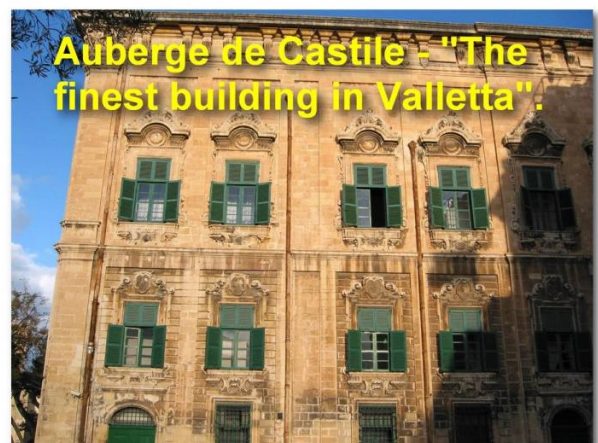






Hal Saflieni Hypogeum
3300 to 3000 BC.
Underground temple and necropolis. Remains of 7,000 people found so far.
Not sure if hand-dug or natural.
3 levels. Various halls and chambers for ceremonies.
Discovered by accident 1902.
Admission limited to 80 people per day for preservation reasons.

UNESCO
World Heritage Site





Malta in WW2 - 1

Siege of Malta 1940-1942 was a fight for control of the strategically important island of Malta, then a British colony.

- Pitted the air forces and navies of Italy and Germany against the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.
- Axis General Rommel warned (1941) "Without Malta the Axis will end."

Malta in WW2 - 2

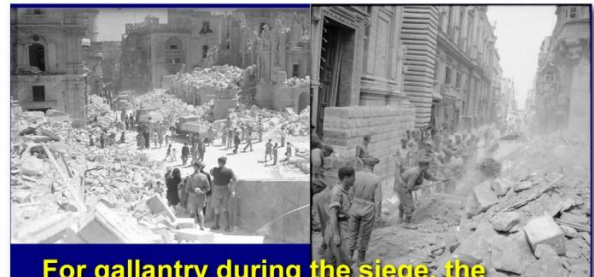
- 1940-1941 German and Italian Air Forces flew 3,000 bombing raids trying to destroy British defences and Malta ports.
- December 1942 Allied forces operating from Malta went on the offensive. By May 1943, sank 230 Axis ships in 164 days.

Malta in WW2 - 3

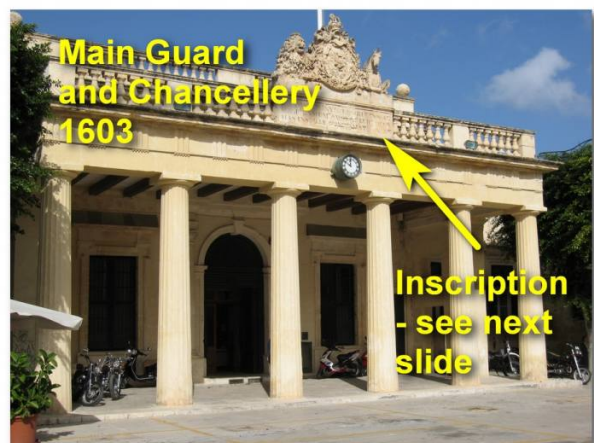
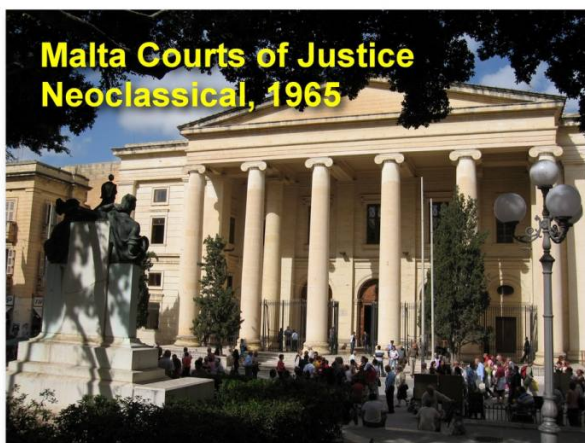
- Malta population at the start of the war 270,000.
- Air raids on Malta 3,343:
 - *Making the island of Malta the most bombed place on earth.*
- Total hours under air-raids 2,357.
- Tons of bombs dropped on the Maltese islands 15,000.

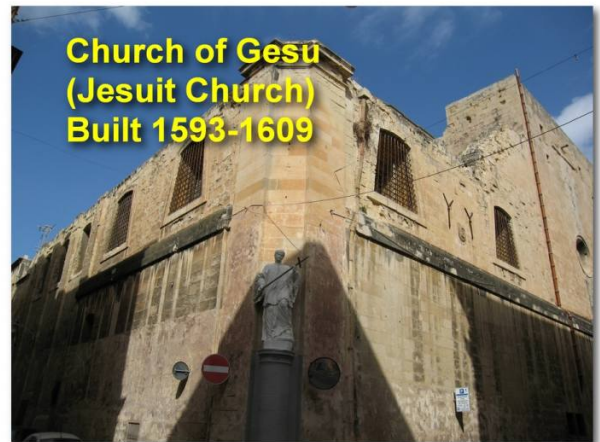
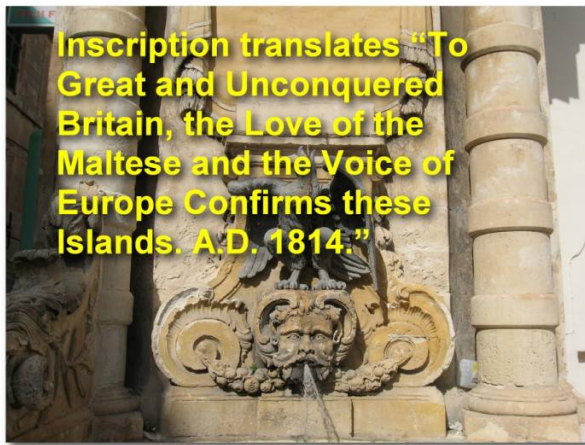
Malta in WW2 - 4

- Civilian casualties 1,581.
- Military casualties 7,500.
- People injured 3,780.
- **Tons of Axis shipping sunk by Malta-based submarines 390,660.**
- **Enemy aircraft destroyed 287.**
- Buildings destroyed or extensively damaged 10,761.



For gallantry during the siege, the people of Malta were collectively awarded the George Cross in 1942 "to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history".





Valletta Public Market after 2017 renovation!

(Internet Photo)



Republic Street - Valletta



Republic Street - Valletta



Historic buses like these operated in Malta until 2011



But starting in 2011 they were phased out



Except on a few heritage routes



Interior of an old bus



Vittoriosa -- Fort St Angelo Across Grand Harbour from Valletta





Fort St Angelo
Built 13th c to 1691
In use until 1979
Limestone



Vittoriosa
Fort St Angelo
Built 13th c to 1691



Fort St Angelo
Built 13th c to 1691



Senglea
Just west of Vittoriosa
Across harbour from Valletta

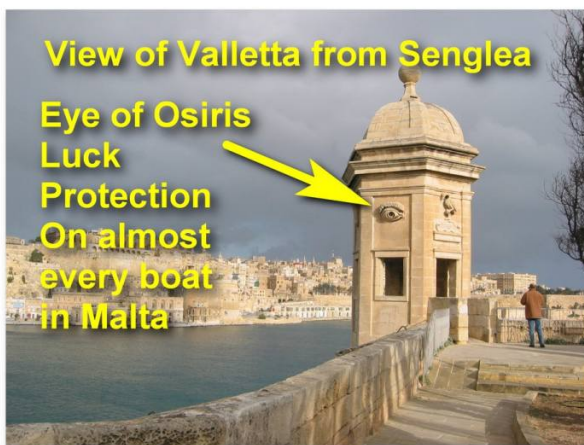
Can cross Valletta to
Senglea by ferry



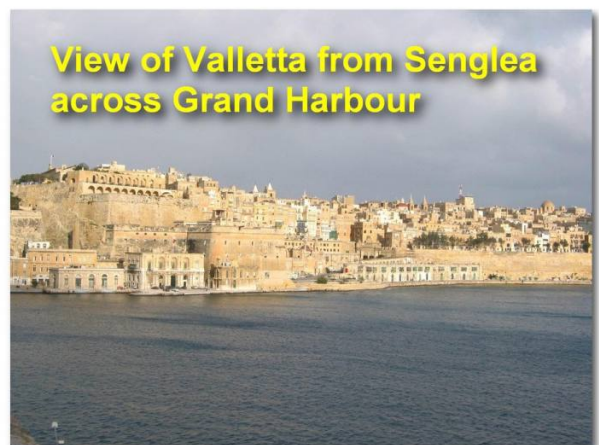
Senglea Basilica
1565



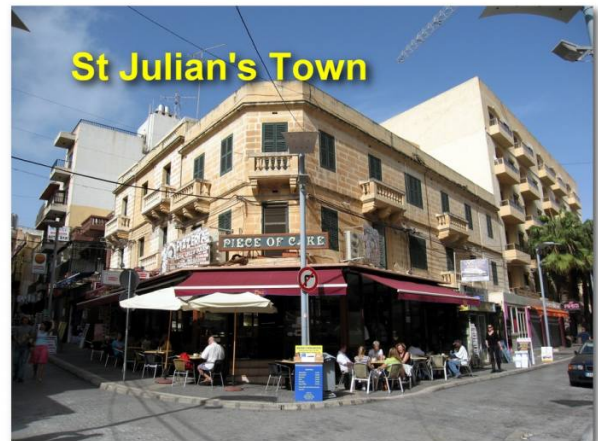
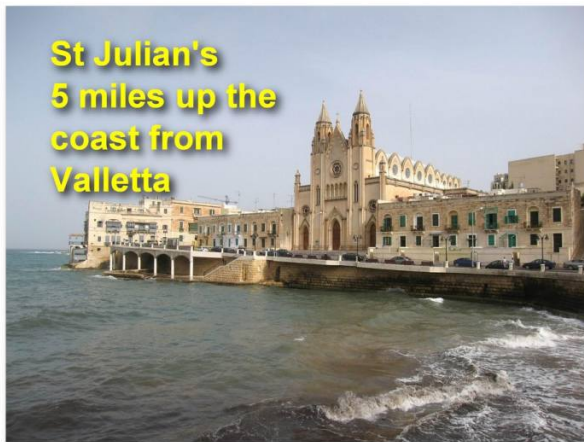
Senglea Basilica
Treasury
1565



View of Valletta from Senglea
Eye of Osiris
Luck
Protection
On almost
every boat
in Malta



View of Valletta from Senglea
across Grand Harbour



Daphne Anne Caruana Galizia
1964-2017

- Maltese writer, journalist, and anti-corruption activist.
- Reported on political events.
- Regular reporting of misconduct by Maltese politicians, civic officials, and companies.



- Focus on government corruption, nepotism, patronage, money laundering, organised crime.
- Disclosed Maltese leaders' secret trust funds in New Zealand and their private Panama companies in Panama. *Panama Papers*
- Endured decades of intimidation, threats, and lawsuits.

Last blog post:
"That crook Schembri
was in court today,
pleading that he is
not a crook..."



There are crooks everywhere you
look now. The situation is
desperate."

Then a car bomb exploded in her
car on Oct 16, 2017, killing her.

Justice

Nov 20, 2019: Prominent Maltese
businessman Yorgen Fenech was
arrested in connection with the
Caruana Galizia bomb attack.

Nov 26, 2019: Govt. Chief of Staff
Keith Schembri resigned and was
arrested.

Dec 2019: Numerous mass protests
were held calling for Prime Minister
Joseph Muscat's resignation.

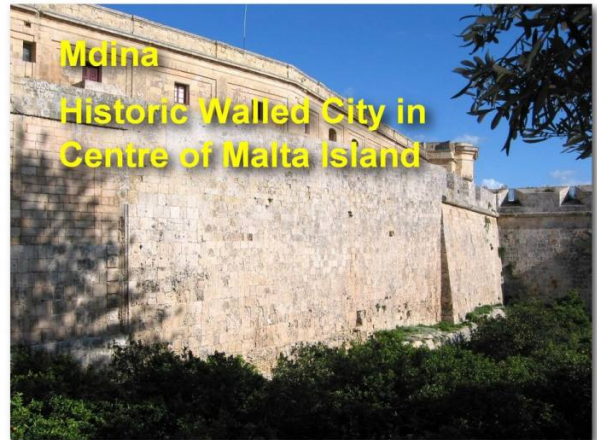
Dec 2019: PM Joseph Muscat
announced his resignation.

Jan 2020: Robert Abela replaced
Muscat as PM.

Feb 23, 2021: Vince Muscat, known as
il-Kohħu [not related to PM J Muscat],
was sentenced to 15 years in prison
after pleading guilty to the murder of
Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Many of the instances of corruption
she wrote about are still "being
investigated". en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Malta_political_crisis

Mdina Historic Walled City in Centre of Malta Island



Mdina was the capital of
Malta antiquity until 1530



Mdina
Population 300
No cars except residents
750,000 tourists a year

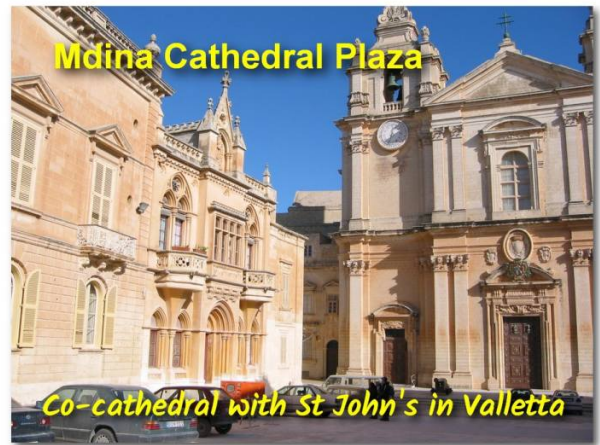


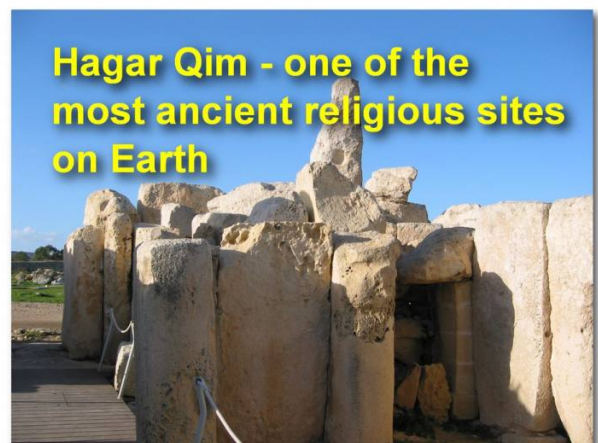
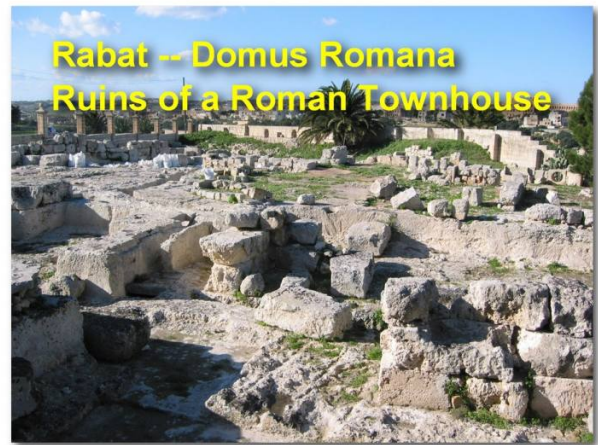
Mdina street

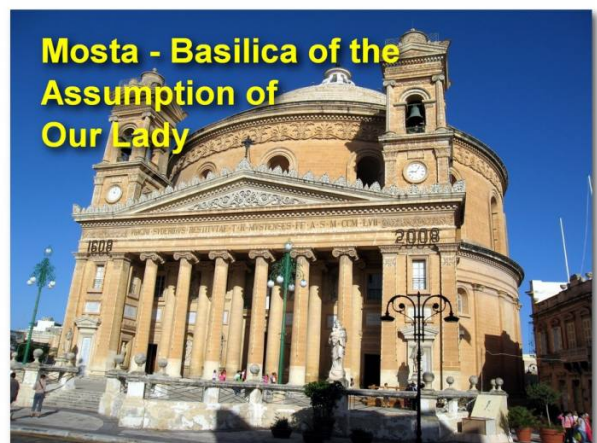


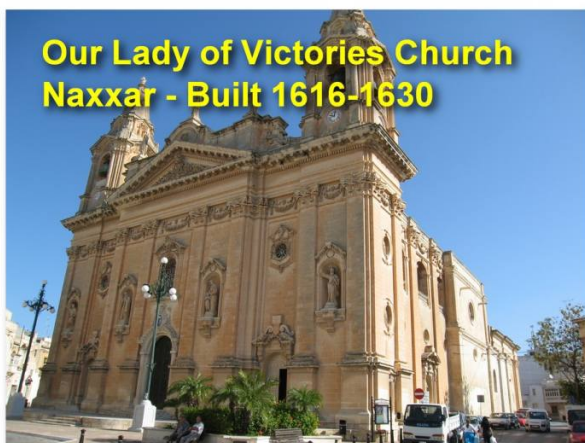
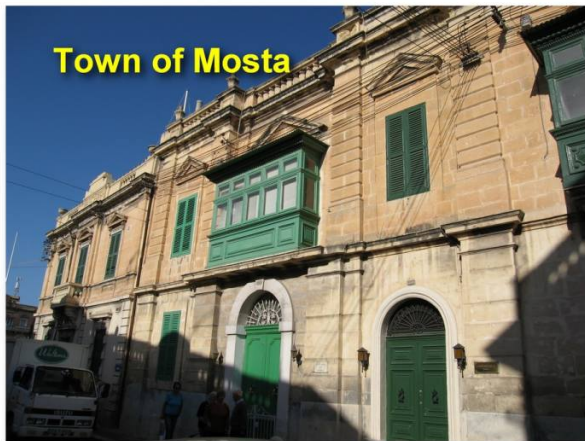
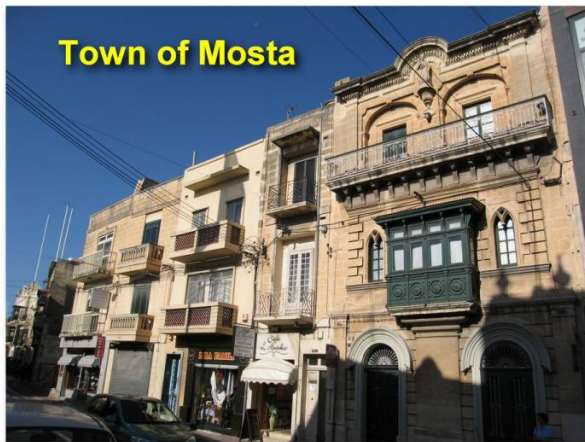
Mdina Cathedral Museum









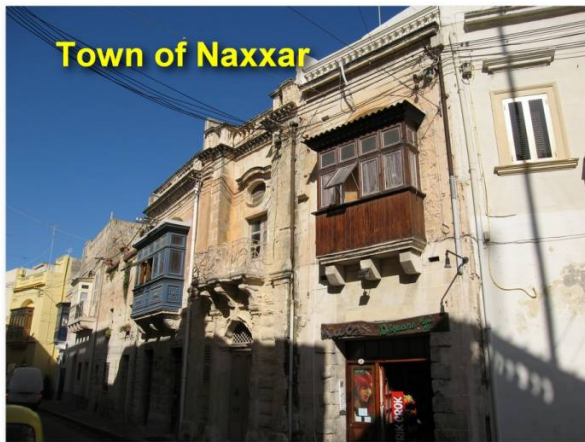




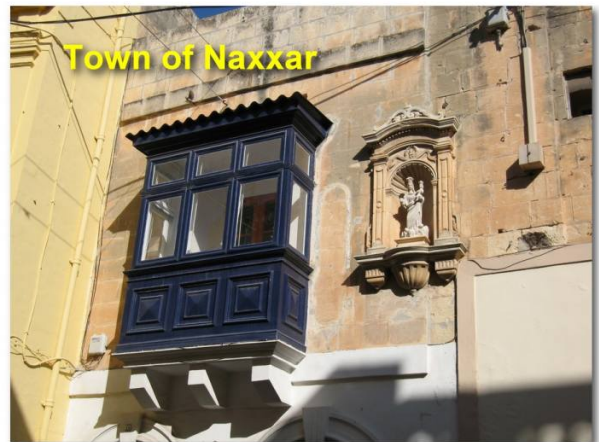
Naxxar Parish Church interior



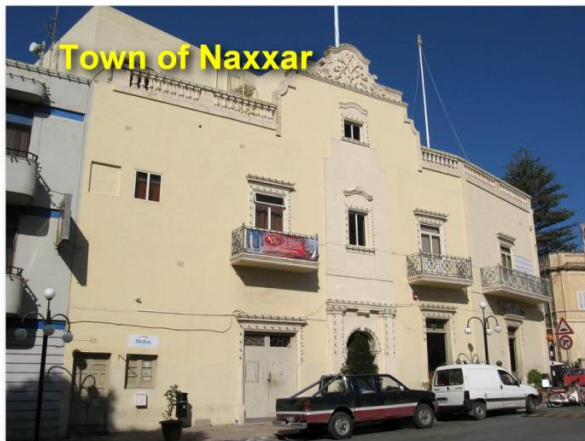
Naxxar Parish Church



Town of Naxxar



Town of Naxxar



Town of Naxxar



Marsaxlokk traditional fishing village - S.E. Malta

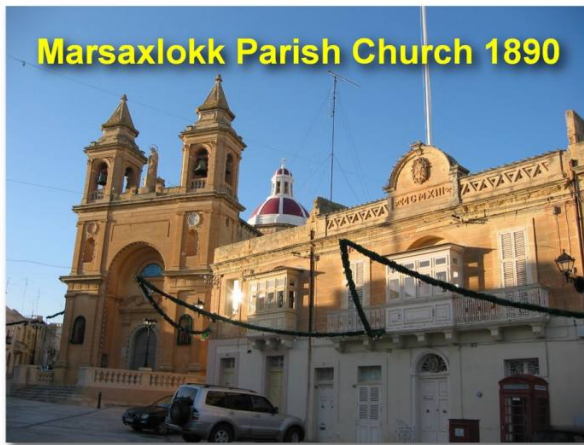


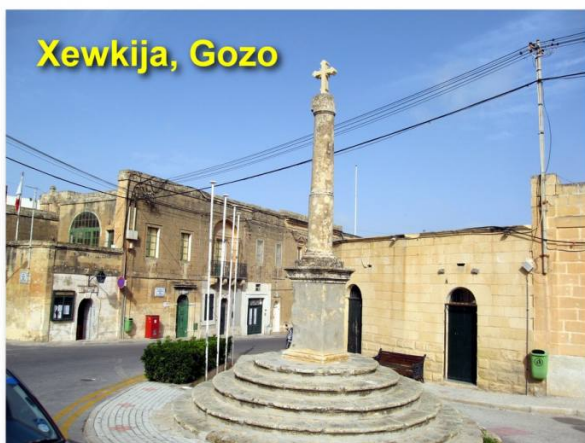
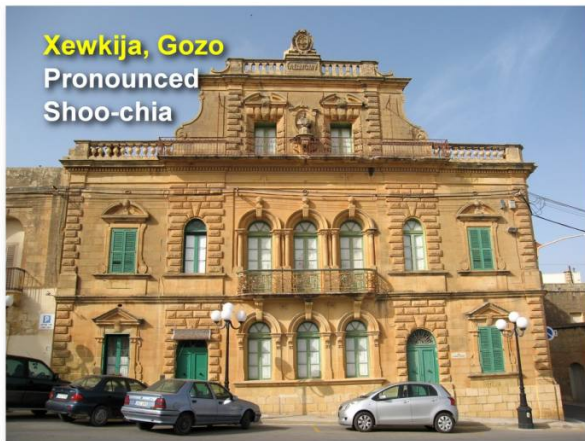
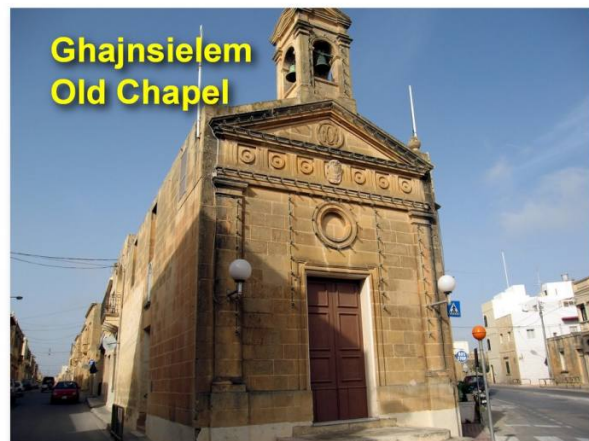
Marsaxlokk

Eye of Osiris

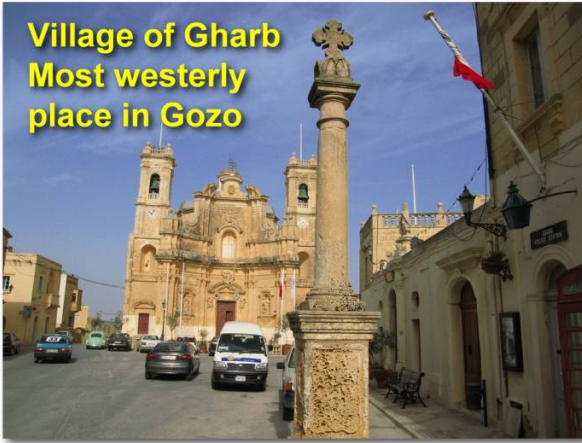


Marsaxlokk fishing village

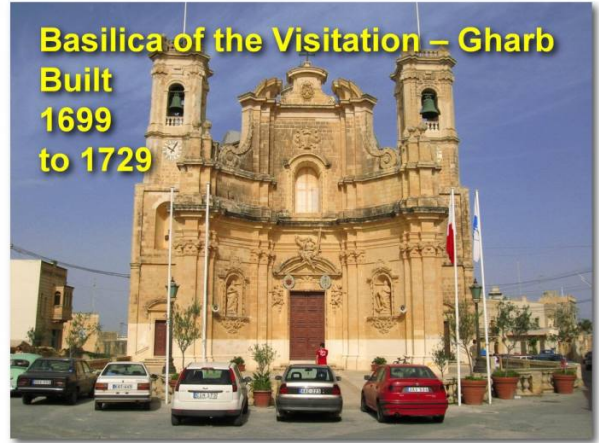




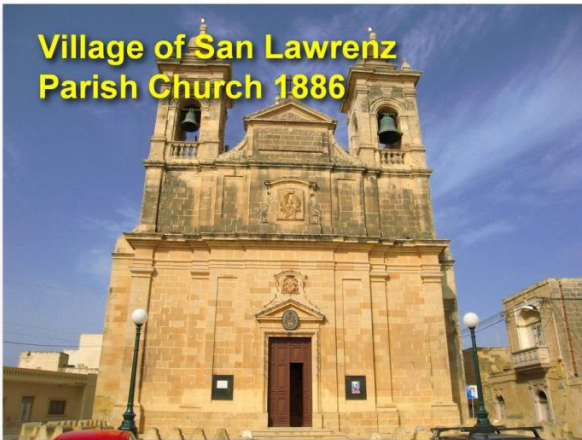
**Village of Gharb
Most westerly
place in Gozo**



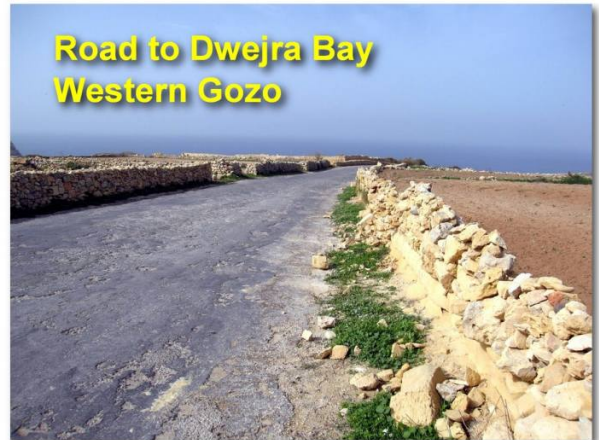
**Basilica of the Visitation – Gharb
Built
1699
to 1729**



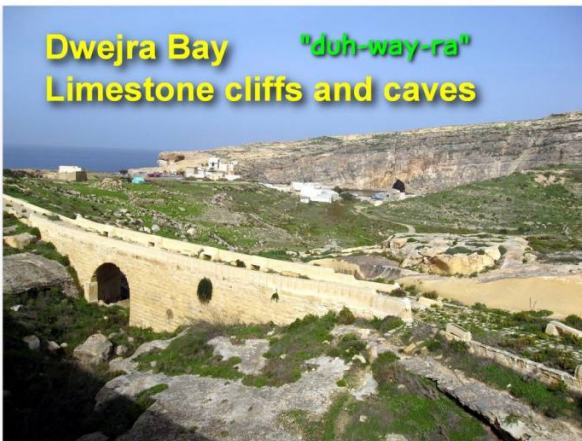
**Village of San Lawrenz
Parish Church 1886**



**Road to Dwejra Bay
Western Gozo**



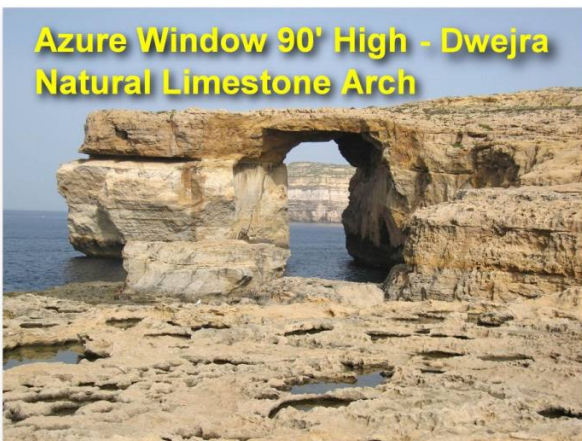
**Dwejra Bay "duh-way-ra"
Limestone cliffs and caves**



**Prehistoric Fossils
Dwejra, Gozo**



**Azure Window 90' High - Dwejra
Natural Limestone Arch**



**Boat through the
Azure Window**



**Going through the
Azure Window**



Collapsed March 8, 2017

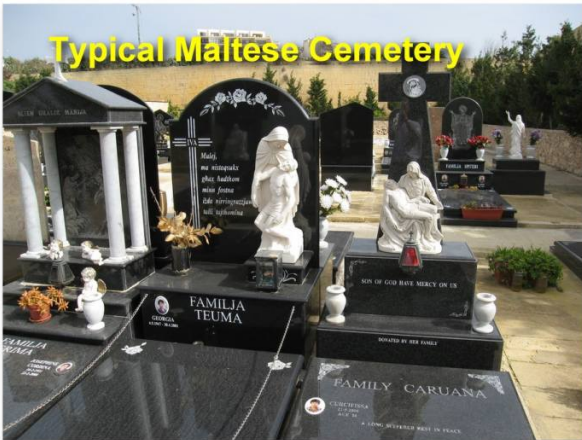
**Before
Storm**



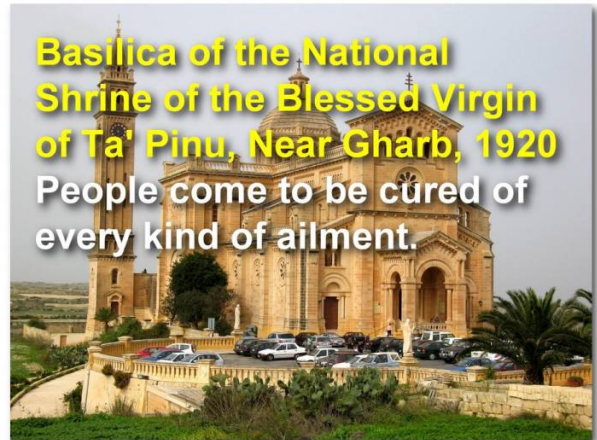
**After
Storm**



Typical Maltese Cemetery

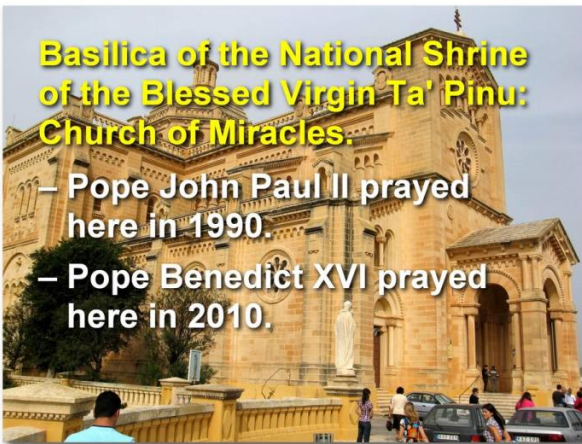


**Basilica of the National
Shrine of the Blessed Virgin
of Ta' Pinu, Near Għarb, 1920**
People come to be cured of
every kind of ailment.



**Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Blessed Virgin Ta' Pinu:
Church of Miracles**

- Pope John Paul II prayed here in 1990.
- Pope Benedict XVI prayed here in 2010.



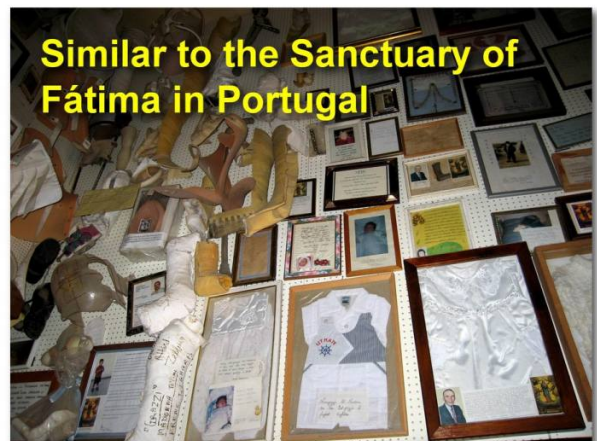
**Testimonials from people
who were cured**

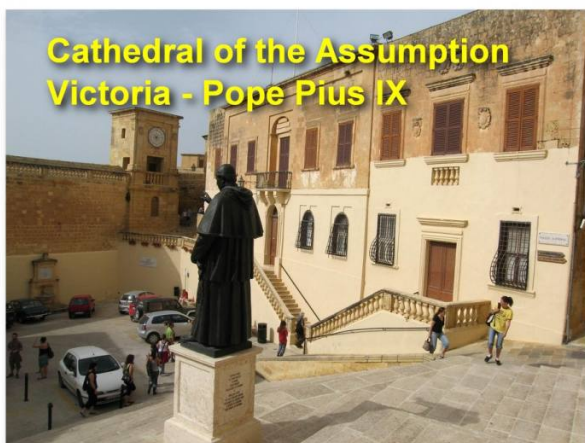
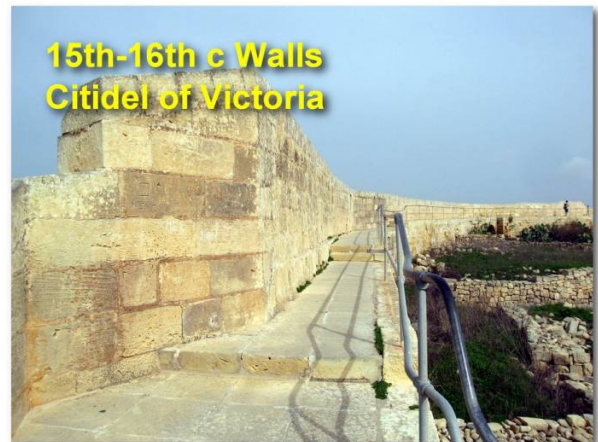
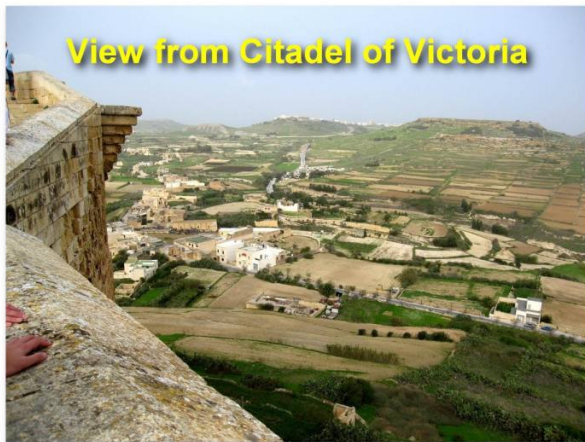
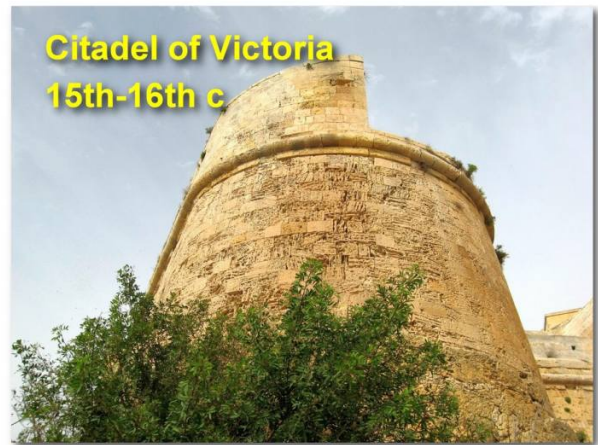


**Testimonials from people
who were cured**



**Similar to the Sanctuary of
Fátima in Portugal**









Ggantija Temples 3600-2500 BC Gozo



Malta Cuisine: Unfortunately no photos of my own. Traditional Maltese food:

Lampuki Pie: Fish pie.

Rabbit Stew.

Bragioli: Beef with olives.

Kapunata: Maltese ratatouille.

Pastizzi: Savoury pastry



THE END of our visit to Malta

ppacter@gmail.com

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