

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).
- 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 445,000.
- **Malta Island 410,000.**
- **Gozo 35,000.**
- **Comino 3.**

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 giet adottata fil-21 ta' Settembru 1964 u ghadha sal-lum tikkostitwixxi l-qafas legali ta' pajjiżna. Il-Kostituzzjoni Maltija s'issa giet emendata erbgħa u ghoxrin 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 Joseph Muscat since 2013.



President George Vella since April 4, 2019



President George Vella is a medical doctor and anti-abortion campaigner. "As a doctor, I will fight for the respect for life from start to finish of every individual." He said he would refuse to sign any abortion law, insisting that he would rather resign.



His predecessor, President Emeritus Marie Louise Coleiro Preca (2014 to 2019), used her presidency as a platform to promote social justice, equality and the rights of women.



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, and tourism.

Malta Facts 7

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



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 inhabitants of Malta!**
- 1800-1964 Malta was a colony within the British Empire.

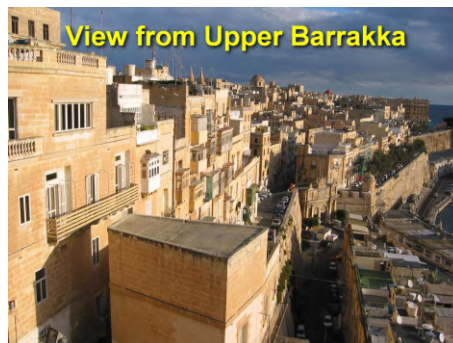
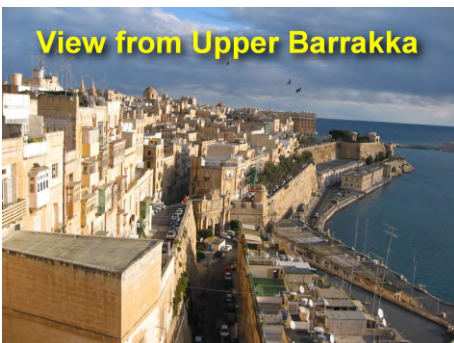
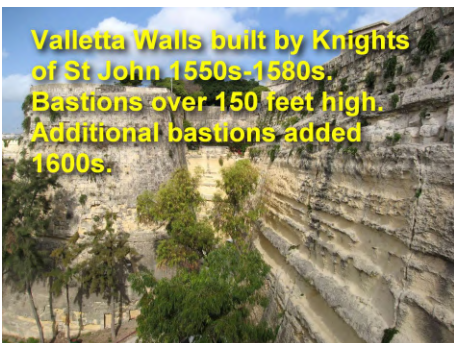
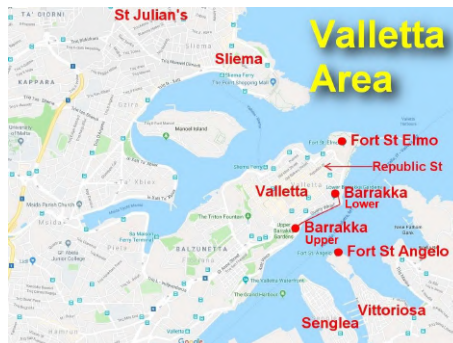
Malta History 5

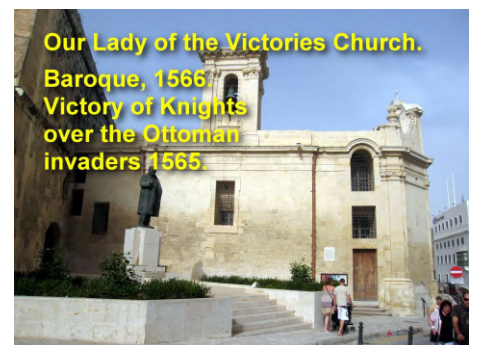
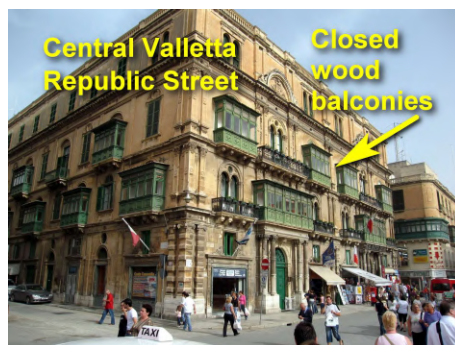
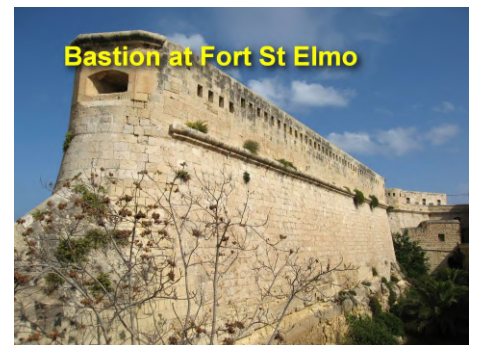
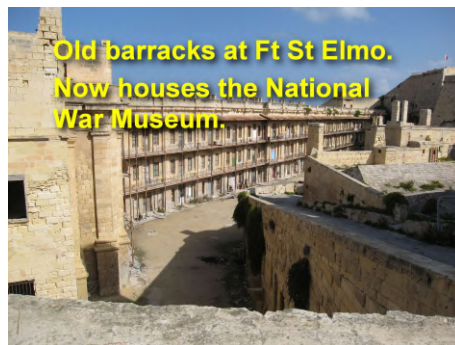
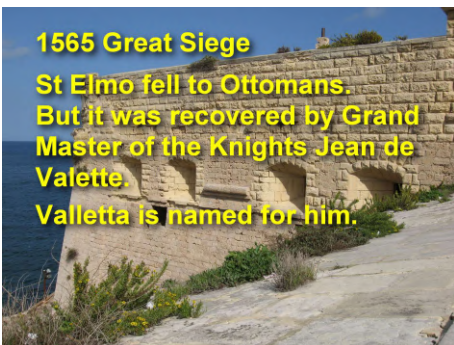
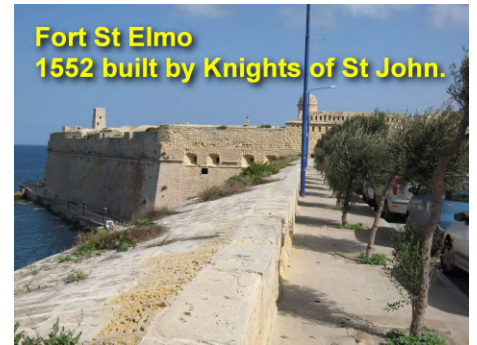
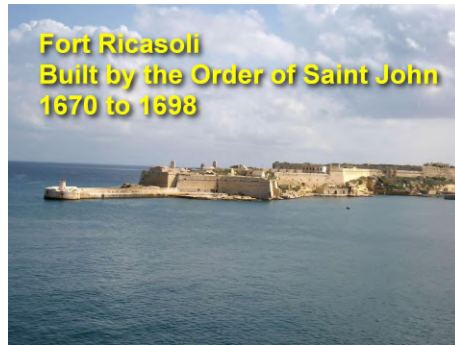
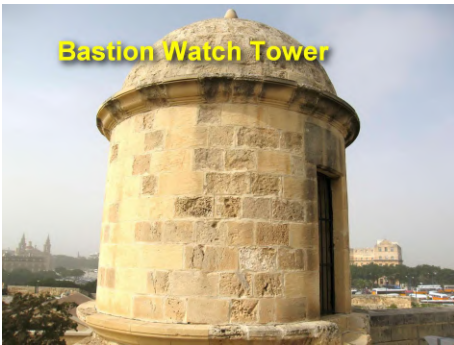
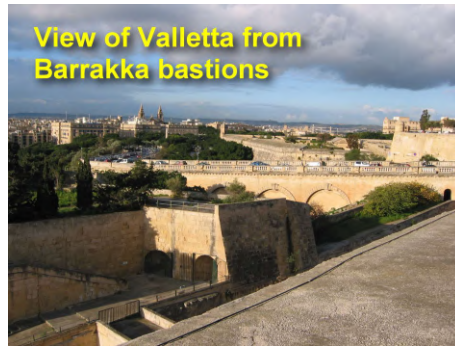
- 1964 Malta Independence Act (British Parliament).
- Sept. 21, 1964 Independence Day. Queen Elizabeth remained Queen of Malta until 1974.
- 2004 Malta joined the European Union.
- 2008 joined Euro Zone.

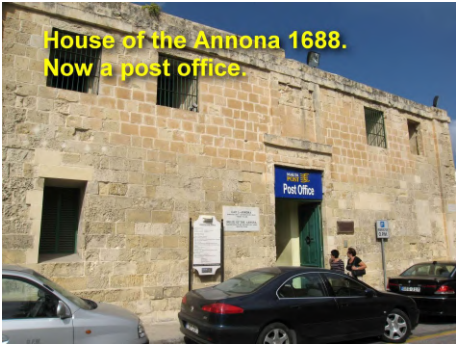
Recap of Malta's Varied History:

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.







House of the Annona 1688.
Now a post office.



Old Malta Central Bank Building
1566. Now a currency museum.

Malta Currency

**Until 1972:
Pound**

**1972-2007:
Lira**

**Since 2008:
Euro**



Valletta Police Station



Hostel de Verdelin - Palazzo
Verdelin. Spanish Baroque.
1650s.



Some say Hostel de Verdelin is the
most beautiful building in Valletta.



Hostel de Verdelin. 1650s. Home of
knight Jean-Jacques de Verdelin.



Typical Valletta wooden balcony.



Historic bank office building



Casino Maltese
Social Club. 1852.



St John's Co-Cathedral
1572 to 1577



St John's Cathedral
Tombs of all Grand Masters
of the Knights of St John



St John's Cathedral Altar



Cathedral has two
masterpieces by
Caravaggio



Cathedral has marble
tombs of about 400
Knights and officers of
the Order.



Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - 1570

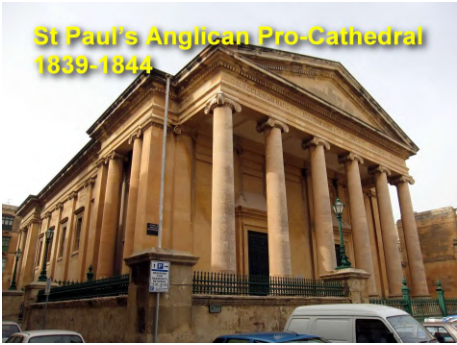


Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Built 1570 but rebuilt after extensive WW2 damage.



St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral 1839-1844

CofE Diocese in Europe covers 1/6th of Earth: Europe, Russia, Morocco, Turkey, Mongolia.



St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral 1839-1844



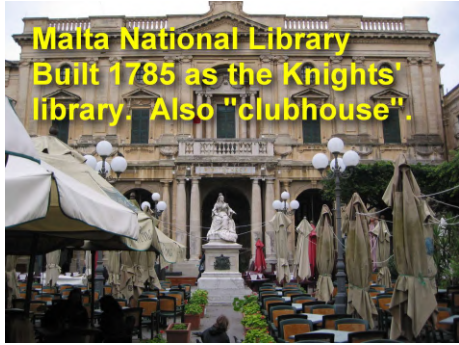
National Museum of Archaeology In Auberge de Provence 1575



Prehistoric Malta artefacts from 5200 BC to 2500 BC.



St Francis of Assisi Church 1598, rebuilt 1681



Malta National Library Built 1785 as the Knights' library. Also "clubhouse".



Queen Victoria Republic Square



St Catherine's Church - 1576 Serves Italian community in Malta.



Hypogeum (Temple) of Hal Saflieni - 3000 BC (UNESCO) Underground Valletta



One of many small hotels in old Valletta. Built 16th C.



Joseph Nicholas Zammit 1815-1899. Medical doctor, architect, artistic designer, philosopher. Restored 20 old buildings in Valletta.



Auberge de Castile 1570s. Now office of Prime Minister.



Auberge de Castile - "The finest building in Valletta".



Lascaris War Rooms.
Underground command center for defense of Malta in WW2.
Now a museum.



Malta Courts of Justice
Neoclassical, 1965



Main Guard and Chancellery
1603

Inscription - see next slide



Inscription translates "To Great and Unconquered Britain, the Love of the Maltese and the Voice of Europe Confirms these Islands. A.D. 1814."



Dun Mikiel Xerri 1737-1799. Led attack of Maltese on Napoleon's invaders. Executed.



Valletta waterfront street



Mediterranean Street
Valletta waterfront



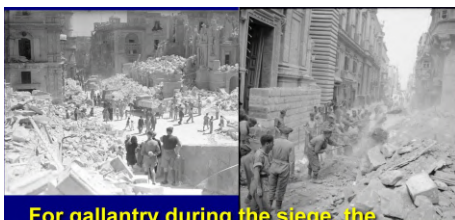
WW2 bomb craters

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".



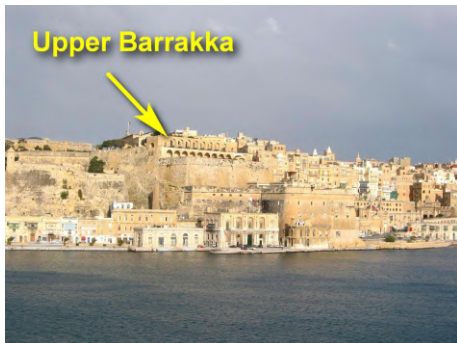
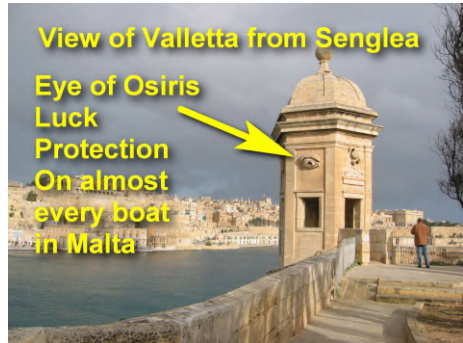
Church of Gesu (Jesuit Church)
Built 1593-1609



Basilica of St Dominic
1815
Baroque

Despite measuring just 3,000 by 2,000, Valletta boasts over 25 churches.







St Julian's focus is tourism
Hotels, restaurants, bars



Westin Hotel
St Julian's Casino



Westin Hotel St Julian's
Mediterranean Sea



St Julian's



St Julian's



St Julian's Town



St Julian's Town



St Julian's Town

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.

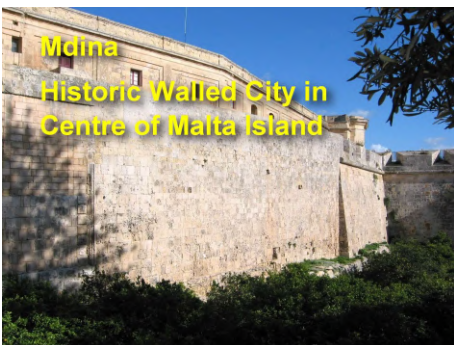
- Focus on government corruption, nepotism, patronage, money laundering, organised crime.
- Disclosed Maltese leaders' secret trust funds in New Zealand and their private companies in Panama.
- Endured decades of intimidation, threats, and lawsuits.

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.

- 3 people arrested for the bombing, but not yet tried.
- Masterminds not identified or captured.
- Sept 2019: After pressure from EU, Malta government said it will conduct an inquiry.
- No one she reported on or exposed has been investigated by the police or tried.



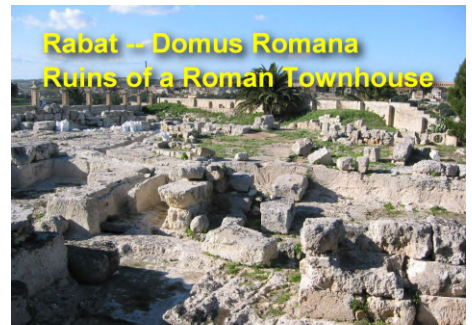
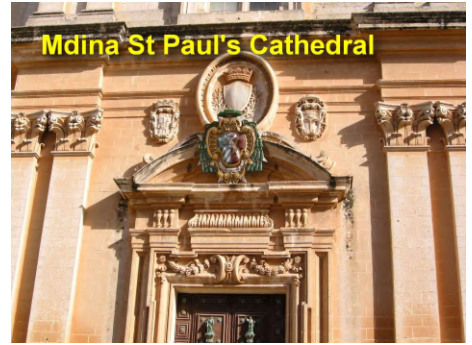
Mdina
Historic Walled City in
Centre of Malta Island



Mdina was the capital of
Malta antiquity until 1530



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





**Rabat Church of St Paul
1783**



Rabat Street



Rabat

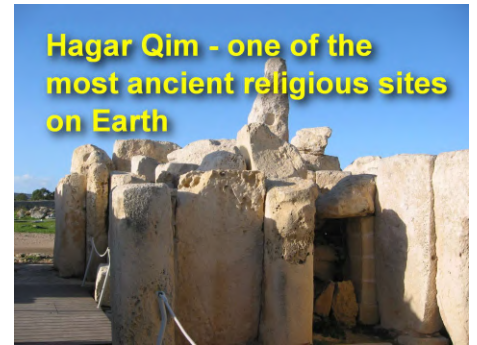


**Hagar Qim 3600-3200 BC
Megalithic Temple**

Little has been done to restore the temple other than repairing several stones in the 1950s.



Hagar Qim 3600-3200 BC



Hagar Qim - one of the most ancient religious sites on Earth



**Mnajdra Temple within
Hagar Qim**



**Mnajdra Temple within
Hagar Qim - 3600-3200 BC**



**Dingli Cliffs - West Coast
of Malta**



**Dingli Cliffs - West Coast
of Malta**



**Dingli Cliffs - Chapel of
St Mary Magdalen - 1646**



**Dingli Cliffs Area
West coast of Malta**



Bus from Valletta to Mosta

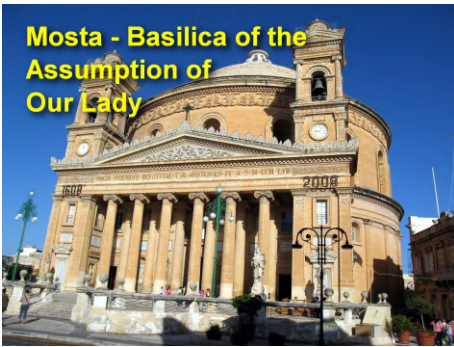


**Mosta - Basilica of the
Assumption of
Our Lady**

aka Rotunda of Mosta
Built 1833-1860



**The Rotunda of Mosta
Design based on
The Pantheon
in Rome**



Mosta - Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady



The Rotunda of Mosta
1833-1860

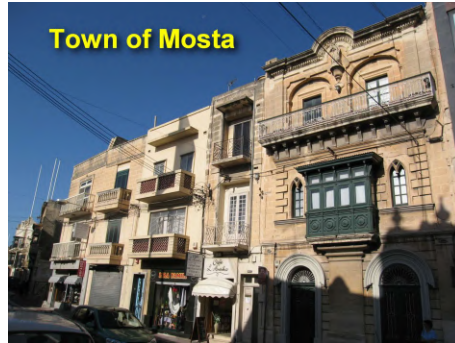


At one time this was the third largest unsupported dome in the world



A German bomb broke through the rotunda onto the floor but miraculously did not explode

Clocks to "confuse the Devil"



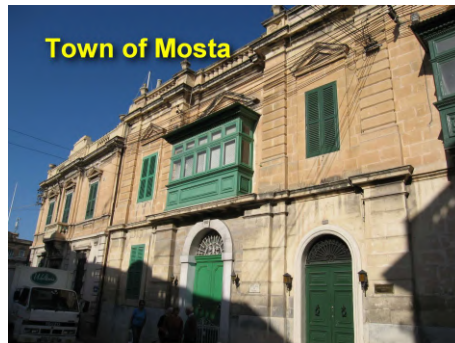
Town of Mosta



Town of Mosta



Town of Mosta



Town of Mosta



Bus to Naxxar



Our Lady of Victories Church
Naxxar - Built 1616-1630



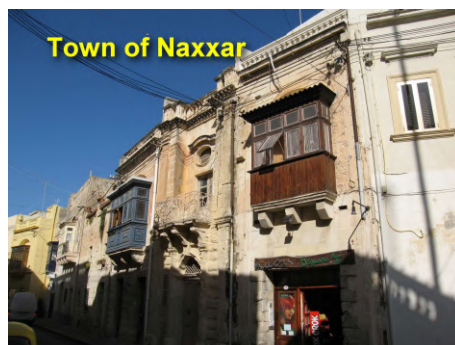
Our Lady of Victories
Naxxar Parish
Church 1616-1630



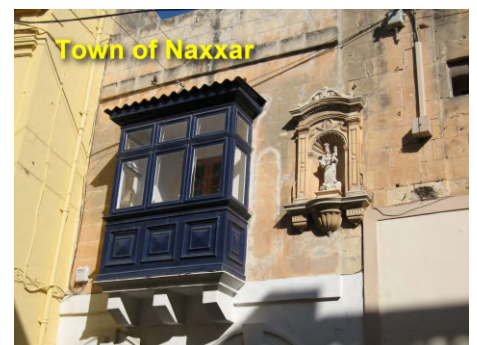
Naxxar Parish Church Interior



Naxxar Parish Church



Town of Naxxar



Town of Naxxar





Mgarr, Gozo
Many from Malta Island have weekend homes on Gozo



Total Gozo Island resident population is about 30,000



Ghajnsielem Old Chapel



Xewkija, Gozo
Pronounced Shoo-chia



Xewkija St John's Church
Dome 90' diameter - 1978



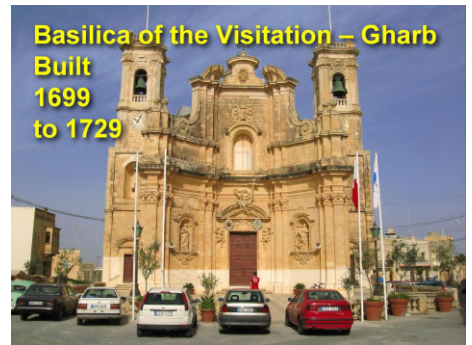
Xewkija, Gozo



St Augustine Convent - 1666



Village of Gharb
Most westerly place in Gozo



Basilica of the Visitation - Gharb
Built 1699 to 1729



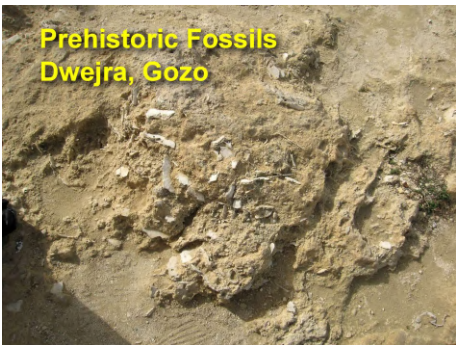
Village of San Lawrenz
Parish Church 1886



Road to Dwejra Bay
Western Gozo



Dwejra Bay
Limestone cliffs and caves



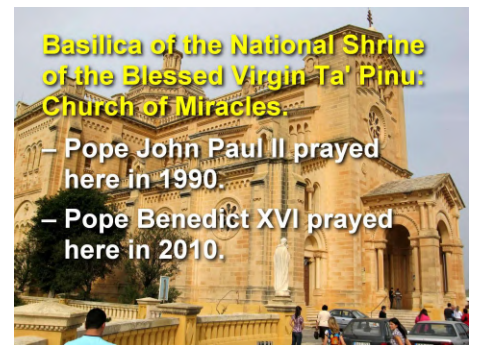
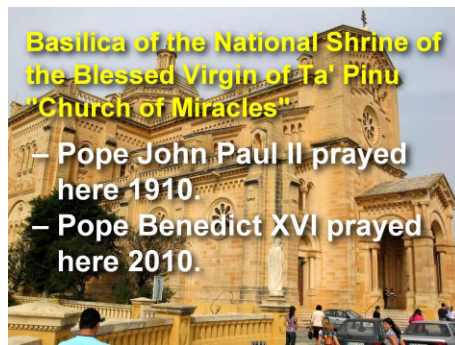
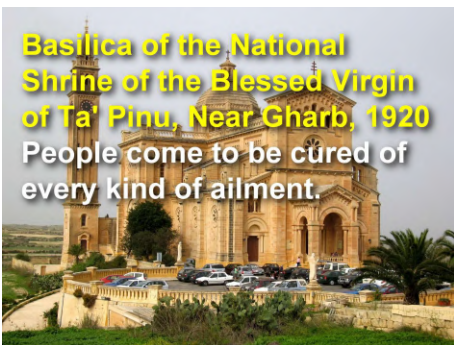
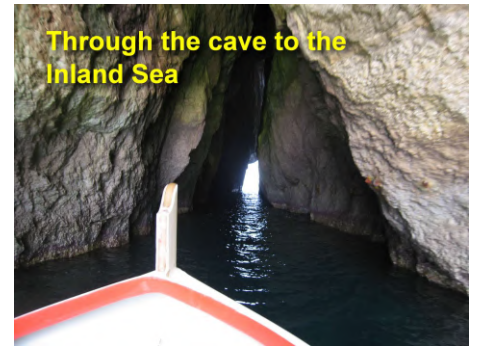
Prehistoric Fossils
Dwejra, Gozo

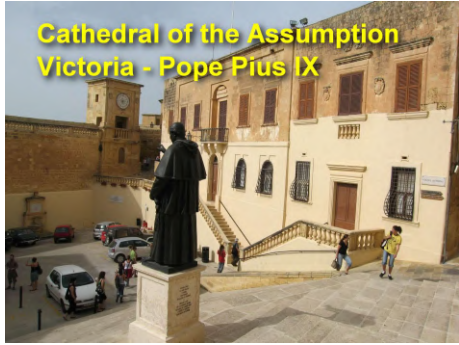
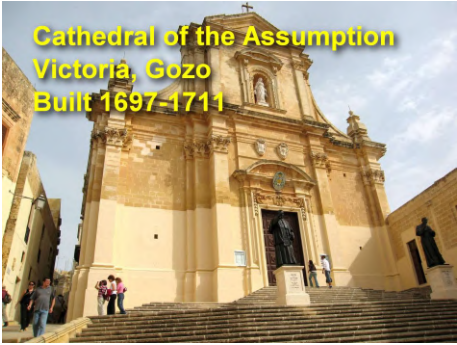
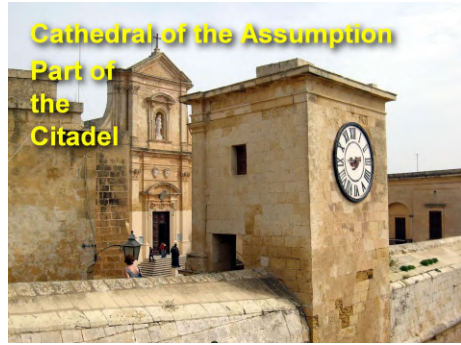
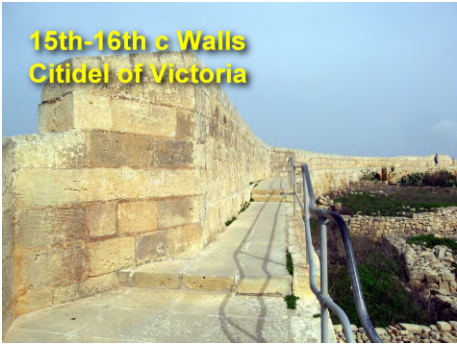
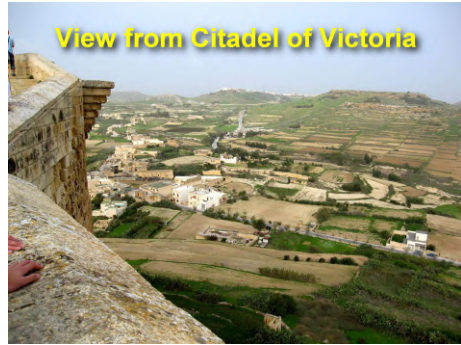
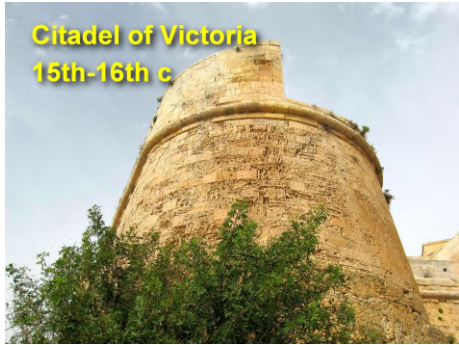


Dwejra Limestone Cliffs
"Azure Window" arch



Azure Window 90' High
Natural Limestone Arch







Rabat, Gozo



Rabat, Gozo



St Francis Convent, Rabat
1663



Marsalforn Bay, Gozo
Swimming and boating area



Marsalforn, Gozo



Church of Saint Paul
Marsalforn - 1730



Marsalforn

Eye of Osiris – Phoenician
symbol of protection



Eye of Osiris found on most
fishing boats in Malta



16th century washhouse
(public laundry) in Fontana.
Still used today.



Top of 16th c
Fontana Laundry



Fontana, Gozo

British-style zebra crossing



Fontana, Gozo



Our Lady of Mt Carmel
Xlendi, Gozo - 1868



Basilica of the Nativity of Our
Lady - Xaghra, 1815-1855



Ggantija Temples 3600-2500 BC
UNESCO World Heritage Site



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

- Lampuki Pie:** Fish pie.
- Rabbit Stew.**
- Braglioli:** Beef with olives.
- Kapunata:** Maltese ratatouille.
- Pastizzi:** Savoury pastry




**THE END
of our visit to Malta**

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