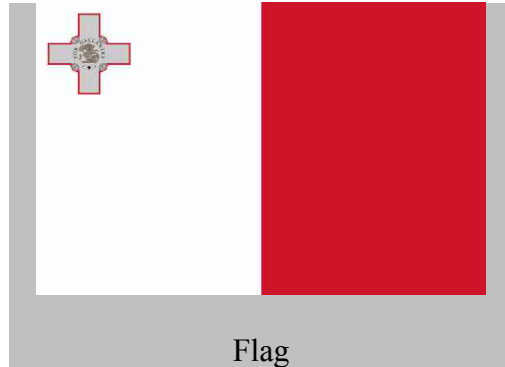


MALTA 11. - 15. JUNE 2011

This time the trip went to [Valletta](#), which is the capital in [Malta](#). We went with Norwegian from Gardermoen 14.55 and arrived in Malta about 19.00.



The location of Malta in Europe



Flag



Coat of arms

Malta has been inhabited since about 5200 BC. A considerable neolithic culture developed on the islands before the pyramids in Egypt was built, and numerous monuments from this culture can be found around in the landscape. The Phoenicians colonized the islands about 1000 BC, and used them as basis for further expansion the western Mediterranean.

Later the islands has been under [Carthage](#) (400 BC), [The Roman Empire](#) (218 BC), [The Byzantine Empire](#) (395), [The Arab Empire](#) (870), [The Normans](#) (1090), [The Angevin Empire](#), [The House of Hohenstaufen](#), [The kingdom of Aragon](#) (1287), [The Knights of Malta](#) (1530), [France](#) (1798), [England](#) (1800).

Malta became independent 21. September 1964. According to the constitution of 1964 the British Monarch was the head of state represented by a governor-general. The 13. December 1974, however, Malta became a republic in The British Empire with a president as head of the state. 31. March 1979 the British military forces were withdrawn after the military treaty between Great Britain and Malta ended. 1. May 2004 Malta entered the European Union, and from 1. January 2008 Malta was connected to the Eurozone. The country has adopted, but not connected to the Schengen treaty.



The position of Valletta in Malta

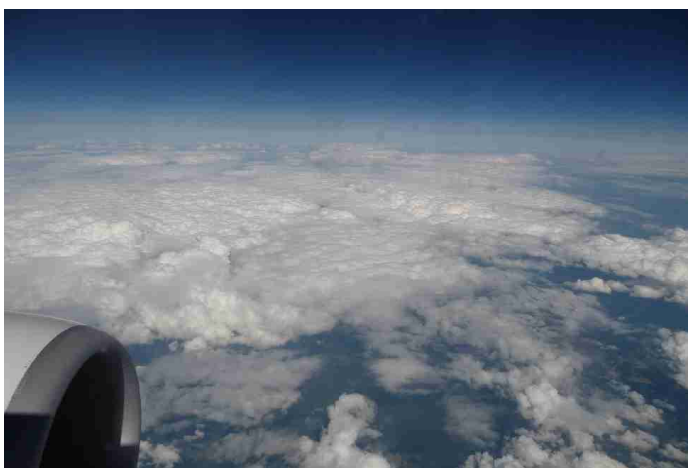


Flag

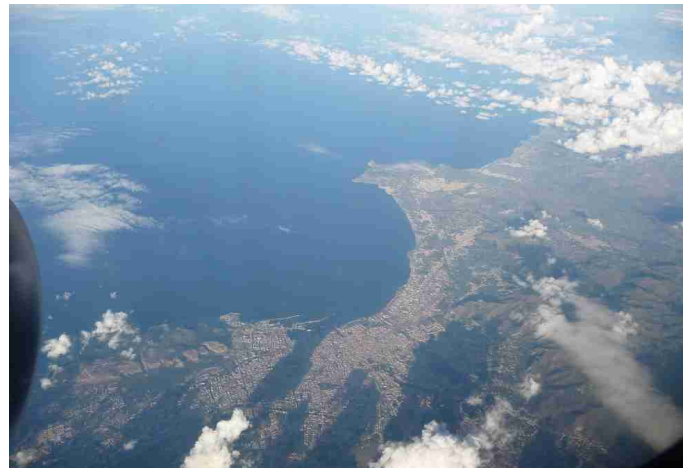


Coat of arms

Valletta was founded by The Grandmaster of the Templar Order, [Jean Parisot de la Valette](#) the 28th of March 1556. The city is built as a fortification where the streets are at right angles to each other. The city lies on an peninsula between two natural harbors, [Marsamxett](#) and [Grand Harbour](#), and it is far from the biggest in Malta, even if it is the capital.



Here we are above Germany.



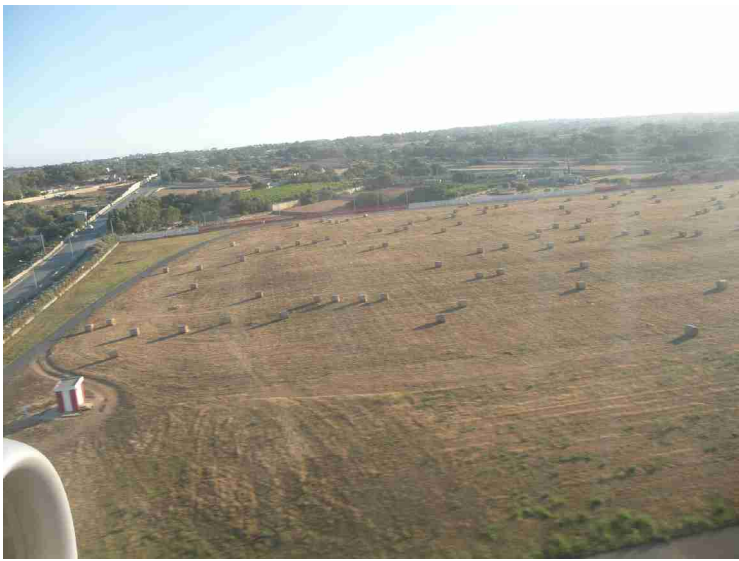
Malta.



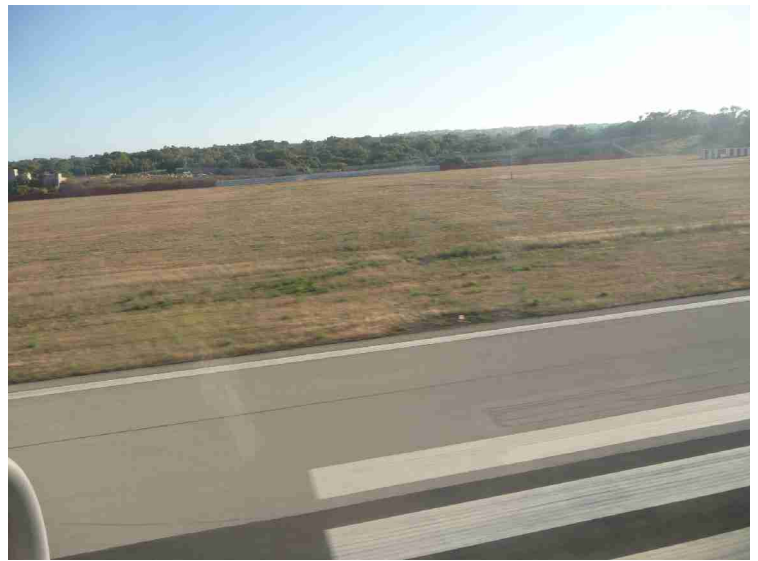
We are preparing to land from south east.



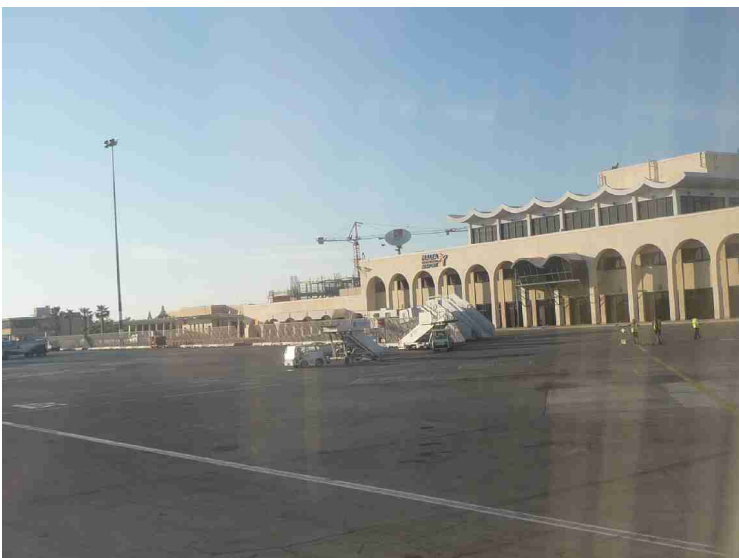
There are small fields.



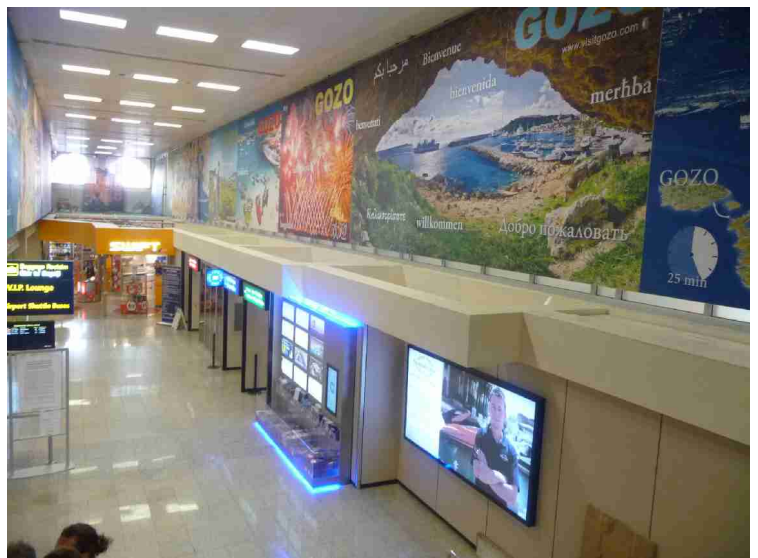
Here the straw rolls are lying packed and ready after the harvesting.



Touch-down.



The airport building.



The arrivals hall.

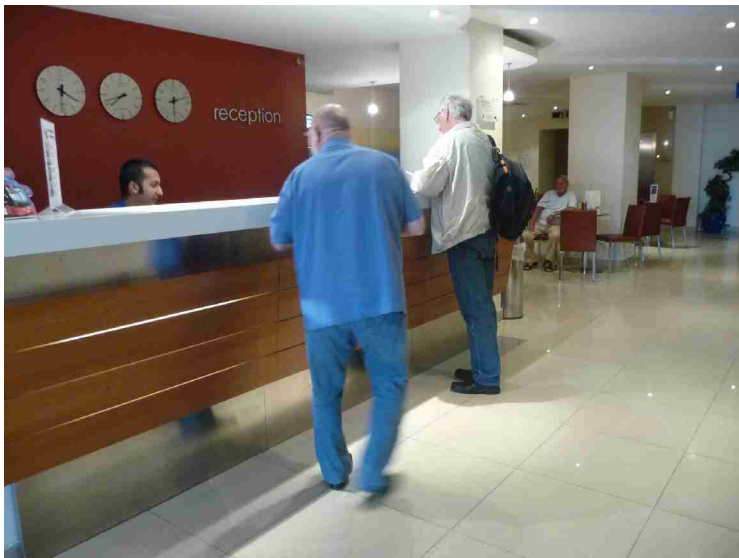
[Malta International Airport](#) is the only airport in Malta. It is lying on an former RAF airfield, Luqa airport, about 5 km southwest from Valletta. It was upgraded and fully operational the 25th of March 1992.



Lidl is in Malta too.



We are waiting for the suitcases.



Check in at the hotel. We stayed at [Bayview Hotel & Apartments](#) in a city called [Gzira](#).



When we had dinner this evening, we got this as a snack before the food.



The next day we are going to Valletta. Kjell is watching people fill in pools coupons while we are waiting for the bus.



This is the bus. Most of the buses are probably from the 1950s, but it was said that all the buses are going to be renewed in July. It remains to be seen if that is going to happen.

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explore Malta

PLACES OF INTEREST IN VALLETTA

1. CITY GATE
2. OPERA HOUSE (RUINS)
3. THE GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA
4. VIGNACCIU FOUNTAIN
5. CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY
6. CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE
7. ST. JAMES CAVALIER
8. ALBERGE DE CASTILLE AND PORTUGAL
9. UPPER BARRAKKA GARDENS (VIEW POINT)
10. ALBERGE D'ITALIE (DATA HEAD OFFICE)
11. ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AND THE ARMOURY
12. GRAND MASTER'S PALACE
13. GREAT SIEGE MONUMENT
14. HASTINGS GARDENS (VIEW POINT)
15. MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Legend:

- CHURCH
- BASTIONS
- SEA PLANE
- PLACE OF INTEREST
- BUS
- PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
- WATER TAXI
- VIEWING POINT

Walking Tour Legend:

- A From Cruise Terminal to City Gate (Approximately 20 minutes)
- B From Cruise Terminal to Castille Square (Approximately 20 minutes)
- C From Cruise Terminal to Merchant Street (Approximately 25 minutes)
- D From Cruise Terminal to Grand Master's Palace and The Armoury (Approximately 30 minutes)

Scale: 1:10,000

Phone: +356 27 333 999

Logo: hop on malta sightseeing hop off

Text: BOOK ONLINE FOR ALL THESE ATTRACTIONS AT www.exploremalta.com.mt OR CALL EXPLORE MALTA NOW +356 27 333 999



Walls around Valletta.



The buses are antique.



This is the roundabout at the bus station in Valletta with [the Triton fountain](#) in the middle.



Please note the text up in the front.



Here are some guys making ready for a middle age procession.



Here some disorder.



Like this! Everything in order.



Bold knights.



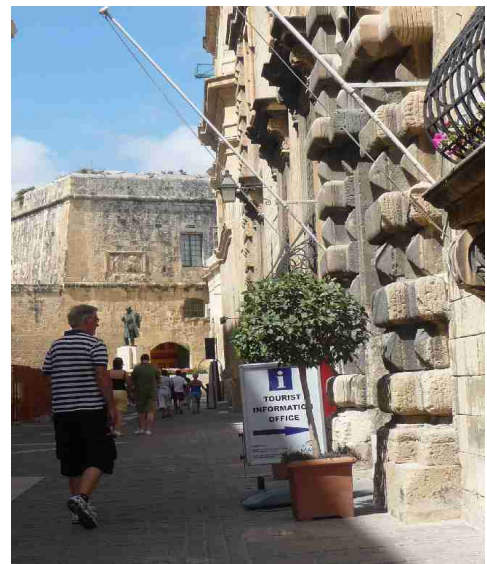
Here they disappear into Valletta.



We are also entering the city.



There are not many cars in the center.



We found out that we needed a map and we went to the tourist information office.



This is [St. John's Cathedral](#). It was built by the Maltese knights in the years 1573 to 1578. In the church there are not less than 8 chapels, which are all richly ornamented.



Here we get a glimpse of Grand Harbour.



[Court building](#) from 1760.



Straight ahead we can see the backside of the cathedral and to the left the [National Library](#).



There are many sales booths outside The National Library.



The National Library with a restaurant in front.



Telephone booth and mailbox. Typical English.



Here is the St. George square.



In the gate at the [Grand Master's Palace and Armory](#).



Built in balconies is quite common here in Valletta.

The palace was one of the first buildings to be built in Valletta in 1571. Today it contains the offices of the president and the Congress. The Armory is an armory museum.



Deliverance to a vegetable shop.



Approaching [Fort St. Elmo](#).



The fort lies utmost at the peninsula. The Maltese Knights came to the island in 1530 and started the building of the fortification in 1533. The fort controlled both Grand Harbour and Marsamxett Harbor.



The entrance.



This is an up to date rifle range. The police academy is in the fort today.



Old canons. The [war museum](#) is also in the fort.

It is a problem today that the fort is crumbling and there are not enough funds for proper maintenance.



There is growing fruit trees between the walls.



A sightseeing boat leaves Grand Harbor.



After this we are walking along the side of the peninsula facing Grand Harbor.



Here we are looking up on the town. There are a lot of churches here.



The mole at the south side of the mouth of Grand Harbor.



Here we are looking into Grand Harbour.



A large sign with important milestones in Malta's history.



When walking so far as this we saw this restaurant and we went in and sat down at the terrace.



Kjell is buying beer.



A good view across the bay.



Many small sailing boats are testing the wind.



Right down are small houses where people are living.



We were sitting for a while.



Looking down at the small houses.



We are approaching the bell tower.



It is not difficult to get transportation by horse carriage. All of them are asking if we want a tour around the city.



A poster telling why the bell tower was built.

The bell tower was built in 1992 in memory of that Malta got the George Cross award after the siege of Malta 1940 – 1943 where 7000 lives was lost.



Good view from here in direction of Fort st. Elmo.

A view in direction where the cruise ships are laying to. Kjell was here on a Mediterranean cruise in 1996.



Right up of the bell tower lies Upper Barakka Gardens, which is a public park.



Nice park with a good view.



View towards the cruise harbor.



This is the street just inside the park.



[Auberge de Castille](#) where the offices of the prime minister. It was originally built as a lodge for the knights, who came to the island and did not have their own house there.



There are always nice plantings in the roundabouts here. This lies at the Castille square outside Auberge de Castille.



Now we are up on the St. James bastion. A view towards Grand Harbor.



A view straight north.



A view towards Grand Harbor.



A view towards the bus terminal.



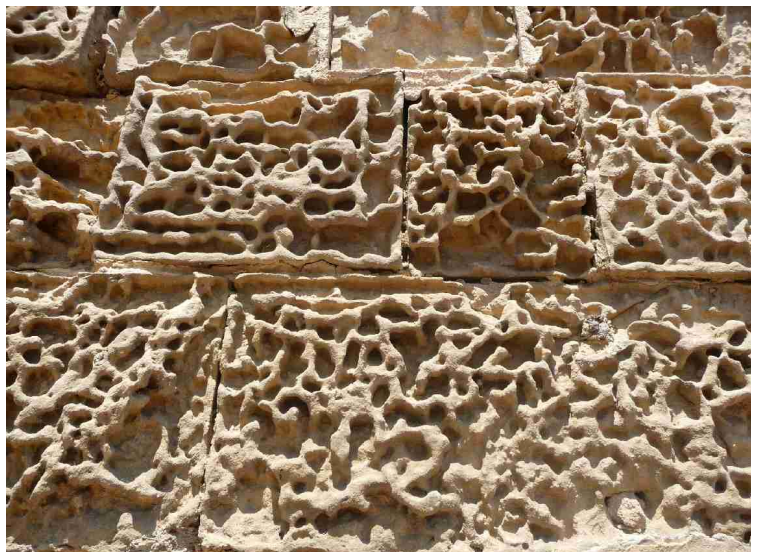
There are amazingly many buses arriving and leaving all the time.



This is [St. James Cavalier](#). It was originally built as a platform with canons as a protection against invading enemies from the land side.



Here we are again passing Auberge de Castille.



Crumbling walls on St. James Cavalier.



When we were back to Gzira, we needed food. Kjell had fish.



Anne Berit had omelet with bacon and chicken.

Next day: See Malta_2