

# MALTA THE JEWEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

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13<sup>th</sup> September-  
14<sup>th</sup> October

# MALTA





**MALTA IS AN ARCHIPELAGO OF THREE ISLANDS – MALTA, GOZO AND COMINO- IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. ITS LOCATION HAS GIVEN IT GREAT STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AS A NAVAL BASE, WITH A SUCCESSION OF POWERS HAVING RULED THE ISLANDS, INCLUDING THE PHOENICIANS, CARTHAGINIANS, ROMANS, BYZANTINES, ARABS, NORMANS, SICILIANS, SPANISH, THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN, FRENCH, AND BRITISH.**

# LEARNING HOSPITALITY

MANY TRAVELLERS HAVE DISEMBARKED HERE IN THE COURSE OF HISTORY. THE RICHNESS AND VARIETY OF MALTESE CULTURE IS A SIGN THAT ITS PEOPLE HAVE PROFITED GREATLY FROM THE **EXCHANGE OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY WITH SEAFARING VISITORS.**

AND IT IS A SIGN THAT THEY HAVE LEARNT TO DRAW UPON THE BEST OF WHAT EACH PEOPLE HAD TO OFFER.

MALTA HAS BEEN **AT THE CROSSROADS OF MANY OF THE GREAT EVENTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN HISTORY**, RIGHT UP TO OUR OWN TIMES. THESE ISLANDS HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE, THE NEAR EAST, AND AFRICA.



# TIMELINE

Waves of conquerors took possession of these small but **strategically important territories** over the centuries, only to pass them on to the next set of 'owners'.

In around 5200 B.C., the first waves of stone age farmers came to these shores.

	<u>Prehistory</u>
5200 B.C.	Arrival of man on Malta
3200 B.C.	Building of <b>megalithic temples</b>
2000 B.C.	Invasion of Bronze Age peoples
800 B.C.	Phoenician colonisation



# THE MEGALITHIC TEMPLES



# FROM THE IRON AGE TO BYZANTINES

		<u>Early Inhabitants</u>
900 B.C.		The start of the Iron Age
480 B.C.		Carthaginian domination
		<u>Roman Times</u>
218 B.C.		Roman domination after the Punic Wars
60 a.D.		<u>St. Paul shipwrecked on Malta</u>
395		Byzantine domination of Malta

# SAINT PAUL

SAINT PAUL WAS AN **APOSTLE** WHO TAUGHT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO THE FIRST CENTURY WORLD.

PAUL WAS DEDICATED TO PERSECUTING THE EARLY CHRISTIANS IN JERUSALEM. HE WAS TRAVELLING ON THE ROAD FROM JERUSALEM TO DAMASCUS WHEN JESUS APPEARED TO HIM IN A GREAT LIGHT. HE WAS **STRUCK BLIND**, BUT AFTER THREE DAYS HIS SIGHT WAS RESTORED AND PAUL BEGAN TO PREACH THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH IS THE MESSIAH.





# PAUL'S SHIPWRECK

PAUL SHIPWRECKED ON THE COAST OF MALTA, AND WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY ITS INHABITANTS.

HIS THREE-MONTH STAY IN MALTA LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK UPON THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY. SAINT PAUL'S ARRIVAL IN MALTA WAS NOT PLANNED. HE WAS TRAVELLING TO ROME WHEN A VIOLENT STORM AROSE AND HIS SHIP RAN AGROUND ON THIS ISLAND.



**Saint Paul's Grotto at Rabat**

# FROM 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

870	Arabs occupy Malta
	<u>Normans Rule &amp; The Middle Ages</u>
1090	Normans occupation
1194	Swabian occupation (Germans)
1266	Angevins occupation (Anglo/French)
1283	Aragonese occupation (Spanish)
	<u>Knights of St. John</u>
1530	Order of the Knights of St John arrive in Malta
1561	Inquisition established
1565	<u>The Great Siege of Malta by the Ottoman Turks</u>
1566	The Founding of Valletta



## THE PALACE OF THE KNIGHTS

IT IS THE MOST FAMOUS PLACE ON THE ISLAND. IT WAS BUILT IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND IT IS A COLOSSAL BUILDING. THE PALACE HAS ABOUT 500 ROOMS, 100 HALLS AND 50 STAIRCASES. FOR MANY YEARS THE PALACE WAS THE RESIDENCE OF THE GRAND MASTER OF THE MALTESE ORDER.





## THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

THE MALTESE PRESERVE THEIR TRADITIONS AND COMMEMORATE  
THE MEMORY OF THE MALTESE KNIGHTS IN MANY WAYS



## **VALLETTA – THE CAPITAL CITY**

THE CITY WAS NAMED AFTER THE GRAND MASTER OF THE MALTESE ORDER JEAN DE LA VALLETTE (1494-1568)



# THE GREAT SIEGE OF 1565







## THE FORTIFICATIONS

THE FORTIFICATIONS THAT FEATURE SO PROMINENTLY IN THE ISLAND'S ARCHITECTURE SPEAK OF EARLIER STRUGGLES, WHEN MALTA CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE DEFENCE OF CHRISTIANITY BY LAND AND BY SEA.

THE ISLAND WAS ATTACKED BY THE TURKS MANY TIMES BUT ALL ATTEMPTS TO SEIZE MALTA FAILED BECAUSE THE KNIGHTS HAD FORTIFIED IT VERY WELL

# FROM THE FRENCH TO THE BRITISH

	<u>French Occupation</u>
1798	Napoleon Bonaparte takes Malta from the Knights
	<u>British Period</u>
1814	Malta becomes a British Crown Colony (English)
1914-1918	First World War
1930-1939	Turbulent period of intermittent self-government
1939-1945	<u>Second World War</u>
1947	Restoration of self-government
	<u>Modern Malta</u>
1964	Independence within the British Commonwealth
1974	Malta becomes a Republic
2004	Malta membership of the European Union
2008	Malta joins the Eurozone

# WORLD WAR II







**MALTA'S FLAG IS WHITE AND RED.  
THE GEORGE CROSS PROUDLY TESTIFIES TO  
MALTA'S GREAT COURAGE DURING THE DARK  
DAYS OF THE LAST WORLD WAR.**

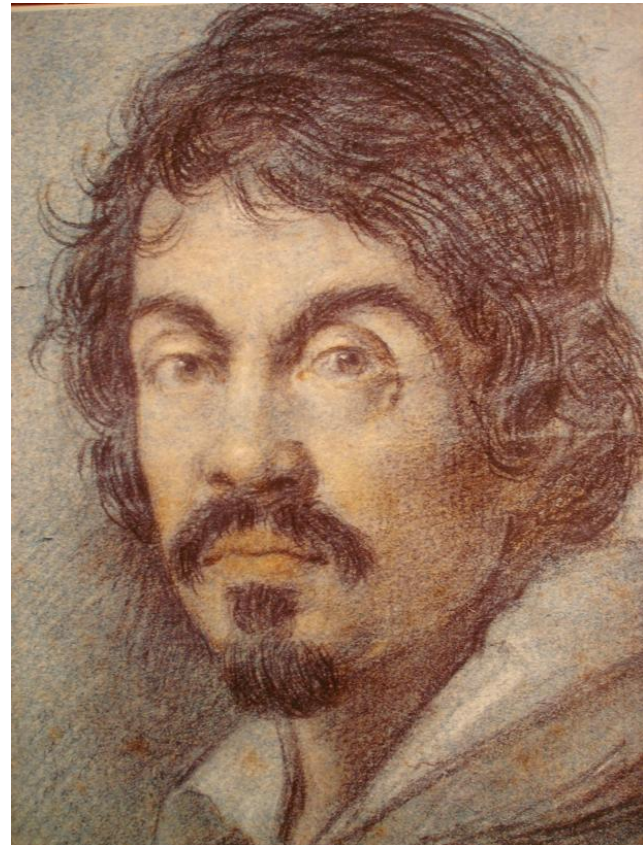


# CARAVAGGIO (1571-1610)

The most famous artist who worked in Malta is Michelangelo Merisi known as Caravaggio.

Caravaggio arrived in Malta in 1607 having fled Rome to avoid justice. He was wanted for murder.

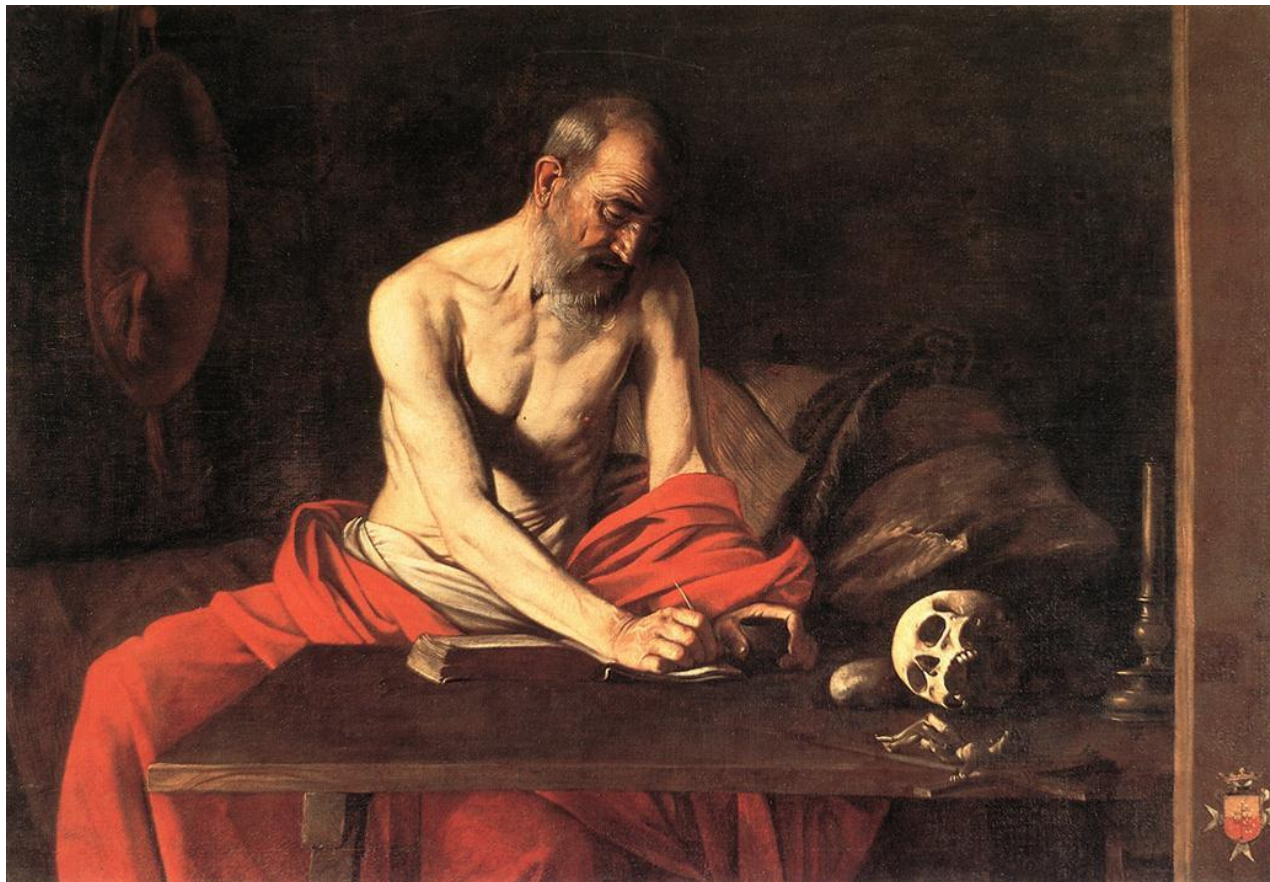
However, in Malta, under his new patrons, he was admitted to the Order of St. John. But his freedom from justice lasted only just over a year. He was imprisoned in Fort St. Angelo and later escaped to Sicily, only to die two years later at the age of 38.



# THE BEHEADING OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST



# SAINT JEROME IN VALLETTA







**TOURISM IS THE MAIN INDUSTRY**



**DIVING IS A POPULAR ACTIVITY**



# MOSTA

It is a town in the Northern Region of Malta, to the north-west of Valletta. It has a population of about 20,000.

The most famous building in Mosta is the Rotunda, a large church with a large dome.

Mosta celebrates the feast of the Assumption every 15 August, popular among both the locals and the foreigners.

