



ADASS
XXXIV

ASTRONOMICAL DATA
ANALYSIS SOFTWARE
& SYSTEMS **XXXIV**



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The Maltese Islands

The Maltese Islands in the Mediterranean consist of three main islands: Malta, Gozo, and Comino. Malta, the largest island, is the cultural and economic centre, while Gozo offers a more rural and tranquil atmosphere. Comino, with its famous Blue Lagoon, is popular for its beaches.

Malta's history spans over 7,000 years, with its Megalithic temples among the oldest free-standing structures in the world. Its strategic location attracted many civilisations, including the Phoenicians, Romans, and British, all contributing to its rich heritage.

A key moment in Malta's history was in 1530 when the Knights of St. John were given control of the islands. The Knights transformed Malta into a fortified stronghold and an important hub for Christian Europe's defence against the Ottoman Empire, culminating in the Great Siege of 1565. Centuries later, Malta also played a crucial role in World War II as a strategic Allied base, earning the island the George Cross for bravery. Notably, the war formally concluded in 1945 with the Yalta and Potsdam agreements signed on the island, and decades later, Malta was the site of the historic Malta Summit in 1989, which symbolically marked the end of the Cold War.

After being under British rule in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Malta gained independence from Britain in 1964, became a republic in 1974, and is now a member of the European Union.

General Information

Language

Malta has two Official Languages: Maltese and English. English is widely spoken in Malta and will be the language of the Conference.

Maltese Climate

The weather in Malta is usually moderately cold and wet at this time of year. Warm jackets and umbrellas are recommended.

Electricity

Electricity supply is 220/240 volts, single phase, 50 cycle. The square fitting standard three-pin plugs and sockets (UK standard plugs) are used.

Currency & Banks

The currency in Malta is the Euro. There are banks / ATMs in all towns and villages, and there are additional "Bureaux de Change" in Sliema, St Julians, and Valletta. HSBC branches & ATMs can be found across the island.

Health

Delegates should ensure that they are covered by adequate Medical Insurance. Healthcare in Malta is of a high level, conforming to European standards. [Mater Dei](#) is the state hospital. EU citizens with a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), also known as the E11 card, are entitled to public healthcare services in Malta on the same basis as Maltese citizens.

Beyond public health options, there are also private hospitals.

Personal & Other Insurance

Participants are reminded to take out personal insurance for themselves and accompanying persons, including insurance of personal effects.

Telecommunications

Malta has reliable telecommunications with 4G, 5G, and high-speed internet that are widely available. Local SIM cards are easy to obtain, and roaming is supported. Free Wi-Fi is common in public areas, and the conference venue connects through Eduroam access.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergency 112

Ambulance 196

University of Malta Valletta Campus: Conference & Events Unit +356 2340 7513/6/7

Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office, University of Malta +356 2340 3080

Malta International Airport: General Enquiries / Flight Information +356 21 249600

Travelling around the Islands

Getting around Malta is straightforward, with various transport options to suit different needs. Whether you prefer the affordability of public buses, the flexibility of renting a car, or the ease of taxis and ferries, Malta offers convenient ways to explore its historic sites, scenic landscapes, and neighbouring islands. Here's an overview of the main transportation options.

Public Transport

Malta's public bus network is the main mode of transport other than personal vehicles, connecting major towns, cities, and tourist attractions. Buses are frequent, especially along main routes, and the central hub is in Valletta. Gozo also has a smaller bus network, with the central hub found in Victoria. Single tickets are available (contactless payment should be available on board), but multi-day passes offer better value for those travelling frequently. Buses are a cost-effective way to get around, especially for those staying in urban areas. The Tallinja app is the best way to figure out which routes you'll need to take. You can also consult the [Malta Public Transport website](#) for all service information.

Every village will tend to have routes to Valletta & Mater Dei (Malta's public hospital), and the Valletta bus terminus provides access to the rest of the island. The appendix includes some major routes to take you around some major points around the island.

Hop-On Hop-Off Buses

Malta's hop-on hop-off buses offer a convenient way to explore the islands, with routes covering key attractions in Malta and Gozo. These open-top buses provide audio guides in multiple languages, and passengers can get on and off at various stops to visit landmarks at their own pace. Tickets are typically valid for a full day, making it an easy and flexible option for sightseeing. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Taxi

Taxi services are available throughout the island, and a booth can be found in Valletta near the city's main entrance. However, these tend to be quite expensive, so we recommend using ride-hailing services such as Uber, Bolt, and eCabs.

Airport Transfers

There is a Taxi Stand at the airport. Taxi service from the Airport is available 24 hours a day to any destination in Malta, including Valletta. Fixed rates are applicable and pre-paid tickets can be purchased from the ticket booth at Arrivals. For rates and more details click [here](#).

Ride-hailing services, such as Uber, Bolt and eCabs are also widely available and tend to be cheaper alternatives than conventional taxi services.

Harbour Ferries

Ferries run regularly between Malta, Gozo, and Comino, and serve as a good option for crossing the two harbours on either side of Valletta.

To travel from Sliema to Valletta, an option that may be quicker than the bus is the regularly scheduled ferry connecting both locations.

Terminus Location in Sliema: [Sliema Ferry](#)

Terminus Location in Valletta: [Sliema Ferry](#)

The same option is available from the Three Cities (Birgu, Senglea, Cospicua) to Valletta by catching a ferry from Cospicua.

Terminus Location in Cospicua: [Valletta Ferry Service - Cospicua](#)

Terminus Location in Valletta: [3 cities Valetta ferry](#)

To get to the 3 cities ferry Valletta location from the centre of Valletta, the best option is to use the public lift ([Barrakka Lift](#)) in the Upper Barrakka to go to sea level. The terminus should be immediately on your left as you exit the entrance. You should be able to use the bus travel card to pay for the lift.

Schedules for both ferries can be found [here](#).

Travelling around Valletta

The capital city, and the locality in which the conference will take place, is a small fortified city full of great restaurants, bars and historical & cultural sites. Travelling around Valletta is best done on foot, as the city is compact and mostly pedestrian-friendly. Valletta's narrow streets and rich historical architecture make walking the most convenient way to explore its attractions, such as St. John's Co-Cathedral, the Upper Barrakka Gardens, and the Grandmaster's Palace. There are, however, some bus routes that function within the city, which make travelling to specific locations easier.

The majority of the city is on elevated ground within the fortification walls. All these attractions can be easily accessed on foot. There are, however, certain areas, such as the Valletta Waterfront, which are found at sea level and best accessed either by bus or by using the Barrakka Lift found in the Upper Barrakka. Payment for the lift can be made using your bus travel cards.

Travelling outside Valletta

Beyond Valletta, there are several localities that are worth visiting. The Three Cities—Birgu, Senglea, and Cospicua— are known for their historic fortifications and waterfront views. The old hilltop medieval city of Mdina (The Silent City) offers great views and hosts a number of museums detailing different eras of Malta’s history. The neighbouring town Rabat is also worth a visit. In the south of the island, you can visit Marsaxlokk, a fishing village known for colourful boats and a lively Sunday market. Refer to the History & Culture section for more options regarding historical sites outside of Valletta.

If the weather is nice, you may consider visiting one of Malta’s many beaches. The choice depends on your preferences, whether you would rather visit a popular sandy beach ([Għadira Bay](#), [Golden Bay](#), [Għajn Tuffieħa](#), [Ramla Beach](#), [Blue Lagoon](#)) or smaller rocky beaches that might be a bit less crowded but less accessible ([Għar Lapsi](#), [Wied Iż-Żurrieg](#), [St. Peter's Pool](#), [Wied il-Għasri](#), [Xwejni Bay](#))

All locations are accessible from Valletta through the use of public transport and are all featured in the hop-on hop-off bus routes.

Gozo

If you want to go to Gozo, there are two options. If you are not travelling to Gozo by car, the best option is to take the [Gozo Fast Ferry](#) from Valletta. The ferry takes about 45 minutes to arrive at the Mġarr terminal in Gozo, and the trip offers a great way to see Malta’s eastern coastline, Comino, and Gozo’s southern coast. Similarly to the 3 Cities Valletta ferry, the best way to get to the terminal in Valletta is to take the Barrakka Lift.

Another (longer) option is to take the [Gozo Channel Ferry](#) from Ċirkewwa, which is the only option should you wish to travel to Gozo with a car. The major bus routes to get there are listed above.

The third island, Comino, is less accessible, and ferry routes to the island are more seasonal. Should you wish to go to Comino & Blue Lagoon, contact your nearest LOC member to provide you with more information.

Restaurants & Bars

Malta and Gozo offer a vibrant food scene with a mix of Mediterranean and international cuisine, making them a great place to explore local flavours. The following are only a few of the recommendations we provide in the accompanying [map](#). Still, they give a good idea of the range of options at different price points, from traditional Maltese fare to fine dining.

Lunch

As lunch will not be provided at the conference venue, we encourage attendees to explore several lunch options around the city. Valletta offers a variety of options to suit different tastes, dietary needs, and time constraints. Whether you are looking for a quick bite or a more leisurely meal, there is something for everyone.

A great central option is **Is-Suq Tal-Belt**, Valletta's historic indoor market. Located just a short walk from the conference venue, Is-Suq Tal-Belt features a variety of food stalls offering both local and international dishes. Alternatively, amongst other options located slightly further away are **Grano**, **The Bagel Hole**, **No. 43**, **eetwell** and **Café Jubilee**. The accompanying [map](#) provides more options. Finally, you can also try some of the Maltese street food. **Pastizzerias** are a type of shop in Malta that specializes in selling **pastizzi**, which are traditional Maltese savory pastries, amongst other items. You may find these pastizzerias scattered all over Valletta.

Traditional Food

- Ġużé, Valletta €€
- Rubino, Valletta €€
- Leglign, Valletta €€
- Ta' Detta, Valletta €€
- Nenu The Artisan Baker, Valletta €€
- Il-Forn Ta' L-Għawdxi, Valletta €
- St. Elmo's Kitchen, Valletta €
- Tal-Petut, Birgu €€
- Bacchus, Mdina €€€
- Il-Bitħa, Rabat €€
- Gululu, Spinola €€
- Ta' Kris, Sliema €€
- Brijju, Gżira €€
- United Restaurant Behind the Church, Mgarr Malta €€
- Ta' Frenč, Xagħra Gozo €€
- Mekren's Bakery, Nadur Gozo €
- Maxxok's Bakery, Nadur Gozo €

Fish Restaurants

- One80 St. Christopher Street, Valletta €€
- Terrone, Birgu €€
- Boa Malta, Birgu €€€
- Tartarun, Marsaxlokk €€€
- Tmun, Mgarr, Gozo €€€

Fine-Dining

- Noni, Valletta (1 Michelin Star) €€€€
- ION Harbour by Simon Rogan (2 Michelin Star) €€€€
- Under Grain, Valletta (1 Michelin Star) €€€€
- Palazzo Preca, Valletta €€€
- The Golden Fork, Rabat €€€
- De Mondion, Mdina (1 Michelin Star) €€€€
- Marea, Kalkara €€€
- Rosami at the Villa (1 Michelin Star) €€€€
- Tartarun, Marsaxlokk €€€
- Terroir, Attard €€€
- Bahia, Hal Balzan (1 Michelin Star) €€€
- Rebekah's Restaurant, Mellieħa €€€
- Tmun, Mgarr, Gozo €€€
- Level Nine, Mgarr, Gozo €€€

Bars, Wine-Bars & Pubs

- The Pub, Valletta €
- Cafe Society, Valletta €
- Kamy Cocktail Bar, Valletta €€
- Wild Honey Beer House, Valletta €
- The ARTfull Dodger, Valletta €
- The Little Red Door, Valletta €€

- Gugar Hangout & Bar, Valletta €
- Kingsway, Valletta €€
- The Bridge Bar, Valletta €
- Hole in the Wall Bar & Cafe, Sliema €

Accommodation

Where to Stay

Whilst accommodation can be found throughout the island, we strongly suggest looking for accommodation either in Valletta or in the neighbouring towns. Outside the city, there is the town of Floriana, from which you can either walk to the venue on foot or catch one of the busses on their way into Valletta. Beyond that, the most ideal options are the towns on either side of the two harbours. The Three Cities (Birgu, Senglea and Cospicua) are all close options that may offer cheaper accommodation, and you can either catch a bus to Valletta or travel by ferry across the harbour. On the opposite side, one can find accommodation in Sliema, Gżira, Ta' Xbiex, Msida, San Ġwann and St. Julians. Sliema and St. Julians are commercial hubs, so hotels are easily found here at varying price ranges. Travelling to Valletta can be done either by direct bus routes or by catching the ferry from Sliema.

Major Hotels in the Area

Participants who would like to benefit from the preferential rates below are to send an email to the respective hotel and quote reference "ADASS Conference". Participants are encouraged to book accommodation early because the conference dates coincide with the SIGMA conference (a high-profile large annual event). A list of hotels offering preferential rates is provided in the appendix.

Several other options for accommodation are also available in Valletta and in the surrounding area.

History & Culture

The Maltese islands are full of history from centuries under a revolving door of rulers and civilizations. Hence, this list will not be exhaustive, and the LOC would be happy to recommend any other options you may wish to visit. The following are the main historical attractions that you can visit in your free time. More are included in the accompanying [map](#).

Historical Attractions in Valletta

1. **Upper Barrakka:** A public garden in Valletta, offering panoramic views of the Grand Harbour and its fortifications.

Opening Hours: 07:00 – 22:00

2. **St. John's Co-Cathedral:** A Baroque cathedral famous for its lavish interiors and home to Caravaggio's *The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist*.
Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 09:00 – 16:15
 Closed on Sundays
3. **Grandmaster Palace:** Once the residence of the Grand Masters of the Knights of Malta, it now houses the Office of the President and a museum.
Opening Hours: 10:00 – 18:00
4. **Fort St. Elmo:** A star-shaped fort that played a key role in Malta's defence during the Great Siege of 1565.
Opening Hours: 09:00 – 19:00
5. **The Auberges:** The residences of each faction of the Knights, these buildings can be found around the city.
6. **Manoel Theatre:** An old theatre in the city centre that is still in use today.
7. **The Waterfront:** An area by the Grand Harbour, which served as a collection of storehouses during the times of the Knights, is now full of restaurants and a good option for lunch and dinner.

Historical Attractions outside of Valletta

- **The Three Cities:** Old fortified towns older than Valletta.
- **Mdina:** The Silent City, a fortified hilltop city on the west side of the island. It served as Malta's capital until the arrival of the Knights.
- **Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra:** Megalithic temple and one of the oldest freestanding structures in the world.
Opening Hours: 09:00 – 19:00
- **St. Paul's Catacombs:** Burial complex from Punic, Roman and Byzantine times.
Opening Hours: 10:00 – 18:00
- **Ħal-Saflieni Hypogeum:** Neolithic underground burial complex (reservation required).
Opening Hours: 10:00 – 18:00
- **It-Tempji tal-Ġgantija:** A megalithic temple complex on the island of Gozo, considered one of the world's oldest free-standing structures.
Opening Hours: 10:00 – 18:00
- **Citadella de Victoria:** A historic fortified city on Gozo, offering panoramic views of the island.

Museums

- **MUZA:** Malta's national community art museum, showcasing works from the Order of St. John to modern art.
Opening Hours: Mon to Tues 10:00 – 16:00
 Wed to Thurs 10:00 – 22:00
 Fri to Sat 10:00 – 23:00
 Sun 10:00 – 22:00

- **Saint John’s Cathedral Museum:** Home to a collection of sacred relics and art related to the cathedral, including Caravaggio masterpieces.
Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 09:00 – 16:45
 Closed on Sundays
- **National Museum of Archaeology:** Displays Malta’s rich prehistoric heritage.
Opening Hours: 09:00 – 19:00
- **National War Museum - Fort St. Elmo:** Chronicles Malta’s military history, from the Great Siege of 1565 to World War II.
Opening Hours: 09:00 – 19:00
- **The Lascaris War Rooms:** A complex of underground tunnels and chambers used during World War II as a war headquarters.
Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 10:00 – 16:30
 Closed on Sundays
- **Saluting Battery:** A historic site where traditional cannon salutes are fired.
Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 10:00 – 17:00
 Closed on Sundays
- **Grandmaster Palace:** Former seat of the Grandmasters, featuring state rooms and an armory showcasing the island's military legacy.
Opening Hours: 10:00 – 18:00
- **The Malta Experience:** A multimedia attraction that presents the history of Malta, located near the Grand Harbour.
Opening Hours: Mon to Fri 11:00 – 16:00
 Sat 11:00 – 14:00
 Sun 11:00 – 13:00
- **Malta Maritime Museum:** Explores Malta’s seafaring history through a collection of naval artefacts, ships, and maritime tools.
Opening Hours: 09:00 – 19:00
- **Inquisitor’s Palace:** A historic palace in Birgu, once used by the Roman Inquisition.
Opening Hours: Tues to Sun 09:00 – 17:00
 Closed on Mondays
- **Malta at War Museum:** Located in Birgu, it highlights Malta’s experiences during World War II, focusing on civil defence and survival.
Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 10:00 – 16:30
 Closed on Sundays
- **Domvs Romana:** A museum built around the remains of a Roman townhouse, featuring exquisite mosaics and Roman artefacts.
Opening Hours: Tues to Sun 09:00 – 17:00
 Closed on Mondays

Leisure

Cinema & Theatre

- **Eden Cinemas, St. Julians:** Conventional cinema accompanied by an entertainment centre across the street.
- **Embassy Cinemas, Valletta:** Cinema located close to St. George's Square
- **Spazzju Kreattiv:** Art installations and theatre pieces are held here. There is also a small cinema which screens arthouse and independent films.
- **Mediterranean Conference Center and Manoel Theatre:** May host concertos if in season.

Other

- **Popeye Village:** The film set for the 1980 *Popeye* film is left intact and now serves as an amusement park.
- **Casinos:** A number of casinos can be found in the area around Valletta, Sliema and St. Julians.
- **Paceville:** One of the main hubs for Malta's nightlife.

Appendix

Major Bus Routes

Airport Routes		
Route	Destination	Notes
X1, X1B	Airport ↔ Ċirkewwa	This route crosses across the island and terminates at the Gozo Channel Terminal, from where you can catch a ferry to Gozo.
X2	Airport ↔ Sliema & St. Julians	
X3	Airport ↔ Rabat	
X4	Airport ↔ Valletta	
119	Airport ↔ Marsaxlokk	

Night Routes (starting from 23:00)		
Route	Destination	Notes
N13	St. Julians (Paceville) ↔ Valletta via Sliema	
N212	Sliema ↔ Bugibba via St. Julians (Paceville)	

Three Cities Routes		
Route	Destination	Notes
1	Valletta ↔ Senglea	
2, 4	Valletta ↔ Il-Birgu & Cospicua/Bormla	
3	Valletta ↔ Il-Kalkara	

Sliema & St. Julians (Paceville) Routes		
Route	Destination	Notes
13, 13A, 14, 15, 16, 21	Valletta ↔ Pembroke Park & Ride via Sliema & St. Julians	
N13	St. Julians (Paceville) ↔ Valletta via Sliema	Night Route

Rabat & Mdina Routes		
Route	Destination	Notes
50, 51, 53	Valletta ↔ Rabat and Mdina	Stop at Rabat 3 for both Rabat and Mdina
52, 56	Valletta ↔ Dingli	Stop at Rabat 3 for both Rabat and Mdina. Keep going till bus terminates if you want to go to Dingli Cliffs.

Marsaxlokk Routes		
Route	Destination	Notes
81, 85	Valletta ↔ Marsaxlokk	

Valletta Waterfront Routes		
Route	Destination	Notes
130	Valletta Terminus ↔ Valletta Waterfront	

Ċirkewwa & Buġibba Routes		
Route	Destination	Notes
41, 42	Valletta ↔ Ċirkewwa	
31, 45, 48	Valletta ↔ Buġibba	
X1, X1B	Airport ↔ Ċirkewwa	

Hotels Offering Preferential Rates

1. **Luciano Valletta Boutique Accommodation**

Merchants Street, Valletta

Duplex double room with St John's Cathedral view @ Eur 180 per night on bed & breakfast basis
 Standard double room with street view @ Eur 160 per night on bed & breakfast basis
 Double indoor room, no street view @ Eur 110 per night on bed & breakfast basis

2. **Luciano Al Porto Boutique Accommodation**

St Ursula Street, Valletta

Double room with street view @ Eur 160 per night on bed & breakfast basis
 Double room with Grand Harbour view @ Eur 180 per night on bed & breakfast basis

3. **Luciano Valletta Studio - Self catering**

St Ursula Street, Valletta

Duplex studio with Grand Harbour view @ Eur 170 per night
 Double room with street view and side harbour view @ Eur 170 per night
 Double room with street view @ Eur 150 per night

4. **The Saint John Boutique Hotel - 4***

Merchants Street, Valletta

Single room @ Eur 380 per night on bed & breakfast basis
 Double room @ Eur 400 per night on bed & breakfast basis

5. **Palazzo Rosaria Boutique Hotel - 4***

152 Melita Street, Valletta

Double room @ Eur 174 per night on bed & breakfast basis
 Deluxe double room @ Eur 190 per night on bed & breakfast basis

6. **Ursulino Boutique Hotel - 4***
St Ursula Street, Valletta
Deluxe room @ Eur 160 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Superior double room @ Eur 200 per night on bed & breakfast basis

7. **Grand Hotel Excelsior - 5***
Great Siege Road, Floriana
Single deluxe room @ Eur 110 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Double deluxe room @ Eur 130 per night on bed & breakfast basis

8. **The Londoner Hotel - 3***
The Strand, Sliema
Comfort room for sole use @ Eur135 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Superior room for sole use @ Eur145 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Deluxe seaview room for sole use @ Eur160 per night on bed & breakfast basis

9. **The Londoner Hotel - 3***
St George's Road, St Julians
Comfort room for sole use @ Eur135 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Superior room for sole use @ Eur145 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Deluxe city view room for sole use @ Eur155 per night on bed & breakfast basis

10. **Urban Valley Resort - 4***
Triq Wied Ghollieqa, San Gwann
Superior room for sole use @ Eur 100 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Superior room for double use @ Eur 110 per night on bed & breakfast basis

11. **Verdi Gzira Waterfront Hotel - 4***
113 The Strand, Gzira
Standard room for sole use @ Eur 260 per night on bed & breakfast basis

12. **The Victoria Hotel - 4***
Gorg Borg Olivier Street, Sliema
Single room @ Eur 220 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Double room @ Eur 230 per night on bed & breakfast basis

13. **Waterfront Hotel - 4***
Triq ix-Xatt, Sliema
Single room @ Eur 120 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Double room @ Eur 130 per night on bed & breakfast basis

14. **The George Boutique Hotel - 4***
Paceville Road, St Julians
Double room for sole use @ Eur160 per night on bed & breakfast basis
Double room for double use @ Eur170 per night on bed & breakfast basis

15. **IKYK Hotel - 4***

15 Wilga Street, St Julians

Superior room with balcony @ Eur 129 per night on bed & breakfast basis

Economy room @ Eur 111 per night on bed & breakfast basis

16. **Verdi St George's Bay Marina Hotel - 4***

St George's Bay, St Julians

Standard room for sole use @ Eur 280 per night on bed & breakfast basis

17. **The Palace Hotel - 5***

High Street, Sliema

Single room @ Eur 320 per night on bed & breakfast basis

Double room @ Eur 335 per night on bed & breakfast basis

18. **Corinthia Hotel - 5***

St George's Bay, St Julians

Standard room for sole use @ Eur 330 per night on bed & breakfast basis

19. **Radisson Blu Resort - 5***

St George's Bay, St Julians

Standard room for sole use @ Eur 330 per night on bed & breakfast basis

20. **Marriott Hotel - 5***

39 Main Street, Balluta Bay, St Julians

Superior room with courtyard view room for sole use @ Eur 325 per night on bed & breakfast basis

Superior room with courtyard view room for double use @ Eu 349 per night on bed & breakfast basis