# THE DIGITAL NOMAD'S GOMPLETE GUIDE TO MALTA





# **Table of Contents**

- A Brief History of Malta Malta's Culture Today What is Malta Known For?
- 2. Why Digital Nomads Love Malta
- Daily Life in Malta Little Known Secrets That Will Save Your Life Maltese Phrases You Should Learn Famous Events and Celebrations in Malta
- **4.** Weather in Malta
- 5. Best Time to Visit Malta
- 6. Cost of Living
- 7. Tech Specs
- 8. Getting Around Malta Public Transportation Rideshare Services Walkability
- **9.** Best Cities for Digital Nomads How to Find Accommodations in Malta
- **10.** Coworking Spaces
- **11.** Healthcare in Malta
- 12. Malta Digital Nomad Visa
- 13. Top Instagrammable Spots
- 14. Malta: The Next Digital Nomad Hotspot

Digital nomads who are searching for a destination with sunshine, gorgeous beaches, friendly people, reliable internet connection, and a stable place to work and explore, Malta is exactly the place to be.

With the new <u>Nomad Residence Permit</u> allowing remote workers and digital nomads to live in Malta for up to four years, more remote workers are showing interest in living in this beautiful country.

To help digital nomads decide whether Malta is the next best destination for them and to assist them in navigating the country during their time here, we've created a comprehensive guide specifically for digital nomads in Malta.

You'll find essential information, helpful tips, and life-saving secrets throughout this guide to create a more relaxed, fulfilled, and pleasant stay in Malta.

### **Country Specifics**

- **Population**: 525,000
- **Size**: 316 km<sup>2</sup>
- Capital: Valletta
- Official Languages: Maltese, English
- Government: Parliamentary Representative Democratic Republic
- Time Zone: UTC +1 (Central European Time)
- Calling Code: +356
- Currency: Euro

Malta is part of the European Union. The country joined the EU in 2004 and adopted the euro ( $\in$ ) in 2008.

Malta is also part of the Schengen Area, a bloc of countries in Europe.

### Where is Malta?

Malta is located in the Mediterranean Sea between Sicily and Tunisia.

There are three main islands that make up the country of Malta. These include Malta, Gozo, and Comino.

1

Fun Fact: Malta is the 10th smallest country in the world!

### **Outstanding Features of Malta**

Malta is easily one of the top digital nomad destinations in Europe. You'll experience a **unique mix of cultures, delicious Mediterranean cuisine, and some of the most beautiful beaches** in the world.

The country is best known for its ideal weather. With the **sun shining 300 days out of the year** and minimal rainfall, energy and positivity are high amongst the island's residents. Speaking of the glorious sunshine, **Malta is home to stunning sunsets**, especially on the island of Gozo.

One of the top-selling points of Malta for digital nomads is **English is an official language**. Not only does it make communication much easier and convenient for internationals, but it's also **easy to meet people and make friends**, combatting a common problem of loneliness amongst digital nomads.

You'll have different lifestyle options to choose from. You can **choose a bustling lifestyle** of errands, events, and work in big cities like Sliema and Valletta or opt for a **slower-paced lifestyle** on Gozo.

The beauty of Malta for digital nomads is the versatility it offers. You're free to **find and create the lifestyle you want** while experiencing all of the fantastic benefits the island offers.



# A Brief History of Malta

Malta's history is full of major events, bloody battles, and the overtaking of empires, given the land has been inhabited since 5,900 B.C.E.

In prehistoric times, **Neolithic people settled on these islands** and lived in caves. To survive, they fished and farmed on the land until a major drought took place. After this period, people wouldn't settle on the islands for another thousand years.



New settlers came to Malta around 3850 B.C.E. We still have remnants of these people on the islands as they built **grand temples that have stood the test of time**. Two of the most famous and worth-visiting UNESCO archaeological sites are <u>Haġar Qim</u> on the main island and <u>Ġgantija</u> on Gozo.

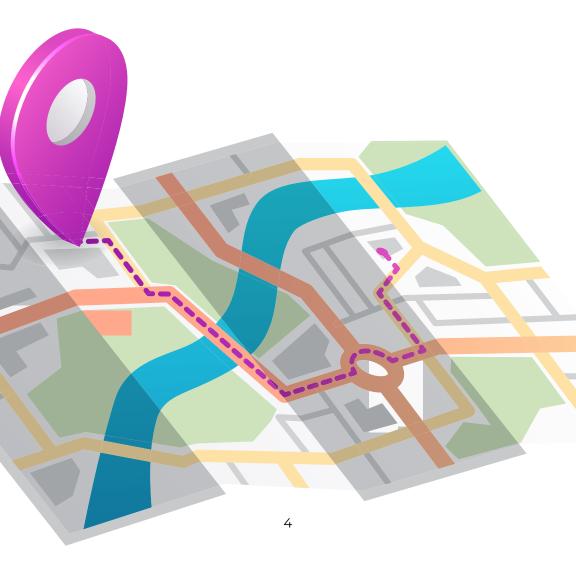
Fast forward a couple of thousand years to 700 B.C.E. in Antiquity, we see **the islands changed hands between the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, and Romans**.

There is heavy **Roman Catholic influence in Maltese history and culture**, which is hard to miss while visiting. In 60 A.D., it is believed that Saint Paul had a shipwreck on the island.

During the Middle Ages, **the Byzantine Empire took over, which eventually led to Malta's Arab period**. It was during this time that the language adopted Arab grammar and vocabulary. Today, Maltese is a mix of Arabic, Italian, French, and English.

Going into the 16th Century, we have the **iconic Knights of Malta**, which protected the islands from the Ottoman Empire. They established incredible churches and battled the Turks in 1565 during the Great Siege.

The territory has a long and brutal military history. With so many empires, people, and nations wanting control of the strategically located island, it's no surprise. **Even during World War II, Malta played a key role in fighting alongside Great Britain**. The Knights remained in control of Malta until 1798 when Napoleon Buonaparte sought refuge on his Egypt expedition. The land remained **under French rule until 1800** when Malta agreed to become a British Territory.



To this day **you will see British influence on the island**; from the iconic red telephone booths and postal boxes to driving on the left side of the road to large English breakfasts served in restaurants and cafes.

Malta claimed **independence from Britain in 1964** and was accepted into the European Union in 2004.



And the rest is history!

# Malta's Culture Today

Now that you have some base on Malta's history, let's see how it has influenced the culture today.

With so many different people and cultures melding together throughout history, **Malta's current culture is definitely something to be admired**. You'll witness a mix of Latin European, British, and Semitic influences in the culture today.

There is still a strong religious presence in the culture with traditions and beliefs deeply rooted in Malta's residents.

However, there is also a sense of modernity. This is a country where you will see business people making deals and pushing the economy forward or digital nomads sitting on their laptops at cafes all within ancient and historic cities.

But despite the hustle, there is still time to find relaxation and balance in life.

# What is Malta Known For?

**Incredible Landscapes** - Malta is home to some of the most stunning, breathtaking landscapes you'll ever see. With towering cliffs over the sea to unique caves within those cliffs, such as Tal-Mixta Caves, to crystal clear waters of the Blue Lagoon, digital nomads who are in search of gorgeous natural wonders will surely find satisfaction here.

You'll also find numerous hiking trails throughout the islands with incredible views overlooking the sea.



#### **Tasty Cuisine**

With so many different cultural influences in Maltese culture, you can expect a tasty experience while in Malta. You'll find delicious, freshly caught seafood dishes on menus and traditional meals made with rabbit meat across the island.

Of course, you have to try the local dishes and snacks, including

- Pastizzi a savory pastry filled with curried peas or ricotta
- Imqaret a pastry filled with dried dates
- Ftira Biż-Żejt unleavened sourdough bread with tomato paste, oil, olives, capers and onions found on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list
- Qagħaq tal-Għasel a pastry ring filled with honey and cinnamon

**Military History** - Scattered throughout the islands, you'll find centuries-old military fortresses, castles, and towers that once protected Malta from invaders. You will surely get an in-depth history lesson while experiencing the sites first-hand during your stay.

You'll want to schedule a visit to <u>Fort St. Angelo</u>, Fort Manoel, the iconic red-colored <u>St. Agatha's Tower</u>, and <u>Fort St. Elmo</u>, which also houses the National War Museum.

**Stunning Churches** - As a country with a strong Roman Catholic history, you'll see a plethora of churches, cathedrals, and basilicas. Each of these buildings has a unique history with gorgeous decor, paintings, and treasures.

One of the most famous churches to visit is <u>St. John's Co-Cathedral</u>, which is home to Caravaggio's "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist" painting.

Other must-see churches include <u>Mosta Rotunda</u>, Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Church of St. Paul's Shipwreck, and Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta'Pinu.



# Why Digital Nomads Love Malta

Malta is one of the **most ideal countries for digital nomads** in Europe. The digital nomads who do find themselves coming to Malta often decide to stay longer than they intended.

So, why is Malta so great for digital nomads?



### **Great Wifi and Connection**

As a digital nomad, you know just how essential a reliable internet connection is while traveling.

Malta boasts **nationwide 5G** offering a fast mobile connection to residents.

There is also **public wifi throughout major cities like Sliema and Valletta** that you can connect to. It also isn't difficult to find free wifi in bars, cafes, and restaurants throughout the islands.

#### **Convenient Transportation**

A digital nomad needs ease when traveling. Whether you're running to the grocery store or exploring a nearby town, convenient transportation is essential.

In Malta, the **need for a car is minimal**. With an extensive bus network and ferry routes, you can **travel to virtually every interest point** on the islands. The buses are clean, convenient, and mostly on time, which is important for those with a tight schedule.

We'll dive more into the specifics of Malta's public transportation in a later chapter.

### Affordable Cost of Living

Budgeting is always an important aspect of being a digital nomad. Living a lifestyle with arguably more unexpected expenses than those who are location-dependent, finding a destination with an affordable cost of living is ideal. Malta's average cost of living, according to <u>Numbeo</u>, is **12.4% lower than the United States**. The average rent is also 44% lower in Malta than in the US.

It is **one of the more affordable places to live in Europe**, especially considering it's an island that imports most products.

### Large International Community

Malta is a great place to meet international people as 22.25% of the population are not Maltese! With **over 115,449 people from other EU and non-EU countries**, there are plenty of opportunities to grow your global network.

#### **English is an Official Language**

One of the awesome benefits of being a digital nomad in Malta is that **English is an official language**. This makes communicating with residents and international visitors much easier.



Being in a country where you know you can **communicate in a language you speak is comforting** and takes away some of the anxiety and stress you may feel in other destinations.

### Popular Cafe and Coworking Culture

Working from a cafe or coworking space as a digital nomad is one of the **best ways to meet people** and get to know your new destination.

Fortunately, this way of working is very popular in Malta. Walking through the cities, **you'll often see people sitting on their laptops at a cafe** sipping a coffee or even a cocktail.

There are also a handful of coworking spaces on the main island. We'll dive more into those later on in this guide.

# Daily Life in Malta

A routine day in Malta as a digital nomad is filled with sunshine, great food, and passively learning about the history of this amazing country.

A typical day looks a bit like this:

| 7:30 AM<br>8:30 AM | Wake Up<br>Breakfast by the Sea                       |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:30 AM            | Work from Coworking Space or Cafe                     |
| 1:00 PM            | Grab Lunch in the City                                |
| 2:30 PM            | Explore a New Neighborhood, Historical Site, or Beach |
| 5:30 PM            | Stop in a Cafe or Home to Finish Working              |
| 7:00 PM            | Enjoy Happy Hour Until the Sunset                     |

Of course, everyone's day will look different depending on their goals and interests.

Malta is **perfect to cater to so many different lifestyles**. Whether you want a busy day with meetings and outings with friends or laid back so you can focus on work, you have the opportunity to create the lifestyle you want.

You can see more of how a digital nomad spends the day in Malta <u>here.</u>



#### Little Known Secrets That Will Save Your Life

As with every destination, there are events, traditions, or behaviors you should be aware of. Many of these things you will only learn by being in the country and truly experiencing it.

**Secret #1:** You will often hear cannons and air raid sirens go off at noon in Valletta and Mdina. Don't get too frightened when you first hear them! They are historical reminders sounded by museums.

**Secret #2:** The tap water may not always be drinkable. This water is desalinated seawater and will taste a bit different from what you're probably used to drinking.

**Secret #3:** Driving can be a bit adventurous. Always be alert and on guard, especially through the more narrow streets.

**Secret #4:** You'll notice two very different sides of Malta. One that is very busy and crowded in the cities and one that is empty with just a few structures around.

**Secret #5:** There is often a doctor at a pharmacy and you can make a same-day appointment if you aren't feeling well.

**Secret #6:** Wear sunscreen every day! The sun is hot and strong in Malta, especially during the summer. If you go to Comino island, lather up because the shade is scarce.



### Maltese Phrases You Should Learn

While English is an official language in Malta, it's still nice to **learn some words and phrases in the local language.** This is much appreciated by the residents and you'll surely impress them.

| Maltese Word  | Pronunciation | English Translation |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Bonġu         | Bon-ju        | Good Morning        |
| Iva           | Ee-va         | Yes                 |
| Le            | Le            | No                  |
| Jekk jogħġbok | Yek yoh-jbok  | Please              |
| Grazzi        | Grats-ee      | Thank You           |
| Saħħa!        | Sah-ha        | Cheers!             |

You may recognize words and phrases similar to Italian and French in the Maltese language.

While most residents speak both Maltese and English, many are also conversational in Italian as well.

### **Famous Events and Celebrations in Malta**

Malta is known for having **many holidays and traditional festivals year-round**. During your time on the islands, you'll surely get to experience a local celebration worth attending.

#### February: Carnival

Taking place the week before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent in the Catholic Church, **Malta celebrates Carnival**. It's one of the most exciting and most looked forward to festivals of the year.

You'll see **large parades and people dressed in extravagant costumes** dancing and gathering in the streets. It's a time of pure enjoyment and merriment and something you definitely do not want to miss.

#### April: Festa Frawli (Strawberry Festival)

If you love a fresh, juicy strawberry on a warm spring day, then you definitely don't want to miss Festa Frawli. Hosted in the town of Mgarr, you'll experience a traditional Maltese festival with native instruments and music, and of course, dancing.

### April: Malta International Fireworks Festival

You've never seen fireworks just like this. Held every April for one week, the <u>Malta International Fireworks Festival</u> is a competition between musical firework performances across the islands.

With a promised grand performance on the last day, you'll be stunned by these incredible displays of color, light, and musical rhythm.



#### September: Festa Ħut (Fish Festival)

Every year in September, the fishing village of Marsaxlokk hosts a fish festival known as Festa Ħut.

You'll get to admire the beautiful fish caught by the local fishermen, see the harbor sprinkled with colored boats known as "luzzu," and get to taste some of the freshest fish in your life. Of course, there will be dancing along to traditional Maltese music and entertainment known as "ghana" too.

#### **October: Notte Bianca**

On one night in October, the capital city of **Valletta, lights up with** artists, music, entertainment, and food for all to enjoy to celebrate Notte Bianca.

The streets are full of food stalls, museums and palaces open their doors to showcase local art and exhibitions, and many historic buildings open their doors to theatre and dance performances.

### **October: Mdina Classic**

The <u>Mdina Classic Grand Prix</u> is a race around the "Silent City" and Malta's former capital city. **Classic cars from before 1976 race around the winding streets** to the cheers and excitement of the crowds along the track.

#### **December: Malta Christmas Markets**

European countries are known for their detailed and exquisite Christmas markets... and Malta doesn't disappoint! With stalls set up around the country celebrating the Christmas season offering handmade products as gifts for loved ones and traditional street food, it's easy to get into the joyous holiday spirit.



# Weather in Malta

We can't stop mentioning just how lovely the weather in Malta is year-round. With 300 days of sun, it's one of the country's top-selling points for both tourists and digital nomads.

There is minimal rain here. When it does rain, it's for short periods at a time and then clear skies after.

During the winter months, you can expect to experience some heavy winds. However, this is much more manageable than frigid temperatures and snow, in our opinion.



### Average Temperatures in Malta

| Month     | Temperature<br>(High/Low)°C | Precipitation Days/mm |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| January   | 16°/9°                      | 12 days / 95 mm       |
| February  | 16°/9°                      | 12 days / 63 mm       |
| March     | 17%/10°                     | 9 days / 37 mm        |
| April     | 20°/12°                     | 6 days / 26 mm        |
| Мау       | 24°/12°                     | 3 days / 9 mm         |
| June      | 28°/19°                     | 1 day / 5 mm          |
| July      | 31°/22°                     | 0 days / 0 mm         |
| August    | 31°/22°                     | 1 day / 6mm           |
| September | 28°/20°                     | 5 days / 67 mm        |
| October   | 25°/18°                     | 9 days / 77 mm        |
| November  | 20°/14°                     | 13 days / 109 mm      |
| December  | 17º/11º                     | 16 days / 108 mm      |



# **Best Time to Visit Malta**

This gorgeous country is truly a great destination no matter what time of the year it is. **There is no "bad" time to visit!** 

Although, if you really want a straight and personal answer, we would have to say **that April to July is the best time to visit Malta.** 



### **Malta's Travel Seasons**

Until recently, Malta was purely seen as a vacation destination, thanks to its **stunning beaches, crystal clear waters, and ideal weather**. However, in recent years, digital nomads have grown fond of this country, making it one of the <u>best digital nomad destinations in Europe</u>.

As with many destinations, there are set travel seasons. During these seasons you will see changes in the number of tourists and accommodation prices.

### High Season (June to August)

The time of year when you will find the most tourists and visitors in Malta is from June to August. This is prime vacation season when the weather is at its warmest.

During this peak season, you'll find restaurants and beaches crowded with tourists and hotel and Airbnb accommodations higher than the rest of the year. However, this is when you will experience the warmest and best Malta weather, perfect for soaking in the sun near the sea or taking a day trip on a boat to see the Blue Grotto or jump into the Blue Lagoon.

### Shoulder Seasons (March to May, September to November)

For six months out of the year, Malta is an incredible place to live as a digital nomad. During the shoulder seasons, you'll still get to enjoy optimal weather, partake in water sports, relax on the beaches, and experience cultural festivals, all without the high prices and crowds of tourists of the peak season.

In our opinion, the **shoulder season is the perfect time to visit Malta as a digital nomad**. You get all of the benefits of the peak season, like the weather, but without the overwhelming crowds and fighting for a reservation at a restaurant.

### Low Season (December to February)

You'll find that Malta grows fairly quiet during the winter months, but that doesn't mean it isn't a great time to visit or live there. The temperatures do drop to be a bit milder than the rest of the year, but they are still quite enjoyable.

In fact, this is the perfect time to go hiking or visit outdoor historical sites, which you'll most likely have all to yourself. For those digital nomads who decide to live in Malta for a year, you may find that these quiet months are some of the most peaceful and relaxed on the islands.

To learn more about the best times to visit Malta, you can read a more in-depth blog post <u>here</u>.

# **Cost of Living**

### Currency in Malta: Euro

Check the most current exchange rate here.

We mentioned earlier that the **cost of living in Malta is relatively affordable**. In December 2020, the Annual Household Income per Capita was 20,401€.

When we look at an <u>average cost of living</u>, a single person can expect to spend a little over 700€ per month, excluding rent. Renting a one-bedroom apartment in the city center could cost around 820€ per month.

Some common expenses for digital nomads in Malta include:

- Local SIM Card: 20€/month
- Monthly Transport Pass: 26€/month
- Coworking Day Pass: 30€
- Domestic Beer: 3€
- Cappuccino: 2.25€
- Meal at an Inexpensive Restaurant: 15€
- Roundtrip Ferry Ticket: 2.60€



# **Tech Specs**

Malta is **continuously upgrading and improving the country's internet** and mobile connection. For this reason, many digital nomads decide to come to Malta for a stable connection.

The average **wifi speed in Malta is 85.20 Mbps and is the 21st fastest download speed in the world**, according to <u>Business</u> <u>Today</u>.

### **Cell Phone Providers**

It's quite **easy and affordable to get a local SIM card** while in Malta. You can find plans with a large data package and a 5G connection throughout the islands.

The main cell phone providers are

- Melita
- Epic
- Go

You will find stores and kiosks in cities and at the airport where you can purchase SIM cards for just a few euros a month.

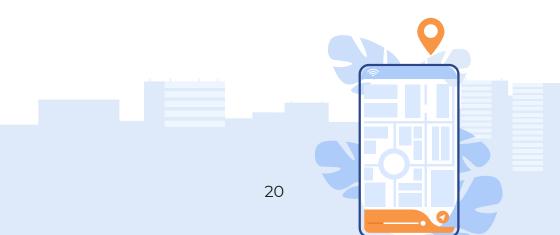
### **Power Outlets for Devices**

The third and final tech-related feature digital nomads need to be aware of is the electricity and outlets.

In Malta, you'll find **UK-style outlets with 230 volts of electricity**. These three-pronged outlets will usually have a switch to turn on the power next to them.

In some hotels, you will find the two-pronged European outlets too.

It's always a good idea to **bring an outlet adapter** with you if your devices and chargers have a different outlet.



# **Getting Around Malta**

Traveling throughout Malta and hopping from island to island is **quite easy and affordable**. Whether you decide to rent a car or take advantage of public transportation and rideshare services, you'll see just how **quickly and conveniently** you can get from point A to point B.

### **Public Transportation**

Getting around the Maltese islands is **extremely convenient**, **especially thanks to the numerous public transportation routes**. Since most digital nomads who come here do not have a car, they rely on buses and ferries.

#### Malta Public Transport Bus Routes

Malta Public Transport is one of the best services you'll find. It's efficient, typically on time, and has frequent and convenient routes traveling throughout the island.

You'll find many bus routes and stations in the major cities, such as Valletta, Sliema, and Bugibba. You will also notice bus stops in seemingly remote places, taking residents and visitors to unique sites.



Malta Public Transport buses are **extremely affordable and have contactless payment methods** right on the vehicle. The prices do vary depending on the time of day and the season.

- Winter Fare: 1.50€
- Summer Fare: 2€
- Night Fare: 3€

However, if you ride the buses frequently, you can **purchase a weekly or monthly pass** to save even more on this already affordable service. You can find passes known as a <u>Tallinja card</u> and can be personalized to your lifestyle.

Residents and visitors can obtain these cards at kiosks near bus stops and stations or from an approved vendor.

#### **Ferry Routes**

To save time getting from city to city, you may consider taking a ferry. While there are some destinations that require you to ride a ferry, such as Gozo, other destinations are simply faster and more convenient.



### Valletta Ferry Services

<u>Valletta Ferry Services</u> is probably the **most used service to get from city to city** in Malta. They have two routes that leave every 15 or 30 minutes depending on the season.

These two routes are Sliema - Valletta, and Valletta - Three Cities. A single-ride ticket is just 1.50€ and a roundtrip ticket is 2.80€. You can purchase weekly, monthly, and three-month ride passes for further discounts.

**Pro Tip:** You can only purchase ferry tickets with cash.

### Gozo Fast Ferry

Getting to Malta's sister island, Gozo, has never been easier. In just **45 minutes, you can travel from Valletta to Gozo** on the recently introduced <u>Gozo Fast Ferry</u> service.

You can purchase your ferry tickets online, through the app, or from vendors for just **7.50€ per ride**.

It's important to note that this is just a passenger ferry and cars are not allowed.

### Gozo Channel

The traditional method to travel to Gozo is from the Cirkewwa ferry port. This trip is just 25 minutes and will take you to Mgarr port in Gozo. It makes daily trips to and from Gozo and leaves frequently throughout the day. You may also bring a vehicle with you on this passenger ferry.

The unique feature of taking the <u>Gozo Channel ferry</u> is that you **only pay for your ticket when you leave Gozo**. You can purchase these tickets from the port station or at a kiosk if you are bringing a car.

A single passenger ticket is 4.50€ or 15.70€ for a car and driver. Passengers may also bring a bicycle, motorcycle, or trailer on the ferry for additional fees.

# **Taxis and Rideshare Apps**

If you're looking for a private ride or outside of public transportation hours, you can **rely on taxis and rideshare apps** to take you where you need to go.

The main cab and rideshare services available in Malta are

- <u>Bolt</u>
- <u>Ecabs</u>
- <u>Uber</u>
- <u>Cool Ride-pooling</u>
- White Taxi

To call a taxi, you can also download an app and book a private ride through <u>Malta Taxi</u>. Or you can always go the traditional route and hail one from the street.

### Best Ways to Get to and from the Airport

Unless you're taking a ferry from Sicily to travel to Malta, chances are you'll be flying into the country. There is only one airport in Malta, which is the <u>Malta International Airport</u> in Luqa.

Located in a central location, it is **just a 20-minute drive from Sliema or Valletta**. There are numerous options you can choose to get to and from Malta International Airport. The most economical option is to take the bus. The **X4 bus route connects the airport to Valletta** and leaves every half hour. Whether you're staying in Valletta or need to travel onward, you can most likely find your next transfer at the Valletta bus terminal.

You'll find **a line of taxis waiting** to take new arrivals to their destination. After a long flight, this is one of the most convenient options if you want to get to your accommodation quickly and hassle-free.

The third option is to **arrange an airport transfer** either with your hotel or local transfer service. To give an idea of how much an airport transfer may cost, to travel from Sliema to the airport can range from  $15 \in$  to  $25 \in$  per person.

### Walkability

We've discussed just how easy it is to travel from one city to another in Malta or Gozo, but we haven't touched on just how convenient it is to explore a city.

Malta's towns and cities are **very walkable**. In just 20 minutes you can walk across an entire city or town. In fact, **you can easily walk from town** to town and not even realize it, such as from Gzira to Sliema to St. Julian's to Paceville.

Victoria, Gozo's main city, is also very walkable. However, it's important to note that you will need to rely on public transportation more in Gozo than on the main island as the towns are much smaller and are further from each other.



### **Best Cities for Digital Nomads**

There are plenty of cities and towns to choose from in Malta, but there's a handful that is optimal for the digital nomad lifestyle.

#### Sliema

- Population: 22,500 (2019)
- Postal Code: SLM



Sliema is named **one of the best cities in Europe for digital nomads**. You'll find everything you could ever want, including cafes to work from, plenty of restaurants and bars, retail stores and a shopping mall, and a beautiful seaside promenade.

With modern buildings and affordable hotels, Sliema is **popular amongst both tourists and digital nomads**. It has a busy urban vibe, but also the slow pace of being near the sea.

Remote workers can take advantage of the coworking spaces available in Gzira, the town right next to Sliema, which is within walking distance.

### Valletta

- Population: 5,730 (2019)
- Postal Code: VLT

Valletta is another **ideal city for digital nomads** to make their homes. Just across the harbor from Sliema, Valletta is full of history, restaurants, coworking spaces, cafes, and fun things to do.

Since it is the country's capital, you can expect a lot of hustle and bustle along with tourists strolling through the narrow and beautiful streets. Again, this city **has everything you could ever need** during your time in Malta.



### St. Julian's

- Population: 13,700 (2019)
- Postal Code: STJ

St. Julian's is another town along the sea on the north side of the island. Even more modern than Sliema, you'll find highrise buildings next to historical homes with Maltese balconies.

Digital nomads will find a plethora of cafes and some coworking spaces in the area. After a day of working, they can take advantage of small beaches such as Balluta Bay Beach or make their way over to Paceville and enjoy the nightlife.



#### Victoria

- Population: 6,900 (2014)
- Postal Code: VCT

The main city on the island of Gozo is perfect for digital nomads. With a **quieter lifestyle** taking on a much slower pace than those cities on the main island, Victoria has **plenty of places to work from**, fast wifi speeds, and gorgeous views to enjoy throughout the day.

While the city lacks professional coworking spaces, it is the perfect place for digital nomads who want **a tranquil experience** of setting up their laptops at a restaurant or cafe for a few hours. There are also museums, ancient sites, and a cinema you can explore after a day of working.

#### Mosta

- Population: 20,988 (2019)
- Postal Code: MST

Home to the Rotunda of Mosta, a basilica with the world's third-largest unsupported dome, Mosta is another town perfect for digital nomads. If you want to **live away from touristy destinations** in Malta, Mosta is the place for you.

With all of the businesses, stores, and cafes you could imagine, digital nomads will **experience an authentic Maltese lifestyle** living in Mosta.



### Bugibba

- Population: 23,000 (2018)
- Postal Code: SPB

Bugibba has a **beach town vibe** that will induce a feeling of being on vacation, especially during the summer months. There are plenty of resorts and beach clubs in the area where you can lounge and relax while living the digital nomad lifestyle.

There are also tons of restaurants and cafes where you can set up your workspace for a few hours. With some of the **best beaches and sunset views on the island**, you'll surely find Bugibba is a special and lively town for remote workers and vacationers alike.

### How to Find Accommodations in Malta

When you decide to live in Malta as a digital nomad, it doesn't always make sense to stay in **hotels as they can get pricey** depending on the time of year you plan to come.

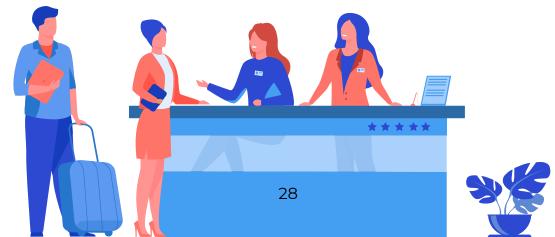
If you're planning to stay for a couple of weeks up to a month, it's a good idea to **check** <u>Airbnb</u> or <u>Vrbo</u> for comfortable accommodations.

However, if you're planning to stay for a longer period of time, such as three months to a year, it's **best to find a short-term lease** to rent an apartment.

There are two ways to find long-term accommodations.

You can search on your own using online listing sites or the Facebook Marketplace. You may also benefit from posting in local Facebook groups asking about vacancies.

You can work with a real estate agent to help you find the perfect rental property. They will act on your behalf and make sure you're renting from a reputable landlord - taking away stress and opportunity for mistakes during the leasing process.



# **Coworking Spaces**

One of the best things a digital nomad in Malta can do is find a **coworking space where they can be productive and network** with fellow remote workers. It's also a place where you can count on **extremely reliable and fast wifi**, one of the major benefits of using a dedicated coworking space.



You'll find a handful of coworking spaces throughout Malta, particularly in the cities of Sliema, Valletta, Gzira, Mosta, and St. Julian's.

These coworking spaces often offer daily or monthly membership passes, which give you access to hot desks and the rest of the space's amenities. You may also find **monthly packages for a dedicated desk** or even a private office if your work requires it.

Just some of the benefits and amenities included in Malta's most popular coworking spaces include a gym and fitness classes, networking events, free beverages, and organized social gatherings.

# Healthcare in Malta

The World Health Organization ranked Malta as the **5th nation** with the best healthcare out of 100 countries.

Malta has a **public healthcare system** that offers medical services at no cost. However, only those who reside in Malta and contribute to social security may take advantage of this free healthcare.

Otherwise, **private healthcare is available**. For digital nomads in Malta, this is what many use as they have private health insurance coverage during their stay.

### Hospitals

There are numerous hospitals in Malta that provide great healthcare to both residents and visitors. Below are the state hospitals:

- Mater Dei Hospital (Msida)
  - Services: Emergency Care, Specialists, Pediatrics
  - Address: Triq Dun Karm, L-Imsida, MSD2090, Malta
  - ° Phone: +356 2545 0000
- <u>Sir Paul Boffa Hospital (</u>Floriana)
  - Services: Oncology, Palliative Care, Dermatology
  - Address: Harper Lane, Floriana, Malta
  - Phone: +356 2122 4491
- <u>Gozo General Hospital</u> (Victoria, Gozo)
  - Services: In and Out-Patient Services
  - **Address:** Triq I-Arcisqof Pietru Pace Victoria, VCT 2520, Malta
  - **Phone:** +356 2156 1482
- Karin Grech Rehabilitation Hospital (Msida)
  - Services: Rehabilitation and Specialized Care
  - **Address:** St Luke's Hospital Campus, Telgħet Gwardamanġa, Pietà, PTA 1312, Malta
  - **Phone:** +356 2208 0000
- Mount Carmel Hospital (Attard)
  - Services: Mental Health In and Out-Patient
  - **Address:** Mount Carmel Hospital, Notabile Road, Attard, ATD 9033
  - ° **Phone:** +356 2141 5183

### **Pharmacies in Malta**

Pharmacies are plentiful in Malta. You can **find at least one in every village** on the islands.

These pharmacies sell both over-the-counter medication and prescription medications along with beauty, self-care, and home healthcare products.

Some pharmacies even **have an onsite doctor** who can help diagnose your symptoms and prescribe you medication right there. They often take same-day appointments, so you can simply walk in most times.



# Malta Digital Nomad Visa

Digital nomads and remote workers can now **live in Malta for up to four years** with the Nomad Residence Permit. The initial period is one year, but you may renew it three times for a total stay of four.

Introduced in the summer of 2021, **Malta created a digital nomad visa** calling remote workers to come and take advantage of what the islands have to offer.

# Nomad Residence Permit Requirements

- Valid Passport
- Work Remotely
- Earn €42,000 per year
- Accommodations in Malta
- Health Insurance Coverage

See more information about the requirements <u>here</u>.



### How to Apply for the Nomad Residence Permit

It's a **very simple process to apply** for the Nomad Residence Permit. It's done entirely online, so you don't have to worry about making appointments at embassies or consulates.

### **Step 1: Gather Documents**

You will need to submit the following documents with your application.

- Copy of Passport (including blank pages)
- Letter of Intent Stating Why You're Applying
- Bank Statements from last 3 months
- Proof of Remote Work (via employment or client contracts, business ownership, etc.)
- Proof of Health Insurance Coverage in Malta
- Police Conduct Certificate
- Tax and GDPR Declaration Form
- Proof of Accomodation (following Approval in Principle)

### **Step 2: Complete Online Application**

You can find the application for the Nomad Residence Permit online <u>here</u>.

Complete it and upload all of your documents.

### **Step 3: Pay Application Fee**

The fee to apply for the Nomad Residence Permit is 300€ and may be paid online via direct bank transfer while submitting the application.

### Step 4: Wait for Approval

The Residency Malta Agency will review your documents and process your visa application.

## **Benefits of the Nomad Residence Permit**

One of the benefits of holding Malta's digital nomad visa is the visa-free access to the Schengen Area for 90 days out of a 180 period. This is perfect for those who enjoy traveling on the weekends.

# **Top Instagrammable Spots**

Malta is truly a natural wonder that should be shown off through videos and pictures on your social media accounts.

Whether you're a professional content creator or simply want to document your time in this gorgeous country, these are some of the **most instagrammable spots and must-visit destinations in Malta**.

#### Marsaxlokk

This old fishing village is known for its harbor filled with colorful fishing boats known as "Luzzu." On Sundays, you'll find an exciting market with fresh fish, produce, Maltese sweets, and home items.



#### Mdina

The ancient capital of Malta, Mdina is also known as the Silent City due to the limitation on cars driving through the streets. This Medieval city is worth getting lost in the narrow streets for a few hours.

### Victoria Citadella

The main city in Gozo, Victoria, boasts a beautiful Medieval citadella that is most definitely worth the climb. With gorgeous churches, old fortresses, traditional Maltese restaurants, and views overlooking the entire island, you'll find yourself snapping photos left and right.

### Birgu (Vittoriosa)

One of the Three Cities, Birgu, is a must-visit for anyone interested in history, beautiful side streets, and admiring yachts in harbors. The town is also called Vittoriosa, after an epic siege between the Knights of Malta and the Ottomans in 1565.



### Valletta

Malta's entire capital city, Valletta, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, so it is definitely worth a visit. Walk through the streets full of little boutiques, homes with unique Maltese balconies, and exquisite churches.



### **Upper and Lower Barrakka Gardens**

While you're in Valletta, make sure to visit the Upper and Lower Barrakka Gardens. Offering gorgeous harbor views, flowing fountains, and finely curated flowers, it's a great place to sit, relax, and enjoy the beauty.

#### **Blue Grotto**

Stare in awe at the natural wonder that makes the Blue Grotto on the southside of Malta's island. The arch in the rock is quite a scene to take in. You can also hire a boat tour to get even closer to the formation.



### St. Peter's Pool

This unique swimming area is lined with a horseshoe-shaped cutout in the rock, creating the perfect natural pool. Ideal for soaking in the sun or jumping into the sea, you'll want to spend hours relaxing here.

### Malta National Aquarium

Curious about the kinds of fish and sea creatures that swim in the Mediterranean? Take a stroll through the Malta National Aquarium and see crabs, turtles, sharks, jellyfish, and more.



#### **Tal-Mixta Caves**

On the side of a cliff on the northside of Gozo you'll find Tal-Mixta Caves, which overlook the sea and a sandy beach below. It's one of the most beautiful and peaceful places you'll find on this island.





#### Sanap Sunset Cliffs

Are you ready for one of the most beautiful sunsets of your life? That's exactly what you'll get when you venture to Sanap Sunset Cliffs. Make sure to climb over to the tower for the best views of the sunset.



### Wied II-Mielaħ Window

This natural rock formation is an almost perfect rectangle cutout over the sea. It's truly a natural wonder that deserves your attention. Walking along the narrow path against the cliff to get a view of the blue waters is quite an experience to cherish.

#### **Blue Lagoon**

Speaking of blue waters, the bluest waters you'll ever see are in the Blue Lagoon on Comino Island. Catch a boat over to this party destination, sip a pina colada from pineapples, and jump into the turquoise waters.



### Malta: The Next Digital Nomad Hotspot

From lightning-fast wifi and connection to relaxing beaches to incredible history and natural wonders, it's no wonder why **digital nomads are flocking to Malta**.

Thanks to the **Nomad Residence Permit**, digital nomads who fall in love with the unique lifestyle, delicious cuisine, and the overall atmosphere of the islands can **live in Malta for up to four years.** 

In a world where you can work from anywhere... choose to work from Malta!

