INSULEUR Forum
Gozo, 25th October 2019

Organised by:

The Gozo Business Chamber
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Victoria VCT 2551, Gozo, MALTA
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Web: https://www.gozobusinesschamber.org/

Meeting Venue:

Grand Hotel Gozo
Grand Hotel, 58 Triq Sant Antnin,
Mgarr, GSM 9026, Gozo, MALTA
Tel: (+356) 22161000
Email: reservations@grandhotelmalta.com;
Web: https://www.grandhotelmalta.com/en
1. Gozo

Gozo is part of the Maltese archipelago which consists of three main islands; Malta, Gozo and Comino. It is 67 km² in size and lies approximately 6 km northwest of the nearest point of Malta. It has a length of 14 km, and a width of 7.25 km.

Gozo is more rural and known for its scenic hills. The island itself has a population of around 31,000 people. Its capital is Victoria, also known as Rabat. Currently the island is reachable by ferry which crosses the islands on a regular basis between the port of Mġarr in Gozo and Ċirkewwa in Malta. The Gozitan economy rests upon small and medium enterprises which are the backbone of its economy together with tourism, which contributes around 50% of the Gross Domestic Product of the island.

Source: [https://www.gozobusinesschamber.org/gozo/](https://www.gozobusinesschamber.org/gozo/)


**Must see, activities, experience** – please visit the official tourism website for Gozo: [https://www.visitgozo.com/](https://www.visitgozo.com/)

**Practical Information:**

- Taxi Service: Grand Hotel provides such services.
- Transportation to and from the Airport can be booked directly with the Grand Hotel upon reservation. A separate sheet with information and prices is being provided.
- Gozo Channel ferry information and schedules: [https://www.gozochannel.com/](https://www.gozochannel.com/)
2. Victoria

Victoria is both the geographical and commercial heart of Gozo. Approximately 6,000 people reside in and around this historical city. The name ‘Victoria’ was bestowed upon the city in 1887. It was previously known as Rabat. The city was renamed in honour of Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee, but locals still refer to it as Rabat. The legacy of Victoria, however, stretches back long before the Knights of St. John ruled over the Maltese islands.

Source: David Hoffman, April 12 2017, 10 Places to See in Gozo, http://davidsbeenhere.com/2017/04/12/10-places-to-see-in-gozo/


3. Citadel

The Citadel, or the Citadella, is the ancient fortified city which stands out as one of Gozo's major landmarks. Like the fortified city of Mdina in Malta, the Citadel of Victoria was created out of the need for protection against invaders. The Knights commissioned the construction of the Citadel in 1599 in order to protect the locals from any potential invasions. Inside the Citadel, one can find the iconic Gozo Cathedral. The Cathedral, is a fine baroque structure designed by Maltese architect Lorenzo Gafa in the form of a Latin cross. It is built entirely from local lime stone.

This Cathedral has something different from the other churches in Gozo, because in 1739 Gafa painted a flat dome on the inside that if you look from beneath it, it gives the impression of a real dome.

Source: David Hoffman, April 12 2017, 10 Places to See in Gozo, http://davidsbeenhere.com/2017/04/12/10-places-to-see-in-gozo/
4. Our Lady of Ta’ Pinu Basilica.

The origins of this Ta' Pinu Basilica are not known, but the first records of a chapel were found in the archives of the Curia in Gozo. The miraculous feel goes back to 1883, when a woman who was walking by heard the voice of the Virgin Mary in the chapel. In the subsequent years, many miracles and acts of grace were manifested at the site, all attributed to Our Lady of Assumption, to whom the church was dedicated.

Today’s monumental shrine to Our Lady of Ta’ Pinu was built between 1920 and 1931. It is an architectural masterpiece, especially inside with its superb sculptures and craftsmanship in Maltese stone.


Photo: Ta' Pinu Shrine – Photo by The Blonde Abroad, courtesy of [www.visitgozo.com](http://www.visitgozo.com)

5. Ġgantija

The prehistoric Ġgantija temples are one of the island’s main attractions. They are located in the small village of Xaghra. The temples comprise one of the most significant archaeological sites in Malta and also in the Mediterranean. They also predate Stonehenge. The Ġgantija Temples are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The name Ġgantija stems from the Maltese word for giant. Ritual rooms, curved walls, spiral-shape carvings, niches with altars, libation holes and animal bones provide us only with educated guesses about the original purpose of the temples. They were most likely used in the worship of a fertility goddess or Earth Mother.

Source: David Hoffman, April 12 2017, 10 Places to See in Gozo, [http://davidsbeenhere.com/2017/04/12/10-places-to-see-in-gozo/](http://davidsbeenhere.com/2017/04/12/10-places-to-see-in-gozo/)

Photo: Ġgantija North, Photo by Daniel Cilia, courtesy [www.visitgozo.com](http://www.visitgozo.com)
Malta International Airport (MIA)

MIA is located on the main island of Malta with connections practically with the entire world.

Transport from MIA to the hotel in Gozo can be booked directly with the Grand Hotel upon reservation.

Accommodation

The Grand Hotel Gozo is ideally situated on top of the gateway to Gozo Island, Mgarr Harbour. The hotel enjoys spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Gozo channel. Facilities at the hotel include an indoor pool, outdoor swimming pool with unique views, Elemis Spa with sauna and Jacuzzi, a cinema and 2 restaurants including a rooftop barbecue outdoor dining space.

The Gozo Business Chamber has secured the following rates at the Grand Hotel Mgarr Gozo (venue of the INSULEUR Forum)

Room Rates:

- 2 night stay on single occupancy at €137 per person
- 2 night stay on double occupancy at €212 for 2 persons
- 3 night stay on single occupancy at €190 per person
- 3 night stay on double occupancy at €261 for 2 persons

Above accommodation rates are on Bed & Breakfast basis. Bookings are to be made directly with the hotel on reservations@grandhotelmalta.com using the code “INSULEUR FORUM 2019” by the 23rd September 2019. Bookings after this date, and at the indicated rates, will be subject to availability.
What to do during your stay

Despite its smallness Gozo offers a number of opportunities. For a full list of things to do during your stay you can visit the following site:


It is interesting to note that Gozo is renowned for the staging of operas (See: https://www.visitgozo.com/what-to-do-in-gozo/enjoy/annual-events/operas/). During the week of the INSULEUR Forum the Astra Opera Theatre will be holding the opera Il Trovatore.

Il Trovatore, the flagship of Festival Mediterranea 2019 will be performed on the 24th and the 26th October 2018.

Booking arrangements can be made on helpdesk number +356 21550985 or on email info@mediterranea.com.mt.

Online booking and more information on the opera and Festival is available on www.teatruastra.org.mt.

Information about Astra Opera Theatre:

Teatru Astra in Victoria, Gozo was inaugurated in January 1968. It forms part of a larger musical voluntary organisation, the Soċjetà Filarmonika La Stella, founded in 1863. During these years the theatre has hosted a number of international performers. Local talent has also been extensively put to use and encouraged by the Theatre.

In 1978, Teatru Astra ventured in the greatest form of stage production the Opera. Rigoletto was first on the list. The last opera to be held at the theatre was La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi. Also, in April 2016, Teatru Astra successfully ventured into the musical genre, with the musical Grease, followed by the Evita and Jesus Christ Superstar. In November 2016 Teatru Astra launched the Astra School of Musical Theatre (ASMT).

Source: https://www.teatruastra.org.mt
Some information about ‘Il Trovatore’:

‘Il Trovatore’ is an opera in 4 acts by Giuseppe Verdi. It was first staged in Rome on the 19 January 1853.

This throwback to the golden age of opera is a perfect storm of excitement: a poignant human story spiked with ferocious drama and fraught with conflicting deep seated emotions and sharpened resolve. It is a winner from the word go. Verdi created his most glorious music mixing gallantry with the ethereal to reach truly astonishing heights. His genius for the dramatic shines forth undimmed throughout. In ‘Il Trovatore’ he never nods; his flair for the exquisitely melodious never lacks. It is indeed a top crowd puller as only a few are.