
Personal and Other Insurance

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

Climate

September in Malta is usually characterized by warm weather with a chance of showers, with an average temperature of 26°C during the day.

Telecommunications

Broadband Internet Access and fax facilities are readily available while Vodafone, Go and Melita provide the latest generation mobile telephony services (WAP, GPRS). Relatively cheap international calling cards may be bought from various outlets.

Currency

The Euro € is the official currency of Malta. Major credit cards are widely accepted although cash is usually expected in less touristy locations, in smaller retail outlets or for inexpensive purchases.

Banks

There are banks in all the towns and villages with additional "Bureaux de Change" in Sliema, St. Julians and Valletta.

Bank of Valletta and HSBC banking hours are as follows:

Bank of Valletta

Monday - Thursday 08:30 - 14:00

Friday 08:30 - 15:30

Saturday 08:30 - 12:30

HSBC

Monday - Thursday 08:30 - 13:30

Friday 08:30 - 16:30

Saturday 08:30 - 12:30

The bank at the airport is open twenty-four hours.

Electricity

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

Leisure

Malta offers facilities for practically all kinds of sports and the Marsa Sports Club has an 18-hole golf-course, 18 tennis courts, a racetrack and several badminton and squash courts. Many of the leading hotels in Malta have modern health and fitness facilities.

Health

Malta has an excellent health service. Travellers do not normally require certificates of vaccination or immunization to enter Malta. Visitors from EU member states should make sure that they have a European Health Insurance Card for free or reduced-cost state-provided health care. It is advisable that all visitors, irrespective of their nationality, take out a personal insurance policy.

The two public hospitals are: (Malta) Mater Dei Hospital, B'Kara By-pass, B'Kara, Tel.2545 0000; (Gozo) Gozo General Hospital, Victoria, Tel. 21 560881.

There are also two private hospitals, St. James Capua Hospital, G Borg Olivier Str, Sliema, Tel. 21 335235 and St. Philip's Hospital, Triq Salvu Psaila, St Venera, Tel. 21 442211.

Language

The national language is Maltese, though English is also an official language and is widely spoken in Malta.

Postal Services

Stamps may be bought from most Newsagents/Stationers. For full postal services the main Post Office is located in Castille Place, Valletta whilst branches may be found in most areas. Postal rates for an ordinary letter/postcard are as follows:

Local: Euros 0.20

Europe and UK Euros 0.37

USA and Canada Euros 0.51

Australia Euros 0.63

Shopping

Shops are usually open from 09:00 to 13:00 and 16:00 to 19:00. However, many are closed on Saturday afternoon. Malta is renowned for its lace, Mdina Glass and reasonably priced gold and silver items. Local honey and wine have been famous since antiquity.

Markets:

Il-Monti, Valletta, Mondays to Saturdays, 07:30 to 12:00;

Floriana, Park & Ride, Sundays, 07:30 to 12:00.

Marsaxlokk, Sunday mornings.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergency (Police, Ambulance, Fire) 112

Overseas Operator 1152

Directory Enquiries 1182

Vodafone Operator 1189

Go Operator 1187

Melita 27 27 5000

Flight Enquiries 5004 3333 (Malta International Airport)

Gozo Ferries 21 556114
