

The Republic of Malta is an archipelago consisting of three islands in central Mediterranean Sea between Sicily and the North African coast that still has some British influences. With just an area of 316km², its population is of approximately 450,000 inhabitants, and thus, Malta is considered to be one of Europe's and the world's smallest country. As a member of the European Union, Malta joins another 18 countries and uses the Euro as its currency.

Why move to Malta?

Weather

The weather is the most attractive feature of the island as the sun shines about 300 days a year, offering the islands a very favourable and pleasant climate nearly all year round. This means that everyone can enjoy the sandy beaches not only in summer but also in other months of the year as Malta is known as having the highest annual sea temperature in Europe. The coldest month is January with an average temperature of 13°C, while the hottest month is July with an average temperature of 27°C.

Transportation

Being a small island, vicinity to other cities/villages is also an important factor. When moving to Malta, it will only take an hour by car to travel from the north to the south of the island during which you can admire the country's rich history and culture. If you don't own a car, you can make use of the local transport system which is available across all the islands. The main types of transport are the bus, water taxi and the ferry between the islands of Malta and Gozo.

Driving

The Maltese islands kept the British tradition and influence of driving on the left-hand side of the road. Not just this, but road signs and markings are also similar to the British. One requires being at least 18 years old of age and having a valid driving licence or learner's permit issued by Transport Malta to be able to drive in Malta. However, EU citizens can drive in Malta without the need to obtain any additional permits. They are also able to exchange their driving licence for a Maltese driving licence as long as they have taken up normal residence in Malta for at least 185 days.

Links to other countries

Sea - There is a ferry that operates daily from/to Sicily. Air - There's only one international airport in Malta which is extremely well connected to North Africa and Europe. Several low-cost airlines keep investing in new routes to/from Malta due to the popularity of the island, mostly in the summer period. This gives more opportunities for tourists to explore Malta's hidden gems. In fact, on average, Malta hosts an average of 1,200,000 tourists a year, with many of them coming from United Kingdom, Italy and Germany.

Movement of people

In 2007, Malta joined the Schengen Area, meaning that it joined other EU member states in abolishing all types of border control at the mutual borders of countries within this Area. This makes travelling even faster between EU countries. Once you reach Malta and get your residence card done, you can easily reach the rest of the Schengen countries.

Tourist visa

Third-country nationals that acquire a visa may enter or remain in the territory of Malta and all other Schengen Member States for a period not exceeding 90 days (3 months).

Travelling with pets

Your pet is welcome in Malta and can come with you if it has a Pet Passport, is microchipped and all required treatments have been given to the pet. This movement is possible as Malta is a member of the European Pet Travel Scheme. If all paperwork is provided, pets can enter the country without quarantine restrictions.

Languages

Being a country that forms part of the European Union, the Maltese language is one of the official languages of the EU. Although Maltese and English are the two official languages of the islands that are spoken fluently by nearly the whole population, most locals also speak Italian due to the historic influence over Malta in the past and because Italian broadcasts used to and still reach the island.

Religion

The Maltese Constitution establishes Catholicism as the state religion and is in fact reflected in the Maltese culture, namely the traditional village feasts and in the fact that across the islands there are a total of 359 churches. There are also other religions practiced in Malta, mainly Islam and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Education

Malta's education system is very highly rated, and the various levels of education are offered through the public, church and private sectors. These include a large number of English-speaking schools as well as International schools. The local education system followed the British one and thus, schooling is compulsory between the ages of 5 and sixteen.

Healthcare

Malta has a long history of providing publicly funded health care which is still available to all local and EU citizens. Apart from Mater Dei Hospital (the main hospital), there are a number of public health centers in different localities as well as other private practices and hospitals.

Other information

Malta is considered as one of the safest places to live in Europe due to the very low levels of crime. The standard electricity is also influenced by the British. In fact, in Malta one must use a 3-pin plug.