

STREET ART

20 CHARACTERS

**Corner of
Hompesch Road
and Vjal Kottoner
Fgura
Southeast Malta**

At one of the main intersections of this town, two large empty walls have been painted over. One of these is behind a busy bus stop, and the artist decided to paint a number of people waiting for the bus, including the young people, old age pensioners, workers, and so on that you would expect to find at this bus stop. The other wall, across the street, features various portraits of people.



21 ENVIRONMENT

**Triq Bellavista
San Ġwann
Central Malta**

The collaboration of a collective of street artists (SeaPuppy, Emoon, Twitch, IELLA and LANGER) has added colour to a white wall along a busy thoroughfare. The idea behind the decoration of this wall was the environment. It features landscapes, a running horse, and a woman blowing dandelions, among others.

22 SKATE PARK

**M A Vassalli Road
Msida
Central Malta**

A roundabout in the middle of one of the busiest intersections, close to the University of Malta, has been turned into a skate park, and artists have covered the walls with colourful street art scenes featuring figures and popular characters from their own cultural background. There is no real connection between the artworks, but they do highlight the diversity of the artists.



53 **SHOE SCRAPER**

OUR LADY OF
PORTO SALVO AND
ST DOMINIC CHURCH
Merchants St
Valletta

Various large buildings have two metal strips next to their doorways allowing guests to clean the mud off their before entering. You can see such shoe scrapers at the entrance to Our Lady of Porto Salvo and St Dominic Church in Valletta. In the old days, the streets were full of mud and dust and so it was imperative that you entered the church with clean shoes. You can find such shoe scrapers on many buildings.

54 **SMALL WINDOW
AND KNEELING
STONE**

CHURCH OF OUR LADY
OF THE ANNUNCIATION
Annunciation St
Rabat
Northwest Malta

When walking in the countryside, you will encounter several small churches, some looking as if they have been abandoned and forgotten. And yet certain religious feasts are still held in some of these churches. You may even come upon a church that is open and decorated for the feast day. When these churches are closed, there is still an opportunity to say a prayer in front of them. This church has two small windows, one on each side of the door, and a kneeling stone in front. This offers the possibility for a passer-by to stop, kneel, and say a prayer, while looking towards the main altar through the window.

55 **EYES ON LUZZUS**

Triq is-Sajjieda
Marsaxlokk
Southeast Malta

Take a close look at the bows of the colourful *luzzus* (fishing boats) in Marsaxlokk Bay, the largest fishing village in Malta, and you may see that they all feature an eye. These are believed to be a tradition from the Phoenician times, and they are referred to as the Eye of Osiris or Horus. They are meant to provide divine protection against any mishaps while out on the open seas.



129 **FORT MANOEL**

Manoel Island

Gżira

Central Malta

+356 2065 5500

midimalta.com

One of the forts built by the Knights of St John in the 18th century, during the reign of Grand Master António Manoel de Vilhena. One of the best completed fortifications, it was later used by the British authorities. During World War II it was a submarine base, suffering a number of direct hits. After years of abandonment, it has recently been restored, and in recent years a number of open days have been organised. The fort offers visitors a closer look at military architecture and excellent views of Marsamxett Harbour and Valletta.

130 **FOUGASSE**

Xatt L-Ahmar

Għajnsielem

Gozo

The fougasse was an ingenious way to add more firepower to the defence of the coastline. These large well-like holes were dug at a 45-degree angle into the rock, close to the shoreline. Gunpowder would be placed at the bottom of the hole, topped with several stone boulders of varying dimensions. Essentially the hollow was shaped to simulate a mortar and fire these boulders at the unsuspecting enemy. These fougasses were introduced in Malta in 1740 and more than 60 have since been excavated along the coastline of the islands. This is one of the best preserved.





MEDIEVAL MDINA

PLACES

ENIGMATIC PLACES ————— 132

HIDDEN FILM sets ————— 135

Lost LANES ————— 141

TRADITIONS *and* CUSTOMS

only the Maltese would understand

178 BOĊĊI

**Triq il-Kunvent
Żabbar
Southeast Malta**

The word *boċċi* means marbles, but in Malta this refers to an old street game that is played with wooden balls in various sizes. This is a game for all seasons, and there is also a national league with different village clubs. In summer *boċċi* is a popular pastime, to be played with neighbours, usually in the evening and mostly near the sea. There are a number of courts all around the islands, where you can see people practicing and playing this game.



180 FESTA FIREWORKS

179 FESTA

**St Lawrence St
Vittoriosa
Southeast Malta**

The Maltese *festa* or village feast is the main event of the year in many communities. More than just a religious procession, these local feasts are a celebration and demonstration of pride, with villagers lavishly decorating their church and streets and organising various festive events throughout the feast week. It is also an opportunity to visit the churches, as many cultural treasures are usually on display. The Feast of St Lawrence is celebrated on the 10th of August, with the city decked out with banners, flags and other street decorations. A must-see.

180 FESTA FIREWORKS

**Triq il-Konvoy
ta' Santa Marija
Mqabba
South Malta**

No Maltese feast is complete without a proper fireworks display. They usually start one week before the feast day and continue to increase in volume and output throughout the week, with the main event taking place on the eve of the feast day. This is held late in the evening so everyone can enjoy the colourful display. The fireworks at Mqabba are particularly impressive.

181 FESTA STREET DECORATIONS

**Republic St
Valletta**

Each parish puts up excellent and decorative street ornaments for its feast week, such as heavy damask banners that are richly decorated with floral designs or even paintings of saints. There will be lots of flags flying from the rooftops, offering a unique spectacle. The street decorations usually also include life-size papier mâché statues of saints associated with the patron saint, that are placed on wooden pedestals. These have been painted to look like marble. The main decorations would be near the church. Definitely worth checking out.



232 **G HAR LAPSI**
Siggiewi
South Malta

A rocky beach that is very popular with the locals. Very scenic, with clear and clean blue seas. A great place for snorkelling as well, as the various rock formations provide spectacular views of what lies beneath the sea. The island of Filfla can be seen in the distance.

233 **COMINO**
Comino

This small island, between the archipelago's two main islands of Malta and Gozo, is well-known for its clear blue seas. The famous Blue Lagoon is always teeming with boats and swimmers. However, there are several other smaller bays around Comino where you can swim in the same clear and clean blue seas, that are less crowded. Also an excellent location for a hike during the cooler months.



Original **SOUVENIRS** to bring back

250 **BRISTOW POTTERIES**

TA' QALI CRAFTS
VILLAGE

Attard

Central Malta

+356 2142 1473

bristowpotteries.com

One of the oldest manufacturers of ceramics in Malta, this family-run business was founded in 1972. At any given time, they have more than 700 artistic products on display at their shop and factory, where you can admire the many different colours that are produced on site. They also do custom designs.

251 **MDINA GLASS**

TA' QALI CRAFTS
VILLAGE

Attard

Central Malta

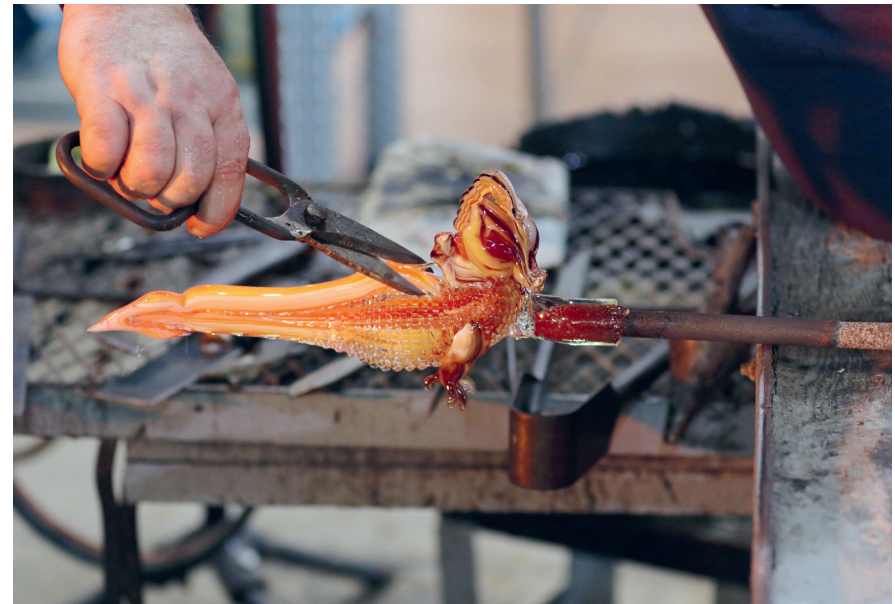
+356 2141 5786

mdinaglass.com.mt

Malta's oldest glassworks produces exquisitely decorated, handblown glassware, with rich colours and unique shapes and designs. Visit the shop and factory where you can see the artisans at work. The items on display include smaller items as well magnificent large pieces of glassware. A must-visit.

252 **MALTA FILIGREE**

You can find handcrafted Malta filigree in all the main shopping centres such as Valletta and Sliema. A tradition that may have been inherited from the ancient Phoenicians, filigree jewellery is exquisite, intricate and widely reputed. Shop for small souvenirs to bring home to family or friends or other unique pieces.





Malta's CRAFT BEER scene

335 THE BREWHOUSE

CENTRAL BUSINESS
DISTRICT

Mdina Road, Zone 2

Birkirkara

Central Malta

+356 9988 9307

thebrewhouse

malta.com

The first brewery to be established on the island in 1928, which is renowned for its award-winning local beers. A great favourite with the locals as well as with visitors. The group also represents several international brands. Their products can be found all over the islands, at any small, local and chic place. Check out the brewery experience during your visit to learn more about the history of this important local institution.

336 LORD CHAMBRAY BREWERY

Mġarr Road

Xewkija

Gozo

+356 2155 4324

lord-chambray.com

A young dynamic brewery and Malta's first craft beer brewery. The brewery welcomes visitors for tours, during which you can sample their varied products. A small brewery, but with the potential to expand.

337 THE BREW

74 The Strand

Sliema

Central Malta

+356 2703 0398

thebrewmalta.com

A craft beer that is lovingly brewed and served specifically in one location, close to the seafront, near vibrant Sliema. The family-run micro-brewery believes in a personal touch. The Brew is famous for brewing its own beer in the restaurant, which serves food that pairs beautifully with the brews. Booking recommended.

