



Country Profile: Malta

Malta is a small, developed, democratic Mediterranean island nation, positioned as a cultural stepping-stone between Europe and North Africa. Malta became a member of the European Union with nine other new member states on May 1, 2004, and became a full member of the Schengen area in March 2008. Tourist facilities of all categories are widely available. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Malta for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Malta
Continent:	Europe
Capital City:	Valletta
Boundary Countries:	
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	St. James Hospitals– in Gozo, Sliema & Zabbar, St. Luke's Hospital and St. Philip's Hospital
Main Cities:	Valletta, Rabat (Gozo, another island), Rabat (Malta)
Country Size:	316 sq km
Population:	400,214

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Maltese (official), English (official)
Currency:	Maltese Lira (MTL)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 98%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 21 September (1964)
Economic Status:	Malta is a small, developed, democratic Mediterranean island nation, positioned as a cultural stepping-stone between Europe and North Africa. Malta became a member of the European Union with nine other new member states on May 1, 2004. The economy is dependent on foreign trade, manufacturing (especially electronics and textiles), and tourism. Continued sluggishness in the European economy is holding back exports, tourism, and overall growth.
Security:	Armed Forces of Malta (AFM; includes air and maritime elements)
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy Valletta Ta' Qali National Park Attard, ATD 4000 Phone: (356) 2561 4000
Major Airports:	Airports: 1, Airports w/paved runways: 1 Luqa – Malta International Airport (MLA/LMML) Luqa Airport, Malta, Luqa, LQA 05, MALTA Tel: +356 (0)2124 9600, +356 (0)2169 7800 Fax: +356 (0)2124 9563 Website: www.maltairport.com

Customs, hours: 24 hours
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