

**Victoria.** Your stay in Gozo should begin with a visit to the island's capital. Victoria is also known as Rabat (which means city). This commercial hub houses two large shopping centres and a street market (known as it-Tokk), which is very popular with locals and tourists alike. At the centre of Victoria, surrounded by the maze of charming narrow streets is St. George's Basilica. Built in the 16th century, the church reflects the history of Gozo with its artefacts of former cultures and settlements dating back to Roman times. Inside the Citadel, are the Cathedral, the Law Courts, the Cathedral Museum, the Archaeological Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Folklore Museum, the Bishop's Palace and the bastions. There is also a craft centre housed in the old prison buildings.

**Xagħra.** The megalithic temples of Ggantija are found in the village of Xagħra, and are an outstanding example of the prehistoric monuments found on the Maltese Islands. According to latest analysis, they were built around 3600 BC, earlier than the first pyramid in Egypt and Stonehenge in England. The Alabaster Cave (popularly known as Xerri's Grotto), Ninu's Grotto and Calypso Cave are also worth visiting.

**Fungus Rock.** Also known as "il-Ġebbla tal-Ġeneral", this rock stands proudly and menacingly in the sweeping bay alongside the Inland Sea. It was here that Fungus Gaulitanus, a fungus much prized by the Knights of St. John for its medicinal powers, once grew.

**Dwejra.** The Inland Sea is a superb natural phenomenon, set in a deep recess in the rock coastline. On calm days, small fishing boats carry visitors out to the sea through the narrow fissure, in order to see Fungus Rock, the Azure Window, the Coral Seabed & the caves.

**Azure Window.** This rare rock formation also known as "it-Tieqa" (the window), measuring about 100m high, was created by waves and rough seas weathering the rocks over thousands of years.

**Ta' Pinu Basilica.** This Basilica is a centre of pilgrimage, which has been visited by Pope J. Paul II. An original 16<sup>th</sup> century chapel is integrated within the church. This is a place worth visiting.

**The Rotunda.** Dominating the village and landscape of Xewkija is the church of St. John. It has what is reputed to be the third largest unsupported dome in Europe, known as the Rotunda.

**The Island of Comino.** This island is the smallest inhabited island of the Maltese Archipelago. The famous Blue Lagoon is not only excellent for swimming but is also one of the most wonderful sights of the Maltese Islands. The island measures about 2.5 sq. kms and has only eight permanent residents. There is no traffic, no noise, and for most of the year it is covered with wild flowers and thyme. A resident policeman and a priest look after the island's welfare. Overlooking the channels is a 17<sup>th</sup> century watchtower.

**The countryside.** All visitors quickly notice that Gozo's countryside is much greener than Malta's. In several parts the carob tree breaks the carpet of greenery. Its predominance in Gozo is one reason why the landscape is greener and the fields are more fertile.

**The beaches.** Gozo's shoreline measures about 43 km. Pleasant beaches worth visiting are: Ir-Ramla l-Famra, Xlendi Bay, Marsalforn Bay, Mgarr ix-Xini, Dwejra, San Blas, Daħlet Qorrot and Hondoq ir-Rummien.

**Places of general interest.** These are many and varied, such as: Għarb Folklore Museum, Museum of Archaeology, Museum of Natural Science, Toy Museum, Kelinu Grima Maritime Museum, Ta'Kola Windmill Museum, Gozo Heritage (Walk Through 7000 years of history), Gozo 360° (an audiovisual show), Ta'Dbiegi Crafts Village, Ta'Dbiegi Hill, Cart Ruts (next to Ta' Ċenċ cliffs), the Lourdes Sanctuary, Lunzjata Valley, Qbajjar Salt Pans, the chapel of San Dimitri (the furthest North West point of the Maltese Islands), Jordan Light House, Kenuna Tower, Mgarr ix-Xini Tower, Xlendi Tower.

**"FESTAS" In Gozo.** In Għarb on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of July we celebrate "The visitation of Our Lady". In Kerċem on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of July we celebrate the feast of "Our Lady of Help". In Victoria on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of July "St. George the Martyr" is celebrated. In Sannat, on the 4<sup>th</sup> week of July, the feast of "St. Margaret" is celebrated. In San Lawrenz on the last Sunday of July the feast of "St. Lawrence" is celebrated. In Qala on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of August, the feast of "St. Joseph" is celebrated. In Victoria, on the 15<sup>th</sup> August the feast of "The Assumption" is a very popular feast. In Zebbug on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, we celebrate the feast of "Santa Maria". In Ghajnsielem on the last Sunday in August, the feast of "Our Lady of Loneto" is celebrated. In Xlendi on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September, we celebrate "Our Lady of Mt. Carmel". On the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, in Xagħra the feast of "The Birth of the Virgin Mary". In Victoria on the 8<sup>th</sup> September or the Sunday after, the feast of "Our Lady of Graces" is celebrated. In Nadur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of November, the feast of "St. Coronatus" is celebrated. In Zebbug on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of November the feast of "St. Fortunatus" is celebrated. On the 8<sup>th</sup> December, in Qala & Victoria the feast of "Immaculate Conception" is celebrated.

**Taxi & Mini Bus Service - Car, Motor Scooter & Bicycle Hire.** Saint Joseph Rentals is our recommended partner. For more information you can either refer to the school notice board or the school front desk, or phone the garage directly on 99496821. Taxi Service from anywhere to anywhere in Gozo is at a fixed rate of 12.00 Euros per trip (late night service is subject to a surcharge) and special rates are applied for the other services too. **Please state that you are a B.E.L.S. student to be entitled to the pre-agreed rates and it is suggested that you inform us of your direct request to monitor the services.**

**The school cannot be held responsible for any service not being organised by the school.**

*The above information has been carefully compiled. The school cannot be held responsible for any errors or changes without notice.*

**Flight confirmation:- It is recommended to confirm your return flight arrangements 48 hours before your departure.**

**Useful Telephone numbers: -**

Ministry of Gozo Enquiries: 21561482  
 Gozo Tourist Association: 21565171  
 Victoria Bus Terminus: 21562040 Ext. 218  
 Gozo Ferry Service: 21556114, 21561622  
 Gozo Heliport: 21557905, 21561301  
 Gozo Sports Complex: 21560677, 21560678  
 Gozo Public Lending Library: 21553729  
 HSBC – Victoria Branch: 2155626  
 Bank of Valletta – Head Office: 21553714

General Hospital: 21561600/1/2/3/4  
 Health Centre Rabat: 21562295  
**Police District HQ: 21562040 –191**  
**Fire Brigade: 21556188 – 199**  
**Ambulance: 196**  
**Emergency: 112**  
 Emergency Rescue Air / Sea : Day: 21809279  
 Patrol Boat Rescue: 21824216, Night 21824220  
 Overseas operator Service: 1152

Local directory enquiries: 1182  
 Air Malta: 21662211  
 Aeroflot: 21232641  
 Alitalia: 21248980  
 Frosch: 21320461  
 Swissair: 21249336  
 Lufthansa: 21252020  
 Condor: 21802323

**Gozo Channel Co Ltd/ Midas Ltd Ferry Schedule from 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008 to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009****Mgarr Harbour (Gozo) - Cirkewwa (Malta)**

01.15, 03.45, 05.00, 06.00, 06.30 (Mon only), 6.45 (Tue to Sun), 7.00 (Mon only), 07.30, 08.15, 09.00, 09.45, 10.30, 11.15, 12.15\*, 13.15\*, 14.15, 15.00, 15.45, 16.30, 17.15, 18.15, 19.30, 20.45, 22.00, 23.30,

**Cirkewwa (Malta) - Mgarr Harbour (Gozo)**

01.45, 04.15, 5.45, 06.30 (Mon only), 6.45 (Tue to Sun), 7.00 (Mon only), 07.30, 08.15, 09.00, 09.45, 10.30, 11.15, 12.15\*, 13.15\*, 14.15, 15.00, 15.45, 16.30, 17.15, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.15, 22.30, 24.00.

\*On Friday, Sunday and eve of a Public Holiday the two trips scheduled from Mgarr and Cirkewwa @ 12.15 and 13.15 will be replaced by another three trips at 12.00, 12.45 and 13.30

To check on departure please phone 9947 4142.

**Bus Schedules from Victoria from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

**Bus No 14 – Kercem/St. Lucija:** 7.15, 9.00, 10.10 (Mon – Sat)

**Bus No 21- Marsalforn:** 07.35, 09.05, 10.30\*, 12.00\*, 13.30, 14.30\*, 16.35. \*Proceeds to Qbajjar (Mon – Sun)

**Bus No 42/43 – Xewkija/Ghajnsielem/Qala/Nadur:** 08.00, 08.30, 09.00, 09.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.45, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00 \*\* Sunday & Public Holidays only

09.00 & 11.00 (Sunday) *Bus departures from villages to Victoria approximately 10/20 minutes after above indicated times.*

**Bus No 50/51- Cawla, Sannat Square/Ta'Cenc/Munxar:** 7.15, 9.00, 10.00, 11.45, 17.15 (Mon-Sat)

*Bus departures from villages to Victoria approximately 10 minutes after above indicated times*

**Bus No 64/ – Xaghra:** 7.00, 8.15, 9.00, 9.45, 10.30, 11.15, 12.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00 (Mon - Sat except Public Holidays). 10.00 & 12.00 on Sunday & Public Holidays.

**Bus No 91- Zebbug/Ghasri/Gharb/San Lawrenz:** 7.00, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30\*\*, 17.30 (Mon - Sat), \*\* proceeds to Ta'Pinu

**Bus No 87 - Xlendi** 9.30, 11.15, 12.30, 14.00, 15.15, 16.15. **Monday to Sundays.**

**Bus No 25 – Mgarr Harbour:**

Departures approximately 30 minutes before every ferry trip to Malta, between 05.30 and 19.00. Last bus from Victoria: 19.00.

Last bus from Mgarr Harbour to Victoria is at 19.15 hrs. **Service is also available on Sundays.**

The cost per trip does not exceed € 0.47

**For more information please contact: Victoria Bus Terminus Transport Assistant Tel: 21561530 / 21562040 Ext: 218**

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