

right time and we managed to keep the virus well under control.

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Various articles and reports in influential publications have included Malta amongst the safest countries to visit in a post-Covid scenario.

Now that the situation has improved sufficiently in a number of countries, we are ready to open our doors to visitors from overseas who have been longing to come to Malta but couldn't because of international travel restrictions.

In the meantime, we have been preparing for this moment so that we can ensure that your stay is pleasant, rewarding and safe. We promise it will be even better than before.

Welcome back.

Malta, Gozo & Colnino

# **ENTRY**

### **AIRPORT**

Malta International Airport will reopen for commercial flights on July 1st 2020. A list of 'safe' countries has been drawn up and will be updated weekly. For the latest list of approved countries go to www.visitmalta.com/en/reopening-airport.

More destinations will be announced in due course, once clearance from the health authorities is received.

### **ON ARRIVAL**

Travellers to Malta will NOT be subjected to a swab test on arrival.

There will only be thermal screening at the airport and persons arriving will be asked to fill a self-declaration form requesting information on their travels in the previous 30 days.

Specifically, they will be asked to confirm that they have not travelled anywhere outside the countries listed.

The process is designed to be as smooth as possible, whilst ensuring that proper safeguards are in place.



### **VISA**

There is no change in visa requirements. Like before, EU nationals do not require a visa to enter Malta, whereas non-EU nationals require a Schengen visa. For information refer to the travel advice page on https://foreignandeu.gov.mt/en

### **SAFETY PRACTICES**

Arriving passengers will be required to wear a facemask or visor whilst inside the terminal building. This applies also to coach transfers from the plane to the terminal or vice versa. This is for their own safety and that of fellow travellers and staff.

Airport personnel will also be wearing a facemask or visor and will take extra special care with regard to hygiene, including frequent washing of hands and use of sanitisers.



# **GETTING AROUND**

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT, TAXIS AND RENTAL VEHICLES**

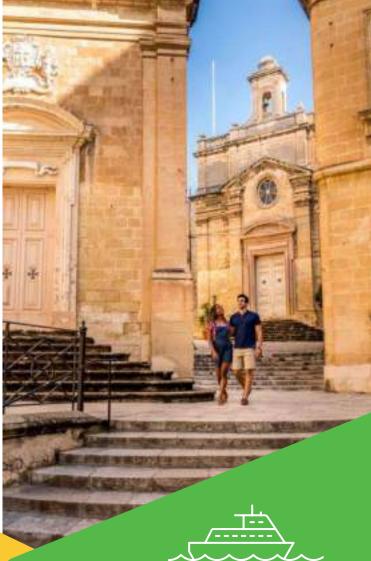
Public transport in Malta and Gozo is operating normally. Clear guidelines and practices are in place that ensure frequent aeriation and total disinfection of buses and coaches.

Taxis are sanitised after every trip and rental vehicles are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after being returned by clients.



### WEARING A MASK OR A VISOR

Wearing a mask or a visor is only required in certain confined or indoor places where social distancing cannot be followed. In most places, there is no such requirement.



Ferries to Gozo and boat trips to Comino are also operating regularly.



RELAX  $\mathcal{E}$  ENJOY

All hotels and accommodation establishments that are open for business must comply with a set of protocols that are intended to safeguard the safety of guests and employees. These protocols are based on three guiding principles:

- Maintain Social Distancing
- Increased Levels of Hygiene and
- Wearing of Masks or Visors (where required)

and a fourth principle

• Having fun!

### **CERTIFIED COMPLIANT**

The Malta Tourism Authority has inspected these establishments before they opened to certify that they are compliant with these COVID-19 protocols and therefore provide the highest levels of cleanliness and safety.

Audits will be carried out periodically to ensure adherence to these standards.

Hotels, restaurants and other establishment that pass the test are awarded a special sticker that looks like the one shown here. This sticker is displayed on the door or close to the entrance to indicate that the establishment is compliant. If at any time an establishment is found to be non-compliant, the sticker will be removed and prompt action is taken by the authorities.

Hotel staff have been trained to maintain the required safety levels in terms of health and hygiene whilst giving the best service to their guests.



Hotels, restaurants, shops and attractions have also invested in equipment that is intended to minimise risks, including contactless payment readers, sanitising gel dispensers, pedal operated bins, disposable paper towels, and screens or dividers. They will also be disinfecting more frequently door handles, handrails, lift buttons, public phones and other items of common use to ensure your safety.

In other words, they will take care of things so all you have to do is relax and enjoy your stay.



Catering establishments, including restaurants and snack bars, also have to abide by a set of protocols that guarantee maximum cleanliness and safety.

The same principles of social distancing and hygiene that apply for hotels, apply for restaurants too.

In this case, social distancing refers mostly to the spacing out of tables and chairs so that people are at a safe distance away from one other. This distance varies depending on whether the seating is indoors or outdoors.

Other special precautions have been taken, such as eliminating buffets and self-service counters, removing salt and pepper cruets in favour of disposable sachets.

Once again, the emphasis is on maintaining a high level of cleanliness, including the wiping of chairs and tables after each use, sanitising counter tops, handrails etc and making sure toilets are disinfected frequently.

The same high level of hygiene (if not even more) is maintained in the kitchen and food preparation areas, where cleanliness is fundamental.

As for hotels, restaurants are also inspected and certified compliant by the Malta Tourism Authority, for your peace of mind.





### **BEACHES**

Maltese summers are synonymous with sun, sea and life on the beach. This summer is no different, except for some measures which will make the beaches safer and cleaner than before.

Measures include daily beach cleaning, more frequent emptying and disinfection of bins and public toilets, spacing out deckchairs and umbrellas, and practising social distancing of 2 metres when queuing.

For the rest, it's the usual mix of sand, sea, sun and fun.





## SWIMMING POOLS

For those who prefer to swim in a public pool, rather than in the sea, the same principles apply.

There must be a minimum distance of 2 metres in every direction between each unit of 1 umbrella + 2 sunbeds in the open area around pools. Only one person per sunbed is allowed.

Staff at pools will be wearing visors and will take care that all equipment and surfaces are thoroughly cleaned and sanitised regularly.

And only 50% of the maximum bathing capacity will be allowed (which means you will have more space for swimming and lounging).



# **DOING THINGS**

## SHOPS, MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS

Shops, museums and tourist attractions are open to the public and are also observing the same safety principles mentioned previously.

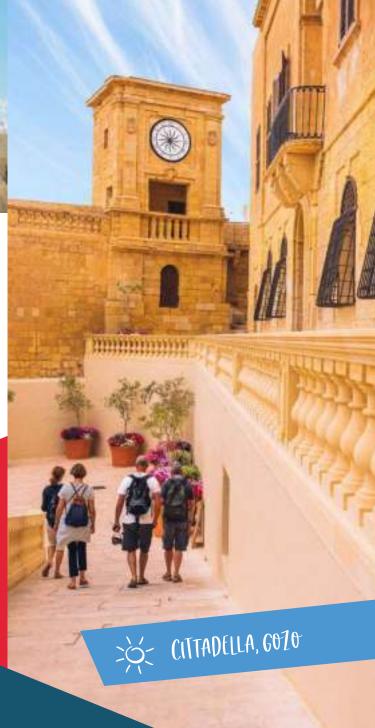
## **SCUBA DIVING**

A full set of protocols have been set to ensure your safety. Internationally recognised standards are being followed.











# INFO

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can contact the Malta Tourism Authority Helpline on telephone (356) 21692447 or email tourismcovid-19helpline@visitmalta.com.





# Enjoy Your Ctary



