

MALTA

Your EU Destination For Business Success

Setting up in Malta



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1. Malta at a Glance

1.1 Introduction

Malta, a small and densely-populated island nation is located in the Mediterranean Sea within Southern Europe. It is just 93km (58 miles) south of Sicily and 288km (179 miles) to its south is North Africa.

The national language is Maltese, however, both Maltese and English are recognised as official languages. Practically all Maltese are bilingual and many are also conversant in Italian and have at least a working knowledge of French or German (foreign language fluency % of the population: English 88%; Italian 66%; French 17%; German 6%).

The island enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate with dry, warm summers and mild winters. The Maltese people are friendly and hospitable and the lifestyle is a comfortable and relaxed one.

The country's level of education is very high and is provided by international, private, church and public schools. Malta has efficient banking facilities and high standards of affordable accommodation. The annual living costs are substantially lower than many other European countries. There are extensive cultural, social and sporting activities on the island and above all it offers a safe living environment.

Malta offers a stable economic and political environment. The labour force is a very productive one, which is highly educated and extremely flexible (availability of professional, managerial and technical staff, ready supply of top graduates, excellent work ethic and technology-experienced workforce).

The total direct labour costs hold up well at 30% to 50% of those in older EU Member States and Malta has a strong business base in manufacturing and services. It has established links with North African, Middle East and other markets in the Mediterranean region. Malta also profits from a long tradition of trade with Arab countries.

Malta has a fully developed telecommunications infrastructure and a superior quality of life with first-rate healthcare facilities in both public and private hospitals. The island is fast becoming the regional centre of excellence in IT and financial services sectors and last but surely not least, Malta offers a transparent legal system.

1.2 Coming to Malta

Malta International Airport (MIA) is the only airport in Malta and it serves as the main hub for Air Malta, though many other airlines also fly to the airport, including many holiday airlines. The MIA is located between Luqa and Gudja, just 8km from the capital city Valletta. The airport terminal is spacious, efficient and enjoys the latest state-of-the-art facilities.

The MIA is directly linked with most major European business centres. The local airline, Air Malta, offers customers a selection of around 50 scheduled destinations to/from Europe, North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean. Air Malta has a fleet of 11 Airbus aircraft configured in business and economy.

Further information can be obtained from: <http://www.maltairport.com>

A regular ferry and catamaran service links several Italian and Sicilian ports to Valletta, Malta's capital city. Several shipping lines serve a number of Mediterranean ports as well.

Further information can be obtained from: <http://www.virtuferries.com>

1.3 Getting Around

Malta's public transport system has a vast network covering the whole island of Malta. Besides offering the normal scheduled bus service, there are also a number of direct routes together with a special night service covering popular night spots on the island. The main bus terminus is in Valletta and the longest bus journey takes about fifty minutes; the average ride is between 20 and 30 minutes.

For the frequent user, weekly tickets are available that make travelling by bus that much cheaper. With a Bus travel ticket one can travel on all routes around the island of Malta from 5:30 till 23:00. These tickets are available from ticket booths, ticketing machines and bus drivers.

Further information can be obtained from: <http://www.atp.com.mt>

1.4 Living in Malta

Living on this tiny island offers a comfortable and relaxed lifestyle. Nowhere is more than 30 minutes away from one's office or home. Foreigners find it very easy to integrate with local communities and can freely communicate in English at their place of work or when dealing with government departments, other business establishments and for day-to-day needs. Malta is relatively crime free and very safe to live in.

Malta has an excellent health service that is rated amongst the best in the world. Hospitals are modern and supported by a regional network of health centres. The postal service is highly efficient and the infrastructure is comparable to other EU nations. Where education is concerned, schools, colleges and universities are among the best in Europe.

The cost of living remains one of the lowest in Europe and banking, taxation, insurance, social security, utilities and communications services often surpass those offered in other European countries.

1.5 Currency

Malta's national currency is the Euro. It was adopted in January 2008 in a properly managed and strictly administered transition. This adoption has enhanced the economy's potential for accelerated growth through the elimination of exchange rate risk and currency conversion costs.

€1: US\$1.5451
€1: UK£ 0.7746

1.6 International Time

Maltese standard time is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and six hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time (EST).

1.7 Conditions of Work

The minimum wage structure provides a decent standard of living for a worker and family with the addition of government subsidies for housing, health care, and free education. Wage Councils, composed of representatives of government, business, and unions, regulate work hours. For most sectors the standard is 40 hours per week, but in some trades it goes up to 43 or 45 hours per week. The law mandates an annual paid vacation of 24 days of which 4 days shall not form part of a factory shutdown. This can vary between one sector and another.

Further information can be obtained from:

<http://www.mfss.gov.mt/services/subpages/content.asp?id=2073>

1.8 Statutory Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck	February 10
St. Joseph's Day	March 19
Good Friday	Varies
Freedom Day*	March 31
St. Joseph the Worker	May 1
Sette Giugnio (Commemoration of 1919 riot)*	June 7
Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul	June 29
Assumption Day	August 15
Our Lady of Victories*	September 8
Independence Day*	September 21
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	December 8
Republic Day*	December 13
Christmas day	December 25
* National Holiday	

Public holidays falling on a weekend are not added to the employee's normal leave entitlement.

1.9 Weights and Measures

The metric system of weights and measures is in use.

1.10 Electricity

Enemalta Corporation offers a broad range of services to both the industrial, commercial and domestic sectors in the energy field. Set up in 1977 the Corporation today undertakes a broad range of operations, incorporating the importation and distribution of petroleum products and liquified petroleum gas as well as the generation and distribution of electricity to all sectors of the Maltese society.

The distribution of electricity from the two power stations in Malta is achieved on four voltage levels namely:

- 132kV
- 33kV
- 11kV
- 400/230V

The electricity supply in Malta is 230 volts, single phase (three phase 400V is also available), 50 Hz. Square fitting, standard three-pin British plugs and sockets are used.

Enemalta Corporation
Church Wharf,
Marsa MRS 1000, Malta
Tel: (+356) 21 223601
Email: info.emc@enemalta.com.mt
<http://www.enemalta.com.mt>

1.11 Water

The Water Services Corporation was set up in 1993 to produce and distribute potable water in the Maltese Islands. Some thirty-one million cubic meters of good quality water are produced annually to cater for the needs of Malta's 400,000 inhabitants as well as the over 1 million tourists who visit every year.

Approximately fifty-seven per cent of this water is produced at the Corporation's three reverse osmosis plants namely, Pembroke, Cirkewwa and Ghar Lapsi. The remaining water is groundwater i.e. produced from boreholes and pumping stations.

The Water Operations Unit, within the Water Services Corporation is responsible for all distribution and ground water operations in the Maltese islands. These responsibilities include the Regions and the Distribution Control Section.

Water Service Corporation
Qormi Road
Luqa LQA 9043
Malta
Tel: (+356) 2244 5566
Fax: (+356) 2244 3900
Email: customercare@wsc.com.mt
<http://www.wsc.com.mt>

1.12 Education

All children between the ages of five and sixteen are entitled to free education in all state schools regardless of age, sex, belief and economic means. There are also private schools in Malta, which fall under two categories: Church schools and Independent Schools; both of which provide education from pre-primary to upper secondary levels.

Malta is presently embarking on a new and exciting phase of its national educational reform process, focusing on the state compulsory primary and secondary schooling. This has always been centrally controlled, with an Education Division at national level taking the necessary decisions on such things as curriculum, syllabi, selection and deployment of teachers and administration, resources and school buildings. However, since 2005 Government's target in compulsory education has been to make the next step from "education for all", which has largely been achieved, to "quality education for all", in which all children are supported to succeed.

To enable the fulfillment of this vision, all state primary and secondary schools have been networked into ten Colleges that will eventually be autonomous and have full responsibility for ensuring that all children - and indeed all communities - within their remit travel along successful and meaningful learning pathways.

Pre-Primary Education (Age 3 to 5)

Attendance at the pre-primary level is voluntary, about ninety five per cent of the children in the age bracket between three and five years attend. Pre-primary education is co-educational and is provided free in state schools. At this level no formal teaching takes place. The National Minimum Curriculum states that the main educational objectives should include activities aimed towards the development of the children's social attitudes, language and communication skills in preparation for primary education. Most pre-primary centres, which are also called kindergarten centres, form part of primary schools.

Compulsory Education (Age 5 to 16)

Education is compulsory for all children between the ages of five and sixteen. Compulsory education is sub-divided into a six-year primary cycle (five to ten years) and five years of secondary education (eleven to sixteen years). The government is committed to a policy of inclusive education throughout the whole educational cycle. This ensures that children with special needs are integrated into the mainstream.

a. Primary Education

Primary education builds on early childhood education and facilitates the development of skills, attitudes and knowledge in preparation for the secondary level. It is free of charge and includes school transport and textbooks.

b. Secondary Education

At secondary level, there are three different kinds of state schools. Namely the Junior Lyceums, Area Secondary Schools and schools for very low achievers. There are also church and independent secondary schools.

Admission into the state Junior Lyceums, which are schools that offer a more intensive academic course and into some church schools is controlled by a qualifying entrance examination.

Upper Secondary Education

The Institutions providing Upper Secondary Education offer a two-year course specifically designed for future University students who are prepared for the MATSEC Certificate (Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate) in accordance with the University's General Entry Requirements.

Students may choose from a wide range of subjects and must take two subjects at Advance Level, three at Intermediate Level, as well as Systems of Knowledge. Subjects chosen should also include any Special Course Requirements needed for their prospective University course. While providing formal instruction, the Institutions encourage students to develop their own initiative through guided self-teaching in preparation for their future University career.

Vocational Upper Secondary Education

The system of Vocational Upper Secondary Education provision in Malta is based on a structure of nine institutes which provide courses in nine main areas. The Institutes are as follows: Institute of Agribusiness; Institute of Building & Construction Engineering; Institute of Community Services; Institute of Information & Communication Technology; Institute of Mechanical Engineering; Institute of Art & Design; Institute of Business & Commerce; Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering; the Maritime Institute and the Xaghra and Xewkija Gozo Centres.

These institutes form part of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST). The duration of courses at these institutes range between one to two years. Each institute offers a variety of courses related to its area of study. The majority of programmes offered by the institutes are either attended by students on a full-time basis, or by apprentices, who combine College-based activities with work experience with an appropriate employer (sponsor).

Programmes are offered at all levels from pre-foundation (entry level 0) to Higher National Diploma (level 4). The Foundation courses, which are at Level 1, provide a progression route into the higher level certificate and diploma courses. Courses lead to appropriate certification either College-based or through an external examination body. The full array of assessment methods is used including written examinations, course work and portfolios.

Further information can be obtained from <http://www.mcast.edu.mt>

Tertiary Education

The University of Malta is totally funded by Government and is autonomous and self-governing. It offers higher education at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. Conscious of its public role, the University strives to create courses, which are relevant and timely in response to the needs of the country. It can cater for 10,000 students and over 2,500 students graduate in various disciplines annually. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with experience of research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs in general. The public response to the University of the Third Age has been very encouraging with membership constantly on the increase and all activities being well attended.

The University has eleven faculties: Architecture & Civil Engineering, Arts, Dental Surgery, Economics, Management & Accountancy, Education, Engineering, Information & Communication Technology, Laws, Medicine & Surgery, Science and Theology.

Further information can be obtained from <http://www.um.edu.mt>

Private Institutions

In these past few years, a number of private organisations in Malta have started providing courses offered by foreign universities, thus creating a choice of how qualifications can be acquired. A range of courses at various levels are now available, from diploma to doctorate level, including many courses that were, or are not available in the state tertiary education. The subjects on offer range from specialisations in management to psychology.

Additionally, these private institutions offer distance-learning courses. Such courses offer flexibility and opportunity to those who would like to continue working but also develop their career through their studies. Distance-learning courses have exploited technological developments creating a virtual campus with effective direct communication between students and agents around the globe.

Adult Education

The Department of Further Studies and Adult Education, (DFSAE) is responsible for the provisioning of adult education under the Ministry of Education. The Adult Education and Evening Courses Section within this department provides various services including vocational, academic, craft and leisure subjects as well as courses in drama, music and art.

Further information can be obtained from: <http://www.education.gov.mt>

International Schools

There is one International school in Malta, the Verdala International School. It was founded to meet the needs of those international families who decide to stay in Malta, or Maltese families who seek a different style of education. Its unique campus is located inside Fort Pembroke on the north coast of Malta. The school is fully accredited by the Middle States Association in the USA; is an International Baccalaureate Diploma School; is a member of the European Council for International Schools; offers courses leading to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education; and offers the International Primary Curriculum.

Further information can be obtained from: <http://www.verdala.org>

1.13 Healthcare

Europeans today seek surgery and non-invasive procedures or treatment abroad in order to avoid long waiting lists. It is estimated that 20-30 million patients travel abroad for medical treatment each year. Malta has the necessary physical and human capital for this rapidly growing market. It is well-positioned to serve patients from the UK and Northern Europe as well as the Middle East and North African region. It has remained a centre for medical excellence in the Mediterranean region since the Knights of Malta introduced new standards of medical practice of crusading soldiers in the 17th century.

In Malta one can find the finest consultants and surgeons. Both private and public hospitals in Malta are equipped with state-of-the-art medical facilities that support Malta's claim to a major competitive offering in the international health tourism arena. The island offers medical interventions that combine high quality and low risk.

In addition, private hospitals in Malta offer luxury bedrooms of 5-star hotel quality with a high nurse/patient ratio. This level of competitiveness is attracting substantial numbers of overseas patients to the island. Today, Malta's medical services rank among the best in Europe.

1.14 Malta in the European Union

Malta's relations with the European Union (EU) date back to the 1970's, when Malta signed the Association Agreement with the European Community. Twenty years later, Malta submitted the application to join the EU, and it became member in 2004. In January 2008, the Euro was adopted as the National Currency. The Euro offers the prospect of enhancing the economy's potential to grow faster. All this has since put Malta on the investment map.

Since joining the EU, there was an increase in foreign companies investing in Malta in the ICT, pharmaceutical and financial services sectors. The past three years have seen a radical change where roads are concerned and this has made travel and transport across the island more manageable.

EU membership has also brought with it a greater awareness of critical issues such as lifelong learning and gender equality. A number of initiatives have been introduced to make it easier for women to join the labour market. These include: the setting up of child care-centres; specialised training at convenient hours and family friendly work practices.

Source: Country Profiler

2. Starting up in Malta

2.1 The Legal Format

The most common legal formats for business are:

Sole Trader: needs to register with Inland Revenue as self-employed. Unlike other business formats, sole traders can start trading straight away as long as the required permits and registration are carried out.

Liability: If business fails, the owner is fully responsible for the business debts.

Management: The owner is solely responsible for controlling the business. The owner's word is final.

Finance: Normally, the owner's personal money.

Profits: All profits go to the owner.

Taxes: Self Employed status. Even if the owner does not draw on the profits they are still taxed. Losses can be offset against tax on other income.

Partnership: Partners need to register with the Inland Revenue as self employed.

Liability: If business fails, the owners are fully responsible for the business debts.

Management: The partners share responsibility for controlling the business.

Finance: Generally, the partners' private funds provide the company's finances.

Profits: All profits shared between the partners (as agreed within the "Deed of Partnerships").

Taxes: Self Employed status. Even if the partners do not draw on the profits they are still taxed. Losses can be offset against tax on other income.

Private Limited Company: a company cannot just start operating but needs to follow a predefined process of registration and set-up. A company is a legal entity in its own right.

Liability: The shareholders' personal assets are protected if the business fails. The shareholders can only lose what they have put in the business.

Management: The business is controlled by The Board of Directors. Each director is held personally responsible for its management and must act in the company's best interests.

Finance: Generally the shareholders' private funds and/or bank facilities provide the company's finances.

Profits: Dividends are paid to the shareholders.

Taxes: The company pays taxes on its profits. All employees and directors pay taxes on income earned through wages, salaries or other forms of remuneration.

2.2 Registering the Company

When starting a new business the company has to register with the following:

Registry of Companies

The operations and activities of companies operating in Malta are regulated by the Companies Act of 1988, which stipulates amongst other things, that all companies must be registered. Registration is at a fee.

The Employment and Training Corporation

Declaration of commencement of employment and that is also applicable for employment of new staff. Registration is free of charge.

Inland Revenue

The new company which is registered with the Registry of Companies will automatically be registered with the Inland Revenue. Registration is free of charge.

VAT Office

All entities including partnerships must register with the VAT Office. VAT is currently 18%. Registration is free of charge.

Protect your ideas

Trademarks: Registration gives protection to a sign (Logo) that serves to distinguish the goods or services of one organisation or individual.

Patents: Registration gives protection to a new invention containing an industrial application.

Designs: Registration gives protection to a novel shape or pattern to be applied to a particular object.

Copyrights: Registration gives protection to a novel idea or non tangible item products. This covers materials such as books, publications, software etc.

2.3 Employment Licence

Foreigners seeking to live and work in Malta need to obtain an Employment Licence. Normally this licence will only be issued to a foreigner if there is no suitably qualified local, and the employer will need to operate training and 'understudy' schemes.

The regime is less restrictive when foreign investment is involved, and if an expatriate controls 40% of a project, he will always be able to get an employment licence for himself and for one other expatriate. A permit is valid for one year and costs € 58.23.

An application form for an employment licence may be obtained from:

Employment & Training Corporation
Employment Licences Unit,
Block E Room 12
Birzebbuga BBG 06
Telephone: +356 22201580-8
Fax: +356 22201852
E-mail address: tony.schembri@gov.mt

2.4 Residence Permits

Those wishing to reside regularly in Malta may apply for a residence permit; subject to satisfying a number of conditions. Tourists and residence permit holders are not, as a rule, allowed to engage in gainful occupation in Malta.

The processing of applications for permanent residence permits may take about 3 months. A fee of €117 is payable to the Director, Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs, once the permit is issued.

At the end of the first year of residence and subsequently at the end of every calendar year, one will be required to complete an Annual Declaration form to confirm that one has fulfilled the conditions attached to one's permit.

For further information, kindly contact:

The Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs
Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs

3, Castille Place,

Valletta CMR 02

Tel: (+356) 21250868, 21250569 – 21250573

Fax: (+356) 21237513

E-mail: citizenship@gov.mt

<http://www.mjha.gov.mt/services/citizenship/citizenship.html>

Or by visiting the following website:

http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/work_permit.html

2.5 Acquisition of Property

Individuals who are not citizens of a European Member state may not acquire any immovable property in Malta unless they are granted a permit in terms of Chapter 246 of the laws of Malta. However, there are special designated areas where there are absolutely no restrictions to acquisition. There is no restriction on acquisition through inheritance and there are also several exemptions. Different rules apply to the acquisition by bodies of persons.

All EU citizens, including therefore Maltese who:

- have resided in Malta continuously for a minimum period of five years at any time preceding the date of acquisition, may acquire immovable property without an AIP permit;
- have not resided continuously in Malta for a minimum period of five years may only purchase their primary residence or any immovable property required for their business activities or supply of services without an AIP permit;
- have not resided continuously in Malta for a minimum period of five years, require an AIP permit to acquire immovable property as a secondary residence.

The following table illustrates the position for individuals:

	Maltese and EU citizens – both with 5 years continuous residence in Malta	Maltese and EU citizens – without 5 years continuous residence in Malta	Others
Primary Residence ¹	No restrictions – No need to apply	No restrictions – No need to apply	Prior authorisation is required ²
Secondary Residence or any other immovable property ³	No restrictions – No need to apply	Prior authorisation is required ³	Prior authorisation is required ³
Causa Mortis devolutions	No prior authorisation is required	No prior authorisation is required	No prior authorisation is required
Grave or site	No prior authorisation is required	No prior authorisation is required	No prior authorisation is required
Redemption of ground rent	No prior authorisation is required	No prior authorisation is required	No prior authorisation is required
Property in a Special Designated Area	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit
Divided or undivided share in immovable property where person had previously acquired a share in such immovable property in accordance with the provision of this Act	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit
Transfer of immovable property in an inheritance between co-heirs	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit
Partition of immovable property between co-owners	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit
Donation of immovable property to a spouse, descendant or an ascendant in the direct line and their relative spouses – in the absence of descendants to a brother or sister and their descendants	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit

¹ This presupposes a change of ordinary residence if the purchaser is not already a Maltese resident.

² A permit will not be granted if applicant has already acquired immovable property in Malta; other conditions also apply.

³ This would typically include holiday homes where there is no change of ordinary residence.

	Maltese and EU citizens – both with 5 years continuous residence in Malta	Maltese and EU citizens – without 5 years continuous residence in Malta	Others
Immovable property required for the person's business activities or supply of services by such person	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No prior authorisation is required and no limit	No permit granted unless required for an industrial or touristic project or as a contributor to the development of the economy of Malta

Applying for a permit to buy immovable property

All applicants need to:

- Fill the AIP application form completely;
- Produce a copy of the promise of sale or preliminary agreement of the immovable property being acquired, if entered into.

First-time applicants need to:

- Produce two passport-size photographs of non-residing applicants;
- Produce a photocopy of the passport showing applicant's particulars.

Applicants who already own Immovable Property need to:

- Produce copy of deed of sale of previous immovable property;
- Give reasons for the transfer of the previous immovable property and acquisition of the new immovable property.

Limited liability companies who apply for a permit need to:

- Produce Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company;
- Give details of shareholding directors;
- Produce evidence showing that the purpose of the company is for the development of the economy of Malta.

When the application is approved, the applicant or mandatory will be informed by a notice. The applicant will then be issued with a permit against a payment of € 232.94. The applicant may then enter into a contractual agreement to buy the immovable property.

More details can be obtained from: <http://www.aip.gov.mt/currentconditions.asp>

2.6 Visas

Citizens of the following countries do not require a visa to enter Malta, provided that the stay does not exceed 3 months:

Andorra	Germany ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	Paraguay
Argentina	Greece ⁽¹⁾	Poland
Australia	Guatemala	Portugal ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾
Austria ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Honduras	Republic of Korea
Belgium ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Hungary	Romania
Bolivia	Iceland	San Marino
Brazil	Israel	Singapore
Brunei Darussalam	Italy ⁽¹⁾	Slovak Republic
Bulgaria	Japan	Slovenia ⁽¹⁾
Canada	Latvia	Spain ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾
Chile	Liechtenstein ⁽¹⁾	Sweden
Costa Rica	Lithuania	Switzerland ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾
Croatia	Luxembourg ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	The Netherlands ⁽¹⁾
Cyprus	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Mexico	USA
Denmark	Monaco	Uruguay
El Salvador	New Zealand	Vatican City
Estonia	Nicaragua	Venezuela
Finland	Norway	
France ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Panama	

⁽¹⁾ May travel to Malta with a valid Identity Card.

⁽²⁾ May travel to Malta with a passport that has expired within the last 5 years.

⁽³⁾ May travel to Malta with a passport that has expired within the last year.

Other Visa exemptions

Chinese nationals, holders of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), do not require a visa to enter Malta.

MACAO citizens in possession of a “Regio Administrativa Especial de Macao” passport do not require a visa to enter Malta.

Visas to holders of Turkish and Tunisian passports are to be issued free. Visas to holders of Moroccan and Algerian passports are to be issued at half the visa fee. Visas to holders of Libyan passports are subject to 10 Libyan Dinars for the issuance of visa. All visa applicants except for Libyan, Turkish and Tunisian passport holders are subject the equivalent €9.40 administration charge irrespective of whether visa is issued or not.

Visitors requiring a visa to enter Malta and who undertake day trips of less than 24 hours to another country are exempted from applying and paying for another visa on their re-entry to Malta

Visa Applications

All other foreigners from countries not listed above have to apply for a Visa for Malta, which is issued by the Immigration Police.

Visa applications must be in writing, giving all details required on the Visa Application Form which can be acquired free of charge from Malta’s diplomatic missions and consular posts or alternatively downloaded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’s website (www.mfa.gov.mt).

The Visa Application Form must be wholly and legibly completed, signed by the applicant and accompanied by:

- a valid travel document (passport) validity of which must not be less than three (3) months;
- two (2) passport-size photographs in colour and taken against a white background, with face clearly visible;
- the visa fee.

Where there is no official Maltese representation in a country, the applicant should apply directly to the Immigration Police in Malta, with whom he/she should check all the requirements that are relevant to his/her passport. The Visa Form for Entry into Malta duly filled should be faxed to the Commissioner of Police together with a photocopy of the passport of the applicant and other requested documents.

The Immigration Police would then issue a statement, which is faxed to the applicant indicating whether the application for Visa has been approved or otherwise. In the case of approval, the applicant should present the letter of approval to the airline before proceeding to Malta. The applicant would then be issued with a visa upon his/her arrival at the Malta International Airport.

Schengen Visa Applications

Schengen Visa Applications must be filed at the diplomatic mission of the country, which is the main destination of the visit. In the event, therefore, that an applicant intends to visit several Schengen states (with stays of approximately the same duration), the application must be filed at the diplomatic mission of the country of first entry. Thus, applicants wishing to visit Malta as the main destination, or the country of first entry into the Schengen area, must file their applications at Malta's diplomatic missions or its representations.

Following the practice of Schengen Member States, Malta entered into representation agreements with other Member States in order that a visa application for Malta can be filed in countries where Malta does not have a diplomatic mission or consular post. The consular post of the country representing Malta will issue visas for entering Malta according to the common Schengen visa policy as if issuing visas for entering their own country.

For more information, please contact:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Palazzo Parisio

Merchants' Street

Valletta

Tel: (+356) 21242191

Email: info.mfa@gov.mt

Website: <http://www.foreign.gov.mt/pages/default.asp>

Police General Headquarters
Immigration Department
Floriana
Tel: (+356) 2122 4001 (ask for Immigration Police)
Fax: (+356) 2124 7777, 2123 5308

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.mt>

2.7 Double Taxation Agreements

Malta has concluded tax treaties with a number of countries, which enhance the incentives provided by Maltese domestic legislation. Most of these treaties ensure such profits generated in Malta are either exempt from tax in the country of residence of the investor, or that such a country will provide a tax credit for the Malta tax spared as a consequence of the incentives Malta provides.

Albania	Germany	Pakistan
Australia	Greece	Poland
Austria	Hungary	Portugal
Barbados	Iceland	Romania
Belgium	India	Russian Federation
Bulgaria	Italy	San Marino
Canada	Korea Rep.	Singapore
China	Kuwait	Slovak Rep.
Croatia	Latvia	Slovenia
Cyprus	Lebanon	South Africa
Czech Rep.	Libya	Spain
Denmark	Lithuania	Sweden
Egypt	Luxembourg	Syria
Estonia	Malaysia	Tunisia
Finland	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
France	Netherlands	United Kingdom
	Norway	USA

Double Taxation Agreement signed with Morocco and Russia are not yet ratified. Negotiations and discussions are being concluded with Switzerland, Jordan and Turkey.

Source : Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mfa.gov.mt>

3. Business Institutions

3.1 Industry in Malta

Malta is a base for many multinational and international companies. More than 200 foreign owned manufacturing enterprises operate in Malta within a well-developed economic and industrial structure. It offers concrete opportunities to foreign direct investment as can be witnessed by the success of existing foreign owned enterprises and their expansion and continuing re-investment.

The island has a solid business and industrial background that dates back 50 years, which has grown stronger year after year. As a centre of investment and trade, Malta is one of Europe's secret success stories and is the ideal location for regional operations as well as easy access to global markets.

The major sectors are tourism, manufacturing, transshipment, wholesale and retail, shipping and financial services. Malta is fast becoming an e-commerce hub in the Mediterranean and an important transshipment port for Europe and North Africa through Malta Freeport.

Malta Enterprise

Malta Enterprise (ME) is the government agency responsible for promoting trade and industrial development. Its main responsibility is to attract and support foreign direct investment to Malta. ME focuses on identifying companies operating in specific sectors and sub-sectors and focuses mainly on attracting manufacturing and service activities possessing the following criteria;

- a sufficiently high value added;
- fast response operations and activities that require quick and on-the-spot adjustments and improvements, just-in-time deliveries and short run operations;
- operations with some content of research and development, niche market orientation, product or brand worldwide leadership.

ME provides a comprehensive range of services and incentives and guides companies through the entire process of setting-up. These incentives and services are provided to both foreign investors as well as to local companies. There are more than twenty incentives and these can be divided into six thematic groups:

- Access to Finance, which include soft loans, loan guarantees, loan interest subsidies or royalty financing in the case of highly innovative projects.
- Employment & Training Incentives – these are administered by the Employment & Training Corporation (ETC). These incentives help companies in recruiting new employees and training of staff.
- Enterprise Support Incentives – these incentives support companies to develop internationally.
- The Investment Aid Incentives – given in the form of tax credits on plant and machinery and on job creation.
- R & D and Innovative Programmes – offered to encourage innovative enterprises to engage in research and development.
- SME Development – this assistance is given in the form of a grant.

For further information kindly contact ME:

Malta Enterprise
 Enterprise Centre
 Industrial Estate
 San Gwann SGN 3000
 Tel: (+356) 2542 0000
 Fax: (+356) 2542 3401
 E-mail: info@maltaenterprise.com
 Website: <http://www.maltaenterprise.com>

3.2 The Financial Services Sector

Malta's financial services sector has been growing at around 30% per year for the past five years. Its strong and positive legislative framework coupled with a flexible, pro-business attitude has made it possible for this island to attract blue chip finance concerns in banking, investment, insurance and wealth management from across the globe.

This sector is fast becoming a foundation of the Maltese economy, broadly accounting for around 12% of GDP.

FinanceMalta

FinanceMalta, a non-profit public-private initiative, was formally set up as an autonomous foundation on 21st May 2007 with the scope of promoting Malta as a financial services centre, both locally and internationally. FinanceMalta's main aim is to promote the Island's financial services brand, both within, as well as outside Malta's shores. It brings together and harnesses the resources of the industry and government, to ensure that Malta maintains a modern and effective legal, regulatory and fiscal framework in which the financial services sector can continue to grow and prosper.

Further information can be obtained from <http://www.financemalta.org>

Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA)

MFSA is the single regulator for financial services activities in Malta and it also houses the country's Registry of Companies. Its main role is to regulate, supervise and approve licenses to operate in Malta and through Malta into the European Union. MFSA harkens to maintain a positive and proactive environment. This helps practitioners by presenting a one-stop-shop. It is no wonder that satisfied investors applaud this as an elixir in their quest for seeking an island nurturing financial prosperity.

This regulator keeps the Maltese legislation up-to-date, inform continually the industry about global developments and market opportunities, guides and informs the media, supports continuing professional training and development, invests in new and better IT, as well as engages with all the EU, regional and global policy and oversight organisations.

MFSA responds to growth by investing in people and technology, and by maintaining its value of services, openness, probity and efficiency.

Further information can be obtained from the MFSA:

Malta Financial Services Authority
Notabile Road
Attard BKR 14
Tel: (+356) 2144 1155
Fax: (+356) 2144 1189
E-mail: communications@mfsa.com.mt
Website: <http://www.mfsa.com.mt>

3.3 Tourism Industry

Malta was traditionally viewed as a mass market tourism destination. However, recently it shifted away from this and moved towards a more lucrative high value quality-of-life-oriented tourism. This has moved this tiny Mediterranean island further up the value chain and made it a mainstream tourist destination.

Malta offers a diverse product, with the main attractions being its rich culture and history, sea and nightlife. Other visitors seek Malta for its diving sites, conference and incentives venues and language schools.

For those interested in archaeological structures, Malta possesses numerous sites of national heritage, including the hypogeum and seven megalithic temples that are listed as World Heritage sites.

Each year Malta hosts over one million visitors and this accounts for 23% of GDP. Thirty per cent of the Maltese population is directly employed in this fast growing sector. The tourism sector in Malta helps to diversify the economy through increased employment, investment as well as foreign currency earnings.

In recent years there has been a growth in cruise liners calling in at the picturesque Grand Harbour, using Malta as a port of call as well as a home port where cruises start and end.

Malta Tourism Authority (MTA)

MTA was set up in 1999 by the Malta Travel and Tourism Service Act. It advises government on tourism operations, on the planning and development of the tourism industry, on the infrastructure supporting the industry and it also issues licenses under the Act.

MTA is responsible for regulating and motivating the tourism industry in Malta. It is practically its business partner and the country's brand promoter. Its role is to form, maintain and manage meaningful partnerships with all tourism stakeholders.

The Authority works closely alongside its private sector partners. It works hard to strengthen the industry's human resources, ensure the highest standards and quality of Malta's tourism product and foster relations with local and international media.

For further information kindly contact the MTA as follows:

Malta Tourism Authority

Auberge d'Italie

Merchants Street

Valletta CMR 02

Tel: (+356) 2291 5000

Fax: (+356) 2291 5893

E-mail: info@mta.com.mt

Website: <http://www.mta.com.mt>

4. Useful Contacts

Central Bank of Malta

Pjazza Kastilja
Valletta VLT 1060
Tel: +356 2550 0000
Fax: +356 2550 2500
Email: info@centralbankmalta.org
Website: www.centralbankmalta.org

Department of Acquisition of Immovable Property

46, Monti di Pieta' Buildings
Merchants Street,
Valletta VLT 1173
Tel: +356 2299 8171 / 22998136
Fax: +356 2123 8447
Email: aip@gov.mt
Website: www.aip.gov.mt

Department of Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs

Castille Square
Valletta VLT 1062
Tel: +356 2125 0570 - 6
Email: citizenship@gov.mt
Website: www.mjha.gov.mt/services/citizenship.html

Employment and Training Corporation

Head Office
Hal Far BBG 3000
Tel: +356 2165 4940
Fax: +356 2220 1811
Email: etc@gov.mt
Website: www.etc.gov.mt

EneMalta Corporation

Church Wharf,
Marsa MRS 1000
Tel: (+356) 2122 3601
Email: info.emc@enemalta.com.mt
Website: www.enemalta.com.mt

Finance Malta

Garrison Chapel
Castille Place
Valletta VLT 1000
Tel: +356 2122 4525
Fax: +356 2144 9212
Email: info@financemalta.org
Website: www.financemalta.org

Inland Revenue Department

Floriana FRN 1700
Tel: +356 2296 2296
Email: taxpayerservice.ird@gov.mt
Website: www.ird.gov.mt

Malta Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise

Exchange Buildings
Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1117
Tel: +356 2123 3873
Fax: +356 2124 5223
Email: admin@chamber.org.mt
Website: www.chamber.org.mt

Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology

Triq Kordin
Paola PLA 9032
Tel: +356 2398 7100
Fax: +356 2398 7316
Email: information@mcast.edu.mt
Website: www.mcast.edu.mt

Malta Enterprise

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Malta Communications Authority

Valletta Waterfront
Pinto Wharf
Valletta FRN 1913
Tel: +356 2133 6840
Fax: +356 2133 6846
Email: info@mca.org.mt
Website: www.mca.org.mt

Malta Enterprise Corporation

Enterprise Centre
Industrial Estate
San Gwann SGN 3000
Tel: +356 2542 0000
Fax: +356 2542 3401
Email: info@maltaenterprise.com
Website: www.maltaenterprise.com

Malta Environment and Planning Authority

St Francis Ravelin,
Floriana FRN 1230
Tel: +356 2290 0000
Fax: +356 2290 2295
Email: enquiries@mepa.org.mt
Website: www.mepa.org.mt

Malta Federation of Industry

“Casa Leone”
Robert Samut Square
Floriana FRN 1119
Tel: +356 2123 4428
Fax: +356 2124 0702
Email: info@foi.org.mt
Website: www.foi.org.mt

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Notabile Road
Attard BKR 3000
Tel: (+356) 2144 1155
Fax: (+356) 2144 1189
Email: communications@mfsa.com.mt
Website: www.mfsa.com.mt

Malta Freeport Terminals Ltd.
Freeport Centre
Port of Marsaxlokk
Kalafrana BBG 3011
Tel: +356 2165 0200
Fax: +356 2225 1900
Email: marketing@maltafreeport.com.mt
Website: www.maltafreeport.com.mt

Malta International Airport
Luqa LQA 4000
Tel: +356 2124 9600
Fax: +356 2124 9563
Email: mia@maltairport.com
Website: www.maltairport.com

Malta Maritime Authority
Maritime Trade Centre
Xatt l-Ghassara ta' l-Gheneb
Marsa MRS 1917
Tel: +356 2122 2203
Fax: +356 2125 0365
Email: info@mma.gov.mt
Website: www.mma.gov.mt

Malta Resources Authority
Millenia 2nd Floor, Aldo Moro Road
Marsa MRS 9065
Tel: +356 2122 0619
Fax: +356 2295 5200
Email: enquiry@mra.org.mt
Website: www.mra.org.mt

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Malta Tourism Authority

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Email: info@mta.com.mt
Website: www.mta.com.mt

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Palazzo Parisio
Merchant Street
Valletta VLT 1171
Tel: +356 2124 2191
Fax: +356 2124 2853
Email: info@mfa.gov.mt
Website: www.mfa.gov.mt

Malta Police Force

Police General Headquarters
Floriana FRN 1530
Tel: +356 2294 2667 - 8
Fax: +356 2124 2223
Email: cmru.police@gov.mt
Website: www.police.gov.mt

Public Transport Association

41 Dun Gorg Preca Street
B'Bajda HMR 1600
Tel: +356 2125 0007 - 9
Fax: +356 2124 5715
Email: atp@atp.com.mt
Website: www.atp.com.mt

Trade Licensing Unit

Commerce Division

Lascaris Wharf

Valletta VLT 1920

Tel: +356 2122 6688

Fax: +356 2124 0516

Email: commerce@gov.mt

University of Malta

Msida MSD 2080

Tel: +356 2133 3903-6

Fax: +356 2133 6450

Email: comms@um.edu.mt

Website: www.um.edu.mt

VAT Department

16, Centre Point Building

Triq ta' Paris

Birkirkara BKR 4633

Tel: +356 2149 9330-4

Fax: +356 2149 9365

Freephone: +356 8007 4404

Email: vat@gov.mt

Website: www.vat.gov.mt

Verdala International School

Fort Pembroke, Triq il-Fortizza

Pembroke PBK 1641

Tel: +356 2137 5133

Fax: +356 2137 2387

Email: vis@verdala.org

Website: www.verdala.org

Water Services Corporation

Qormi Road

Luqa LQA 9043

Tel: +356 2244 5566

Fax: +356 2244 3900

Email: customercare@wsc.com.mt

Website: www.wsc.com.mt

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