

# Malta events guide 2018



**Malta**  
Tourism Authority



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## Arts & Culture



**10 March-1 July, Dal-Bahar Madwarha:** This major visual arts exhibition sees large installations, performances and public interactions staged in traditional and unexpected locations across the island. More than 25 artists from 15 countries are taking part.

**6 June-9 July, Victoria Arts Festival:** Launched in 1998, Gozo's classical music festival is one of Malta's longest running cultural events. Concert venues for orchestral and choral works include the beautiful St George's Basilica.

**August-September, Subterranean Matter:** Mysterious connections between Malta and Leeuwarden in the Netherlands are explored in an intriguing exhibition. Sensory experiences include crawling through tunnels created by 3D technology.

## Families

**18-20 August, Summer Carnival:** Malta's vibrant carnival tradition goes back hundreds of years and the summer event is based around Bugibba in St Paul's Bay. The fiesta is an explosion of colour with floats, entertainment and fireworks.

**28 September, Science in the City:** Science comes alive in this fantastic family-friendly event with free activities for all ages. Entertainers, puppet shows, music, live experiments and much more line the streets from Valletta's City Gate to St George's Square.

**16-25 November, ZiguZajg International Arts Festival for Children and Young People:**

Youngsters take centre stage at the dynamic and accessible festival combining new work with renowned international productions. The 2018 event will be extra special with more events throughout Malta and Gozo.



From carnivals and sporting action to fiestas and religious festivals steeped in tradition, the Maltese Islands host a year-round programme of colourful events and celebrations set against the backdrop of a warm Mediterranean climate. They're a great way of getting to know the islands' people and culture - and visitors are always welcome to join in. There has never been a better time to visit with the capital Valletta being crowned European Capital of Culture 2018. Here are some of the highlights of the 400-plus events taking place this year.



## Theatre & Performance

**8-17 June, Valletta Film Festival:** Malta's largest movie event is a lively, communal affair that transforms the capital into a citywide cinema. The programme of 40 feature films and 25 short pictures include free screenings in the main St George's Square.

**31 August & 2-4 September, Ahna Refugjat:** Opera lovers can hit the high notes in Floriana at the premier of a brand new work by Maltese composer Mario Summut. The dramatic piece follows a family escaping a war-torn country and focuses on thought-provoking themes.

**7-9 September, Kazin Barok:** Visuals, music, text and interviews are used in this immersive multimedia work. Centred around Malta's Baroque tradition, the show brings together students, local artists and other performers.



## Sports



**7 June, Valletta Pageant of the Seas:** Set against the magnificent backdrop of Valletta's Grand Harbour, the day is filled with races, exhilarating demonstrations and entertainment on the water. After dark there is a spectacular fireworks and light show.

**7-10 October, Malta Classic:** Cars are the stars at this high octane event in the stunning old capital of Mdina. Celebrating vintage style and speed, the event showcases some of Europe's finest classic cars.

**October 21, The Rolex Middle Sea Race:** Starting and finishing in Valletta's Grand Harbour, the race provides spectators with the chance to grab a slice of the action and be part of an historic seafaring spectacle. Attracting Europe's leading skippers and crews, spectators can watch from the shore or rent a boat for thrilling close up views.



## Music Festivals

**20-22 April, Rock the City:** To celebrate the European Capital of Culture, Rock the South is hosting a special edition of this popular annual music festival. A line-up of local and international music acts and DJs will appear at the exciting one-off event, held in Valletta.

**3-6 May, Annie Mac - Lost and Found:** Four days of laid-back sunset beach parties and all-night raves. Watch headline acts at open-air stages and catch a party boat to socialise at sea.

**27 June, Isle of MTV:** Each summer Malta rocks with the Isle of MTV concert, one of Europe's biggest musical events. The free concert in Floriana is the finale of Malta Music Week and attracts an audience of 50,000 music lovers. #IsleofMTV



## Getting there

Flight time between the UK & Ireland and Malta is around three hours.

Airlines that fly there include:

**Air Malta**, from Gatwick, Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol  
**British Airways**, from Gatwick  
**EasyJet**, from Gatwick, Manchester and Newcastle  
**Jet2.com**, from Newcastle, East Midlands, Manchester, Leeds-Bradford and Glasgow

**Ryanair**, from Gatwick, Luton, Stansted and Manchester  
**Thomas Cook (seasonal)**, from Gatwick, Birmingham, Manchester and Bristol