

Sliema, Malta, Europe Exploring history from beneath

The diving

The Maltese Islands are truly a gem in the heart of the Mediterranean with eons of history and culture, all-year-round mild climate, a safe and friendly atmosphere and loads to do in just a few square kilometers. But if you want to get a taste of the islands' best kept secrets you must go underwater... The waters around Malta, Gozo and Comino offer some of the best diving in Europe, this was confirmed recently by the readers of one of the leading dive magazines which placed Malta as the Top European destination and the third best in the World. What makes Diving in Malta truly superb is the excellent mix of great dive sites, easy access, clear warm waters all year round, an interesting array of marine life and WRECKS.

Whether you are a wreck fanatic or not, the huge variety of shipwrecks will keep you enchanted throughout your trip. Some wrecks has incredible stories attached, others are so huge that their size are the overwhelming attraction. No matter what, the feeling of diving ships on the bottom of the ocean is an intriguing experience that leaves a feeling of exploration and adventure in the diver. Something you simply must experience.



Area name / Island name

Maltese Islands, Mediterranean Sea, Europe

Nearest airport

Malta International Airport

Season

All year round, water is clear and warm
Between May and December are the warmest months

Low season: January-March, Nov-Dec

Mid season: April-June, Sept-Oct

High season: July-August

Center type

PADI 5 Star IDC and TEC REC

BSAC Premium

CMAS, SSI

Experience level

Padi Open Water or equivalent

Minimum age for participation

10 Years

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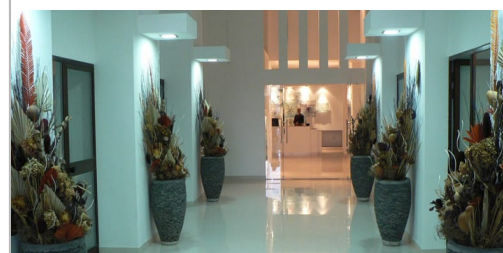
Location

The Maltese Islands also offer a lot to do before and after dives with superbly sunny weather, expansive beaches, a thriving nightlife and 7,000 years of intriguing history. Megaliths, medieval dungeons and Calypso's Cave – The Maltese Islands are positively mythic. The narrow meandering streets of their towns and villages are crowded with Renaissance cathedrals and Baroque palaces. As the countryside is dotted with the oldest known human structures in the world, the Islands have rightly been described as an open-air museum.

The Dive Centre and accommodation is located in Sliema, with plenty of restaurants serving Mediterranean cuisine and food from around the world as well as excellent nightlife just around the corner.

Accommodation

The Plaza Hotel (Also known as Plaza Regency Hotels), is located just down the road from dive center. The hotel is by the waterfront and has 2 smaller swimming pools, 2 bars a restaurant and a pizzeria. The rooms and beds are comfortable, cleaned daily and with Aircon and hot water.



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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. The diving is dictated by the safeness of the environment.

Um El Faroud Is a huge Libyan wreck at 10,000 tons which looms out of the blue after a thrilling swim in the blue from the shore. Unfortunately because of the swim to and from the wreck, this reduces the time on the wreck to about 10 to 15 minutes if you are diving on a single cylinder, especially if there is a slight current to battle to or from the wreck. But nevertheless, it is WELL worth it! The wreck is beautiful and it secretive mystic glow will follow you through the easy penetrations that waits all over the wreck. Besides amazing penetration options, the wreck is covered in sea life including scorpion fish, barracuda, sea bream and tuna.

The Imperial Eagle carried about 70 passengers and 10 cars. It made its maiden voyage in 1958 and was taken out of commission in 1968, her claim to fame being the sister ship to Jacques Cousteau's 'Calypso'. After about a 15 minute boat ride, you reach a buoy. Heading down the shot line to about 25 metres you can leave the line and swim across a valley to the wreck. The Imperial Eagle sits upright on the sand looking absolutely fantastic. You can tour right round her and through her corridors, ending up in what is the wheelhouse, of which only the wheel remains. Leaving the wreck with enough air, you have the option to swim through a cavern leading to a magnificent statue of Jesus Christ which was apparently blessed by Pope John Paul in 1990 and placed on the seabed to protect the fishermen of Malta.

Inland Sea/Blue Hole

Entering the water at the Inland Sea, the first part of the dive passes through an arch in the rock where the deep blue, clear water is the attraction, it doesn't sound like much, but it is really a breathtaking experience approaching the deep blue ocean from an inland water filled hole. After exiting the cavern, you will find yourself hanging on a wall dropping down to 60 meters, which does not make the experience less incredible! The reef is covered in life, including larger fish such as tuna. Further around the wall there is a small cavern to explore. Depending on the conditions, this dive can be finished by entering "The Blue Hole", a sink hole in the limestone, to do your safety stop and then surface in the inland. The walk back is a bit of a workout but well worth it, as the dive is nothing short of awesome.



Conditions:

Visibility

The visibility is often nothing less than outstanding ranging from 15m to 40m

Temperature

12°C in February to 26°C in August
3mm wetsuit is suitable in summer, drysuit or 7mm is suitable from October to April, 5mm suitable for the rest of the year

Current

Varying depending on sites, but there is always a calm bay to be found!

Surface

The temperature is very stable, the annual mean being 18°C and the monthly averages ranging from 12° C (short term in winter months) to 31°C

Special marinelife

Malta is HUGE on wrecks, but the marine life is pretty impressive too!

Look around for:

Tuna, jacks, barracuda, john dory, octopus, moray eels, seahorses, fire worms, flying Gurnard's and nudibranchs

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Itinerary

On the day of arrival, your equipment will be fitted and packed for the following days of diving; the rest of the day is left for exploring on land and settling in. The days consist of diving until early afternoon on the sites around Malta and Gozo. All dives are dived from shore. On occasion boat dives are arranged on site for an extra fee, all depending on the dive center and the weather. Between the two daily dives, you'll be hanging out on the shore or drive to another nearby site.

The dive sites vary from day to day, depending on wind and weather. Please check with the dive center what dives will be done the day before they are conducted. There will be no refund on dives not used. Check out at noon.

Dive Package 1: Fundiving Malta

The shorter option with 6 dives spread out on 3 days of diving, and 4 nights of accommodation. The dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level.

Dive package 2: Fundiving Malta Extended

The longer option with 10 dives spread out on 5 days of diving, and 7 nights of accommodation. The dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level.

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

Please note

Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change



Activity starts

Every morning from the dive center. Please note that daily start times can vary depending on the trip you are joining. You will be notified upon arrival or the day before your diving

Activity starts from

The dive center, mornings
Please contact the dive center no later than one week prior arrival to confirm your arrival and possible pickup times.

Group Size

No limit Max. 6-8 divers pr.
Instructor/Divemaster

Language

English

Sliema, Malta, Europe

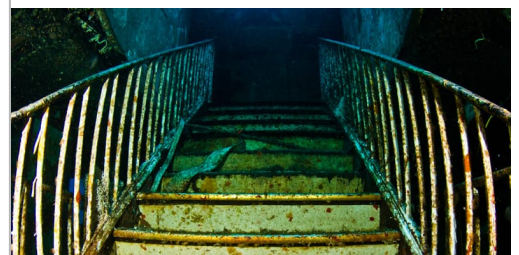
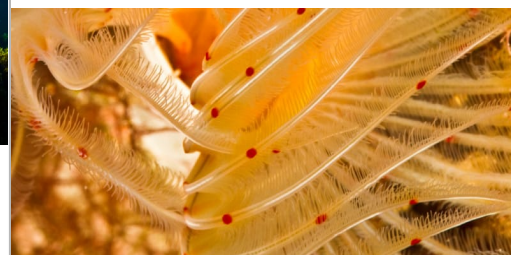
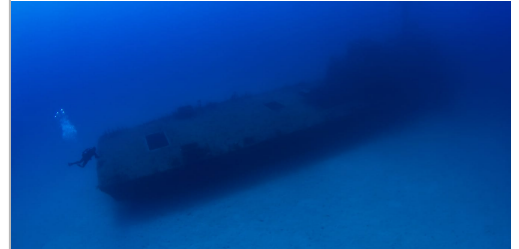
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Transfer Information

Transfer from the airport to your hotel and return is included in all packages. Please notify the dive center of your arrival times and flight information in order for your pick-up to be arranged.

The hotel is walking distance from the dive center and so is the restaurant and bar area, you can therefore relax regarding how to get around, your legs is transportation enough. On days without diving, we highly recommend you to go and explore the island and its historic areas, local and tourist busses are an easy and cheap way of getting around

You need to let the dive center know your arrival at least one week in advance. You will find the details for the dive center on your voucher.



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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

FUNDIVING

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Days / Nights | 5/4 |
| Amount of dives | 6 |
| Price (incl. accommodation) | 511 EUR |

Supplements

| | |
|--|---------|
| 2 extra dives (one day) | 100 EUR |
| Extra night (after) | 42 EUR |
| Extra night (before) | 42 EUR |
| Referral Course - supplemental | 225 EUR |
| Refresher Dive (added to first dive in package) | 45 EUR |

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

A supplement can be chosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, accommodation and boats get filled fast - you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accommodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying

Included

Accommodation in twin or double room
Breakfast at hotel
Airport transfers
Road transport to dive sites
Tanks, weights & weightbelt

Not included

Basic dive equipment (10€ per person per day)
Lunch, dinner & drinks
Flights to and from Malta
Insurance
High and Mid season surcharges

MID season surcharges - 4 nights:

1 pax: 108 euro
2 pax per pax: 80 euro

MID season surcharges - 7 nights:

1 pax: 189 euro
2 pax per pax: 140 euro
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HIGH season surcharges - 4 nights:

1 pax: 184 euro
2 pax per pax: 132 euro

HIGH season surcharges - 7 nights:

1 pax: 322 euro
2 pax per pax: 231 euro
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Mid season surcharge - 1 night:

1 pax: 62 euro
2 pax per pax: 45 Euro

High season surcharge - 1 night:

1 pax: 81 euro
2 pax per pax: 58 euro

(High & Mid season surcharges are not included and will be charged at destination)

Also available on site

Extra days of diving if available

Continuing education
All continuing courses available on site



General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:

You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.

If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:

Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation

In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.

Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:

A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:

Medical Statement

To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students **MUST** fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.

<https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf>

Restricted dives

Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.

In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.

Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed

There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing

If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:

Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.

If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)

If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:

All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.

At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:

If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.

If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.