

MALTA AS A FILMING DESTINATION

colours of malta



MALTA FILM INDUSTRY

Malta offers a colourful and varied background which entirely favours the film industry. The island could double up for practically any place, old and new. The island boasts a fusion of Mediterranean lifestyle; baroque architecture and modern freshness. With a countryside that is opulent and green in winter and arid and barren in summer; modern urban areas and Mediterranean villages; grand cathedrals and small, wayside chapels; small islands and steep cliffs; and large marinas as well as tiny fishing villages – Malta offers eclectic, modern, traditional environments that lend themselves very favourably to an array of film settings. Dubbed in 1999 as “a Hollywood in the Mediterranean” (CNN journalist), Malta retained this momentum for the last decade or so. The last ten years have seen such an influx of productions that resulted in local crews struggling to keep up between one shoot and another. With 65 different productions, 26 films or TV series, such industry has highly contributed to job creation in Malta for a range of sectors including hotels, transport and logistics, catering, costume-makers and others involved in building film sets.

Malta has served as location for a number of international films. Starting with *Treasure in Malta* in the 1960s, followed by *Popeye* (1983), *Midnight Express*, *Jaws*, *Christopher Columbus*, *Cutthroat Island*, and more recently *Gladiator* and *U-571*. Perhaps ironically Malta is best known to the world through the film adaptation of book that isn't about Malta – Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*, the title of which refers to a statuette of mysterious origin.

Having such rich medieval architecture, Malta is ideal for serving as a location for films, doing away with costly construction of models. Indeed, while touring the Maltese islands, one can recall famous scenes from movies that made the screen. Moreover, *Popeye* village, the set of the film about the sailor *Popeye* and his friends, has been made into a major tourist attraction in the North of the island, while one can view the largest water tank in the world at *Rinella*, where ocean-based parts of movies are shot in miniature.

MOVIES FILMED IN MALTA OVER THE YEARS

2002	<u>Astérix & Obélix: Mission Cléopâtre</u>
2002	<u>Swept Away</u>
2002	<u>Pinnocchio</u>
2001	<u>The Emperor's new Clothes</u>
2001	<u>Revelation</u>
2000	<u>U-571</u>
2000	<u>Gladiator</u>
1996	<u>Merisairas</u>
1996	<u>White Squall</u>
1995	<u>Cutthroat Island</u>
1994	<u>Casque bleu</u>
1993	<u>Voyage</u>
1992	<u>Christopher Columbus: The Discovery</u>
1990	<u>Les 1001 Nuits</u>
1990	<u>Der Skipper</u>
1989	<u>Erik the Viking</u>
1989	<u>Leviathan</u>
1988	<u>Black Eagle</u>
1987	<u>Iron Warrior</u>
1986	<u>Pirates</u>
1985	<u>Les Loups entre Eux</u>
1985	<u>Final Justice</u>
1984	<u>Der Scheenman</u>
1983	<u>Trenchcoat</u>
1982	<u>Samraat</u>
1981	<u>L'ultimo squalo</u>
1981	<u>Inseminoid</u>
1981	<u>Clash of the Titans</u>
1980	<u>Popeye</u>
1980	<u>Raise the Titanic</u>
1978	<u>Warlords of Atlantis</u>
1978	<u>Sweeney 2</u>
1978	<u>Force 10 from Navarone</u>
1978	<u>Midnight Express</u>
1977	<u>Orca</u>
1977	<u>Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger</u>
1976	<u>Shout at the Devil</u>

1976	<u>Charas</u>
1975	<u>Il lupo dei Mari</u>
1975	<u>Children of Rage</u>
1974	<u>L'Invenzione di Morel</u>
1974	<u>Voir Malte et Mourir</u>
1974	<u>The Golden Voyage of Sinbad</u>
1973	<u>The Mackintosh Man</u>
1972	<u>Pulp</u>
1971	<u>Murphy's War</u>
1971	<u>When Eight Bells Toll</u>
1971	<u>Zeppelin</u>
1970	<u>Hell Boats</u>
1970	<u>Mister Jerico</u>
1970	<u>Eyewitness</u>
1970	<u>Adventures of Gerrard</u>
1969	<u>Can Heironymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness?</u>
1969	<u>Vendetta for the Saint</u>
1969	<u>Battle of Britain</u>
1968	<u>A Twist of Sand</u>
1966	<u>Death is a Woman</u>
1965	<u>The Bedford Incident</u>
1963	<u>Treasure in Malta</u>
1958	<u>The Silent Enemy</u>
1956	<u>The Baby and the Battleship</u>
1956	<u>The Battle of the River Plate</u>
1953	<u>Single Handed</u>
1953	<u>Malta Story</u>
1953	<u>They Who Dare</u>
1931	<u>Tell England</u>
1928	<u>Bolibar</u>
1927	<u>The Battles of Coronel and Falkland Islands</u>
1925	<u>Sons of the Seas</u>

Mgarr ix Xini Bay in Gozo, Malta's second largest island was the set for Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's latest movie – **BY THE SEA**, filmed back in 2015. The film written and directed by Jolie and starring partner Brad Pitt Gozo. The beach was closed to the public for a number of weeks.

Another important movie filmed in 2015

Michael Bay's '**13 hours**' Most of the filming took place in Mosta together with other locations including Valletta, Kordin and Manoel Island. Malta's streets were made to look like Benghazi – all soldiers and army set ups. '13 Hours' started filming in Malta last April and is expected to be released by Paramount Pictures on January 15, 2016. Michael Bay is best known as the director of Transformers, Pearl Harbour, Bad Boys 2 and Armageddon.

HAPPENING NOW!

Tom Cruise just landed in Malta to film the latest remake of the movie The Mummy - Which will be mainly set at our local filming studios FORT RICASOLI

The Fort has been greatly used as a location for feature films and TV productions. For the production of Julius Caesar (2002) a set, dubbed the 'Roman Road' was built. This has been retained, altered and adapted for the filming of several subsequent features. The colossal sets for Gladiator (2000), Troy (2004) and Agora (2009) were all built within Fort Ricasoli where Rome, Troy and Alexandria respectively were recreated. The 70,000sqm fortress also contains some wonderful interiors with some unique curtain walls, bastions, ravelins and corridors. Its huge stores can house all the different departments of a film.



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*Famous movie locations can be used for
the group's movie filming!!*

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