



colours of **malta**



travel and incentives

"The difference between the ordinary and extraordinary is the little 'extra' "- colours of malta



Discover Malta's Carnival, which goes back hundreds of years. We find that already in the 16th century a jousting tournament was held as part of the celebrations. Maltese folk used to celebrate Carnival as did the Knights of St. John as from one week prior and up to Ash Wednesday. The origin of the name Carnival derives from the Italian phrase 'Carne vale', which means literally 'meat is allowed' due to the fact that during the forty days of lent, the consumption of meat was forbidden according to Roman Catholic religion. Therefore, Carnival was to be celebrated just prior to the fasting period in Roman Catholic countries.

Nowadays, Carnival is celebrated in numerous towns and villages but especially in Valletta, Floriana and Nadur Gozo. It is indeed a kind of explosion of colour in the way of decorated floats and costumes. Carnival serves also as means of merriment and a time when individuals also dress up in all sorts of weird or funny costume and just go out in the streets to join the fray.

The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts organise the official Carnival festivities that take place in Valletta from Friday until the following Tuesday. Some of the events are held inside an enclosure and may be attended against a nominal fee. On the last day, a big Carnival defile ends in the main street of Floriana with a fireworks display. Some of the events are held inside an enclosure close to Freedom Square in Valletta. The events held here may be attended against a nominal fee.



The Vodafone Malta Marathon allows participants to either participate in the full marathon or the half-marathon, with both marathons passing through countryside and built up areas and finish in the popular town promenade of Sliema. Both routes include a drop of 200 meters from start to finish. As part of the Half Marathon, there is also the **Vodafone Malta 'Endo' Walkathon** where participants may walk, jog or run at any time. This Marathon is held in February, anticipating another record of participants for the 2015 event.



Since its launch in 2007, the RC44 Championship Tour has established itself as a key series to compete on in the international yacht racing circuit. The defining spirit of the Tour brings together the worlds of sailing and business, allowing amateur owner drivers to race, high performance one-design yachts, with some of the world's elite sailors, competing at some of the most beautiful and diverse sailing venues around the world.

This year Malta has been chosen to host the Valletta Cup as part of the RC 44 Championship tour



The Tour Ta Malta is an international cycling race established in 1990 which takes place in Malta and Gozo and is spread over 4 consecutive days. The race is made up of 4 stages, 1 per day. The race kicks off with an individual time trial of 25km at the St Paul's Bay Bypass. The next stage consists of a 100km/ 60km road race on the San Martin Circuit. The next stage takes the participants to Nadur in Malta's sister island of Gozo where a 60km road race takes place. The final stage of the Tour Ta Malta is a 12km road race at the Ta' Pinellu circuit in the outskirts of Valletta, Malta's Capital City.



For the first time, Malta will be hosting one of the 38 triathlons in the XTERRA World Tour and will be the first country to kick off the XTERRA European Tour 2015. It will be made up of a 750m swim in the clear waters of Ghajn Tuffieha Bay followed by a 15km mountain bike race and a 5.5 km trail run which will be held in two nature reserves, The Majjistral and the Gnejna Plateau. The XTERRA Malta weekend will also consist of a sprint, team relay race and children's swim- run- swim at Golden Bay.



AMP Lost & Found Malta is a brand new festival which will be held in the first week of April with multiple venues featuring boat and beach parties all day and night.

Annie Mac said "I'm delighted to announce my first ever AMP Festival. I'll be heading to Malta over Easter weekend for three days of music and merrymaking.

Having attended festivals all my life, I did not enter into this project lightly. I've worked with the team involved for 10 years now, we've visited Malta, toured the event spaces and hotels, and all worked together to curate what i think is an incredible line-up. Expect boat parties, beach parties, night time open air raves and plenty of AMP surprises!

After visiting the island it was unequivocal it should be the home of our AMP festival; it's extremely beautiful and the people there are so warm and welcoming. It's going to be a very special weekend."



The Ministry for Tourism and the Malta Tourism Authority will be organising the 14th edition of the Malta International Fireworks Festival.

Pyrotechnic displays will take place on:

Saturday 25th April, Thursday 30th April and Saturday 2nd May 2015

A number of Maltese and foreign fireworks factories will be participating in this competitive event, presenting spectacular pyrotechnic displays synchronised to music.

The festival forms part of the anniversary celebrations of Malta's accession to the European Union.

Tradition of Fireworks in Malta

Fireworks in Malta have a long tradition which goes back to the time of the Order of the Knights of St. John. The feu de joie using gun salutes, the musketterija firing of muskets, the solfarelli d'aria, St. Catherine's wheels (irdieden) and other forms of fireworks originated from explosives that were lit off from mortars (maskli) as an expression of rejoicing. Special occasions when such festivities were held were: the election of a Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of St. John, the election of a Pope who was the overall protector and ruler of the Order, the birth of a prince from a friendly European state or else to mark an important victory over the Ottoman military might. Fireworks developed into a craft when the Maltese started to celebrate the events connected to their British rulers in the 19th and 20th centuries. This centuries-old tradition is still very much alive in the crowded calendar of village festas that take place all over Malta and Gozo, especially in the summer months.



The Gozo Half marathon is one of Gozo’s most popular and sought after marathons and was first organized in Xaghra, Gozo in 1977. This established marathon starts in Xaghra, Gozo and up until last year, it has attracted over 440 athletes from 16 different countries. It is made up of a 13.1 Mile run and mountain bike race, an 8 mile run and a 4 KM and 2 KM fun run. The route is of varying elevation and takes the participants through various Gozitan villages and breathtaking views of the Gozitan landscape.

Malta International Music Festival and Competition – 27.04-10.05.15 colours of malta



Mediterranean Cultural Foundation for Music with support of Mediterranean Centre for Culture & Art is excited to announce Malta International Music Festival & Competition held from 27th of April till 10th of May 2015. The goal of The Malta International Music Festival & Competition is to provide the best learning experience for everyone by combining an intensive educational program with an outstanding concert series presented by world-class musicians and participants of the Festival. It is undoubtedly an event in the Maltese cultural calendar, which cannot be ignored by those interested in Music, culture or the art of piano, saxophone, violin, cello, chamber ensembles, clarinet and voice or by those who have at heart the improving of performing standards of our youth! It is a Cultural Event founded with the intent to improve Music education of youngsters in Malta by offering high-level tuition and opportunities to perform in front of an audience.

Students and teachers alike will also broaden their horizons due to their coming in contact with pianists from abroad. 13 Days of the Festival is: • Over 15 concerts in leading venues in Malta & Gozo, • Opening and Gala Concerts of the Festival & Competition in Manoel Theatre, • 1 Opening concert: Festival & Competition, • 2 Gala concerts: Festival & Competition, • Over 150 participants, • 10 days of master-classes with world-class musicians, • 7 disciplines: piano, violin, saxophone, voice, cello, chamber ensembles, clarinet, • 4 days competition in piano, string and wind instruments for various age categories, • Awards presentation & reception, • Cooperation with the local media: Times of Malta, One.tv, TVM, The Independent, The Executive etc., • Cooperation with foreign TV channels and press, • Over 10000 likes on Facebook. Following its very successful 1st and 2nd editions, the festival has expanded significantly both in terms of the professors constituting the faculty of acclaimed musicians as well as in terms of the number of students attending who come from various countries, making the spirit of the event truly international. New master-classes categories have been added to the previous piano, saxophone, cello, violin, voice namely clarinet and chamber ensembles. The Festival has also incorporated two more competitions, such as String and Wind Instruments within itself as an addition to the international Piano competition, which will take place after the master-classes, i.e. from the 7th until the 10th of May. String and Wind Instruments competitions are subdivided into two age categories and piano competition into three age categories. The total prize value of is of 16 750 Eur. The tutors making up the faculty of the Festival are Arkadi Zenziper, Yuri Didenko, Leonel Morales, Nina Tichman, Andreas Frolich and Guliano Mozzacante – piano, Alexander Zagorinsky, Romain Garioud and Boris Andrianov – cello, Dora Schwarzberg, Alissa Margulis – violin, Hayrapet Arakelyan, Lars Mlekusch – saxophone, Antonio Tinelli, Julian Milkis – clarinet, Alexander Bonduryansky – chamber ensembles. The Festival aims to create a platform for young musicians to exhibit their talents and learn from acclaimed professors while being able to enjoy the stunning beauty of the Maltese islands. All the participants, apart from the opportunities to attend the master-classes of the world famous professionals, take part in 2-3 concerts in in the best venues around the Islands of Malta & Gozo, take part in Piano, String or Wind Instruments competitions with the internationally acknowledged musicians as Jury members. It has always been the festival organizers' goal to combine education, culture and tourism while simultaneously enriching the cultural life of Malta with the presence of the world acclaimed professors and talented young musicians from various countries as well as from Malta thus creating a really cosmopolitan, friendly and professional atmosphere. More information such as general information, rules & regulations, biographies of professors, programmes of competitions, application forms, photographs from previous festivals as well as the list of concerts can be obtained from our web-site: www.maltafest.eu



The Gozo 55KM ultra trail, run or mountain bike, is Gozo's toughest race but is probably one of the Mediterranean's most scenic races. This race is made up of the 55KM run or bike route as well as a 21km running route. The course has a total elevation of around D1, 400m with two steep parts. The rest of the trail is of varying gradients that allow the participants to enjoy cliff tracks, valley and water courses, seaside salt pans, sandy beaches as well as rocky terrains.



CMC Promotions presents Marco Masini & Band live in concert, on the 29th of May 2015 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre Valletta.

A spectacular live concert showcasing Masini's greatest hits we all love and enjoy listening to, such as Ti Vorrei, T'Innamomerai, Vaffanculo, Principessa, Bella Stronza and so much more.

Everything is now set for this 90's icon to share his vibe with us here in Malta, this coming 29 May at the MCC, Valletta. Tickets are on sale online from www.cmcpromotionsmalta.com.



There is the music of course - a varied programme of foreign and local acts which this year will revolve around the gypsy theme, with bands from Spain, Croatia and Israel. And there is the għana - in turn soulful or comical - but always heartfelt, which comes pouring from the stage. And then there is the ambience, too, the beautiful Argotti Gardens, decked with lights and life, providing a fairytale setting to the tunes, old and new, filling the air.

But perhaps the real reason which makes Għanafest one of Malta's fastest-growing festivals is the atmosphere: friendly and relaxed, families, young and not-so-young will feel equally at home here. Local artisans work at their crafts before your eyes, and will often chattily explain how they are made.

Yet despite its increasing popularity, the festival is still intimate enough for details to be curated lovingly. Even the food is carefully picked to a theme: no commercial entities are in sight: you are likelier to find pastizzi, imqaret and all things traditionally Maltese, making this festival - devoted to music, food and crafts - much more than just a series of concerts.



The Trophee Bailli de Suffren is a classic yacht race covering 600 miles from Saint-Tropez to Grand Harbour Marina in Malta, and visiting some of the most exotic ports in the Mediterranean such as Porto Rotondo and Trapani. This event highlights an antique connection that exists between Malta and France, when back in 1748, cruises by French Admiral Pierre Andre de Suffren were organised with the galleys of the Order of the Knights of St John. The Mediterranean's most beautiful yacht race is also its longest race for classic yachts which is run over three legs; Leg 1: Saint-Tropez to Porto Rotondo, Sardinia (193nm) Leg 2: Porto Rotondo, Sardinia to Trapani, Sicily (230nm) Leg 3: Trapani, Sicily to Grand Harbour, Malta (169nm)



The Malta Arts Festival is a showcase of top quality events and sees local and overseas' artists and performers side by side.

The programme's diversity enabled the Arts Festival to be popular and accessible to all. The summer slot enables most events to be held open air.

Falling as it does during the peak tourist season, the festival attracts a significant overseas audience as well.

The festival is the highlight in our cultural calendar and as such, we see it as having a clear role to play in bringing about collaboration between Maltese and foreign artists. Joint performances, and workshops held on its fringes help enhance local artistic development and provide impetus to cultural innovation on the Islands. For audiences, the Malta Arts Festival is a bonanza of performance, music and dance, and offers something from almost all artistic forms. The event has also over the years opened up little used and special venues, such as the Old Opera House ruins in Valletta and Argotti Gardens, and been an impetus for the Islands to set about providing a greater diversity of art and performance spaces.



The annual **Isle of MTV** music event in Malta is an MTV Networks International (MTVNI) production. A world class line up of artistes will play in a free live concert on the Granaries in Floriana in front of a crowd which annually tops the 50,000 mark. Once again this promises to be one of the summer's must-see musical events. The Isle of MTV Malta is unique in offering young people across Europe an exclusive opportunity to experience some of the world's best new and established artistes here in Malta, and for free. This event has become an important annual destination for music lovers.

Previous performers have included **Lady Gaga, Black Eyed Peas, N*E*R*D, One Republic, Maroon 5, Akon, Kid Rock, David Guetta, Metro Station, Snoop Dogg, LMFAO, Jesse J, will.i.am** and **Rita Ora** amongst others. The 2014 performers included **DJ Hardwell, Nicole Scherzinger, Kiesza, Dizzee Rascal** and **Enrique Inglesias**.

For the latest info, check out the [ISLE OF MTV](#) website.



Now in its 25th edition, the Malta Jazz Festival has helped raise the profile of jazz locally from a fringe festival to one of the most-awaited musical events in Malta's artistic and cultural calendar. Running from the 17th to the 19th July in the open-air setting of Ta' Liesse - where the Grand Harbour bastions meet the sea - contemporary music comes together with a sense of history, setting the backdrop for high-calibre performances which delight jazz aficionados and lay persons alike.

For full programme and line-ups visit www.maltajazzfestival.org



Violin and Friends International Music Festival (17-31 July, 2014) is offering a professional and expandable platform from baroque to new music, and to showcase its origins and pioneers, supporting young musicians by making it possible for them to present their output to a wider audience.

The goals are: Establish a community and family event that will generate a sense of pride, joy and accomplishment, giving wider recognition to local and foreign artists; Provide an opportunity for the youth to develop their talents in the performing arts; Offer a venue in which the social and artistic dynamics will create a welcoming ambiance amongst all VFIMF's participants and visitors; Promote the historical past and continue to develop performing arts and the cultural richness. <http://www.vfimf.com>



A six-day festival of bands, majorette, groups, marching bands, folk groups, street bands, piper bands, make up the sixth edition of Malta International Musical Bands Festival 2015. During this week there will be three parades in most towns of the island. Venues: 11 Sept 2015, H. 7pm, Zebbug, Main Square 12 Sept 2015, H 10am, Valletta, Republic Street 12 Sept 2015, H 7pm, Bugibba, Main Square for other details visit: <http://www.euroartproduction.it/festival-malta-music.html>



Notte Bianca is once again set to light up the cityscape of Valletta, with a spectacular nocturnal celebration of people, culture and arts. The streets and cultural venues in the Maltese capital will play host to a motley assortment of entertainment.

State palaces and museums will open their doors to delight patrons with visual art exhibitions and theatre performances, while the open-air streets and piazzas will showcase some of the finest local and international musicians and dancers. Cafes and restaurants will be open until late with further food stalls and tables occupying the streets.

All of Valletta, from City Gate to Fort St. Elmo, will come alive on Notte Bianca, guaranteeing a memorable night that truly holds something for everyone.

Notte Bianca – 03.10.15

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The **Mdina Grand Prix Classic Car Event** will be held this year between the 8th October and 11th October. As late summer beckons the arrival of early autumn, the Mdina street circuit, set in the idyllic countryside beneath the imposing bastions of the Old Capital City, will be host, for the fourth consecutive year, the Mdina Grand Prix, promising a magical weekend of classic car racing on the 10th and 11th. A variety of cultural and other activities will also be organised for the participants and their guests during the days preceding the races which will include guided tours of Valletta, Mdina and the Three Cities and also a tour of the sister Island of Gozo.

Thursday 8th October - Hillclimb

A stand alone event that gives the competitors a chance to properly, shake down their vehicles in preparation for the Mdina races over the weekend. Set outside the picturesque village of Mellieha, the competitors will have to tackle the 'Ta' Pinellu hill, a fast 2.5 km stretch that with some 'interesting' bends and corners that will test the cars and the drivers' attributes to the max. This year's event will be held at night thus adding a new 'flavour' to the mix of events.

Friday 9th October "Le Concours d'Elegance."

The Concours d'Elegance has become the premier such Concours in Malta. This year, the Concours will be staged in the recently renovated gardens outside the imposing walls of Mdina. The organizers will be inviting selected car collectors to bring out some true automotive gems and display them in a setting like no other. Visitors will be able to feast their eyes on rare and fine examples of what could be classified as nothing less than automotive art.

Saturday 10th October & Sunday 11th October

"Gentlemen (and Ladies), start your engines". The challenging circuit outside Mdina's fortified walls, awaits.

An early start on both days where the demanding 2.2 kilometer street circuit will see the race cars put through their paces on a track with a combination of tight bends, sweeping curves and inclines that wind their way through the valley below Mdina. Drivers have described the circuit as 'simply awesome'. It is fast and exhilarating and the drivers just love this atmosphere.

Saturday morning includes two practice sessions to allow the drivers to acclimatize themselves with the circuit. The afternoon sees the cars let loose individually on the track so as to define the starting order for Sunday's grid.

Sunday. This is where the real racing kicks off. The cars are grouped into packs of 8 to 10 cars and set off around the circuit to provide a thrill for the drivers and spectators alike. The unforgiving nature of the circuit will bring out the very best of performance driving by both the drivers and their classic racing automobiles. A spectacle like no other. A chance for classic race car owners to put their cars through their paces at a circuit in a location like no other and a chance for spectators to feast their eyes on some examples of fine classic racing machinery going at speed around this fantastic circuit.

The Mdina Grand Prix draws to a close on Sunday evening with the presentation dinner where the winners are announced and awarded.



Malta is proud to host the Rolex Middle Sea yachting race which takes place in the heart of the Mediterranean and covers one of the most beautiful courses in the world. The offshore exciting race kicks off in the beautiful clear waters off the capital city of Valletta. Unique for a race of this length in that it starts and finishes in the same place, the 606-mile route starts in Malta's magnificent Grand Harbour and also ends there. This race runs by incomparable scenery and is a true challenge to skippers and crews who have to be at their very best to cope with the often unpredictable and tough conditions.



9.00 hrs Choristers' Street Parade: Choristers start walk from De Vallette Square into Republic Street to reach St. John's Co-Cathedral. Will be accompanied by a festa band.

19.30 hrs Opening Concert - SINGING FOR PEACE AT St. John's Co-Cathedral. Choirs from different denominations will be singing and praying together for peace.

FRIDAY, October 30

10.00 - 11.15 hrs Competition - Category Folklore - Catholic Institute, Floriana.

12.00 - 14.30 hrs Friendship Concerts at Grand Master's Palace, - Upper Barrakka Garden and De Vallette Square, Valletta.
Competition - Category

Sacred Music Female Choirs, Sacred Music Male Choirs - St Publius Church, Floriana

Competition - Categories: Mixed Choirs, Female Choirs - Catholic Institute, Floriana.

SATURDAY, October 31

10.00 - 11.15 hrs Competition - Category: Folklore Choirs - Catholic Institute, Floriana.

11.30 - 14.10 hrs Competition - Category : Sacred Music Mixed Choirs - at St Publius Church, Floriana

12.00 - 13.30 hrs Friendship Concerts at Master's Palace, - Upper Barrakka Garden and De Vallette Square, Valletta.

13.00 - 14.30 hrs Competition - Category: Male Choirs Category: Youth Choirs of Equal Voices Category: Youth Choirs of Mixed Voices - at Catholic Institute, Floriana

17.00 - 18.15 hrs Competition - Category: Popular Choral Music - Music at Catholic Institute, Floriana

19.30 hrs GRAND CONCERT at (venue to be announced) Valletta with the participation of the International Festival Choral Ensemble.

SUNDAY, November 1

10.00 - 11.15 hrs Competition - Category: Mixed Choirs, Female Choirs - at Catholic Institute, Floriana

Morning - Different choirs will sing during Sunday Mass in numerous Churches of various localities in Malta.

17.00 - 19.30 hrs Prize Giving Ceremony (not confirmed) Catholic Institute, Floriana.

20.00 hrs Harbour Cruise with buffet



Entertainment.com.mt presents Animae Gospel Choir Live in Concert 2015, happening on Saturday 31st October at 19.30 and Sunday 1st November at 20.00 the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. Following Animae's last national concerts in 2012, where the audience was treated to some of Malta's best local talent, these events once again promise to be an unmissable spectacle for all those who love live music



The Malta International Challenge Marathon's first edition was held in 1991 and is still going strong. This Marathon is a unique one for the Maltese islands as it is spread over 3 consecutive days, measuring a distance of exactly 42.195KM. Each day consists of a marathon in different parts of the Maltese islands. Day 1 covers a distance of 11.195KM and starts off in the medieval city of Mdina and runs through the western part of Malta, boasting great panoramic views of Dingli cliffs. Day 2 takes you down south, to Birzebbugia where a marathon of 6KM takes place. The final day consists of a 25KM marathon which starts off in the Northern area of Malta, St Paul's bay and continues down towards Sliema, finishing in Malta's capital City, Valletta.

Contact us for further information – incentives@com.com.mt 



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