

ACCESS STATEMENT

MALTA AT WAR MUSEUM

Introduction:

The Malta at War Museum is located at the original historic entrance of Vittoriosa (Birgu), the eldest of the Three Cities. The museum houses an attractive exhibition of over 10,000 original artefacts located in nine galleries. The Exhibits document in chronological order the events for a period from just preceding the Second World War up until Malta gained its independence and highlights the ordeal which the people of Malta and their defenders endured during the dark days of the Blitz (1940-43). In addition visitors can tour at no additional cost the Birgu underground air raid shelter in which hundreds took refuge during the bombing raids. Vittoriosa (Birgu) was the former home of the Royal Navy in Malta and one of the most bombed places in WW2. The Museum has recently undergone a complete refurbishment that was co-funded by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund, the Government of Malta and Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna. Due to the layout and location of the Birgu Underground Shelters it is not possible to provide Wheelchair Access to this area –With a flight of 24 steep steps to reach the first level although there is a handrail provided; there are additional stairs to negotiate to reach other areas. It may also be a difficult area for those visitors with limited mobility because of stairs and narrow passages (some of which are as narrow as 80cm). Visitors that suffer from a fear of narrow or enclosed spaces may also find the shelter area difficult. Refreshments are available at the museum café - gift shop which also sells books and gifts. The Malta at War Museum is open from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 till 17.00hrs. Staff Members are on hand should visitors require any assistance. We look forward to welcoming you to the Malta at War Museum. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 21896617 or email info@wirtartna.org.

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Pre-arrival: Prices are: €13 Adult €11 Senior/Student €6 Children Under 16 Years.

A Heritage Pass for all five FWA attractions (valid for one week) can be purchased €40 Adult €85 Family (2 Adults plus 3 Children Under 16 Years. Current Prices can be checked from the following sources: Via the website <http://www.maltaatwarmuseum.com>, in the brochure (which can be downloaded from the website), From the Reception Area situated at the entrance to the Museum. For further details on how to reach us please refer to the map in the visitor information section of the website. This information is also contained in the site brochure. Should you require refrigeration of Medication please speak to a member of the staff who will try and assist wherever possible. The premises do not provide, or have any wheelchairs or mobility scooters to rent and visitors are requested to make their own arrangements in respect to these facilities. Guide and assistance dogs will be allowed to accompany their owner and water can be provided on request. Otherwise, no pets are allowed inside the facility Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the Museum, the underground shelters and the public toilet. However, smoking is permitted in the courtyard area

outside the Museum where bench seats are provided. Visitors should be aware that areas of the Museum and Shelters are monitored by CCTV cameras.

Transport:

By car: -The Malta at War Museum is located on the eastern side of the Grand Harbour at Vittoriosa at the Couvre Porte Gate, the original walled entrance into the city. It can be reached via all major roads to Cottonera (Three Cities) onto Vittoriosa (a.k.a. Birgu) following directional signs.

By Bus:- The Malta at War Museum is well served by buses number 2 & 3 from the Valletta main bus terminus. There is a bus stop just outside Couvre Porte Gate, Vittoriosa and visitors to the Museum should alight there. Buses run every half hour from Mon to Sat and every hour on Sundays.

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Taxi Service:-Kalkara Garage Mobile: 99898993 Tel: 21807719 Car Parking and Arrival: Although the site has no dedicated car park, there are 10 unrestricted parking spaces and one disabled parking space located in a lay by close to the museum entrance. There are also public spaces with 150 minutes limited parking available in Triq San Lawrenz. Therefore visitors arriving by car should have no difficulty in parking close to the attraction.

Main Entrance and Ticketing Kiosk: The main entrance can be reached from the Bus Stop or Roadside Parking via recently newly paved and level walkways which also incorporate dropped kerbs enabling wheelchair ramps. The entrance to the Museum can be found off to the right shortly after passing through the Couvre Porte Gate and before you reach the open courtyard area. The entrance has an automatic glass with a width of 1.2 Metres. There is one step into the museum immediately before the glass entrance door with a rise of 14cm. The step edges are highlighted with Yellow and Black Hazard Tape, consequently this entrance is not suitable for wheelchair access.

Wheelchair Access: Wheelchair access is provided through a separate double door off the main Courtyard with a width of 1.57 Metres which leads directly into the main museum area. Disabled visitors or their carer's are requested to contact the museum staff prior to or on arrival so that wheelchair or limited mobility access can be achieved using this entrance. Wheelchair users should note that some passages within and between the Museum Galleries are only 92cm wide.

Ticket Desk: The ticket desk is located in the museum café'-gift shop from where all entrance tickets which can be bought either by cash or card transaction. There is a concession for visitors of 60 years and Students. The reception desk is 96cm high and there is no lowered level counter area to accommodate wheelchair users. However, staff members manning the desk will be able to assist wheelchair users. Audio Guides with commentary in Arabic, English, Dutch, German, Maltese, Spanish, Russian, French, Danish, Chinese, Japanese and Italian are provided free of charge to visitors from the reception desk but visitors should note that they will be asked to leave some form of identity document to serve as a deposit against the return of the audio guide equipment.

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Museum Galleries: The museum consists of 9 Galleries linked by passages with wall mounted "Story Board" touch screen information stands and several TV screens displaying various newsreel footage

of events that occurred prior to and during and after WW2. The majority of exhibits are either displayed in glass cabinets with labelling, mounted on walls or are free standing within specific display areas. Wheelchair users should be able to see the majority of exhibits whilst seated, although some labelling and exhibits may be above seated sight level. Cinema Area: There is a 16 Seat Cinema area where visitors can view the film of an original wartime documentary –“Malta G.C.” made in 1942 which illustrates many facets of Maltese life during the war and provides visitors with a glimpse of the rigours of war the Maltese People and defenders of the Island suffered and the background behind King George the Sixth awarding the people of the Island the George Cross. The cinema entrances are 92cm wide and there is an area in front of the seating that can accommodate wheelchairs.

Toilets: The public toilet is located outside of the Main Museum off of the outside courtyard. Entry is via a 90cm wide door past a coin operated turnstile equipped with a side gate for wheelchair users. The toilet facilities consist of one single toilet cubicle which accommodates Male, Female and Disabled requirements. Care should be taken during wet weather as the floor in this area may be slippery on occasions.

Catering: Basis refreshments are available at the museum café'-gift shops such as hot and cold drinks, cakes and ice creams.

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Birgu Underground Shelters: Access to this underground area involves two flights of steep steps one of 19 steps with another short flight of 4 steps to reach the initial floor level. Although there is a handrail care should be exercised as these steps are steep and uneven. Unfortunately, wheelchair access in these areas is not possible and even limited mobility visitors may find the steps and narrow passages difficult to negotiate, with a width of less than 80cm in some areas. There are also additional flights of stairs that must be negotiated to visit other levels and areas within the Shelter complex. Visitors are asked to wear a hygienic hairnet and don a Hard Hat during their visit to the shelters to prevent head injuries due to the rock and low headroom in some areas of the tunnels. The lighting in the underground chambers and galleries is of a low level and can pose difficulties to visitors with sight problems.

Opening Times: Malta at War Museum is open Mon –Sat from 10.00 till 16.30hrs. Closed: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.