

Highlights of Gozo

Hotel-to-hotel lower independent cycling

- Wonderful gentle cycling: scenic coastal tracks, sleepy hamlets, lush valleys, breathtaking views
- Fabulously varied ★★★★★ and ★★★★★★ hotels, all with pools
- Baroque churches, honey-hued hilltop hamlets, archaeological treasures, colorful fishing villages
- Beautiful secluded bays; stunning turquoise seas



Surrounded by azure Mediterranean waters, diminutive Gozo lies just 5km/3mi from its lively sister island of Malta. In contrast, the pace of life on Gozo however is one from an era gone-by, even a short visit will lull you into its relaxed rhythms. This tranquillity, combined with the island's size, makes Gozo perfect for gentle exploration on two wheels – each day offers a montage of ancient archaeological treasures, stunning gentle tracks, coastal vistas and hidden hilltop hamlets - and short distances mean that you can explore at your own pace. An evocative silence pervades the island; as you pedal along the only sound is the soothing peel of church bells, the sea softly lapping the shore or the rhythmical clapping of horses' hooves.

Your journey starts at Ta'Cenc, the island's most panoramic spot with views sweeping as far as Malta and Comino. First, you pedal to Calypso's Cave with breathtaking views over Ramla's red sands, to reach Xaghra, where locals gather every afternoon in its beautiful piazza to catch up on the daily gossip! You then travel west past a string of colorful fishing harbours and striking salt pans to the luxurious Kempinski Hotel in San Lawrenz. Your last section takes you inland to honey-hued Victoria with its tangle of alleys and ancient citadel, before taking in azure sea views again as you return to Ta'Cenc.

The superb hotels offer a highlight to your holiday too; our favourite is the romantically secluded ★★★★★★ Ta'Cenc where in fine weather you dine under a 400-year old carob tree. In Xaghra you stay in a former Gozitan farmhouse, now renovated into a cozy hotel, and our hotel in San Lawrenz boasts one of Europe's best spas. All have sparkling outdoor pools (as well as indoor heated ones at two hotels!) and offer delicious al fresco dining in warm weather, as well as plenty of opportunity to sample Gozo's excellent wine.



"It was a lovely holiday. The island of Gozo and its people are quite unique. Cycling was a very good way to see it."

Mr Akers



HIGHLIGHTS OF GOZO | DAY BY DAY

Day 1 Arrive at Ta'Cenc

We meet you at Malta airport and transfer you via ferry (25 mins) to the exclusive Hotel Ta'Cenc (10 mins).

Day 2 Ta'Cenc to Xaghra 14km/9mi

A panoramic swoosh takes you to Xewkija, a small village boasting Europe's third largest dome, from where you can drink in views of the entire island and beyond. Cycling through gently swaying vineyards you reach Calypso's Cave with its magnificent views to Sicily; it's said that the nymph Calypso kept Odysseus captive here for seven years. Maybe descend by foot to the rich red sands of Ramla Bay – the island's best beach – before pedalling on to Xaghra and your fabulous farmhouse hotel.

Day 3 In Xaghra

There's plenty to explore in Xaghra's tangle of butter colored streets. Perhaps visit the megalithic temples of Ggantija, an archaeological wonder dating back to 3500BC or Xerri and Ninu's grottos, two caves full of stalagmites and stalactites strangely located within their owners' houses! Xaghra's piazza with its church is at the centre of village life – do as the locals do and relax in one of the cafes and watch the world go by. Or, our hotel has two lovely pools in its geranium decked courtyard.

Day 4 Xaghra to San Lawrenz 15km/9mi

Farmers tend their crops in the verdant terraced fields as you descend to Marsalforn, where rugged fishermen mend their nets in the harbour, their brightly painted luzzu boats bobbing lazily in the turquoise waters. A wild and beautiful stretch of coast takes you past a patchwork of salt pans and on to Wied il-Ghasri, a narrow inlet with a beautiful secluded cove – a perfect picnic spot. Time to visit the remarkable neo-Romanesque basilica at Ta Pinu before reaching the luxurious Kempinski Hotel in time for a swim before dinner.

Day 5 In San Lawrenz

Perhaps visit Dwerja Point (there's a free shuttle from your hotel), where you'll find spectacular coastal scenery and some of Gozo's most recognisable sights such as the Inland Sea, the stunning Azure Window (where the blue sea and sky is framed by a honey-colored stone archway) and Fungus Rock. Our ★★★★★ hotel has several pools as well as one of Europe's best spas, so there's no excuse not to soothe any aching muscles!

Day 6 San Lawrenz to Ta'Cenc 9km/5mi or 15km/9mi

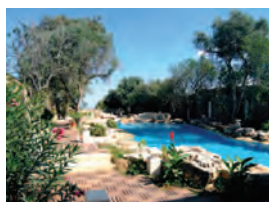
In fine weather maybe follow one of the island's most attractive trails along the western coast, fields bright with tiny yellow flowers and the air fragrant with Mediterranean garrigue. Otherwise it's a gentle pedal towards the north-west, where the terraces are dotted with Gozo's succulent tomatoes. Then on to the capital, Victoria, with its tangled maze of flower-scented streets – the medieval citadel boasts spectacular views across the whole island. Time to explore Ta'Cenc's archaeological treasures before your final candlelit dinner beneath the ancient carob tree.

Day 7 Leave Gozo

You return by ferry to Malta in time for your flight home, or stay on at the Ta'Cenc for a few extra nights?



HIGHLIGHTS OF GOZO | WHERE YOU STAY



Hotel Ta'Cenc
★★★★★
Sannat
Days 1+6



Hotel Cornucopia
★★★★
Xaghra
Days 2+3



Kempinski San Lawrenz
★★★★★
San Lawrenz
Days 4+5

For extra nights we recommend any of the above hotels, and city add-ons can also be arranged in Malta.



Dates and Prices

| Departs selected dates | Tour Only |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 2012 departures | |
| Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 9 | \$2,433 |
| Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5 | \$2,382 |
| Feb 12, 19, 26, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 | \$2,382 |
| Apr 1, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20 | \$2,436 |
| Oct 7, 14 | \$2,559 |
| Apr 8, May 27 | \$2,564 |
| Sep 30, Oct 21, 28 | \$2,689 |
| Sep 9, 16, 23 | \$2,722 |
| Dec 21, 28 | \$2,759 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 2013 departures | |
| Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb 3 | \$2,449 |
| Feb 10, 24, Mar 3, 10, 17 | \$2,449 |
| Feb 17, Mar 24, Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 | \$2,527 |
| May 5, 12, 19 | \$2,633 |
| Mar 31, May 26 | \$2,617 |

Singles: Add \$60 per night. Except departures Sep 16- Oct 21 2012 when \$70 per night. All prices are for sole occupancy of a double room.

Child: This holiday is unsuitable for children under 12.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$23 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent cycling, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size, however airport and luggage transfers are subject to at least 2 people (in total) booked on each departure.

Departs: Selected dates from Jan 8 2012 to May 26 2013.

Duration: 7 days (6 nights). This holiday may also be adapted into a 4 night version – just deduct \$356 per person from the prices above.

Meals: Buffet breakfast and evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Malta Luqa Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Malta Luqa Airport at 15:00, then ferry to Gozo 18:00/18:25. (Transfer to hotel, 10 mins, provided). **Return:** Ferry to Malta 12:00/12:25 then Malta Luqa Airport by 14:55 (transfer provided).

Tour only: Transfers included from Malta Luqa airport at 15:00, and back to Malta Luqa airport departing hotel at 11:15.

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