

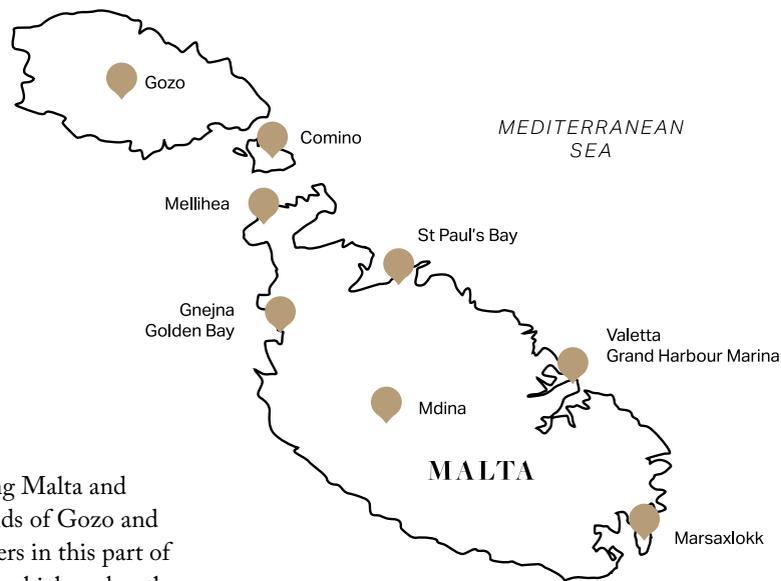
CRUISING GUIDE

A Mediterranean marvel

WRITTEN BY MIRIAM CAIN

With a pleasant year-round climate, deep natural harbours, extensive superyacht refit and repair facilities, and fantastic infrastructure, Malta is an ideal gateway to the popular cruising grounds of the Mediterranean.





The currents surrounding Malta and the neighbouring islands of Gozo and Comino, keep the waters in this part of the Mediterranean crystal clear, which makes them ideal for all manner of activities. The ocean floor abounds with shipwrecks that make for fantastic diving experiences, while for those looking to relax, swim and snorkel, the islands have plenty of sandy beaches. The coastline stretches some 200 kilometres around the three islands, offering a range of harbours and anchorages including one of the Mediterranean's largest natural harbours, including the deepwater port of Grand Harbour Marina right at the heart of Malta.

Ideally located for yachts looking to explore the islands or as a place to keep your yacht for the winter season, the Grand Harbour Marina offers 33 berths for superyachts of 30m – 100m, all of which are fully serviced by Camper & Nicholsons Marinas. The marina's waterfront has a backdrop of watchtowers, monuments, archways and ancient merchant houses as well as plenty of amenities, shops, and a nautical museum.

Opposite the marina, the Maltese capital of Valetta has plenty to offer in terms of culture, dining and leisure pursuits. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Valetta is resplendent with ancient buildings including cathedrals, palazzos and fortifications from the period of the knights who were driven off the island by Napoleon in the late 18th century. The waterfront has a number of restaurants, bars and clubs. The Harbour Club is a great place to view the marina and yachts as you enjoy dinner on the terrace. Alternatively, the Quarter Deck Bar in Valetta is great for early evening drinks, as is the recently opened Pearl Beach. Further cultural hotspots can be found in the ancient capital of Mdina. Known as the Silent City, the citadel is testament to Malta's long and often troubled history and abounds with historic sites including the

Mdina Church and Dungeon, several museums and an underground labyrinth of ancient catacombs carved into the rock. Further inland, Hal Safieni Hypogeum is another underground necropolis that was excavated around 2500BC. The only known example of a subterranean structure of the Bronze Age, the hypogeum consists of a series of elliptical chambers to which access is gained from different tunnels.

Cruising around Malta, you will come across picturesque fishing villages, beautiful anchorages, grottos and secluded bays. From Island Bay to Marsaxlokk to Golden Bay and Gnejna in the south, to Mellieha, Selmun, and St Paul's Bay in the north, the island has plenty to offer the waterborne.

For those looking to explore further, the island of Comino is a short sail away and offers protected anchorages, crystal clear waters, and fantastic beaches. The sleepy island of Gozo is also worth circumnavigating before returning to Malta. The island remains relatively undeveloped and inland you will find remnants of monuments and forts spanning back over the past six millennia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON CRUISING AROUND MALTA AND HER SURROUNDING ISLANDS, OR FOR WINTER HOME BERTHING IN THE GRAND HARBOUR MARINA, CONTACT YOUR NEAREST CAMPER & NICHOLSONS BROKER, WWW.CAMPERANDNICHOLSONS.COM

THE 58M (190'3) *ILLUSION V* IS AVAILABLE TO CHARTER IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE BAHAMAS SEASON FOR UP TO 12 GUESTS. PRICES START FROM \$350,000 PER WEEK.

IMAGE *Illusion V* glides into Malta's Grand Harbour Marina with a backdrop of watchtowers, monuments and ancient merchant houses