



Malta & Gozo in your pocket (*Map included*)

Joe Fenech Soler

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There are many tourist guide books about the Maltese Archipelago – this one is a very small booklet measuring 11 to 16 centimeters. But the info in this pocket size book gives a lot of value to the readers.

Opening the book, the reader finds short contents and gets some basics on history, architecture, climate and economy, added by geography, government, language, population and religion. Especially the climate section is of interest. Did you know that October is the month with the highest rainfall of around 123 millimeter, but has more than 7 hours sunshine per day?

Author Joe Fenech Soler introduces the two islands in a book easy to read and very comprehensive to the reader. Malta itself is – for this book – divided in 12 sections for tourists, seeing for instance Birkirkara, Attard, Balzan and Lija in one chapter.

The cities named in the chapters are described precisely and very informative. Reading the text is like walking around and getting truly Maltese knowledge. For instance, that many of the Maltese surnames are derived from old village names. Or, that the reader sees a windmill in Lija next to Tal-Mirakli church with a round architecture. All other windmills have a square basis. And – well done for a guide – places to visit show as well opening hours and entrance fee. Nice cards, looking handmade, give the reader a good impression of the tours.

For those who like brief information on Malta – and as well Gozo – the author has edited a special section called ‘Malta A – Z’ or ‘Gozo A – Z’. They are filled with text and lots of addresses and telephone numbers from Aircraft Charter Leasing via Bus Routes to Golf Courses, Food and Wine with Maltese recipes, Hotels, Markets and Restaurants. And ‘Regular Events’ – which are, as the au-

thor states in the guide, not mentioned elsewhere – give hints where to find Lunchtime Concerts or Poetry on Gozo.

The guide is lovely to read. Lots of photos in the text parts give a nice atmosphere to the reader. Disregarding very very small printing mistakes, 'Malta & Gozo in your pocket' is a useful and very helpful book to explore the Maltese islands. (*Horst-Joachim Hoffmann*)