

# THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY ACCESS STATEMENT

## PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Information on the National Museum of Archaeology can be found on Heritage Malta's website, which includes opening and closing hours, highlights of the sites and admission fees. Information leaflets are also available in museums and in tourist information offices.

We offer concession admission fees to seniors, students, persons with disability and their carers. Service dogs are most welcome.

## VISITING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

### Transport and Parking

The museum is located in Republic Street just 200 metres away from the Bus Terminus. This link below provides all the information and the routes that Malta Public Transport's provide from villages around Malta to Valletta <https://www.publictransport.com.mt/>

Next to the bus terminus there are also taxi stands. Other sources of transportation within Valletta are Electric City Cabs, Hop On Hop Off buses and Fun Trains. Should one decide to use a private car, there are various parking areas just outside Valletta, such as the Malta Car Park (MCP), which is located next to the bus terminus. Another option for parking is the Park and Ride facility. The Park and Ride space is located in Floriana which is a town in the outskirts of Valletta. There is a shuttle service from the parking to Valletta and the minivan stops at the bus terminus.

### Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area

### The History of the Building

There is more than meets the eye at the National Museum of Archaeology. Housed at the Auberge de Provence, in Republic Street, Valletta, it is renowned as one of the most elaborately decorated Baroque buildings in the city. It was constructed in 1571 to serve as the official residence of the Knights of the Order of St John who originated from Provence in France. The sheer elegance of the time is still much alive in the richly painted walls and wooden beamed ceiling of the Gran Salon Hall.



### Reception Area, Ticketing & Gift Shop

The main entrance of the museum is located at ground level of Republic Street. To enter the main door of the museum there are two steps or one can use the ramp, which has a handrail as well. The door of the main entrance is made of clear glass and it opens and closes automatically.



## Main Reception

The reception area is situated at the entrance of the museum and is all on one level with no steps or ramps. The reception desks are both at wheelchair height and all the reception area is well lit with natural light and ceiling spotlights.

The reception area is always manned by the front of house personnel who have all been trained in customer care. Each employee has a name tag which also indicates the languages they are able to speak. The museum tickets and other Combo Heritage Malta tickets can be purchased from the main reception.

At the reception desk one can opt to download the museum app by using the free WIFI or else they can make use of an audio guide which is against a fee of one euro. In addition to the fee, the client has to leave a refundable deposit. Both the app and the audio guide are available in different languages, including; Maltese, English, French, Italian, German and Spanish. Just at the entrance of the reception area there is also a small seating area.



## Gift Shop

The gift shop is incorporated in the reception area and one can find a vast selection of gifts that target different age groups. Such items include replicas of Neolithic statues of different sizes, small souvenirs, jewellery, items aimed specifically for children and books. Some of the souvenirs are exclusive to Heritage Malta sites. Items are displayed at different levels. All the signage and prices are clear and visible.



## The National Museum of Archaeology

The museum has two main floors, from the main entrance one can immediately view the reception desk and also the gift shop. From the reception area one can proceed through self-operated turnstiles to the ground floor exhibition. The ground floor exhibition area is all on one level, with no ramps or steps. The ground floor museum panels were recently renovated and information was updated.

To access the second floor one can use the lift (for the time the lift is out of service. A new lift will be installed later this year) or else one can use a wide staircase which has handrails throughout. On the second floor there is another exhibition area and a children's activity room.

## Restrooms and other facilities

At ground floor level one can also find two male restrooms, two female restrooms, one restroom with children nappy changing facilities and one unisex restroom for persons with disability.

Just next to the restrooms there is a lift (currently out of service- process to be replaced later this year) which can be used by persons using a wheelchair, pushchair etc. There are also lockers for visitors who wish to leave their bags. There is also a luggage cage, for visitors who wish to leave their luggage during their visit inside the museum.



On the second floor there are also four female restrooms, four male restrooms and one non gender restroom.



## Children Activity Room

The children's activity room is used as a quiet room for Autistic children on Wednesdays from 1pm-4pm. The quiet room, which is a space where visitors may retreat in case of sensory overload. All staff working inside the museum have been trained.



## Portable Chairs

Visitors can make use of portable chairs while they are visiting the museum. There are a total of three stations; two stations situated inside the Neolithic Section and the other at the second floor next to the lift.



## Signage

There are visible panels throughout both floors indicating where the exhibition areas, restrooms and lockers are located. Whilst in the exhibition areas there are several audio visuals and information panels all of which are written in a large format in Maltese and English.

The public areas are all well-lit with artificial and natural light. As for the exhibition areas some of the halls are dimly lit due to the nature of the artefacts.



## Future Plans

Currently, the museum displays artefacts from the Neolithic (ground floor), Bronze Age and Phoenician periods (Upper floor).

At the upper floor, there are also three permanent exhibitions: the National Numismatic collection display, the Phoenician Shipwreck Exhibition and the Skulls Exhibition.

Temporary exhibitions are also held throughout the year both on ground floor and upper floor. Currently, there are restoration works inside the Gran Salon Hall.

A new lift will be installed later this year.

Future plans of the museum include the opening of more permanent exhibition halls to include the Punic, Roman, Byzantine and Medieval periods.

## Contact Details

**Address:** Auberge de Provence, Republic Street, Valletta VLT 1112

**Telephone:** +356 21 221623

**Opening hours:** January-February everyday from 09:00-17:00 (except on Tuesdays)  
March-December from 10:00-18:00

**Shutdown days:** 24, 25 & 31 December, 1 January & Good Friday

**Website:** <https://heritagemalta.mt/explore/national-museum-of-archaeology/>