

IS THE BEACH BUSY?

Explore the natural and historical sites in the area!

01. Majjistral Nature and History Park (2007).

The coastal area in the northwest of Malta, from Ramla tal-Mixquqa to Il-Prajjiet, was declared a national park in 2007; and named after the Northwest wind in Maltese, 'Majjistral'. The Park's area includes 6km of protected coast, designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) within the Natura 2000 network of sites. The SAC incorporates a varied landscape of clay slopes, beaches, garrigue, boulder scree, and agricultural land; rich in biodiversity, with over 300 plant species. The Visitors' Centre is at the old Barracks and open from Monday to Friday, between 9am - 3pm. <https://majjistral.org/>

02. WW Training Camp Barracks and Rifle Ranges (1899 to 1964).

During the Great War (1915-1919), a disciplinary and convalescence compound was set up at the previous military and naval training camp of Għajn Tuffieħa. The Camp provided 5,000 beds, enclosed in tented areas, for the wounded and sick servicemen injured during the Gallipoli expedition. After WWI, the camps were replaced by a rifle range, stone barracks and villas in order to serve as a coastal military training camp and, to accommodate British servicemen and their families. Various afforestation projects around the Barracks are in progress.

03. Ir-Razzett Tal-Qasam historical farmstead.

Ir-Razzett Tal-Qasam is a delightful and unique medieval hamlet located 500m. from Golden Bay, run by a local farmers' coop whose mission is to safeguard rural life and traditions in the locality of Manikata. <https://talqasam.mt>

04. Għajn Tuffieħa watch tower (1637).

Għajn Tuffieħa Watch Tower is one of the ten watchtowers built by Grand Master Lascaris in vulnerable parts of the Maltese Islands (1636 to 1657), in order to surveil the coastline and warn of any approaching vessels. This tower has Lippija and Nadur Towers in its line of sight. They were originally armed with a half-pounder gun.



This way to Majjistral Park's nature trails.

WELCOME TO IR-RAMLA TAL-MIXQUQA (Golden Bay)

A NATURA 2000 TOURISMO pilot site, North West of Malta

TOURISMO - TOURism Innovative and Sustainable Management of flows

<https://tourismo.interreg-euro-med.eu/>



Persistent challenges like overtourism continue to affect destinations and communities across the Mediterranean region. The TOURISMO project aims to address these challenges by using innovative technologies to monitor and manage tourist flows.

ABOUT TOURISMO

Ir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa covers an area of approximately 33 hectares and has a NATURA 2000 management plan since 2017. The beach is situated between two Upper Coralline Limestone headland plateaus, Għajn Tuffieħa and in-Naħħalija. The 'Special Area of Conservation' incorporates a varied landscape of clay slopes, beaches, garrigue, boulder scree, and agricultural land - with over 300 plant species having been recorded. The beach also hosts the remnants of an embryonic shifting dune ecosystem, supporting a number of rare flora and fauna. The area is rich in amphipods, isopods and insects, some of which have a restricted distribution. Loggerhead turtles have been nesting and hatching regularly on the beach.

Ir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa is one of eight MED pilot sites chosen; and MRDDf, in collaboration with the Majjistral Nature and History Park, has just launched a three-year visitor counting programme (2025-2028) at both the beach and the Barracks. We are using GDPR compliant on-site technologies like people-counting CCTV, coupled with deep-learning algorithms; in order to estimate real-time pedestrian and vehicular traffic visiting the area. This will inform a better understanding of visitor flows, density, duration, trajectories, behaviours and forecasts during peak tourist seasons. We are also engaging with local stakeholders in order to find solutions for improving tourist flows, while informing key NATURA 2000 management objectives for the area.



For a 24-hour live stream of the beach, indicating daily visitor counts, search for "Mixquqa webcam" on Youtube!

WARNING!

The coastal areas at Majjistral are hazardous areas affected by undermining and landslides. These are unmarked trails, and it is strongly advised to veer away from all cliff edges. Each trail is unique and conditions change with time. Natural and manmade hazards, whether marked or unmarked, are common on or near these trails including unstable rocks, slopes and cliff faces. Take water with you and avoid the peak sun hours. In case of an Emergency call 112.

Interreg
Euro-MED



Co-funded by
the European Union

TOURISMO



Local Project Leads:



<https://mrddf.org/>



<https://majjistral.org/>

05. Coastal Defence Pillbox (1939-42).

This WWII pillbox and searchlight was built when the first air raids on Malta began in June 11, 1940, and manned till the siege was lifted in mid-1942. These coastal defences were intended to protect Għajn Tuffieħa Bay and Ġnejna Bay against beach landings and low-flying enemy aircraft. Many of the pillboxes were camouflaged to look like rubble walls or even painted to appear as rural farmhouses. They typically had machine-gun portholes, an observation turret and a Bren gun mounted on a tripod. Two 18-pounder field guns were positioned to defend the beach, barbed wire lined the coast and concrete pyramid blocks with spikes (known as dragon's teeth) were laid in two rows underneath the water line.

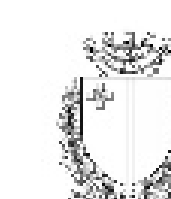
06. WW2 searchlight and sound locator position (1935)

On the crest of a nearby hill, you can visit what looks like a stone reservoir, which is actually a WW2 anti-aircraft search light and listening post for an early sound locator. The concave batter walls were intended to deflect the wind from the sound locator, and could deploy a 150cm anti-aircraft searchlight on a teethered mobile mounting. Take a stroll down to the Israeli Grove at the back of il-Ħotba il-Bajda, or to the Qarraba isthmus.

07. Army Camp Church and Cinema (1915).

This little Anglican church was built in 1915, and was also used as a cinema and recreational hall for the British troops, in order to look after the morale of the men who were coming to the camp for medical aid and care. A second chapel was built in 1949 by the British navy, closer to the Upper Camp Barracks.

Scan for an interactive map of nature trails in the area.



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



FONDI.eu



NGO



Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR