



"THE WORD BECAME FLESH"

INTERNATIONAL NATIVITY SCENE CONVENTION

17 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

GOZO MALTA

From 17 to 20 September 2026, the island of Gozo will host the First International Convention of Nativity Scenes, marking a historic moment for the Gozitan artistic and devotional community. For decades, Gozitans have actively participated in international conventions held abroad, sharing their passion and craftsmanship. Now, it is time to welcome the world to Gozo and offer, in return, the rich experience gained through years of dedication to the art of the Nativity.

This convention will serve as a meeting point for artists, enthusiasts, and scholars of Nativity scenes from around the world, fostering exchange, dialogue, and mutual inspiration. Beyond its artistic dimension, the event will immerse participants in the unique character of the Maltese islands, presenting Gozo not only as a destination of natural beauty, but as a living testament to faith, tradition, and cultural identity.

Through exhibitions, encounters, and shared experiences, the convention will highlight how faith and artistry intertwine in the creation of Nativity scenes and figures, reflecting generations of devotion and craftsmanship. This gathering promises to be both a celebration of international collaboration and a heartfelt expression of Gozo's enduring commitment to preserving and advancing the sacred art of the Nativity.



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ORGANIZING TEAM

'Ghimmanu-El' Għaqda Preseposti Għajnsielem, Gozo Malta was founded in 2013 with the mission of preserving, promoting, and advancing the art of the Nativity scene while encouraging innovation rooted in tradition. Since its establishment, the association has grown into a dynamic cultural force, earning both local and international recognition for the quality of its artistic output and educational initiatives.

A defining milestone in the association's journey has been its strong international presence. **'Ghimmanu-El' Għaqda Preseposti Għajnsielem, Gozo Malta** has successfully held five prestigious international exhibitions in Turin, Bergamo, Rome, the European Parliament in Brussels, and Jerez de la Frontera in Spain, showcasing Maltese craftsmanship and creativity on an esteemed global stage. These exhibitions have played a key role in fostering cultural exchange and elevating the artistic profile of Maltese Nativity art abroad.

Equally significant is the association's commitment to education and artistic development. It was the first association to bring renowned Italian and Spanish Masters to share their expertise through specialized courses, symposia, and hands-on workshops. Through practical training, members were introduced to innovative materials and modern construction techniques, enriching traditional Nativity-making with new artistic possibilities.

Through vision, collaboration, and dedication, **'Ghimmanu-El' Għaqda Preseposti Għajnsielem, Gozo Malta** continues to shape the future of Nativity art while honoring its timeless heritage.



GHIMMANU-EL

GHAQDA PRESEPOSTI GHAJNSIELEM, GHAWDEX MALTA



Designed by Paul Stellini

LOGO DESIGN

The logo brings together two central elements: the Holy Family, representing the universal message of peace and faith conveyed through the Nativity, and the silhouette of the Ghajnsielem Parish Church, a symbol of the community where the organising association, 'Ghimmanu-El' Għaqda Presepisti Ghajnsielem, is based.

This harmonious design expresses the essence of the Convention, a meeting point of spirituality, artistry, and culture, set within the unique landscape of Gozo.



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PROGRAMME

Thursday, 17 September 2026 - Day Tour to Malta

Option 1

08.45 Depart Reef Hotel (Coach from Hotel to Mgarr Harbour)

09.45 Fast Ferry to Valletta arriving at 10.30

or

Option 2

08.00 Depart Reef Hotel (Coach from Hotel to Mgarr Harbour)

09.00 Ferry to Cirkewwa (Coach from Cirkewwa) arriving in Valletta 10.30am

Once we arrive in Valletta we will:

Visit Upper-Barrakka Gardens, St John Con-Cathedral (Caravaggio)

13.00 (Coach depart to Mdina)

13:30 Mdina (Visit to 18th Century Neapolitan Nativity Scene at the Cathedral Museum)

15.00 Mosta Rotunda

Visit to organized nativity scenes exhibitions

17.30 Ferry to Gozo

18.30- 20.00 Opening of the Market

20.15 Dinner at your leisure

21.30 – 23.30 Opening of the Christmas Market

Note:

Transport for the Malta tour will operate under two possible options, depending on weather conditions.

Option 1: If weather permits, we will use the fast ferry service, which takes us directly to Valletta.

Option 2: If weather conditions do not allow for the fast ferry, we will travel by ferry to Cirkewwa and continue onward to Valletta by coach.



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MALTA TOUR



Upper-Barrakka Gardens



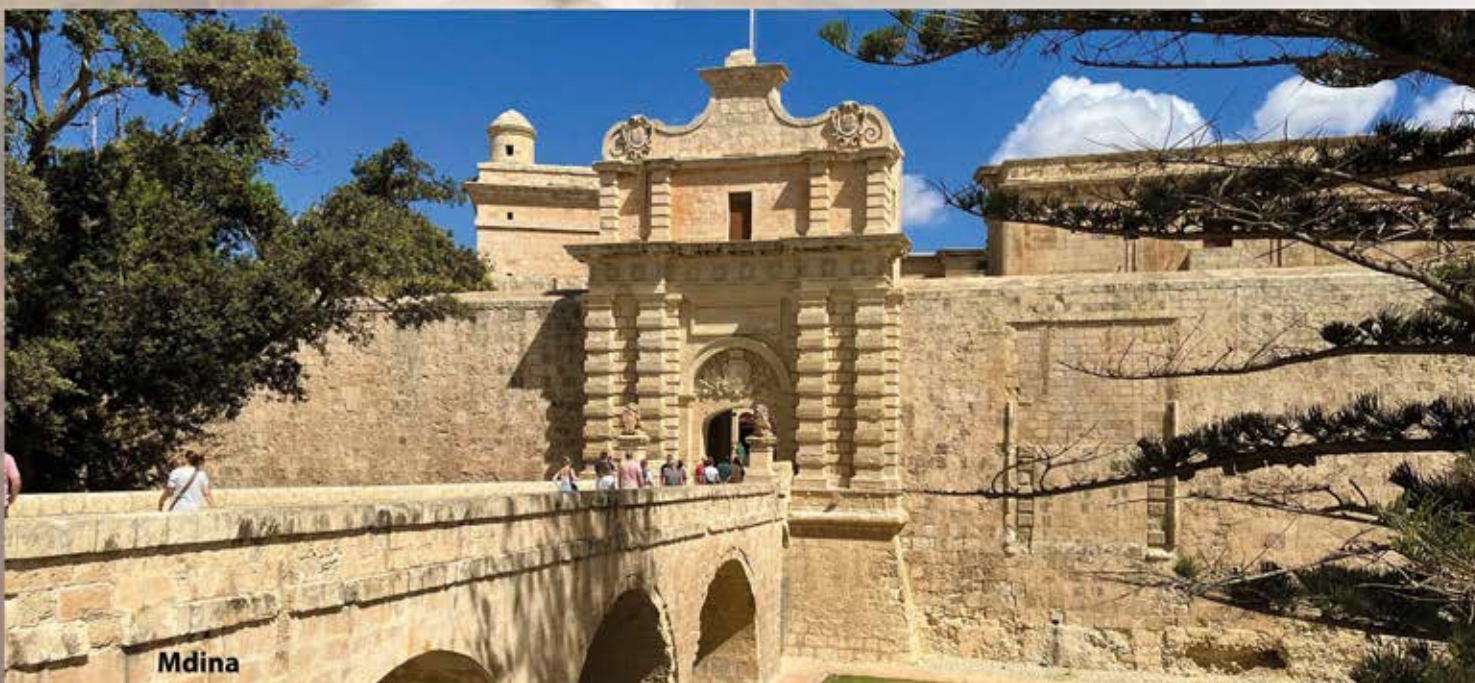
St John's Con-Cathedral



Caravaggio



Mosta



Mdina



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PROGRAMME

Friday, 18 September 2026 - Day Tour Gozo

- 09.00** Departure from Reef M'forn Hotel
- 09.30** Our Lady of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary
- 10.15** Dwejra / Fungus Rock / Inland Sea
- 11.30** Citadel Fortifications and a welcome address from the Minister for Gozo
- 12.15** Lunch on the Bastion.
- 13.30** Guided tour of the Citadel
- 14.30** Ggantija Neolithic Temples (Unesco World Heritage Site)
- 15.30** Xaghra Mechanical Nativity Scene and other Exhibitions.
- 17.00** Return to the Hotel
- 17.30 – 19.30** Opening of the Market
- 20.30** Gala Dinner and Honors Ceremony at Villa Fiorita

Saturday, 19 September 2026

- 08.30 – 10.30** Opening of the Market
- 10.45** Departure by Coach from Reef Hotel to Ghajnsielem.
- Guard of Honour by the Xaghra Historical Re-enactment Group
and welcome by the Mayor of Ghajnsielem Mr. Kevin Cauchi
- Visit to organized nativity scenes exhibitions
- Bethlehem Tour (Largest Live Nativity Village) in Ghajnsielem.
- 13.30** Typical Gozitan Lunch at Giuseppe Cafe and Bistro
- 15.00** Live Workshops and continuation of visiting the exhibitions
- 17.00** Welcome by Archpriest Fr Joseph Hili at the Ghajnsielem Parish Church
- Choral Concert by Schola Cantorum Jubilate
- 18.30 – 20.00** Opening of the Market to the Public
- 20.15** Dinner at your leisure
- 21.30 – 23.30** Opening of the Christmas Market



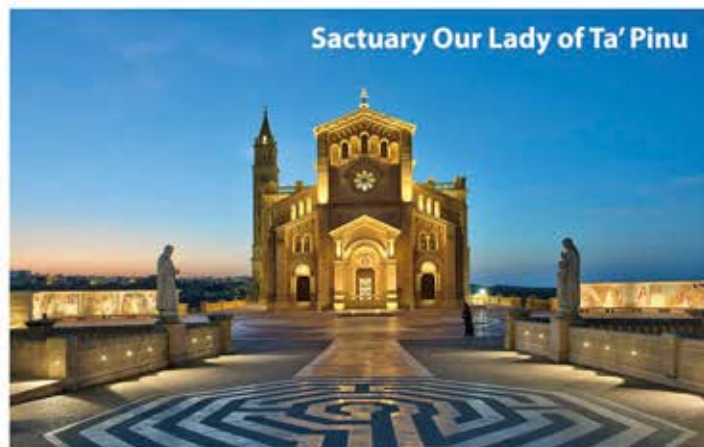
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GOZO TOUR



Mgarr Harbour



Sanctuary Our Lady of Ta' Pinu



Dwejra / Fungus Rock / Inland Sea



Cittadella Fortifications



Ggantija Neolithic Temples



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PROGRAMME

Sunday, 20 September 2026

09.15 Departure from Reef Hotel to Ghajnsielem.

10.00 Mass at Our Lady of Loreto Sanctuary

11.00 Folklore Celebration (music and dancing) and tasting of traditional Maltese Sweets

12.15 Closure of the Convention

14.30 – 18:30 Opening of the Christmas Market (Optional)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dear Participant,

We would like to inform you that the programme of activities shared with you is provisional. While it reflects our current planning, please note that, due to unforeseen circumstances, there may be changes to activities, schedules, and timings. Any updates will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

Travel Information

All flights by air arrive at **Malta International Airport**.

Participants who wish to travel directly from the airport to their hotel in Gozo may arrange private transport at their own discretion or by contacting the following taxi service:

Victory Garage Chauffeur Driven Services - Mr Michael Sultana

Mob: +356 99 491 771 Email: victorygarage@gmail.com Website: www.victory-garage.com

or

Tabone Transport Services - Mr Stephen Tabone

Mob: +356 79 301 975 Email: info@xlendi.com Website: www.xlendi.com

Please note that ferry tickets are purchased from Gozo. When travelling from Malta to Gozo, there is no need to buy ferry tickets in advance.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us on presepjighajnsielem@gmail.com or intconventiongozo2026@gmail.com

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility and look forward to welcoming you to the First International Convention of Nativity Scenes in Gozo, Malta



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ACCOMODATION

Participants of the International Convention of Nativity Scenes will be hosted at the four-star hotel, **The Reef**, situated in M'forn, Gozo. The hotel is located within easy walking distance of a traditional seaside village, where guests can experience local life, enjoy authentic cuisine, and immerse themselves in the cultural charm of the Gozitan coast.

The Reef Hotel & Spa,
2, Triq ir-Rabat, Marsalforn, MFN 9014,
Gozo, Malta
+356 2567 0000
www.reefhotelgozo.com

CONVENTION PRICES

SINGLE ROOM (price per person)

4 nights - €695.00
3 nights - €590.00
2 nights - €470.00

DOUBLE ROOM (price per person)

4 nights - €495.00
3 nights - €440.00
2 nights - €370.00

TRIPLE ROOM (price per person)

4 nights - €450.00
3 nights - €400.00
2 nights - €350.00

EXTRA NIGHTS (price per person)

Single Room - €120.00
Double Room - €75.00
Triple Room - €60.00

The prices quoted above are inclusive of hotel accommodation, daily breakfast, and full access to all convention activities as indicated in the programme during the stay.

Note: The price does not include the tourist tax
Tax applies to: Persons 18yrs or older on day of arrival
• Calculation: €1.50c x Person x Number of Nights



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REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE FILL IN IN BLOCK CAPITALS WITH LEGIBLE HANDWRITING

Surname: _____ Name: _____
Address _____ Nr° _____
Postal Code _____ City _____ Country _____
Tel/Cell _____ Email: _____

I'm attending the conference alone ☐ With one or more people, as shown below ☐

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Single Room ☐

Double Room ☐

Triple Room ☐

Please select the following options: Check the box on the right to choose the participation package for the First International Nativity Scene Convention - Gozo, Malta.

Registration fees are the responsibility of each individual participant.

☐ **Package A:** Arrival Wednesday, September 16, 2026 and departure Sunday, September 20, 2026

☐ **Package B:** Arrival Thursday, September 17, 2026 and departure Sunday, September 20, 2026
This package requires arrival before 8:30 a.m. at the Reef Hotel, in time to participate in the activities included in the program.

☐ **Package C:** Arrival Friday, September 18, 2026 and departure Sunday, September 20, 2026
This package requires arrival before 8:30 a.m. at the Reef Hotel, in time to participate in the activities included in the program.

MARKET RATES (EXHIBITORS ONLY)

I am participating in the Conference as an exhibitor ☐

Exhibitor fee for 'Ghimmanu-El' members, including one table (180cm x 75cm): €65.00

Exhibitor fee for non-members, including one table (180cm x 75cm): €90.00

Number of additional tables (€50.00 per table) - No. of extra tables _____

☐ **Food intolerances or allergies. If YES please indicate which:** _____

Bank transfer details

Bank BIC: VALLMTMT

IBAN: MT95VALL22013000000040023265400

Payment to: "GHIMMANU-EL' GHAQDA PRESEPISTI GHAIJSIELEM

Reason for payment: Surname and Name, registration for the Gozo 2026 International Convention

Date: _____

Signature: _____



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PACKAGES

Package A:

Arrival Wednesday, September 16, 2026 and departure Sunday, September 20, 2026

This package includes:

Tourist coach for the Thursday (Malta with packed lunch),
Friday (Gozo with a typical Maltese lunch), and Saturday excursions
Friday Gala Dinner, and Saturday typical Maltese lunch
Tickets for admission to institutional museums
Participation in the musical evening on Saturday
Convention bag and souvenir

Package B:

Arrival Thursday, September 17, 2026 and departure Sunday, September 20, 2026

This package requires arrival at the Reef Hotel before 08:30 in time to participate in the activities included in the program.

This package includes:

Tourist coach for the Friday (Gozo with a typical Maltese lunch) and Saturday excursions
Friday Gala Dinner and Saturday typical Maltese lunch
Tickets for admission to institutional museums
Participation in the musical evening on Saturday
Convention bag and souvenir

Package C:

Arrival Friday, September 18, 2026 and departure Sunday, September 20, 2026

This package requires arrival at the Reef Hotel before 08:30 in time to participate in the activities included in the program.

This package includes:

Tourist bus for the Friday (Gozo with a typical Maltese lunch) and Saturday excursions
Gala Dinner on Friday and a typical Maltese lunch on Saturday
Tickets for admission to institutional museums
Participation in the musical evening on Saturday
Convention bag and souvenir