



Daħlet Qorrot Walk

IN-NADUR TO IN-NADUR: 10KM



Xlendi Walk



Hondoq Ir-Rummien Walk



Dwejra Walk



Comino Walk



Daħlet Qorrot Walk



Starting: In-Nadur



Ending: In-Nadur



Length: 10km



Grading: Moderate, difficulty with some steep inclines and a few rocky areas



Landscape: Urban, coastal, countryside roads and paths



Trail markings



Getting there and back: Gozo Channel operates regular ferries to L-Imġarr Harbour leaving from Iċ-Ċirkewwa in Malta. Buses leave regularly from the harbour to In-Nadur and back.



Recommended Walking season: October to May



Ramla Walk



Saltpans Walk



Ta' Ġurdan Walk

Overview

This circular walk starts and ends in In-Nadur. It leads from In-Nadur to the plateau of Il-Qortin t'Isopu where, towards the sea you can see the Ta' Sopu Watchtower surrounded by wonderful garrigue terrain known for its wild rock roses and endemic Maltese spurge. There is also a panoramic view over the rocky coastline and the blue waters of the north-eastern coast.

The route then takes you to Daħlet Qorrot bay, skirting Mistra Rocks – a rocky shore. Admiring the wonderful views and the rich variety of wild plants among the cliff-side boulder scree, you go downhill to the small bay of Daħlet Qorrot, where fishermen have carved boathouses in the limestone cliffs: an ideal spot for swimming and fishing.

After a short ramble along the coastal limestone shelf you turn inland and head uphill through an unspoiled wilderness area, with breathtaking views of the valley of Il-Wied ta' Grejgel. In this valley both modern and traditional farming methods are used to reap the succulent fruits yielded by Mother Earth.

The walk then leads the hiker to the village of Il-Qala, the easternmost village in Gozo, which boasts fabulous views over the sea to Comino and Malta.

On the way back to In-Nadur you can admire an 18th century windmill and an ancient dovecote. In-Nadur is a typical Gozitan village, where houses nestle around the dominant Baroque or Romanesque place of worship.

The route map in the centre pages of this booklet, together with the frequent signposts located along the route, will help you follow the walk more easily. It is advisable to stick to the set route so that you can appreciate more fully the Gozitan landscape, rural way of life and other curiosities.

Notes

COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- The route is suitable for hikes, horse rides and pedal bikes. Most of the route is accessible to small vehicles.
- If travelling by bus to the route starting point, you should check the local bus timetable to ensure that this fits your own schedule.
- The local weather forecast should be checked before setting off as there is hardly any shelter from adverse weather conditions along the route. A raincoat can come in very handy in rainy conditions.
- As most of the walk is over open countryside, it is advisable to carry a packed lunch. It is possible to buy food at In-Nadur and Il-Qala.
- Public conveniences are available at Triq it-Tramuntana, In-Nadur.
- Some fields are marked with white blotches of paint and the letters RTO indicate that the area is out of bounds for the visitor since it is privately owned. Bird trapping and bird shooting are practised in the countryside. There are, however strict regulations determining areas where such activities are permitted and times of year where no such activities are allowed. Note also that bird shooting is prohibited from 1.00pm onwards on Sundays and public holidays throughout the year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

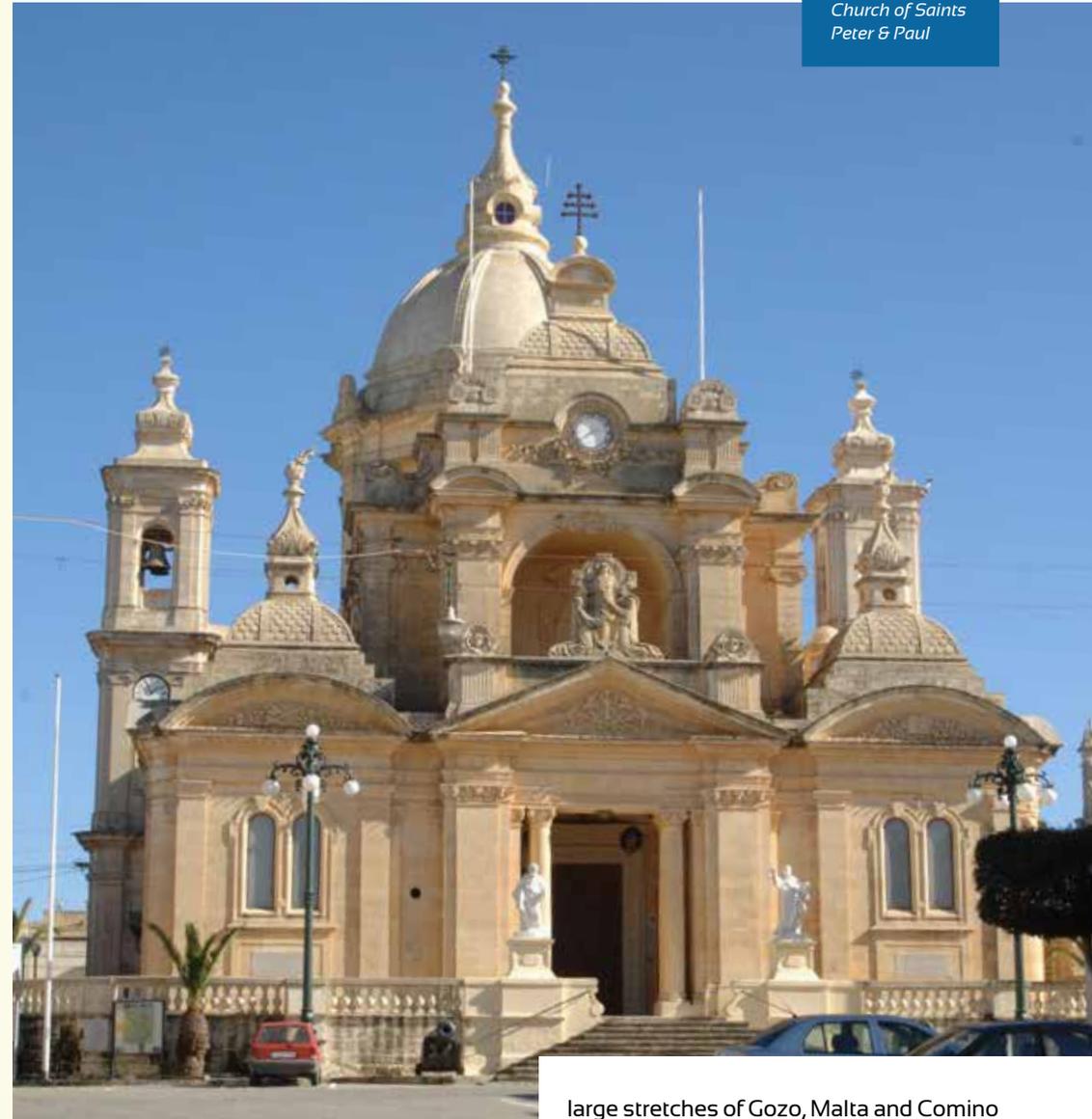
- Hikers are advised to follow the set route. Short cuts are to be avoided since many fields are privately owned.
- Hikers should not climb over rubble walls to avoid damaging them.
- Hikers should avoid collecting wildlife specimen including flowers or plants. Hikers are advised to tread carefully along the trails to avoid trampling on the sparse vegetation.
- The throwing of any stones or other objects into valleys or other freshwater sites is strictly prohibited.
- Walking or cycling close to the cliff edges is to be avoided.
- It is advisable to follow this route in broad daylight, giving due allowances for time allotted to inevitable stops, resting, taking of photographs and observing nature.

Before undertaking any part of this walk, it is strongly recommended to ensure that one's physical and medical conditions permit the undertaking of these activities. Particular attention is to be made to the often irregular terrain and to refrain from undertaking these walks in prohibitive weather conditions. All walks are undertaken at one's own risk.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this brochure as at time of publication, the Ministry for Gozo accepts no liability for any inaccuracies or omissions whatsoever. Moreover, the Ministry for Gozo accepts no liability for accidents or any type of losses while following these walks.

WALK HIGHLIGHTS

Along this route, one gets a taste of the island's rich history, traditions, nature and folklore. Discover the beautiful location of the Ta' Soppu Watchtower that lies within wonderful garrigue terrain and view boathouses hewn in the rock at Daħlet Qorrot Bay. Observe agricultural methods in the Grejgel valley and enjoy the panoramic path along a magnificent stretch of the rocky coastline of Gozo island.



This route starts from the village square of In-Nadur. The town's name originates from the Arabic "nadar", meaning a look-out point, reflecting the strategic position that this village occupies on the island. Indeed,

large stretches of Gozo, Malta and Comino can be seen from the various vantage points that this village affords. This is one of the most picturesque villages of Gozo, with a population of around 4000. In-Nadur is situated on a plateau, 512 feet (around 170 metres) above sea level. All activity in the village square takes place in

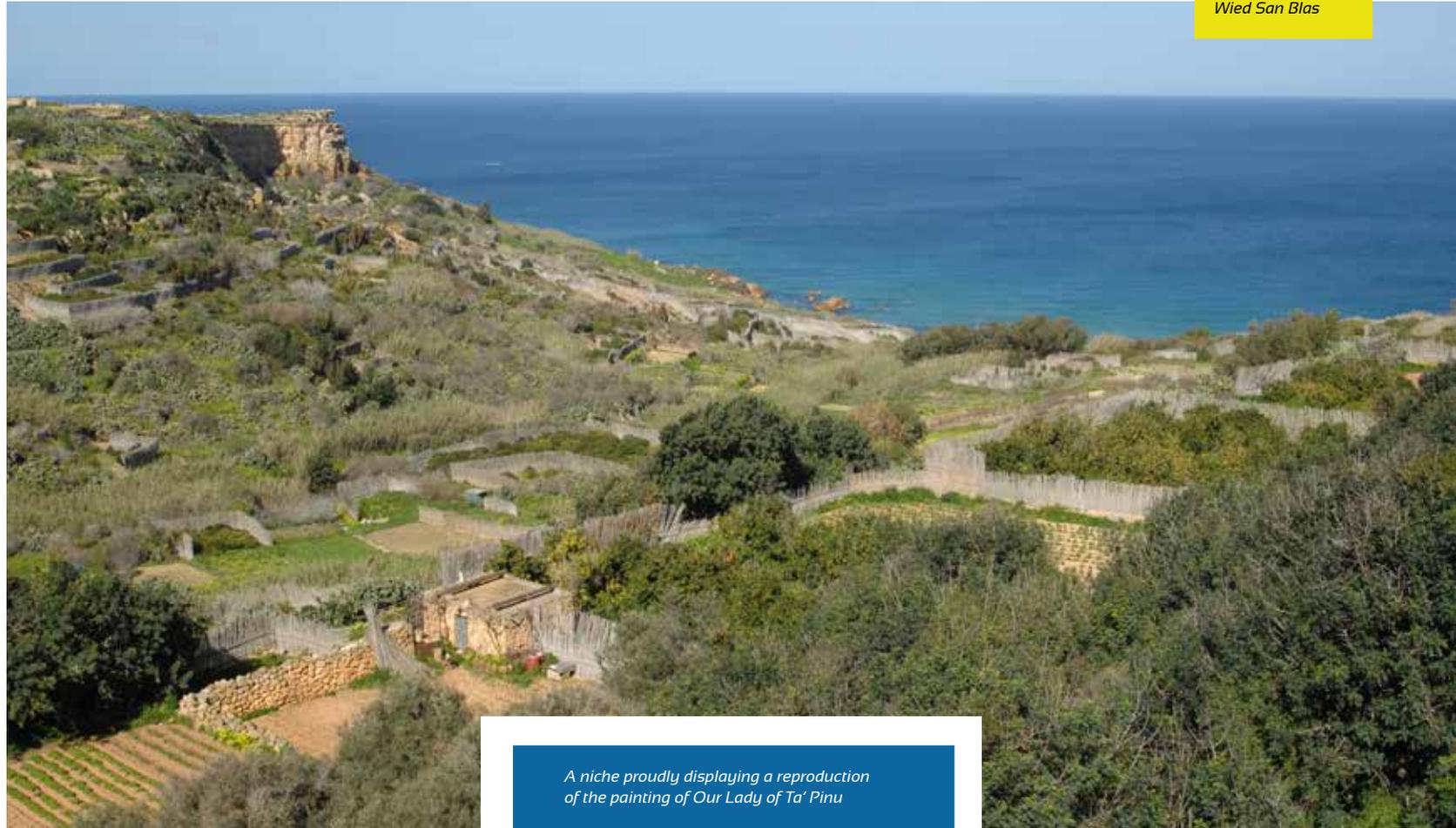


the shadow of the parish church, dedicated to the apostles Peter and Paul (1), which is certainly worth a visit.

The village's main square also hosts a police station, two banks and a pharmacy. It is the venue for many activities during the year but its busiest days are on the 27th, 28th and 29th of June when I-Imnarja, the traditional village feast is celebrated. In-Nadur is also famous for its annual Carnival which takes place during February.

The walk proceeds through Triq It-Tramuntana, the street that starts from the left-hand side of the basilica. Triq It-Tramuntana leads to a T-junction where on your left you can see a niche proudly displaying a reproduction of a painting of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. Take the turning to the right, Triq Ta' Said, which leads to Triq San Gwann. The last few metres of Triq San Gwann lead you on to one of In-Nadur's main roads — Triq it-Tigrija or Racecourse Street.

To proceed, you are advised to cross over to the other side of Triq it-Tigrija. A few metres to the west you will see a sidestreet displaying a one-way sign: Triq



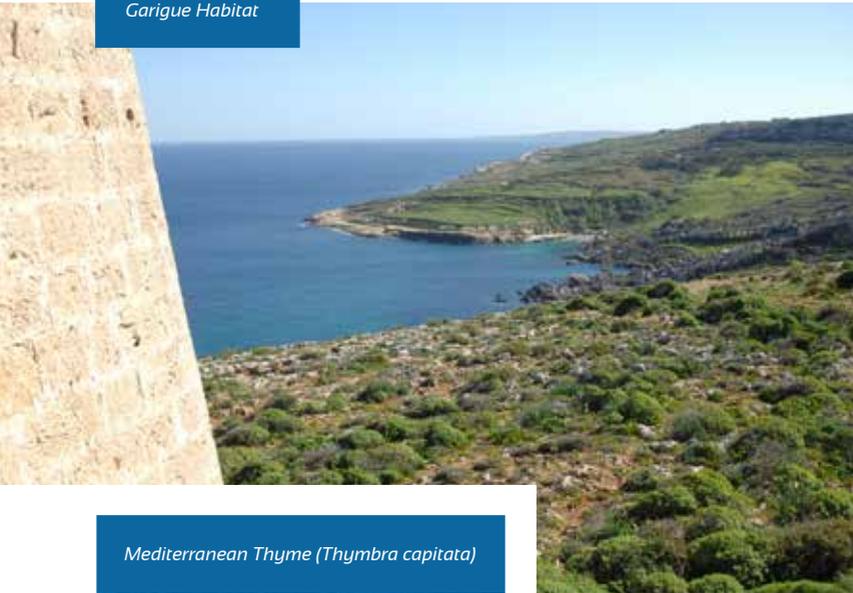
A niche proudly displaying a reproduction of the painting of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu



Dañlet Qorrot. This sidestreet leads to Triq San Blas, lined with 20th century houses. One of these "houses" is a bakery that still employs traditional bread-making techniques. Further on down Triq San Blas, the street forks into two. To proceed along the route, take the left fork. After walking for about 1 km you will see on your left a small viewing point with some benches. From here you can admire the valley of Wied San Blas and the terraced fields along its sides.

Turning your back on the view, instead of taking the road to the right that leads back to In-Nadur, take the road to the left at the crossroads, go past a children's playground on your right, and proceed towards the coastal watchtower of Ta' Soppu (2), turning right at the entrance to the military base. Constructed by the Knights in 1667, the tower lies within wonderful garrigue terrain known for its rock roses and endemic Maltese spurge and has a panoramic view over the rocky

Garrigue Habitat



Mediterranean Thyme (*Thymbra capitata*)



Rock Rose

Ta' Sopa
Watchtower



coastline and the blue waters of the North-eastern coast. This watchtower stands nearly 400 feet, or 130 metres, above sea level, overlooking the formidable Mistra Rocks with San Blas Bay to the West and Daħlet Qorrot Bay and its inlets to the East.

Its strategic location clearly indicates that the tower was built here to watch over the approaches to Gozo's north-eastern coast and the entrance to the Comino channel. Its position also enabled visual

signalling between Ta' Sopa and other towers in Malta and Gozo.

During World War II the tower was used as a wireless telegraph station, directly linked with its counterpart in the UK, transmitting messages to and from other Middle East stations.

In the area around the tower there are many paths through the garrigue, a characteristic habitat of Gozitan rocky coasts and karstic rocky areas that was formerly widespread in these islands but

is now under threat almost everywhere from human activities. Garrigue is an important habitat that you will encounter in most parts of the walk. Its low vegetation grows in shallow soil and in cracks in the surface limestone. It is composed mainly of aromatic shrubs such as Mediterranean Thyme (*Thymbra capitata*), Mediterranean Heather (*Erica multiflora*), Wild Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), the endemic Yellow Kidney-Vetch (*Anthyllis hermanniae subsp. Melitensis*), the endemic Maltese

Spurge (*Euphorbia melitensis*), Tree Spurge (*Euphorbia dendroides*), Olive-leaved Germander (*Teucrium fruticans*) and Mediterranean Asparagus (*Asparagus aphyllus*), together with a wide range of other plants and flowers including narcissi and orchids. Some formations also feature the Rock-Rose (*Cistus incanus* and *Cistus monspeliensis*). There are numerous herbaceous species, many of them also occurring in rocky steppes and open maquis elsewhere in the islands. The

Canes used as wind breakers



Wied ir-Rihan



Carob Tree



Olive Tree



diversity of plants within these rocky areas depends on the seasons and can be truly surprising, especially in spring.

Nevertheless the garrigue community is fast declining due to the incursions of the building industry, new roads, dumping and other forms of habitat disturbance. Thus protection of garrigue via conservation and awareness-raising measures is increasingly important.

Now you turn back, bearing left at the viewing point which is now on your right. Walk back along Triq San Blas and when you get to the junction, turn left into Triq Għajn Berta. In front of you at the end of the street is a farmhouse with a statue of St Anthony on the facade; turn left for about 200 metres until you come to

a fork just past a small farm building on the right. Now take the concrete path to the right that runs downhill and which curves along the rim of the fertile valley of Wied ir-Rihan, heading towards the coast. In winter a watercourse flows along the valley, encouraging the growth of the Great Reed. Local inhabitants use the dried canes of this plant for various purposes. Rows of canes tied together are used to make the familiar windbreaks that are used to shield the crops from the northern wind in winter.

The reed curtains that can be seen covering the front doors and windows of Gozitan houses are also made of this reed, which is cut and tied together with lengths of cord.

The road offers spectacular views. If you look to the right, you will observe the high plateau known as Qortin tal-Lacca. These imposing cliffs are made of one of the harder sedimentary rocks of the Maltese Islands: the Upper Coralline limestone. Other rock types include the equally hard Lower Coralline Limestone, as well as the softer clay, green sand and Globigerina limestone. Qortin tal-Laċċa also hosts dense concentrations of herbs such as Mediterranean thyme and low shrubs.

Staying on this rocky path, on the left is a dry-stone wall and on the right is garrigue terrain, sloping upwards, which is rich in Mediterranean heather with its lovely pink or white flowers in winter. In

wet weather some of the rocky patches can be very slippery, so take care!

As you proceed along the path you can admire the fertile fields along the valley to your left; there are many fruit groves with lemon, orange, pomegranate, olive and fig trees.

In the valley you will also see maquis vegetation, which is still widespread, especially on the sides and bottoms of the dry valleys of Gozo island. However the maquis is all of secondary origin and is dominated by trees such as the Carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*). Other components of the maquis are the Lentisk (*Pistacia*

DAHLET QORROT WALK

LEGEND
➤ Indicates route direction
X - X denotes a distance of 1km

-  BUS STOP
-  PARKING AREA
-  PUBLIC TOILETS
-  SWIMMING ZONE
-  VIEW POINT
-  WATCH TOWER
-  WINDMILL
-  CHURCH
-  BAKERY



START

END

In-Nadur

Il-Bajja ta' San Blas (Bay)

Ta' Sopr' Watchtower

Qorfin tal-Lacdi

Mistra Rocks

Il-Bajja ta' San Filep (Bay)

Dahlet Qorrot (Bay)

Il-Wied ta' Grejgel (Valley)

Il-Wied ta' Dahlet Qorrot (Valley)

Ta' Tocc

Il-Qala

San Filep and
Mistra Rocks



Maquis Vegetation in the Valley

lentiscus), Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) and the Olive (*Olea europaea*). Due to the recent drastic reduction in grazing there has been some regeneration of maquis and some formerly uncommon species such as Mediterranean

Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*) and Terebinth (*Pistacia terebinthus*) are starting to return. Particularly interesting is the Alerce or Sandarac Gum tree (*Tetraclinis articulata*), a conifer related to the Junipers. This tree is mainly found in North Africa, with Malta and an area in Murcia as the only European sites. Many centuries ago it must have been widespread in the Maltese Islands but it is now very rare. It forms maquis on rocky slopes.

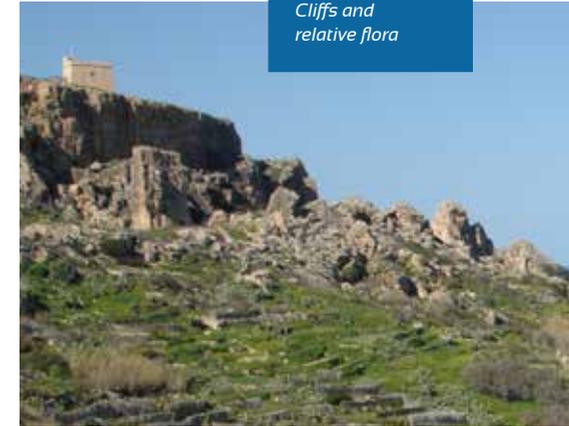
At one point, the path veers away from the dry-stone wall. Keep going and you

will meet the dry-stone wall again. As you approach the coast you can admire the dramatic cliffs with large caves on the opposite side of the valley.

Soon you will arrive at a point where the hidden beauty of Mistra rocks, San Filep and Daħlet Qorrot is revealed. Mistra rocks are a typical boulder scree whereas San Filep and Daħlet Qorrot are small inlets mostly enjoyed by the locals for swimming and fishing.

Continuing along this exciting path, you come to a road leading downhill to the small bay of Daħlet Qorrot. This in turn leads to a

Cliffs and
relative flora

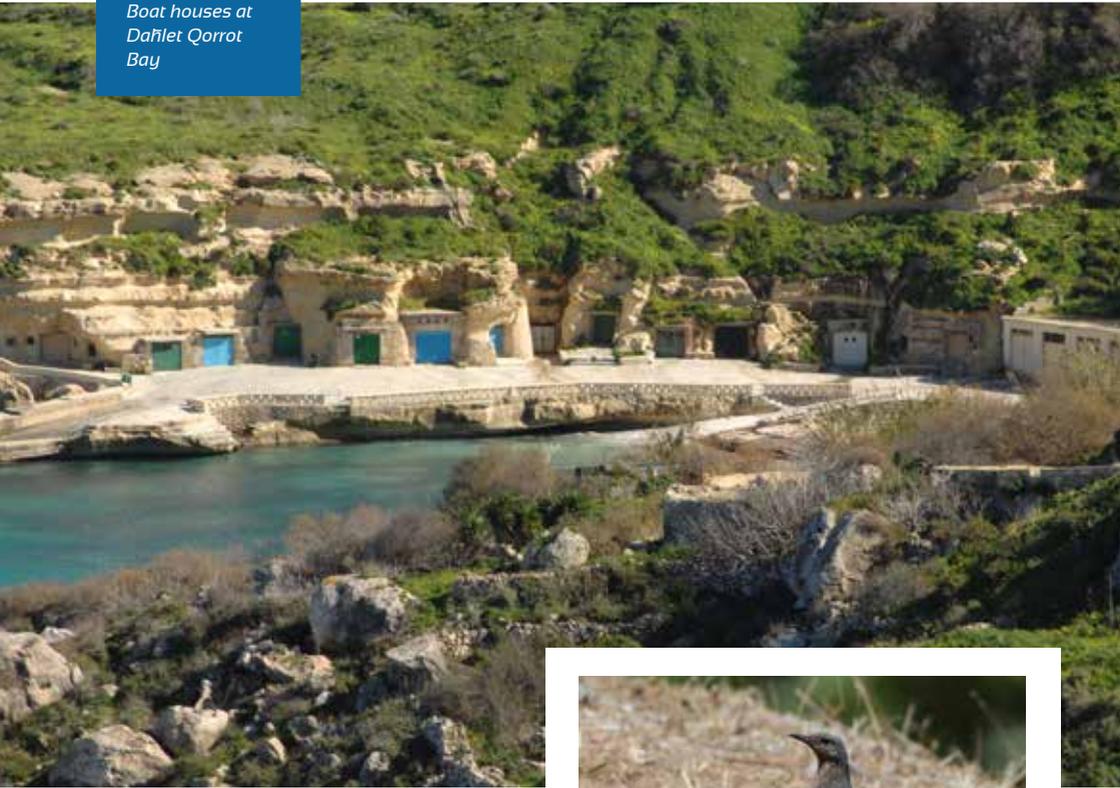


footpath that overlooks Mistra Rocks — a mass of rocks of all shapes and sizes.

The cliff above Mistra Rocks is also formed from Upper Coralline Limestone. This stone layer lies on soft layers of green sand and clay. Weathering causes these soft and unprotected layers to be eroded, leading to a point where there is no physical support for the heavy Upper Coralline limestone above; boulders then break off and fall towards the sea, forming the typical boulder scree.

Being virtually inaccessible except for the most daring of hikers, these boulders host some of the rare endemic flora and fauna of the Maltese islands. The Maltese spurge and the Maltese pyramidal orchid can be found here, and the rare branched horsetail is also quite abundant near the fresh watercourse that flows through these boulders. In this habitat, soil is limited to confined spaces between the boulders, which provide the flora and fauna that flourish here with welcome shelter from violent winds. Nevertheless some plants have also managed to adapt to other, less sheltered areas.

Boat houses at
Dañlet Qorrot
Bay



Coastal cliffs are an important feature of Gozo island. Cliff flora is especially interesting since it includes many endemic species as well as species that are more common in North Africa. Characteristic cliff species are the Maltese Rock-Centaury (*Palaeocyamus crassifolius*), Maltese Salt-Tree (*Darniella melitensis*), Maltese Sea Lavender (*Limonium melitense*) and Maltese Cliff-Orache (*Cremnophyton* (= *Atriplex lanfrancoi*), all of which are endemic, as well as Caper (*Capparis orientalis*), Egyptian St. John's Wort (*Hypericum aegypticum*), Rock Crosswort (*Crucianella rupestris*) and Sea Carrots (*Daucus gingidium*).



Malta's National Bird the Blue Rock Thrush

The boulders also provide shelter for many different species of birds. The Maltese national bird, the Blue Rock Thrush, nests in the cliffs and on the high boulders.

Leaving Mistra Rocks behind, the route continues downhill. Dañlet Qorrot bay is now in full view. On the left-hand side of the road, a uncultivated clay slope rises from the sea, forming the

inlet known as San Filep Bay: a shallow bay strewn with boulders.

This is a popular fishing and swimming site enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. The clay slope can still support life although it is restricted to only one particular type of vegetation. The weathered dry-stone walls and the presence of vines indicate that this area was once a terraced slope.

San Filep is rich in flora and fauna. Prickly pear trees, fig trees and African tamarisks grow by the edge of the slope. The Maltese pyramidal orchid, an endemic plant, is among the most colourful flowers which thrive at this site during spring. There is also abundant fauna, and different stages in the life cycle of the Gourd ladybird can be found here, usually living on the surrounding bushes.

Leaving San Filep behind, proceed to Dañlet Qorrot bay. Here you can see boathouses hewn from the layer of Globigerina Limestone. These houses still offer shelter to fishing boats during storms. A slipway is used to lower the boats into the sea.

You will notice piles of dead *Posidonia oceanica* leaves (3) along the small beach; *Posidonia oceanica* is an aquatic plant that thrives only in the Mediterranean Sea and is of considerable ecological importance: *Posidonia oceanica* stabilises the sea bed, protecting it from coastal erosion, and ensures the proper functioning of the whole ecosystem.

The route around the bay leads to a set of steps with railings that ascend to a yellow limestone cliff top. As you walk along the coastal limestone admiring the geology of the layered cliffs, look out for fossils, which are common in this area.

Fishing boat at
Dañlet Qorrot Bay



After about 100 metres, the path swerves to the right and runs parallel to the coast just above the limestone shelves. Along the coast you will notice another habitat, the coastal communities. These are dominated by a variety of halophytic (salt-tolerant) plants. Among the most characteristic are the Golden Samphire (*Limbarda crithmoides*), which can also be found in saline marshes and other

Golden Samphire



Keeping on the path along the coast you will arrive at a point just beyond a small agricultural building. Look out for an beaten earth path which turns sharply inland and uphill. After a short distance it joins a wider concrete track which goes steeply upwards. Keep to this track, enjoying the lovely views of the lush valley below and the many caves of the Ta'Tocc promontory on the opposite side.

When you come to the T-junction, take the left turning but before you do, cast a glance towards the Wied ta' Grejgel valley to your right.

Surrounding Ta' Grejgel is a vast stretch of fertile land, which has long been used for agricultural purposes. Windmills dotting the landscape attest to the regular supply of water. The land is used all year round and crop rotation is practiced. Various types of vegetables and animal fodder are grown here.

Traditional agricultural techniques are gradually being replaced by modern ones. Drip irrigation methods are replacing conventional techniques. Some traditional cane windbreaks have been replaced by rows of cypress trees that offer protection from the wind while their roots prevent the soil from eroding. Prickly pears are also giving way to more modern plastic tents that shelter the maturing tomato plants.

In 1695 this area became the private shooting reserve of Grandmaster Aloff de Wignacourt, when the hares and numerous bird species induced him to secure the area. Penalties for those caught poaching included three years in the galleys if the culprit was of common standing, a fine of 40 ewwieqi if he was of high standing or a period of exile in the case of a minor.



Banquette of *Posidonia oceanic*

saline communities, the Sea Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*), two species of Sea Lavender (*Limonium virgatum* and the endemic *Limonium zeraphae*), Spiny Chicory (*Cichorium spinosum*) and Shrubby Glasswort (*Arthrocnemum macrostachyum*), which also occurs in saline marshes and on cliffs.

Wied ta' Grejgel



After a short rest, take the track to the left, Triq ta' Ġulju, which takes you uphill towards the outskirts of the village of Il-Qala. Il-Qala is the Eastern most village in Gozo and boasts fabulous views over the sea to Comino and Malta.

Proceeding straight on along Triq il-Mitħna, as the road comes to a Y-junction and curves to the right into Triq il-Wileġ, look to your right where you can admire a restored eighteenth century windmill that was still being used for the grinding of grain and maize until thirty years ago.

Follow Triq il-Qala to Pjazza Repubblica, a square that is protected by a raised statue of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of Il-Qala. Triq il-Qala takes you back to In-Nadur.



Statue of Saint Joseph

As you walk back to In-Nadur, you may chance upon an elderly local farmer grazing his herd of sheep and goats.

Keep walking straight up the road until you reach the niche of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu once again in Triq it-Tigrija. By retracing your steps you will come back to In-Nadur village centre.

Snippets

CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL IN IN-NADUR

1 Today, the main attraction of In-Nadur is undoubtedly its magnificent Basilica dedicated to the apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul. This wonderful monumental temple evokes to memory centuries of old historical facts. Over 300 years ago, in 1688, the Bishop of Malta and Gozo Davide Cocco-Palmeri created four new parishes for Gozo. One of them was that of In-Nadur. The church's site was determined by a generous donation of the ground on which it stands by Grand Master Gregorio Carafa. Since the population of In-Nadur increased without any interruption, Parish priest Salvatore Galea engaged the Maltese architect Giuseppe Bonnici, a Capomastro of the Order, to prepare plans for the building of a new and much bigger church on the same site as the first one. Construction on the church began on 28 September 1760. Its foundation stone was laid on 17 December of that year. The master mason was Mikielangelo Pisano who unfortunately, died while the church was only half finished. This new church, built in the form of a Latin cross, unaisled and with a three-bay nave, the choir and two transepts, had a two-storeyed facade.

Two belfry towers were attached to the arms of the transepts. Construction dragged on for forty-four years. In 1882, the Archpriest John Camilleri had brought from Marseille in France, a beautiful titular statue made of papier-mache, by the firm Galard et Fils, that represents the patron saints of In-Nadur. Archpriest Camilleri, with the help of his nephew Martin Camilleri decided on enlarging the church to its present form, by the construction of the aisles, dome and facade, all designed by the Maltese architect Francesco Saverio Sciortino. This work was carried out between 1906 and 1914. The cross crowning the dome was placed on 24 September 1913. The whole masonry work was finished in 1914.

The In-Nadur church can be described as an architectural gem on the Italian Renaissance style on its exterior and splendid baroque in its interior. The paintings of the main vault of the church, the choir, the two transepts, the four pendentives, the dome and in both side aisles are the work of the Maltese painter Lazzaro Pisani. The vault and both transepts are adorned with paintings depicting episodes that refer to the life of St. Peter and St. Paul. There are fifteen stained-glass windows, twelve of which represents the twelve



Ta' Soppu Watchtower

apostles, in the nave, transepts and choir. These are flanked by paintings of popes, martyrs and doctors of the Church. The architectural decorations and ornate sculpture are the work of the Roman sculptor and decorator Pio Cellini. The colour scheme of the interior of the church is pleasant and harmonious. The vault and pendentives above the main cornice are gilded and painted in such manner to be in tune with the lower parts. From the floor to the main cornice, the interior is encased in beautiful marble. The main altar, in the centre of the presbytery is the work of the Maltese artist Emvin Cremona representing the typology of the Eucharistic sacrifice. Throughout the years, the parish of In-Nadur received many titles, namely: a matrice or mother-church when the parish of Għajnsielem (1855) and then Il-Qala (1872) were dismembered from its territory. The parish church was granted the title of a minor Basilica on 26 June 1967.

TA' SOPU WATCHTOWER

2 The University of Gozo funded the building of this tower in 1667 but it was unarmed until 1670 when Grand Master Nicholas Cottner visited Gozo and stressed the need to equip it with the necessary munitions. It was fully functional a year later.

On the 10th June 1798, French Revolutionary troops led by Napoleon Bonaparte invaded the island of Gozo, landing within shooting distance of Torri Daħlet Qorrot, also known as La Torre di Daħlet Korrot, or Torre Nuova (now renamed 'Torri ta' Soppu). The tower, which was still armed, opened fire on them in a desperate attempt to stop the unwelcome guests from disembarking. General Reynier, who commanded the Gozo invasion, gave an account of this to his Commander-in-chief. The following is an extract from this report.

"A point for landing was selected between the new tower and the battery

of Ramla called Irdum il-Kbir. The whole morning of the 10th June had been occupied in preliminary arrangement. Calms and contrary breezes had still further delayed operations; but by 1 pm the shore was approached by the 3rd Company of Grenadiers and the 95th Demi-Brigade. The heights meanwhile had become crowned with the enemy, who received the French with showers of bullets; Sergeant-Major Bertrand of the Grenadiers in the Generals' boat being killed.

The batteries of Ramla and New Tower then opened fire. The boats of Alceste conveyed General Reynier and Fugieri, captains Geoffrey and Sabatier, and the 3rd Company of Grenadiers who were the first to land. After a rapid ascent of the heights, notwithstanding the heavy fire, the enemy at last decamped. And the Battery of Ramla was taken. The bombards Etoile and Pluvier, by their successful fire against the enemy's batteries were of great assistance..." (Source: *GRENFELL – Malta, 1798, pg 19*).

The main entrance to the tower is on the upper storey. The doorway was approached by a flight of steps and a small wooden drawbridge. Four badly weathered escutcheons, two on each side of the doorway, once displayed the coats-of-arms of the Order of St. John; the Grand Master of the time, Nicholas Cottoner; the Governor of Gozo; and possibly of the University of Gozo.

The tower consists of a square block with thick battered walls. The interior has a high barrel-vaulted ceiling with an intermediate floor resting on rib-arches. A spiral staircase provides access to

the other floors. The tower had its own well with a narrow culvert cut into the inner side of the south wall, enabling the occupants to draw water up to the first floor. The roof of the tower has a shallow parapet on three sides. Also known as The San Blas Tower, it was jointly restored during the year 2006 by In-Nadur Local Council and Din I-Art Helwa (Din I-Art Helwa is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, voluntary organization founded in 1965 to safeguard the historic, artistic and natural heritage of Malta).

POSIDONIA OCEANICA BEDS

3 Seagrasses form meadows that constitute some of the most ecologically important shallow-water marine habitats in the world. Seagrass meadows provide a refuge against predation for numerous invertebrate and fish species. They provide food and serve as an extended substratum for attached plants and animals and they support commercial fisheries through their role as nurseries for many species. They interact with the physical environment, for example, by trapping sediment and stabilising soft bottoms, and by attenuating wave action and sea currents, thereby reducing coastal erosion.

In the Mediterranean, *Posidonia oceanica* forms its most extensive meadows at depths of 1 meter to 40 meters. The large size of this plant and the dense rhizome network it forms result in beds of high structural complexity. Furthermore, *P. oceanica* forms several different types of bed which range in size from small patches to large continuous meadows.

Info Pages



WEBSITES:

www.gozo.gov.mt
www.visitgozo.com
www.ecogozo.com
www.gozochannel.com

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TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE IN GOZO:

No. 17, Independence Square, Victoria, Gozo, VCT 1021
Tel: (+356) 22915452

OPENING HOURS:

Mondays to Saturdays: 09:00 to 17:30 (Last admission 17:15)
Sundays and public holidays*: 09:00 to 13:00 (Last admission 12:45)

*Note: *except on Christmas Day, New Year, Good Friday & Easter Sunday*



BUS TIMETABLES:

www.publictransport.com.mt



GOZO FERRY TIMETABLE:

www.gozochannel.com

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FSE Mark



Xlendi Walk



Hondoq
Ir-Rummien Walk



Dwejra Walk

OTHER WALKS IN THE SERIES



Comino Walk



Ramla Walk



Salt pans Walk



Ta' Ġurdan Walk

Rural Development Programme for Malta 2007-2013



Axis 3 – Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Areas
Project Part-financed by the European Union
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Co-financing Rate: 75% European Union: 25% Government of Malta



Europe Investing in Rural Areas