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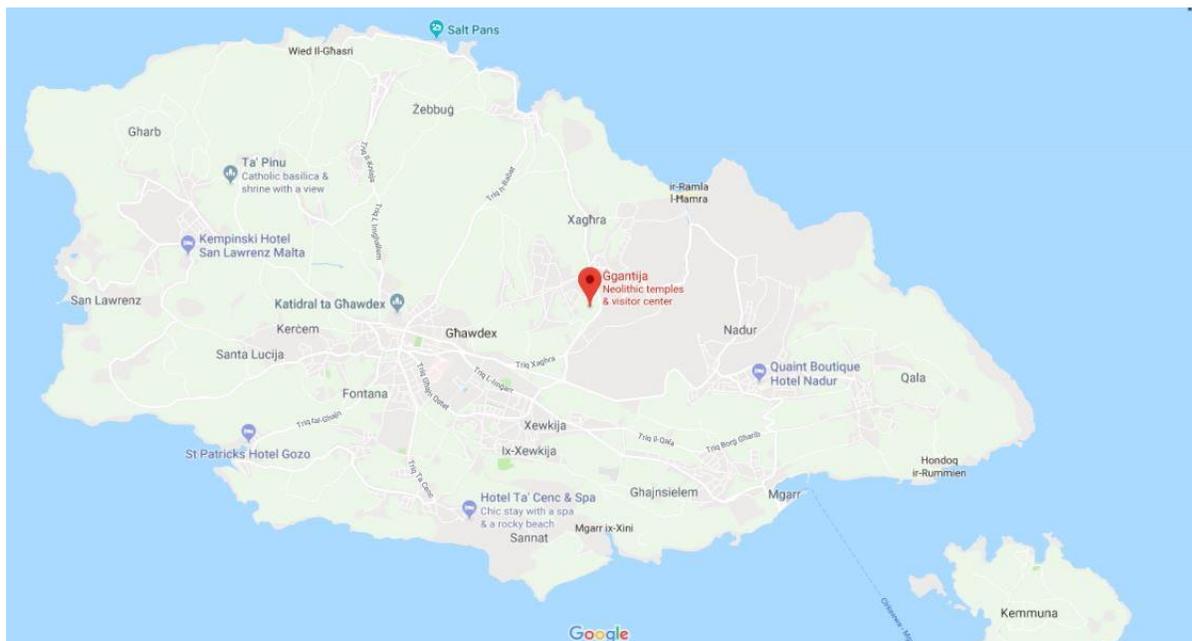
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

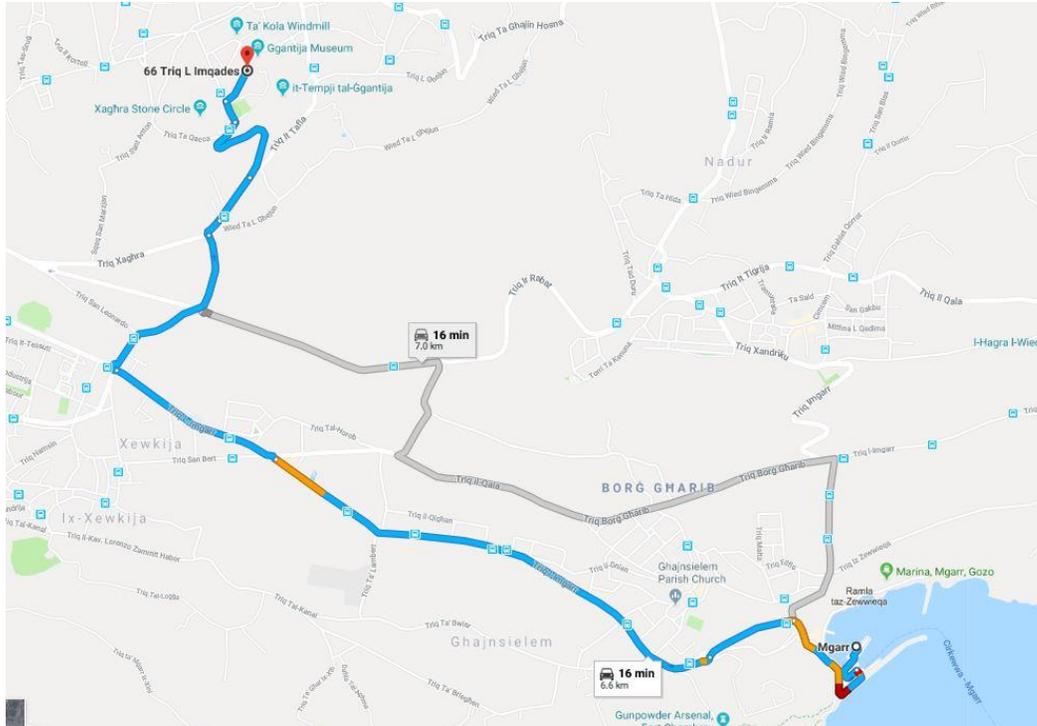
The Ġgantija Archaeological Park welcomes all visitors. We aim to provide the best possible access to visitors to ensure an enjoyable experience. The Ġgantija Park was inaugurated in 2013, following an extensive co-funded EU project that saw the complete remodelling of how the Neolithic monument is presented and experienced. In 2015, the Ġgantija Archaeological Park won the ‘Highly Commended’ award by the British Guild of Travel Writers, which honours new tourist attractions in Europe. The site also won the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for several consecutive years. The Ġgantija Archaeological Park consists of an Interpretation Centre which houses the most significant artefacts from Gozo’s Neolithic sites. These are complemented by information panels and audio visuals to help visitors understand the value and significance of Ġgantija and the island’s Neolithic heritage. A pathway immersed in the park’s natural grounds leads visitors to the 3,600 year old Neolithic monument which overlooks a panoramic view of the Gozitan landscape.

All visitors are welcome, however specific provisions are made to accommodate visitors with physical disabilities. This access statement aims to accurately describe the facilities and services offered to visitors, but should not be taken as guidance on the suitability of the complex for those with access needs.

2.0 GETTING TO THE ĠGANTIJA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

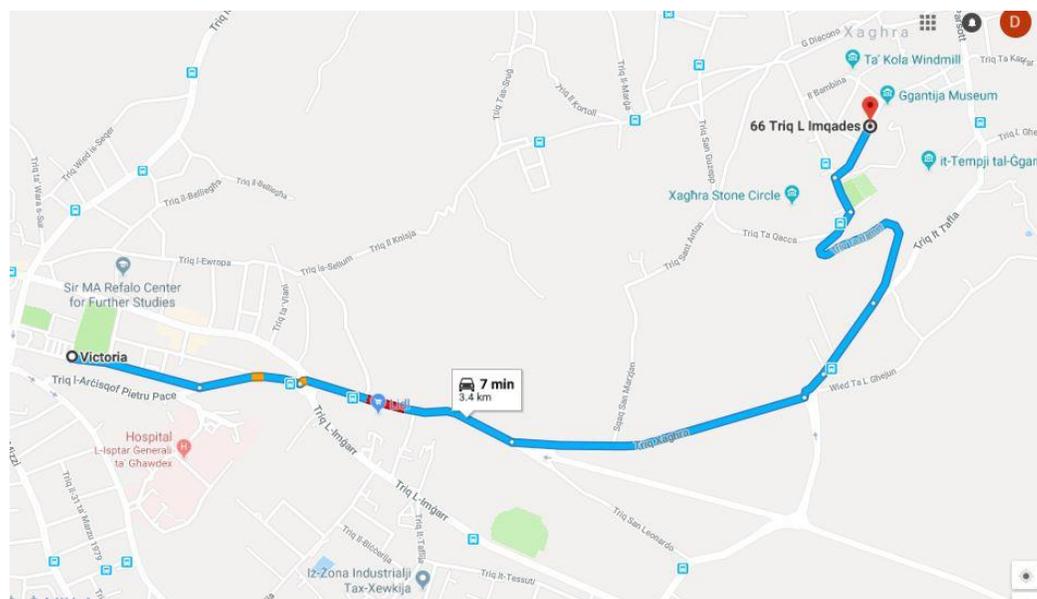


The Ġgantija Archaeological Park is located in the village of Xagħra, one of the main towns on the island of Gozo. Image: Google Maps 06.05.2022



A 16min car drive from Mġarr Harbour, the single point of entry for visitors crossing the sea channel from Malta, takes you to the Ġgantija Archaeological Park.

Image: Google Maps 06.05.2022



The Ġgantija Archaeological Park is just a 7min drive away from Gozo’s capital, Victoria. Image: Google Maps 06.05.2022

2.1 PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Site Address: Ġgantija Archaeological Park, John Otto Bayer Street, Xagħra, Gozo

Opening Hours:

January and February: Monday, Wednesday to Sunday (Tuesday Closed): 9.00hrs - 17.00hrs (last entry at 16.30hrs)

March till December: Mondays to Sunday: 10:00hrs – 18:00hrs (last entry at 17:30)

Opening hours may be subject to changes in case of extraordinary circumstances.



A large orientation plan of the Ġgantija Archaeological Park explaining the routes and facilities available within the complex features inside the main reception area.

- The main entrance to the Ġgantija Archaeological Park is through an Interpretation Centre which is located on one of the main roads in the village of Xagħra, around a 5min walk from the centre/village square.
- The exit is through a separate building at Temples Street.
- The Interpretation Centre has ramped access to the main entrance and the exhibition area is all set out at ground floor level.
- Bus stops are located directly outside the complex. The official public transport website <https://www.publictransport.com.mt/> details all the updated routes and timetables and offers a journey planning option.
- The streets surrounding the complex are main routes into/out of town and are relatively level and in good condition.

- Road signage to the Ġgantija Archaeological can be found on most main roads in Gozo and guide visitors up to the main entrance of the site.
- Bicycle racks to secure up to 5 bikes are located right next to the main entrance.
- Parking is free and available either on the main road leading to the main entrance or a designated car park outside the Exit building.
- The car park is open air with a tarmac surface.
- A parking bay for blue badge holders is available. It is also free of charge and with no time restrictions. It is located directly outside the Exit building. There is a kerb/non-stepped access from the Exit Building to the disabled bay.
- Visitors requesting a taxi service can ask for information/contact numbers at the main reception desks. Two designated taxi parking bays are available at the Exit building car park
- The entrance to the Interpretation Centre is a no parking zone and facilitates drop-off to all vehicles, including coaches. Four designated coach parking bays are available at the Exit car park area which accommodates group visits such as schools, tour operators, care groups etc.
- The Exit car park also offers two designated bays for electric vehicles that include a charging station.

3.0 Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area



A non-slip ramp and paved area leads to the main entrance which is located on one of the main roads of the town.



The reception area is located immediately upon entrance and the desk has a lowered section which is suitable for wheelchair users.

- The main entrance leads directly onto the reception area.
- A non-slip ramp installed in the pavement provides easy access to the main doors. There is a 1000mm hinged door and an automatic door with an opening of 900mm.
- The floor surface of the reception, exhibition areas and restrooms is non-slip epoxy resin.
- The reception enjoys a lot of natural light throughout the day and a number of ceiling lights ensure that specific information panels are clear and readable. An automatic emergency lighting kicks in in cases of power outage.
- The reception desk which is located right upon entrance has a lowered section which is suitable for wheelchair users.
- Ticket concessions for Special ID card users and their care givers are available upon request.
- Guide and assistance dogs are welcome inside the Ġgantija Archaeological Park and water bowls are available upon request.
- Seating in the reception area is available.
- Lockable storage for bags and small luggage is available upon request.
- A wheelchair is available from the reception area and can be provided upon request.

4.0 RESTROOMS AND CHANGING FACILITIES

- The Ġgantija Archaeological Park has accessible facilities at the main entrance and exit building.
- The toilets are all at ground floor with level access.
- The main entrance restroom has four unisex cubicles, one of which is an accessible toilet with the addition of a baby changing bed. Wash hand basins have long-handles lever taps and are available in the accessible toilet and common area.

- The exit building restroom has one unisex accessible toilet with a wash hand basin and a baby changing bed.
- Accessible toilets are equipped with horizontal and vertical grab rails at the side of the toilet and wash hand basin, push button flushing and a low level towel dispenser.
- Lighting is of a good standard and includes emergency lighting.
- All floor surfaces are non-slip.

4.0 CHILDREN’S ROOM

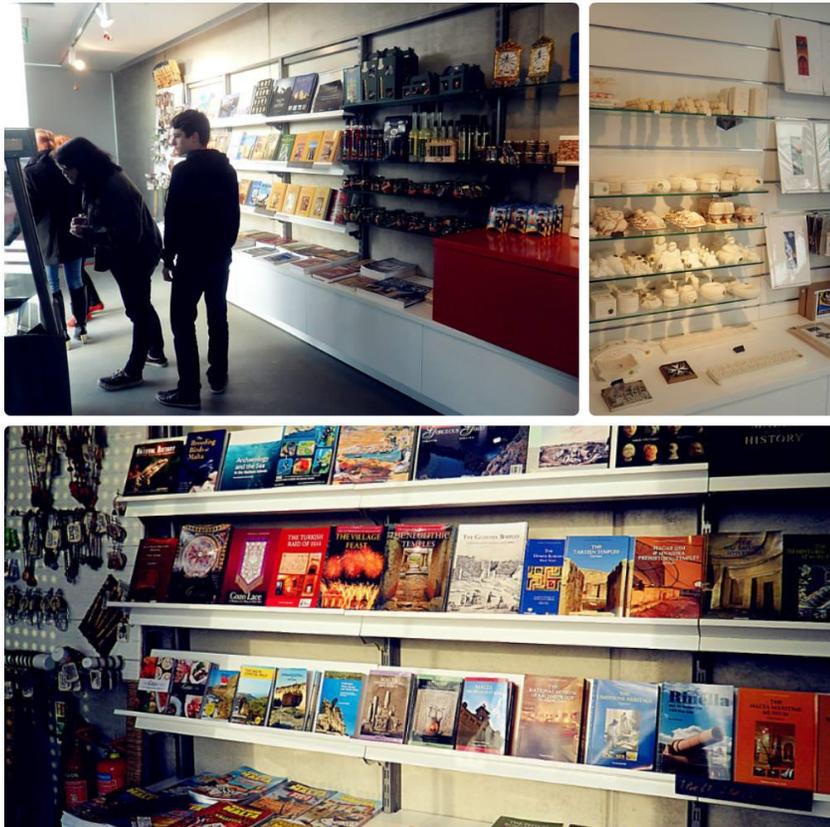


The children’s room has brightly coloured furniture which appeals to children of various ages. It is equipped with child friendly seating and desks.

- The Ġgantija Archaeological Park offers a designated space that accommodates up to 30 children. The room is located at ground floor level inside the Interpretation Centre, next to the restroom facilities.
- The room is open to visitors and can serve as a respite area for parents visiting with young children.
- A video with a UNESCO documentary designed for young children plays on loop. It can be easily understood and followed by children of various ages and nationalities.
- The space has brightly coloured furniture which appeals to children of various ages.
- Child friendly seating and desks are available.
- Colouring pages and games are available upon request.
- Replicas of artefacts and a model of Ġgantija are also available upon request.

- The room is brightly lit with natural light and it is equipped with a number of air conditioning units.
- The room doubles up as a classroom for pre-booked student activities.

5.0 MUSEUM SHOP



The museum shop offers a wide range of souvenirs that are displayed on shelves of various levels, some of which are also accessible from a seated position.

- The Museum Shop offers a wide range of souvenirs including publications, high-quality local produce, jewellery, homeware, children’s toys etc. Cold and hot drinks and light snacks are also available.
- The Museum gift shop is located at the Exit building. It has direct access to the car park so it is also possible to visit the shop without having purchased the entry ticket.
- A wheelchair ramp leads directly to the museum shop entrance. The shop itself is level throughout.
- Merchandise is displayed on racks of various levels, some of which are also accessible from a seated position.
- Staff will offer assistance whenever it is requested.

7.0 WHAT YOU CAN DISCOVER

7.1 THE MONUMENT AND COLLECTIONS

The Ġgantija Archaeological Park is an archaeological complex dedicated to Gozo’s Neolithic Heritage. The highlight of the park are the Ġgantija, a Neolithic monument with a history that goes back over five millennia. Ġgantija, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a live testimony to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of a Neolithic community that once inhabited the Maltese islands.

The award-winning, modern Interpretation Centre, which was designed by a Maltese architectural firm, houses a unique collection of artefacts from a number of Neolithic sites in Gozo.

7.2 THE DISPLAYS



The display areas feature; visuals, a number of open display objects at low viewing levels, videos, replicas etc. which offer a varied and multisensory experience.

The Interpretation Centre exhibition area offers a range of themes that provide the visitor with key information to understand and appreciate the significance of Gozo’s Neolithic past. The display is not solely tied with the Ġgantija Temples but also offers an interesting insight into the everyday life of Gozo’s Neolithic temple builders. Although there is a recommended itinerary around the exhibition area, it is also possible to move around the displays without a particular order. A number of considerations have been

made in order to ensure that the display areas accommodates a variety of audiences and are universally accessible. This includes;

- A number of objects are on open display and several exhibition cases are at low viewing levels.
- The information is concise and is presented in both a formal and informal format (e.g. cartoon drawings). The panels have been designed to be highly visual and offer a good balance of text and imagery.
- One of the objects on display is a replica of a Neolithic statue. Specific signage indicates that the object can be touched. Replicas of carved motifs feature also on a number of panels in the external areas.
- Several videos provide information in audio/visual format and include subtitles.
- Guided tours can be facilitated upon request and special themed sessions can be catered for school children.
- A multi-lingual info pod is available in the forecourt directly in front of the Neolithic monument.
- Multi-lingual audioguides and a downloadable guide app will be available by the end of year 2023.
- Braille and info in large text format is currently not available.

7.3 THE BUILDING



Seated areas are provided at various areas around the Interpretation Centre display area.

- The museum’s flooring is consistent throughout and all the exhibition areas are at the same level.
- There are seats at various areas inside the exhibition area.
- The main display area is lit with a number of ceiling lights and spot lighting inside the showcases.
- The secondary display area is purposefully dimly lit to increase dramatic lighting effect on the artefacts and allow for the enjoyment of the main audio visual. Visitors with a visibility impairment should take extra caution inside this area.

- All of the internal doors are fire doors and an emergency fire exit is clearly marked throughout the building.

7.4 THE EXTERNAL GROUNDS





Ramped routes and pathways provide access throughout the external grounds of the complex.

- A ramped access route that follows universal accessibility gradient levels links the Interpretation Centre to the Ġgantija archaeological monument.
- Seating is available at various intervals along the route.
- Several panels are placed at various spots along the route and landscaped areas which provide interesting snippets of information on the landscape, the history of the site and local flora and fauna.
- The route leads visitors to the temple area. This is an archaeologically sensitive zone and therefore ramps have been limited to the inner areas of the monument. Plans are currently underway to improve access for wheelchair users. Staff is always available to provide any assistance whenever it is required.

8.0 FUTURE PLANS

- Our goal is to continue to identify areas within the Ġgantija Archaeological Park that are in need of improvement in terms of physical, sensory and intellectual access within our sites. We have collaborated on various occasions with several entities that work with these special groups and feedback and suggestions are constantly being gathered to improve the service that is currently being provided.
- A number of ongoing projects such as the implementation of an audio guide system, specialised staff info sessions and training, improved accessibility in the external areas etc. will hopefully accommodate a wider range of audiences and ensure their enjoyment of the site.

Contact Information

Address: Ġgantija Archaeological Park, John Otto Bayer Street, Xagħra, Gozo

Telephone: +356 21 553 194

Opening hours: On January and February Ġgantija opens everyday except Tuesday between 9:00 and 17:00. (Last admission at 16:30). Between March and December Ġgantija opens everyday between 10:00 and 18:00. (last admission at 17:30).

Hours of Operation: All year round except 24, 25 & 31 December, 1 January & Good Friday

Website: <https://heritagemalta.mt/explore/ggantija-archaeological-park/>