

Join our Heritage Malta Shipwreck Club! If you are a member of a local dive club and hold a local ID card, then you can become a member of the Heritage Malta Shipwreck Club for an annual fee of €30 and enjoy year-round access to historic shipwrecks through registered local dive clubs.



For more information email:
uchu@heritagemalta.org

You don't need to be a diver to access our rich, underwater, archaeological legacy. Dive into history and explore our Virtual Underwater Museum by accessing:



Dive into history 360 video —

A collaboration between **UCHU**
and **Digitisation Unit** at
Heritage Malta.



Heritage Malta's Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit (UCHU) curates a uniquely well-preserved, submerged cultural resource that is global and belongs to all humankind. Below Mediterranean cobalt blue waters, shipwrecks dating back to the 7th century BC, aircraft, submarines and battleships from the First and Second World Wars stud the seabed off the coast of the Maltese Islands, a testament to Malta's long human history.

The main objectives of the UCHU include identifying, documenting, valorising and protecting sites by means of systematic undersea archaeological surveys. The authenticity and integrity of these sites is maintained whilst providing public access management in keeping with the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Find out more here:



UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE UNIT

Żoni Arkeoloġiċi fil-Baħar

Id-Direttorat tal-Portijiet u l-Yachting fi hdan Transport Malta jfakkar lill-baħhara kollha li s-Sovrintendenza tal-Patrimonju Kulturali ddikjarat diversi siti bħala protetti, skont l-Att dwar il-Wirt Kulturali (Kap. 445).

Transport Malta tavża li, b'effett immedjat, id-dghajjes u l-bastimenti kummerċjali li bihsiebhom iwettqu operazzjonijiet ta' għadis fuq relitti storiċi jeħtieġ li jkunu armati b'AIS li jrid jinżamm mixgħul il-hin kollu.

Minbarra l-permessi meħtieġa mit-Taqsima għall-Wirt Kulturali ta' Taht il-Baħar fi hdan Heritage Malta, huma jridu jiksbu wkoll l-approvazzjoni mill-Valletta VTS fuq il-kanal 12 tal-VHF, jew mill-Marsaxlokk VTS fuq il-kanal 14, wara notifika minn qabel.

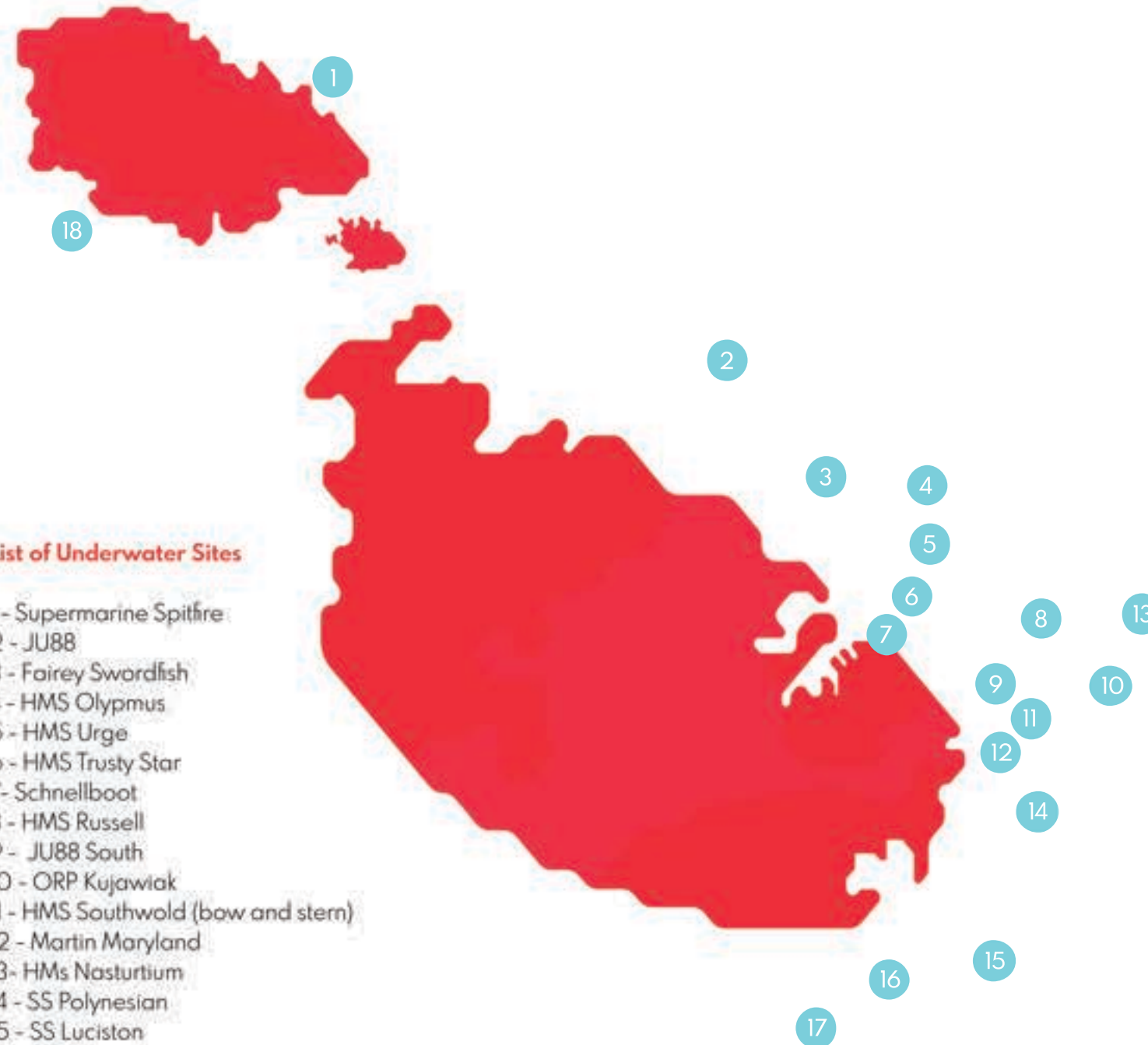
Il-konformità ma' dan ir-rekwiżit hija obbligatorja. In-nuqqas ta' konformità jista' jwassal għall-projbizzjoni ta' waqfien jew għadis f'dawn is-siti u wkoll projbizzjoni ta' navigazzjoni b'mod ġenerali, minghajr preġudizzju għal penali ohra applikabbli u proċeduri legali.

- Iż-żoni ta' l-qugh huma meqjusa bħala "ŻONI FEJN MA TISTAX TIEQAF".
- L-ankraġġ u l-irmigġ huma permessi biss lil bastimenti tal-għaddasa li huma armati b'AIS operattiv u li għandhom il-permess speċjali kif imsemmi hawn fuq.
- Il-kaptani ta' bastimenti ta' appoġġ għall-għadis għandhom jiżguraw li s-sinjali assenjati skont il-Konvenzjoni Internazzjonali għall-Prevenzjoni ta' Habbiet fuq il-Baħar u skont il-Kodiċi Internazzjonali tas-Sinjali jkunu viżibbli l-hin kollu matul sessjonijiet ta' għadis.
- Barra minn hekk, l-għaddasa u l-baħhara għandhom ikunu jafu li s-sajd tal-lanza u l-użu ta' mezzi tas-sajd bħal konzijiet tal-qiegh, pariti, xbieki, xbieki tat-thabbil u xbieki tat-tidwir, nases u nases tal-qiegh huma projbiti f'dawn iż-żoni.
- Huwa permess biss is-sajd tal-wiċċ, inkluż is-sajd bir-rixa u s-sajd għal hut pelagiku.
- L-għawm u bastimenti jiċċaqalqu mal-kurrent huma permessi.

Ara wkoll l-Avviz lill-Baħhara Nru 51 tal-2019, Nru 08 tal-2020, Nru 35 tal-2020 u Nru 19 tal-2021.

List of Underwater Sites

- 1 - Supermarine Spitfire
- 2 - JU88
- 3 - Fairey Swordfish
- 4 - HMS Olypmus
- 5 - HMS Urge
- 6 - HMS Trusty Star
- 7 - Schnellboot
- 8 - HMS Russell
- 9 - JU88 South
- 10 - ORP Kujawiak
- 11 - HMS Southwold (bow and stern)
- 12 - Martin Maryland
- 13 - HMs Nasturtium
- 14 - SS Polynesian
- 15 - SS Luciston
- 16 - B24 Liberator
- 17 - Douglas A-1 Skyraider
- 18 - Tower Wreck



Archaeological Zones at Sea

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta would like to remind all mariners that the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has established several protected sites, in line with the Cultural Heritage Act (CAP. 445).

Transport Malta hereby notifies that with immediate effect, all commercial vessels intending to carry out diving operations on historic wrecks must be fitted with an operation AIS which must be kept on at all times.

Besides the necessary permits from Heritage Malta – Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit, they must also obtain clearance from Valletta VTS on VHF channel 12 or Marsaxlokk VTS on VHF channel 14, following pre-notification.

Compliance with this requirement is mandatory and non-compliance may lead to the prohibition of stopping/diving on these sites and possibly including the prohibition of navigation in general, without prejudice to other applicable penalties and legal proceedings.

- The buffer area is considered as "NO STOPPING AREAS".
- Anchoring/mooring will only be allowed to divers' vessels with an operational AIS and holding a special permit as stated above.
- Masters of diving support vessels are to ensure that the appropriate signals in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea and International Cod of Signals are exhibited during diving sessions.
- Furthermore, divers/mariners are to note that spear fishing and the use of fishing gear such as set bottom lines, trammel nets, gill nets and entangling nets, encircling nets, demersal pots and traps are prohibited in these areas.
- Only surface fishing is allowed including trolling lines (rixa) and angling for pelagic fish.
- Drifting vessels and swimming will be allowed.

Refer to Notice to Mariners No. 51 of 2019, No. 08 of 2020, No. 35 of 2020 and No. 19 of 2021. 51 tal-2019, Nru 08 tal-2020, Nru 35 tal-2020 u Nru 19 tal-2021.