



Mdina Cathedral Museum and Mdina Cathedral Access Statement

A. Pre-Arrival Information

Information on the Mdina Cathedral Museum can be found on the Metropolitan Chapter's website – www.metropolitanchapter.com and Facebook page – Mdina Metropolitan Chapter, which includes opening and closing hours, highlights of the sites and admission fees. Information leaflets are also available at the museum reception.

We offer concession admission fees to seniors (ages 60 and over) as well as children (ages 12 and under). Tickets are offered on a complimentary basis to disability cardholders, priests and local tour guides registered with the Malta Tourism Authority. A discounted rate is applicable to groups consisting of 20+ individuals.

Tickets can be purchased online through the Metropolitan Chapter's website or in person from reception at the Mdina Cathedral Museum.

Visitors should allow about 20 minutes to see the Mdina Cathedral Museum and 15 minutes to see the Mdina Cathedral.

B. Transportation and Parking

Bus: The Mdina Cathedral Museum and Mdina Cathedral (St Paul's Cathedral) are located in Archbishop's Square and St Paul's Square respectively in the walled City of Mdina just 350 metres from the Mdina bus stop. It is an 4 minute short walk from the Mdina bus stop.

- Bus route numbers to Mdina can be found at:

<https://www.publictransport.com.mt/>

Taxi: Next to the bus stop there is also a taxi stand. Taxis can stop outside Mdina near the Main Gate and outside Greek's Gate.

Private car: Should one decide to use a private car, there are various parking areas just outside Mdina.

For full details and maps of how to reach us please view our website.

C. Main Entrance and Reception Area

The main entrance is located in the museum in Archbishop's square. It can be accessed via a wooden ramp with a handrail or by three steps. The door of the main entrance is left open during museum hours.



Façade of the Mdina Cathedral Museum

The reception area is situated to the left of foyer just as one enters the museum. The reception area is manned by the front of house personnel. A combined ticket to the Mdina Cathedral Museum and Mdina Cathedral (St Paul's Cathedral) can be purchased from reception.

At the reception desk visitors can make use of a brief guide to the Mdina Cathedral Museum in English. There are informational brochures on the Mdina Cathedral in multiple languages including Maltese, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. There is a small seating area within the reception space. Books related to the visit are available for purchase from reception. All signage and prices are clear and visible.



Reception, Mdina Cathedral Museum

D. The Mdina Cathedral Museum – A Brief Guide

The Mdina Cathedral Museum is housed within a magnificent Baroque building with a rich history that traces its origins back to the early 1700s. Originally constructed as a seminary under the patronage of Bishop Paul Alphéran de Bussan, the building has undergone a transformative journey throughout the centuries. In 1969, it was officially inaugurated as a museum, preserving and showcasing a remarkable collection of artworks and historical treasures.

Within the museum's walls, visitors can explore a captivating array of artifacts that span centuries, with some dating as far back as the 1300s. These include a diverse range of ecclesiastical items and objects d'art associated with the Mdina Cathedral, allowing visitors to delve into the rich religious heritage of the region.

Adding to the museum's allure are prestigious donations and bequests contributed by private collectors over the years. These remarkable contributions, which began as early as the 1800s and continue to the present day, have expanded the museum's collection and further enriched its cultural significance.



Sala Nobile, Mdina Cathedral Museum

The eclectic displays within the Mdina Cathedral Museum offer a captivating blend of both religious and secular exhibits, presented in various media. From intricately crafted religious artifacts to masterful secular artworks, visitors can immerse themselves in the diverse expressions of artistic and historical heritage found within the museum's halls.

By preserving and showcasing this remarkable collection, the Mdina Cathedral Museum provides an invaluable opportunity for visitors to appreciate and engage with the artistic, cultural, and religious legacy of the region. It stands as a testament to the enduring significance of these historical treasures and the enduring power of art to captivate and inspire.

E. The Mdina Cathedral Museum - Navigation

The museum visit consists of the ground and first floor. From the main entrance, one proceeds to reception on the left-hand side. Tickets are scanned either a turnstile or barrier to begin the museum visit. The ground floor exhibition area is all on one level, with no ramps or steps.

On the ground floor there is a multisensory autism friendly room. This room is a space where visitors may retreat in case of sensory overload. It is fitted

with dimmable lighting. A pair of autistic headphones is available at reception upon request.



Multisensory autism friendly room, Mdina Cathedral Museum

To access the second floor one can either use the lift or a wide staircase with handrails. On the second floor there is another exhibition area with interactive informational touchscreens.



Left: Museum Lift; Right: Museum Stairs with handrail

F. The Mdina Cathedral (St. Paul's Cathedral) – A Brief Guide

The Mdina Cathedral stands as a testament to its rich historical heritage. Its origins can be traced back to medieval times when a Norman cathedral was erected on the site. Unfortunately, this original cathedral suffered significant damage during the devastating 1693 earthquake, which left much of Mdina in ruins.

Following the earthquake, the task of rebuilding the cathedral fell into the capable hands of Maltese architect Lorenzo Gafà. Under his guidance, the new cathedral took shape, and after years of meticulous construction, it was finally completed and consecrated in 1703. Gafà's architectural vision and skilful execution breathed new life into the structure, transforming it into the magnificent edifice that stands today.

As the Mother Church of all Churches within the Maltese Archdiocese, the Mdina Cathedral holds a special place of reverence and significance. It is dedicated to the Conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle whose journey led him to Malta after a fateful shipwreck on his way to Rome in 60 AD. The cathedral's titular feast, The Conversion of St. Paul, is celebrated with great solemnity. Additionally, the Martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul, known as I-Imnarja, is also commemorated with deep reverence.



Façade of the Mdina Cathedral (St Paul's Cathedral)

The Mdina Cathedral stands as a testament to the enduring faith and architectural prowess of the Maltese people. It serves as a spiritual anchor,

drawing visitors from near and far to marvel at its history, pay homage to St. Paul, and immerse themselves in the timeless beauty of this sacred place.

G. The Mdina Cathedral (St. Paul's Cathedral) – Navigation

To ensure accessibility for all visitors, the Mdina Cathedral can be accessed via a conveniently located wooden ramp opposite the Mdina Cathedral Museum, on the side facing Archbishop's Square. This ramp provides a smooth and easily navigable pathway for individuals with mobility aids or strollers, allowing them to comfortably enter the cathedral.

Once inside, visitors will find that the ground floor of the cathedral is thoughtfully designed to be entirely on one level. This eliminates any barriers or steps that may hinder the movement of individuals with mobility challenges, ensuring a seamless and inclusive experience for all.

H. Restrooms and other facilities

Within the Mdina Cathedral Museum, we have conveniently situated restrooms and other essential facilities to ensure the comfort and convenience of our visitors.

Restrooms are conveniently located on the first floor within the Baroque Gallery, also known as the Green Hall. This accessible area houses four well-maintained male restrooms, four female restrooms, and a dedicated restroom for individuals with disabilities, providing inclusivity and convenience for all visitors.

For visitors with young children, we have thoughtfully provided a child nappy changing facility within the restrooms. This ensures that families can attend to their little ones' needs comfortably during their visit.

In order to assist visitors with mobility needs, we offer the availability of a wheelchair upon request. Our friendly staff will be more than happy to provide this service, ensuring that everyone can navigate the museum with ease and enjoy the exhibits to the fullest extent.

To enhance convenience and ensure the safety of our visitors, we offer a secure storage service for oversized baggage, such as luggage. Our reception area is equipped to handle such requests, allowing visitors to explore the museum without the burden of carrying heavy or cumbersome items.

Additionally, we understand that unpredictable weather can occur, and we strive to accommodate our visitors accordingly. During rainy weather, we provide umbrella stands for visitors to utilise, ensuring that they can comfortably continue their exploration of the museum while keeping dry.

At the Mdina Cathedral Museum, we prioritise visitor comfort and convenience by offering a range of facilities designed to meet various needs. Our goal is to create an enjoyable and inclusive experience for all who visit our museum.

I. Signage

Signage is thoughtfully placed throughout the Mdina Cathedral Museum and Mdina Cathedral (St. Paul's Cathedral), ensuring clear navigation for visitors. All signage is easily visible and includes clear directions and information in multiple languages, including English. In addition, our audiovisual displays and information panels are designed with large format text to enhance readability for all visitors.

To create a welcoming and immersive experience, we have meticulously planned the lighting in both the public and exhibition areas. The public areas are well-lit, with a harmonious blend of artificial and natural light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. This ensures optimal visibility and comfort for our visitors as they explore the museum.

While we strive to provide ample lighting in the exhibition areas, we acknowledge that certain halls may be dimly lit to preserve the delicate nature of the artifacts on display. However, rest assured that we have taken measures to ensure that appropriate lighting is in place to highlight the

exhibits and provide a safe environment for visitors to appreciate the historical treasures within these halls.

We continuously evaluate and adjust our lighting strategies to strike a balance between creating an atmospheric ambiance and maintaining adequate visibility for our visitors. Our goal is to ensure that all areas of the museum are well-illuminated, allowing visitors to fully engage with the exhibits while appreciating the unique historical context they represent.

J. Future Plans

We are committed to continually improving accessibility for all visitors. As part of our ongoing efforts, we have several future plans in place to enhance the accessibility of our museum. We understand the importance of providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for individuals with diverse access needs.

We understand that accessibility is an ongoing process, and we welcome feedback from our visitors to help us identify areas for improvement. We will continue to collaborate with access consultants and disability organizations to review and enhance our accessibility initiatives.

By implementing these future plans, we aim to create an inclusive museum experience where all visitors can fully engage with our exhibits and enjoy a seamless and accessible visit. We will regularly update our access statement with the progress made on these future plans and strive to provide the best possible experience for all our visitors.

K. Contact Details

The Mdina Cathedral Museum and Mdina Cathedral (St. Paul's Cathedral) are managed and operated by the Mdina Metropolitan Chapter, ensuring a seamless and coordinated visitor experience.

Opening Hours:

- Monday to Friday: 9:30 AM - 4:45 PM (Last Entrance: 4:15 PM)
- Sunday and Public Holidays: Closed

Administration:

- Office: +356 21456620
- Office Email: info@metropolitanchapter.com

Museum:

- Museum Contact: +356 21454697
- Museum Email: reception.museum@metropolitanchapter.com

Cathedral:

- Cathedral Contact: +356 21455673
- Cathedral Email: parrocca.mdina@maltadiocese.org

Address: Mdina Cathedral Museum, Archbishop's Square, Mdina, MDN 1061.

Website: Visit our website at www.metropolitanchapter.com for more information and updates.

Facebook: Stay connected with us through our Facebook page: Mdina Metropolitan Chapter.

We value your inquiries and feedback and look forward to assisting you with any information or assistance you may require.