

# 112TH IEEE R8 COMMITTEE MEETING VALLETTA, MALTA

Your guide to IEEE Region 8 Meeting in Malta

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# MEETING VENUE

The Grand Hotel Excelsior, a 5 star Hotel in Malta, is two minutes away from Valletta, Malta's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Valletta can be described as a living experience of Baroque architecture, dotted with quaint cafes, and over 25 churches, a testament to the centuries-old grained Catholic faith of the Maltese nation.

Sixteenth century fortifications embrace the Grand Hotel Excelsior and its olive gardens making it the only 5 star hotel in Malta nestled within historic architecture. This is a unique opportunity to re-live Malta's rich history whilst unwinding during a Mediterranean Luxury Escape.

This Luxury Valletta Hotel is blessed with magnificent views of Marsamxett Harbour & Fort Manoel.



## GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR MALTA

Great Siege Road, Floriana FRN 1810 | tel 00356 2125 0520  
<https://www.excelsior.com.mt/> | [info@excelsior.com.mt](mailto:info@excelsior.com.mt)



# How to reach Malta

## Malta International Airport

Malta International Airport is the only airport in Malta and it serves the whole of the Maltese Islands. It is located on island of Malta, southwest of the Maltese capital Valletta in the town of Luqa, and occupies the location of the former RAF Luqa. The airport has a single passenger terminal which became fully operational on 25 March 1992. This replaced the old terminal which is currently mostly used for cargo.

Flights Booking - Airlines

Website: <https://www.airmalta.com>

Air Malta - Malta's National Airline

Air Malta Head Office

Air Malta p.l.c.,

Head Office, Luqa

LQA 01, MALTA

Tel: 356 21690890 / 356 21229990

Fax: 356 21673241

Email: [info@airmalta.com.mt](mailto:info@airmalta.com.mt)



For more information about flights to  
Malta visit [www.maltairport.com](http://www.maltairport.com).

# How to reach Malta

## BY BOAT

### How to book ferries from Malta to Sicily!

There are 2 ferry routes operating between Malta and Sicily offering you combined total of 20 sailings per week. Grimaldi Lines operates 1 route, Valletta to Catania which runs 1 time weekly. Virtu Ferries operates 2 routes, Valletta to Catania runs 7 times per week & Valletta to Pozzallo about 12 times weekly.

As the frequency and duration of crossings on some routes varies we would advise that you do a live search for crossings from Malta to Sicily to get the most up to date information.

### Virtu Ferries:

From Pozzallo in the south of Sicily and Catania in the east of Sicily

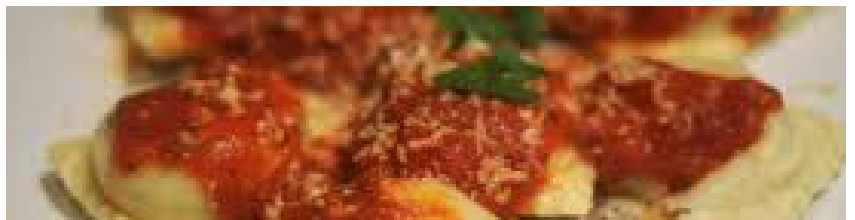
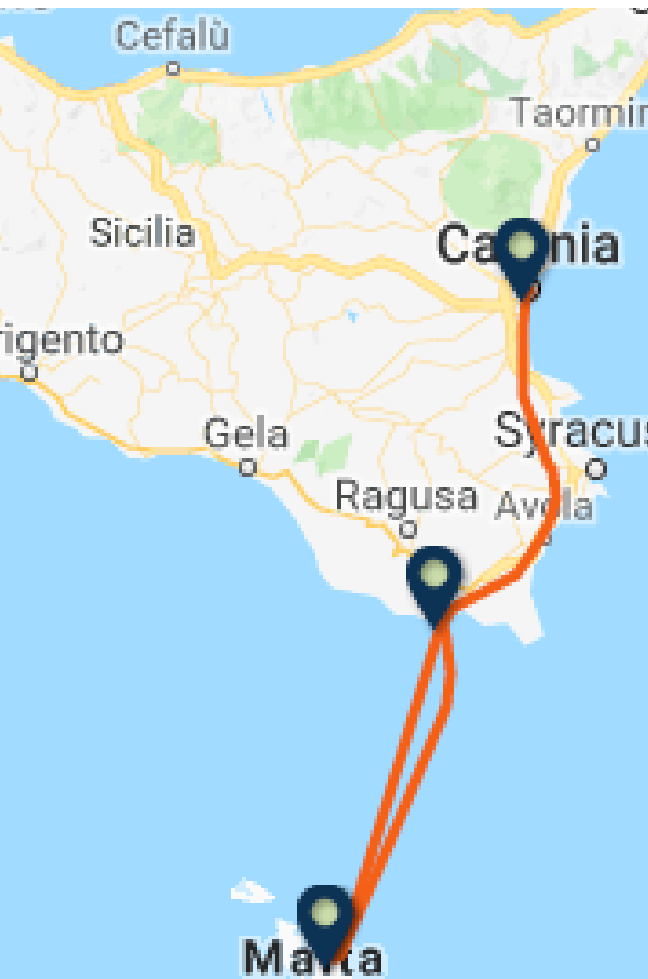
Name: Virtu Ferries

Address: Virtu Passenger Terminal, Xatt il-Ghassara tal-Gheneb, Marsa, Malta

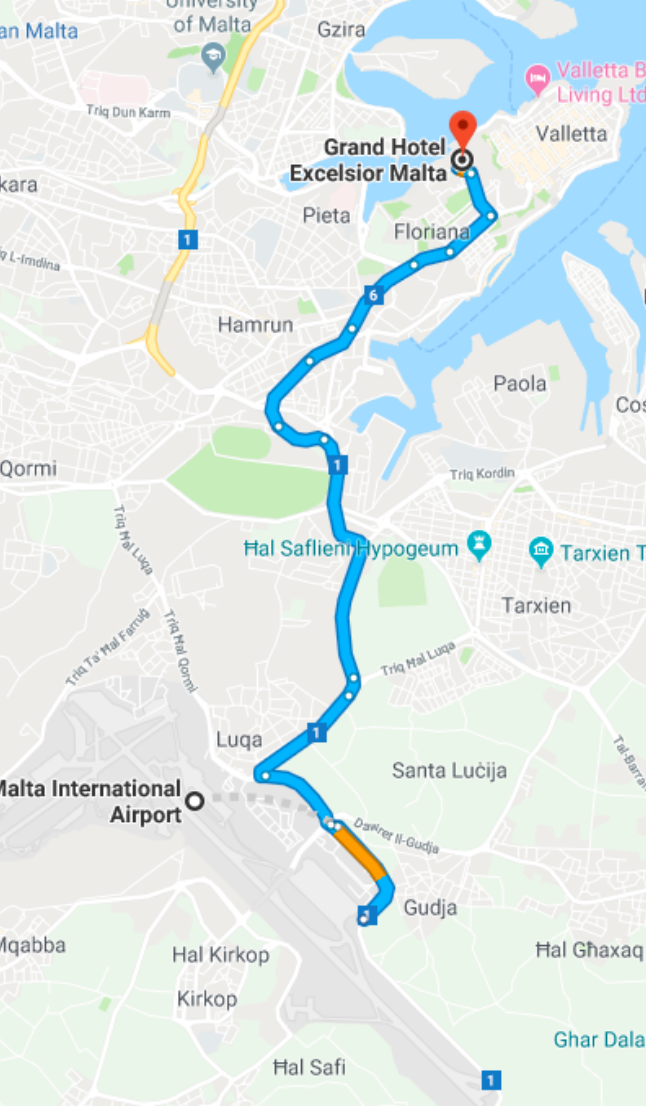
Telephone: +356 22069022

Website: [www.virtuferries.com](http://www.virtuferries.com)

Email: [res@virtuferries.com](mailto:res@virtuferries.com)



For more information  
about arriving to Malta by ferry  
visit <http://www.virtuferries.com/>



## 112TH REGION 8 MEETING - MALTA

# How to reach the hotel

## HOTEL SHUTTLE SERVICE

Malta Transfer is MIA's official hotel shuttle service. It offers convenient trips to and from your hotel in Malta or Gozo.

You can manage your transfers with fixed prices through the booking system here. Alternatively, you can visit the booking desk in our baggage reclaim area and make your transfer arrangements upon your arrival in Malta.

LINK TO BOOK IN ADVANCE:

<https://www.maltairport.com/passenger/getting-here/shuttle-service/>

## BUS SERVICE

Reaching the airport in Malta by bus is very straightforward thanks to four express lines designated. You are required to board the X4 direction to Valletta for 1,50€ per person.

They are fully air-conditioned and have extra space for luggage and passenger comfort. Jump on any one of these and you're either heading towards Malta International Airport or away from it. Visit the website below for detailed information about these services and other bus routes to and from the rest of Malta.

LINK::

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



# How to reach the hotel

## TAXI SERVICE

Taxi services between MIA and any destination in Malta are available 24 hours a day. Pre-paid tickets can be purchased at fixed rates from a booth in MIA Welcomers Hall at the airport upon arrival.

A regular taxi normally accommodates four persons, however the number of suitcases being carried must also be taken into consideration with regard to the space required in the vehicle.

The fares to take a taxi from Malta International Airport to Valletta on a per vehicle basis is approx 20 EURO.

LINK TO MORE INFO:

<https://www.malairport.com/passenger/getting-here/taxi-service/>

## RENTING A CAR

If you've pre-booked an airport rental car from Malta International Airport, then you can get keys and information from the vehicle rental desks in our Welcomers' Hall.

LINK: <http://www.rentalcars.com/en/airport/mt/mla/?affiliateCode=malairport>

On the other hand, if you haven't made any arrangements but want to hire a car in Malta, you can do this upon arriving at MIA too. When it comes to departing from Malta, simply leave the keys in a deposit box located in the Welcomers' Hall, next to the car-rental booths.

LINK::

<https://www.malairport.com/passenger/getting-here/renting-a-car/>

visit: <http://bit.ly/VALMT>



# USEFUL INFO

## WHAT IS THE TIME DIFFERENCE IN MALTA?

Malta is in the Central European Time Zone and uses Central European Standard Time (CET) which is 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT 1). Like all European states Malta reverts to Summer (Daylight-Saving) Time and local time is shifted forward by 1 hour. As a result, during Summer Time, Malta is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT 2). At the end of the Summer months time in Malta is shifted back by 1 hour to Central European Time (CET) or (GMT 1).

## WHAT ARE THE TIPPING CUSTOMS IN MALTA?

Tipping is customary in Malta and a gratuity of between 5% and 10%, whenever good service has been provided is reasonable. However if a service charge has already been included in the bill, a tip is not necessary. If discretion and common sense is used, you will have no problems with tipping, but it is always worth checking the individual establishment's policy if you are unsure.

## ELECTRICITY

The electrical supply is 230 volts +/- 10%.

The frequency of the supply is 50 hertz.

The three-pin rectangular plug system is used, as in Britain.

Adapters are very easy to find.

## DRIVING

In Malta and Gozo, driving is on the left. There are speed limits of 80 km/h on the open road and 50 km/h in built-up areas, unless otherwise indicated on relevant road signs.

If you intend to rent a car or drive in Malta, it is advisable to take out comprehensive insurance. National or international driving licences are accepted.

## CLIMATE & WEATHER

Malta's climate is typical of the Mediterranean and is strongly influenced by the sea. The Maltese Islands have a pleasantly sunny climate with a daily average of around 12 hours sunshine in summer going down to 5 to 6 hours in mid-winter

Summers are hot, dry and very sunny. Day-time temperatures in summer are often mitigated by cooling sea breezes.

Spring and autumn are cooler, except when the occasional Scirocco wind from Africa brings unseasonably high temperatures and humidity. Winters are mild, with the occasional short cold spells brought about by the north and north-easterly winds from central Europe. Annual rainfall is low, averaging 568mm a year. Bathing in the sea is quite possible well into the 'winter' months, and the peak beach season can last until mid- to late October.

Current weather conditions and 5-day forecast provided by the Met Office at the Malta International Airport. Link: <https://www.maltairport.com/weather/>

## LANGUAGE

The official languages of Malta are Maltese and English. Maltese, a language of Semitic origin written in the Latin script, is the national language of Malta. Over the centuries, it has incorporated many words derived from English, Italian and French.

## PASSPORTS & VISAS

If you need a VISA:

LINK: <https://integration.gov.mt/en/ResidenceAndVisas/Pages/Conditions-to-Enter-Malta.aspx>

To check whether you need a VISA access the link on the Schengen Visa Info site. LINK: <http://bit.ly/SCHENGENINFO>

For information about Visa applications please visit the Identity Malta website

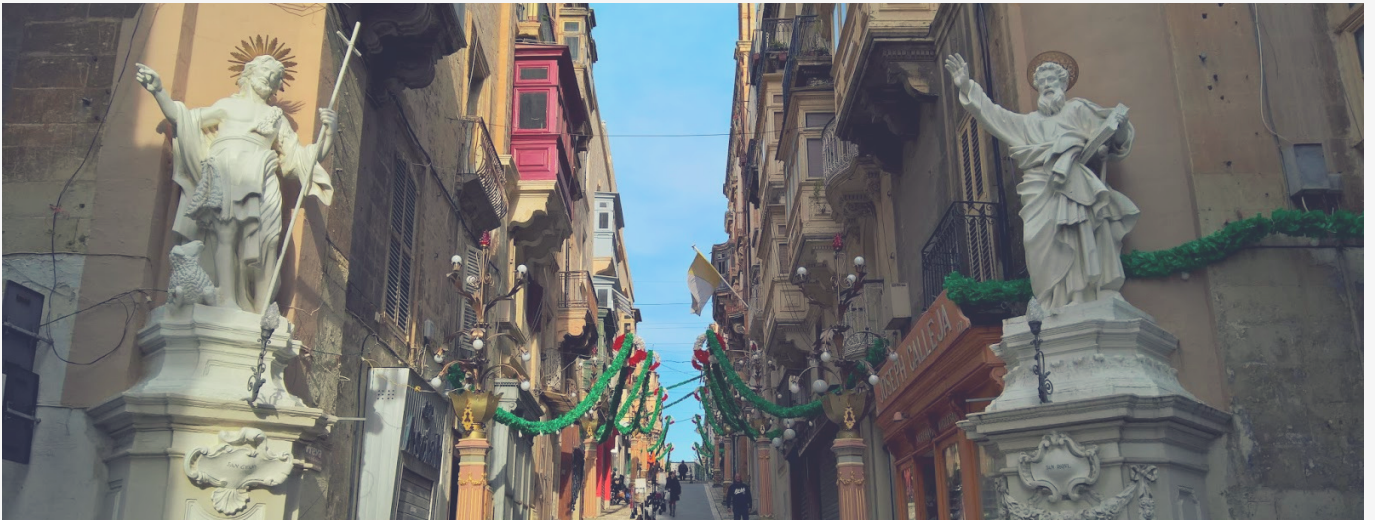
LINK: <https://identitymalta.com/visas/>

You can also send an Email to [visa.ima@gov.mt](mailto:visa.ima@gov.mt)

\*PLEASE THINK EARLY. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A VISA AT SHORT NOTICE. AT LEAST A MONTH IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A VISA.



# ABOUT MALTA



## 7000 YEARS OF HISTORY

In Malta you'll explore 7000 years of history yet live passionately in the present. You'll span the millennia with an astonishing array of things to discover. And wherever you go, the Islands' scenery and architecture provide a spectacular backdrop. The colours are striking, honey-coloured stone against the deepest of Mediterranean blues.

The Maltese Islands have been described as one big open-air museum. What makes them unique is that so much of their past is visible today. Delve into the Islands' mysterious prehistory, retrace the footsteps of St. Paul or see where the Knights of St. John defended Christendom.

Malta is holidaying as the mood takes you. And with near year-round sun, you can indulge in outdoor living at its best.

In just 48 hours and a kilometre or two, you can try a new sport, laze on an island cruise and tour the most important historic sites, and still have time to join in the nightlife. That's the real advantage of a stay here.

The Islands offer plenty of specialist holidays for those seeking to learn a new skill, discover history or get fit. If you're interested in sports, we cater as much for the seasoned enthusiast as the casual first-timer. Malta has wellness and spa facilities at the luxury hotels and club resorts. Sea and land lend themselves to activities from rock-climbing to gentle rambling.

For a tempo and scene change from Malta itself, hop to the sister islands of Gozo and Comino. Here, you'll holiday within a holiday and at the most relaxed of Mediterranean paces.

# HISTORY



## ABIT ABOUT MALTA

The history of Malta is a long and colourful one dating back to the dawn of civilisation.

The Maltese Islands went through a golden Neolithic period, the remains of which are the mysterious temples dedicated to the goddess of fertility. Later on, the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans and the Byzantines, all left their traces on the Islands.

In 60 A.D. St. Paul was shipwrecked on the island while on his way to Rome and brought Christianity to Malta. The Arabs conquered the islands in 870 A.D. and left an important mark on the language of the Maltese. Until 1530 Malta was an extension of Sicily: The Normans, the Aragonese and other conquerors who ruled over Sicily also governed the Maltese Islands. It was Charles V who bequeathed Malta to the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem who ruled over Malta from 1530 to 1798. The Knights took Malta through a new golden age, making it a key player in the cultural scene of 17th and 18th century Europe. The artistic and cultural lives of the Maltese Islands were injected with the presence of artists such as Caravaggio, Mattia Preti and Favray who were commissioned by the Knights to embellish churches, palaces and auberges.

In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte took over Malta from the Knights on his way to Egypt. The French presence on the islands was short lived, as the English, who were requested by the Maltese to help them against the French, blockaded the islands in 1800.

British rule in Malta lasted until 1964 when Malta became independent. The Maltese adapted the British system of administration, education and legislation.

Modern Malta became a Republic in 1974 and joined the European Union in May 2004.

# ATTRACTIONS



Malta is packed with attractions and places of interest.

The capital city of Valletta host to regular plays and concerts, as well as scores of exhibitions and street events. The Museum of Archaeology in Valletta houses an exceptionally rich collection of prehistoric artefacts. The War Museum at Fort St. Elmo is home to a Sunday military parade in period costumes re-enactment and the capital also possesses the impressive Grand Master's Palace and St. John's Co-cathedral.

With 7,000 years of history, the sites to visit are endless - Megalithic temples, underground catacombs, churches and forts are not to be missed. Interactive walkthrough and multimedia attractions offer an overview of Malta's history in under an hour. They're interesting and a great way to learn the significance of what visitors will later be looking at.

The Museum of Roman Antiquities and various other sites are found in Rabat. The Cathedral and its museum in the fortified medieval city of Mdina, right next door to Rabat, are not to be missed, For a romantic stroll like no other, wander the lamp lit streets of Mdina at night. Don't miss the renowned chocolate cake at Fontanella Tea rooms, situated right on the bastion with a spectacular view.

For those who love art, the possibilities are endless - visit the impressive collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts, see the Caravaggio's Beheading of St. John at St. John's co-Cathedral and visit medieval Palazzo Falson in Mdina with its collection of antiques. To view more contemporary work, walk around the exhibits at the St. John's Cavalier Art Centre.

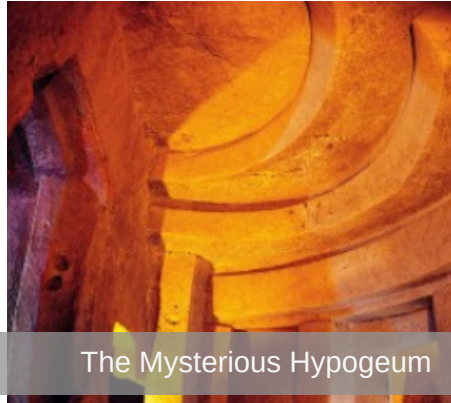
The rural side of the Islands is fascinating, with charming villages & captivating folklore.

# PLACES TO VISIT

TASTE OF MALTA | MASTERPIECES | HISTORIC PLACES | TRAVEL BACK IN TIME



Caravaggio's Masterpiece



The Mysterious Hypogeum



The Typical Taste of Malta

## *Caravaggio's Masterpiece*

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist is considered by many as Caravaggio's masterpiece.



In Guardia Parade - Travel Back in Time

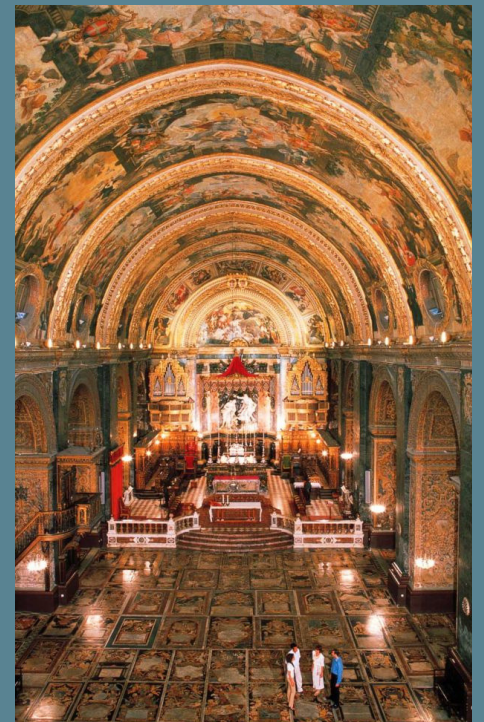
## *ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL*

St. John's Street, Valletta, Malta

Described as the first complete example of the high Baroque anywhere, St. John's Cathedral epitomises the role of its original patrons, the Knights of St. John.

The Cathedral is testimony to the talent of Maltese military architect Gerolamo Cassar, with Mattia Preti's intricately carved stone wall designs, as well as the painted vaulted ceiling and side altars with scenes from the life of St John. The Cathedral also houses one of Europe's most impressive and famous art works – Caravaggio's Beheading of St. John the Baptist.

The Cathedral was a shrine to the Knights, as many sons of Europe's noble families from the 16th to 18th centuries lie buried here. Their intricate, marble-inlaid tombstones form a magnificently crafted pavimento. Also a resting place to the founder of Valletta, Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Vallerette, his tomb lies in the crypt, a quiet sanctuary and place of contemplation away from the busy streets outside.



# NIGHT LIFE

VALLETTA | PACEVILLE | MDINA | WATERFRONT



## PACEVILLE

Paceville is a district in St Julian's which is the main nightlife hub in Malta, populated with nightclubs, bars, pubs and restaurants. Paceville is located between Spinola Point and Dragonara Point, delimiting Spinola Bay and St. George's Bay respectively. Paceville is seen as a party destination in Europe and is a popular place for locals and tourists alike.



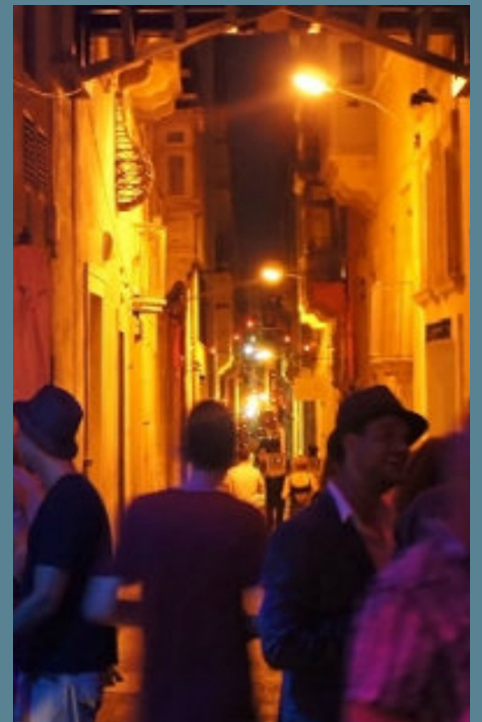
## *Strait Street*

Strait Street, Valletta, Malta

Valletta's Strait Street is easily the most famous street in Malta. Known as Strada Stretta in Maltese, the street was the pinnacle of nightlife amongst American and British military men and Maltese frequenters between the 19th and mid-20th century.

Strait Street represents a fascinating period of time in Malta's history – one in which people of different nationalities and classes intermingled together in a social context. This was a new kind of multiculturalism, one that was different from previous centuries of simply being dominated by power after power. This was more integrated, more inclusive. Strait Street became a hub in which English, Italian, and Maltese could co-exist. Certainly, this level of interaction with soldiers meant that many more Maltese learnt the English language – from barmen to the Maltese ladies who pined after the foreign sailors.

Does Strait Street exist today? Yes, and it's just as vibrant as it ever was! Nowadays the popular area still hosts bars, live music, and even festivals. We're pretty sure that there's less debauchery, though.



# IEEE R8 MEETING

VALLETTA MALTA

MARCH 2019

HOSTED BY IEEE MALTA SECTION

SEE YOU!

<http://www.ieeemalta.org/>

[112REGION8@IEEEMALTA.ORG](mailto:112REGION8@IEEEMALTA.ORG)

