

QRENDI



History:

Situated in the southeast of Malta, the village of Qrendi is populated by 2,527 people (December 2008). The village was first historically mentioned in 1417, when it appeared in a militia list and was described as having 26 'households'. In 3800 BC, in the Qrendi area had we already find structures such as the megalithic temples of Mnajdra and Hagar Qim.

The village includes seven churches and chapels, such as the main Parish Church and St. Matthew's Church. Most of these churches were constructed on the site of earlier churches or chapels.

The Parish of Qrendi was first established in 1618, by the Bishop of Malta, Baldassare Cagliares. Before this, the people of Qrendi had to attend mass in the parish of Zurrieq. In 1620, Fra John Mary Camilleri decided to build a new parish church and this was completed 35 years later in 1655. The church was built on the highest point in the village. In 1677, Fra Domenic Formessa decided to pull down the current church to build a bigger one which was completed in 1712. Since its completion, distinguished local artists and craftsmen have contributed in many ways to adorn the beautiful shrine. These artists include Giuseppe Cali, who painted the portrait depicting the Assumption of Our Lady and Emmanuel Buhagiar who created the 14 Stations of the Cross and the church's lectern.

The village also has a church dedicated to St. Matthew. The larger of the secondary churches, it was completed in 1682, but on April 12th 1942, it sustained considerable structural damage to its facade after a direct hit by cluster bombs from enemy aircraft. It was decided that the facade would be replaced to ensure no danger to the residents.

Two feasts are celebrated in Qrendi. The first celebrates Our Lady of Lourdes and is celebrated on either the last Sunday of June or the first Sunday of July. Annually on August 15th, the village celebrates the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

Attractions:

1.  **Octagonal Tower** 

One of Qrendi's most prominent monuments, the tower used to house the captain of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Kaptan Kavallier). In the shape of an octagon, four of its walls stand at 12 feet and 3 inches thick.

Address: Triq It-Torri, Il-Qrendi

2.  **St. Mary's Parish Church** 

Built in 1655, and then replaced by a larger church to be built on the site. The larger church was completed in 1712. Local artists have contributed to the decoration of the church.

Address: Triq Rokku Buhagiar, Il-Qrendi

Contact person: Rev. Mario Mifsud

Telephone: +356 21649395

Opening hours: During Holy Mass or by appointment

Mon-Sat: 6.30am, 7.45am

Sunday: 6.30am, 7.15am, 8.30am, 10am, 6.30 pm

3.  **War Memorial** 

The memorial was erected to honour Qrendi's war victims. The War Memorial consists of an obelisk supporting a crucifix at its upper part. The Qrendi coat of arms features a British Soldier's Helmet, flanked by the Malta Flag and a .303 Rifle complete with Bayonet.

Address: Triq Rokku Buhagiar, Il-Qrendi

4.  **St. Anne Chapel** 

The Saint Anne Chapel, or Kappella ta' Sant' Anna, was built in 1565 by Gianni Schembri. The façade consists of two windows at the sides of the main door and one above. These doors provide natural light to the inside

of the church. The main altar is dedicated to the mother of Mary, Sant'Anna and is adorned by two small side altars.

Address: Triq Sant' Anna, Il-Qrendi

5.  **Il-Maqluba**  

Il-Maqluba is a quarry like feature formed by a depression in the land. It is filled with Maltese trees and shrubs, including the Gharghar (the Maltese national tree), laurel trees and bamboo cane and ivy. The view of the sinkhole is breathtaking.

Address: Triq Hagar Qim, Il-Qrendi

6.  **St. Matthew Church and crypt** 

St. Matthew's Crypt is the smaller of the two churches dedicated to the martyrdom of Matthew the apostle. It is located on the edge of the Maqluba dolite and it is believed to be one of the oldest crypts on the island. The first recorded mention of this crypt was by Inquisitor Mgr. Duzzina in his report of his pastoral visit between 1574 and 1575. Construction of the church, dedicated to the martyrdom of Matthew the apostle began in 1674 and was completed in 1682.

Address: Triq It-Tempesta, Il-Qrendi

7. **St. Katerina Windmill** 

The St. Katerina Windmill on the outskirts of Qrendi was built by Grandmaster Carafa (1680 - 1690). Almost all of the windmills built in Malta and Gozo were built with the same architectural plan, which combines military preoccupation of the Knights with an efficient use of the wind where they were located.

Address: Triq I-Lmqabba, Il-Qrendi

Opening hours: private property; it can be seen only from outside

8. **Our Lady of Grace Church** 

This church was built in 1658 by Angelo Spiteri. The façade is very plain and void of any decoration. It consists of two very small windows with

kneeling blocks in the front flank of the main entrance, with a smaller window above the entrance providing light inside the church. A small stone crucifix can be found on the top of the façade, as well as two water spouts at each of the church's sides.

Address: Triq Hagar Qim, Il-Qrendi

9. Guarena Palace 

The Palace consists of two stories, with the lower storey being much larger than the one above. The entrance is typical of Maltese house of the time, with its size being relatively small when compared with the palaces and residences of the Order of St. John.

Address: Triq Il-Bali Guarena towards Triq Hagar Qim, Il-Qrendi

10. Our Lady of Mercy Church 

This church was built in the 13th Century and has long been held in great veneration. In 1575, the tal-Ħniena was in a bad state, and was deconsecrated by Mgr. Dusina. However, the devotion of the faithful continued unabated and the church was rebuilt in the year 1650 when Dun Gammari Camilleri was parish priest of Qrendi. The tal-Ħniena houses works by renowned Maltese artists, many of which bear Bailiff Johann Wolfgang von Guttenberg's coat of arms.

Address: Tal-Ħniena, Il-Qrendi

11. Gutenberg Palace 

The Gutenberg Palace served as a fortified residence capable of resisting attacks from raiding pirates and corsairs. Surrounding the palace are downward looking (Sloping) windows at first floor level, situated high above the ground, serving as a means of defence. The palace was built by the Bailiff Johann Wolfgang von Guttenberg, a Knight of the Order of St John from 1669 till his demise on the 4th December 1733. Serving on the Order's galleys, Gutenberg resided at this palace between voyages.

Address: Vjaktu, Il-Qrendi (going to Our Lady of Mercy Church)

12. **Tas-Salvatur Church**

This church was built in 1658, at the expense of Beneditto Camilleri. The church has one altar. The main and only painting is oval shaped, showing the upper body of Christ the Savior, with his hands protecting the world. In 1999, the church was restored to its original glory. The church is open during daylight hours, so that people can pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Address: Triq Santa Katerina -Triq Iż -Żurrieq, Il-Qrendi

13. **Gnien tal-Kmand**

Sir Alexander John Ball, 1st Baronet and Governor of Malta known for his love of nature brought about the building of a number of gardens for use by the village's temporary Lieutenant or Mayor's in a good number of Maltese localities. These gardens, often referred to as "IL-Gnien tal-Kmand", were built at Qrendi, Mqabba, Ghaxaq, Gudja, Zejtun, Gharghur, Safi (Known as il-Gnien ta' Ball), Siggiewi, Zebbug, and Lija.

Address: Triq Santa Katerina, Il-Qrendi

* **Tal Ward Gardens:**

The Tal-Warda recreation garden is a shaded area for both children and adults. The garden is surrounded by mature trees that offer a certain sense of tranquillity. The garden is an area of open-space.

Address: Triq Il-Kastiljani, Il-Qrendi

★ **Neolithic and Archeological Park**

- **Hagar Qim Temples**
- **Mnajdra Temples**
- **Misqa Tanks**
- **Congreve Memorial**
- **De Redin (Torri Hamrija) Tower**
- **Breathtaking and unspoilt landscape and coastline**



The Hagar Qim temples (c. 2500 B.C.) have been excavated in 1839 and important artefacts (as the *Venus of Malta, caly figurine* and *the Floral decorated stone altar*) have been uncovered from the site. Mnajdra consists of three temples that date back to 3600-3200 B.C.

The Congreve Memorial has been erected to commemorate the British Governor of Malta, General Sir W.N. Congreve.

Torri Hamrija is one of the coastal towers of Malta, built in 1659 by Grand Master De Redin.

Address: 1,6 km in Triq Hagar Qim, Il-Qrendi

Contact person: Heritage Malta

Telephone: +356 22954000

Website: <http://www.heritagemalta.org>

Opening hours:

Winter 1st October - 31st March: 9am - 5pm (Last Admission: 4.30pm)

Summer 1st April - 30th September: 9am - 7pm (Last Admission: 6.30pm)

Closed: 24th - 25th, 31st December, 1st January and Good Friday

Entrance Fees:

Adults (18 - 59 years): €9.00

Youth (12 - 17 years), Senior Citizens (60 years and over),

ISIC Card Holders, EURO<26 Card Holders, ICOM Card Holders,

University of Malta and MCAST Students: €6.50

Children (6 -11 years): €4.50

Infants (1 -5 years): Free

***Attractions in the Wied Iż -Żurrieq**

- **Wied Iż -Żurrieq Fishing port and hamlet**
- **Torri Sciuttu (Torri Ta' Wied Iż -Żurrieq)**
- **Il-Kamra it-Tonda (Wied Iż -Żurrieq Machine Gun Post)**
- **Nicca tal-Madonna tar-Ruzarju (Madonna of the Rosary Niche')**

★ il-Hnejja (Blue Grotto)

The Blue Grotto refers to a number of sea caverns located on the southern coast of Malta at the village of Qrendi where visitors can experience breathtaking colours, in addition to crystal clear waters.

Opening hours:

Summer: Monday-Sunday from 8 am to 4:30 pm
Winter: Monday-Sunday from 8 am to 4 pm

Ferry fees:

Adults: €8.00

Children: €4.00

Places of refreshment:



- St. Mary's Band Club
Address: Palazz Marija Assunta, Triq Rokku Buhagiar, Il-Qrendi
Opening hours: from 9am to 11pm

It is possible to visit the building from the inside by appointment

Local Information:



Qrendi Local Council

Address: 7, Church Street, Il-Qrendi

Telephone: +356 21680404

Fax: +356 21689986

Email: qrendi.lc@gov.mt

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30am - 4pm

Saturday: 8am–11:30am

Accessibility:



Arriva Bus

From Valletta to Qrendi: Bus 71, 72

Bus Stop: Il-Qrendi

From Valletta to Neolithic Temples: Bus 73

From Airport to Neolithic Temples: Bus 201

From Valletta to Blue Grotto: Bus 71 (only in summer)

From Airport to Blue Grotto: Bus 201

Customer care: +356 2122 2000



Email: enquiries@arriva.com.mt

Website: www.arriva.com.mt

Google Maps

Bus routes according to the bus stops

Timing:

- Timing for the transportation (check the bus timetable on <http://www.arriva.com.mt>):
35 minutes to get there from Valletta
35 minutes to come back to Valletta
 -  Timing for the itinerary of the must-see sites:
1h 5 min
 - Timing for the full itinerary:
1h 25 min
-  Must-see sites but not included in the previous timing

QRENDI MAP

- ★ 1 Octagonal Tower
- ★ 2 St. Mary's Parish Church
- ★ 3 War Memorial
- ★ 4 St. Anne Chapel
- ★ 5 Il-Maqluba
- ★ 6 St. Matthew Church and Crypt
- ◆ 7 St. Katerina Windmill
- ◆ 8 Our Lady of Grace Chapel
- ◆ 9 Guarena Palace
- ◆ 10 Our Lady of Mercy Chapel
- ◆ 11 Gutenberg Palace
- ◆ 12 Tas-Salvatur Chapel
- ◆ 13 Gnien Tal-Kmand
- ★ Neolithic and Archeological Park
- 🗺 Qrendi LC
- 🎵 St. Mary's Band Club
- ⚡ Wi-Fi
- 🚽 WC

