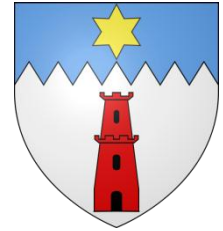


L-Għarb



History

L-Għarb is a small village found in the west of Gozo with an area of approximately 14.3 km². The population of L-Għarb is about 1300, a total of 400 families. Although small in size the village is rich in culture, environment and folkloristic aspects. Renowned personalities have arisen from this locality, people who are still very popular amongst others are: Frenč ta' L-Għarb and Karmni Grima who both museums dedicated to them. Another museum found within the locality is the folklore museum found at the L-Għarb main square, which has 28 rooms filled with all sorts of tools. One can also find a Crafts Village 'Ta' Dbiegi Crafts Village' in Għarb which is the only crafts village found in Gozo. Within this crafts village skilled work is carried out including lace, filigree, blacksmith, pottery, leather making, candle making and glass blowing.

Monuments found in the locality include the L-Għarb Church Basilica, Taz-Zejt Church, San Dimitri Chapel, Ta' Pinu Sanctuary and also the Pilgrimage Cross found in the Main Square dating back to the 17th century, Wied il-Mielah Valley, various niches, stone balconies and much more.

Għarb has also retained its strong roots and characteristics of traditional Gozitan lifestyle with elements of religion, culture, tradition and old fashioned simplistic ways of life, which remains the basis amidst the turbulent and dynamic pace of today's way of life.

Although many people think of Għarb as a small village without any resources, the facts speak out clearly. Besides his chapels and museums, there are footpaths, landscapes and valleys to be seen. These footpaths and landscapes, which are ideal for a family outing on Sunday are to be found on the western side of the village overlooking the sea. These are surrounded with all types of wild flowers, and butterflies of all colours abound here.

Għarb is rich in culture, environment and folkloristic aspects, and it is for this reason that there is a high number of foreigners and Maltese living peacefully in this lovely village.

Attractions in Gharb

1. Karmni Grima Museum

Karmena Grima, was a good women from Gharb, on the 22nd June 1883 heard the voice of Our Lady coming from the titular painting of the Assumption found in the chapel dedicated to her, on the way to hamlet of Ghammar. She was on her way home after she finished working in the fields, when she heard the voice . When, after more than a year, this news leaked out people flocked daily to this chapel asking Our Lady to intercede in their favour. It was later decided to build a Sanctuary around this chapel, and the Maltese architect Edwin Vassallo was entrusted with drawing up of the plans, whilst building was in the hands of a Gozitan by the name of Victor Vella. One should here mention that the church, which is built over the old chapel, has a Romantique-Lombardi style of architecture.

Address: Gharb Road

Contact person: Ta' Pinu Sanctuary

Telephone: +356 21556187

Opening hours: Sun: 10.00am – 12.00pm, except the 4th Sunday of the month.

2. Frenc ta' I-Gharb Museum

Frenc ta' I-Gharb was a good man who helped his friends and foes alike, even those who tried their best to make a fool out of him. The museum is to be found in the street named after him. Frenc who was born on the 13th December 1892 and died on the 19th May 1967, will be remembered for his devotion to Our Lady and for his ability to cure people by imploring the intercession of Our Lady and by using simple herbs.

Address: Alley at Frenc ta' I-Gharb Street

Contact person: M'Assunta Apap

Telephone: +356 21553109

Opening hours: Sun: 10.00am – 12.00pm, except the 4th Sunday of the month.

3. Folklore Museum

This is a privately owned museum with 28 rooms filled with all sorts of tools and antiques which are very interesting and worth viewing. This museum is opened daily.

Address: Pjazza Zjara tal-Madonna

Telephone: +356 21561929

Opening hours: Mon – Sat: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Sun: 9.00am – 1.00pm

Entrance Fee: €3.50

4. Ecclesia Mater (Church Museum)

This museum is located within the Gharb Basilica. It was opened in June 2012 exhibiting various religious articles dating back centuries and which cover a good part of the history of the church and the locality itself. This museum was opened after funding was obtained from Eco Gozo funds under the Ministry for Gozo. This museum is opened daily.

Address: 1, Triq it-Trux
Contact person: Parish Priest
Telephone: +356 21556129
Opening hours: Contact Parish Priest

5. Gharb Basilica and Parish Church

The Basilica was built over three hundred years ago, since the old one – also dedicated to the “Visitation of Our Lady to the Saint Elizabeth” – was too small for the villagers need and rather too far from the village center. The church plans were drawn up by the renowned architect Guzeppi Azzopardi and was built by a certain Dijonisju from Gharb itself. It can be said that this Baroque building is the only church of its type in the Maltese Islands.

Address: 1, Triq it-Trux
Contact person: Parish Priest
Telephone: +356 21556129
Email: gharbparish@onvol.net
Opening hours: Winter: Mon – Fri: 5.15am, 6.00am, 7.00am, 6.00pm
Summer: Mon – Fri: 5.15am, 6.00am, 7.00am, 6.00pm, 7.30pm
Sunday and Feast Days: 5.00am, 6.00am, 7.00am, 8.30am, 4.00pm

6. Taz-Zejt Church

This small church is also dedicated to the Visitation of Our Lady to St. Elizabeth. It used to be the Parish Church of Gharb before the new one was built. Next to the Church is also a cemetery used by the Parish of Gharb. This Church has been restored by the I-Gharb Local Council thanks to EU Funds under Measure 323.

Address: St. Peter Street
Contact person: Fr. Achille Cauchi
Telephone: +356 21556373
Opening hours: Wednesday, Saturday and every first Friday of the month: 4.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am

7. San Dimitri Chapel

The legend about “San Dimitri” church took place during the Turkish Empire, when Corsas used to invade our islands and carry people away as slaves. An old woman, by the name Zgugina, had her son stolen and she begged San Dimitri to bring back her son. San Dimitri answered back her prayers and her son was seen riding on a horse coming out of the titular painting of this chapel. This chapel is found in the countryside of the locality. It’s feast is celebrated every year in October.

Address: In the countryside, at the inner part of Birbuba Street

Contact person: Parish Priest

Telephone: +356 21556129

Opening hours: Open upon request, contact Parish Priest

8. Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary

This sanctuary is visited by a number of pilgrimages on a daily basis. Both Karmni Grima and Frenc ta’ I-Gharb were buried inside this church due to their devotion towards Our Lady of Ta’ Pinu. This sanctuary is opened daily.

Address: Ta’ Pinu Street

Telephone: +356 21556187

Opening hours: Mon – Fri: 7.00am, 8.30am, 6.30pm

Sunday and Feast Days: 6.15am, 8.30am, 10.00am, 11.15am, 5.00pm

9. Pilgrimages Cross

This cross dating back to the 17th century is found at the heart of the locality and has recently (2012) been restored by the I-Gharb Local Council thanks to EU Rural Funds under Measure 323.

Address: Pjazza Zjara tal-Madonna

Opening hours: Public place

10. Sundial / Fountain

This is located in the main square which was recently embellished. Embellishment works included the paving of the square with porfido tiles and the installation of a Sundial / Fountain. This sundial is found in the middle of the square and if used as instructed it shows the time of the day.

Address: Pjazza Zjara tal-Madonna

Opening hours: Public place

11. Wied il-Mielah Valley

This is the largest valley found in the locality. During the years the Council has obtained EU Structural funds to rehabilitate this valley where, amongst other projects, rubble walls, valley dams and bridges were built, the road has been resurfaced, the area landscaped and rustic furniture installed. This is today the perfect area to be used for country walks and as a recreational site for picnics and family outings.

Address: On the coast in the north of Gharb

Website: wiedilmielah.gharbnet.com

Opening hours: Public place

12. Ta' Dbiegi Crafts Village

This is the only crafts village in Gozo where various crafts are created. Some of the crafts found within this village include silver filigree, lace making, pottery, leather making, blacksmith, stone decorators and glass blowing.

Address: Frangisk Portelli Street, Gharb, on the way to Dwejra

Telephone: +356 21561482

Opening hours: Mon – Sat: 9.30am - 5.00pm

Places of Refreshment

Visitation Band Club

Address: 48, Pjazza Zsara Tal-Madonna

Mobile: +356 79492667

+356 79382586

Email: vitzazzjoni@gmail.com

Jeffrey's Restaurant

Address: Gharb Road

Telephone: +356 21561006

Mobile: +356 9949 6230

Website: www.jeffreysrestaurantgozo.com

Gharb Rangers FC

Address: 118, Church Street

Telephone: +356 21565666

Mobile: +356 9948 7318

Email: frk@onvol.net

Salvina Resturant

Address: 21, Frenc ta' l-Gharb Street

Telephone: +356 21552505

Mobile: +356 9942 1510

Email: info@salvina.eu & tasalvina@onvol.net

Tal-Massar Winery

Mobile: Marisa +356 9928 8730, Anthony +356 9986 3529

Email: info@massarwinery.com

Local Information

Gharb Local Council

Triq Il-Vizitazzjoni

Telephone: +356 21560556

Email: gharb.lc@gov.mt

Website: www.gharbnet.com

Opening Hours: Winter 8.00am – 6.00pm

Summer: 7.30am – 1.00pm

Free Wi-Fi is available around the village

Gharb Public Library

Address: Local Council, Triq Il-Vizitazzjoni

Email: gharb.librerary@gov.mt

Opening hours: Thursday: 8.30am – 12.30 pm

Saturday: 9.30am – 11.30 am

Events

The Local Council has also an annual calendar of activities including amongst others:

A Carnival soiree (February): the evening includes participation and performance by a number of groups/companies coming from Gozo and Malta. Various competitions are also organised including costume competitions for young children and 'il-Maskarat Misterjuz' competition.

Seher il-Punent Festival (March): this is a three day festival organised during a weekend in March, starting with a typical dinner served by Ghaqda Folkloristika tal-Qiegħa with the participation of Local Committees with traditional entertainment. The second and third day of the festival are filled with various activities, the most popular being the Tug of War Competition and the creation of the largest Gbejna ever created in the Maltese Islands.

Infiorata (July): the Infiorata consists of a carpet made of fresh flowers and leave flowers cut in small pieces and put together to form a thematic design. This tradition comes from the twinning relation existing between Gharb and Gerano Councils where the infiorata in Gerano is found to be the oldest one on records found in Italy. In Gharb the Infiorata is held during the village feast which usually is celebrated in the first week of July and is the old locality in which it is held on the Maltese archipelago.

Gharb Day (August): yearly, on the 29th August, the I-Gharb Local Council holds Gharb Day with a cultural evening in the main square, Pjazza Zjara tal-Madonna. During the evening various awards are presented amongst others, the Premju Gharb.

Car Free Day (September): the Council joins other localities and cities around the country to participate in the Car Free Day. During this particular day which normally is celebrated in September, the main square is closed to traffic and sport activities are organised in order to encourage people in participating in sports activities for their own health.

Accessibility

Arriva bus

From Valletta to Malta ferry terminal (Cirkewwa): Bus 41, 42

Ferry

From Malta ferry terminal to Gozo terminal

Website: www.gozochannel.com

Arriva bus

From Gozo ferry terminal to Victoria/Rabat: Bus 301

Bus stop: Victoria/Rabat

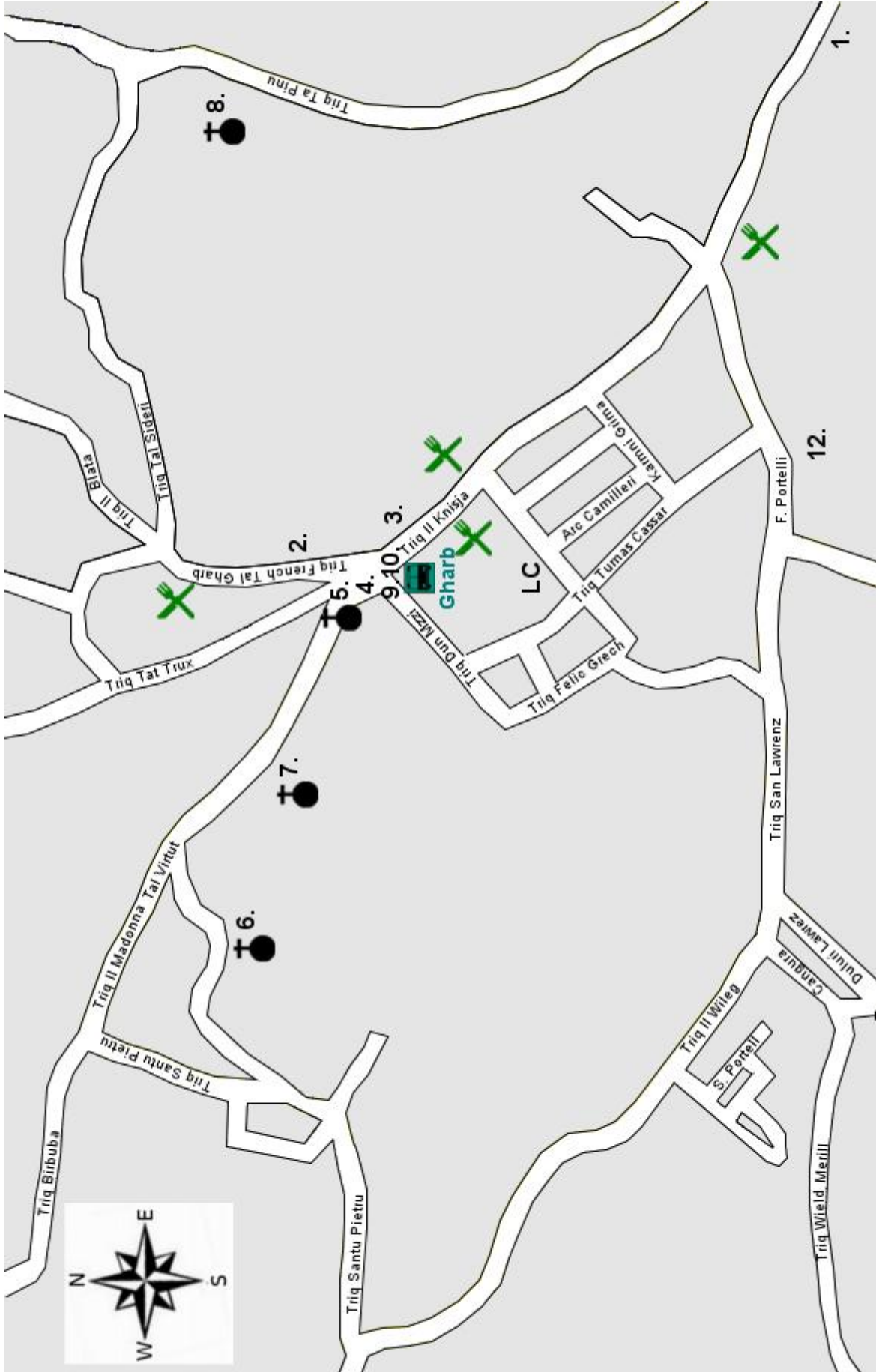
From Victoria/Rabat to Gharb: Bus 311, 312

Bus stop: Gharb

Customer care: +356 2122 2000

Email: enquiries@arriva.com.mt

Website: www.arriva.com.mt



Legend



Bus Stop



Church/Chapel



Places of Refreshment

LC

Local Council

WC

Public Convenience

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2. Frenc ta' I-Gharb Museum
3. Folklore Museum
4. Ecclesia Mater (Church Museum)
5. Gharb Basilica and Parish Church
6. Taz-Zejt Church
7. San Dimitri Chapel
8. Ta' Pinu Sanctuary
9. Pilgrimages Cross
10. Sundial / Fountain
11. Wied il-Mielah Valley
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Places of Refreshment:

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