

# ŻURRIEQ



## History:

In the south of Malta, one finds the village of Żurrieq, or Iż-Żurrieq, bordering Safi, Kirkop, Mqabba, Qrendi, and Birzebugga. The name of the village is thought to derive from the Maltese word Żoroq (cyan). Żurrieq's motto is mill-baħar iżraq ħadt ismi - "from the blue sea I took my name". Today, the village's coat of arms includes the white and blue colours of the sky and the sea.

The village was first mentioned historically in 1399. One still finds numerous houses in Żurrieq that date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. Various archaeological findings in Żurrieq date back to the Bronze Age and Punic times. The Punic tower found here is a famous attraction in the village as Punic remains are fairly rare in Malta. Żurrieq's most prominent landmark, the Tax-Xarolla Windmill, was built by Grandmaster Manoel de Vilhena in 1724. Since its restoration in 1992 it is the only functioning windmill in the whole country. It is near the windmill that various tombs dating back to Carthaginian and Phoenician times have been (and still are being) excavated. In 1930, a tomb containing human bones and Roman pottery was discovered which dates back to as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD. In 1436, Żurrieq is mentioned as a parish and has flourished ever since. The population grew from 2,000 inhabitants in 1530 to 16,000 in 2010. Important people that are associated with Żurrieq include Mgr. Professor Pietru Pawl Saydon (who translated Holy Scriptures from Greek and Jewish to Maltese) who was born, lived and died here; Stefano Zerafa (Professor of Medicine, Physiology, Pathology, Natural History) who is buried in the parish church, as well as Mattia Preti (an Italian artist, most famous for the astonishing ceiling paintings of the life and martyrdom of St John the Baptist in St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta) who lived and died in Malta. The parish church was built between 1634 and 1659 and is dedicated to Saint Catherine of Alexandria. As in other Maltese localities, the village feast is held in honour to the parish patron. The feast of Saint Catherine of Alexandria is held on the first Sunday in September with full blown celebrations and a reduced commemoration on the 25th of November, this being the liturgical feast of the saint in the Catholic calendar. What distinguishes Żurrieq (and few other villages in the South) is the fact that it celebrates two village feasts. The second feast is that of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which is celebrated annually on the first Sunday after July 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Attractions:

### 1. ★ **St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Church**

The Church was built between 1634 and 1659. The feast in honour of St. Catherine of Alexandria is celebrated each year on the first Sunday of September. It has great architectural and artistic beauty and carries works of art that include six paintings by Mattia Preti, including the main altarpiece depicting St Catherine's triumph on the wheel of torture. In 2011, this church was declared a Grade 1 monument.

Address: Misraħ ir-Repubblika, Iz- Żurrieq

Contact person: Rev. Arch Dun C.Attard

Telephone: +356 21642010

Email: [parroccazurrieq@mail.global.net.mt](mailto:parroccazurrieq@mail.global.net.mt)

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday from the morning till 1pm and from 4:30 pm till evening

### 2. ★ **Second War World Monument**

It commemorates those who fell during the hostilities. The work is made by the Gozitan sculptor Camilleri Cauchi.

Address: on the right side of the Parish Church

### 3. ★ **Statue of St. Catherine**

The statue was erected and blessed in 1814 in the main square of the village. The sculptor of this statue was Mariano Gerada, who also executed the processional statue found inside the Church.

Address: Triq Il-Kbira, next to the Parish Church, Iz- Żurrieq

### 4. ★ **The Chapel of St. James**

Built in a baroque style, the chapel dates back to 1725. This chapel is decorated with a number of pilasters built in the Ionic style, on which a frieze is present throughout the perimeter of the church. This chapel is a work of art by Paolo Zahra.

Address: Triq il-Kbira, Iz- Żurrieq

5.  **The Chapel of St. Bartholomew Apostle** 

The old chapel was built in 1482, however due to the poor state of this chapel; Bishop Balguer deconsecrated it on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1658. As a result, it was decided to rebuild this chapel in 1775. This chapel was consecrated in January of 1784 by the Parish Priest, Rev. Guiseppe Agius.

Address: Triq San Bartilmew, Iz- Żurrieq

6.  **Xarolla Windmill** 

The windmill was built in 1724 by the Knights of Malta and is still fully functional. The windmill serves as a cultural centre as it still has parts of the original mechanisms and can still grind the wheat.

Address: Triq Sant'Andrija, Iz- Żurrieq

Contact person: Żurrieq Local Council

Opening hours: Saturdays and Sundays from 8am till noon or else by appointment.

Entrance Fees: Adults: €3

Students and children: €1

7.  **The Chapel of St. Andrew** 

The chapel was built between 1775 and 1784 on the site of an older chapel built in 1482 on the initiative of Toni Zammit. The chapel boasts of a painting depicting the martyrdom of St. Andrew, attributed to Francesco Zahra which is now kept in the parish church sacristy for safekeeping.

Address: Triq Sant'Andrija , in front of the Xarolla Windmill, Iz- Żurrieq

Opening Hours: Can be opened for groups by appointment

Contact person: Rev. Arch Dun C.Attard

8.  **Xarolla Catacombs** 

Dating back to approximately the 3rd - 4th Century AD, the catacombs are still not fully excavated, but previous excavation indicates that they served as the catacombs to an early group of Christians who lived in the early centuries of Christian Malta.

Address: Triq Sant'Andrija, next to Xarolla Windmill, Iz- Żurrieq

## 9. St. Agatha's Chapel



The chapel was built in 1854 with the seal of Mr. Francesco Grixti and it was blessed on the 27th February 1859 by Vicar General Mgr. Philip Amato. During World War II, the chapel served for the spiritual care of British soldiers stationed in the vicinity. The chapel has an old painting of St. Agatha (now found in the parish church sacristy) and celebrates the feast in her honour on the Sunday nearest to 5th of February, its liturgical feast day.

Address: Triq Hal Far, Iz- Żurrieq

## 10. Hal Milleri



Casal Millieri was first documented in 1419, although this dates back to Roman and possibly prehistoric times. Two chapels still exist at the site. The most interesting feature at the site are the frescos and the rural peaceful surroundings.

Address: 1,5 Km in Triq L-Imqabba, Iz- Żurrieq

Telephone: +356 21220358

Opening hours: First Sunday of the month: 9am-12pm

## 11. Blue Grotto Belvedere



From the garden it is possible to enjoy the landscape that includes the view of the Blue Grotto. This latter is a natural arch that drops from the cliff-top to the sea in front of a cave of rugged splendour. It is a popular place for photos.

Address: Ġnien Il-Ġibjun, Triq Il-Mitħna Tal-Qaret, Iz- Żurrieq

## Places of refreshment:



- Socjeta Muzikali Santa Katarina VM  
Address: Misraħ ir-Repubblika, Iz- Żurrieq
- Għaqda Karmelitana u Banda Queen Victoria  
Address: Misraħ ir-Repubblika, Iz- Żurrieq  
Please note that both of them are daily open and it is possible to visit the building from the inside by appointment

## **Local Information:**



### **Żurrieq Local Council**

Ċentru tal-Komunita' Joe Cassar

Address: Triq Pietru Pawl Saydonż Żurrieq, Iz- Żurrieq

Tel: +356 21689111 / +356 21642974

E-mail: [zurrieq.lc@gov.mt](mailto:zurrieq.lc@gov.mt)

Opening hours: Winter (16<sup>th</sup> September- 14<sup>th</sup> June)

Monday-Friday: 8am – 4pm

Saturday: 8am-11am

Summer (15<sup>th</sup> June- 15<sup>th</sup> September)

Monday-Friday: 8am – 1pm

Saturday: 8am-11am

## **Accessibility:**



### **Arriva Bus**

From Valletta to Żurrieq: Bus 71, 73

From Mater Dei Hospital to Żurrieq: Bus 117, 118

From Airport to Żurrieq: 201

Bus Stop: Żurrieq Bus Terminus

Customer care: +356 2122 2000

E-mail: [enquiries@arriva.com.mt](mailto:enquiries@arriva.com.mt)

Website: [www.arriva.com.mt](http://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
- Timing for the full itinerary:  
2h 10 min

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- 📶 Wi-Fi
- 🚽 WC
- 🏧 ATM

