

TARXIEN



History:

The name Tarxien is likely to be derived from the Old Semitic word Tirxa meaning 'a big stone' or a plateau that rises slowly from sea level. From excavations carried out during the last two centuries, we know that this locality has been inhabited for more than 5000 years. This is proved by the presence of the Megalithic Temples, the Hypogeum and the Kordin Temples found in the area in and around Tarxien. Tomb of Phoenician and Roman origins have also been found in the area.

During the Great Siege (1565), the men from Tarxien were entrusted with the defence of the Senglea Bastions. In a census compiled in 1575 by Mons. Pietro Dusina, it was stated that in Tarxien, there were 100 houses. At that time, Tarxien was also called 'The Village of St. John.'

On May 29th 1592, Bishop Thomas Gargallo declared Tarxien a parish on its own. By 1636, the new Parish Church was completed in the centre of the village. The Parish Church is dedicated to Our Lady of Annunciation. When Tarxien was made a parish, its boundaries touched those of Zetjun, Birgu, Santa Margherita Bastions and up to Marsa.

In 1626, Grandmaster de Paule built the small church of Santa Ubaldesca. He proclaimed that a piece of land surrounding the Chapel to be called 'Casale Paolo'. All these lands were in the boundaries of Tarxien. During the French Blockade, Tarxien had two batteries facing the French locked in the Cottonera Bastions. The people of Tarxien had to provide food and paid the wages of all the soldiers in the two batteries.

By 1859, a school was opened for the boys and girls of Tarxien. In 1889, an elementary school was opened, in which the English Language was first taught. Fr John Mamo also opened the first technical school for boys in 1912. In 1961, a new school, large enough to take all the boys and girls of Tarxien of primary and secondary school age was built.

During the World War II many houses were destroyed because of enemy action. Large houses were billeted during those years to house soldiers. Palazzo Abela was used as the headquarters of the surrounding areas. A monument to the Tarxien people who lost their lives during the war was erected in front of Villa Lefevre. After the war, all the surrounding fields were built up and two new villages: Fgura and Santa Lucija, were cut off from the boundaries of Tarxien with their own parish. Nowadays, the population of Tarxien is about 9000 people. Due to industrialisation Tarxien has changed from a rural to an urban society.

Attractions:

1. ★ **Tarxien Neolithic Temples**

The Tarxien Temples site consists of a complex of four megalithic structures built between 3600 and 2500 B.C. and re-used between 2400 and 1500 BC. Discovered in 1913 by local farmers, the site was extensively excavated between 1915 and 1919, with a number of minor interventions carried out in the 1920s, by Sir Themistocles Zammit, Director of Museums at the time.

Address: Triq It Tempji Neolitici, Hal Tarxien

Contact person: Heritage Malta

Telephone: +356 22954000

Website: www.heritagemalta.org

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday: 9 am to 5 pm (last admission 4:30 pm)

Entrance fees: Adults (18 - 59 years): €6.00

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

 Students: €4.50

 Children (6 -11 years): €3.00

2. ★ **War Victims Memorial**

A monument in remembrance of those Tarxien victims who died during the Second World War. This sculptural piece, in bronze and marble, is a work of art by Chev. Alfred Camilleri Cauchi.

Address: Triq Hal Tarxien/ Triq Paola, Hal Tarxien

3. ★ **Villa Le Fevre**

This villa is a 18th century baroque style house. For some time this building also served as a primary school for the locals. Historian E.B Vella was also one of its Head Teachers.

Address: Triq Hal Tarxien/ Triq Paola, Hal Tarxien

4.  **Chapel of St Bartholomew (St Bert Appostlu)** 

This small church was constructed in 1776 and paid for by Rev. Bert Mangion. It is an architectural gem in the baroque style that also houses paintings by painter Rocco Buhagiar.

Address: Triq il-Kbira, Ħal Tarxien

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 6.30 am-10 am and 5.30 pm- 8pm for adoration and private prayer

5.  **Parish Church of the Annunciation of Our Lady** 

The Church was built in 1610 in the centre of the village and dedicated to the annunciation of our lady. Declared a parish in 1592 by Bishop Gargallo.

Address: Misrah Ħal Tarxien, Ħal Tarxien

Contact: Rev Reuben Deguara

Telephone: +356 21828153

Email: parrocca.tarxien@maltadiocese.org

Opening hours: mornings and afternoons during religious services:

Monday to Saturday: 6am, 7.45am, 6.30pm

Sunday: 6.15am, 7.45am, 10.15am, 5.30pm

6. **Chapel of St. Mary** 

One of the remaining small churches dating back to 1415 dedicated to Assumption of Our Lady, St. Mary. This is one of the oldest churches and has a wonderful face with two bell towers and a statue of the Assumption in front of a small dome.

Address: Triq Santa Marija, Ħal Tarxien

7. **Villa Barbaro** 

This villa that once belongs to the Marquis Barbaro di San Giorgio, is one of the oldest houses (around 1860) found at Ħal Tarxien. Initially this villa was a large farmhouse in the countryside.

Address: Triq Iz Zejtun, Ħal Tarxien

8. Villa Cecy 

Villa Cecy was built in art nouveau style in the 1930's by Dr. Daniel Cecy a popular medical doctor and for many years the president of the village band club.

Address: Triq il-Kbira, Ħal Tarxien

9. Shelters 

They were used by the people who went underground to shelter from enemy bombs during the Second World War.

Address: Misrah Ħal Tarxien, Ħal Tarxien

10. Dar Tal-Kejka 

A recently restored and well-kept old building called Id-Dar tal-Kejka or, as it is sometimes known, 'The Hermit's Monastery'. This building dates back to the 18th century.

Address: Triq Xintill, Ħal Tarxien

Places of refreshment: 

- The Annunciation Band Club (L-Ghaqda Mużikali Marija Annunzjata)

Address: Triq Paola, Ħal Tarxien

Telephone: +356 21806618

Opening hours: Monday-Friday: 8am -12pm and 4.30pm -8pm

Saturday: 8am- 12pm

Please note that the band club offers the possibility to visit the building.

Local Information:

Tarxien Local Council

Address: 73, Triq Santa Marija, Tarxien

Telephone: +356 21666688

E-mail: tarxien.lc@gov.mt

Opening hours: Winter – Monday - Friday: 8am – 4.30pm, Saturday 8am – 11.30am

Summer – Monday - Friday: 8am - 2pm, Saturday 8am – 11.30am

Accessibility:

Arriva Bus

From Valletta to Tarxien: Bus 81, 82, 84, 85

Bus Stop: Neolitici

Bus stop (bus 84): Addolorata

Customer care: +356 2122 2000

E-mail: 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>):
25 minutes to get there from Valletta
25 minutes to come back to Valletta
- ★ Timing for the itinerary of the must-see sites:
1 h
- Timing for the full itinerary:
1 h 45 min

TARXIEN MAP

- ★ 1 Tarxien Neolithic Temples
- ★ 2 War Victims Memorial
- ★ 3 Villa Le Fevre
- ★ 4 Chapel of St. Bartholomew
- ★ 5 Parish Church
- ◆ 6 Chapel of St. Mary
- ◆ 7 Villa Barbaro
- ◆ 8 Villa Cecy
- ◆ 9 Shelters
- ◆ 10 Dar Tal-Kejka
- 📶 Tarxien LC
- 🍴 The Annunciation Band Club
- ⚡ Wi-Fi
- 🚻 WC
- 🏧 ATM

