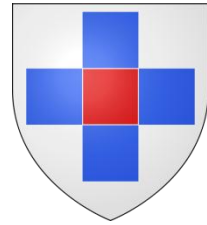


Attard



History

Attard is situated in the centre of Malta, just a few kilometres away from the old capital city of Mdina. Traditionally Attard was known for its citrus orchards and gardens. The motto of the village is “Florigera Rosis Halo”, which means “I perfume the air with my blossoms”.

Attard used to be the smallest of the “Three Villages”, the cluster of Attard, Lija and Balzan in the very centre of the main island, but is now by far the largest of three. Attard has had its own Local Council since 1994 and has a population of approximately 10,200 residents. Attard is mostly residential but it comprises of a part which is still agricultural, even rural; another part is recreational parkland with open gardens and national sport facilities.

The village core is the oldest part of the town which dates back to 3,000 years B.C. one can also find burial sites excavated in Attard. These are prehistoric, Hellenistic and Roman. Amongst them is a bell-shaped rock-tomb discovered in 1910 at the site known as Buqana, a Phoenician rock-tomb discovered in 1946 and in the mid-sixties two other finds, both of them roman sites. One was a bell-shaped well in Notary Zarb Street and the other was a tomb. In 1989 another Hellenistic tomb was excavated in Old Railway Track.

Attard became a parish in 1575, breaking off from Birkirkara to which it had previously been connected ecclesiastically, and by 1579 it had its first parish priest. A beautiful and unique Parish Church was built between 1613 and 1616 and is dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. In addition to the finesse of its Renaissance baroque elements, the Attard parish church has been continually enriched by artistic additions, including paintings by well-known masters, such as Francesco Zahra, with others attributed to Stefano Erardi. Further down the road along the main street, there is an old horse trough “Ghajn tal-Bhejjem”, which served as a drinking fountain for passing horses and cattle. A part from the Parish Church, one finds three other historical chapels, two in the village core, one dedicated to St. Anne and the other dedicated to St. Paul, and a third one dedicated to Our Lady of Victory, which is situated in the main road leading to the old capital of Mdina. In 1676 Attard was badly hit by the plague epidemic, hence the veneration of St. Rocque at the St. Anne chapel. The need for burial grounds increased dramatically, for example the cemetery known as “tal-pesta” adjoining the above-mentioned chapel.

In the past century Attard’s role as a pivotal communications centre was probably best demonstrated by the stops of the Malta Railway between 1883 and 1931; it was the only place in Malta to have three railway stations or stops: one near St. Anton close to what is now Balzan, another up the road in what is now the “Gnien l-Istazzjon”, and further up, in Tas-Salvatur, on the way to Rabat, Mdina and Mtarfa.

It was from the mid-eighties onwards that the village became more of a hubbub of activity, partly due to the untiring efforts of a new parish priest from 1986 to 1993, which have been carried forward by his successor, and partly, no doubt, because Attard was beginning to suffer from the symptoms of its transformation from a rural village into a bursting town, and had to rise to the challenge to survive as a community.

Attractions in Attard

1. The Parish Church

The Parish Church was built between 1613 and 1616 and is dedicated to Our Lady of Assumption. The design of this church, which is regarded as an architectural and artistic relic, has been attributed to a very talented native of Attard, the master-craftsman Tumas Dingli and to the inspiration of an elder master, Vittorio Cassar, son of the famous architect Ġerolamo Cassar.

Address: 42, Triq Il-Kbira

Telephone: +356 21434949

Email: info@attard-parish.org

Opening hours: Mon-Fri: 7.00am, 7.45am, 9.00am, 6.30pm

Saturday: 5.15pm, 6.30pm

Sunday and Feast days: 7.00am, 8.00am, 9.00am, 11.00am, 6.00pm

2. The Church Museum

Situated in the Church's building, this museum hosts old religious relics and decorations.

Address: 42, Triq Il-Kbira

Telephone: +356 21434949

Email: info@attard-parish.org

Opening hours: By appointment, contact the Parish Office

3. Villa Bologna

Formerly the residence of Lord Strickland, who was prime minister of Malta from 1927 to 1930, it is now the residence of the American Ambassador. This Villa hosts approximately the largest gardens and rain reservoirs in the islands. A venue of parties and weddings, 'Villa Bologna' may be the finest eighteenth century country house ever built for a Maltese family'.

Address: Triq Sant Anton

Contact Person: Jasper de Trafford

Telephone: +356 21224396

Opening hours: By appointment, contact Jasper de Trafford

4. Ceramika Maltija

In the grounds of Villa Bologna, Ceramika Maltija is a heritage pottery and a living example of Malta's cultural history. Part of the shop is dedicated to the history of Malta's craft industry with a variety of pieces on display, including several pots recovered from St. Mary's Pottery which was destroyed in WW2.

Address: Triq Sant Anton

Telephone: +356 214117973

Email: info@ceramikamaltija.com

Website: www.ceramikamaltija.com

Facebook: Ceramika Maltija at Villa Bologna

Opening hours: Mon – Fri: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Sat: 9.00am – 1.00pm

5. San Anton Gardens

Governor Borton opened these botanical gardens to the public in 1882 for picnics and strolls. Its shaded open courtyards today may ring with the classical music of an occasional chamber orchestra or string quintet, but the gardens regularly host popular shows, fairs and competition, from plants to flowers, to pet cats and dogs, to birds, chickens and rabbits. Every summer a dramatic company organizes a Shakespeare Festival.

Address: Triq Birbal

Telephone: +356 22915440 (Tourist Information Office)

Opening hours: Mon – Sun: 7.00am – 6.00pm (June – September)

Mon – Sun: 7.00am – 5.00pm (October – May)

6. Kapella Tal-Madonna Tal-Pilar (Our Lady of Pilar)

This chapel is inside the garden. It was restored by the President of Malta, George Abela and reopened on 19th October 2012. It serves as a place of worship.

Address: Inside of San Anton Gardens

Telephone: +356 22915440 (Tourist Information Office)

Opening hours: Mon – Sun: 7.00am – 6.00pm (June – September)

Mon – Sun: 7.00am – 5.00pm (October – May)

Hours of Mass: Mon – Sat: 8.00am

Sun: 9.00am

7. The President's Palace

San Anton Gardens includes the of San Anton Palace, the official private residence of the President of Malta.

Address: Triq San Anton

Opening hours: Private residence

8. The Kitchen Garden

This garden is one of the most historical in Malta. It belongs to the San Anton Palace and has been providing the palace with vegetables since the time of the knights. The gardens are home to several animals, such as donkeys, ponies, cranes, goats, emus and other small animals. The garden also contains a small cafe, whose revenue go to the Community Chest Fund.

Address: Triq San Anton

Telephone: +356 21423371

Opening hours: 1st Oct – 31st Oct: 9.30am – 7.00pm

1st Nov – 31st March: 9.30am – 6.00pm

1st April – 30th June: 9.30am – 7.00pm

1st July – 30th Sep: 9.30am – 2.00pm, 6.00pm – 10.00pm

9. Gnien L-Istazzjon

This garden is an area of green space, park benches and a children's park/play area. It was previously the old train station for Attard.

Address: Triq Sant Anton

Contact Person: Attard Local Council

Telephone: +356 2141111

Opening hours: Winter: 7.00am – 6.00pm

Summer: 7.00am – 11.00pm

10. The War Shelter

Address: B'Kara Road and at Centru Papa Gwanni Pawlu

Contact Person: Attard Local Council

Telephone: +356 2141111

Opening hours: Viewing by appointment, contact Attard Local Council

11. Malta Railway Museum

This train museum hosts old train models and information related to the old railway train which used to pass through Attard between 1883 and 1931.

Address: Triq San Duminku

Contact Person: Mr. Nicholas Azzopardi

Telephone: +356 21435235

Email: info@maltarailway.com

Opening hours: by appointment, contact Mr. Nicholas Azzopardi

12. The Wignacourt Aqueduct

The seventeenth century Wignacourt Aqueduct, constructed for supplying Valletta with water from the higher ground around Rabat and Mdina, runs through Attard. The best preserved section of it in Malta so far is probably this one in Attard, in what is now Peter Paul Rubens Street.

Address: Triq Peter Paul Rubens

Opening hours: Public place

13. San Pawl Chapel

This graceful Baroque chapel, situated in the area known as Taħ ir-Raħal, has been abandoned for decades. St Paul's Chapel, built in 1729, is one of the few remaining chapels in Attard. Before this chapel there was another dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption, built on the same site. The Assumption Chapel was desecrated by Mgr Alpheran de Bussan in 1728, demolished and rebuilt by 1729; it was dedicated to St Paul's Shipwreck. The titular painting depicts St Paul Shipwrecked together with St Publius and St Vincent de Paul. The artist was Arrigo Ornau, as indicated in the original accounts of the chapel, but who is widely known as Enrico Regnaud. St Paul's Chapel was re-opened on July 25 2008. A book about St Paul's Chapel and other chapels in Attard, written by Mr Saliba, was launched for the occasion.

Address: Triq San Pawl

Contact person: Rev Noel Vassallo

Telephone: +356 21434949

Fax: +356 21412153

Email: parrocca.attard@maltadiocese.org

Website: www.attard-parish.org

14. Sant'Anna Chapel

Address: Triq Sant'Anna

Contact person: Rev Noel Vassallo

Telephone: +356 21434949

Fax: +356 21412153

Email: parrocca.attard@maltadiocese.org

Website: www.attard-parish.org

Attractions not on the Map

Crafts Village Ta'Qali

Attard's Ta Qali area and the village that was all too close to it, played an important role in wartime: Air Raid Precautions and Victory Kitchen, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the various regiments stationed here from 'Buffs' to Basutos, the searchlight installation up the Mosta Road corner with the Railways Track. This part of Attard now hosts an Aviation Museum - model planes are regularly flown there - and a dinosaur museum.

Places of refreshment

La Stella Levantina Band Club

Address: Triq Il-Kbira

Telephone: +356 21 436321

Email: info@lastellalevantina.com

Opening hours: Evenings

Saracino's Café

Address: Triq Il-Kbira

Telephone: +356 21422995

Opening hours: Winter: 9.00am – 11.00pm

Summer: 9.00am – 1.30pm, 6.00pm – 11.00pm

Jalies Cakes and Bakes

Address: Tumas Dingli Square

Opening hours: Winter: 9.00am – 11.00pm

Santa Lucia Cafe

Address: Triq Il-Linja

Telephone: +356 21417894

Opening hours: Winter: 9.00am – 8.00pm

Summer: 9.00am – 8.00pm

Closed on Sundays

Closed in August

Local information

Attard Local Council

6, Triq il-Kbira,

Telephone: +356 2141111

Email: attard.lc@gov.mt

Opening hours: Winter: 8.00am – 4.00pm

Summer: 7.30am – 1.30pm

Books published by the Attard Local Council containing information relating to Attard are available to purchase, at €8.15 each.

Attard Public Library

Address: St. Nicholas College, Hal Warda Street

Telephone: +356 21421925

Opening hours: Monday: 2.30pm – 6.30pm

Wednesday: 8.30am – 12.30pm

Friday: 2.30pm – 6.30pm

Saturday: 8.30pm – 12.30pm

Events

7th June: Jum H'Attard

September: Lejl ghat-Tard

15th August: Feast of Assumption of Mary

Accessibility

Arriva bus

From Valletta to Attard: Bus 51, 52, 53

Bus stop: Anton

Bus 54

Bus stop: Bologna

From Attard to Ta' Qali: Bus X3

Bus Stop: Qali 1

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

Attractions:

1. The Parish Church
2. The Church Musuem
3. Villa Bologna
4. Ceramika Maltija
5. San Anton Gardens
6. Kapella Tal-Madonna Tal-Pilar
7. The President's Palace
8. The Kitchen Garden
9. Gnien L-Istazzjon
10. The War Shelter
11. Malta Railway Musuem
12. The Wignacourt Aqueduct

Places of Refreshment:

- La Stella Levantina Band Club
- Jalie's Cakes and Bakes
- Saracino's Café
- Santa Luica Café