

# The Truth about Tourism in Malta

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After investigating and asking questions to many different people such as tourists, residents, locals and more in Marsaxlokk I found the truth about Tourism in Malta.



Most Maltese citizens and locals are very accepting and fond of tourists. “They leave a lot of good things after them” according to a local Marsaxlokk resident. They told us that they are vital for the Maltese economy. Most of them don’t mind the tourists at all and some people we asked just had minor problems with tourists like pollution or noise. However, they stated that because of the amount of tourists we are overcrowded and similar to this issue was the fact that there are too many buildings and not enough fields/greenery. According to tourists I interviewed, their favourite places in Malta were the capital city, Valletta and Marsaxlokk. They stated that the climate was the main reason why they visited and the only thing they think Malta lacks is agriculture. They also liked the accessibility of Malta. Restaurant owners of Marsaxlokk said that they serve both local people and tourists at their restaurant and that the tourists tend to prefer local food. They also stated that social media was their number one way of advertising their restaurant to tourists. A flat owner (in Marsaxlokk) told us that he meets many tourists and they are nice and usually older.

2.6 million tourists came to Malta in 2018 which was a 14.3 percent increase from 2017. Tourism in Malta is an important sector of the country's economy, contributing to about 15 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). The most frequent tourists are English and Italian making up almost half of the annual tourists in Malta (2,598,690 in 2018)() According to a study conceived by the University of Malta the main influence of tourism in Malta is by recommendation by friends. Every year, over 80,000 foreign students attend English language courses at local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools. The majority of students come from Italy, Germany and France. In total these make up 60% of total student visits. (<https://www.amlanguage.com/>)

Tourism in Malta is crucial. Many people rely on tourism for their jobs/business'. According to the people we interviewed tourism is important and more of a pro than a con.

