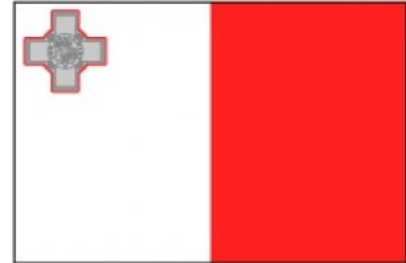




Malta

Joined the Commonwealth in 1964 - visited by the Queen in 2007



Malta is a nation of six islands and islets in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea

Pop: (2012) 428,000

Capital: Valletta

Area: 316 sq km

Malta Island has no rivers, streams or lakes so has to depend on natural ground water resources for its fresh water though desalination is now common. The climate, Mediterranean with hot dry summers and warm wetter winters, yields Mediterranean scrub. There is no spectacular unique wildlife. Some of the land is farmed to produce food for the local markets but, apart from its many natural harbours, resources are few.

Malta's ports are free ports tapping into the shipping traffic through the Mediterranean and Suez Canal. Valletta Grand Harbour is the most important. Apart from tourism, these ports, along with financial and business services, bring in the most income and attract trade.

Blockaded and attacked by air during World War II, the people of Malta were collectively awarded the George Cross (shown on its flag) by King George VI in 1942 for their heroism and devotion – one of only two such awards ever made.



A luzzu (pronounced 'lutsu') is a brightly painted traditional fishing boat dating from Phoenician times. It is sturdy and stable in bad weather

