

## **ACCESS STATEMENT: MALTA TIME-GUN MUSEUM**

### **Introduction:**

Located in the crypt of the former British Army St. George's Garrison Church in Valletta, presently occupied by the Malta Stock Exchange, the Malta Time-Gun Museum is an extension of the Saluting Battery which houses its rich collection of time, navigational and gunnery instruments along with original cannon, uniforms, small arms, ammunition and rare period cannon models.

The museum is a thematic one where the artefacts on display are arranged within the context of the four main subjects covered – history and evolution of gunpowder, artillery, navigation and time signals.

The Saluting Battery was active between 1570 and 1947 before being restored to its present form in 2004. Throughout its long history, it had various functions primarily as Malta's designated national ceremonial platform. Amongst these was the firing of the noon-day gun precisely at mid-day six days a week between 1824 and 1923. This served as the signal by which the Royal Navy and merchant mariners present in the harbour regulated their on-board clocks which were necessary for the finding of the longitude at sea.

From the 1820s onwards, the longitude was determined through a comparison of the time on-board with that of the last port visited which resulted in the time difference between noon and at that location and noon at the Prime Meridian. In addition, a reading was taken using the sextant within 15 to 30 minutes prior to local noon (culmination) noting the time, then leaving the sextant set to the same angle and subsequently observing the moment in time at which the sun passes through the site tube at its descent from its highest altitude between a half-hour and hour later, the two times were averaged to obtain a longitude sufficiently accurate for navigation (within 2 nautical miles (3.7km)). Before that date, the longitude was calculated by dead reckoning which was not always accurate and in many cases resulted in disaster and tragedy as the slightest mistake could cause a ship to run seriously off course.

### **Pre-arrival:**

Prices include entrance to the Saluting Battery:

- Adult: €6
- Children u/16yrs: €3

A Heritage Pass for all eight FWA attractions (valid for one week) can be purchased for €50 Adult, €95 Family (2 Adults plus 3 children under 15).

Should you require refrigeration of Medication please speak to a member of the staff who will try and assist wherever possible.

The premises do not provide or have any wheelchairs or mobility scooters to rent, and visitors are requested to make their own arrangements in respect to these facilities.

Guide and assistance dogs will be allowed to accompany their owner, and water can be provided on request. Otherwise, no pets are allowed inside the facility.

Visitors should be aware that the premises are monitored by CCTV cameras.

### **Transport:**

By car: - Drive following signage to Valletta – Please note that there is restricted vehicle entrance and parking in and around the Malta Time-Gun Museum. Visitors are advised to park at the MCP Central Car Park which provides a free shuttle serviced to Castile. Visitors can then walk to the Malta Time-Gun Museum located under the present Malta Stock Exchange Building before entering the Upper Barracca Gardens in Valletta.

By Bus: Any route bus going to Valletta Bus Terminus and then follow the Directional Signs to the Saluting Battery or Upper Barracca Gardens.

Taxi Service: - Any taxi service available in Malta.

### **Main Entrance and Ticketing Kiosk:**

There are two sets of stairs with 10 steps each. Dimensions of the top door are 100 x 178 cm. Dimensions of the bottom door are 153x190 cm.

The height of the ticketing kiosk desk is 110cm.

### **Wheelchair Access:**

The site is not wheelchair accessible.

This museum is housed wholly underground. Access is down two sets of stairs and a long ramp. Otherwise, the display area is flat and spacious.

### **Reception Area:**

The ticket desk located in the main reception area issues all entrance tickets which can be bought by card transaction. In order to access the reception desk, there is a flight of descending stairs. The reception area also houses a range of Souvenir, Books, Gifts and Items with a Military theme or themed on the Wirt Artna Sites.

**Guided Tours:**

Guided tours are available at 11:00, 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00 whenever the museum is open.

**Toilets:**

There are no toilets available on site. Visitors will be directed to the toilets at the Saluting Battery.

**Catering:**

No catering is available.

**Opening Times:**

Mon to Sat between 10:00 & 16:30hrs.

Closed: Sundays, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.