



# Culture of the Maltese Islands

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ACTIVE Project  
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# Culture

Various aspects related to Culture:



# 1. Language

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- The Maltese language has developed over time.
- The Maltese language is semitic, meaning coming from Arabic, but with time other influences from English and Italian were also seen.
- Thus, the Maltese developed a unique language which is considered and recognised as an official language.
- In fact, in 2004 the Maltese language was included with the official languages of the European Union.

## 2. Customs and Traditions

There are various typical Maltese traditions which still exist nowadays. Unfortunately, some traditions have disappeared with time. Some examples are clothing, typical Maltese food, feasts, games and crafts.



## 2. Customs and Traditions

Religion has a lot of influence on Maltese culture, in fact, it is very difficult to separate the two. Many feasts that are celebrated revolve around the beliefs of the Catholic church such as Christmas, Easter, *Imnarja*, village feasts as well as other celebrations like baptism, Holy Communion and marriage.



# Examples of Traditions in Malta:

- A) Feasts
- In Malta, we celebrate both religious and traditional feasts; like Carnival. The village feasts are related to the religious aspect. Every town and village in Malta has a patron saint.



# Examples of Traditions in Malta:

## B) Games:

- Some old games involve marbles, beads, hopscotch as well as wooden toys. Computers and electronics were non-existent.



# Examples of Traditions in Malta:

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## C) Clothing:

Clothing was quite different. The males used to wear a shirt and trousers rolled up to their knees, a sash on their waist and a cap. The ladies used to wear long skirts, a shirt and a veil on their head. Many used to wear the *ghonnella* as shown in the picture on the left.



## Examples of Traditions in Malta:

### D) Food:

Typical Maltese food includes various Mediterranean plates that are still quite popular nowadays. Some examples include Maltese bread, baked potatoes, rabbit stew, *bigilla*, baked pasta, snails with sauce, fresh cheeselets with soup and *pastizzi*. Typical Maltese delicacies include *imqaret*, *kwareżimal*, November Bones and honey rings.



### 3. Technology

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Nowadays, production methods have changed because manual work has been replaced by machines. For instance, before, flour was produced using a windmill and the help of animals. Farmers used to work in the fields with their bare hands. However, nowadays, all this is done with the help of machines and technological apparatus.



### 3. Technology

