

# The knights of the order of San Juan

The Order of  
Saint John is a  
Roman  
Catholic order  
based in Roma



The organization  
It was founded in  
Jerusalem in 1050 as a  
hospital for pilgrims,  
the poor and the sick  
on their way to the  
Holy Land.

After the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099 during the First Crusade, it became a military order under its own charter.

**When they lost the territories occupied by the Christians in the hands of the Muslims they had to change their headquarters**

After this the Order operated from Rhodes from 1309 to 1522 and later from Malta from 1530 to 1798 over which it was sovereign.

The years during which Rhodes was occupied by the Order of the Knights of Saint John could be considered one of the periods of greatest prosperity.



The last Grand Master was forced to cede the city to Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. They gave it the particular color that the city and it still preserves its impenetrable walls, its gates, its churches and hospitals as well as its hostels and palaces.