



# Hunting in MALTA



SURFACE AREA	
Total surface area	300 km <sup>2</sup>
Huntable area	180 km <sup>2</sup>
Average huntable area	75 hunters/square kilometers of huntable land
<p>The Maltese islands are bare of any mountains or rivers, but there are seasonal water courses, "wadis", which are filled in winter after heavy rains and most of which run down to the sea. Tourism are the islands' main industry. With a density of 1234 people/km<sup>2</sup>, overcrowding has had a devastating effect on natural vegetation and environment. Even so, a number of gardens and parks have been successfully developed in which no hunting is allowed. The only small forest to be found on the islands is a conifer wood at Buskett, were again no hunting is allowed.</p>	
HUNTER/POPULATION	
Population	400.000
Number of Hunters	17.000
% Hunters	3,7%
Hunters / Inhabitants	1/27
Population density inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup>	1234
Socio-demographic profile of the Maltese hunters	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15 to 35 years old: 15%</li> <li>- 23 to 55 years old: 70%</li> <li>- over 55 years old: 15%</li> </ul>	
<p>Under the 17.000 hunters in Malta, a distinction is made between hunters only (13.000), trappers only (2.000) and hunters and trappers (2.000). However as from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2002, a 5 years moratorium on new trapping licenses has been imposed, which will certainly result in an overall decrease of sportsmen, also because of "natural wastage" of trappers who will pass away in these 5 years and their present license is non-transferable nor hereditary.</p> <p>As for social classes, 90% of the number of hunters and trappers are part of the middle and working class; 5% are students and lower class; another 5% are professionals and high standings.</p>	



## HUNTING SYSTEM

### Hunters' association

 *Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta*

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The Federazzjoni Kaccaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti - FKNK (Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta), was founded as The National Association of Maltese Hunters & Trappers on the 11th of September 1973.

Since then the Federation has always worked to ensure the safeguard of the local traditional passions of shooting and capturing, for the purpose of keeping in captivity, of migratory game bird species, in the best interest of Maltese and Gozitan (from sister island of Gozo) sportsmen. The Federation's Members number 9,500 from the islands' potential sportsmen of 15,000. These Members are organised within 24 Associations and Sub-Committees from various districts of the islands, under the direction of a Main Council.



## LEGAL PROVISIONS

### Hunting system

Hunting and Trapping are regulated by the *Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbits Regulations* as last amended in January 2003, enacted under the *Environment Protection Act* of 1991.

### Authorised hunting methods

Shooting and trapping. Trapping requires more space than shooting with approximately 50 sq. meters per trapping site, which must be kept clear of vegetation. All trapping is practiced on a completely selective basis: traditional, manually operated clap-nets are operated from a hide, and as many as 40 live decoys are used by each trapper.

### Hunting territory

Due to space restriction, most shooting is carried out from fixed hides. Shooters usually place themselves early in the morning and wait for migratory gamebirds to fly by. Some shooters who own, or have been able to rent, larger pieces of land, do some shooting by flushing game over dogs.

Waterfowl shooting takes place from boats out at sea. This is mainly due to the fact that migratory ducks rarely fly inland, as they do not find the required wetlands on the Maltese Islands.

## EXAMINATION, HUNTING LICENCE

### Examination & Hunting licences

Shooters and trappers (minimum age 18) have to pay licences as follow:

- shooting from land
- gun licence
- rabbit shooting
- sea shooting
- trapping

A test must be taken by new applicants for any of the above licences.

## GAME & HUNTING SEASON

No Shooting is allowed on Sundays and Public Holidays after 13.00 hours, while trapping is still permissible.

<b>Birds that may be shot from land</b> (From 1 September - 31 January)	<b>Birds that may be trapped</b>	<b>Birds that may be shot from Sea-craft</b> (From 1 October - End February)
Golden Plover Grey Plover Lapwing Jack Snipe Snipe Woodcock Wigeon Gadwall Teal Mallard Pintail Garganey Shoveler Pochard Tufted Duck Red-breasted Merganser Coot Greylag Goose Bean Goose Skylark Blackbird Fieldfare Song Thrush Redwing Mistle Thrush	<u>1 October - 10 April</u> Linnet Serin Greenfinch Goldfinch Chaffinch Siskin Hawfinch  <u>1 September - 31 January &amp; 25 March - 22 May</u> Turtle Dove Quail  <u>1 September - 31 January</u> Golden Plover Song Thrush	Bean Goose Wigeon Gadwall Teal Mallard Pintail Garganey Shoveler Pochard Tufted Duck Greylag Goose Red Breasted Merganser

<p>Starling Turtle Dove * Wood Pigeon Quail * Moorhen Ruff WaterRail</p> <p>* The Turtle Dove and the Quail may also be shot from land from the 25th March up to 22nd May both dates included.</p>		
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The Wild Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) is the only resident game species, occurs in small numbers and in few selected areas. All other game consists of migratory birds. Trapping and Shooting of the Wild Rabbit on specified areas, is allowed from the 1 June to the 31 December.