

## **Access Statement – Fort St Angelo**

### **Introduction:**

Situated at the tip of Vittoriosa, Fort St Angelo tells the story of this national icon from its early beginnings right up to the present. The fort is situated on a slight hill with a gradual approach. The Fort is based on two levels that are wheelchair accessible with special electric vehicles and chair lifts. A visit requires 1.5 hours to fully explore the fort. Other amenities include a restaurant / café and a shop selling a range of souvenirs. Front of House personnel are on hand throughout the site should for any assistance necessary.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 25401800 or email [info@heritagemalta.org](mailto:info@heritagemalta.org).

### **Pre-Arrival Information:**

You can reach Fort St Angelo by public transport, ferry, or car and minibuses.

#### **By public transport:**

For the most updated information about bus routes and timetables please see <https://www.publictransport.com.mt/en/visiting-malta>. The Bus Stop called 'Birgu Centre' (bus no. 2) is the closest one to the Fort. Descending from the bus, you find yourself in the city main square, walking for 10mins down towards the Marina, an 800 metres distance. Another bus stop called 'Cafe Riche' is a further stop. Buses 2, 3, and 4 stop at the Bus Terminus where you walk for 13mins always towards the Marina, 1km away.

#### **By Ferry:**

For the updated information and schedule for the use of the ferry, kindly visit the website <https://www.publictransport.com.mt/en/ferry-schedule>. This service operates all year round, with departures operating at a maximum interval of thirty (30) minutes from each landing place, within a minimum stipulated schedule in both Valletta and the Three Cities port. The ferries operate near Valletta Waterfront to Dock 1 in Bormla. Take the Upper Barrakka Lift and cross the road to reach the Three Cities ferry. If you take the ferry, the lift is free on the way up. It takes a 13min walk (1km distance) from Dock One to reach Fort St Angelo.

#### **By car and minibuses:**

- Coaches cannot access the front of the Fort. Passengers using coaches will be left and picked up near the Freedom monument, just 5 minutes away from the Fort.
- Cars and minibuses can easily access the end of the Marina, just beneath the first ramp for the entrance of the Fort.

### **Car Park and Arrival:**

- Free public parking is available at the quay of the Marina, just below the Fort. The roads around the Fort are all made of tarmac.
- There are two steep ramps with handrails leading to the reception.

- Electric vehicles and electric wheelchair accessible vehicles are available free of charge on request from the main entrance.
- A lift is in service and accessible upon request

### **Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area:**

- Upon ascending both ramps you will be greeted by the security guard who will show you the way to the reception area.
- There are some cushioned bench seats in this area.
- The floor surface is tiled.
- The area is well lit.
- There is a lowered section of the welcome/ticketing desk.
- An information screen is installed in the reception area. It highlights the main attractions at the Fort.
- A souvenir shop and soft drinks are available in the reception area.

### **Attraction (displays, exhibits, etc.):**

- At the back of the imposing entrance is a steep ramp leading up to the reception and orientation point. Visitors can then opt to take the panoramic walk offering unobstructed views of Valletta and Floriana across the harbour, or proceed directly to the parade ground through the medieval gateway at the back of the barbican. Whichever way is picked, they are free to roam. Interpretation panels are spread throughout the site.
- The lofty vaults built into Ferramolino's cavalier host three immersive experiences and accompanying displays, namely:

**Centre of the Mediterranean-** an overview of the use of Malta and Gozo by foreign powers since antiquity due to their fine havens and expedient location along the main navigation routes.

**Key to Malta-** a highlight of the advantages offered by the site of Fort St Angelo for the control of the Grand Harbour, undoubtedly the most valuable resource bestowed by Mother Nature.

**National Icon-** a tribute to the leading act played by Fort St Angelo for centuries on end and, in turn, a celebration of its forceful association with communal pride and the Maltese People's innate resilience.

All three vaults have elevated tile flooring and each includes an Audiovisual. The third vault 'National Icon' also includes special effects in its audiovisual.

Lighting in the galleries is generally bright and evenly lit with overhead halogen lighting.

- By and large, the most meaningful innovations in warfare technology and defence strategies that marked the Early Modern Age are reflected in the Fort's multi-layered fabric. Besides a noteworthy corpus of iron guns, the fort preserves a host of complementary gunpowder magazines and related amenities. Two rooms are specifically designed to portray a late eighteenth-century barrack room and a mid-nineteenth century expense gunpowder magazine.
- A special interpretation room is dedicated to the site's use as a prison, namely renowned for its underground prison cell known as *guva* or *oubliette*.

## **Public Toilets:**

- Public toilets are available at the reception area, souvenir shop/cafeteria, and at the Parade Ground.
  - In the reception area, there are 2 male toilets, 2 female toilets and a disabled with nappy changer toilet.
  - In the cafeteria/souvenir shop, there is 1 unisex toilet and 1 disabled toilet.
  - There are 2 urinals and 2 toilets in the male section in the Parade Ground, 4 female toilets and 1 disabled with nappy changer toilet.
- A light easy opened door 90cms wide and 210cms height.
- There are vertical rails on either side of both the basin and the toilet in the disabled toilets.
- Tiles are grey and toilets and washbasins are white.
- A light flashes when the fire alarm sounds.
- The toilets are well-lit with fluorescent tubes overhead lighting and a low-level light switch.
- The flooring is non-slip tile.
- There are lever taps installed at the sink.

## **Catering:**

- The cafeteria/souvenir shop is situated on the upper level of the Fort.
- Two entrance doors at the cafeteria/souvenir shop are wheelchair accessible.
- 4 tables and 16 chairs are available inside
- 12 tables, 48 chairs and 12 umbrellas are available on the adjoining terrace.
- The floor surface is tiled.
- The cafeteria is self-service, however, staff can assist on request.
- A range of light snacks is available.
- The nearest public toilet is in the cafeteria itself.

## **Grounds:**

- There are concrete and wooden benches in various parts of the Fort.
- Panoramic views can be enjoyed from the Fort's grounds.

## **Additional Information:**

- All the information brochures are in different languages including Maltese, English, Italian, French, and German.
- 54 audio guides available for visitors in the following languages: Maltese, English, Italian, French, German, Spanish, and Chinese.
- Clear signage is used throughout the whole Fort.
- Opened storage area is available for visitors' personal items at the reception.
- Trained assistant dogs are welcome. However, dogs are allowed in external spaces only.

## **Future Plans Include:**

- Chairlifts to be more user-friendly and easily accessible.
- Clear signage is to be updated and in a coherent display.
- Adding to the interpretation of the visitor's experience by incorporating one of the previous exhibitions, "Behind Closed Doors" as a permanent display.
- Investing in more adequate catering equipment for any kind of event such as a mobile kitchen.
- Upgrading any logistical matters around the site for the purpose to sustain any large scale events.

### **Contact Information:**

Address: Fort St Angelo, Xatt l-Assedju l-Kbir 1565, BIRGU BRG1023

Telephone: 00356 25401800

Email: [info@heritagemalta.org](mailto:info@heritagemalta.org)

Website: [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FortStAngelo](http://www.facebook.com/FortStAngelo)