

# **THE MOST VALUED**

Ancient relicts of Malta

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# Ḥaġar Qim



# Ħaġar Qim

- ✚ Ħaġar Qim is a megalithic temple complex, dated on 3600-3200 BC. Features of temple architecture reveal a preoccupation with providing accommodation for animal sacrifices, burnt offerings and ritual oracles. Recesses were used as depositories for sacrificial remains. Excavation has uncovered numerous statuettes of deities and highly decorated pottery.
- ✚ Primarily the temple consisted of four temples, which the best retained is the south one.
- ✚ In 1992 UNESCO recognized Ħaġar Qim and four other Maltese megalithic structures as World Heritage Sites.

# Tarxien Temples



# Tarxien Temples

- ✦ The **Tarxien Temples** are an archaeological complex in Malta.
- ✦ They date to approximately 3150 BC
- ✦ accepted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980
- ✦ The complex was discovered by a local farmer in 1914.
- ✦ There are five temples, which from the most important are:
- ✦ South Temple, where the stone altar with the knife was found, it also has helix motives on walls
- ✦ Center Temple, the biggest one, with animal motives on the walls

# Ta' Hagra



# Ta' Ħaġrat

- Ta' Ħaġrat is built out of lower coralline limestone, the oldest exposed rock in the Maltese Islands. The complex contains two adjacent temples. The smaller temple abuts the major one on the northern side.
- Parts of the facade and doorway were reconstructed in 1937.
- Even though it's smaller than nearby temples, Ta' Ħaġrat is the best preserved megalithic on the north side of island.
- The most valuable finding of Ta' Ħaġrat is a small three-dimensional model of the temple.
- Structure of build resembles clover leaf.

# Skorba Temples



# Skorba Temples

- ✦ The Żebbiegħ area around Skorba appears to have been inhabited very early in the Neolithic period.
- ✦ The remains on the site are a series of megalithic uprights. This three-apse shape is typical of the Ġgantija phase. Unfortunately, the greater part of the first two apses and the whole of the facade have been razed to ground level.
- ✦ The discovery within these structures of a number of **female figurines** and goat skulls, led the excavator to suggest that these structures may have been used as some sort of shrine.
- ✦ Due to the small size and fragility of the Skorba Temples, only 15 visitors may be admitted at a time.

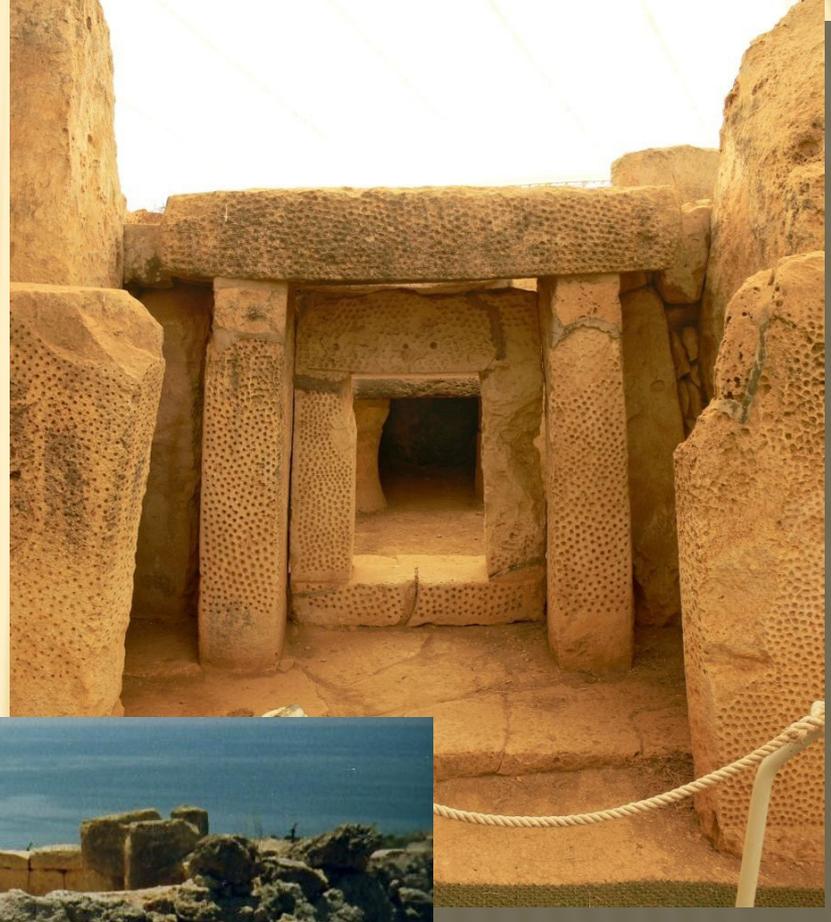
# Ġgantija



# Ġgantija

- ✎ The name Ġgantija derives from the word ġgant, the Maltese word for giant as the site was commonly associated with a race of giants.
- ✎ The two Ġgantija temples were made during the Neolithic (c. 3600–2500 BC), which makes these temples more than 5500 years old and the world's second oldest manmade religious structures.
- ✎ According to an ancient legend, the temple walls were built in one day and one night by a female giant named Sunsuna, who did it while nursing a baby. Ggantija is Maltese for "**giant's grotto.**"
- ✎ The temples were possibly the site of a fertility rites; archeologists believe that the numerous figurines and statues found on site are connected with that cult.

# Mnajdra



# Mnajdra

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- ✎ The Mnajdra Temples are three conjoined Neolithic temples on the southern coast of Malta. Dating from about 3000 BC
- ✎ Mnajdra is approximately 500 metres from the Ħaġar Qim.
- ✎ Mnajdra is made of coralline limestone, which is much harder than the soft globigerina limestone of Ħaġar Qim.
- ✎ The Mnajdra complex consists of three temples that radiate from an oval forecourt. The three temples adjoin one another but are not connected; each has its own entrance.
- ✎ Artifacts found at Mnajdra include stone and clay statuettes, shell and stone ornaments, flint tools and decorated earthenware

# Hypogeum Ħal Saflieni



# Hypogeum Ħal Saflieni

- ✦ The Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum is an underground prehistoric burial site. Discovered in 1902 during construction works
- ✦ The Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum is a complex made up of interconnecting rock-cut chambers set on three distinct levels. Earliest remains at the site date back to about 4000BC, and the complex was used over a span of many centuries, up to c. 2500 BC.
- ✦ The uppermost level consists of a large hollow with burial chambers on its sides. This hollow was probably originally exposed to the sky and excavations in the early 1990s indicate that there might also have been a monumental structure marking the entrance. A doorway leads to the Middle Level, which contains some of the best known features of the Hypogeum such as the intricate red ochre wall paintings and the beautifully carved features in imitation of architectural elements common in contemporaneous Megalithic Temples. The deepest of the three levels is known as the Lower Level, which is accessed down seven steps in the chamber popularly known as the 'Holy of Holies'.
- ✦ It is a unique prehistoric monument, which seems to have been conceived as an underground cemetery, originally containing the remains of about 7,000 individuals

# The End

## Sources

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