



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

NOTICE TO MARINERS No 04 of 2023

Our Ref: **TM/PYD/ 87/01**

23 January 2023



Transport Malta

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Malta

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Archaeological Zones at Sea – Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (Consolidated list January 2023)

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta, would like to remind all mariners that the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has established several protected sites, in line with the Cultural Heritage Act (CAP. 445).

As per the Government Gazette dated 31st May 2019, No. 615 Cultural Heritage Act (Cap.455), Declaration of Archaeological Zones at Sea, Government Gazette dated 8th October 2019, No. 1261 Cultural Heritage Act 2019 (Cap.455), Article 45 and Government Gazette dated 4th March 2022, No. 20799 Cultural Heritage Act (Cap.455), Declaration of Archaeological Zones at Sea, the following sites have been established.

Off Xlendi (Gozo)

Xlendi Underwater Archaeological Park (Gozo)

The area formed by joining the imaginary line A, B, C and D

	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
A	36° 01'.364	014° 12'.494
B	36° 01'.526	014° 12'.628
C	36° 01'.637	014° 12'.299
D	36° 01'.518	014° 12'.215

<u>Wreck</u>	<u>Latitude (N)</u>	<u>Longitude (E)</u>	<u>Buffer Area (Radius)</u>
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Off San Blas Bay (Gozo)

Spitfire	36° 03'.900	014° 19'.560	150 m
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<u>Wreck</u>	<u>Latitude (N)</u>	<u>Longitude (E)</u>	<u>Buffer Area (Radius)</u>
Off Il-Ponta tal-Qawra			
JU88	35° 58'.484	014° 27'.982	250 m
Off Il-Bajja ta' San Giljan			
Fairey Swordfish	35° 56'.102	014° 30'.646	250m
Off Il-Port il-Kbir (Valletta)			
HMS Olympus	35° 55'.536	014° 33'.916	500m
Schnellboot	35° 54'.289	014° 32'.861	500m
HMS Trusty Star	35° 54'.388	014° 33'.371	500m
HMS Urge	35° 55'.200	014° 33'.956	100m
Off Il-Bajja ta' Marsaskala			
ORP Kujawiak	35° 53'.290	014° 38'.482	500m
HMS Southwold (Bow)	35° 52'.434	014° 35'.836	500m
HMS Southwold (Stern)	35° 52'.349	014° 35'.861	500m
SS Polynesian (Bow)	35° 51'.469	014° 36'.297	500m
SS Polynesian (Stern)	35° 51'.451	014° 36'.392	500m
HMS Nasturtium	35° 53'.637	014° 42'.612	500m
HMS Russell	35° 54'.198	014° 36'.473	500m
JU88	35° 53'.117	014° 37'.976	150 m
Maryland Bomber	35° 51'.296	014° 36'.842	150 m
Off Il-Bajja ta' Marsaxlokk			
SS Luciston	35° 47'.461	014° 35'.464	500m
Off Il-Ponta ta' Benaghajsa			
B24 Liberator	35° 47'.991	014° 32'.982	200m
Douglas A-1 Skyraider	35° 47'.905	014° 32'.062	150m



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In view of the above, Transport Malta hereby notifies that with immediate effect, all commercial vessels intending to carry out diving operations on the, above listed, historical wrecks must be fitted with an operational AIS which must be kept on at all times. Besides the necessary permits from Heritage Malta - Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit, they must also obtain clearance from Valletta VTS on VHF channel 12 or Marsaxlokk VTS on VHF channel 14, following pre-notification.

Compliance with this requirement is mandatory and non-compliance may lead to the prohibition of stopping/diving on these sites and possibly including the prohibition of navigation in general, without prejudice to other applicable penalties and legal proceedings.

The buffer areas, as listed, are to be considered as “NO STOPPING AREAS”. Only divers' vessels fitted with an operational AIS and holding a special permit, as stated above, will be permitted to the facility of anchoring/mooring. Masters of diving support vessels are to ensure that the appropriate signals in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea and the International Code of Signals, are exhibited during diving sessions. Furthermore, divers/mariners are to note that spear fishing and the use of fishing gear such as set bottom lines, trammel nets, gill nets and entangling nets, encircling nets, demersal pots and traps are prohibited in these areas. Only surface fishing is allowed including trolling lines (*rixa*) and angling for pelagic fish.

Drifting vessels and swimming will be allowed.

This notice is to supersede Notice to Mariners No 19 of 2021.

Charts Affected: BA 36, 177, 2537, 2538

Positions are referred to WGS84 DATUM