

## Work on fortifications interactive centre ‘on track’



Visitors to the interactive centre being built near Biagio Steps in Valletta will not only learn more about Malta’s fortifications and 60 kilometres of bastions but will be able to enjoy breathtaking views of that part of the city that overlooks Marsamxett Harbour. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

The planned interactive centre with information on the 60 kilometres of fortifications around Malta and Gozo was on track and should be ready by the end of the year or the beginning of the next, according to Resources Minister George Pullicino.


Worth about €2.5 million, The project complemented the ongoing EU-funded €36 million restoration work on six kilometres of fortifications in Valletta, Mdina, Vittoriosa and the Cittadella in Gozo. Mr Pullicino yesterday accompanied Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi who inspected the ongoing works.

The centre was being built in a historic but previously rundown building which was damaged during the war but never re-built, next to Biagio Steps in Valletta.



Formerly used as an exam centre, Biagio Steps close to Marsamxett was built by the Knights of the Order of St John in the 16th century. It is being restored and will house to a national database on Maltese fortifications and a permanent exhibition hall on this “world heritage”.

## Comments

Tommy Vella(4 days, 23 hours ago) 

Is the figure 60 km. correct? Elsewhere it says 6 kilometres.

Raymond Sammut(4 days, 9 hours ago)

A scaled map of Mdina shows that the main bastions for this small fortification is about 1.3km. If one also included the minor and auxiliary bastions of Mdina, this measurement would probably increase to about 2km. So obviously 6km for all the bastions on Malta, Gozo and Kemmuna would be unrealistic.

If one took into consideration all the high walls of all fortifications (from the smallest, such as a Torri, to the largest, namely, Valletta) --including, for example the bastion outside Bormla on the edge of Fgura and, of course, Victoria Lines-- I would say that 60km is more than realistic. However, I would like to see this figure broken down into a catalogue in order to make it more informative and give it credibility.

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