

**BY WATER** The best way to get here is by ferry from the Customs House on the Valletta Waterfront at the bottom of the Barracca lift (which is included in the fare). The ferry runs every half-hour from 07.00 to about 18.00 or until midnight in summer and arrives at Cospicua Waterfront on the Birgu side (📞 23463862; [www.vallettaferryservices.com](http://www.vallettaferryservices.com); fares are €1.50 single, €2.80 return, €0.50/€0.90 for children). The ferry takes about 15 minutes and in good weather is a thoroughly pleasant journey.

If you prefer your own boat (and perhaps a tour of the harbour *en route*), take a water taxi, a traditional *dghajsa*. They may occasionally be found hanging around the ferry stop on the Valletta side or by the archway to the Vittoriosa Waterfront on the Three Cities side. However, you are best advised to book ahead (see page 107 for contacts). A & S Water Taxis also has a little kiosk on the Vittoriosa Waterfront (🕒 usually 09.30–14.00).

## GETTING AROUND

The main way to get around the Three Cities is on foot, but there is an alternative: a talking car. **Rolling Geeks** (Vittoriosa Waterfront; 📞 21805339; 📠 79950695; [www.rolling-geeks.com](http://www.rolling-geeks.com); 🕒 09.30–18.30 daily, except 12.00–18.30 Tue; €75 per car for a 2½hr tour) are little golf-buggy-style vehicles with built-in tablets and internet connectivity. Drive around, triggering commentary (in a choice of eight languages). You can stop whenever you like and the office keeps track of you and is always at the end of the tablet communication system should you need help. The GPS-led tour covers the whole Cottonera area, from Kalkara to Senglea, but perhaps the most fun is driving the medieval alleys of Birgu where no other car can go. One Rolling Geek can take up to two adults and two children – and it helps to have a driver and a navigator.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

There is a small official tourist office in the Inquisitor's Palace, Main Gate Street (just off the main square) (📞 21800145; 🕒 09.00–16.45 Mon–Sat, 09.00–12.45 Sun & public holidays).



## WHERE TO STAY

There are no hotels in the Three Cities but there are a few luxury bed and breakfasts and comfortable self-catering options, as well as one ultra-luxury (and ultra-expensive) rental property. All listings are plotted on the maps as indicated below.

🏠 **Locanda La Gelsomina** [153 ②] (4 rooms)  
3 Triq il-Kunsill Popolari, Vittoriosa 1131;  
📞 21807897; [locandalagelsomina.com](http://locandalagelsomina.com). Stylish East-meets-West family-run converted townhouse in heart of Birgu. Large characterful rooms. Tailored itineraries offered. €€€–€€€€

🏠 **Boco Boutique** [163 ①] (6 rooms) 65 Triq l-Oratorju, Cospicua; 📞 20341578; [bocoboutique.com](http://bocoboutique.com). Wonderfully arty fun boutique hotel in 400-year-old house minutes from sights of Birgu & ferry to Valletta. Full of original art by local artists. €€€

🏠 **Indulgence Divine** [153 ①]  
6 Pope Alexander VII St, Birgu; 📠 (UK) 0781 398

8827; [www.indulgencedivine.com](http://www.indulgencedivine.com). A converted historic house just round the corner from the Inquisitor's Palace & Birgu's main square. Same owner as Valletta G-House (page 109). 1 dbl bedroom that used to be a chapel with votive graffiti of ships. Roof terrace, kitchen, sitting room. Modern décor themed on the religious & the secret (including a bit of historic erotica). Not suitable for children. €€

🏠 **Templar House** [163 ④] Nelson St, Cospicua; 📠 99892041; [www.templarhousemalta.com](http://www.templarhousemalta.com). On a historic alleyway where Nelson is said to have been billeted,