

Salina is the latest nature reserve managed by BirdLife Malta. It can be found in the Burmarrad valley mouth on the limits of St Paul's Bay. Originally a harbour, the Salina site consists of 154,000 square metres of saline marshland and a number of salt pans. The site attracts many different species, with birds often stopping here to rest during migration.

The salt pans were constructed by the Knights of St John in the 16th century. The complex is home to three timber huts which were reconstructed on the same style of the original huts built by the British in the 18th century for salt production, one of which serves as the visitors' centre. It also includes the Ximenes Redoubt which was originally developed in 1715/16 during the reign of Grand Master Perellos as part of the Knights' strategy of defending the Maltese Islands against invasion with a network of coastal fortifications. During the course of the 18th century, the redoubt was partially converted into a salt magazine. Grand Master Ximenes added a second warehouse to the complex to increase its storage capacity.

Salina is a very important reserve as it support a diverse range of rare and endangered species, some of which can only be found in Malta. Salina is one of only 4 areas, in Malta, to support the Maltese Killifish (Buzaqq) *Aphanius fasciatus*, where it needs shallow saltwater lagoon to live. The salt water marshland of Salina is also home to many rare plants such as Borrer's Salt Marsh Grass and Sea Couch.

A short video about the project can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTumET1U91g>

Although a lot of work has been carried out on Salina there is always still more that can be done. On your visits to Salina think about and discuss how the reserve can be improved. This can be via land management or public interpretation, awareness and information boards.