

Illegal Hunting Activity Guidance – Spring 2021

Species and Quotas	
It is illegal to: Shoot at, injure or kill a protected species Hunt over allowed quota of birds which can be hunted	
Bird species which can be hunted:	Common Quail
Protected species which cannot be hunted:	All other bird species are protected including the European Turtle-dove
Quotas:	National hunting bag limit: 2,400 Quail Each bird caught has to be reported to the authorities. When the quota is reached it means that the hunting season has to close. Note that a shotgun out of its case is considered as still hunting.

Timing	
Permitted hours:	From two hours before sunrise (i.e. circa 4:30am) until 12pm, Monday to Sunday (including public holidays)
Season:	Open season: 10 th April to 30 th April 2021

Prohibited Locations	
It is illegal to hunt or carry a gun:	
In protected areas and surroundings	These include Foresta 2000, Għadira Nature Reserve and Mellieħa Bay, Simar Nature Reserve, Salina Nature Reserve and Kennedy Grove, Buskett, Ta' Qali, Marsaxlokk Salt Marsh
On protected islands	Filfla, St Paul's Island, Comino and Cominotto, Manoel Island, Fungus Rock off Gozo
Within 200m of an inhabited area, the airport and heliport	An area with inhabited or inhabitable buildings Malta International Airport, and heliport on Gozo
Within 50m of a main road or radio station	Eg radio station on Dingli Cliffs A main road is a main thoroughfare. Roads where buses pass are considered main roads. E.g. main road along Dingli cliffs
From a vehicle	
On or within 50m of sandy beaches	Għadira bay, Għajn Tuffieħa bay, Paradise Bay, Golden Bay. Other small sandy beaches on Malta and Gozo
In cemeteries, public gardens, sports grounds, Armed Forces of Malta property	Or within 50m of these
Certain Gozo sites	Ta' Ċenċ Cliffs, il-Qawra, Għammar Hill

Guns	
It is illegal to:	
Use or possess a modified shotgun	Shotguns that can fire more than three shots in succession
Use or possess other guns capable of holding more than 2 shots at a time	Including semi-automatic and automatic weapons
Carry a gun or ammunition out of its case during non-permitted hours	Earlier than 2 hours before sunrise After 12pm (midday)
Carry a gun or ammunition out of its case at a prohibited location	See Prohibited Locations section

Other Methods	
It is illegal to:	
Use electronic callers	Luring in birds using pre-recorded bird calls
Use decoy birds of protected species, or birds which are blind or mutilated	Any species other than Common Quail is protected
Use any method of trapping or live capture of birds	Any trapping is illegal in spring. Includes using nets on the ground, cage traps, vertical nets, hooks or snares etc
Trespass	Hunting on private land without the owner's permission