

## **Pre-history Malta and the Carthagenians (5000 – 218 B.C.)**

- 5000 –4000 Neolithic period. Skorba Temples built.
- 5000 – 3000 The first inhabitants of the islands of Malta are believed to have crossed over from Sicily. They brought with them their simple tools, corn seeds and domestic animals. These Neolithic settlers are believed to have traded with the Lipari Islands (North of Sicily), Pantelleria island (to the West of Malta) and Sicily itself for flint, stone and volcanic material that was not naturally available on Malta.
- 5000 Neolithic farmers, first human settlers, arrive in Malta. Ghar Dalam phase.
- 4000 –3000 Temple Period. Age of Tarxien and Ggantija temples and Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.
- 4000 During the copper age some of the most astonishing free standing temples were built in various parts of the islands to worship the goddess of Fertility.
- 3600 – 2500 Megalithic temples constructed.
- 3000 – 1800 Copper age Malta is characterised by the temple builders. Mnajdra & Hagar Qim, The Hypogeum, The Tarxien Temples and others. The Ggantija Temples date to 3600-3200 B.C. and are believed to be the oldest known man-made structure anywhere in the world.
- 2500 – 700 Bronze and Iron Age. Period of fortified villages and ‘cart tracks’ or ‘cart ruts’.
- 2000 – 1400 Bronze-using people.
- 2000 – 800 In the Bronze age, Malta probably experienced a cultural shift from the development of long established local cultures to what is believed to be the introduction of cultures by separate colonisations of Malta from elsewhere.
- 800 – 480 Phoenician rule.
- 800 Arrival of the Phoenicians who established the first Punic colony. The Phoenicians, prosperous merchants that came from Tyre and Sidon colonised the Island building a temple for their god Juno on the outskirts of Marsaxlokk.
- 700 – 600 Greek influence.
- 700 – 550 Phoenicians colonize the islands.
- 600 Malta is taken over by Carthage.
- 550 – 218 Period of Carthaginian rule.
- 480 – 218 Carthaginian rule.
- 264 – 146 Punic Wars between Carthage and Rome.
- 257 Start of the first Roman attacks on Carthaginian Malta.