

Classical and Paleolithic Malta and the Romans (218 B.C. – 5th century A.D.)

- 218 B.C. Roman rule begins during 2nd Punic War. Romans annexe Malta in their strategy to win the Second Punic War. Romans launch an invasion of Malta from Marsala in Sicily, wrench control from the Carthagenians and establish the island as an Imperial Province. Following an invasion led by the Roman Consul Titus Sempronius, Malta fell under Roman rule. The most celebrated heritage of the Roman period in Malta is the town-house at Rabat, now the Museum of Roman Antiquities.
- 200 B.C. Malta given the status of Municipium with autonomy for local government. During this era Malta is known in the Roman world for the production of textiles, in particular, sail cloth, and for the production of honey (possibly giving Malta its present name - deriving from the Latin name for honey).
- 60 A.D. St. Paul the Apostle is shipwrecked on Malta on the way to Rome. Converts the island to Christianity and appoints first bishop of Malta, St. Publius.
- 117 – 138 Islands become municipium under Emperor Hadrian.
- 390 Malta falls under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Roman Empire based in Constantinople (Istanbul).
- 395 – 870 Byzantine rule.
- 5th century Roman power diminishes; Vandal and Goths raid.