Gozo Cultural Niche Tourism Achievement Award 2026

This award recognises individuals, organisations, NGOs and cultural initiatives that enrich Gozo's cultural life, celebrate its heritage and authenticity, and contribute to the development of cultural tourism through distinctive projects, events and visitor experiences.

1. Benefits & Recognition

Receiving a Gozo Tourism Award represents recognition of excellence, dedication and contribution to Gozo's tourism industry. Award winners will benefit from:

- **GTA website recognition:** Publicity and recognition through the official Gozo Tourism Association website.
- **Social media exposure:** Dedicated recognition and promotional coverage through GTA's social media channels.
- **Television exposure:** Visibility through the televised broadcast of the Gozo Tourism Awards ceremony in Malta.
- **National recognition:** Winners will also be recognised at the Malta Tourism Awards, scheduled for May 2027.
- **Official digital winner badge:** A branded Gozo Tourism Awards 2026 Winner badge for use on websites, professional profiles, email signatures and promotional material.
- **Nominee recognition:** All eligible applicants whose entries are accepted will receive a commemorative plaque and an official Gozo Tourism Awards 2026 Nominee Digital Badge in recognition of their participation.

2. Award Objectives

- Recognise cultural projects, community initiatives and events that enrich Gozo's cultural life and strengthen connections between local communities and visitors.
- Celebrate individuals, organisations and NGOs that demonstrate creativity and innovation in developing cultural tourism initiatives.
- Acknowledge activities that promote Gozo's cultural heritage, diversity, traditions and authenticity.
- Reward cultural initiatives that attract and engage domestic and international visitors, enhancing their experience of Gozo.
- Commend festivals, exhibitions, performances and cultural events, whether large or small, that strengthen Gozo's tourism offering.
- Encourage community participation, cultural preservation and the sustainable development of cultural tourism in Gozo.

3. Applicant Details

Full name of applicant (the Official representing the entity/ organisation/ NGO):

Name of organisation / entity / NGO:

Name of cultural project, event, festival or initiative:

Address:

Email address:

Contact number:

Position / role within the organisation (if applicable):

VO registration number or Gozo NGO Association membership (if applicable):

4. Declaration & Consent

I confirm that I am the individual concerned or an authorised representative of the organisation, entity or NGO identified in this application and that the information provided is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete. I agree to participate in the Gozo Tourism Awards 2026 and understand that the application will be assessed by an independent judging panel.

I acknowledge that GTA will process the information supplied in accordance with its privacy notice and may contact me for further information or an interview. I consent to GTA's use of submitted photographs and relevant materials for the promotion of applicants, their achievements and the Awards across social media and other promotional channels.

Signature:

Date:

5. Statement in Support of the Application

Please provide a clear account of the cultural initiative, its achievements and its contribution to Gozo's cultural life and tourism sector. The independent judging panel may not be familiar with your activities. Specific examples, particularly from 2026, and relevant supporting evidence are strongly encouraged. You may attach additional pages if necessary. Alternatively, you may present your supporting statement in a format of your choice, provided that all the questions outlined below are adequately addressed.

A. Cultural Significance & Authenticity

Describe the cultural project, event, festival or initiative and explain how it celebrates, preserves or promotes Gozo's cultural heritage, traditions, diversity or authenticity. (Suggested: 150–250 words)

B. Visitor Appeal & Tourism Contribution

Explain how the initiative attracts, engages or enhances the experience of domestic and international visitors. Include examples of its contribution to Gozo's cultural tourism offering. (Suggested: 150–250 words)

C. Innovation, Creativity & Achievements

Describe the creative or innovative elements of the initiative and highlight its principal achievements, developments or milestones, particularly during 2026.
(Suggested: 100–200 words)

D. Community Engagement & Impact

Explain how the initiative involves or benefits the local community, encourages cultural participation or strengthens connections between Gozitan residents and visitors. Include examples of its impact and any relevant collaborations. (Suggested: 100–200 words)

6. Supporting Documentation

Applicants are encouraged to submit relevant supporting material that demonstrates their cultural achievements and strengthens the application.

Required

- ☐ Organisation / entity / NGO logo (where applicable)
- ☐ Copy of applicant's ID card (both sides)
- ☐ Completed application form & signed declaration and consent
- ☐ VO registration certificate or proof of membership with the Gozo NGO Association (for NGOs)

Recommended supporting documentation

- ☐ Brief profile of the individual, organisation or cultural initiative
- ☐ Photographs of cultural events, exhibitions, performances or activities
- ☐ Visitor testimonials / reviews (Google, Tripadvisor, Booking.com, Facebook, etc.)
- ☐ Media coverage, publications or relevant social media coverage
- ☐ Event programmes, brochures or promotional material
- ☐ Visitor attendance figures or other evidence of cultural and tourism impact
- ☐ Other evidence of achievements or community contribution

Supporting documentation should be directly relevant to the Award.
Quality and relevance are more important than quantity.

7. Eligibility & Assessment

- Applicants must be individuals, organisations, entities or NGOs actively involved in social or cultural activities operating in Gozo.
- Cultural projects, events, festivals or initiatives submitted for consideration must contribute to Gozo's cultural life and/or cultural tourism offering.
- NGOs must provide evidence of registration with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations or membership with the Gozo NGO Association.
- The Award is open without restriction on sex, age or race.

8. Conditions & Regulations

1. Applications must be submitted by the individuals concerned or by authorised representatives of the organisations, entities or NGOs concerned.
2. Applications will be assessed by an independent judging panel consisting of a chairperson and three other members.
3. The judging panel will consider cultural significance and authenticity, visitor appeal and tourism contribution, innovation and creativity, community engagement, and demonstrated achievements and impact, together with relevant supporting documentation.
4. The judging panel may request further information, seek clarification or invite an applicant or authorised representative for an interview during the adjudication process.
5. GTA may request photographs or video footage in connection with the presentation and promotion of the Awards, subject to appropriate permissions.
6. Applications must be duly completed and accompanied by the required supporting documentation and signed declaration and consent (Page 2).
7. GTA reserves the right to verify the information and supporting documentation provided by applicants.
8. The decision of the independent judging panel shall be final.

9. Submission of Applications

Closing date: Thursday, 11 February 2027, at 12:00 noon.

Completed applications, together with all required supporting documentation, must be submitted by Thursday, 11 February 2027, at 12:00 noon, either:

- **By hand:** Delivered to the Gozo Tourism Association, Santa Marta Street, Victoria, Gozo.
- **By email:** Sent to **info@islandofgozo.org**

Application clarification period: Applications received by the closing date may be reviewed for completeness. **Until 18 February 2027**, GTA may contact applicants to clarify information, address omissions or provide outstanding supporting documents. This period does not extend the deadline for new applications.

Gozo Tourism Awards Ceremony: Thursday, 25 February 2027, at a venue to be announced.

Recognising Excellence. Celebrating Dedication.
Inspiring the Future of Tourism in Gozo.