

# FORT RINELLA ACCESS STATEMENT



## Introduction:

Situated on the Eastern side of the Grand Harbour at Kalkara, Fort Rinella was one of two 100-ton gun batteries built in Malta protect the grand harbour where the British Mediterranean Fleet was based.

The site was built to house the 100- ton Armstrong Gun and thus continues to remain a Historic Fortification. Therefore, some areas of the site present a significant challenge in the efforts to make the whole of the site accessible for disabled visitors and those with limited mobility. However, the Staff/Re-Enactors based at this Victorian Fort will strive to assist visitors to enable them to enjoy a safe and satisfying visit as well providing education and entertainment to visitors of all ages.

This is achieved by providing guided tours and re-enactment activities that cover, not only the History of the Fort, but also Infantry Drill, Swordsmanship, Musketry, Artillery and Mounted Cavalry demonstrations and displays. Visitors can also view a film show about the history of the historic fort and its 100-ton gun.

Due to its age and Historic importance it is not possible to provide Wheelchair or Disabled Access to all areas of the Fort – Particularly, the Underground Loading Chambers and defences.

Catering is provided by the Forts “Cookhouse” where visitors can obtain Hot and Cold drinks, a cooked lunch or a light snack.

The on-site gift shop sells a variety of souvenirs and books with a focus on military history and its impact on Malta.

Staff Members are on hand throughout the site should you require any assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you to Fort Rinella. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 21809713 or email [info@wirtartna.org](mailto:info@wirtartna.org).

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Pre-arrival:

Prices:

- Adult: €12
- Pensioner/Student: €10
- Family group: €25 (2 x Adults plus 3 children u/16yrs).
- Children u/16yrs: €5

Current Prices can be checked from the following sources: Via the website <http://www.fortrinella.com> In the brochure (which can be downloaded from the website) From the Ticket Kiosk situated at the entrance to the Fort.

For further details on how to reach us please refer to the map in the visitor information section of the website. This information is also contained in the site brochure.

Should you require refrigeration of Medication or have special dietary needs, please speak to the cookhouse staff who will try and assist wherever possible.

The premises do not provide, or have any wheelchairs or mobility scooters to rent and visitors are requested to make their own arrangements in respect to these facilities.

Guide and assistance dogs are allowed to accompany their owner and water can be provided on request. Otherwise, no pets are allowed inside the facility

Please Note: Please be aware that the firing of Historic Firearms and Cannon during the demonstrations may frighten and upset Dogs of a nervous disposition

Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the Fort Buildings and surrounding areas (after passing through the main Doors) nor in the arena areas during the Cavalry and Artillery Displays.

An outside smoking area is available on near the Sentry Box on the "Bent Entry" sloped approach to the Fort where an ashtray is provided.

Visitors should be aware that areas of the Fort are monitored by CCTV cameras

Transport:

By car: - Fort Rinella is located on the eastern side of the Grand Harbour at Kalkara. it can be reached via all major roads to Cottonera (Three Cities) and then onto Kalkara following the directional signs from Kalkara.

Bus Information: - Fort Rinella is well served by bus no.3 to Kalkara from Valletta main station, which stops right outside its main gate. Buses run every half hour from Mon to Sat and every hour on Sundays.

Taxi Service: - Kalkara Garage Mobile: 99898993 Tel: 21807719

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### Car Parking and Arrival:

Although the site has no dedicated car park, there is however plenty of unrestricted parking available on the road outside of the Fort. Therefore visitors arriving by car should have no difficulty in parking close to the attraction.

### Main Entrance, and Ticketing Kiosk:

The main entrance can be directly accessed from the Bus Stop or Roadside Parking either through the pedestrian gate which is 1.1 Meters Wide and leads directly to the front of the Ticketing Kiosk with a counter height of 1.3 Meters. There is ramped access for wheelchairs or alternatively the Vehicle Entrance with double gates of 1.9 Meters or full width of 3.9 Metres which can also be used for Wheelchair Access.

The Ticketing Kiosk issues all entrance Tickets which can be bought either by cash or card transaction. There is no lowered level counter to accommodate wheelchair users but the member of staff manning the kiosk can assist wheelchair visitors if they require assistance. There is a concession for visitors of 60 years or over. The kiosk also sells hot and cold drinks and a limited range of Snacks and Souvenirs and also has a small outside area with tables and chairs which can be used by visitors.

Free audio-guides in Arabic, English, Dutch, German, Maltese, Spanish, Russian, French, Danish, Chinese, Japanese and Italian can be obtained from the Kiosk but visitors should note that they will be asked to leave some form of identity document to serve as a deposit against the return of the audio guide equipment.

Visitors can then proceed down the downward sloping "Bent Entry" (which forms an element of the Forts defences) and then over the Guthrie Bridge spanning the defensive ditch to the main gate of the fort. Arena Area: Visitors should note that to the right of the Entrance Kiosk is the main arena area where the Artillery and cavalry demonstrations take place. It is approached up a slight incline however, the surface of the incline and the main Arena area is levelled soil which is dusty and uneven in places so care should be exercised when walking through this area. A grandstand with bench seating is provided for visitors to watch the demonstrations and the area accessed by 2 sets of Stairs from the arena level each with 3 steps and wooden handrails the grandstand is provided with a shade cloth cover to protect against the heat of the sun during the summer period. There is a ground level area for visitors in Wheelchairs and with bench seating for those with limited mobility should they require it. However this area is not shaded during the summer period.

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### Main Gate and Fort Entrance:

The Guthrie Bridge leading to the main gate of the Fort has an uneven planked wooden surface and care should be taken when crossing the bridge.

Once inside the main gate (width 2.25 Metres wide) there a short sloped approach leading to the outside courtyard area, via a wide set of glazed wooden doors (1.4 Metres open Width) to the 100 Ton Gun and the rest of fort.

The gift shop entrance is 1.2 Metres Wide and provides access to the Museum area; this is situated on the left after entering through the Main Doors. The Cookhouse and the serving area is also situated on the left after the entrance to the Gift Shop.

### Toilets:

The toilets are located on the right after the Guardroom and are accessed directly from the Counter Scarp Gallery door width 72cm. The toilets have separate facilities for Men and Woman with cubicle door width of 60 cm although the access is common. Due to the position and location of the toilets it is regretted that there is not a disabled toilet and wheelchair access is not possible at this point in time. There is a stepped access (one step up) to the toilet area and care should be taken as the floor in this area may be slippery on occasions.

### Catering:

The Cookhouse serves a range of hot and cold drinks, a selection of Ice Creams and cakes as well as hot and cold snacks and meals. Ice creams Coffees and Cakes/Snacks can be ordered at the counter for a quick take away, but there is no waiter service although items ordered at the counter will be cooked or prepared to order and delivered to the customer. Meals can be eaten at the wooden tables that are placed on either side of the main walkway that extends down from the Main door with benches on either side – no individual seating or tables are available.

### Gift Shop:

The gift shop is accessible with a low step up and down to enter the shop area which has wooden flooring. Display shelving is a different heights and Wheelchair users may require assistance from the shop staff to access some items. The Museum area can also be accessed from the gift shop but there are stepped levels to access the area which makes it difficult for both wheelchair access and for limited disability visitors – However the museum area can be accessed from another entrance in the main fort courtyard via a level entrance.

### Demonstrations:

Sword, Foot Drill, and Musketry demonstrations are carried out in the open courtyard area – visitors are seated on bench seats during the demonstrations, wheelchairs can be accommodated in this

area and visitors are encouraged to speak to the staff in order to ensure wheelchair visitors can watch the demonstrations in safety.

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The Signalling display is carried out near the 100 Ton gun and wooden bench seating is provided for visitors access to this area is via three steps up and is therefore difficult for wheelchair and limited mobility access, however the demonstration can be viewed from the lower area of the courtyard and disabled visitors and their friends, carers and/or relatives are encouraged to inform our staff so suitable arrangements can be made for disabled visitors to get the best experience from the demonstration.

#### The 100 Ton Gun:

The 100 Ton gun can be viewed from a level area around it however this area accesses via three steps up (17cm rise each) and is therefore difficult for wheelchair and limited mobility access. Staff will assist where possible to enable disabled visitors to get the best experience from their visit.

#### Ramparts, Viewing Gallery, Counter-Scarp gallery, Caponiers and Loading Chambers and Magazines:

Access to all these elevated and underground areas involves steps 24 steps up to the viewing gallery and 19 steps down to the Magazine Area - some of which are steep and uneven, wheelchair access in these areas is not possible although access for limited mobility visitors can be achieved although care is advised and some assistance may be required to negotiate these areas safely.

The lighting in the underground chambers and galleries is of a low level can pose difficulties to visitors with sight problems. The film on the history of the 100 Ton Gun and the Fort is shown in the loading chambers and therefore may not be available to all disabled or limited mobility visitors – however a longer version available on DVD is available for purchase at the gift shop.

#### Additional Information:

#### Future Plans:

A number of new projects are planned for the future but timescales are difficult to predict as these will depend on the necessary funding being available they include: Expanding the Museum Section to include displays of Historic Weapons, Uniforms and other Artefacts. Restoring the Machinery to operate the 100 ton gun. Building of a dedicated Visitor centre near to the main gates housing a reception and ticketing area, gift and coffee shops.

#### Opening Times:

Fort Rinella is open Mon - Sat from 10.00 till 17.00hrs.

Closed on New Year's Eve, New Year, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

#### Contact Information:

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