



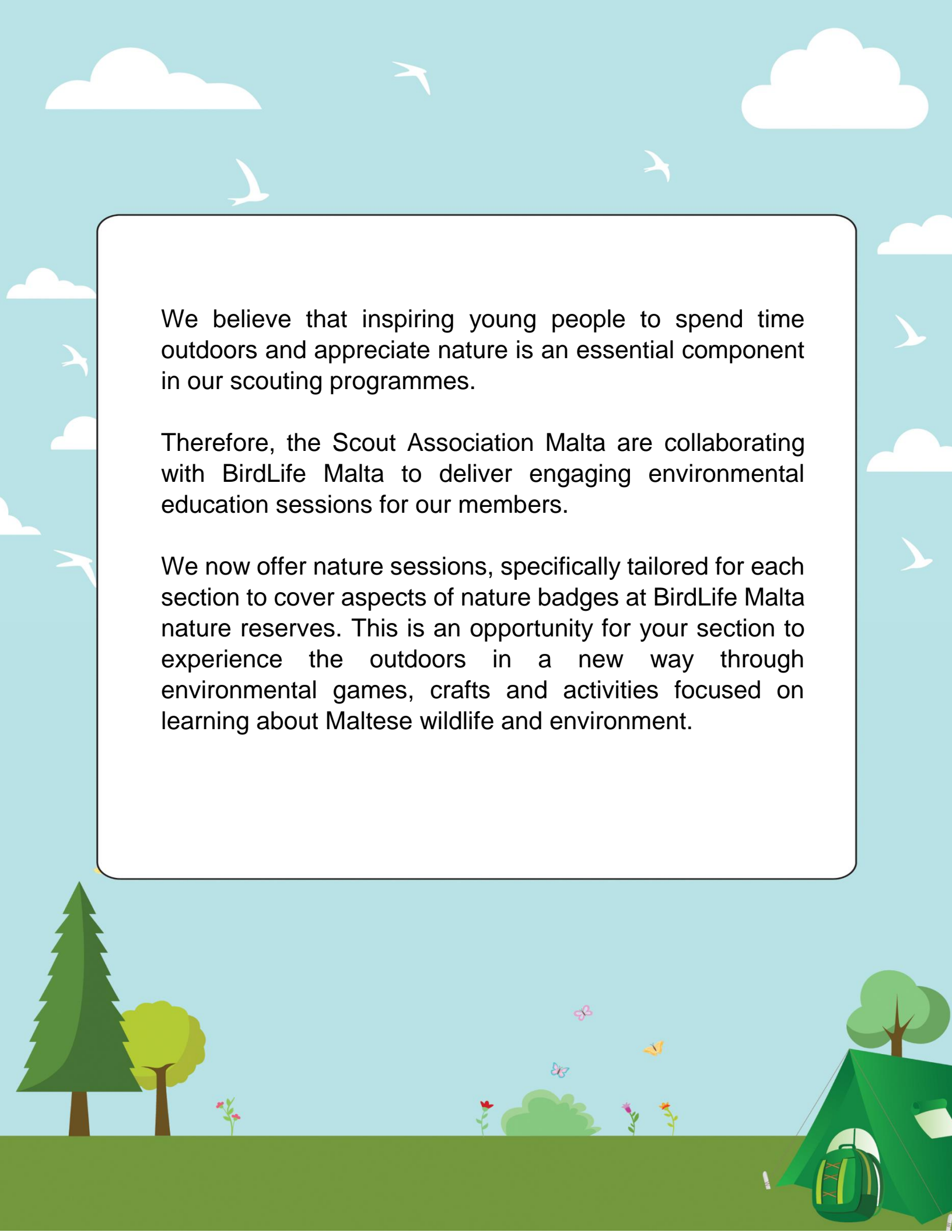
THE *scout* ASSOCIATION
OF MALTA



BirdLife
MALTA

BirdLife Malta Nature Programme

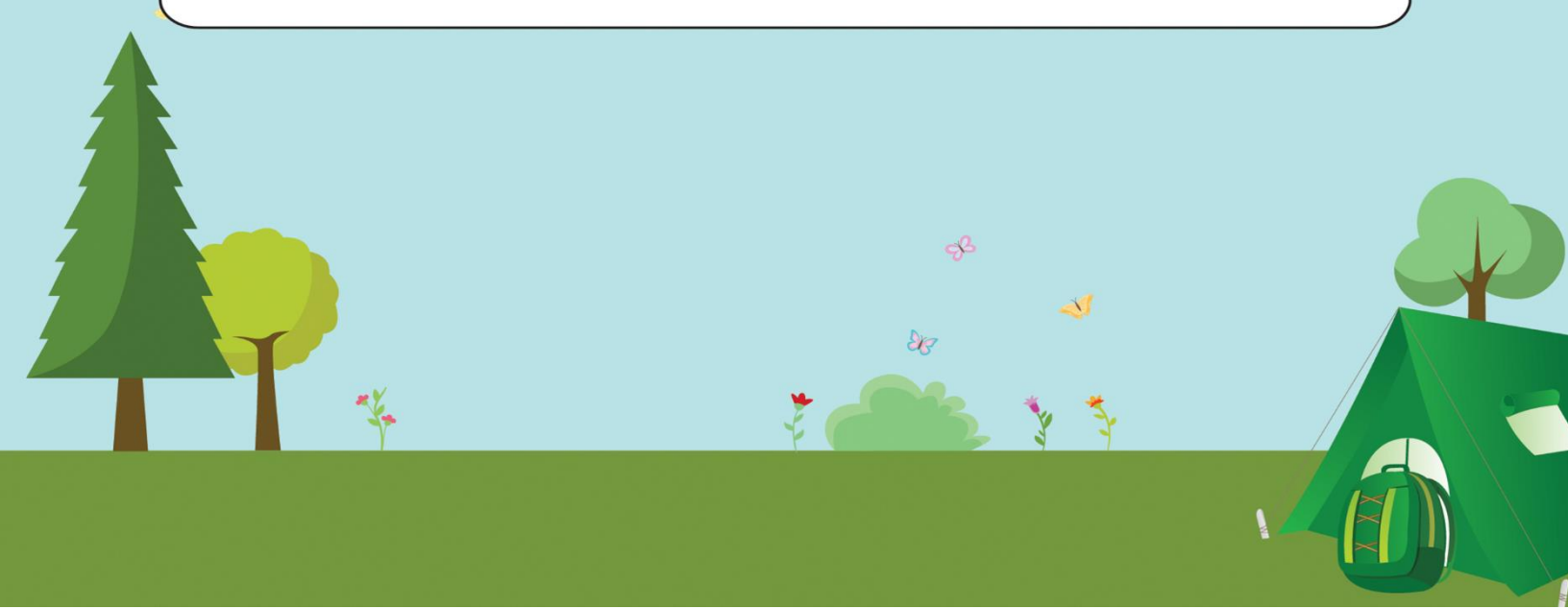




We believe that inspiring young people to spend time outdoors and appreciate nature is an essential component in our scouting programmes.

Therefore, the Scout Association Malta are collaborating with BirdLife Malta to deliver engaging environmental education sessions for our members.

We now offer nature sessions, specifically tailored for each section to cover aspects of nature badges at BirdLife Malta nature reserves. This is an opportunity for your section to experience the outdoors in a new way through environmental games, crafts and activities focused on learning about Maltese wildlife and environment.



The bottom of the page features a green landscape with a tall pine tree on the left, a rounded tree next to it, and a green tent on the right. There are several small flowers and butterflies scattered across the grassy area.

Beaver Scouts

Explore and Connect to Nature



Badge requirements covered:

- Outdoor Challenge Badge
 - A day in the countryside
- Discovery Challenge
 - Creativity
 - Learn about animals



Objective:

- Explore nature through visiting a BirdLife Malta nature reserve
- Feel confident in being in the outdoors
- Connect to nature by realising what a special and exciting place it can be



Activities

- Participate in a nature art activity such as:
 - Bark rubbings
 - Creating a picture from natural materials on the ground
 - Use natural dyes such as beetroot or charcoal to create a painting
 - Use natural materials such as pinecones to create a hanging mobile
 - Create a natural wind chime using sticks and leaves
- Learn how to use binoculars and spend some time birdwatching at a nature reserve. With the help of an adult, use a simple key to identify what birds you find. Look to see how the key features (beak, eyes, feet, claws and feathers) change in different species.
- Take photos of your visit to a Nature Reserve and create a collage of the photos together
- Participate in a treasure hunt in a forest
- Take part in a mini-beast hunt using magnifying lenses. Identify the insects you find and learn interesting facts about them
- Make something to help animals in the wild, such as a nest box or bug hotel
- Take part in some activities that allows you to explore the world using each of your 5 senses.
 - Such as: Using a magnifying lens, listening to your surroundings, sampling smells from the area and determining what they are from, following a blind trail, tasting new food.

Cub Scouts

Observing and Learning

Badge requirements covered:

- Bird Lover Badge
 - Describe the physical characteristics of Birds. This should include information about feathers and their function, the beak, eyes, feet and claws. Understand why these are different according to the species and its needs.
 - Know the names of some local birds which are protected by law in the Maltese Islands
- Naturalist Badge
 - Take part in one expedition or outing involving nature study and keep a log of it. Drawings and/or photos should be included
 - Present some information including diagrams, pictures or photographs about 2 local plants and 2 local insects
- Local Flora and Fauna
 - Living things under stones - Here the Cubs learn about the small creatures that exist in Malta and how these can be classified.
 - Small Plants and Flowers

Objective:

- Engage with nature by learning about the Nature Reserves and the species which are found there during a visit to a BirdLife Malta reserve
- To learn more about Maltese nature and become familiar with common birds that are found in Malta
- To learn about animal interactions
- To appreciate wildlife in a natural setting

Activities

- Observe birds in their natural habitat. Use binoculars and field guides or identification keys to identify some of the birds that you see
- Learn about birds adaptations and explain why these changes have occurred.
- Learn about how predators and prey interact through a series of games
 - Camouflage game
 - Animal tracks and signs
 - Stealth game
 - Bat and moth

- ❑ Take part in a nature observation for 10 minutes. During this time, find a quiet place to sit alone and use your senses to engage with your surroundings. Look for any signs of wildlife around you. Note down any interesting things that you see, hear or smell, and remember to look out for small insects as well. When you are finished your observation discuss what you saw, heard, smelled and felt with the rest of your pack.
- ❑ Take part in a mini-beast hunt using magnifying lenses. Identify the insects you find and learn interesting facts
- ❑ Use a key or guide to identify at least 2 plants found at a reserve and learn some interesting facts about them, and how the local wildlife use them
- ❑ Discover the different textures of trees by taking rubbings of the bark and leaves
- ❑ Create a scrap book of your visit by writing any interesting information, draw insects, birds, and plants and add any photos you have taken



Troop Scouts

Benefits and Threats



Nature badge requirements covered:

- Explain the meaning of animal, invertebrate, vertebrate and mammal
- Explain photosynthesis and why this process is important
- Conservation
- Plant Identification



Objective:

- To understand why Maltese nature is important and why we should protect it
- To learn about threats to Maltese nature and conservation measures taken
- To identify habitats and common flora



Activities

- Learn about conservation: What it is, why it is carried out and how you can help.
- Research species of your choice and find out about characteristics, life cycle, diet, ICUN listings, possible threats to the species and how scientists are attempting to conserve them and tell others about them.
- Learn about a bird species that are protected or under threat in Malta and how local organizations are attempting to conserve the species.

CHOOSE EITHER

- Sea birds** (With specific interest in Yelkouan Shearwater, Scopoli's Shearwater, Mediterranean Storm Petrel)
- Follow the progress of the Shearwater by plotting coordinates from GPS Satellite tracking on a map. Learn about the processes that cause the shearwater to undertake such an arduous journey.
- Go on a night hike on the cliff with a Seabird expert with a chance to hear nocturnal seabirds calling and find out how technology such as thermal imaging cameras and drones are used in conservation work.*

OR

- Migratory birds** (Such as Little Ringed Plover, Black-winged Stilts, Coots, Water Rails, Herons, Egrets, Marsh Harriers, Honey Buzzards, European Bee-eaters, Black Caps, Robins.)
- Learn about migration and how Malta plays a role in the worldwide migration routes.
- Ringing Demonstrations at reserves
- Birdwatching at reserves with field teacher

- Litter is a threat to all wildlife, including marine life. Participate in interactive games to learn more about why it is a problem and how you can help
 - Unnatural objects scavenger hunt,
 - Timeline of litter degrading
 - Quiz
- Take part in a debate to protect an area of the sea for wildlife. In teams or individuals you will all act as different organisations in the decision with different viewpoints such as, the government, fishermen or conservationists.

* Only available during January, February, March and April as this is when the birds are on the cliffs. Subject to weather conditions and lunar cycles (Bright full moon will prevent the birds from calling because they are more vulnerable to predators).

Flora

- Build a tree using people as the different parts and learn about the different biological processes.
- Learn how to identify common tree species through interactive activities
 - Match the leaves to the tree
 - Use an identification key to work out the species of the tree
 - Use a word mnemonic to help you remember the names of the trees
- Learn some interesting facts about some of the trees found at a reserve. Looking specifically at their ethnobotanical uses (how they are used in our daily lives) and how these useful adaptations arose.
- Take part in a nature observation for 10 minutes. During this time, find a quiet place to sit alone and use your senses to engage with your surroundings. Look for any signs of life around you. Note down or draw any interesting things that you see, hear or smell, look specifically at how plants and animals interact with one another. When you are finished your observation discuss what you saw, heard, smelt and felt with the rest of the group.

Venture Scouts

Protect and Raise Awareness



Badge requirements covered:

- Demeter
 - Assist actively and regularly at a nature reserve, national park or similar site over a period of 3 months
 - Organise a series of activities for another section on an environment theme
 - Organise a nature trail
 - Take part in a beneficia; activity for your area
 - Discover some international policies on environment and what we are doing in Malta
 - What is the impact of environment on our lifestyle
 - How is pollution affecting our environment
- Hades
 - Take part in spiritual activities within your community
- Hermes
 - Carry out a small survey on the needs of you neighbourhood



Objective:

- To understand why Maltese nature is important and why we should protect it
- To learn about threats to Maltese nature and conservation measures taken
- To learn about how you, and your communitiy, can get involved in protecting Maltese Nature
- To learn how benefical nature can be and how it can be used to reflect on your experiences



Activities

- Help us improve our reserves for wildlife, the environment and visitors! Become a volunteer at one of our nature reserves and help maintain and manage the site. This may include creating paths, building bird and insect boxes or running a quiz trail around the reserves
- With the help of the Educaiton team or the reserve assistants create a series of activities for another section at one of our nature reserves
- Why not help organise a hike along the cliff tops, where our elusive sea birds live, and help to identify any problems they might face*
- Help us organise and take part in an event to promote BirdLife Malta to your local community, and imporove the area for wildlife and the environment.
 - This could be in the form of an open day, a fun family day or a clean up and habitat management event

- As Malta's oldest and largest NGO BirdLife Malta doesn't only help to protect birds! Take part in a information session, either in your meeting place or at a reserve with BirdLife Malta experts. During this session you will find out more about:
 - Campaigns and policies that we are currently involved in from protecting farmland to reducing ship pollution.
 - The impact of the environment on our lifestyle and what we can do to help in our daily lives.
 - How pollution is effecting our environment and hear about what changes in our climate are doing to our wildlife.
- Take part in a reflection session at a reserve. During this session you will think about what you get from nature, identify any behaviours that you can change and activities you can take part in to help protect the environment.
- With help from BirdLife Malta why not look at your local community and find areas that can be transformed into mini habitat areas, in order to create a nature network across built up areas in Malta?

* This can be done as a night hike with the possibility of hearing the bird calling. However this is only available during January, February, March and April as this is when the birds are on the cliffs. Subject to weather conditions and lunar cycles (Bright full moon will prevent the birds from calling because they are more vulnerable to predators).

Rover Scouts

Conserve and Protect



Badge requirements covered:

- Rovers are able to complete the voluntary service requirements of many badges with BirdLife Malta. These include :
 - Silver Crest Award
 - Scouts of the World Award
 - World Scout Environmental Program
 - The International Award- Malta (DoE)

Objective:



- To learn about threats to Maltese nature and conservation measures taken
- To learn about how you, and your community, can get involved in protecting Maltese Nature

Activities



- Volunteer with BirdLife Malta This could be through volunteering with our Reserve Wardens to manage our nature reserves, conduct projects to find out more about what is happening in the islands habitats or volunteering with our education team to help us engage with visitors.
- BirdLife Malta are also able to arrange a variety of fun activities for Rover crews including Boat Trips and night hikes to see Malta's seabirds*, trips to our ringing station on Comino and information nights at our reserves or your meeting place.
- Rovers are also welcome to get involved with our youth group Falko. Falko have monthly events around the island to get young people outdoors and enjoying the Maltese countryside. Past events have ranged from walks in the countryside to snorkelling off the coast of Gozo.

* Boat trips are only available during July and August, when the birds form rafts off the coast. Cliff-top night hikes are only available during January, February, March and April as this is when the birds are on the cliffs. Subject to weather conditions and lunar cycles (Bright full moon will prevent the birds from calling because they are more vulnerable to predators).

Booking Information

To book a session at one of our nature reserves please email education@birdlifemalta.org or phone during office hours **+356 2134 7645 (Ext 503)**.

We have 4 nature reserves available for bookings:

Is-Simar Nature Reserve: Xemxija
Ghadira Nature Reserve: Mellieha
Foresta 2000 Nature Reserve: Mellieha
Salina Nature Reserve: Salina salt pans

Please take into account the following information when booking:

- Not all the activities for the sections will be able to be covered therefore if you would particularly like your group to do one of the activities please let us know.
- The maximum number of participants is 25. You must book more than one session at the nature reserve if you have over 25 participants.
- BirdLife Malta education team will lead the session, however the group leaders are responsible for ensuring appropriate behavior of participants.
- Please let us know if your group has any special requirements so we can ensure the visit is a positive experience for everyone.
- Visits usually between 2-3 hours however can be flexible.
- A 1-2 hour pre-visit to your meeting place can be arranged where some background information can be given or some of the activities can take place.
- The following details will be needed upon booking;

Name of group:

Site requested:

Preferred date:

Age group:

Number of participants:

Contact name:

Contact number:

Contact email: