

The Valletta Waterfront Christmas 2025 Photo Competition Rules

1. Eligibility

- Open to the general public.
- Participants must be 16 years or over, or have parental/guardian consent if under the minimum age. Entrants under 18 must supply email confirmation of parental/guardian consent or a signed consent form when submitting their entry. The organizer reserves the right to request proof of consent before awarding prizes.

2. Entry Requirements

- Each participant may submit up to 3 photographs. If more than 3 photographs are received from the same entrant, all that entrant's entries will be disqualified. Please include your full name in the email subject and name files in the format:
Surname_Firstname_1.jpg.
- Photos must be the original work of the entrant.
- Allowed formats: JPEG/PNG. Maximum file size 10 MB per image. Recommended minimum image dimension: 2000 px on the longest side (300 dpi preferred where possible).
- Photos must be taken during the Valletta Waterfront Christmas Express 2025 event ongoing from 30th November 2025 to 4th January 2026 (both dates inclusive). All times are local (Europe/Malta).
- No watermarks, captions or identifying marks on the image.

3. Submission Guidelines

- All entries must be submitted via info@vallettacruiseport.com with subject line:
Christmas Express Photo Entry - [Full Name] by 5th January 2026 at 17.00hrs (Europe/Malta). Late entries will not be accepted.
- Include:
 - Entrant's full name
 - Contact details
- Attach up to 3 image files (maximum 10 MB each) or provide direct download links to files hosted on cloud services (e.g. Dropbox/Google Drive). If using links, ensure permissions are set to allow download.

4. Judging Criteria

a. Public Voting

- Photos will be posted on the Facebook page of Valletta Waterfront.
- Public voting begins when the photo is posted and ends on 6 January 2026 at 17:00 (Europe/Malta). Likes only on the Facebook page of Valletta Waterfront will form the public vote total. Comments and/or shares will not count as votes.
- Only one like per account per photo will be counted. Any platform-specific rules apply.
- Votes received after 6th January 2026 at 17:00 (Europe/Malta) will not be counted.

b. Panel of Judges:

Entries will be judged on:

- Creativity and originality
- Composition and technical quality
- Relevance to the theme
- Overall impact

A panel of judges selected by the organizers will score the entries.

A Combined Scoring Method will be used with 50% public votes and 50% judges' score.

If there is a tie after combining public votes and judges' scores, the entry with the higher judges' score will be placed higher. Judges' decision is final.

5. Prizes

- A prize of €200 in vouchers redeemable at Valletta Waterfront restaurants from 1st February 2026 until 31st March 2026 will be awarded to first place.
- The prize cannot be exchanged for cash. Prize-winner will be contacted by email to arrange collection/receipt.

6. Copyright & Usage Rights

- Entrants retain ownership of their photos.
- By entering, participants grant the organizer a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, display, and publish the photos for:
 - Promotional materials
 - Social media
 - Exhibition of competition results
- The organizers may crop or resize images for publication. Proper credit will be given whenever possible.

7. Ethical & Content Rules

- No photos involving illegal activities, violence, hate, or unsafe behaviour.
- Photos depicting people must have model consent if individuals are identifiable. For minors, written parental/guardian consent is required and may be requested by the organizers.
- Wildlife must not be harmed or disturbed.
- AI-generated or heavily manipulated images beyond standard editing (colour/contrast/crop) must be clearly labelled on submission. The organizers reserve the right to disallow entries that do not meet the spirit of the competition.

8. Disqualification

Entries may be disqualified for:

- Copyright infringement
- Misrepresentation or submitting someone else's work
- Offensive or inappropriate content
- Breaking competition rules or deadlines.

Decisions to disqualify entries are made by the organizers and are final.

9. Data Protection

- Personal data will only be used for competition administration and for prize fulfilment. For data queries or deletion requests contact info@vallettacruiseport.com.
- Data will not be shared with third parties.

10. Announcement of Winners

- Winners will be announced in January 2026 via social media and contacted by email. For any enquiries, please contact info@vallettacruiseport.com.
- Shortlisted entrants may be contacted for high-resolution versions of their photos.

11. Acceptance of Rules

By entering, participants agree to all competition rules and the organizers' decisions.