Notwithstanding its modest proportions, Ta’ Ħaġrat megalithic compound is one of the most evoking ruins of prehistoric Malta. Standing along the southern edge of the picturesque village of Mgarr, this site opens onto a fertile plain extending for well over a kilometre towards the foot of the Great Fault escarpment.

**LONG USE**
Like Skorba which is located less than a kilometre to the northwest, Ta’ Ħaġrat has had a remarkably long lifespan. A Neolithic settlement had already been set in this area during the Mġarr Phase (3800-3600 BC). The temple to the west was built during the Ġgantija Phase (3600-3000 BC), while the smaller one to the east was added on during the Tarxien Phase (3000-2500 BC). Excavations undertaken by Themistocles Zammit between 1923 and 1926 yielded evidence of significant activity during the Phoenician Period (700-550 BC) but it is not clear whether the site remained in use throughout the Bronze Age (2500-700 BC).

**WEST TEMPLE**
The older temple to the left has a trefoil plan and boasts of a truly striking façade. Dominated by a central trilithon resting on a stepped sill, the façade follows a concave alignment and is buttressed by a low stone bench. This leads to a paved rectangular court surrounded by a raised kerb. At some stage after their construction, the wide openings of the flanking apses were walled up. Access in and out of the same apses became restricted to centrally placed doorways.

**EAST TEMPLE**
With the turn of the 3rd millennium BC, the outer wall of the east apse was partially demolished to accommodate the construction of a second unit. The four apses of the east temple are appreciably smaller, while the layout is asymmetrical. Nonetheless, the layout is not so different from that of other sites when seen on plan.

**MYSTERIOUS STAIRS**
The space in between the two temples contains a short flight of steps. This could have led to a small chamber inserted in the thickness of the wall that might have had a specific religious purpose.

**TEMPLE MODEL**
A small model carved in Globigerina Limestone is the most interesting artefact unearthed at Ta’ Ħaġrat Temples. Measuring just 4.5 by 3.7 cm, it shows a typical temple structure. Its creator must have been very talented since he or she succeeded to include a considerable amount of detail in such a small sculpture.

In 1982, UNESCO declared Ta’ Ħaġrat Temples as a World Heritage Site.