



## VALLETTA

# MALTA IN DEPTH

## VALLETTA, MDINA, 3 CITIES, GOZO, THE TEMPLES - 8 Days/7 Nights

### ITINERARY

**Day 1:** Arrival at Malta airport. Transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

### Day 2: Valletta

After Breakfast, our guided tour through the vibrant streets of Valletta will allow you to discover the beauty and charm of the fortified city built by the Knights in 1566. The Order of St. John ruled over the islands for 268 years and left a unique cultural legacy of which Valletta is the prime example. We first enjoy a breathtaking view of the Grand Harbor from the Upper Barracca Gardens. Then we visit St. John's Co-Cathedral, including the Caravaggio masterpieces in the Oratory. The Co-Cathedral houses one of the most beautiful marble inlaid floors in the world. Going down Republic Street you will walk past the Grand Masters' Palace and the recently restored St. George's Square before watching the Malta Experience, an audiovisual show where Malta's history throughout the centuries is brought back

to life. Lunch will be on your own. Then we will be back at your hotel to relax and be prepared for a welcome dinner at local restaurant. **(B, D)**



Mdina

### Day 3: Mdina

Today the excursion takes us to the central part of Malta, dominated by the medieval fortified city of Mdina, Malta's former capital city. The narrow, winding streets, dating back to medieval times, lead to the imposing bastions, commanding a magnificent panorama of the island. On the way there, you will discover different styles of architecture, including Siculo-Norman palaces and other baroque

buildings of great historical importance. Time stands still in this 'Silent City' which is a film-maker's paradise. Leaving Mdina through Greeks' Gate, we stop at the early Christian catacombs in Rabat before proceeding to the cliffs at Dingli. After lunch we visit the San Anton botanical gardens situated near the Presidential Palace, which you will be able to admire from outside. We shall also spend time at the crafts center at Ta' Qali. At the end of the tour, allow us to astound you with Mosta's majestic dome, one of Europe's largest. Return to the hotel. **(B, L)**

### DAY 4: 3 Cities

Discover the Grand Harbour area opposite Valletta known as the Three Cities – Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea, where the Knights of St. John first settled in 1530. Driving past Cospicua we reach Vittoriosa for a walking tour through the narrow streets in the shade of historic buildings, including the first auberges of the various languages of the Order. At the Vittoriosa







## GOZO

waterfront we take a typical harbor boat (dghajsa) for a tour of the colorful harbor creeks. From the Senglea Garden, situated at the tip of the peninsula, enjoy a stunning 360° view of the Grand Harbour, including the impressive Fort Sant Angelo from where Grand Master La Valette led the defense of the island during the Great Siege of 1565. Lunch will be at local typical restaurant. Return to the hotel and dinner at local restaurant. **(B, L, D)**



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu in Gozo

### DAY 5: Full Day Gozo

After a short twenty-minute ferry crossing you will reach Mgarr harbor, which immediately sets the pace to Gozo's unique atmosphere. Your guide will lead you around the Megalithic temples of Ggan-

tija, the oldest free-standing monuments in the world, pre-dating the Pyramids of Egypt. This will be followed by visits to the medieval citadel in Victoria, the fjord-like bay at Xlendi and Dwejra. Gozo is well known for its crafts, particularly handmade lace and knitted garments. Visitors cannot fail to be impressed by the island's lush countryside, its serene atmosphere and how different it is from the larger island of Malta. Lunch at local restaurant and return to the hotel for free time to discover the night life of Valletta on your own **(B, L)**

### Day 6: The Temples

The tour starts with a visit to one of Malta's oldest quarries which has been transformed into an attraction for tourists and locals alike and which provides a vivid account of one of Malta's leading skills – the use of limestone for building purposes, a skill that goes back thousands of years. The magic of Malta's antiquity will be explained at Hagar Qim, Malta's main pre-historic site, overlooking the wide expanse of the blue Mediterranean and the islet of Filfla.



Megalithic Temples

From Hagar Qim you will proceed to Wied iz-Zurrieq where (weather permitting) we will take a boat trip to the Blue Grotto, renowned for its crystal clear waters. Lunch and dinner on your own. **(B)**

### Day 7: Valletta

Free day to visit Valletta on your own and do some shopping spree to bring back home some memorable souvenirs. Tonight, farewell dinner to say good by to this enchanting destination. **(B, D)**

Day 8: After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport to board your flight back home. **(B)**

