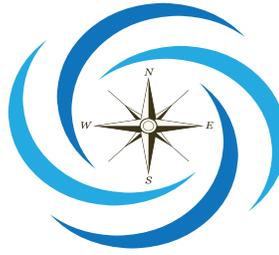


GT Experiences

A REALM OF UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL

# MALTA





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## SAMPLE MALTA ITINERARIES

MALTA IN DEPTH

GLANCE AT MALTA

# MALTA IN DEPTH



## VALLETTA

### 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)**



#### 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)**



### 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 Ggantija, 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.

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)**



# GLANCE AT MALTA



**St. John's Co-Cathedral**

## **MALTA, VALLETTA, GOZO, MARSAXLOKK - 6 Days/5 Nights**

### **ITINERARY**

#### **Day 1: Malta**

Arrive at Malta Int Airport where you will be met by our representative in the arrival hall which is located once you finish with the passport control, after collecting your baggage & after passing customs. The representative will escort the guests to the mini-bus waiting for you outside the arrival lounge. You will be then transferred to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

#### **Day 2: Valletta Tour**

Breakfast at hotel. Meet your guide, who will be waiting for you in the hotel Lobby. The guide will be with you throughout your stay.

Valletta (or Il-Belt) is the capital of the Mediterranean island of Malta. The walled city was established in the 1500s on a peninsula by the Knights of St. John, a Roman Catholic order. It's known for its museums, palaces and grand churches.

Baroque landmarks include St. John's Co-Cathedral, whose opulent interior is home to the Caravaggio masterpiece "The Beheading of Saint John".

Arrive in Valletta and start your walking tour of Valletta - the European Capital of Culture 2018. The tour will start with a walk through the vibrant streets of Valletta down to the St. John's Co-Cathedral. The Co-Cathedral houses one of the most beautiful marble inlaid floors in the world. You will also walk through the Oratory where the famous masterpiece of Caravaggio hangs. Continue to walk through the fortified city down to the Malta. Experience for the 1100hrs audio-visual show, where Malta's 7000 year history is brought back to life. Free Time for lunch and then visit the Grand Master's Palace State Rooms. Visit Casa Rocca Piccola. A 16th Century Palace of a Maltese Noble family. Transfer back to the hotel for overnight. **(B)**

#### **Day 3: Gozo Tour**

After breakfast at hotel a short drive will bring us to the harbor and after a short twenty-minute ferry crossing you will reach Mgarr harbour, which immediately sets the pace to Gozo's unique atmosphere. Your guide will lead you around the Megalithic temples of Ggantija, 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. Visit Ggantija Temples, the oldest free-standing monuments in the world, pre-dating the Pyramids of Egypt. Explore the Citadel in Victoria. Lunch at local restaurant and then Visit Ta' Pinu; It is a shrine to Our Lady of Ta' Pinu, that welcomes all visitors who wish to pray or simply admire the splendid sculptures





## Megalithic Temples of Ggantija

and craftsmanship of designs on the Maltese stone inside the church.

Stop at Dwejra and (weather permitting) take a boat trip through the archway of the Inland Sea. One will also be able to see Fungus Rock. Legend tells us that a special plant believed to have medicinal and healing properties grew on this rock. Ferry crossing back to Malta. Return to the hotel for an overnight. **(B, L)**

### DAY 4: Malta Tour

After Breakfast, meet your guide in the hotel lobby, board the coach and proceed on The Malta Tour.

Mdina also known by its titles Città Vecchia or Città Notabile, it is a fortified city in the Northern Region of Malta, which served as the island's capital from antiquity to the medieval period. It's also referred to as the "Silent City." The narrow winding streets lead to the imposing bastions, commanding a panoramic view of the island. The crafts village in Ta' Qali is located in the former RAF wartime

airfield and is a very popular tourist attraction in Malta. Here, different kinds of crafts and beautiful artifacts are sold created by local experts. You can watch the craftsmen blowing and forming glass, visit the goldsmiths filigree and beautiful jewellery and have a look at the beautiful sculptures.

The Mosta Dome is perhaps the most impressive church in Malta, with its massive rotunda, that is the third largest in the world. The Mosta Dome church was built in 1860, and it is dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady. During the Second World War the church was almost destroyed when, during an air raid, a 200kg bomb fell through the dome without exploding. All the 300 people attending morning mass were left unharmed.



Ta' Qali Craft Village is located in the former RAF wartime airfield and is a very popular tourist attraction in Malta. Here, different kinds of crafts and beautiful artifacts are sold created by local experts. You can watch the craftsmen blowing and forming glass, visit the goldsmiths filigree and beautiful jewellery and have a look at the beautiful sculptures and lace.



The San Anton Gardens is one of the most beautiful gardens in Malta with a large variety of beautiful flowers and plants. This garden has been open to the public





## Marsaxlokk

since 1882 and it was built by Grand Master Antoine de Paule to complement his summer residence, San Anton Palace, which today is the residence of the Maltese President. The garden has several walkways that take you through the green gardens where you will discover fountains, ponds with families of ducks and several plants and flowers such as roses, Bougainvillea, Norfolk, Araucarias as well as other trees from all over the world some of them over three centuries old. Visit Mosta Dome. A light lunch will be served at Fontanella Tea Gardens. After lunch walk to the bastions and admire the panoramic view of the island. We will be then Driving to Ta'Qali craft village followed by a visit to The San Anton Gardens. Return to the hotel for an overnight. **(B, L)**



**DAY 5: Marsaxlokk and the Blue Grotto**  
After After Breakfast, meet your guide in the hotel lobby and proceed for a 4 hour tour of the south of Malta.

We start the tour with a visit to the Blue Grotto (weather permitting) and the nearby caves. Admire the whole expanse of the blue Mediterranean and the inlet of Filfla. We continue the tour to the idyllic fishing village of Marsaxlokk with its colourful luzzus and unique character setting for the local market. This is the perfect place to spend a Sunday morning, relaxing with the locals as you browse through the various stalls. The Three Cities is a collective description of the three fortified cities of Birgu, Senglea and Cospicua in Malta. The oldest of the Three Cities is Birgu, which has existed since the Middle Ages. A light lunch break in Birgu. Return to the hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Tonight Farewell dinner at local restaurant. **(B, L)**



### Day 6: Departure

After breakfast, check-out. Transfer to the airport for your flight back home. **(B)**



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