



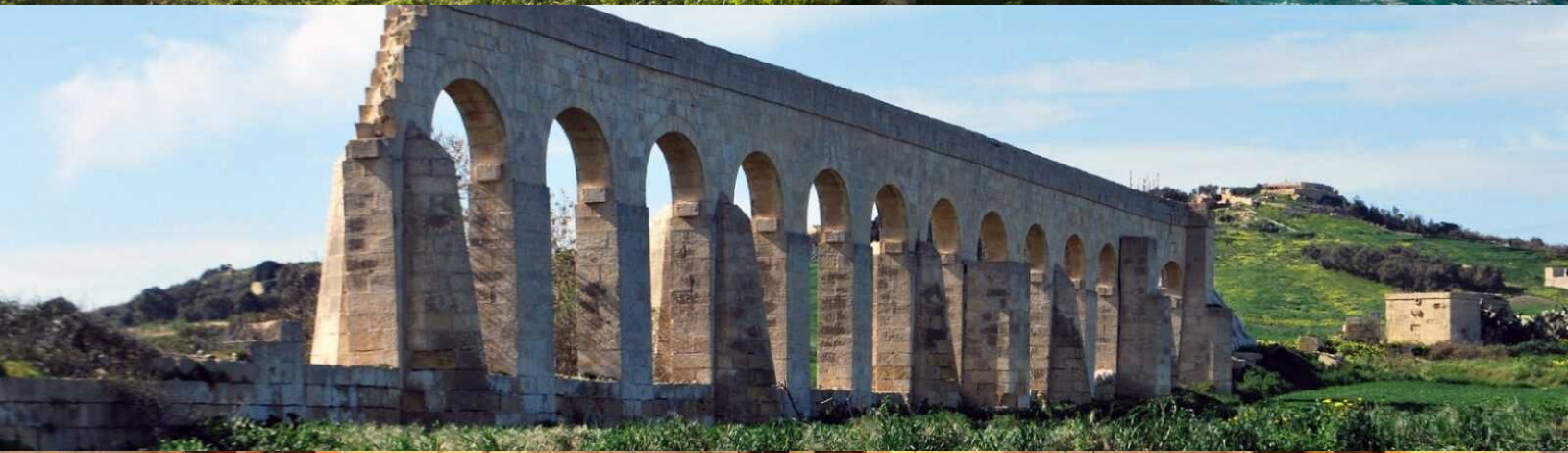
VALLETTA BAROQUE
FESTIVAL

MAGNIFICENT MALTA

JANUARY 11 - 14, 2024

MALTESE ISLANDS

Malta and Gozo go beyond just being a sun, sea and sand destination - it is far more fitting to dub them as the islands of baroque, beauty, bastions and battles. From possessing the oldest temples in the world, to receiving the highest number of bombs during the Second World War, it's amazing to think that such small islands have so many rich layers of history. The food culture offers an authentic Mediterranean fusion, the grapevines are blissfully sun-ripened and the locals have a well-known reputation for their generous hospitality. For this reason we say Merħba, Welcome, to your personally curated itinerary which will take you through an incredible storyline to satisfy your tastes and interests. Who knows? Malta might just become your next favourite destination...



PROPERTY - DOMUS ZAMITTELLO

JANUARY 11 - 14 (3 NIGHTS)

Prominently located in the heart of Valletta, the hotel is at a short distance to the main bus terminus, close to the magnificent parliament designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, and a few steps from the open-air theatre, formally the Royal Malta Opera House. It is also surrounded by the best culinary addresses of the capital city. The stately entrance of the boutique hotel reveals its grandeur once one walks into the reception and restored courtyard area.



ACCOMMODATION - KING PREMIUM ROOM

Located on the higher floors of the hotel, these beautifully designed spacious rooms overlook South Street and offer views of Piazza Teatru Rjal, Valletta's own open air historical theatre; the Maltese Parliament Building designed by world renowned architect Renzo Piano; and Valletta's City Gate. Room sizes vary from 24 to 31sqm.



DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN MALTA & EVENING CONCERT

THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

We will display your flight information here once we have it in hand.

Flight No:

Arrival Time:

Airline:

Arriving From:

19:30 - St. John's Passion at St. John's Co-Cathedral

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to Malta. After collecting your baggage, a representative will greet you right outside the exit hall and then privately transfer you to your accommodation.

Tonight you're in for a treat with the opening concert at St. John's Co-Cathedral.

ST. JOHN'S PASSION CONCERT

Johann Sebastian Bach's tenure as Kantor in Leipzig from 1723 until his death involved teaching, organ playing, choir training, and composing for Thomaskirche and Nikolaikirche. Despite heavy workloads and disputes, he composed masterpieces, including the Mass in B minor, Magnificat, Christmas Oratorio, and St. John & St. Matthew Passions. These Passions adopted the oratorio-Passion format, offering diverse musical elements and a theatrical perspective on the Passion story, culminating in a message of hope and salvation.



DAY 2 - VALLETTA - THE CAPITAL

FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

Meet your guide in the lobby of your accommodations to start your day.

19:30 - Follia - Dreams, Nightmares, Madness, The Charm of Disorder in Music at Teatru Manoel

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

10:00 AM TO 05:00 PM

Valletta was built by the Knights of St. John after the Great Siege of Malta by the Ottomans in 1565. It is the fortified city that was said to be "Built by gentlemen for gentlemen". It boasts over 320 monuments in a .2 square mile radius, is a Baroque capital and is being recognized as the European Capital of Culture in 2018. You'll love what's in store within its main gates - a great mix of history and present day lively culture.

UPPER BARRAKKA GARDENS

A visit to Upper Barrakka Gardens promises a breathtaking panoramic experience. Perched on the edge of the Grand Harbour, it offers an unparalleled view of the Mediterranean's only natural harbor, framed by the historic Three Cities. Stroll through the greenery, enjoy tranquil moments by the fountains, and be captivated by the mesmerising sights.



NATIONAL LIBRARY - PRIVATE VISIT

Situated in the centre of the capacity city of Valletta, the National Library is one of the main treasures of the Maltese Islands. This building preserves the memory of the nation with collections that span the centuries as far back as medieval times. Enjoy a private experience accompanied by the librarian as you walk through pages of history.



MALTESE DELICACY LUNCH AT PALAZZO PRECA

Palazzo Preca, an exceptional dining destination, graces Valletta's historic Strait Street, once known as "The Gut" during the British days. This family-owned gem, overseen by Chef Ramona Preca, masterfully blends Mediterranean and Maltese cuisines. The Preca family's culinary dedication, coupled with the street's legacy, creates a unique dining experience that marries tradition and innovation in the heart of Valletta's history.



ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

Nestled within the historic capital of Valletta, the archaeology museum serves as a guardian of the island's prehistoric heritage. Here you will embark on a captivating journey through time, exploring artifacts from the UNESCO temples to those of the Phoenician and Roman periods. With the help of your guide, you will truly connect with the echoes of Malta's past.



ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL

Built in the 16th century, this baroque jewel is more than just a place of worship; it is a visual symphony of art and architecture. The austere exterior of the cathedral gives way to a breathtaking interior adorned with ornate gilded embellishments, as well as Caravaggio's largest and only signed masterpiece - The Beheading of St John the Baptist.



GILDER ARTISAN

One of the most remarkable crafts in Malta is the art of gilding - particularly on clocks. Maltese clock gilding is a captivating art form that combines the intricacies of clockmaking and the meticulous application of gold leaf onto clock cases to create a stunning and luxurious finish. Today, a master gilder will open up his private studio for you to see his work up close.



FOLLIA - DREAMS, NIGHTMARES, MADNESS

This program explores how Baroque music conveyed human emotions and natural themes. It includes works like Geminiani's Concerto Grosso, based on Corelli's Folia theme, Keiser's satirical opera sinfonia, Zelenka's Hypochondria, Vivaldi's Restlessness, Telemann's experimental oboe concerto, Fux's programmatic *Le dolcezze e l'amarezze della notte*, and Mozart's whimsical *Gallimathias Musicum*. These compositions showcase Baroque composers pushing artistic boundaries, portraying madness, hypochondria, and restlessness, offering unique insights into human experiences.



DAY 3 - ANCIENT MALTA & THE OLD CAPITAL REGION

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

Please meet your guide in the lobby of your accommodations to begin your day.

12:00PM - Plucked Bach at the Aula Capitulare of St. Paul's Cathedral in Mdina.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

09:30 AM TO 06:30 PM

We'll begin our day with a visit to some of the oldest temples in the world. Malta boasts a total of 7 temple sites with 6 above ground and one below. The Old Capital region of Malta, which includes Rabat and Mdina, is a living tapestry of history. Rabat's winding streets and the captivating catacombs whisper ancient stories. In the vicinity, Mdina, Malta's medieval and noble gem, showcases breathtaking architecture and the grandeur of St. Paul's Cathedral, inviting you to step into the past and immerse yourself in its rich heritage. In the afternoon you will venture to Naxxar to discover a wonderful palace often described as a mini Versailles.

HAGAR QIM & MNAJDRA TEMPLES

Hagar Qim and Mnajdra are UNESCO prehistoric temples thought to have been built to worship the fertility goddess. To put their age into perspective, they are around 1000 years older than the pyramids of Giza, and even Stonehenge. Through this visit, you will have the opportunity to say you visited the oldest, free-standing temples in the world!



MDINA EXPLORATION

Often referred to as the "Silent City," Mdina is a hilltop fortress which served as Malta's old capital city. You will feel the power as you enter its honey-coloured limestone walls and navigate its winding roads. Its panoramic views and range of architecture will undoubtedly captivate you as much as the noble families who continue to live here.



PLUCKED BACH

Johann Sebastian Bach's music has been a lifelong companion for Alon Sariel, and during the recent pandemic, he embarked on a recording project called "Plucked Bach" (vol. 1 & 2). This project includes his own arrangements of Bach's cello suites, violin sonatas, and partitas, as well as other selected works originally for organ or lute. Performing Bach's solo music across Europe has strengthened his connection to Bach's divine compositions, making this journey with his music an ongoing and transformative experience.



LUNCH RESERVATIONS AT MEDINA RESTAURANT

Hidden away in the enchantingly narrow streets of Mdina is this characterful 500 year old restaurant. An original Norman residence, The Medina Restaurant is full of romanesque features, allowing for a truly unique dining ambiance. The honey-coloured stone walls with the prettiest internal courtyard and classic garden truly bring one back to another era. Dine beneath a vaulted stone ceiling or in the internal courtyard. Local ingredients underpin well-executed dishes which exhibit subtle modern twists.



RABAT VILLAGE EXPLORATION

During their 200 year rule, the Arabs divided the old Roman City of Melite into two: the fortified area became known as Mdina - the city - and the outskirts as Rabat. Some highlights of Rabat include St Paul's Church, Grotto, and St Paul's Catacombs. These places tie in with the biblical story of St Paul's shipwreck in Malta, which is said to have taken place way back in 60 AD.



PALAZZO PARISIO

Palazzo Parisio is a grandiose architectural gem that epitomises elegance and opulence. It is surrounded by impeccably landscaped gardens, adorned with fountains, statues, and vibrant flora. The interior is a feast for the senses, with intricately decorated rooms featuring exquisite frescoes, stuccoes, and an impressive collection of art and antiques. After your exploration of the Palace, we invite you for tea and a piece of cake or scones.



DAY 4 - DEPARTURE DAY

SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

We will display your flight information here once we have it in hand.

Airline:
Flight No:
To:
Departure Time:

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Today you depart our lovely islands. We will arrange a transfer for you to the airport. We trust that Malta has lived up to your expectations and created some long-lasting memories. We look forward to welcoming you back some day.

ITINERARY INCLUSIONS

Airport transfers with Meet & Greet Service
Luxury car service
Expert guiding
3 night stay in Valletta
VIP Tickets for 3 concerts during the festival
Full Day Tour of Valletta with exclusive experiences
All breakfasts and a Maltese delicacy lunch
Full Day Tour of Mdina and Ancient Malta with exclusive experiences

ITINERARY EXCLUSIONS

Gratuities for guides and drivers
Airfare and Medical Insurance

