

## 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 Merhba, 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...



## DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN MALTA



## **IMPORTANT INFO**

Flight details and other important arrival information will be displayed here.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to Malta! Upon retrieving your luggage, one of our representatives will warmly welcome you right outside the exit hall. From there, you'll enjoy a seamless private transfer directly to your accommodation, ensuring a smooth start to your Maltese adventure.

# DAY 2 - THE CAPITAL CITY



#### **IMPORTANT INFO**

**INCLUDED MEALS: L** 

Today's touring will start at 09:00 and end at 16:00. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Begin your time in Malta with a cultural journey through Valletta, starting with an exploration of its historic streets and landmarks. Discover the intricate craftsmanship at the Gilder Artisan and immerse yourself in the artistic brilliance of the Manoel Theatre. Enjoy a delightful lunch at the King's Own Band Club before marveling at the grandeur of St John's Co-Cathedral. Conclude your day with a visit to the Chocolate District, indulging in sweet delights that epitomize Malta's culinary charm.

#### VALLETTA EXPLORATION

Valletta, a peninsular masterpiece crafted by the Knights of St John after the Great Siege of 1565, stands as a UNESCO-graded capital city. An enchanting journey through time awaits you, with its vibrant blend of history and contemporary culture, gridded street pattern, beautiful baroque architecture, and panoramic vistas from its gardens.



#### 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.



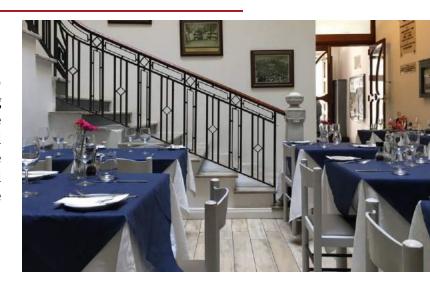
## MANOEL THEATRE

The Manoel Theatre is one of the oldest operating in Europe. Constructed in 1731 by the Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena, it was intended to be fit for the honest entertainment of the Knights of St John. With its intimate setting and rich acoustics, the theatre has hosted a myriad of performances, from plays and operas to contemporary productions.



## LUNCH AT KING'S OWN BAND CLUB

Named after George, the Prince of Wales, who became King in 1937, this band club holds living memories of British rule in Malta. Indulge your taste buds with a delightful Maltese delicacy lunch and local wine. As you dine, your guide will unravel the unique purposes and rivalries that characterize band clubs, providing a richer understanding of the cultural context.



## 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.



#### CHOCOLATE DISTRICT

A heavenly hidden gem of chocolate, coffee, and even more chocolate, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the vibrant city life. Will you try a piece with olive oil? Or peppered cheeselets? How about a pure chocolate drink with a shot of local prickly pear liqueur? Chocolate District is a neat place to try these unique things.



# DAY 3 - The Old Capital Region



#### **IMPORTANT INFO**

**INCLUDED MEALS: L** 

Today's touring will start at 09:00 and end at 17:00. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Begin today with a visit to the Wignacourt Museum, delving into Malta's religious history. Then, behold the breathtaking views at Dingli Cliffs before engaging in a delightful Pastizzi Making Experience. Explore the medieval streets of Mdina, soaking in its historic charm, and witness the craftsmanship of a Pipe Organ Artisan. Conclude your journey at the opulent Palazzo Parisio, where you'll indulge in an exquisite Afternoon Tea, promising a day filled with cultural enrichment and culinary delights.

## WIGNACOURT MUSEUM

The Wignacourt Museum was inaugurated by Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt in the 17th century. The building consists of World War 2 shelters, a labyrinth of Roman hypogea, as well as a gallery with works by foreign and local artists. The highlight, however, is St Paul's Grotto, which is where the saint is said to have stayed when shipwrecked on Malta in 60 AD.



#### DINGLI CLIFFS

The long stretch of towering limestone cliffs on Malta's western coast form one of the most dramatic landscapes in the country. The Dingli Cliffs mark the highest parts of the island at 253 metres above sealevel. Here you will be treated to the spectacular views of the open sea and Filfla - the small, uninhabited island used as target practice in the Second World War.



#### PASTIZZI MAKING EXPERIENCE

The most renowned street food item in Malta is the hot, flaky pastizzi. This diamond-shaped savory snack consists of around 50 paper-thin layers of pastry filled with curried peas or ricotta cheese. Today you will not only have the opportunity to taste them, but actually make them yourself. Which side will you take? Team pea, or team cheese?



#### 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.



#### PIPE ORGAN RESTORER

Pipe organ restoration involves the careful revival of these majestic instruments, often with centuries of stories woven into their pipes and keys. Today, Robert, a skilled organ builder, will invite you on a behind the scenes journey to understand the meticulous preservation and harmonious celebration of a timeless, musical beauty within a Maltese Church.



## PALAZZO PARISIO WITH AFTERNOON TEA

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.



# DAY 4 - DEPARTURE DAY BY CRUISE SHIP



#### **IMPORTANT INFO**

**INCLUDED MEALS: L** 

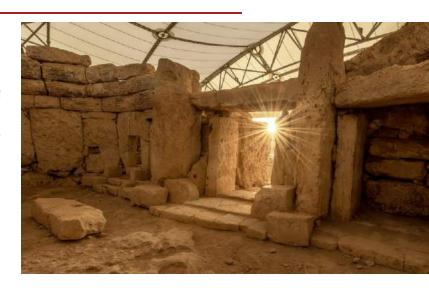
You will be enjoying some touring from 09:00 - 15:00 before embarking your cruise ship. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy your last day by immersing yourself in Malta's rich history and archaeological wonders with a visit to the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, where ancient mysteries unfold amidst the rugged landscape. Indulge in a rustic farm lunch, savoring local flavors amidst the tranquil countryside setting before bidding farewell to the island's shores as you embark on your cruise ship from Valletta, carrying with you special memories of your time in Malta.

## 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!



#### RUSTIC FARM LUNCH

Direct from the farmers and straight to your plate. Indulge in a delightful farm lunch amidst the serene ambiance of a private olive grove. This experience not only tantalises your taste buds, but also supports a network of local artisans, from bakers to beekeepers, offering you a genuine connection to Malta's thriving rural communities.



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3 Lunches

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