

## 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 17:00. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Today you will explore Valletta's cultural gems by touring the Archaeology Museum, witnessing the historic Saluting Battery Cannon Firing, and enjoying lunch at the King's Own Band Club. You will also discover intricate craftsmanship at the Gilder Artisan, then visit the majestic Manoel Theatre and St. John's Co-Cathedral for a journey through Baroque splendor.

#### 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.



#### 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.



#### SALUTING BATTERY GUN FIRING

The Saluting Battery in the Upper Barrakka Gardens is located on one of the best vantage points, overlooking the Grand Harbour. Gun salutes were fired to greet dignitaries or ships visiting the island and to mark national and religious occasions. Today you will have the exciting opportunity to witness a blank cannon firing up close.



#### 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.



#### 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.

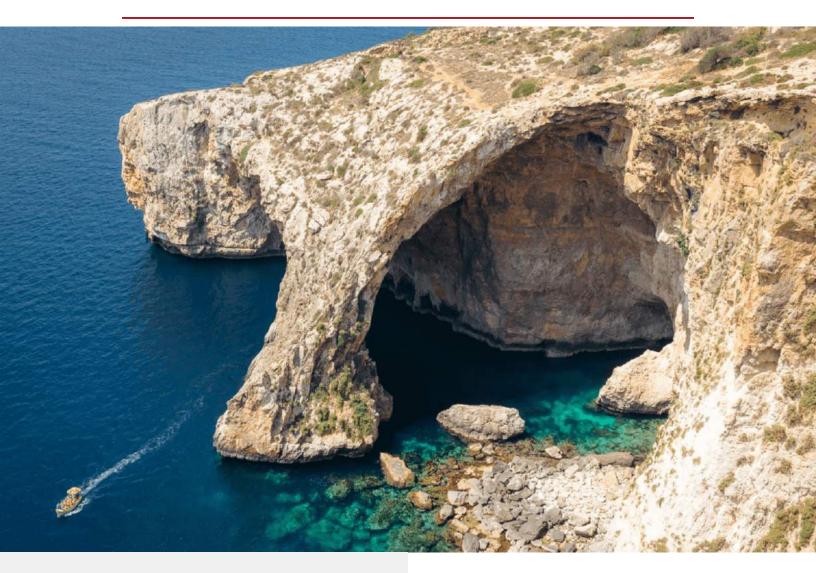


# ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL

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.



## DAY 3 - ANCIENT MALTA



## **IMPORTANT INFO**

Today's touring will start at 09:00 and end at 16:30. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Start your day with a mesmerizing Falconry Display and exploration of the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, where history breathes among ancient stones. Enjoy lunch at Alka before a serene voyage through the Blue Grotto's coastal wonders on a private boat. End your day with a visit to The Hypogeum, an underground marvel steeped in mystery.

#### FALCONRY DISPLAY

Introducing Lawrence - the man who revived falconry in Malta. He fell in love with birds the first moment he cradled one given to him by his neighbour at the age of 4. Among his growing collection, he is a proud owner of the Maltese Peregrine Falcon. Enjoy the unique opportunity to hold it yourself, and observe the immense speed at which it can swoop for its prey.



## 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!



#### LUNCH RESERVATIONS AT ALKA

Offering stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea, Alka is a culinary gem that effortlessly blends the rich flavors of Mediterranean cuisine with a touch of Maltese authenticity. The menu showcases a diverse range of dishes, from freshly caught seafood to locally sourced ingredients. Alka ensures a gastronomic journey that reflects the island's culinary heritage.



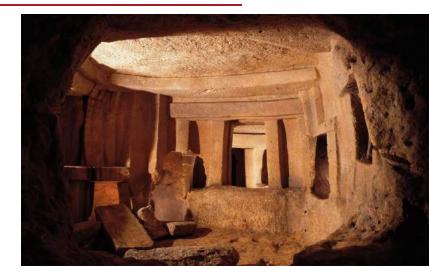
## BLUE GROTTO - PRIVATE BOAT

The Blue Grotto is a complex of sea caves that comprises a large and very impressive main arch, as well as a system of 6 other caves, among which you will find the Honeymoon Cave, the Cat's Cave and the beautiful Reflection Cave. This boat trip to the caves is the best way to experience the true beauty of the area and the stunning clear blue waters.



#### THE HYPOGEUM

The Hypogeum is an outstanding underground burial complex that bears testimony to a civilization that has disappeared. It was in use between 4000 and 1500 BC. Covering a remarkable 500 square metres, it was amongst the first Maltese entries on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is unique in the world, and only allows 10 visitors per hour!



# DAY 4 - THE OLD CAPITAL REGION



## **IMPORTANT INFO**

**INCLUDED MEALS: L** 

Today's touring will start at 09:30 and end at 17:00. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Start your day at a Sheep Farm, savoring Maltese Cheese amidst pastoral landscapes. Enjoy a hands-on Pastizzi Making Experience, then explore the medieval charm of Mdina. Visit a Noble Home for tales of aristocracy before ending with a Mqaret Tasting, indulging in Malta's sweet traditions.

#### SHEEP FARM & CHEESE TASTING

Enjoy the opportunity to visit a rustic sheep farm to see how the prized Maltese gbejna cheese is made. Gbejna is characterized by its mild, slightly salty flavor, and firm yet creamy texture. The cheeses are often enjoyed fresh, showcasing the purity of the milk, but can also be sun-dried to intensify its flavors and create a delightful chewy texture.



#### 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.



#### NOBLE HOME - PRIVATE VISIT

With just a couple of knocks, you'll have the exclusive opportunity to enter one of Mdina's noble palazzo doors to find out that it is so much more than just a home. A member of the family will personally take you around their property and cannot wait to show you their most prized possessions and narrate the stories linked to them.



## **MQARET TASTING**

Mqaret, or Date Squares, are sweet pastries that boast a golden, crispy exterior that gives way to a luscious filling of dates, infused with hints of spice and citrus. The artistry lies in their preparation, where skilled hands meticulously fold and seal the dough, creating a delightful contrast between the crunchy shell and the soft, syrupy center.



## DAY 5 - GOZO - THE SISTER ISLAND



## **IMPORTANT INFO**

**INCLUDED MEALS: L** 

Today's touring will start at 09:00 and end at 18:00. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Embark on a thrilling journey to Gozo by Axopar Speedboat and then explore the rugged landscapes on an E-Jeep Adventure. Enjoy a tranquil Private Picnic amid nature's beauty before exploring The Citadel's historic confines. End your day with a game of Traditional Bocci, embracing Gozo's timeless traditions and vibrant culture.

#### AXOPAR SPEEDBOAT TO GOZO

This Axopar speedboat is loaded with a myriad of innovative functionality and creature comforts. The extended roof offers the best shade and weather protection possible, without compromising on the space and versatility of the walk around sides and aft-deck area. You'll arrive on the island of Gozo in no time to begin your day's adventure.



## E-JEEP ADVENTURE

Immerse yourself in Gozo's captivating landscapes on this eco-conscious E-Jeep adventure. Traverse rugged valleys, winding backroads, and coastal trails at a relaxed pace while soaking up the beauty of charming villages. Top attractions include: Dwejra and Fungus Rock, Wied il-Ghasri, Xwejni Salt Pans and Marsalforn Bay.



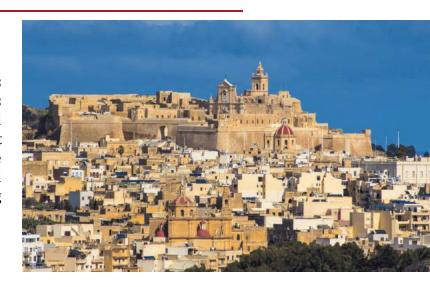
#### PRIVATE PICNIC

A private picnic along the Gozitan cliff-side, salt pans or beach is a wow experience in itself. A meal will be hand-crafted to include local products. All you need to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the serenity of the carefully chosen environment. Bonus: the luxury picnic organiser avoids single-use plastic at all costs, making this a very sustainable experience too!



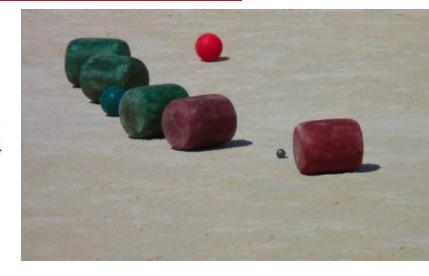
#### THE CITADEL

With its distinctive skyline, the Citadel stands out as Gozo's major landmark. This hilltop fortification is rich in buildings of architectural, military and historical value, while its open areas offer a habitat to numerous rare species of flora and fauna. The Citadel has withstood invasions, sieges, and transformations, bearing witness to the changing tides of Gozo's history.



## TRADITIONAL BOCCI GAME

Bocci is a popular game in Malta that shares roots with Petanque, English Bowls, and Italian Bocce. In Malta, nearly every village boasts a Bocci Club. Whether played by seasoned competitors or casual enthusiasts, Bocci has woven itself into the fabric of Maltese leisure, providing a delightful way for locals and visitors alike to engage in friendly competition.



## DAY 6 - RURAL MALTA



#### **IMPORTANT INFO**

INCLUDED MEALS: L,D

Today's touring will start at 09:00 and end at 16:00. Your dedicated guide will meet you in the hotel lobby. You will later enjoy an evening experience between 19:00 and 22:00.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Start with a captivating beekeeping experience to explore Malta's golden nectar. Discover the island's rich heritage on the Xemxija Heritage Trail, then enjoy a Rustic Farm Lunch in a private olive grove with traditional melodies. End your day with a sumptuous Private Dinner at Markus Divinus Winery, indulging in the finest Maltese wines and flavors for an unforgettable gastronomic journey.

#### BEEKEEPING & HONEY TASTING

A Maltese honey tasting experience is a sensory journey that captivates the palate with its subtle hints of wildflowers and herbs. Maltese honey is a testament to the artistry of nature and the beekeepers who skillfully harvest this liquid gold. Each spoonful is a celebration of the island's terroir, delivering a delightful taste of Malta's agricultural bounty.



## XEMXIJA HERITAGE TRAIL

Situated along the picturesque northern coast of Malta, the Xemxija Heritage Trail winds through the charming village of Xemxija and offers stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea. The trail not only showcases Malta's archaeological wealth, but also invites nature enthusiasts to appreciate the diverse flora and fauna of the region.



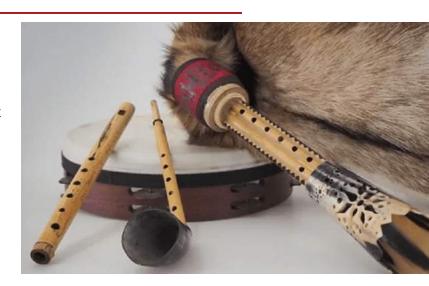
## RUSTIC FARM LUNCH

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.



#### TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENT ARTISAN

Traditional Maltese instruments are a rarity these days. Thankfully, there are a few individuals that took a personal interest in safeguarding this heritage. One such person is Francesco, who is particularly proud of making the traditional bagpipe - literally made from a whole goat! You'll love hearing his story and the fascinating history behind these instruments.

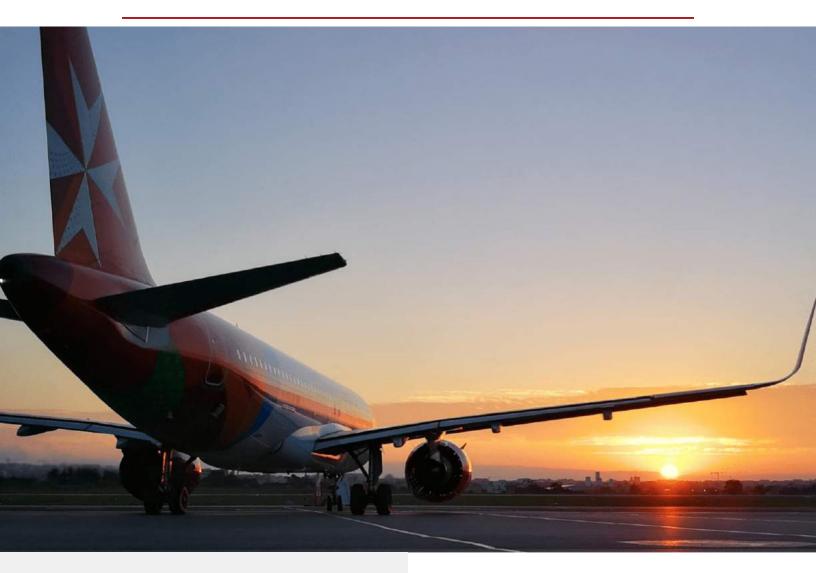


#### PRIVATE DINNER AT MARKUS DIVINUS WINERY

In the high planes of the village of Dingli, there is a boutique winery patiently nurturing exquisite grapes. Markus Divinus is dedicated to producing wines that represent Malta's agricultural heritage, with unique blends of local and international grapes to create exclusive flavours. Tonight you will enjoy a private dinner in this unique setting.



## DAY 7 - DEPARTURE DAY



## **IMPORTANT INFO**

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

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

As you bid farewell to our enchanting islands today, we've arranged a transfer to the airport for your convenience. We sincerely hope that Malta has surpassed your expectations, leaving you with cherished memories to treasure. We eagerly anticipate the day we can welcome you back to our shores once again.

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