



MAGNIFICENT MALTA

GROUP EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 9 - 16, 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...



DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN MALTA

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

INCLUDED MEALS: D

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

Flight No:
Arrival Time:
Airline:
Arriving From:

We will depart together at 7:15PM for our 7:30PM Dinner at Rampila Restaurant.

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.

INCLUDED DINNER AT RAMPILA RESTAURANT

Rampila is a unique restaurant comprising a restaurant, wine bar and terrace which overlooks the main city gate and ditch of Valletta. It is situated in the historic bastions of the capital city - literally - which were built by the Knights of St John in the 16th century as part of the fortifications surrounding the city. Rampila is now a haven set against a spectacular baroque backdrop which boasts a menu where Maltese and Mediterranean cuisines are prepared and presented in creative and tempting ways.



DAY 2 - VALLETTA EXPERIENCE

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

INCLUDED MEALS: L,D

Please meet your guide in the lobby of the hotel at 10:00AM to begin your experience.

We will depart this evening at 7:00PM for our 7:30PM dinner at Rogantinos Restaurant.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

10:00 AM TO 06:15 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.



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.



INCLUDED LUNCH AT KING'S OWN BAND CLUB

Create lasting memories with casual dining in a historic setting at this restaurant within the King's Own Band Club, Valletta's oldest band club. Named after George, the Prince of Wales, who became King in 1937, the 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.



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 - PRIVATE VISIT

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.



INCLUDED DINNER AT ROGANTINOS RESTAURANT

A charming and rustic farmhouse restaurant hidden away in the beautiful Maltese countryside close to the old capital of Malta, Rabat. This family run restaurant that has a rustic feel to it. The ambience is very welcoming and friendly. During sunnier days the guests can dine on the terrace and enjoy the beautiful views of the green countryside



DAY 3 - PREHISTORIC & SOUTHERN MALTA

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

INCLUDED MEALS: L,D

Please meet your guide in the lobby of your accommodations at 8:45AM to begin your experience.

We will gather at 7:00PM to depart for our 7:30PM dinner experience.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

08:45 AM TO 03:15 PM

Malta holds an extremely fascinating and rarely told history. Its megalithic temples, rivaling Stonehenge and the Pyramids in age (ours are older), display remarkable engineering prowess. Artefacts like the "Venus of Malta" bear witness to a rich prehistoric culture dating back over 5,000 years. In the south, we find a gem in Marsaxlokk which will be the focus of our lunch.

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!



BLUE GROTTO - PRIVATE BOAT EXPERIENCE

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.



MARSAXLOKK VILLAGE

Marsaxlokk is celebrated as Malta's largest fishing port, and is dazzled with its fleet of luzzu boats. These iconic Maltese traditional vessels, adorned with vibrant colors and eye motifs on their bows, symbolise both fishermen's protection and good fortune. Immerse yourself in its maritime heritage and relish the unique charm of this coastal village.



INCLUDED LUNCH AT LA NOSTRA PADRONA

Nestled in the heart of Marsaxlokk, Malta's iconic fishing village, La Nostra Padrona Restaurant offers panoramic views of the enchanting harbor. Your lunch reservations await, promising not only a sumptuous meal but also a front-row seat to the vibrant maritime life. Savor the freshest catch of the day in this charming setting, where the essence of Marsaxlokk truly comes to life.



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 4 - THE OLD CAPITAL - EVENING EXPERIENCE

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

INCLUDED MEALS: D

Please meet your guide in the lobby of your accommodations at 5:00PM to begin your evening experience.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

05:00 PM TO 10:30 PM

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.

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.



MDINA PALAZZO - 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.



INCLUDED DINNER AT THE 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.



DAY 5 - CENTRAL MALTA

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

INCLUDED MEALS: L

Please meet your guide in the lobby of your accommodations at 12:00PM to begin your day.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

12:00 PM TO 06:30 PM

Discover the treasures in the heart of our main island, not as often explored but rich in allure. Your day begins in a sprawling garden, intertwined with Malta's presidency. Next, a renowned domed church, steeped in history, awaits your visit. Finally, step into an enchanting palace, where countless tales reside within its walls.

VILLA BOLOGNA RESTAURANT

Spoil yourself with a delectable lunch at Villa Bologna Restaurant. This historic estate, surrounded by lush gardens, provides an idyllic setting for a memorable meal. Savory Italian flavours take center stage, with locally sourced ingredients crafted into its tasty dishes. Dine al fresco amidst the fragrant blooms, or in the elegant interior. Tied to the rich history of Villa Bologna itself, your stay promises to be a dining experience steeped in charm and sophistication.



VILLA BOLOGNA - PRIVATE VISIT

Dating back to the late 18th century, Villa Bologna is a stately mansion that boasts a harmonious blend of baroque and neoclassical architecture. Enjoy the unique opportunity to meet with a member of the de Trafford family as they guide you through their fascinating property and share their remarkable history and stories in Malta.



VILLA BOLOGNA POTTERY

Villa Bologna Pottery is a unique artistic haven where traditional pottery craftsmanship meets the charm of a historic estate. It's a meticulous process where the skilled artisans craft a diverse range of handmade pottery, including decorative pieces, functional tableware, and ornate tiles.



MOSTA DOME CHURCH

The Mosta Dome is a monumental masterpiece that graces the Maltese skyline. Built in the 19th century, this iconic Church is renowned for having one of the largest domes in the world. It gained international recognition during World War II when a bomb pierced through its dome during a service, miraculously not detonating and sparing the lives of the congregation.



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. Enjoy a light Afternoon Tea experience following your exploration of the Palazzo.



DAY 6 - MALTA'S SISTER ISLAND

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

INCLUDED MEALS: L

Please meet your guide in the lobby of your accommodations at 8:00AM to begin your day.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

08:00 AM TO 06:00 PM

Explore the captivating sister island of Gozo. Home to a distinct culture and fewer inhabitants than Malta, it offers a unique, tranquil charm. Delight in scenic landscapes, enjoy a picnic lunch amidst nature's serenity, and immerse yourself in the local culture by playing bocci with friendly islanders. Discover the unspoiled beauty and distinctive character that sets Gozo apart. We know you're going to love it!

FERRY TO GOZO

After taking a scenic drive towards the North of Malta, you'll enjoy a 25 minute crossing on board the Gozo Channel Ferry. Gozo is a more laid back island than Malta, full of sleepy villages, agricultural land and scenic hills. In fact, its nickname has long been "The Three Hills", representing the vantage points of the Cittadella, Xaghra and Nadur. Enjoy your time here as you discover the neat little gems and differences it has to offer from her sister island of Malta.



XWEJNI SALT PANS

Explore Gozo's ancient salt-making heritage with a visit to the Xwejni Salt Pans near Marsalforn. These traditional salt pans, a testament to centuries of sea salt production in Gozo, continue to be operational today. Learn about the fascinating process of salt harvesting while taking in the picturesque coastal scenery. It's a unique opportunity to connect with Gozo's rich history.



WIED IL-MIELAH WINDOW

Explore one of Malta natural wonders. The valley of Wied il-Mielah is rich in flora and a lovely place to walk especially in the autumn and spring. The way down the valley is like a botanical display of vegetation typical of the Mediterranean. Yellow rather than green is the primary colour here especially from late autumn until spring, when many fields bloom with the small yellow flower of the Cape Sorrel.



HANDS ON LUNCH EXPERIENCE

Your lunch will be a special one. Meet a local chef as he guides you through local ingredients while you prepare food items for your lunch. Engage with him in conversation about Maltese and Gozitan cuisine while enjoying local wine.



THE CITADEL AND VICTORIA

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.



DAY 7 - RURAL MALTA

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT INFO

INCLUDED MEALS: D

Please meet your guide in the lobby of the hotel at 5:00PM to depart for your evening experience.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

05:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

Many visitors to the Maltese Islands think of it as a great option for a quick sun and sand getaway, but we love to show them the unexpected, culturally rich side. Malta although having been on “the map” for over 7000 years, is still new to many travellers or not yet fully explored. Its charm resides in its people, quaint villages and lovely countryside. Meet the Maltese in their daily life such as with bakers, farmers, cheesemakers & artisans and then enjoying the fruits of their labour over a bottle of wine in one of Malta’s most idyllic locations.

VICTORIA LINES

The Victoria Lines, often referred to as the Great Wall of Malta, are a defensive fortification system running across the width of the island. Built by the British in the late 19th century, it features a series of forts, walls, and defensive structures. This architectural marvel not only offers a glimpse into Malta's military history, but also provides stunning countryside vistas.



RUSTIC FARMER'S DINNER

Direct from the farmers and straight to your plate. Indulge in a delightful farm dinner 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.



DAY 8 - DEPARTURE DAY

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 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
Expert Guiding and private transportation on touring days
4 lunches and 5 dinners
The attractions included in the itinerary

ITINERARY EXCLUSIONS

Flights
Travel and Medical Insurance
Gratuities for your guide and drivers
Any meals or attractions not included in the itinerary

