



GUIDED EXCURSIONS

HALF DAY

VALLETTA – Upper Barracca Gardens, St. John’s Co-Cathedral, the Grand Masters’ Palace and The Malta Experience



During this guided excursion to our Capital City of Valletta you will visit:

The Upper Barracca Gardens overlooking our Grand Harbour; St. John’s Co-Cathedral, Malta’s most artistic historical monument built by the Knights of the Order of St. John as their Conventual

church in 1573-78; the Oratory which was constructed in 1602 and which houses the famous Caravaggio paintings “The Beheading of St. John and “St. Jerome”.



You will proceed to the Grand Masters’ Palace which was built in 1574. It contains portraits of Grand Masters, European monarchs and Presidents of Malta and other works of art. In the Tapestry Chamber hangs a unique collection of Gobelin tapestries. Many of the State Apartments are decorated with friezes depicting episodes from the history of the Order.

HALF DAY

THE THREE CITIES



A visit to the Three Cities of Senglea, Cospicua and Vittoriosa. All three towns are situated around the Grand Harbour. Vittoriosa is the oldest of the three and you will visit the Inquisitor’s Palace. At its tip is Fort St. Angelo which was the first seat of the Order of St. John when it took up residence in Malta. Senglea is a peninsular town that like Cospicua faces Valletta. It was built by Grand Master Claude de la Sengle in 1555. Cospicua grew fast in commercial importance due to the development of the Shipyard in the 19th Century.



HALF DAY

MDINA & RABAT



A very interesting guided excursion visiting: Mdina – our old capital city. Its architecture reflects the baroque period and may be admired by all those who really want to experience Malta's past.

The magnificent cathedral was built in 1702 after an older one was damaged by an earthquake in 1693.

In Rabat you will visit the Roman Villa with its small museum. The fine mosaic floor and the smaller mosaics displayed on its walls date back to the first century A.D. You will also visit St. Paul's catacombs dating back to the 4th - 7th



centuries A.D. and consist of a series of narrow corridors flanked by walls with hundreds of rock-cut tombs.

HALF DAY

MNAJDRA, HAGAR QIM NEOLITHIC TEMPLES & THE BLUE GROTTTO



During this guided excursion you will be visiting: the Neolithic Temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra located on the southern edge of the Island and dating back to 3000 years B.C. The temples of Hagar Qim & Mnajdra are a few hundred metres apart.

Hagar Qim temples, built entirely of globigerina limestone blocks are often referred to as the upper temples, since the Mnajdra temples are located closer to the Dingli Cliffs and down the loping road from Hagar Qim

The huge limestone blocks that were used to temples are an awesome site. Some of these slabs feet high and weigh several tons.

The layout is hard to visualise. When one passes impressive entrance one finds a jumble of courts, corridors and chambers. A number of altars, niches and tabernacles can be found. One of these altars has a unique floral carving.



Temples. construct these are over twenty

The Mnajdra complex consists of three temples. The left temple, the second one to be built, is constructed of coralline limestone. It has four apses facing one another, two by two and contains a number of niches. Monolithic doors lead to the "oracle chambers" situated behind apses.



The middle temple was the last one to be built.

It contains an artificial terrace. The temple has two pairs of apses.

The last stop will be a visit to the Blue Grotto.

This picturesque grotto and neighbouring sea caves mirror the brilliant phosphorescent colours of underwater flora.

HALF DAY

TARXIEN TEMPLES, GHAR DALAM CAVE & MARSAXLOKK HARBOUR



You will be visiting the famous Tarxien Neolithic Temples which are among the most refined prehistoric temples that still maintain a good representation of prehistoric art in the form of bas reliefs, sculpture and pottery. This temple was formally planned, had concave monumental facades, trilithion entrance passages, and pairs of lateral and terminal chambers built of



tooled orthostatic and megalithic blocks. The inner chambers could be closed off by doors. You then proceed to Ghar Dalam Cave, which is a veritable depository of semifossilised remains and extinct species such as dwarf elephants and hippopotami, which roamed the island some 250,000 years ago, ostensibly when it was still joined to Africa.



The excursion ends at Marsaxlokk, the main fishing village situated in the south-eastern harbour of the island.

FULL DAY

THE ISLAND OF GOZO



You will be spending a full day to visit the sister island of Gozo, just 6 km away to the northwest across a clear blue and deep channel.

Gozo is where Ulysses is said to have been held captive, entranced by the nymph Calypso.

Our first stop will be to the Ggantija Prehistoric Temples, dating back to 3600 B.C. – one thousand years before the Pyramids at Giza, in Egypt (2600 B.C.). Ggantija means giant and there is a legend that the

temple complex was built by a female giant. They are the greatest undertaking of the pre-Phoenician Gozitans, and the best preserved of all the Temple sites on the Islands. The site is composed of two temples surrounded by a common outer wall.

The Guinness Book of records recognises these as the oldest free standing structures in the World.



We proceed to the Citadel or Grand Castello which is situated in Victoria – The Capital City of Gozo – and walk around and breathe the ancient atmosphere. This was the fortified refuge of the Gozitans when their island was attacked by the Turks or pirates. The late-medieval houses in this area are unique in the Maltese Islands. After lunch you will visit Dwejra and the Inland Sea. Set in a deep recess in the rock coastline, the Inland Sea is a large

expanse of shallow water linked to the sea outside through a narrow tunnel in the cliff. This is one of the most famous sites for divers.

FULL DAY **SICILY**

Visiting Pozzallo, Taormina and Mount Etna.

MOUNT ETNA is the largest and most active volcano in Europe. The purpose of this visit is for a photograph session only. The lower slopes of the volcano are extremely fertile with groves of oranges, lemons and other Mediterranean flora and of course vines, which produce Sicily's best wines. You go through forests of chestnut trees which gradually give way to oak, beech, birch and pine.



Taormina, Sicily's prime tourist resort. Facing Etna and the Blue Mediterranean Sea, this panoramic resort 206m above sea level was colonized by the Greeks, who built a theatre in the Hellenic period – 3 B.C. The main street, the elegant Corso Umberto with its cafes, restaurants and boutiques is a bustle of nationalities

FULL DAY

JEEP SAFARI – MALTA & GOZO



This ever popular Jeep safari has been planned to show you the most beautiful parts of our Islands which are rarely visited by tourists. We avoid all the usual tourist sites and concentrate on an action packed day full of scenic beauty and fun. Our professional safari leader will guide you throughout the day via radio, taking you to places that even most local people do not know exist. We serve a typical lunch where one may sample a large selection of local specialities and taste the local farmers' wine.

All jeeps are 4 wheel drives, fully insured including passenger liability and have radio contact with the safari leader. All passengers, including driver, also have an insurance cover.

FULL DAY

FERNANDES – GOZO, COMINO & THE BLUE LAGOON.



The Fernandes is a beautiful 87 foot L.O.A. schooner rigged Turkish gullet with a large forward deck, covered stern deck and a large saloon. The Fernandes departs from the Sliema Marina and cruises north-westwards towards Gozo. We drop anchor in secluded bays in Gozo at approximately 11.15 a.m. En route one sees the panoramic cliffs, coves and inlets. The rest of the morning is spent swimming, snorkelling or just sunbathing and relaxing on the large decks, while our stewards prepare a delicious buffet. After lunch we sail towards Comino, where we drop anchor in the beautiful Blue Lagoon and spend the rest of the afternoon swimming in the magical crystal clear water of the lagoon. Fresh fruit is served before we leave the Blue lagoon. Masks and snorkels are available on board free of charge.