

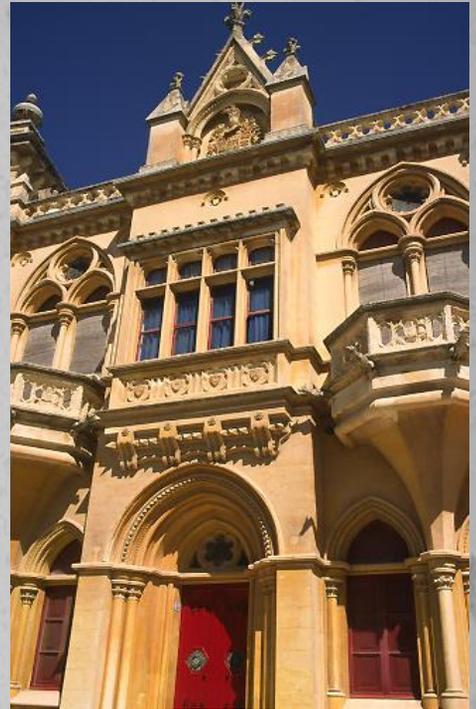
Malta – Isle of Antiquity

Tour Code MT

28 May – 4 June 2019

The legacy of Malta's rulers over the centuries is evident in its numerous palaces, medieval castles and ancient Neolithic temples. Most notable is the stunning range of architecture left by the Order of the Knights of St John who came to the island in 1530. Located north of Malta is the island of Gozo, with a history dating back to Homer and Greek mythology, it contains some of the archipelago's most scenic natural attractions. The tour follows in the footsteps of the Phoenicians, ancient Greeks, Romans, Knights Hospitaller and British. Set at a relaxed pace with the convenience of all seven nights stay at the charming Victoria hotel in Sliema, a 4 star boutique property is built in typical Victorian style, and perfectly located for the towns' restaurants and shops.

Palazzo facade, Mdina
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ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Valetta

Depart from London Gatwick with Air Malta and arrive into the international airport at Luqa close to Valetta. Transfer to a boutique 4 star hotel in Sliema for seven nights. Welcome dinner at a smart local restaurant (D)

Day 2 Half day tour of Valetta

We have a guided tour through the bustling streets of Malta's capital; Valetta, built after the Great Siege of 1565 and named after the Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Vallette. We include the Barraca Gardens, built on the elevated bastion ramparts commanding panoramic views of the Grand Harbour, and St John's Co-Cathedral, home of the Knights (Grand Masters) of Malta, with its fine Baroque architecture and the Archaeological Museum (B)

Day 3 The 'Three Cities' tour

Today we discover the fortified towns of Malta known as the 'Three Cities' of Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea, which are enclosed by a massive line of fortification created by the Knights of St John in 1530 when they arrived on the island. Located across the Grand Harbour from Valetta we will have a walking tour to discover the various historic landmarks and monuments built by the Order including the Inquisitor's Palace and Fort Rinella (B)

Day 4 Day at leisure

Enjoy a day to relax in the streets of Valetta to do some souvenir hunting, take a boat cruise around the harbour or an excursion to the quaint fishing village of Marsaxlokk (B)

Patrick Syder Travel

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Day 5 Half day tour of M'dina

We continue our visit of the island this morning to M'dina, Malta's old capital. Wonderfully located with a strategic position on one of the island's highest plateaus, the town is surrounded by a medieval wall. A monumental gateway leads to a maze of narrow medieval streets where architectural highlights include St Pauls Cathedral, rebuilt by the Knights, and various medieval palaces that now serve as private homes. We will also visit St Paul's Catacombs in Rabat that date from the Roman period (B)

Day 6 Visit prehistoric Temples of Malta

Known as the oldest buildings in Europe, the megalithic temples of Malta date to 3,000 BC and are listed UNESCO World Heritage sites. We visit the three main temple sites at Tarxien, Hagar Qim and Mnjadra, each portraying their own distinctive and highly advanced artistic style. Dated 1,000 years older than the Giza pyramids, their use appears to be both social and religious (B)

Day 7 Visit to Gozo

Malta's sister island of Gozo contains some of the archipelago's most scenic natural attractions where the historic culture and old traditions of its people can still be seen today, such as lace making, wool production and fishing. We visit the Temples of Ggantija, that date to 3600 BC, and have UNESCO World Heritage status. We also visit the island's capital Victoria and its historic medieval fortress, the Citadella. Farewell dinner at a smart local restaurant (B,D)

Day 8 Fly to London

Leisurely breakfast and a lunchtime check-out from our hotel. Transfer to the airport in the mid afternoon for our early evening Air Malta flight back to London Gatwick (B)

Cost £1295.00 per person in twin room (excl. international flight) Single supplement £395.00



Colourful 'Luzzu' fishing boats, Valetta harbour © www.syderimages.com

Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Maltese guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ All transportation - private a/c minibus
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees and ferry crossing to Gozo
- ▶ 7 night stay in Boutique 4 star hotel based in Sliema
- ▶ Two included a la carte restaurant dinners
- ▶ Group flight airport transfers

Not included – travel insurance, drinks, non specified meals, gratuities and international flight