

# MALTA

## SHIMMERING JEWEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN



The Valletta skyline

7,000 years of history. Prehistoric temples, fossil-studded cliffs, glittering hidden coves, Caravaggio masterpieces and a history of remarkable intensity. Malta is a Mediterranean jewel that is not to be missed. We'll take you off the tourist trail and initiate you into the amazing richness, variety and wonder that is the Maltese Islands. You'll learn something of its origins in pre-history, the vital role played by the Knights of Malta and why it's the only island ever to win the George Cross. Prepare to be amazed.

### Highlights

- Small group – maximum 15 guests
- Visit to a 16th Century Noble House where we'll enjoy coffee and biscuits served by the Marquis and his wife
- Visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Hal Safflieni Hypogeum
- Walking tour of UNESCO World Heritage listed city of Valletta
- Enjoy sailing around the spectacular coastline of the islands
- Experience the walled city of Mdina on a night-time walking tour



### Days 1-4 St Julians, Malta

For those joining us from Sicily, an evening transfer from Syracuse by air conditioned coach. Transfers to Valletta and from thence to the hotel. Other guests will have a private transfer from the airport to the hotel and will be at leisure for the rest of the day.

#### Hotel Juliani at St Julians, Malta

**Day 2:** After breakfast we have an introduction to the culture and history of Malta followed by a walking tour of Valletta including St John's Co-Cathedral which is home to Caravaggio paintings or rich and rare quality, the Grand Masters Palace and a 16th Century Noble House where we'll enjoy coffee and biscuits served by the Marquis and his wife. You'll have some free time to wander Valletta and enjoy a leisurely lunch before a mid-afternoon transfer back to the hotel where you can relax in the rooftop pool.



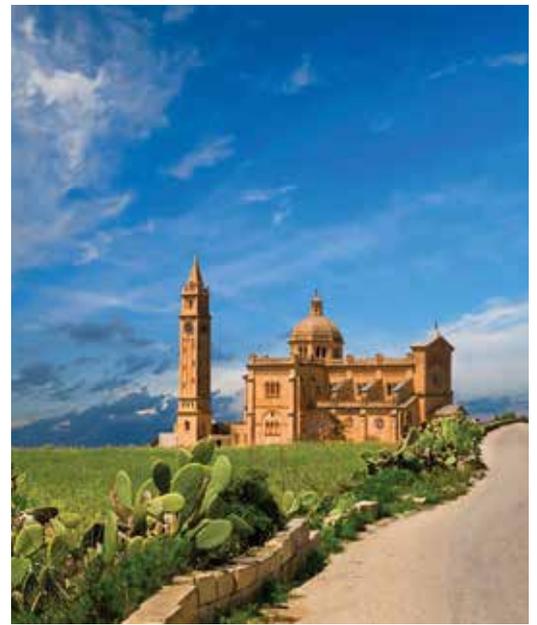
This evening we'll transfer by mini-coach to Rabat for a taste of the local pastizzi prior to a night walking tour around the Silent City of Mdina before dinner. Mdina is one of Europe's finest examples of an ancient walled town, tracing its history back 4,000 years of continued habitation. Both Mdina and Rabat played a major role in Malta's past and are equally superb examples of its living cultural heritage.



**Day 3:** Today we travel by air conditioned coach. A visit to the Hypogeum is a must for any visitor and this will be our first stop this morning. The Hal Safflieni Hypogeum is an underground rehistoric burial site unique in the world. It's formed by interconnecting rock-cut chambers set over three levels with the earliest remains dating back to 4000 BC. Visits are strictly limited to protect the integrity of this important site.



Gozo



The Citadel, Gozo

Late morning we'll transfer to sailing yachts to see Malta from an aquamarine perspective. The island's scenic coastline is studded with spectacular cliff formations, historical harbours and beautiful bays where there will be time for swimming and snorkelling before heading back to our hotel late afternoon. Lunch will be provided on board.



Tonight you're free to enjoy the hotel's award winning restaurant, check out the local area or take the bus into Valletta for dinner. There are so many choices and we'll be happy to provide ideas of particular local favourites.

**Day 4:** Departing from the hotel this morning we will make our way by coach to the north of Malta for a short ferry ride to the island of Gozo.

Gozo is thought to be the legendary Calypso Isle of Homer's Odyssey. The island is steeped in myth and is a peaceful mystical backwater, with rugged landscapes and a picturesque coastline.

On Gozo, we'll leave the tourists far behind as we travel by 4WD to navigate the narrow country roads to visit the Azure Window in Dwejra, the Salt Pans (still working and in use today) and the Ta Mena Estate which is well known for its vineyards, fruit orchards and farm animals, all of which contribute to delivering some of the freshest produce on the island.

Lunch will be in the centre of Victoria after a visit to the old Citadel. After lunch we return by ferry to Malta and transfer by small air-conditioned coach to our hotel. We'll enjoy a final night's dinner together to celebrate the end of a perfect visit to these magic isles.

#### Day 5 Depart Malta

A group transfer will be provided to Luqa (Valletta) airport.

#### Inclusions

- Transfers from airport or ferry to hotel
- 4 nights accommodation in 4 star hotel
- 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- English speaking guide
- Air conditioned motor coach for sightseeing and escorted tours
- Escorted walking tour of Valletta
- Visit to St John's Co-Cathedral to see the Caravaggios
- Visit to the Grand Master's Palace
- Visit to Casa Rocca Piccola
- Introduction to Malta history and culture
- Visit to Rabat and the Silent City of Mdina
- Regatta sailing around the islands
- 4 WD touring on the island of Gozo
- Visit to the Hal Safflieni Hypogeum
- Entry fees for all scheduled visits
- Group transfer to Luqa (Valletta) airport
- Tips for drivers and guides

#### Dates & Prices

5 days/4nights

Sat 11th to Wed 15th June 2016

Sat 3rd to Wed 7th June 2017

Tour Price: €2,500 per person.

Reductions available for twinshare

Not included: Air fares to and from Malta

