



Wednesday · October 10th, 2018 - Wednesday · October 17th, 2018

#5 - 8 Days Small Group - Malta with Jewish Culture Highlights

The Maltese Islands
The Phoenicia Malta - Superior Double Room

Wednesday · October 10th

Arrival in Malta
Meal Inclusions

Thursday · October 11th

Valletta Touring Day (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
Upper Barrakka Gardens
Malta Experience Film and Knights Hospital Tour
Nenu The Baker Restaurant
Jews' Sally Port
Manoel Theatre
St. John's Co-Cathedral
Museum of Archaeology
Grand Harbour Boat Tour
Meal Inclusions

Friday · October 12th	Afternoon Three Cities & Shabbat Dinner (2:00PM - 9:00PM) The Three Cities & Senglea Watchtower Walking Tour of Birgu & Malta Maritime Museum The Kalkara Jewish "Slave" Cemetery Ta Braxia Jewish Cemetery Shabbat Dinner at L'Chaim Restaurant Meal Inclusions
Saturday · October 13th	Afternoon Palatial Gardens (2:00PM - 6:00PM) San Anton Palace and Gardens Mosta Dome Church Palazzo Parisio - With Afternoon High Tea Birgufest Evening Outing Meal Inclusions
Sunday · October 14th	Southern Malta Experience (9:00AM - 2:00PM) The Marsa Jewish Cemetery Sunday Market and Fish Lunch in Marsaxlokk Band Club Culture Meal Inclusions
Monday · October 15th	Western Malta and the Old Capital Region (1:00PM - 6:00PM) Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples Blue Grotto Boat Experience The Dingli Cliffs Village of Rabat Mdina - the Silent and Medieval City - Jewish Highlights Maltese Jewish Synagogue visit (Date subject to change) Meal Inclusions
Tuesday · October 16th	Gozo Island - Malta's Sicily (8:00AM - 6:30PM) Gozo Channel Ferry The Xwejini Salt Pans The Citadella Ggantija Temples Meal Inclusions
Wednesday · October 17th	Departure Day Meal Inclusions
	Itinerary Inclusions Itinerary Exclusions Value (NET Total in Euro)

The Maltese Islands

Malta has been fought over for thousands of years, has temples that pre-date the pyramids at Giza and Stonehenge, has some of the clearest waters in the world, and boasts a capital city that is a baroque masterpiece. Like Croatia of 20 years ago, Malta has just now become a newly discovered travel destination for the cultural enthusiast and not as a second thought. The Maltese Islands, although small in size, offers travelers a rare opportunity to see a well preserved history and exciting present day culture.



The Phoenicia Malta - Superior Double Room

<http://www.phoeniciamalta.com/>

A Valletta icon and a fine example of the city's revered architectural traditions. The Phoenicia, Malta a Campbell Gray Hotel and member of The Leading Hotels of the World offers 5 star luxury within walking distance to the city's best attractions.

Superior Room

Fresh Mediterranean decor with tiled Maltese floor, their superior rooms all have opening window, mostly with views of Valletta or Floriana. Facilities include complimentary WiFi, AC, bath and shower combined, safe, minibar, tea and coffee making facilities and LCD TV. Min size 23 sq.m.

Wednesday · October 10th



Arrival in Malta

Arrive in Malta and be privately transferred to your host accommodations. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening.

Meal Inclusions

Dinner is included at the hotel or in a local restaurant.

Thursday · October 11th



Valletta Touring Day (9:00AM - 5:00PM)

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

The Upper Barrakka Gardens overlook the Grand Harbour. From their terrace they afford one of the most beautiful panoramic views in Malta as they command a unique view of the only natural harbour in the Mediterranean with the Three Cities as its backdrop.



Malta Experience Film and Knights Hospital Tour

Set the tone for your vacation with an unbelievable and comprehensive 45 minute film of Malta - depicting the complete history of the Islands. It`s not all that touristy and will truly provide the right introduction and appreciation for the experiences to come. After the show, enjoy a 25 minute tour of the Hospital of the Knights of St. John followed by a drive by the Jews Sallyport.



Nenu The Baker Restaurant

Lunch will be enjoyed at an old bakery turned iconic restaurant. Nenu the Baker is arguably the best restaurant within Valletta to try a variety of traditional Maltese dishes. Make sure to add a ftira into the mix. It's like a pizza but it's not pizza.



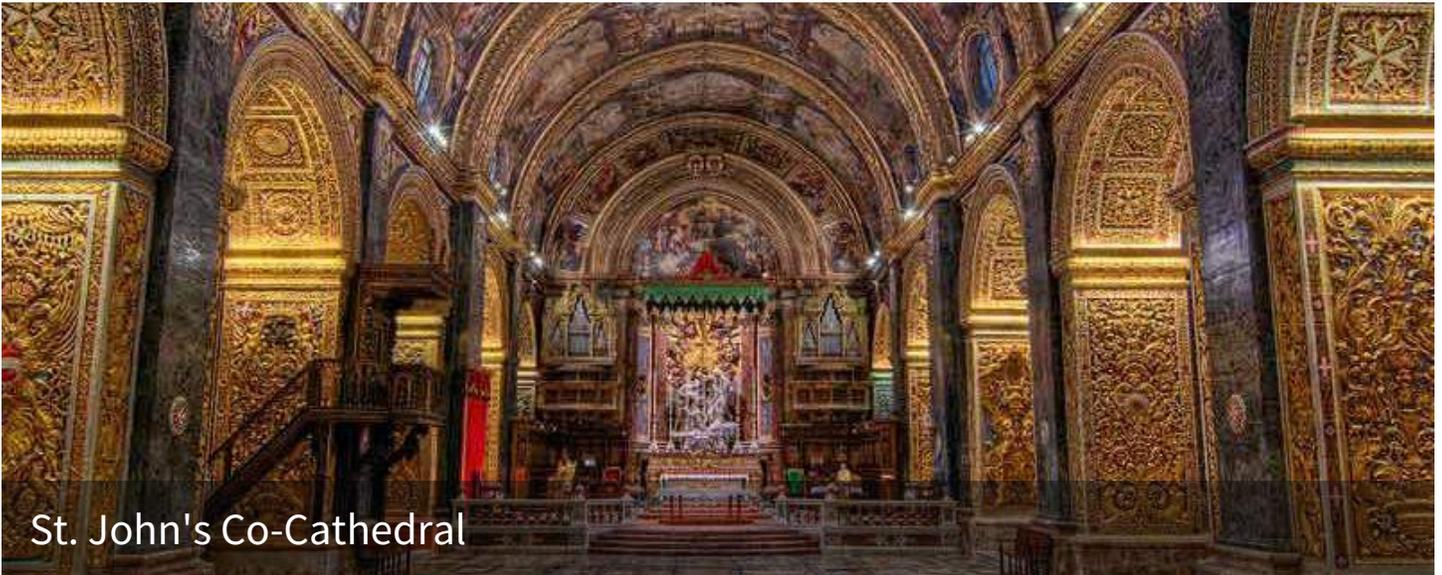
Jews' Sally Port

Not too much evidence of Jewish culture exists in Valletta from the period of the Knights of St. John except for the Jews' Sally Port. Unfortunately under the Knights, many Jews were enslaved and ransomed. Free Jews visiting Valletta were directed to enter through this port.



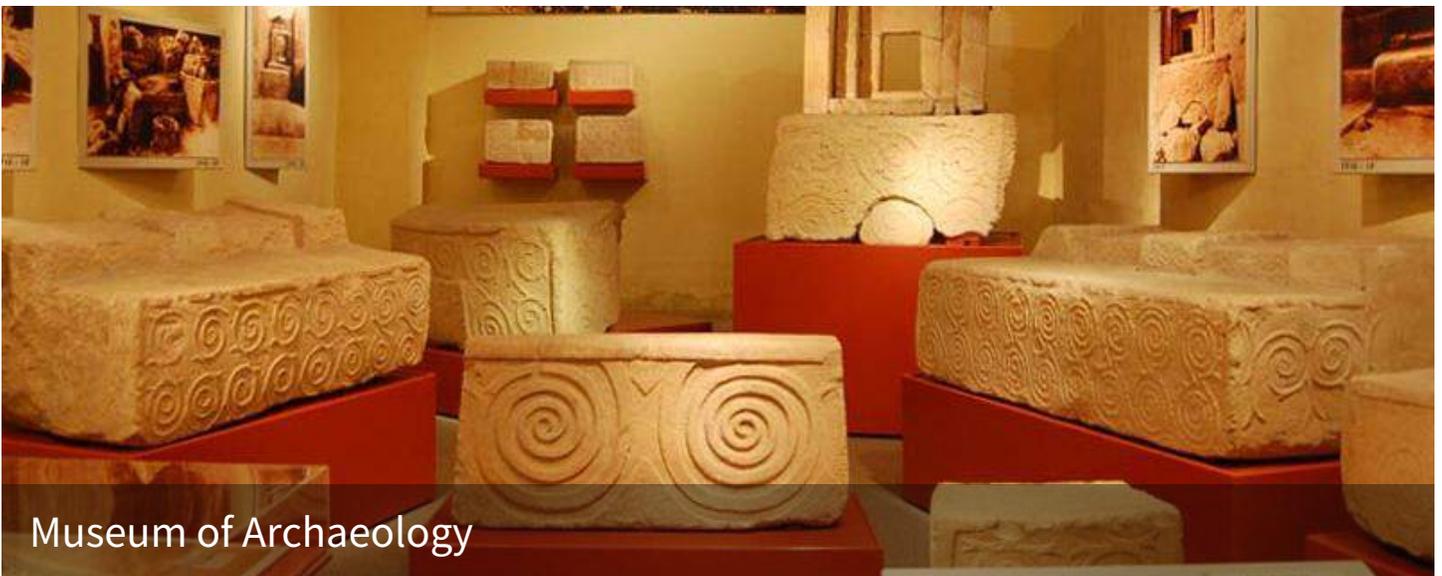
Manoel Theatre

The Manoel Theatre is one of the oldest working theatres in Europe. Constructed in 1731 by the Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena "for the honest entertainment of the Knights"; the theatre is a baroque gem with wonderful acoustics and a full calendar of events populated by local and international performers, with productions in English and Maltese. Maybe there is something on the calendar during your stay?



St. John's Co-Cathedral

Built shortly after the Great Siege of Malta (1565), St. John's Co-Cathedral's austere exterior is in drastic contrast to its sumptuous high baroque interior. You'll be in awe at the artistic masterpiece - from its tombstone laid floors to the vaulted ceiling painted in the life of John the Baptist. Around the corner and into the oratory, stand before two wonderful masterpieces by the artist Caravaggio - St. Jerome and his only signed piece - The Beheading of St. John the Baptist.



Museum of Archaeology

Not just another museum, the Museum of Archaeology will guide you through our living history dating back to the temple period. Spend a short time here gaining an overview and especially seeing the unbelievable finds from the temple(s) that you will be visiting on your tour. Of special note is the sleeping lady!

Return to your hotel and enjoy the rest of your evening and dinner on own with our own recommendations.



Grand Harbour Boat Tour

Travel down the Upper Barrakka elevators to arrive at the old Customs House where a traditional Maltese boat (Dghajsa) and boatman will be waiting for you for a private cruise of the Grand Harbour. The Ottomans sailed in these waters, Napoleon, the British and now you! How historic!

Meal Inclusions

Breakfast and lunch is included on this day.

Friday · October 12th

Afternoon Three Cities & Shabbat Dinner (2:00PM - 9:00PM)



The Three Cities & Senglea Watchtower

The Three Cities lie across the Grand Harbour. It was here where the Knights of St. John settled when they arrived in 1530 and made Birgu Malta's capital city. The formal or original names of the cities are Birgu, Bormla and Isla and their modern names Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea. There is a treasure trove of history found in each of them which will be explored today.

During this tour you shall experience Senglea's Watchtower or "vedette" decorated with carvings of eyes and ears, symbolising watchfulness, and commands a view to the west over the length of the Grand Harbour and southern flanks of Valletta.

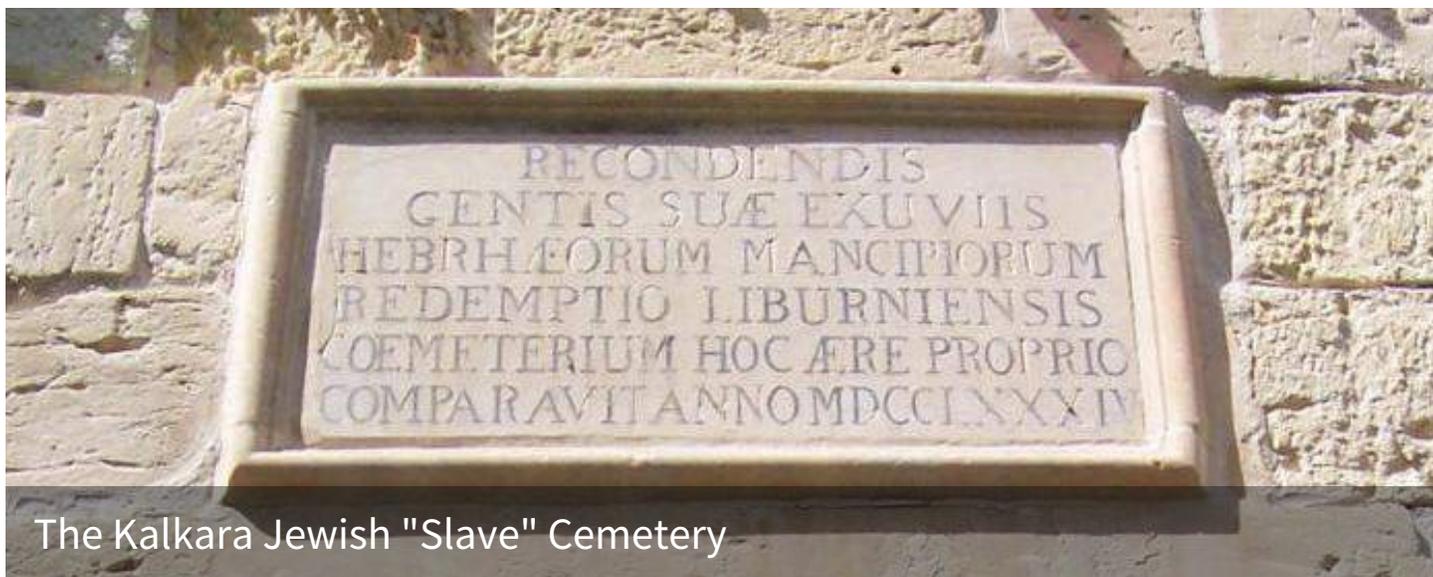


Walking Tour of Birgu & Malta Maritime Museum

Housed within the Old Naval bakery, the Malta Maritime Museum charts Malta's maritime history and lore within a Mediterranean context. It also illustrates the global nature of seafaring and its impact on Malta's society. The museum houses numerous artefacts highlighting the different epochs of Malta's history that is inadvertently tied to the sea.

The Museum aims at illustrating Malta's maritime history from prehistory to the present day and to illustrate the fascination of the sea within a Mediterranean context, without neglecting the overall global nature of seafaring.

Nowadays the museum is proud to showcase some unique artefacts including the largest known roman anchor in the world, the earliest known ex:voto on the island, the largest ship model belonging to the Order of St John, the largest collection of cannons on the island, the Napoleonic figure head of the 110 gun ship HMS Hibernia, a 1950s working marine steam engine, and a collection of 60+ boats.



The Kalkara Jewish "Slave" Cemetery

The Kalkara cemetery is the earliest surviving Jewish burial ground in Malta. The cemetery is about 30 feet by 40 feet, bounded by houses, and at the front by a retaining wall. The origins are recorded in a Latin inscription on a tablet over the door:

"This cemetery was established in 1784 by the Leghorn fund for ransoming Hebrew slaves, at its own expenses, for the burial of the dead of its race,"



Ta Braxia Jewish Cemetery

Sir Moses Montefiore, the famous Jewish philanthropist passed through Malta in 1827 on his way to Palestine and stayed on the island for a month. During his visit he asked Governor Ponsonby for a new site as a Jewish cemetery. The last was purchased by the Jewish community and belongs to them. The larger Ta' Braxia Cemetery came afterwards. The earliest identifiable grave is from 1836.

Restoration work occurred by volunteers from the Din L-Art Helwa community to clean up the land with 50 percent of the graves intact afterwards.



Shabbat Dinner at L'Chaim Restaurant

Chabad Jewish Center of Malta was established in 2013 (5773) by Rabbi Chiam Shalom and Mrs. Chaya Mushka Segel as emissaries of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

Within the Chabad there is Le'Chaim, the only strictly kosher restaurant in Malta. There is a lounge area, quality food with the option of fast foods such as falafel and sandwiches as well as Jewish reading books. Enjoy your Shabbat dinner this evening here!

Meal Inclusions

Breakfast and dinner is included on this day.

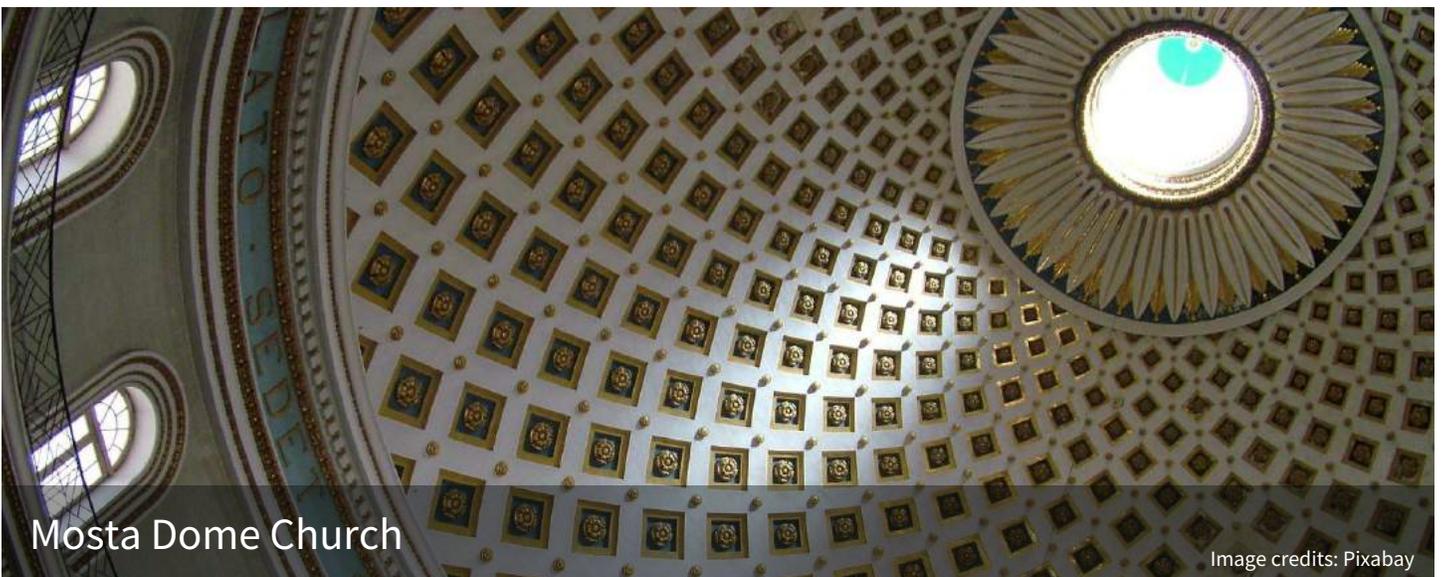
Saturday · October 13th

Afternoon Palatial Gardens (2:00PM - 6:00PM)



San Anton Palace and Gardens

The San Anton Gardens is located in Attard and is one of the most beautiful gardens in Malta with a large variety of beautiful flowers and plants. This garden has been open to the public since 1882 and it was built by Grand Master Antoine de Paule to complement his summer residence, San Anton Palace, which today is the residence of the Maltese President.



Mosta Dome Church

Image credits: Pixabay

Not just another church; this one has an interesting story on a few fronts. Construction began in 1833 and it was completed by 1860. Modeled after the Pantheon in Rome, it is the 3rd largest unsupported dome in the world behind St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's in London. However the most interesting part of its existence is something that happened on April 9th, 1942 when a German bomb was dropped on it and pierced the dome with parishioners in attendance. It did not explode. According to the locals, it was a miracle!



Palazzo Parisio - With Afternoon High Tea

The Marquis Giuseppe Scicluna bought Palazzo Parisio in 1898 and it is through him that the property received its greatest renovation, which fortunately still survives till today largely in its original form. The Marquis Scicluna, a wealthy Maltese banker and merchant; created a showcase for Maltese art which closes the eclectic style of the 19th century propagated by Italian artists on the island. The property dates further back in history and its legacy of owners add to its prestige.

Enjoy a private tour of the Palazzo, its gardens and bask in an Afternoon Tea experience.

Depart for your hotel and enjoy free downtime on own.



Birgufest Evening Outing

Tonight we will enjoy a celebration in the village of Birgu. It's Birgufest where the whole city is lit up in candles. There will be a departure from the hotel at 7:00PM with your choice of returning transfers at 8:30PM or 9:30PM. Enjoy dinner on own here.

Meal Inclusions

Breakfast and afternoon tea is included on this day.

Sunday · October 14th

Southern Malta Experience (9:00AM - 2:00PM)



The Marsa Jewish Cemetery

The Marsa Jewish cemetery was established in 1879. The first readable gravestones are from 1887 with the inscriptions in Italian being the oldest - perhaps because there was nobody to write in Hebrew. In these holy grounds lie side by side Jews who escaped from concentration camps, from Budapest or from Tunis, Oran or a German village. Learn about the prominent families of the last 100 years with a focus on the Tayar and Ohayon families.



Sunday Market and Fish Lunch in Marsaxlokk

Marsaxlokk is known for being the main fishing village of Malta as well as the best place to see the brightly painted fishing boats. Stop here a short time to learn about the village and its fishing culture. Since this is Sunday, the fish and souvenir market will be in full swing. After some time shopping and browsing, enjoy a wonderful included fish lunch.

Depart for your hotel and enjoy some free downtime before heading out for our evening experience at 4:30PM.



Band Club Culture

The Maltese band clubs have their roots in the sixteenth century when drums and flutes accompanied feasts and processions, but the idea of forming philharmonic societies started in the second part of the 19th century, under the influence of the marching bands of the British Empire. Virtually every town and village in Malta has its own parish band club some even more than one.

Today, band clubs are part of the social and cultural history of the Maltese islands, an institution of every town and village, spreading Maltese culture and teaching of music.

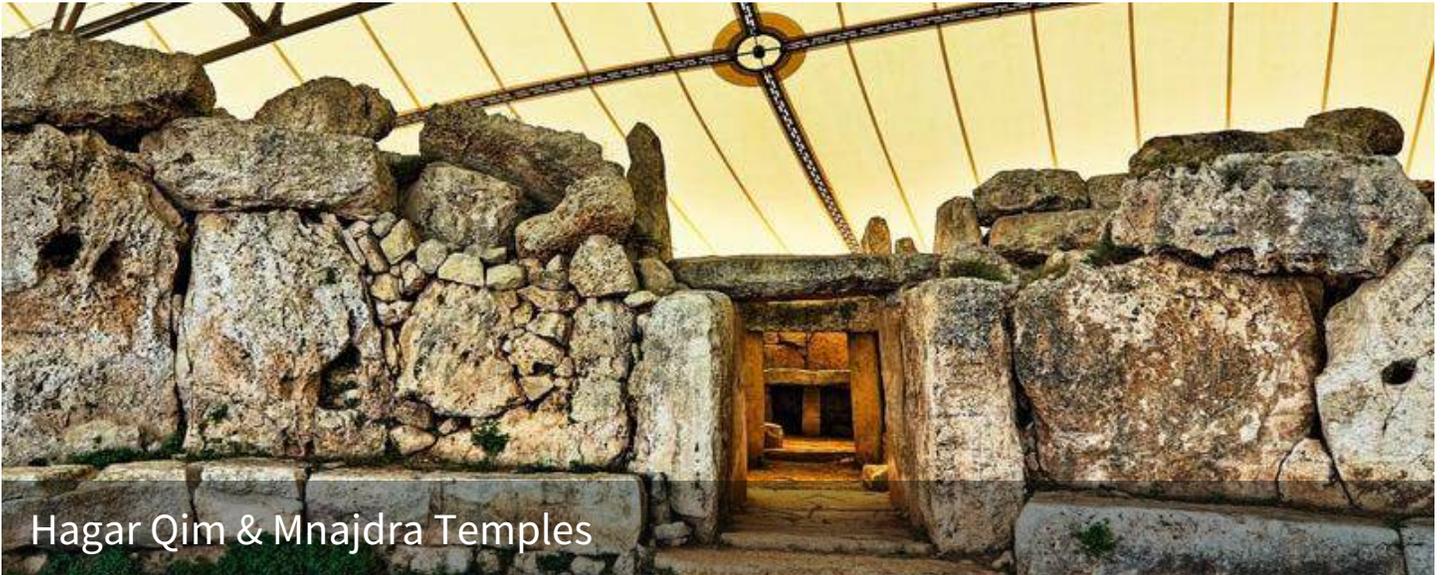
Enjoy a light traditional dinner here.

Meal Inclusions

Breakfast, lunch is included on this day.

Monday · October 15th

Western Malta and the Old Capital Region (1:00PM - 6:00PM)



Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples

Step back some 5500 years with a visit to the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temple sites. The temples were excavated in 1839 and are thought to have been built to worship a type of fertility goddess. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Blue Grotto Boat Experience

After the Temples, enjoy a boat ride through the Blue Grotto - a series of sea caverns that will highlight the beautiful waters in the area. It's a very refreshing experience!



The Dingli Cliffs

You will be treated to the spectacular views of Dingli Cliffs which are the highest point of the Maltese Islands at 253 metres above sea level. The Cliffs propose a majestic, overlooking the small terraced fields below, the open sea and Filfla & the small uninhabited island (used as target practice during the WWII).



Village of Rabat

The Arabs, during their 200 years of rule, divided the old Roman City of Melita into two: the citadel became known as Mdina and the rest of the area as Rabat. In Rabat we find St. Paul's Church and Grotto as well as the St. Paul's Catacombs. It is here where we learn the story of a shipwrecked St. Paul (Saul of Tarsus) in Malta.

The Christian, Jewish and Pagan Catacombs of St. Paul are not themselves associated with Paul but derive their name from their proximity to St. Paul's Church and Grotto. They are a fascinating labyrinth of 3rd-century AD subterranean tombs and the earliest archaeological evidence of Christianity in Malta.



Mdina - the Silent and Medieval City - Jewish Highlights

You will feel the power as you enter the Old Capital City of Mdina and fall in love with it inasmuch as the families who continue to live here. It's Malta's only medieval city with a range of architecture that includes Norman and Arabic features. If you're a Game of Thrones fan, you will recognize the main gates immediately. While inside, learn about the bustling Jewish culture of the Middle Ages where their population represented a third before the Edict of Expulsion.

Return to your host accommodations for evening and dinner on own.



Maltese Jewish Synagogue visit (Date subject to change)

Malta's only Synagogue is located in the village of Ta' Xbiex. It was consecrated in January of 2000 and is discreetly located in an apartment complex. The gold-embroidered blue velvet Ark cover was donated in 1946 in memory of two brothers, Alfonso and Menashe Reginiano (one of who was killed by a bomb in WWII). We will meet at the Synagogue with the Acting Rabbi of the Jewish community to hear stories about the community, his family and to learn about their local practices.

Meal Inclusions

Breakfast is included on this day.

Tuesday · October 16th

Gozo Island - Malta's Sicily (8:00AM - 6:30PM)



Gozo Channel Ferry

With only a 25 minute crossing from North Malta, you'll arrive at the Island of Calypso to discover the neat little gems and differences from it's sister island.



The Xwejni Salt Pans

Image credits: The Xwejni Salt Pans

Enjoy the gorgeous view from the Roman salt pans. The production of sea salt has a long tradition in Gozo and the salt pans found near Marsalforn are still used today.



The Citadella

Venture to the capital of Gozo for a leisurely walk through the village streets as we witness local people in their daily life. The Citadel or Citadella is an area known to have been first fortified during the Bronze Age and later developed by the Phoenicians and continues development until, by Roman times, it had become a complex Acropolis. Up until the 18th Century, it was the only fortified refuge against attack for the inhabitants of the island.

Furthermore, enjoy some touring of the capital's back streets to hear some of the most interesting stories related to patron saint rivalry.

Enjoy an included lunch in the capital.



Ggantija Temples

Malta is so small, yet its history is massive. No visit to Gozo is complete without being a part of a remarkable history with a visit to the oldest freestanding structure in the world - the Ggantija Temples. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is 1000 years older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids at Giza.

Depart with ferry back to Malta and this evening enjoy some free time on own.

Meal Inclusions

Breakfast and lunch is included on this day.



Departure Day

Depart from your hotel for the airport for your flight home.

Meal Inclusions

Breakfast is included on this day.

Itinerary Inclusions

- 7 night stay at the luxurious Phoenicia Hotel
- 7 Breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Airport transfers
- Expert guiding and private car service included on touring days
- Entrance to attractions indicated on the itinerary

Itinerary Exclusions

- Attractions and meals not identified in the itinerary
- Round-trip airfare and medical/travel insurance
- Gratuities for guides and drivers

Value (NET Total in Euro)

2109 Euro NET per person based on double occupancy and a minimum of 8 paid persons
Includes 1 free single based on 8 persons paid