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## 7 NIGHT FAMILY ITINERARY DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> – JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

### **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 Hilton Hotel

**Options A: Executive sea-view room with inter-connecting with Panorama Suite**

**Option B: Panoramic Suite with pull-out couch accommodations**

**Option C: Executive sea-view room with inter-connecting with a Deluxe Suite**

**Option D: 2 interconnecting Executive sea-view rooms**

The Hilton Hotel Malta has recently undergone a 15 million dollar refresh and we can't be more delighted with the result. Combining soft colours with refined and plush details throughout, the Hilton Malta has truly separated themselves from the pack. Located in St. Julians, the Hilton offers ease of access to a multitude of area restaurants, shopping and gorgeous costal walks. The hotel features 3 restaurants, 4 bars, heated indoor pool (there are outdoor ones however this is offseason). Executive room and suite bookings include access and use of their beautiful executive lounge. Pre-order your pillows and any other amenity you wish to have ready for your arrival.



**Executive Sea-View**



**Executive Sea-View (also has a shower)**



**Panorama Suite**



**Panorama Suite**



**Panorama Suite**



### **DAY 1 – Tuesday, December 27th - Arrival Day (D)**

Arrive at Malta International Airport, be met by your personal Exclusively Malta director and be transferred to your hotel, the Hilton Malta for a seamless check in. Spend time getting to know your surroundings and the hotel itself.

06:00PM – This evening enjoy dinner in St. Julians overlooking Spinola Bay

### **DAY 2- Wednesday, December 28th - Valletta Full Day Tour (B,L,D)**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel in the main restaurant room, or in the executive lounge

For your first full day in Malta, discover the magnificent capital city - Valletta. Learn about the landmark and UNESCO World Heritage city that the Knights of St. John built, boasting more than 320 monuments in a .2 square mile radius making it the most densely populated in the world . Most of the touring today will be by foot, so be prepared with comfortable walking shoes and appropriate clothing. In order to set the appropriate tone for today's touring, you will watch the Malta 5D movie. You'll feel the "real" emotions of the movie through colorful and impressive episodes of Maltese history and culture, magnified with 3D film, moving seats, water spray, air blasts and even leg ticklers! Visit the Upper Barrakka Gardens and stroll down Merchant and Republic Streets to see magnificent palaces and colorful balconies.

Lunch will be enjoyed in an old bakery that has been converted to a restaurant. Every Mediterranean country has its unique shape and form of bread. They also have their own fillings. The restaurant that you will be dining in has brought back many of the traditional flavours of Malta right under one roof. The best part of the lunch is that your family will partake in the creation of the meal!

The last and arguably most important site in Valletta is St. John's Co-Cathedral – the Church of the Knights of St. John. Inside you will discover a treasure trove of magnificent art and the opulence of the vaulted ceilings and tombstone flooring. It is here that perhaps the most famous work of art of famed artist Caravaggio is displayed - "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist" – which is his only signed piece in the world.

Arrive back at your hotel to relax and refresh for an evening on a racing sailboat. Meet your driver and depart for the Msida Harbour. Your 47.7 Beneteau racer cruiser has all the luxuries of a modern cruiser coupled with a hull design and sail configuration of a competitive racer; in other words she is comfortable and fast. Dinner will be served on board.

### **DAY 3 – Thursday, December 29th - Central and Western Malta (B,L)**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel.

Our first visit today will be at the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple builders have left their significant mark on the island with a multitude of temple sites. First excavated in 1839, the remains suggest a date between 3600 and 3200 BC, a period known as the Ggantija phase in Maltese prehistory. Close by is the Blue Grotto where numerous sea caverns exist. We'll get a bird eye view of it and then venture down for a closer look by boat!



A culinary highlight on your trip includes an interactive farm experience to include a farmer's lunch - utilizing what has been collected from the farms that you visit. Malta has this saying when it comes to farm to table meals - "Zero Kilometers" since ultimately what is grown in most regions is consumed within a kilometer radius or less!

Return to the hotel for free time or other activities as planned by your Exclusively Malta director.

**DAY 4 – Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – Free Morning with Rabat and Mdina evening (B,D)**

This afternoon, visit Rabat and Mdina. 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 you 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 in Malta. The 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. A special stop is included for a taste of the famed pastizzi snack at arguably the most famous pastizzeria on the Maltese Islands

An authentic treat awaits you as we enter the Old City, Mdina, also known as the Silent City. Climb aboard a horse-drawn carriage for a unique tour of this medieval city. You will fall in love with Mdina inasmuch as the families who continue to live here throughout their generations. Enjoy an included dinner within Mdina's walls.

**DAY 5 – Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – The Dingli Cliffs & Countryside Walk (B,L)**

This morning after breakfast, you'll venture out to the Western coast of Malta to meet your guide for a pleasant countryside walk to hear about local traditions along the route. Lunch will be served in a farm to table restaurant located at the Cliffs.

Return to the hotel to enjoy some down time before heading out for an exciting evening in Valletta. Valletta at New Years Eve. Alternatively, you may wish to enjoy New Years at the hotel which includes a gala dinner and celebrations.

**DAY 6 – Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Years Day (B)**

Relax this morning and enjoy an included brunch at the hotel. Take the rest of the day to enjoy some downtime and strolling around the area.

**DAY 7 - Monday, January 2nd - Gozo Island (B,L)**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel

Depart your hotel with private guide for the island of Gozo for the day. The crossing from Northern Malta to Gozo is 25 minutes on ferry. On this day, you will discover Gozo's splendour. Your first stop will be at 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.



After this you'll 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 18<sup>th</sup> Century, it was the only fortified refuge against attack for the inhabitants of the island. Lunch will be enjoyed at an Exclusively Malta favorite.

Your first visit of the afternoon will be to a cave that was discovered underneath a home and is called Xerri's Grotto. This cave was found by a man called Anthony Xerri a local resident who was digging a well under this private home. It was discovered in 1923. During World War II the cave was extended for the use as a shelter for the family to prevent them from any air raid. Going down from a ten meters spiral staircase which is the original well shaft you will be amazed from the stalactites and stalagmites some of which look like a tortoise, giraffe and elephant's ear. Other formations are a result of twisted tree roots.

Your last stop of the day will be to Dreams of Horses Farm whose mission is to inspire people to advance their highest potential by incorporating horses into therapeutic and learning programs. Owner Victor's intuitive gift of communicating with rescued animals will amaze you.

Arrive back to the hotel to enjoy dinner on own.

#### **DAY 8 – Tuesday, January 3rd - Depart Malta (B)**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. Depart early morning or mid-afternoon for your flight back home

#### **Inclusions:**

- 7 night stay at the Hilton Hotel
- 7 full breakfasts, 4 lunches , and 3 dinners
- Attractions as outlined in the itinerary
- Private guiding and private car service where noted
- Airport Transfers
- All taxes
- Gratuities for private guide and drivers

#### **Exclusions:**

- Roundtrip air to Malta
- Attractions and meals not outlined in the itinerary
- Medical Insurance



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damon Camilleri Allan'.

Damon Camilleri Allan  
Chief Travel Designer