

## A Taste of Malta: Marsaxlokk & Wine Tasting



Approximately 4 Hours



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Enjoyed it?



5 out of 5

Value



5 out of 5

2 out of 2(100%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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Board your coach, which will take you southeast to **Marsaxlokk fishing village** with colorful *luzzu* fishing boats bobbing about. Browse in the **market** selling local handicrafts, or relax in one of the many waterfront cafés. Marsaxlokk Harbour was where the Turks arrived in 1565 at the start of the Great Siege, and where Napoleon and his troops landed in 1798, ending the Knights' rule on the island. Proceed to **Ta' Qali' Winery** and head to the **Upper Terrace** (weather-permitting) for a breathtaking view over the vineyards, the city of Mdina and the Mosta Dome. Hear about the vines, planting methods and other details; then, enjoy **wine tasting** with some **local cheese and crackers**. Re-board your coach for a short drive to the nearby **glass-blowing factory**. Watch the process involved in producing glass items of different shapes and sizes. The founder's daughter will explain the different steps of the process. Return to the ship via the coastal road.

## Legacy of the Knights



Approximately 4 Hours



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The Knights of St John came to Malta in 1530 and stayed for 268 years, transforming what they called "merely a rock of soft sandstone" into a flourishing island with mighty defense and a capital city coveted by the great powers of Europe. They settled in **Vittoriosa**, across the harbor from Valletta. **Walk** through Vittoriosa's narrow streets shaded by age-old buildings, including the early Auberges of the Knights, the hospital, the armory, the Treasury and palaces connected with the Order's administration. Re-join your coach for a short drive; then follow your guide on a **walking tour** of Valletta. Walk past the Auberge de Castille et Leon, situated at the uppermost part of Valletta. View the Girolamo Cassar built it in 1574, used for many years as the headquarters of the British Army. It was damaged in World War II and reconstructed; it is now the official residence of the Prime Minister. Stop at the **Barrakka Gardens**, which are located on the highest point on the 16th-century bastion walls that the Knights of St John built to protect the city of Valletta. From here you have an incomparable panoramic view of the Grand Harbour, which was the stage for the Great Siege of 1565, when the Knights bravely fought off the Turkish invaders. Walk up **Republic Street** to view the Grand Master's Palace from the outside—it now houses both the Parliament and the President's Office—and past St John's Co-Cathedral, where many Knights and Grand Masters found their final resting place. Elaborate marble tombstones and monumental artwork adorn their burial places and remind visitors of their grand past. At the end of the tour, you will have **free time** to visit (on your own) one of the many sites related to the Knights which your guide will have pointed out during your walking tour.

## Malta Scenic Drive



Approximately 3 Hours



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Board your coach for a **panoramic tour** and head towards the southeast of Malta, passing through the picturesque fishing village of Marsaxlokk. Napoleon is said to have landed here, but nowadays it is famous for its quaint harbor full of colorful *luzzu* fishing boats. At Zurrieq, you will view the Blue Grotto from a lookout point. Admire the tiny rock island of Filfla—a bird sanctuary that forms part of the breathtaking panorama. Proceed north, through rural and agricultural areas and past Mdina, Malta’s old capital. Leaving the interior of the island and approaching the coastline, you will pass through St Paul’s Bay and Xemxija Bay before turning back toward the ship via the coastal road. You can spot St Paul’s Island just a short distance off shore, where the apostle Paul was shipwrecked in AD 60. He converted the islanders to Christianity and this is still the predominant religion on Malta to this day.

Notes:

This tour is ideal for those with walking difficulties or those who prefer less walking, and for those who simply want a relaxed overview of the island.

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## Malta's Capitals Old & New



Approximately 4½ Hours



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Enjoyed it?



4 out of 5

Value



3.5 out of 5

3 out of 4(75%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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Take the scenic route to Malta's old capital, **Mdina**—one of the world's finest examples of a living medieval city. **Stroll** through the city's narrow streets and let your guide introduce you to Mdina's history and provide an orientation to the town itself. From the bastions, enjoy the fantastic view over the valley and the surrounding areas. After your walking tour, take advantage of some **free time** to visit either the cathedral or another historic site pointed out by your guide. There is also the option of **souvenir shopping**. Ride by motor coach to **Valletta**—the present-day capital. You'll **walk** to St John's Co-Cathedral and view this lovely building from the outside. Also, view the Grand Master's Palace from the outside—it now houses the Parliament and the President's Office. Use your **free time** to either visit St John's Co-Cathedral, or for shopping, or simply relax at one of the sidewalk cafés and watch the world go by, Malta-style. Walk past the Auberge de Castille—the office of the Prime Minister—and your last stop is at the **Barrakka Gardens**, located on the highest point of the 16th-century walls that the Knights of St John built to protect their city. Take in the splendid view of the Three Cities and Fort Ricasoli.

Notes:

St John's Co-Cathedral is closed on Sundays and public holidays.

### Malta's Mysterious Megaliths



Approximately 3½ Hours



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This excursion showcases the **archaeology of Malta**—long associated with pre-historic, megalithic structures that date back 6,000 years. The megalithic temples of Malta are among the most ancient religious sites on Earth, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** described as ‘unique architectural masterpieces.’ First, visit **Hagar Qim’s shrine to Mother Earth** and view a short **audio-visual presentation** in the visitor center. Next, proceed to the temple site. From here you can see the Mnajdra Temples, 500 yards away and closer to the sea. You will also visit the **Archaeological Museum in Valletta**. This building was once the Auberge de Provence, built in 1575, and now houses an important collection of archaeological finds from all over the island.

### Medieval Mdina & Mosta



Approximately 4 Hours



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Enjoyed it?



5 out of 5

Value



5 out of 5

**4** out of **4** (100%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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Take the **scenic route** across the island with a stop to see a **glass-blowing demonstration** at Malta's crafts village. Then, you're headed to Malta's old capital, **Mdina**—a living medieval city. **Stroll** through the city's streets and enjoy the fantastic view from the bastions. Visit the **cathedral** before a short drive to **Mosta**. Mosta's dome is the fourth-largest unsupported dome in the world. During World War II, a bomb pierced the dome and landed, unexploded, in the **church**—don't miss the replica of the bomb, which is housed in the sacristy today. Admire the panoramic views of Malta en route back to Valletta.

Notes:

The Mosta Church is closed on Saturday afternoons; you will view it from the outside only. Tour does not operate on Sundays or holidays.

### Off the Beaten Track: Malta Safari by 4-Wheel-Drive



Approximately 4½ Hours



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See parts of Malta rarely visited by tourists on an action-packed adventure full of scenic beauty and fun. Your driver will proceed directly to the north of Malta to **Mellieha**. See the **Red Tower** built by the Knights and take in the **panoramic view** over the Maltese Islands.

Visit **Popeye Village** where the original *Popeye* movie was shot, and Golden Bay, more recently made famous by Brad Pitt in the shooting of the film *Troy*. Stop here for **aswim** (weather-permitting). Proceed to Fomm ir-Rih and the **Dingli Cliffs**, where sloping terrain, dotted with tiny cultivated plots, ends sharply on the edge of steep cliffs that drop straight into the sea.

Notes:

Wear your swimsuit under your clothes; bring a towel. Due to vehicle capacity and configuration, there may be some separation of guests in larger groups.

### Soprano at the Chapel of the Valletta Waterfront



Approximately 1½ hours



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Leave the ship on foot in the company of your guide for a five-minute **walk** to the **Tal Harba Chapel**, situated on the Valletta waterfront. This small chapel is beautifully detailed. The style of the façade is definitively Baroque, and it is carefully adapted to not be dominated by the adjacent large warehouses, façades and restaurants. The Maltese architect, Andrea Belli (1703-1772) ensured that the narrow façade of this chapel included all the typical elements of a larger church façade—two bell towers, imposing cornices and sumptuous Baroque detailing, making for a tiny-mighty street presence. The cartouche and the high window assembly in particular highlight the architect's finesse. The chapel's interior is domed and the altar nave is a

true high Baroque masterpiece. Once inside, take a seat and enjoy a 20-minute **concert performance** by a talented **soprano and three musicians**. The maximum capacity of the chapel is 40, so the performance is intimate. Upon completion of the mini-concert guests, enjoy a **glass of Prosecco** outside the chapel. **Walk** back to the ship with your guide or remain at the waterfront and enjoy one of the many coffee shops or bars. Guests who wish to stay in town for a while are welcome to do so, but must return to the ship on their own.

### The Malta Experience & Panorama



Approximately 4½ Hours



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Watch the **Malta Experience** in Valletta—a 45-minute movie presentation of Malta's history. Then, set out on a scenic drive to see as much as possible of this island that traces its history back 6,000 years. You'll head towards the southeast and pass through the **picturesque fishing village of Marsaxlokk** with its quaint harbor, and colorful *luzzu* fishing boats. Proceed to a **19th-century home** for a **refreshment**. The villa has spacious interiors and also gardens that create a haven of tranquility. The design comprised of a blend of styles that are classic yet contemporary—a casual ambience in elegant surroundings. You will sample some of the delicious **local delicacies** including cheese and pea cakes, *galletti* and *gbejniet*.

Notes:

Depending upon group size, the visit to Marsaxlokk may be replaced by a visit to Birzebugia.

## Transfer to Mdina



Approximately 3½ Hours



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This **transfer** may suit you if you would like to **explore Mdina on your own**. It consists of a motor coach ride from the ship to the city. You will be dropped off at a central location, and the coach escort will advise you of the pick-up time for the return journey. Mdina is the oldest city on the island of Malta, and a walk through the city's narrow and silent streets evokes another era. Its history dates back to pre-historic times and the town is relatively untouched by modern development.

Notes:

Guide service, taxi transfers, entrance fees and lunch are not included in the transfer price. It will be your responsibility to be at the drop-off point at the given return time.

## Transfer to Valletta



Approximately 4 Hours



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This **transfer** may suit you if you would like to **explore Valletta on your own**. It consists of a motor coach ride from the ship to the city.

You will be dropped off at one of two central locations (the Mediterranean Conference Centre or at Castille Palace), and the coach escort will advise you of the pick-up time for the return journey.

Notes:

Guide service, taxi transfers, entrance fees and lunch are not included in the transfer price. It will be your responsibility to be at the drop-off point at the given return time.

### Valletta Private Touring - Full Day (Car)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

### Valletta Private Touring - Full Day (Minibus)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Notes:

Private minibuses are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-

speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

### Valletta Private Touring - Full Day (Minivan)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the

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### Valletta Private Touring - Half Day (Car)



Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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## Valletta Private Touring - Half Day (Minibus)



Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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## Valletta Private Touring - Half Day (Minivan)



Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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## Vittoriosa by Dghajsa & on Foot



Approximately 3½ Hours



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From the pier it's just a short walk to board a traditional **Maltese boat** called a *dghajsa*. Once aboard, you will cross the harbor that drew Carthaginians and Swabians, Hapsburgs and Aragonese, Romans and Britons to form a nation. Disembark at the **Vittoriosa** jetty for a **walking tour** through this fascinating and ancient city. View the Victory Monument recalling the Great Siege of 1565, and pass the Maritime Museum. The building is housed in the old Naval Bakery that was built over the site of an old slipway where the Knights used to repair their ships. This amazing setting is the perfect metaphor for the layers upon layers of history that comprise the nation of Malta. Your guide will point out some buildings that housed the Knights of Malta. Visit the **Inquisitor's Palace**—an architectural gem—and see Fort St Angelo. This was the Knights' most impressive fortress. The **Freedom Monument** commemorates the departure of the last British Forces from Malta in 1979. Return to the *dghajsa* for the ride back to Valletta.