



# Island of the Knights: Malta

A PRIVATE TRAVEL JOURNEY WITH COX & KINGS

Valletta • Gozo

## TOUR DETAILS

5 Days / 4 Nights

2011 Price

\$ 2815 per person, double occupancy

\$ 1425 single supplement

*Optional:* Seaplane flight: \$ 195 per person

*Holiday supplement may apply*

*Prices Subject to change*



## WHAT'S INCLUDED

All hotel accommodations as noted

Breakfast daily

All drives, transfers and sightseeing by private car and driver

Services of a Cox & Kings Tour Escort/Guide throughout

Entrance fees for all historical sights and museums

Assistance and portorage at airports & hotels

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

International air travel. Travel insurance

Excess baggage fees. Airport departure taxes

All other meals. Visa fees

Personal items and alcoholic beverages

Gratuities for local Escort/guide, driver, hotel services

**MALTA is located at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, midway between Africa and Europe. The island offers more than 7000 years of history and your tour will span the millennia. Delve into the islands mysterious prehistory, retrace the footsteps of St. Paul and see where the Knights of St. John defended Christendom. Wherever you go, the island scenery and architecture provide a spectacular backdrop. The colors are striking. Honey-colored stone against the deepest of Mediterranean blues. You will stay at the stunning 17<sup>th</sup> century Relaix & Chateaux Xara Palace hotel, located in the walled city of Mdina.**

### Day One Arrival Malta

On arrival in Malta and following customs & immigration formalities and baggage collection you will be transferred to your palace/hotel, located in the ancient Mdina.

### Xara Palace Hotel, Panaromic view room

### Day Two Day trip to Valletta B

Valletta, Malta's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a living experience of Baroque architecture built by the Knights of St. John nearly five centuries ago. Your visits today include the majestic St. John's Co-Cathedral and the adjoining Oratory housing a treasure of priceless paintings, its



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most famous being Caraviaggio's 'The Beheading of St. John. Continue to the Grandmaster's Palace, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century with its staterooms, Flemish tapestries and impressive Armoury, one of the largest collections of its kind in the world. From here visit Casa Rocca Piccola, a 16<sup>th</sup> century nobleman's home recently opened to the public and featuring a beautiful collection of furniture, silver and paintings obtained over a 400 year period. This palace offers the visitor a unique insight into Malta's nobility. Onto the Upper Barakka gardens that provide a stunning view of Malta's Grand Harbor set against the imposing historic bastions, often described as the most beautiful natural harbor in the Mediterranean. This afternoon proceed to the three cities built by the Knights before they established themselves in Valetta. Cross the harbor by 'Dghajsa' a traditional Maltese boat and enjoy a stroll around Birgu and admire the many beautiful Churches, Palazzos and monuments, all evident of a rich historical past.

**Day Three Prehistoric Malta B**

Malta has a very rich history, going back to pre-historic times. Many unique temples from the pre-historic age can still be found on the islands of Malta and Gozo. Recent research has shown the earliest Neolithic sites in Malta are older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids. We visit Tarxien Temples dating back to 2400 B.C, the Temples of Hagar Qim and Ghar Dalam. A visit to the Hypogeum hal salfieni, the oldest underground dwelling in the world follows. The Hypogeum is an enormous subterranean structure excavated c. 2500 B.C., using cyclopean rigging to lift huge blocks of coralline limestone. Perhaps originally a sanctuary, it became a necropolis in prehistoric times. Onto the fishing village, Marsaxlokk and then to the Palazzo Parisio described as 'a miniature Versailles'. Palazzo Parisio originally the home of the Marquis Sciciluna, is a historic palace at the heart of the Maltese village of Naxxar. You will enjoy tea in the baroque styled landscaped garden. From here return to Rabat and the Domus Romana, a recently restored Roman villa displaying exquisite mosaics found at the sight.

**Day Four Gozo B, L**

Early departure for a full day visit to the island of Gozo. (ferryboat ride from Malta to the island of Gozo) Visit the Azure window, the Temples of Ggantija, 2800 B.C said to be one of the earliest free standing structure in the world, the bays of Xlendi and Marsalforn, and the villages of Gharb and Sannat. Visit Calypso's cave, mentioned in Homer's

Odysseus and legend has that this is where Odysseus was a prisoner of love for seven years. Lunch at the ta' Rikardu restaurant housed in an 11th century Norman farmhouse situated within the Citadella, serving a typical Gozitan meal. Late afternoon reboard your ferry and return to your hotel.

*OPTIONAL: Enjoy a seaplane flight from Valletta port to Gozo.*

**Day Five Malta-Home B**

Today transfer to the Airport and board your flight home.

**End of Tour Arrangements**

**Please Note: No visa is required for Americans visiting Malta.**

**Suggested Extensions:**

- Tunisia
- Libya
- Egypt
- Syria

For information on this or our other tours to Africa, the Indian Oceans Islands, Asia & the Pacific, India & Beyond, Latin America, Arabia & Northern Africa please phone us at 800-999-1758, or email us at: [tours@coxandkingsusa.com](mailto:tours@coxandkingsusa.com) or log on to our website at: [www.coxandkingsusa.com](http://www.coxandkingsusa.com)

