

## Liberty Malta “In the Footsteps of St. Paul” Malta & Gozo

*In the year 60 AD, the galleon in which Paul the Apostle was being taken to Rome as a prisoner awaiting trial, ran aground on the shores of Malta. From the seed St. Paul planted during his three month stay came forth one of the most unique Catholic cultures in the world.*

### PROGRAMME

#### Day 1 Arrival Malta

.....Group arrives at Malta International Airport on Flight.... The group will be met by our representative, who will assist them to the coach/Minibus, for direct transfer to Hotel. Luggage will be transported on same coach.

Upon arrival at hotel, the group will be offered a non-alcoholic welcome drink followed by check-in

#### Day 2 Valletta Tour

*Duration: 8 hours*



**Valletta** was built by the French Grand Master of the Order of St. John, Jean Parisot de la Vallette, after the epic siege of 1565. It dominates, in one wide sweep, the island's historic Grand Harbour – the first natural port in Europe. Within its limited boundaries is reflected some of Malta's rich heritage of archaeology, history, art and culture. In the words of Disraeli it is a "city of palaces built by gentlemen for gentlemen".

**09.00 hr s- Group departs hotel accompanied by a licensed guide and proceed to Valletta to visit the following sites:**

**Upper Barracca Gardens-** These command a magnificent view of the Grand Harbour and the Three Cities.

**St. Johns Co-Cathedral-** This was formerly the conventual church of the Order built by Gerolamo Cassar and completed in 1578. Once built, the Knights lavished adornments in their langues chapels most of which are real treasure of art. Here one finds the most important painting that Caravaggio made in Malta as well as one of his most extraordinary creations, for many it is his greatest masterpiece – The Beheading of St. John the Baptist.

**The Grand Master's Palace** – With its exquisite halls, State rooms and Armoury which has a collection of weapons and armour of the knights

**St. Paul's Shipwreck Church** – One of the oldest churches in Valletta, built to commemorate St. Paul's shipwreck on the island. The church has two very important religious relics – a wrist bone of St. Paul and a piece of the column on which he was beheaded

**16.00 hrs - Malta Experience** – Multivision Show depicting over 7000 years of Maltese history  
Afterwards depart Valletta and transfer to the selected hotel.

### Day 3 Tour to Mosta, Rabat & Mdina

Duration: 8 hours



09.00 hr s- Group departs hotel accompanied by a licensed guide for a full day tour. Drive to Mosta to visit the Church, its dome is the third largest in Europe. Proceed to Rabat to visit St. Paul's church and St. Paul's Grotto. Afterwards proceed to visit St. Paul's Catacombs  
Some time at leisure

In the afternoon the group will proceed to the medieval city of Mdina  
We will explore the old city, the quaint alleys and narrow streets, ancient buildings and admire the far reaching magnificent views from the high bastion walls. During our tour of Mdina we will also take a look at the beautiful cathedral which is also dedicated to St. Paul and is believed to stand on the site originally occupied by the residence of Publius, the Governor who became the first Bishop of Malta.  
Afterwards they will pass by Buskett Gardens to Dingli Cliffs, the highest point on the island  
17.00 hr s- Return to Hotel

### Day 4 Tour to Temples, Blue Grotto & Marsaxklokk

Duration: 8 hours



**09.00 hrs** – Group departs hotel in a coach accompanied by a licensed guide and proceed to visit the south. The group will visit the following sites:

Hagar Qim - These temples were excavated in 1839. It stands on high ground overlooking the sea and is unique among the Maltese temples.

Blue Grotto – Lying beyond the cliffs of Wied iz-Zurrieq, it can only be reached by sea. The group will take small fishing boats to visit the grotto.

Proceed to Marsaxlokk- The Fishing Village - Fishing is the principal industry of this village. Its charm lies in the soft blending of colours: the brightly coloured house-fronts reflected in the bay. the gaily painted fishing boats

Time at Leisure

In the afternoon the group will proceed to visit Ghar Dalam - This 144 metre long natural cave has remains of animals dating back to the glacial period. The massive stalagmites and stalactites reveal its antiquity.

17.00 hrs – Return to hotel

## Day 5 Tour to Gozo

Duration: 9 hours



08.00 hrs - Group departs hotel in an air conditioned coach accompanied by a licensed guide to the North of the island Cirkewwa for the ferry crossing to the Island of Gozo. After a twenty-minute crossing, on setting foot in Gozo you will notice that although both islands are similar in history and development, Gozo has a character entirely of its own. Gozo which is a three hilled island, is greener and more picturesque than Malta.

In Gozo the group will visit the following sites:

Ggantija Prehistoric Temples – The magnificent temple complex on the Xaghara Plateau consisting of a 5-apsed and a 4-apsed temple and a large forecourt. The sheer size and height of the standing walls makes them the most impressive of the Maltese temples.

Ta Pinu Church

Dwejra – Also known as the Inland sea and window, the delightful bay encompasses Fungus Rock, A crater-like depression forms the Inland Sea, a land locked fishermen's harbour. An impressive rock formation of mostly shell fossils – the Azure Window forms an archway over the Sea.

Proceed to Victoria – Gozo's Capital city and main centre of trade is also known as Rabat. Victoria also features a citadel and suburb, located inland. The citadel hill which dominates the town was occupied by the Arabs and later enlarged by the Normans. The Knights of St. John formed the present town. The citadel commands views of the whole island.

Lunch in a local restaurant

In the afternoon the group will proceed to Xlendi – The land locked bay, lies at the foot of the fertile valley under towering cliffs, has a character of its own. It is still a fishing hamlet and a tower guards the bay.

16.30 hrs - Return Ferry to Malta

## Day 6 Tour to St. Paul's Islands, Mellieha & Attard

Duration: 8 hours



Day 6 continued...

09.00 hrs – Board coach accompanied by a licensed guide for a full day tour. Transfer by “luzzu” ( Maltese fishing boat) to St. Paul’s islands and vice versa. – St. Paul was shipwrecked on these islands. Proceed to Mellieha to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady – According to very old tradition, the highly venerated sanctuary was blessed by St. Paul the Apostle.

Proceed on a panoramic tour towards Popeye Village and Golden Bay

Afterwards to Ta Qali Crafts Village and visit also the Mdina Glass factory . Some time at Leisure

In the afternoon drive to Attard to visit San Anton Gardens, the botanic gardens that surround the palace of the president

17.00 hrs – Return to hotel

## Day 7 Tour to Three Cities & Harbour Cruise

*Duration: 8 hours*



09.00hrs – The group departs hotel accompanied by a licensed guide for a full day tour.

Discover the historical area known as the three cities: Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua. A drive past Cospicua will bring the group to Vittoriosa where they will walk through the various narrow streets shaded by many historic buildings and churches.

The group will also visit St. Lawrence Church.

Proceed to Senglea and then to Sliema

Some time at leisure

14.45 hrs board the Captain Morgan boat for the Harbour Cruise.

A detailed commentary will unfold the history of Valletta and the Three Cities connected with two Great Sieges of 1565 and 1942, as well as the other places of interest including the historical forts, battlements and creeks which can only be admired from the sea.

17.00 hrs – Return to Hotel.

## Day 8 Departure

Group will depart the Maltese Islands by a 53 x seater coach which will transfer them to Malta International Airport accompanied by Liberty Representative.

Group departs Malta on .....