

Malta + Gozo: Walking the Maltese Archipelago 2017

SOLD OUT

Toronto	October 05	LH 471 L	depart:	18:25
Frankfurt	October 06		arrive:	08:00
Frankfurt	October 06	LH1276 L	depart:	09:20
Malta			arrive:	11:45

Friday, October 6 Arrival at Luqa Airport, Malta. Transfer to our hotel in Mellieha. Hotel check-in and a few hours to rest and relax. Before dinner, a short introductory walk through the town will familiarize us with our immediate surroundings. Our accommodation for the next seven six (6) nights will be at the Solana Hotel & Spa. Dinner at 19:00 (D)

Saturday, October 7 Depart hotel: 08:45. Visit to Mosta Church, the 3rd latest dome in the world. (40 minutes). Our first walk features Marsascala to the fishing Village of Marsaxloxx Bay. Distance 14 kilometres allowing 4.5 hours walking. This coastal walk from the town of Marsascala to Marsaxloxx is a wonderful introduction to walking in Malta along her picturesque coastal path-ways. From ancient salt pans to sculptured cliff faces we marvel at the turquoise waters that pound Malta's shorelines. In the fishing village of Marsaxloxx (weather providing) we could dine at one of the many cafes that face the harbour where fresh fish for lunch may mean fish that was caught that morning. We bring our packed lunch as a back-up and there are places to sit and enjoy the activities of this busy harbour. Bring snacks. Return in the late afternoon to our hotel for the dinner and evening. (B, L, D)

Sunday, October 8 Depart 08:45. Xemxija to Mellieha Bay (Solana Hotel), via Mistra Bay. Distance is 15 kilometres allowing 5-6 hours walking. Walking along the Xemxija Heritage Trail we will start our day in a intense area of historic sites walking on a Roman road, visiting Roman baths, walking by Punic tomb-sites and finally placing our feet in the distinctive stone age cart ruts. This is a remote hike that will lead us to Mgiebah Bay where a reddish sandy beach will greet us. Bring a swimsuit. Along the trail we will pass by an active but ancient (probably Roman) apiary and walk by the historic St. Paul's Island. We will walk past Selmun Palace, a Knights hunting lodge. Packed lunch included. Return to our hotel and an open evening for individual exploration. (B, L)

Monday, October 9 Depart hotel: 08:45. Tour of Valletta, Malta's capital city. Sightseeing 4-hour walking tour conducted by a Maltese Certified Tourist Guide. Valletta is Europe's first planned city built during the 16th century under the guidance and rule of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Valletta houses many fine museums; baroque buildings and massive fortifications surround the city. Tour members may choose to remain in Valletta for additional sightseeing, shopping or dinner. Your tour manager will assist you in arranging a return by taxi, mini-bus taxi, or public transportation. Maltese public buses are an interesting cultural experience. An open evening. (B)

Tuesday, October 10 Depart hotel: 08:45. Dingle Cliffs to Mnajdra/Hagar Qim Temples. Distance of 14 kilometres over a gentle descent. 4/5 hours walking. Packed lunch included. Tickets included for prehistoric sites. Stunning and mesmerizing cliff faces welcome our group today. We start the walk from the chapel of Saint Mary Magdalene, close to the highest point in Malta and end at the Neolithic temples of Mnajdra and Hagar Qim. At the end of the walk, up to 2 hours is allotted for us to visit the temples. After the temples we will be driven to the Blue Grotto. As an option and time and weather permitting you may wish to take a 20-minute boat tour to visit the fascinating sea caves that dot this coastline. (B, L)

Wednesday October 11 Depart hotel: 08:45. Golden Bay to Cirkewwa. Distance: 12 kilometers, 5 hours walking time. Packed lunch. This West Coast Trail of Malta is the favourite of our tour manger Charles. The walk starts from the sandy beach of Golden Bay and winds through one of Malta's nature reserves, Majjistral National Park. We will see wonderful views of Gozo, cliff faces, panoramic vistas, and hand built stone huts dotting the trail. We will also visit a Roman apiary. On the lighter side of things, we will eat lunch at the top of Popeye Village, a stage village constructed for the 1980 movie Popeye. Return by bus at 15:30 from the parking lot at Paradise Bay. Participants will be encouraged to have all of their packing

completed by end of day for baggage transfer to Gozo on Tuesday. (B, L, D) Farewell dinner at Tosca on the hotel premises.

Thursday October 12 This is the day we will move from the main Island of Malta to the smaller sister Island, Gozo. All baggage is to be prepared prior to the morning departure. Bring your bags to the lobby and they will be held in a secure area for pickup after the final days' tour on the main island.

Depart hotel: 08:45 to Rabat and Mdina. In Rabat we will visit St. Paul's Catacombs. The Apostle Paul was shipwrecked in Malta on his way to Rome. Mdina, the old capital of Malta is an architectural dream. We cross into Mdina on a bridge through a classical archway with a magnificent mantle perched on its top. It is a medieval walled town built on a high ridge in the centre of Malta. Participants will have six (6) hours to explore this city and to have lunch. After Mdina and collecting our luggage from the hotel, the bus will take us to the Port of Cirkewwa for the 30-minute ferry crossing to Mgarr Harbour, Gozo. The Grand Hotel, our home for the next four nights, is about one kilometre uphill from the port. We will be met at the ferry for the short "up-hill" transfer OR walk to the hotel. Luggage will be transported. (B, D)

Friday October 13 Depart hotel: 08:45. Xewkija to Xlendi (Gozo). Distance: 12 kilometers 4 to 5 hours walking. Packed lunch is provided by the hotel. Today we will start our walk by the majestic church of St. John the Baptist in the main square of Xewkija. Shortly we will arrive and walk beside the picturesque, deep and unspoiled valley of Mgarr ix-Xini (Valley of the Sow). Panoramic views and pre-histories features surround our walk along the exhilarating, breath-taking, high cliffs of Ta'Saguna. We will end our walk in Xlendi where we will enjoy a local brew of beverage. Transfer back to our hotel with a stop-over at the Azure Window and Inland Sea at Dwejra. Transportation from Xlendi at about 15:30. Travel to the Azure Window for a 30 to 40 minute stop and then back to hotel. (B, L, D)

Saturday October 14 This is a day of exploration and sightseeing and not a hiking day. Depart hotel 09.30. Ggantija Temples and Victoria. The Ggantija Temples are considered to be Malta's oldest freestanding pre-historic structures dating back to 3600 BC. The largest of the megaliths are more than five metres in length and weigh over fifty tons. We will allocate 90 minutes to visit this site. Transfer to the capital Victoria/Rabat. All roads in Gozo lead to Victoria. We will visit the recently, 2016, renovated Citadel. For centuries the Citadel served as a sanctuary from attacks by Barbary corsairs and Saracens. At several times during Gozo's history these raiders enslaved the local people. Our tour ends in Victoria. Victoria is a great medieval town to explore. Visit its markets, churches, narrow streets, shops, museums and cafes. Public transportation to the hotel. (B, D)

Sunday October 15 Depart hotel: 08:45. Gharb (Chapel of Madonna Taz-Zejt) to Marsalforn Bay. Distance: 12 kilometers 5 hours walking. Packed lunch is provided by the hotel. Highlights today include the 1805 St. Dimitri Chapel, yellow wind-sculpted landscapes, a rock window forming a bridge over a fjord like inlet, active salt-pans, and the holiday town of Marsalforn. Bus back to our hotel with a pick-up at 15:00. (B, L, D)

Monday, October 16 Depart hotel (Time to be advised) for the return ferry to Malta. We will be met and have transport (with our luggage) down the hill to the ferry. Upon arrival in Malta a mini-bus will transport us to Luqa Airport for our final departure home OR individual extensions are available (B)

Malta	October 16	LH 1977 K	depart:	12:20
Munich			arrive:	14:40
Munich	October 16	LH 494 K	depart:	15:55
Toronto			arrive:	18:55

Travellers may elect to return with the group or extend and travel independently following the tour. To adhere to the requirements of the group contract, a limited number of extensions are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Terms and Conditions

Tour cost p.p.	\$3,325 Canadian
Single Surcharge:	\$325 Canadian – request basis only
Land only cost p.p.:	\$2,275 Canadian
Deposit Requirement:	\$750 Canadian per person
Final payment due:	July 31, 2017
Cancellation penalties:	
From date of booking to July 30	loss of deposit paid
From final payment date to departure	100% non-refundable

In the event that we are able to find a replacement from wait-lists or other requests received for the land tour between date of booking and 31-days prior to date of departure, a flat \$50.00 p.p. administration charge will be assessed. Within 31-days prior, we regret that all payments become non-refundable with or without a replacement. We cannot guarantee a replacement for any cancelled passenger regardless of the date the cancellation is received in our office.

Single occupancy is limited on this tour and on a request basis only. We also offer the opportunity of share single. In this case we will attempt to provide suitable share accommodation for single requests however this is not guaranteed.

Tour Pricing Includes:

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| A) Tour manager and escort Charles Whitlock | D) Accommodation at the Grand Superior room sea view October 12 x 4 nights - Breakfast (B) and dinner (D) as indicated |
| B) Return air to / from Malta including all air taxes as at November 2016 | F) Packed lunches as indicated in the itinerary by (L) Packed lunches |
| B) Private transfers for all included walks, airports, ferry etc. based on our schedule of events | G) Special farewell dinner |
| C) Accommodation at the Solana Hotel for 6 nights October 6 arrival includes breakfast (B) and dinner (D) as indicated | H) Guide fees |
| | I) Ferry return from Malta to / from Gozo |
| | J) tickets for Mnajdra /Hagar Qim Temples and Ggantija Temples |

This price does not include: Meals not indicated, Drinks except tea/coffee with dinner and Gratuities

Exclusive reservations through:



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