



NEW

Malta and Gozo Discovery - Private Tour

MALTA - TRIP CODE PTMLA
DISCOVERY

Why book this trip?

With private guides throughout the trip, this highlights tour of Malta and Gozo explores the wealth of historic attractions on these Mediterranean islands. Discover contrasting island lifestyles; see colourful Maltese fishing boats and sample wonderful food and wine along the way.

- **Gozo** - Explore Malta's unspoilt sister island including the capital of Victoria and its stunning rocky coastline
- **Valletta** - In Malta's capital, admire the impressive fortifications, imposing churches and bustling Grand Harbour
- **Megalithic Temples** - Discover the oldest freestanding structures in the world, the UNESCO-Listed temples of Ggantija, Hagar Qim and Mnajdra.

- **Why Not Extend Your Trip?** - Combine this trip with our private 'Classical Sicily' tour (trip code: PTCS) to make a two week holiday to these varied Mediterranean islands

				
INCLUDED MEALS Breakfast: 7 Lunch: 1	TRIP STAFF Driver(s) Local Guide(s)	TRANSPORT Boat Car Ferry	ACCOMMODATION 7 nights comfortable hotel	TRIP PACE: Moderate

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Trip begins in Sliema

Arrive in Malta and transfer to Sliema, on the country's east coast. With a long seafront promenade that skirts around this busy town, several watchtowers and forts dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, and a busy commercial hub thronging with restaurants and bars, Sliema makes a good base for your explorations of Malta over the next week.

You will be met on arrival at Malta International Airport (MLA), by an airport representative and a driver who will take you to your hotel, a 45 minute drive away. There are no activities planned today, so feel free to arrive in Malta Airport at any time. For those booking their own flights, you will just need to let us know your flight details no later than three weeks prior to departure, in order to be met on arrival.



ACCOMMODATION:
Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Walking tour of the Three Cities and Grand Harbour cruise

With a local guide, drive out of Sliema to the historic Three Cities of Senglea, Vittoriosa and Cospicua, considered to be 'the cradle of Maltese history' as settlers and rulers from the Phoenicians to the British all made use of the defences here. The Knights of the Order of Saint John settled in Vittoriosa in 1530 and used the city as their headquarters. The Three Cities have retained much of their romantic medieval charm and you'll see the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa and admire the views from the Gardjola Gardens - a look-out post to guard the harbour entrance - in Senglea. Take a short boat ride on a traditional 'Dghajsa', one of the authentic Maltese fishing boats with a history dating back hundreds of years. Only by travelling across the water does one appreciate the sheer magnitude of the ramparts and forts that protect Malta's coastline.



ACCOMMODATION:
Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Tour of Valletta Old City and visit Saint John's Co-Cathedral

Take a guided walking tour today around the impressive and heavily fortified Old City of Valletta. Originally built by the Knights of the Order of Saint John in the 16th Century, Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is built on the steep slopes of the Sceberras Peninsula and surrounded by two huge natural harbours which have helped to make it such an important strategic port at the crossroads of the

Mediterranean. Fort Saint Elmo guards the entrance to the harbours. Walking down Triq ir Republika - the main thoroughfare in the centre of the city, visit the elaborately decorated Saint John's Co-Cathedral and the grandiose Grandmaster's Palace with its fine collection of artworks. During the Great Siege of Malta in 1565, over 400 knights perished and as a sign of remembrance, the floor of St John's Co-Cathedral is covered in skeleton tombstones.

The visit continues with the classic views across the Grand Harbour from the Upper Barrakka Gardens, a visit to the marvellous Casa Rocca Piccola, a 16th-century palace that is home to one of Malta's noble families, and finally with a visit to the Manoel Theatre, a magnificent building that, at nearly 300 years old, is one of the oldest theatres in Europe.

Your guided visit will end in the late afternoon, and you can choose to be driven back to Sliema with your guide, or if you'd like to stay in Valletta and taste some delicious Maltese food tonight then you can make the 15 minute return journey by a frequent public shuttle bus, or with a more exhilarating boat taxi between the two towns. Your guide will give you the information about both options.



ACCOMMODATION:
Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Ferry to Gozo and spend the day there; taste local specialities

Take a ferry across to Gozo this morning, along with your local guide. Although both islands are similar in terms of history and development, you'll notice immediately that Gozo is more fertile and picturesque, and has retained much of its traditional character. Only 15 kilometres in length and seven kilometres wide, all parts of the island are easily accessible, and for its size the variety of scenery is incredible. You'll be getting a real flavour for the island's gastronomy and culture during today's trip.

Visit one of the island's bakeries and see how 'ftira', a sort of Gozitan traditional pizza, are made in the old wood-fired oven. Head to Victoria; a tiny city named after Queen Victoria in 1887 but locally known as Rabat. Climb up to the imposing Citadel for fantastic views of the whole island, and explore the old prison where the Knights of Saint John would send their rowdier members to cool off. The graffitied walls give a fascinating insight into the lives of those who were incarcerated here. Descending to the graceful central square, It Tokk, wander the cobweb of narrow streets.

Visit the small market of Fontana, where you can try handmade local products like jams and pates, or buy some souvenirs to take home. At lunchtime, you'll have a food tasting of some traditional Maltese produce - an eclectic mix of Mediterranean flavours with distinct Sicilian and North African overtones. In the afternoon you'll also visit the Qbajjar salt pans, and perhaps Gozo's most spectacular natural landmark, Dwerja. Here, geology, time and sea have worked together to produce some of the most remarkable scenery on the island. See Fungus Rock, notable as the habitat of a rare fungus which was highly prized by the Knights of Saint John for its medicinal properties. From here, continue to the Ta Pinu Basilica, renowned for the miraculous cures reported by its supplicants.

After a busy day of sightseeing, catch the ferry back to Malta and transfer back to Sliema for the night.



ACCOMMODATION:
Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

DAY 5 - Visit to Mdina and enjoy a local food and wine tasting

Drive a short way to Malta's Medieval old capital, Mdina, for a tour on foot around this seriously beautiful city. Game of Thrones fans may recognise some of its warren of winding, narrow alleys (mostly too narrow for cars), plazas and fortified walls, which contain a number of impressive buildings such as the Palazzo Falzon and cathedral dedicated to the Conversion of Saint Paul. Take a guided tour of Saint Paul's eerie catacombs (underground). After visiting Mdina, drive to the towering cliffs of Dingli for an awe-inspiring view over the Mediterranean, before your visit to one of the country's wine estates, set within a picturesque farmhouse. Take a tour of the estate, learning how sun-dried tomatoes and the local wine is produced, and then get to sample a few of the wines with a selection of snacks, such as Maltese bread and olive oil.

You'll be back at your hotel in the late afternoon, with the rest of the day free to relax.



ACCOMMODATION:
Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Explore Hagar Qim Temples and choose to take a boat trip in the Blue Grotto

Visit southern Malta today on another guided day out. Drive through the village of Zurrieq, with its wonderful collection of 17th and 18th century chapels and windmills, down to the Blue Grotto where you have the option of taking a boat trip (weather permitting) to see a series of natural caverns which glow with brilliant corals and sea sponges. Driving on to Marsaxlokk, take some free time for lunch and exploration. This charming town is Malta's largest fishing port with an array of brightly coloured boats and excellent fish restaurants.

In the afternoon, visit the Hagar Qim temples; an incredible Megalithic temple complex and UNESCO World Heritage Site. For three millennia, from around 3600 - 3200 BC, the Maltese archipelago was home to a unique, temple-building civilisation. The discovery of many fat lady statuettes in the vicinity of Hagar Qim has shown it to have been built to worship the Venus of Malta, the sleeping goddess of fertility. Mnajdra is probably the most atmospheric of all of Malta's temples, occupying an isolated position overlooking the rocky coastline. Walk between the two temple groups along a short well laid path before continuing a short distance along a rough country path to the Tal Hamrija costal 17th century tower to enjoy breathtaking scenery as the cliffs rise out of the blue Mediterranean Sea.

On the way back to Sliema, stop at the small caves of Ghar Dalam - home to some of the first creatures that inhabited these islands, before the last Ice Age.



ACCOMMODATION:
Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Day at leisure

After a week of sight-seeing, you have the day free to relax. You may like to take a boat trip around the harbour, or catch a bus or boat back to historical Valletta or the quaint fishing village of Marsaxlokk and try some more of Malta's delicious traditional food, like pastizzi - a traditional savoury pastry, typically filled with ricotta cheese or mushy peas!



ACCOMMODATION:
Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Trip ends in Sliema

Your trip ends today, and you will be taken to the airport to meet your international flight. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Malta International Airport (MLA) at any time - it's approximately 30 minutes from the hotel. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at the hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Malta

Climate

April/May and October/November are pleasantly warm. June/September are the hottest months.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+1	3 Pin Flat	Roman Catholic	Maltese and English

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

While this trip includes a great selection of Malta and Gozo's highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from some of the excursions, museums and sights that this area has in abundance, or take time to relax, the choice is yours. An idea of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your holiday. You will not have time to do all of them, but the list will give you an idea of what is possible.

Blue Grotto - Boat trip - 8 Euros

Inquisitor's Palace Visit - 6 Euros

Clothing

Women should avoid bare arms and shoulders in churches (scarf or stole recommended). Dress for hot conditions although light rainwear and warm fleece/jacket for nights when temperatures can drop (especially in late autumn and winter).

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes and sandals.

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't

overload yourself.

Equipment

Sunhat and sunscreen are recommended. You should bring a 2 litre water bottle, insect repellent, a swimming costume and towel.

Tipping

Local crew

Tipping in Malta and Gozo is not always customary, but of course is welcomed. In order to help you, we have put some guidelines here but of course these are completely at your discretion, and subject to the service that you have received.

In restaurants typically a 10% tip is usual for good service. For local guides and drivers, we recommend around 3-5 Euros per person depending on the length of the tour or the drive.

Malta

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£24.00 - 28.00	£2.00 - 4.00	£1.00 - 2.00

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Euro.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Since there is relatively little opportunity to change money on this trip, it is advisable to arrive with a supply of Euros to avoid inconvenience.

Where To Exchange

Money can be exchanged in the hotels in Gozo and Malta, Catania Airport, Agrigento, Palermo and Taormina in Sicily.

ATM Availability

ATM's are widely available in Gozo, Malta and Sicily

Credit Card Acceptance

Large shops and restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Are not recommended due to the high rate of commission and limited opening times of banks. Changing them can be very time consuming.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Boat, Car, Ferry

Accommodation notes

In Sliema the hotel we use is in a great location on the main promenade and just across the road from the nearest public beach. The hotel has two swimming pools, a restaurant, pizzeria, two bars and a cafe. The bedrooms have simple decor and they vary in size and layout. All are equipped with air conditioning, TV, telephone, hairdryer, safe (additional charge payable locally) and have an en suite bathroom. We aim to book a sea view room, availability permitting. The hotel does have single rooms, which are smaller than the twin rooms and may be allocated to you if you book on a single basis.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Visas are not required by UK, E.U Nationals, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa

applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and

repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Ability to swim

No

Malta

Vaccinations

Nothing required. Tetanus recommended. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Additional Information



Tour Staff

Unlike our group tours our private journeys do not have a Tour Leader. However, you are still in safe hands as we work closely with our expert local suppliers on the planning and organisation of your holiday to ensure that you have a fantastic time. You'll be met on arrival in Malta by an english-speaking representative, who will answer any questions you may have. We aim to have the same guide for you throughout most of the trip, but this isn't always possible due to their availability. Whether you have one or multiple guides, they are all excellent and will really help to bring the destination to life. At times you may travel unaccompanied, or with just a driver (rather than a guide), but you will have all the information that you need to explore and there is always the reassurance that you have someone on hand with our 24/7 emergency contact number.

Reviews



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**