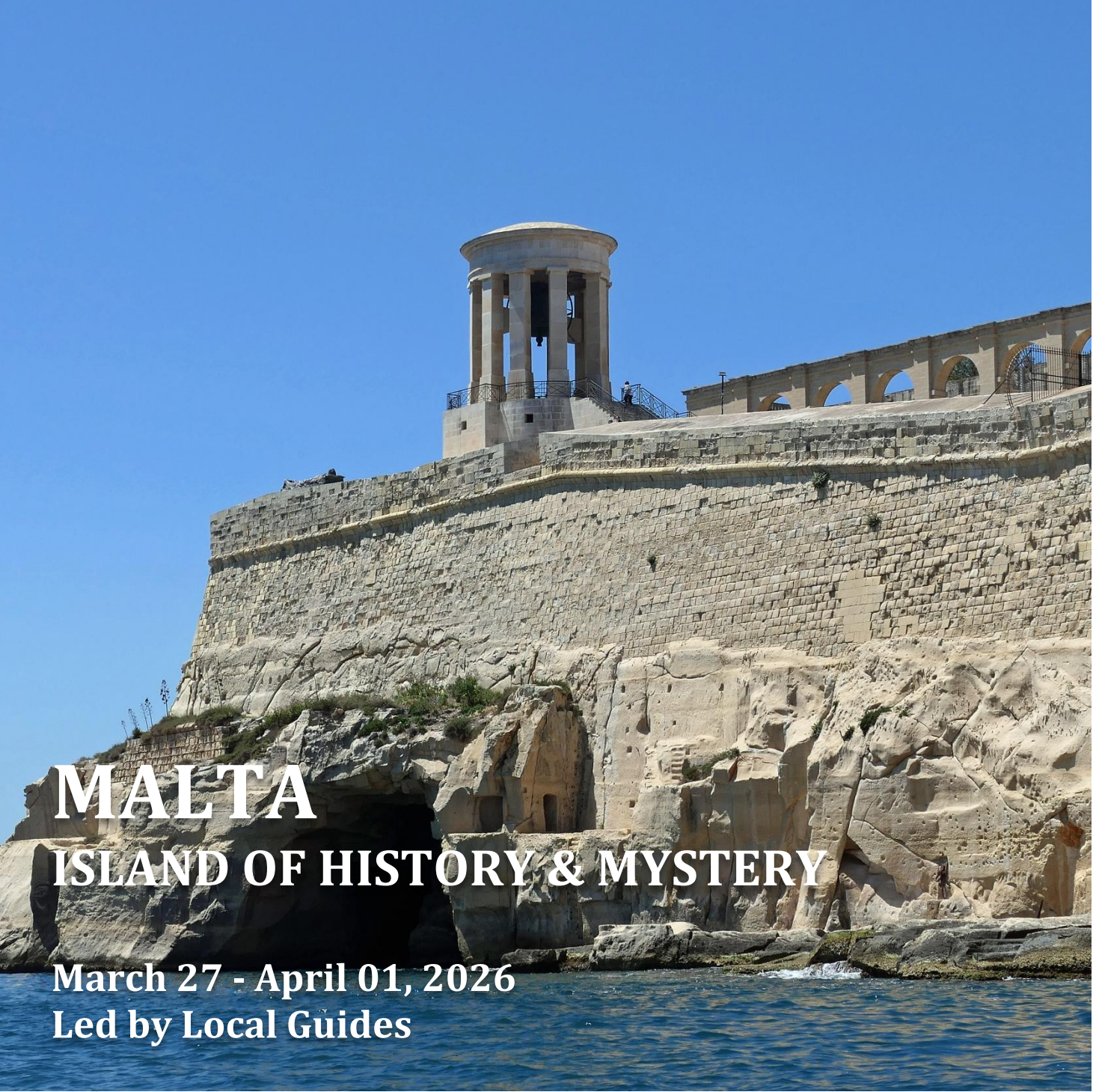




MALTA

ISLAND OF HISTORY & MYSTERY

March 27 - April 01, 2026

Led by Local Guides

Can be combined with Sicily (April 01 - April 08, 2026)

Megaliths, medieval dungeons, and Calypso's Cave – The Maltese Islands are positively mythic. The narrow meandering streets of their towns and villages lead to the main square, which is invariably dominated by the huge baroque church. As the countryside is dotted with medieval towers, wayside chapels and the oldest known human structures in the world, the Islands have rightly been described as an open-air museum. The Maltese archipelago lies virtually at the center of the Mediterranean and consists of three islands: Malta, Gozo, and Comino.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Friday, March 27

Arrival in Valletta (MALTA)



Upon arrival at **Malta International airport**, meet your guide and transfer to *Victoria Hotel* located by the seafront for check-in, the rest of the day is free at leisure and overnight at the *Hotel*.

Saturday, March 28

Valletta (Senglea, Cospicua and Vittorisa)



After breakfast, embark on a full day exploring the magnificent, baroque city of **Valletta**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the capital of Malta. Begin the day at the awe-inspiring **St. John's Co-Cathedral**, the mother church of the Knights of St. John. This historical masterpiece is not only a testament to the grandeur of the Order but also houses priceless works of art, including the famous tapestries by the legendary Caravaggio. Marvel at the intricate Baroque architecture and the rich history embedded in every stone. Next, make our way to the Upper **Barracca Gardens**, where panoramic views of the Grand Harbor await. As we stroll through these serene gardens, we experience breathtaking vistas of the bustling **harbor**, framed by the ancient fortifications of Valletta. These gardens were constructed by the Knights of St. John in 1567 after their heroic defense during the Great Siege of the Ottoman Empire, and they continue to stand as a symbol of Malta's resilience and heritage.

Continue the journey with a visit to the historical cities of **Senglea, Cospicua** and **Vittoriosa**, the first bases of the Knights of St. John. These were the original strongholds of the Knights of St. John, each rich in medieval and maritime history. In Senglea, head to the **Gardjola Gardens**, perched high above the harbor. The gardens not only offer an exceptional view of the water and city, but also house the iconic historical viewing tower, adorned with sculpted symbols of an eye, an ear, and a crane bird, representing guardianship, vigilance, and protection over the Maltese shores. Return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B)**

Sunday, March 29

Valletta (Central Malta and the Old Capital)



After breakfast, begin the full day tour of the central and western parts of the island with a drive to the **Dingli Cliff**, which are the highest point on the Maltese Islands (830 feet) above sea level. The Cliff offers a majestic, and

overlooking the small, terraced fields below, the open sea and Filfla & the small uninhabited island. Visit **Mdina**, the old capital city of the island, and the Silent and Medieval city also known by its titles "Città Vecchia" or "Città Notabile", a fortified city in the Northern Region of Malta, which served as the island's capital from antiquity to the medieval period. The city was founded as Maleth around the 8th century BC by Phoenician settlers and was later renamed "Melite" by the Romans.

Enjoy lunch at an authentic cuisine in the narrow back streets of Rabat to enjoy a Maltese dish, then head to visit **St. Paul's Church** and **Grotto**, as well as the **St. Paul's Catacombs** in the suburb town of Rabat, which are a typical complex of interconnected underground Roman cemeteries, that where in use up to the 4th century AD. They are a fascinating labyrinth of the 3rd century AD subterranean tombs and the earliest archaeological evidence of Christianity in Malta. The Arabs, during their 200 years of rule, divided the old Roman City of Melita into two: the citadel became known as *Mdina* and the rest of the area as *Rabat*. The Christian, Jewish and Pagan Catacombs of St. Paul are not associated with Paul but derive their name from their proximity to St. Paul's Church and Grotto. Also head to visit the **Mosta Dome Church**, the 3rd largest unsupported dome in the world after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's in London.

Then, head to visit **Hal Safleinei Hypogeum**, a Neolithic subterranean structure dating to the Saflieni phase (3300 - 3000 BC) in Maltese prehistory, It is often simply referred to as the Hypogeum (Maltese: Ipogew. It is thought to have been a sanctuary and necropolis, with the estimated remains of more than 7,000 people documented by archeologists and is among the best preserved examples of the Maltese temple building culture that also produced the Megalithic Temples and Xaghra Stone Circle then return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B)**

Monday, March 30

Valletta (Gozo Island)



After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive to the Gozo Ferry Terminal, where we will board a 25-minute ferry crossing that will whip us away across the shimmering sea channel to the tranquil and traditional **island of**

Gozo. Unlike its bustling counterpart, Malta, Gozo remains a serene haven, largely untouched by modernity. Known for its lush green landscapes and rural charm, Gozo has long been entwined with ancient mythology, famously linked to Ogygia—the mythical home of the nymph Calypso in Homer's *Odyssey*. Our first stop on the island will be the extraordinary **Ggantija Temples**, also known as the 'Palace of the Giants'. These megalithic structures, dating back to between 3600 and 3200 BC, are among the oldest free-standing stone structures in the world. The two temples are surrounded by a massive boundary wall, offering an awe-inspiring glimpse into prehistoric architectural mastery.

Next, continue the journey to **Dwejra Bay**, famous for the now-collapsed Azure Window, a natural limestone arch that once framed the horizon in stunning fashion. Even though the arch is no longer standing, the bay remains a site of natural beauty, and enjoy a delightful boat ride through the caves, surrounded by dramatic cliff faces and the sparkling blue waters of the Mediterranean. Continue to the capital of **Gozo**, Victoria, where we will have some free time to explore the quaint streets and shop for local handicrafts and souvenirs. Next visit the **Citadel** (Cittadella), a fortified hilltop complex dating back to the Bronze Age, with significant contributions from the Phoenicians, Romans, and later civilizations. The Citadel, perched high above the island, offers panoramic views of Gozo's verdant hills, coastal cliffs, and charming villages, truly a sight to behold. Return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B)**

Tuesday, March 31



Valletta (Ghar Dalam, Hagar Qim & Mnajdra temples)

Begin the day with a journey back in time at **Ghar Dalam Cave**, or "Cave of Darkness," a fascinating prehistoric site that stands as the oldest of its kind in Malta. This enigmatic cave reveals the island's ancient past, with fossils and human remains uncovered here offering a unique glimpse into the lives of Malta's earliest settlers. As you explore, you'll gain an incredible understanding of the island's deep historical roots.

Next, make our way to the charming **fishing village** of **Marsaxlokk**, located on the southern coast. This picturesque village is renowned for its colorful "luzzu" fishing boats that dot the harbor, each painted with vibrant hues of red, yellow, and blue. The tranquil waters and lively market scene make this a perfect spot to immerse yourself in the local atmosphere, offering a sense of Malta's maritime heritage. From here, we will head to the stunning **Hagar Qim** and **Mnajdra Temples**, two of the most impressive archaeological sites in Malta. First excavated in 1839, these temples date back to between 3600 and 3200 BC and are a testament to Malta's ancient civilizations. Perched atop a hill, the temples overlook the shimmering Mediterranean Sea and the tiny islet of **Filfla**, just half a mile off the coast. The stunning views alone make this visit unforgettable. Finally, end the day with a visit to the **Blue Grotto**, a captivating natural wonder. Take a boat ride through a

series of sea caverns, each more mesmerizing than the last. The clear blue waters and dramatic cliffs provide an otherworldly backdrop, creating an unforgettable adventure that perfectly complements the day's historical exploration. Then return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B)**

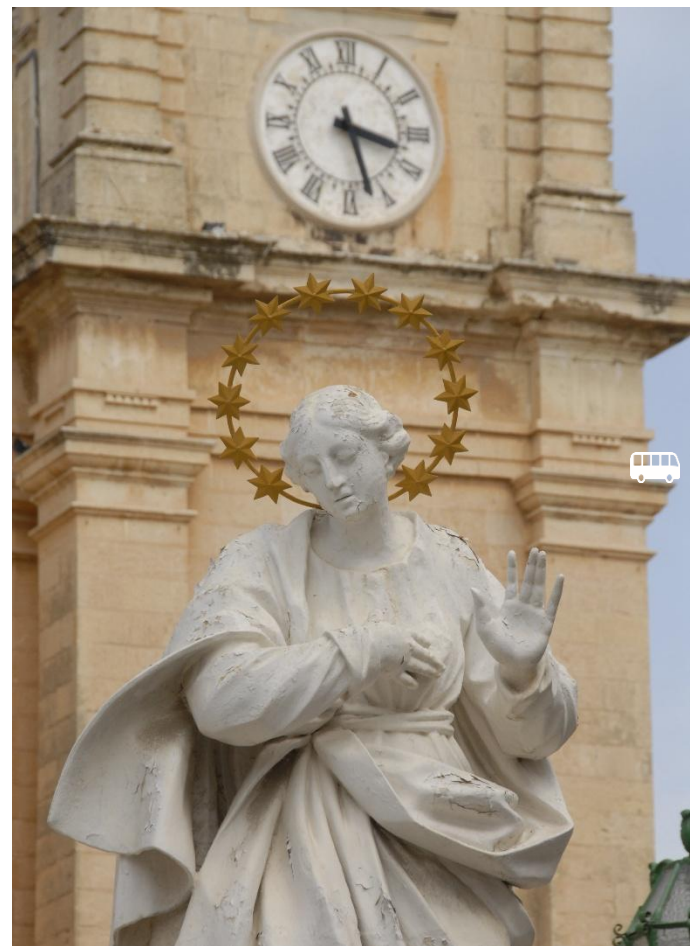
Wednesday, April 01

Valletta - USA



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)**

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes are made when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".



Tour Cost (Land Only): \$2,695.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$395.00

Price based on minimum of 4 participants and maximum of 8 participants

Trip Grade: I Lodge Level: ****



Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers with meet and greet service at the airport.
- Accommodation at *Victoria Hotel (4*) or similar*.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Bottled water during touring days.
- Luxury air-conditioned vehicle on tour with qualified and licensed English-speaking guide.
- All entrance fees to mentioned sites as per the itinerary.
- Ferry to Gozo.

Tour does not include:

- International air USA-Malta-USA.
- **Maltese Visa** (currently gratis for US citizens).
- Tips and gratuities to drivers, guides, restaurant staff, etc.,
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- City taxes payable by guests to the hotels at check-in time €1.50 to €4.00 pp/night (subject to change).
- Travel protection insurance (RECOMMENDED).

Trip Grade:

I Easy – Reasonably paced sightseeing, easy walking, and leisurely days. No physical challenges.

Lodging Level:

★★★★ Luxury - Regular style - usually large hotels, typical western standard with ample venues and full amenities (4 or 5 stars).

