

Europe Cruise 2024

Malta Tour Option

February 25, 2024

MALTA DAY TRIP

This Update concerns the Malta day trip - I finally selected a tour operator in Malta for that day. They can accommodate all eight of us on a private tour that visits the top sights on the island. This compares very favorably with the shore excursions in both what we see and the cost. I like it because on a private tour we can move at our own pace.

If we book this for 7 or 8 of us, the cost comes to about €115 - €140 (about \$150) per person. I've included gratuities (15%) in that cost. Your only out-of-pocket costs would be the optional boat ride and lunch. Look at the plan below and let me know if you're interested.

MALTA – SEE THE ISLAND

Our first destination is Wied iz-Zurrieq, famous for the magnificent Blue Grotto. The tiny hamlet sits in a valley and has a very picturesque harbor. The grotto and neighboring system of sea caves are home to brilliant phosphorescent marine life. There is time to take a boat ride (€10) to visit the Blue Grotto. This optional boat trip explores the incredible beauty of this natural wonder.

Leaving the Blue Grotto behind, we'll drive through the Girgenti Valley, a shaded fertile valley renowned for its orchards and cultivated fields. The eco system here is maquis, so it is green all year round. Citrus and other fruit trees thrive in the valley beneath the surrounding ridge. The old, picturesque farmsteads are the homes of the local farming community who still work the fields and cultivate the orchards. Our journey via Girgenti takes us to the west coast of the island.

Stretching for some 4km along the west coast are the Dingli Cliffs. These cliffs have vertical or near-vertical rock faces rising from the sea to heights of up to 70-130m above sea level. Some of the steep slopes are terraced and this unique feature together with the expanse of the deep blue Mediterranean Sea provide stunning views.

The next stop is the old town of Rabat. Rabat has strong ties with the Roman era and the visit of St. Paul AD60. Here we will take a short stroll from the central piazza through the quaint streets, where you can admire the old houses, alleys, traditional balconies amongst other typical old town characteristics. The last stop is the nearby walled city of Mdina. This historical city was the medieval capital of Malta.

Then it's time to return to Valletta for a late lunch with time to explore the city before returning to the ship.

Schedule	Itinerary - Scenic route via Girgenti Valley and Dingli Cliffs
0900	Pickup at the port
0930 - 1015	Blue Grotto (with time to do the boat trip)
1015 – 1100	Scenic route via Girgenti Valley and Dingli Cliffs
1100 - 1230	Rabat & Mdina Medieval City
1300	Dropped off in Valletta
1300 - 1615	Valletta city tour, free time for lunch, and an internal visit of St. John's Co. Cathedral (€15)

Times are for guidance only

This rate includes private transport with a driver accompanied by Licensed Tour Guide. We want to make sure you're not scrambling at the last minute, so Julie and I put together a list of milestone dates to help you stay on track for the upcoming adventure.

