

MALTA



Malta is a fascinating yet small Mediterranean archipelago set between Sicily and the North African coast. It offers a mild climate, impressive fossil-studded cliffs, colorful plants and the clear beauty of the Mediterranean Sea. Malta is known for its diverse historic sites built by a succession of rulers including the Romans, Moors, Knights of Saint John, French, and British. As early as 4000 B.C. large temples were built indicating a highly developed and sophisticated civilization, but it was under the Knights of St John that developed Malta culturally and artistically, creating beautiful palaces, churches, fortifications and work of art. The island offers numerous fortresses, megalithic temples and subterranean natural wonders.

Malta the largest island, is for history lovers and nature-lovers, and more active visitors can enjoy diving, snorkeling and of course the nightlife. It can be a destination itself, or a relaxing add-on stop to another Southern European or North African trip. Lakani World Tours can create a travel itinerary best suited for you – depending on your time, interests, and budget. Here are the main sites we recommend:

Valletta is the capital and medieval fortress city, and a UNESCO World Heritage site due to its large number and concentration of historical buildings. Highlights include the Baroque St John's Co-Cathedral containing two Caravaggio paintings, the Palace of the Grand Masters, Upper Barrakka Gardens, and the fortress of St. James Cavalier. Valletta also offers luxury accommodations, a vibrant nightlife and a large array of chic shops.

Mdina, Malta's old capital, is a well-preserved walled medieval city, also called the Silent City. It is in the center of Malta and offers amazing views across the plains to the coastline.

Blue Grotto is a series of seven caves and inlets famous for deep blue waters and spectacular natural rock formations. It is accessible only by small traditional boats.

Elsewhere on Malta, we recommend the **Hal Saffieni Hypogeum**, a 5000-year-old necropolis carved from the living rock, and exploring the beautiful sandy beaches at Golden Bay and Mellieha Bay, or perhaps the secluded Paradise Bay.

Gozo is a rural island whose Dwejra Bay features dive sites including the Blue Hole (an underwater chimney) and the Inland Sea lagoon. It can be a day-trip from Malta, or you can over-night at one of the 4-star hotels.