



Malta Highlights 2026

One incredible journey, two beautiful islands, countless lasting memories – the Mediterranean jewel of Malta awaits. Where bright blue waters dazzle and ornate Baroque architecture inspires, local wines sing with flavour and hushed Medieval streets whisper of time gone by – what makes this unique gem sparkle is yours to discover





About your tour notes

These tour notes contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey. We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

Important: please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.

The Victoria Hotel @ 18:00

Gorg Borg Olivier Street Sliema, SLM
1807

The Victoria Hotel @ 13:00

Gorg Borg Olivier Street Sliema, SLM
1807



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Tour highlights

- ✓ Uncover the rich history and magnificent Baroque architecture of Valletta with a local guide
- ✓ Enjoy a scenic cruise around the breathtaking Blue Grotto
- ✓ Explore the fortified medieval city of Mdina

More inclusions

- ✓ 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- ✓ 7 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- ✓ Luxury minicoach

Currencies you'll use

- Malta - EUR



Included meals

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.

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Your itinerary

Day 1 | Sliema (Malta)

We'll meet the group in the picturesque resort town of Sliema and get to know one another over a delicious welcome meal. Welcome to Malta!

Included today



Accommodation

The Victoria Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Dinner

Day 2 | Sliema – Mosta and Mdina – Sliema

We'll begin our second day together with a wander around the beautiful wilderness of the Buskett Gardens. Enjoy some free time exploring the only woodland area in Malta before we continue to the island's old capital: Mdina, also known as the 'silent city'. Here we'll explore the extraordinary mix of medieval and Baroque architecture with a local guide and have some free time to enjoy lunch at our leisure. On this afternoon's agenda: an indulgent wine tasting at a local winery. You'll find it difficult to find a bottle of Maltese wine back home, so we recommend purchasing some at the vineyard before we move onto Mosta where we'll visit its stunning domed church. Then, it's time to return to Sliema for an evening spent relaxing at our hotel or exploring the array of restaurants and waterfront bars.

Included today



Accommodation

The Victoria Hotel (or similar)



Experiences

- + Free time to explore Buskett Gardens
- + Walking tour of Mdina with local guide
- + Wine tasting at Meridiana Wine Estate
- + Visit Mosta Dome with local guide



Meals

+ Breakfast

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Day 3 | Sliema – Valletta and Birgu – Sliema

Did you know about Malta's link to the Gallipoli campaign? We'll begin today's explorations at the Pieta War Cemetery where we'll learn all about the injured ANZACs who were evacuated to the island during WWI. Then, a locally guided walking tour of Valletta is next on the agenda. We'll stroll by the New Parliament Building, Upper Barrakka Gardens, Grand Harbour and Grandmaster's Palace, uncovering the tiny capital's rich history as we go. Then, we'll enjoy free time to wander the stunning Baroque architecture of St John's Co-Cathedral. For lunch, we'll savour a traditional Maltese Ftira meal.

Continuing on, we'll visit the oldest area in Malta: Birgu – commonly referred to as *Città Vittoriosa* (Victorious City). We'll enjoy a walking tour through the city's ancient narrow streets with a local guide – visiting the likes of the Inquisitor's Palace and panoramic Gardjola Gardens. After a full day, enjoy an evening spent at your leisure back in Sliema.

Included today



Accommodation

The Victoria Hotel (or similar)



Experiences

- + Walking tour of Valletta with local guide (including entrance to St John's Co-Cathedral)
- + Traditional Maltese Ftira lunch
- + Walking tour of Birgu with local guide (including entrance to Inquisitors Palace and Gardjola Gardens)



Meals

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch



Day 4 | Sliema

Today is yours to spend entirely at your leisure. You may want to explore on a harbour cruise around the ports of Valletta – a natural treasure trove for photographers. Alternatively, you could spend the day enjoying the stunning views from our hotel's rooftop terrace or relaxing by the swimming pool. This evening, we recommend venturing out in search of a waterfront alfresco restaurant for some delicious local seafood.

Included today



Accommodation

The Victoria Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 5 | Sliema – Qrendi and Cirkewwa – Sannat (Gozo)

Today's agenda begins with a stop at the Ħaġar Qim temples, where we'll have the opportunity to explore this remarkable site with a local guide. Then, we'll journey onwards the mesmerising Blue Grotto. Enjoy a locally guided boat trip around the phosphorescent coloured bays and complex of limestone caves – before continuing on to the ferry point at Ċirkewwa, with a photo stop at Popeye's Village along the way. After a speedboat transfer to Gozo, the evening in Sannat will be ours to spend exploring at our own pace.

Included today



Accommodation

Hotel Ta' Cenc & Spa (or similar)



Experiences

- + Visit Ħaġar Qim Temples with local guide
- + Boat trip to Blue Grotto with local guide
- + Stop at Popeye's Village
- +



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 6 | Sannat – Victoria – Sannat

Today we'll visit the spectacular megalithic temple complex of Ġgantija – the most ancient temples in Malta and boasting an ancient history that's older than the pyramids of Egypt. After moving on to the imposing Old Citadel in Victoria – the ancient fortified city that can be seen from almost anywhere on Gozo, we'll enjoy a delectable Maltese lunch. Our visit to the Dreams of Horses Farm rounds off the day. There, we'll observe a cheese making demonstration followed by a guided tour around the equestrian therapy centre with a member of the team, learning how horse therapy comforts people. Later, an evening of leisure time is in store for us back at the hotel.

Included today



Accommodation

Hotel Ta' Cenc & Spa (or similar)



Experiences

- + Visit Ġgantija Temples with local guide
- + Visit Dreams of Horses Farm (including cheese making demonstration)



Meals

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch

Day 7 | Sannat – San Lawrenz and Marsalforn – Sannat

We may be nearing the end of our journey, but there's still plenty to explore! First, we'll stop to visit Fungus Rock – an islet off the coast of San Lawrenz that holds a peculiar history. After hearing the stories from our local guide, we'll move on to the unusual Xwejni Salt Pans. A 350-year-old checkerboard of rock-cut salt pans, the production of sea salt here has been passed from generation to generation and is a fascinating sight to behold. Before returning to Sannat, we'll make a refreshing stop at Xwejni Bay for a dip in the crystal-clear water. Later, we'll come together for one last dinner together, sharing stories of the week's adventures.

Included today



Accommodation

Hotel Ta' Cenc & Spa (or similar)



Experiences

- + Visit Fungus Rock viewpoint with local guide
- + Visit Xwejni Salt Pans with local guide
- + Stop at Xwejni Bay



Meals

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



Day 8 | Sannat – Sliema (Malta)

After a final breakfast and leisurely morning, we'll catch the ferry to Sliema – where our tour will end later this afternoon.

Included today



Meals

+ Breakfast



Travel advice

Finances

Changing money

Cash: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

Credit cards: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

Cash machines: ATMS are widely available.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

Insurance

Before travelling with Back-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our [FAQ page](#).

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).

Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain



countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

Please note: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your original documents.

Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires x mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).



Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.

Will I have regular access to Wi-Fi?

Most accommodation we stay in will offer free Wi-Fi as well as many restaurants and cafes you may visit. If you would like more regular internet access without large roaming fees, you can purchase a Back-Roads Touring eSIM [here](#).



What to Pack

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-Roads Touring tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

Clothing

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Sun hat | ✓ Long-sleeved tops | ✓ Light jacket |
| ✓ Sunglasses | ✓ Short-sleeved tops | ✓ Waterproof jacket |
| ✓ Sleepwear | ✓ Shorts/skirts | ✓ Trousers |
| ✓ Warm jacket | ✓ Socks | ✓ Swimwear |
| ✓ Underwear | ✓ Smart casual evening wear | ✓ Walking/comfortable shoes |

Other essentials

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ✓ Multi-use adapter plug | ✓ Toiletries | ✓ Camera |
| ✓ Batteries | ✓ Sunscreen | ✓ Towel |
| ✓ Umbrella | ✓ Reusable water bottle | ✓ Insect repellent |
| ✓ Any personal medication | ✓ Basic medical kit (paracetamol, aspirin, plasters etc) | |

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How much luggage can I bring

As we travel in mini-coaches, luggage space is limited. Here's what you can take with you on tour:



1 x suitcase



1 x small carry-on bag
(backpack or handbag)

If you have more luggage, please make arrangements to store it prior to joining the tour. **We are unable to carry extra luggage on the mini-coach.**

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FAQs

What do I need to know about the tour's transport arrangements?

Throughout the tour, you will be travelling on one of our luxury minicoaches. Due to local regulations, the vehicle may need to leave the group for short periods to assist the local community with school drop-offs. Secondly, on your final day, your main luggage will be transferred separately from Gozo to Malta, so you won't be required to carry it on and off the ferry.

Will there be additional guides on the tour?

As with all of our tours, an expert Tour Leader will guide you through your Malta Highlights journey. Due to local regulations, an additional guide will accompany your group on both the islands of Malta and Gozo.

That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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