MALTA
THE SACRED ISLAND

LIGHTLINE PILGRIMAGES
-Britain's leading Christian Pilgrimage Operator-
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Sacred Malta

"And when they had escaped, they then learned that the island was called Malta. And the barbarous people showed us no little kindness, for they kindled a fire and received us every one, because of the present rain and because of the cold." Acts 28:1-2

Christianity has almost 2000 years of history in the island of Malta. It was introduced to the island by the Apostle Paul in 60 AD. Paul was being escorted to Rome for his trial when the ship carrying him was wrecked just off the coast in a heavy storm. The local inhabitants of the island helped the guards, St. Paul and other members of the crew on board the wrecked ship, they offered them shelter and fed them until they could continue with their journey. According to local tradition, St. Paul preached the gospel to the local inhabitants whom at the time where under Roman rule. According to local tradition, Publius, the Roman Governor of Malta at the time of Saint Paul's shipwreck, became the first Bishop of Malta following his conversion to Christianity. After ruling the Maltese Church for 31 years, Publius was transferred to the See of Athens in 90 AD, where he was martyred in 125 AD.

PASSPORTS, VISAS & HEALTH

A full valid 10 year passport is necessary for all our tours. Check NOW that it is valid for the duration of your tour and validity runs for a further 6 months after your return to the UK. British & Irish passport holders do not require a Visa to visit Malta. Holders of other passports please contact Lightline Pilgrimages on 01992 576065 for advice. No inoculations are required, however we advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

Please read the booking conditions and complete the enclosed booking form and send it, with a deposit of £XXX plus insurance (if required) per person to:-
Our Itinerary

Day 1, Saturday 3rd October
London to Malta

We gather at London Heathrow for our morning Air Malta flight to Luga. On arrival our guide will meet us and we shall drive to our hotel which will be home for the duration of our stay. Time to freshen up, relax and acquaint ourselves with our new surroundings. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 2 Sunday, 4th October
Tarxien Temples - Blue Grotto

We begin our day after breakfast when we meet our guide and then board our coach and then drive to the prehistoric Tarxien temples built around 3000bc and known for the famous “Fat Lady”. From here we proceed to the Blue Grotto. We will then visit the temple of Hagar Qim which was built around 3600 BC and proceed to Marsaxlokk, where we expect to celebrate Mass in the Church of Our Lady in Marsaxlokk. Break for lunch (included) and to go through the market. Afternoon visit to Ghar Dalam which was inhabited by Stone Age men around 4000bc. Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel.
Day 3 Monday, 5th October

Valletta

After breakfast we drive to Valetta. We shall see the reliquary of St Paul’s arm and then an audio visual show “Sacred Island” telling the story of Malta. We go on to the nearby Upper Barracca Gardens with their magnificent view of the Grand Harbour. Afterwards we visit the famous co-Cathedral of St John. The cathedral was built by the Knights of St John for their Conventual Church in 1573. **We plan to celebrate Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.** After Mass it is intended we tour the Cathedral and its famous oratory museum as well as viewing its collection of church ornaments, vestments and Flemish tapestries. Its greatest treasure though is the famous Caravaggio painting, The Beheading of St John. We return to our hotel where the afternoon will be free to relax. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 4 Tuesday, 6th October

St Paul’s Church Mdina Mosta Church

This morning we leave our hotel and drive to Rabat where we plan to **celebrate Mass in St Paul’s Grotto**, the site where St Paul was held prisoner following the shipwreck. After mass we will visit the Wignacourt museum, the Catacombs and then walk through the narrow streets of Rabat to Mdina. Mdina, a walled town which was once the Roman capital of Malta and is known as the silent city. From the bastions one has a panoramic view of most of the island. Also we will visit Mdina Cathedral, before breaking for lunch (included). In the afternoon we drive on to Mosta and visit its famous Rotunda Church built in 1833 in the form of the Roman Pantheon and which had a miraculous escape from a bomb in the Second World War. Return to our hotel in good time for dinner and overnight stay.
Day 5 Wednesday, 7th October

Mellieha

We drive to the Shrine of Our Lady, Mellieha, and the church carved in to the rock. We should see the traditional St Luke portrait of Our Lady. Continuing to St Paul’s Bay our programme, weather permitting, is to cross to St Paul’s Island, the traditional site of his shipwreck for our open air Mass. Break for lunch and the rest of the afternoon will be free to explore and relax. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 6 Thursday, 8th October

Gozo

After an early breakfast we drive to Cirkewwa for the half hour ferry crossing to Gozo. The charm of Gozo is apparent the moment you arrive there. Greener, more rural and smaller than Malta, life on Gozo moves at a leisurely pace. Baroque Churches and old stone farmhouses dot the countryside. A coach will be waiting to drive us to the Basilica of Ta’Pinu. The miraculous painting of the Assumption spoke to Karmela Grima in 1883 asking her to recite three Hail Mary’s. Pope John Paul II went on pilgrimage to Ta’Pinu in May 1990. We plan to celebrate Mass in the central Chapel by the miraculous picture. After the service we break for lunch (included) and in the afternoon visit Victoria, the capital of Gozo, the fortified Citadel (dating back to Roman times) and the cathedral before making our way to the harbour to rejoin our ferry back to Malta and our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.
Day 7 Friday, 9th October

The Three Cities

We leave our hotel this morning for a tour of the Three Cities. We begin our day in Senglea Point and where we will celebrate Mass. After enjoying the magnificent view of the harbour we will proceed to town of Birgu (Vittoriosa) and walk to the Inquisitor’s Palace, the Valletta Reliquary Museum and the Church of St Lawrence – the original church built by the Knights of St John in 1530. From here we will drive to Sliema and go on a Harbour Cruise. Here one can see the bastions of Valletta and the Three Cities from the boat. Afternoon at Leisure in Sliema which is a popular resort with shops, cafes. We can either join the coach back to our hotel in the afternoon, or we could stay on and make our own way back to the hotel. Farewell dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 8 Saturday, 10th October

Our journey home

After a leisurely breakfast we leave our hotel and after celebrating Mass in a local church drive around Valetta and Rinella Bay and breaking for lunch, before making our way to the airport and check-in for our afternoon return flight to London.
INCLUSIVE TOUR PRICE - £ XXX

THE PRICE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:-

✓ Scheduled airline flights on Air Malta from London Heathrow
  
  *London Heathrow* - *Malta* \( \text{KM101 } xx:xx / xx:xx\)
  
  *Malta* - *London Heathrow* \( \text{KM106 } xx:xx / xx:xx\)

✓ All UK & Maltese airport departure taxes.

✓ 7 nights stay at the San Antonio Hotel in Qawra a (4 star)

✓ Accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private
  shower/ bath rooms en-suite. *see back cover*

✓ Half board - Breakfast & dinner throughout.

✓ Lunches included on 3 days.

✓ All sightseeing and transfers conducted in modern
  air-conditioned tourist coaches.

✓ The services of an English-speaking Guide throughout.

✓ All entrance fees to the places listed in itinerary.

✓ The transfer of baggage throughout the tour.

*The only Items NOT included in the price are:-*

Single Room accommodation (if available) £xxx, Travel Insurance,
Gratuities and any items of a private nature (laundry, drinks etc).
The San Antonio Hotel is a 4 star hotel situated on the beach at Qawra and offers a small sandy beach, two out door swimming pools, free wifi internet. All rooms are fully air-conditioned, with balconies, tea and coffee maker, 32” flat screen TVs and radio, hairdryers and mini-bar.