



The Magic of Malta

*An Exploration Designed & Led
by Jack Wheeler & Rebel Holiday*

Arrive: Sunday, November 2, 2025
Depart: Monday, November 10, 2025



WHEELER-WINDSOR
EXPEDITIONS

The Magic of Malta

Welcome to the world's most interesting island! You'll be absolutely astonished at 8,000 years of history – beauty, culture, great food and wine, luxury hotels and so much more is packed into this Mediterranean island nation.

You'll be amazed at how much we pack in for you to see and do and experience – and how much fun you'll have, how many friends you'll make. After all, the Maltese people have been making friends for many, many centuries.

So come with us to enjoy Malta to the hilt – and learn how Western Civilization began here thousands of years ago... and how a few centuries ago, here is where Western Civilization was saved from oblivion.



Valletta, Fort St. Elmo in foreground

Day 1 – Arrivals – Sunday, November 2, 2025

You can arrive any time today on a short easy flight from every big city in Europe. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the modern Gomerino Hotel in the center of Malta's capital, Valletta.

We all meet this evening for our Welcome reception and dinner.



Rooftop infinity pool of Gomerino Valletta Hotel



Day 2 – Monday, November 3 - Fort St. Elmo; tour & museum.

After lunch, explore Valletta with a walking tour to St. John's Co-Cathedral, the Valletta waterfront, Saluting Battery at 4pm (below) Upper Baraka Gardens, Casa Rocca Piccola Palace, Grandmaster Palace Courtyard, and a selection of pubs along Straight Street. Dinner in Valletta.



St. John's Co-Cathedral



Saluting Battery ceremony at 4pm.

Day 3 – Tuesday, November 4 - We explore the “Three Cities” of Birgu, Senglea, and Bormla opposite the Grand Harbor of Valletta.

The Three Cities left to right: Bormla, Birgu, Senglea, Fort St. Angelo, site of the Siege of Malta, is on the end of Birgu.

Our tour begins by small *dghajsa* boat. We explore Fort St Angelo, site of the 1563 Siege of Malta that saved Western Civilization; and includes walking tour through the three.



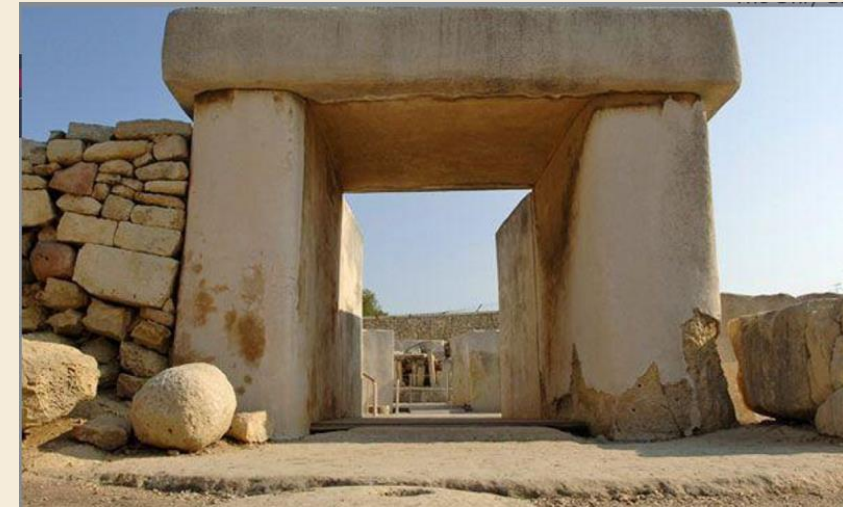
A “dghajsa” water taxi handed down father-to-son for generations.



We get a private tour of how the Knights of Malta defeated the Ottoman Turks at Fort St. Angelo. (below) This evening, dinner in Birgu.



Day 4 – Wednesday, November 5 – We have the morning to explore the Hypogeum (*hi-po-gee-um*), it is the world's only *pre-historic*, underground temple. It is over 5,000 years old with rock-cut replicas of above-ground temples including simulated corbelled roofs. The Tarxien Temples near the Hypogeum are in Valletta (below right), as well as Hajjar Qim & Mnajdra Temples.



Here's Jack at the giant megalithic temple at Hajjar Qim (*hah-jar seem*) where some of the blocks weigh 20 tons.

Day 4 – Wednesday, November 5 (continued)

After lunch we enjoy at the charming fishing port of Marsaxlokk, with fabulous seafood.

Then we take a small boat to explore the incredible beauty by boat through the Blue Grotto and the Blue Grotto Canal.



We'll end with a nightcap on the Gomerino rooftop terrace.

Day 5 – Thursday, November 6 - We transfer to Malta's medieval capital Mdina to stay in an actual palace, the Palazzo Bifora.

We'll spend day exploring Mdina and the adjacent ancient town of Rabat. Mdina, Malta's medieval capital, is one of Europe's best preserved and impressively walled cities.

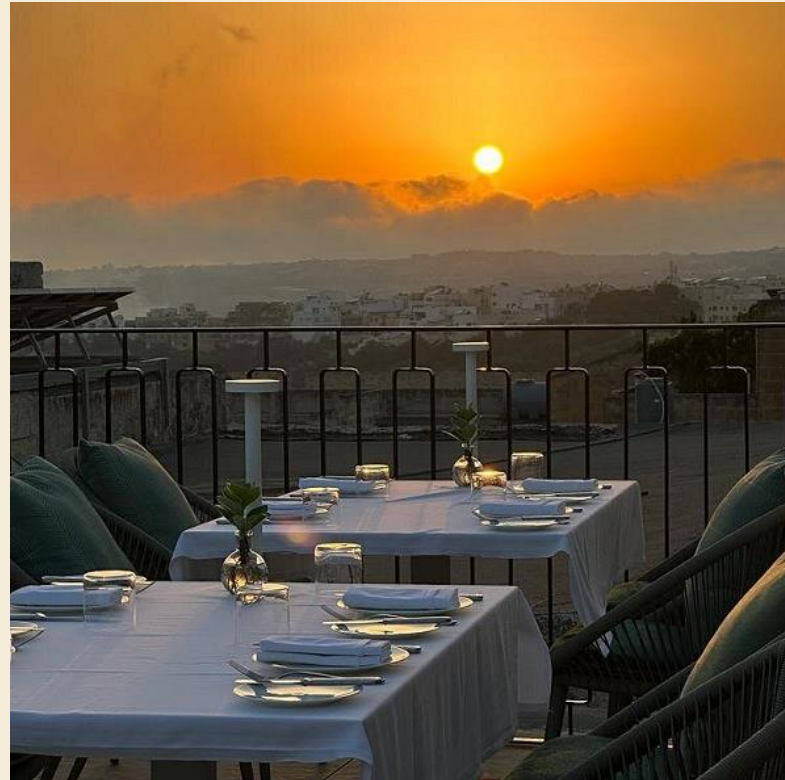


Exploring Mdina's ancient streets is like stepping back in time. Lit only by street lamps against the golden sandstone, Mdina has a magic glow at night.



Day 5 – Thursday, November 6 (continued)

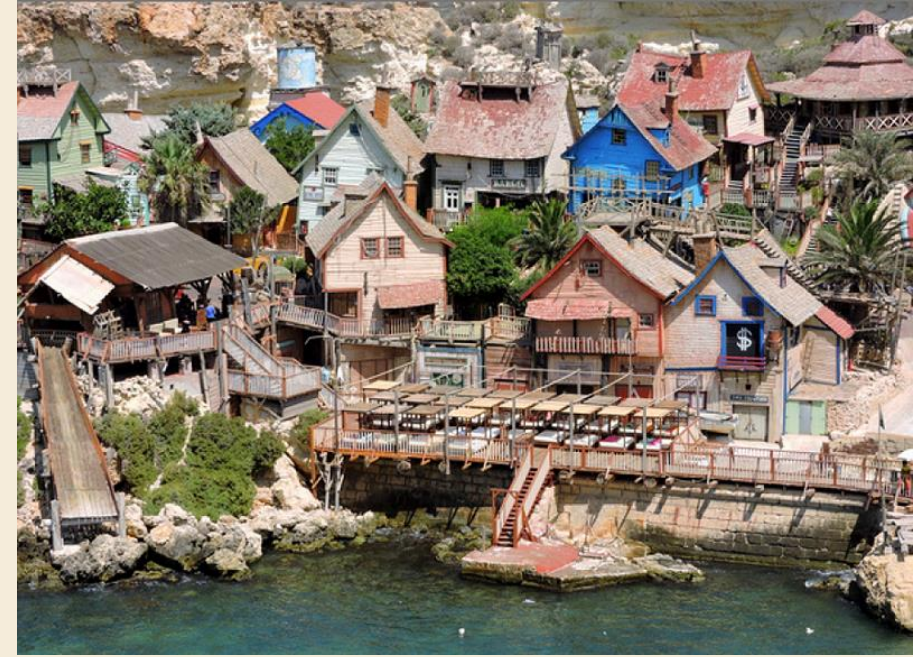
Palacio Bifora features modernized elegance. We'll enjoy the palatial sunsets and exquisite cuisine.



Day 6 – Friday, November 7 – It's off to Gozo today. The country of Malta comprises the islands of Malta and Gozo, with the small islet of Comino in between. Gozo is a short ferry ride from Malta. Enroute to Gozo ferry, photo stop at Popeye's Village, the movie set for Robin Williams' film. (right)



Western Civilization began here. We'll stand amazed at Ggantija, the world's oldest free-standing structure. The gigantic Temple of Ggantija (*zhee-gan-tee-zha*), built almost 6,000 years ago, is older than the pyramids in Egypt by a thousand years.



Day 6 – Friday, November 7 (continued)

We experience Greek mythology at Calypso's Cave of Homer where Homer sang of Odysseus (Ulysses) being under her spell here for 7 years.

We explore the massive medieval Citadel atop Gozo's town of Victoria.



Inside, The Citadel is as interesting as the outside.



Day 6 – Friday, November 7 (continued) We have lunch overlooking beautiful Xlindi Bay...



Day 6 – Friday, November 7 (continued) We arrive at the sumptuous Kempinski to relax and luxuriate.



Day 7 – Saturday, November 8

This morning we'll visit the famous Blue Hole near the Kempinski. Or, you can relax and enjoy the Kempinski's many amenities.

After lunch we embark on our own private charter boat cruising to the small islet of Comino between Gozo and Malta.



Please note that the Maltese Islands have a **Blue Grotto**, a **Blue Hole**, and a **Blue Lagoon** on different islands in Malta.

Day 7 – Saturday, November 8 (continued) We'll discover hidden inlets and sea caves of the Crystal Lagoon.

And revel in the breathtaking beauty of Comino's famous Blue Lagoon. (right)



Day 7 – Saturday, November 8 (continued)

We're sure to remember our Blue Lagoon sunset.



We end the day back in Malta at Jack's favorite, Hotel Juliani in St. Julian's Bay.

Day 8 – Sunday, November 9

Today, we awaken to the lovely view of St. Julian's Bay from your room at Hotel Juliani.



Day 8 – Sunday, November 9 (continued) After breakfast, we return this morning to Fort St. Elmo to attend the spectacular *In-Guardia* reenactment of the 16th century Knights of Malta demonstrating their military readiness for their Grand Bailiff. The Knights' colorful attire and activities are all authentic.

The Maltese are immensely proud of their history.



Day 8 – Sunday, November 9 (continued)

St. Julian's is Malta's elite playground – today it's yours to enjoy! After an action packed few days, you'll be ready for some time to recharge.

There's time to relax at the rooftop pool and terrace, or stroll along St Julian's Promenade with shops, cafés, and strewn with flowers.



Day 8 – Sunday, November 9 (continued) For the afternoon, various activities are available. The adventurous among us can go parasailing! It's fun and safe for people of all ages. Or visiting one of the many art galleries may be more your style...



Our table will be waiting when we gather for our Farewell Dinner to celebrate our being immersed in the magic of Malta.



Day 9 – Monday, November 10 – Today is Departure Day, transferring to the airport for flights onward after our truly unforgettable Malta adventure, where we learned and experienced so much, and met so many new friends. From now on, Malta will always hold a special place in your heart.

The Magic of Malta

Exploration Details

Arrive: Sunday, November 2, 2025 Depart: Monday, November 10, 2025

All Inclusive: \$8,650 per person, double occupancy

Register: [The Magic of Malta November 2-10, 2025](#)



All-Inclusive: Accommodations in highly-rated, luxurious hotels, . (check-in Nov 2 to check-out on Nov 10), delicious meals, all transportation, transfers, tours, admissions, and activities in the itinerary. Trip leaders and local guides. Three meals per day included during trip dates.

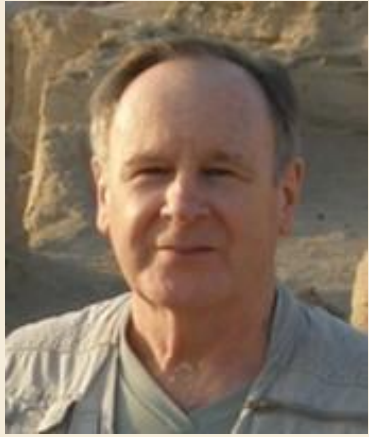
Price does not include: International airfare to/from Malta. Any meals, services, and activities not with group or in itinerary; personal expenditures, laundry, alcoholic drinks, gratuities, etc.

Deposit & Payment: Upon registration a deposit of \$3,650 per person. Balance in payments.

Cancellation and Refund Info: Refund in full on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you. **As always, we advise you to get “Cancel for Any Reason” trip cancellation insurance.** If you need assistance with insurance, we can send a list of companies. Note: Malta is open to visitors and tourists from the U.S. We expect this trip to be completed as scheduled. In the event of an unforeseen situation out of our control we will reschedule when possible.

If you'd like to discuss the trip: holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com

Important caveat: *Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. It rarely happens, yet due to the nature of travel, the itinerary may be altered in any way necessary. Participants are expected to accept this, and to maintain a cheerful attitude on an adventure such as this.*



Dr. Jack Wheeler, has been called the “real life Indiana Jones” by the Wall Street Journal has traveled to all 193 countries on all seven continents. He’s had two parallel careers: one in adventure and exploration with *Wheeler Expeditions*; the other in the field of geopolitics. After receiving his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Southern California, where he lectured on Aristotelian ethics.

His adventures began early. The youngest Eagle Scout in history at age 12, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont (LIFE Magazine 12/12/60) and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17, and started an export business in Vietnam at 19. He wrote *The Adventurer’s Guide* (New York: Mackay, 1975), described by Merv Griffin as “the definitive book for anyone wishing to lead a more adventurous and exciting life.” He has three “first contacts” with tribes never before contacted by the outside world: a clan of Aushiri in the Amazon, the Wali-ali-fo in New Guinea, and a band of Bushmen in the Kalahari. He retraced Hannibal’s route over the Alps with elephants; led numerous expeditions in Central Asia, China, Tibet, Africa, the Amazon and elsewhere, including 21 expeditions to the North Pole; and has been listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for the first free fall sky-dive in history at the North Pole. His company has conducted exclusive expeditions to dozens of countries across the globe for over 35 years.

Jack founded Wheeler Expeditions in 1976, today he and his sons lead bespoke expeditions each year to unusual destinations. The company has conducted exclusive expeditions to dozens of countries across the globe for over 35 years. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married Ms. Rebel Holiday in St Tropez, France, and these days, Wheeler Expeditions is a family affair. They are delighted to work with their two grown sons also living adventurous lives and leading expeditions: Brandon Holiday Wheeler and Jackson Holiday Wheeler.



Rebel Holiday has traveled to 89 countries and has co-led expeditions for 3 decades. She has lived in several countries and speaks three languages (English, Portuguese, and Spanish.) She is involved in business and the arts. Wherever she goes in the world, Rebel is most interested in people and cultures. She is passionate about cuisine and finds the best restaurants and special activities on trips. She currently enjoys sharing the beauty of Portugal, her favorite European country.



You will have discovered first-hand, what makes Malta such an interesting and unique place.
We hope you join us...this will be high on your list of “Best Trips Ever.”

Contact us if any questions:

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Blue Skies, Jack Wheeler & Rebel Holiday

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