



# *The Magic of Malta*

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

Arrive: Saturday, September 30  
Depart: Sunday, October 8, 2023



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



**Saturday, September 30** - Arrival day. A short easy flight from every big city in Europe. Transfer/check-in to the modern Embassy Valletta Hotel in the center of Malta's capital, Valletta.

After we check into our hotel we'll have time to rest and relax until we all meet this evening for our Welcome reception and dinner.



Rooftop infinity pool of Embassy Valletta Hotel





**Sunday, October 1** - Fort St. Elmo; tour of fort & 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..



**Monday, October 2** - Full day exploring 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.



This “dghajsa” water taxi was handed down father-to-son for generations



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





***Tuesday, October 3*** - Morning to explore the Hypogeum and Tarxien Temples in Valletta, lunch and explore the charming fishing port of Marsaxlokk. Marsaxlokk is an utterly charming fishing village with fabulous seafood.

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



**Tuesday, October 3** – (continued) The Hypogeum (*hi-po-gee-um*), is the only prehistoric underground temple in the world. (below, left) Over 5,000 years old with rock-cut replicas of above-ground temples including simulated corbelled roofs. We also visit 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.

Tonight we'll enjoy a wonderful dinner at a cozy inn on the way back to Valletta.



**Wednesday October 4** - 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.

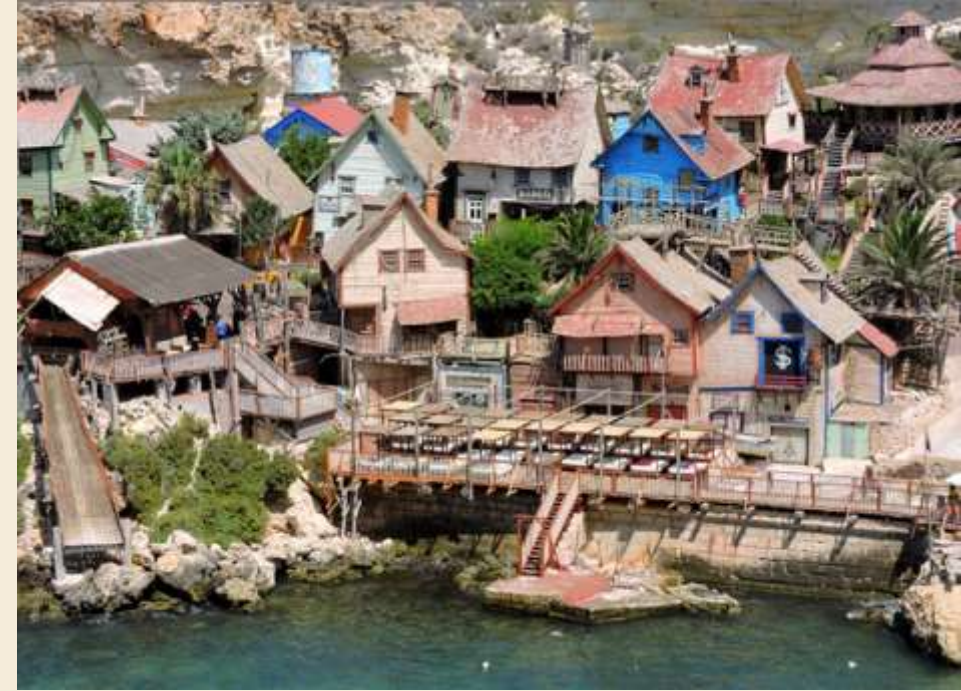




*Thursday, October 5* – It's off to Gozo today. As you saw in the map above, the country of Malta comprises the islands of Malta and Gozo, with the small islet of Comino in between. Gozo is a short ferry ride from Malta.

First we stand amazed at Ggantija, the world's oldest free standing structure; experience Greek mythology at Calypso's Cave of Homer's Odyssey; explore The Citadel of Victoria; enjoy lunch in Xlendi Bay; and spend the afternoon on a private boat cruise around Gozo, reaching Comino to swim in the Blue and Crystal Lagoons. Enroute to Gozo ferry, stop to see Popeye's Village, the movie set for Robin Williams' film.

Western Civilization began here at Ggantija, humanity's oldest free-standing structure.





*Thursday, October 5 (continued)*

We visit Calypso's Cave, where Homer's *Odyssey* 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 Citidel is as interesting as the outside.





*Thursday, October 5 (cont.)* We have lunch overlooking Xlindi Bay.



At Xlindi we board our private charter boat for a cruise around Gozo. We'll swim in the famous Blue Hole.





*Friday, October 6 (cont.)*

We'll find secret inlets. When we reach the islet of Comino, we'll revel in the breathtaking beauty of the Blue and the Crystal Lagoons.



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





**Friday, October 6** - St. Julian's is Malta's elite playground – today it's yours to play in! After an action packed few days, you'll be ready to enjoy a free day to relax at the Juliani Hotel rooftop pool and explore St. Julian's





*Saturday October, 7* - We start with a sumptuous brunch at the Juliani, then spend the afternoon in Valletta seeing more of the historic city. We have an early celebratory Farewell Dinner, and afterwards enjoy the festivities as much as we possibly can.

*Are you ready to party?* Tonight is the biggest night of the year in all Malta, the *Notte Bianca* (White Night) in Valletta. All Valletta becomes a City of Lights; streets, piazzas, churches, state palaces and museums are transformed into venues for a myriad of live events and concerts with 50 different performances from orchestra and ballets to jazz and rock. It's a night you'll always remember.





*Saturday October 7 (cont.)*

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**Sunday, October 8** - Today is Departure Day, transferring to airport for flights onward after our truly unforgettable Malta adventure, where we learned and experience so much, and met so many new friends. From now on, Malta will always be a special place in your heart.



# The Magic of Malta

## Exploration Details

**Arrive: Saturday, September 30, 2023** **Depart: Sunday, Oct 8, 2023**

**All Inclusive:** \$7,750 per person, double occupancy

**Register Here:** [The Magic of Malta 2023 Sep 30-Oct 8](#)

**All-Inclusive:** Accommodations in highly-rated hotels (check-in on 30<sup>th</sup> - check-out on 8<sup>th</sup>); 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, additional alcohol, gratuities, etc.

**Deposit & Payment:** Upon registration a deposit of \$3,750 per person. Balance in payments.

**Cancellation and Refund Info:** Refund in full on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you.

Note: Malta is open to visitors and tourists from the U.S. There is no requirement for vaccines or tests. We expect this trip to be completed as scheduled. In the event of an unforeseen situation out of our control, we will reschedule it, and this expedition will be offered on various dates as early as possible. As always, we advise you to get “Cancel for Any Reason” trip cancellation insurance. Let us know if you need assistance with this, most travel agents offer this service.

**If you'd like to discuss the trip:** [holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.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.*



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**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 87 countries and has co-led expeditions for 3 decades. She has lived in 5 countries and speaks three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese.) 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.





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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