



VALLETTA
EXCURSION



The paths are lined with trees including a pistachio. The busts, statues and plaques in the gardens chart various personalities and events in Maltese history. An item of special interest is the bronze group, known as 'Les Gavroches' (street urchins), by an early 20th century Maltese sculptor, Antonio Sciortino. This monument shows three children hurrying forward. The idea behind this statue was the extreme hardship faced at the turn of the 20th century. Other items are

the statue of Lord Strickland, a former Prime Minister of Malta and the sepulchral monument of Governor Sir Thomas Maitland, known locally as Lord Tom, who died in 1816. For over two centuries, Upper Barrakka has been a popular meeting place.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Always stay with either your guide or in groups of at least three.
- Please refrain from eating or drinking in the coach.
- In case you have a problem, the school's emergency number is +356 9946 7078. Please follow your guide's instructions.

Have fun!!!

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Valletta

While travelling through the Mediterranean, Sir Walter Scott described Valletta as 'the city built by gentlemen for gentlemen'. Today, it's a beautifully preserved 16th century walled city, small enough to discover in a few hours.

Valletta is a rough rectangle at the tip of a peninsula on Malta's northeast coast. From the City Gate at the southwest edge of Valletta, you can walk to the centre of the town through a series of squares surrounded by palaces and cathedrals.

St. John's Co-Cathedral

However short your stay, this Cathedral of the Knights of St. John is a must. Described as the first complete example of high baroque, it epitomises the spiritual and military role of its patrons.

The impressive façade is reminiscent of the fortifications of Valletta, while the lavish baroque interior shows the Knights' deep appreciation of culture and the arts.



The Co-Cathedral is testimony to the talent of Maltese military architect, Gerolamo Cassar, and to Mattia Preti, the Calabrian artist and Knight. Preti designed the intricate carved stone walls and painted the vaulted ceiling and side altars with scenes from the life of St. John.

The Church also possesses two canvases by the famous Michelangelo Merisi, known as Caravaggio.

Within the Oratory, which now forms part of the Museum of the

Church, you can admire the famous beheading of St. John, one of the greatest masterpieces in the history of art. Within the same Museum there is also a set of Flemish tapestries, a gift from one of the Grand Masters to the Church. Likewise, there are various choral books and other church vestments that can be admired in the Museum.

Upper Barrakka Gardens

The Upper Barrakka Gardens are situated near Castille Place. From these gardens you can enjoy unrivalled views across one of the world's largest and deepest natural harbours, the Grand Harbour, and over to the Three Cities. The origins of the Upper Barrakka Garden go back to 1661, when in effect it was a 'private' garden of the Italian knights, whose inns of residence (auberges) lie close by. It was opened as a public garden in 1824. The Saluting Battery, which in the past used to boast 18 bronze cannons, was open to the public only in 1924 when the staircase linking the two areas was built.

