



MDINA EXCURSION



Today's dome interior dates back to the 1950s. In the Mdina cathedral, you find works by the Calabrian artist and Knight, Mattia Preti. The pavement of marble-inlaid tombstones carries the coats of arms and inscriptions of the bishops of Mdina and other members of the Cathedral chapter. In the choir behind the main altar is Preti's monumental depiction of 'The Conversion of St. Paul'. It was part of the original

Norman church and survived the earthquake.

Fontanella Tearooms **The best cakes in Mdina!**

We stop for tea/coffee at Fontanella which is renowned for its delicious cakes - especially chocolate and its home made 'pastizzi (pass-tits-see)' - little pastries filled with peas or cheese. You can also enjoy the view from the top of the Mdina bastions.



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!!!

**MDINA
EXCURSION**



a half day tour through Malta's medieval city, also known as the 'silent city'.



Mdina

The history of Mdina is as old and as varied as the history of Malta itself. Mdina can trace its origins back to more than 4,000 years. This old medieval capital of Malta rises above central Malta, its bastions and cathedral dome dominating the skyline. It is fascinating to tour its timeless atmosphere and cultural and religious treasures. Mdina has had different names and titles depending on its rulers and its role. It was Melita to the Romans;

Medina to the Arabs; and Citta' Vecchia, the old city, when Valletta became the lifeblood of the Islands. None describe it better than its medieval name Citta' Notabile, the noble city. It was home to Malta's noble families, some descendants of the Norman, Sicilian and Spanish lords who made Mdina their home from the 12th century onwards. Their impressive palaces line its narrow, shady streets. Mdina is one of Europe's finest examples of an ancient walled city and has an

unusual mix of medieval and baroque architecture. Today, Mdina has a quiet, restrained atmosphere in keeping with its noble past. Lamp-lit by night, Mdina transforms itself into the 'Silent City'.

The Mdina Experience A Multilingual Multivision Show

Take an unforgettable 25 minutes experience of Mdina's fascinating journey through time. Relive Mdina's 3,000 years of tragedy and triumph – the cult of the mother Goddess – the landing of St. Paul – the medieval city half destroyed by earthquake and gloriously rebuilt with the fighting spirit of the Knights. There's ancient history and realism here, but above all, there's high drama which is the story of the Mdina Experience.

Mdina Cathedral

The Cathedral, also known as St. Paul's Cathedral, is the architectural crown of the elegant, walled city of Mdina. A late 17th century masterpiece of Maltese architect Lorenzo Gafa', it lies on

the site of a much earlier Norman church that was destroyed by the violent earthquake of 1693. According to tradition, the earlier church had been built on the site of the house of Publius, the Roman's chief man on the Islands, who was converted to Christianity by St. Paul in A.D. 60. The Cathedral's imposing façade greets you abruptly as you emerge from Mdina's narrow streets. The building is topped by a magnificent dome, possibly one of Gafa's greatest achievements.

The dome has a chequered history: a succession of painters have tried to embellish its interior.

