



# Betchart Expeditions<sup>INC.</sup>

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THE BEST OF MAN AND NATURE WORLDWIDE<sup>SM</sup>

**OPTIONAL MALTA PRE-TRIP: Highly recommended for first time visitors to Malta.**

## Pre-Historic Sites & Astronomy in Malta

July 28 - 31, 2027



### OVERVIEW

**We invite you to join the Pre-Trip which is scheduled immediately before your Malta & Sicily by Yacht Special Total Solar Eclipse Voyage, July 31 - August 7, 2027.**

#### **Stay in Valletta, Malta's fascinating capital!**

Enjoy a guided experience through Valletta, learn about science in Malta from a local astronomer, and visit megalithic temples. The city of Valletta is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** for its exceptional late Renaissance Baroque architecture. Built by the Knights of St John, it retains its 16th-century elegance and is one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world. The prehistoric monumental buildings constructed during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC rank amongst the earliest free-standing stone buildings in the world and are remarkable for their diversity of form and decoration.

**Indulge in Valletta's Food & Drink!** At the heart of the Mediterranean, and blending centuries-spanning Arabic, Italian, French and British culinary influences, Maltese cuisine is both fresh and flavorful. Seafood sourced from the cobalt waters framing the nation's island trio of Malta, Gozo and Comino features on many menus, and hearty rabbit dishes and fruit and vegetables coaxed from dry and rocky terrain are also popular. Maltese winemakers are inspired by two millennia of viticultural history, while a growing band of local craft brewers are equally innovative

### ITINERARY

**PRE DAY 1 (Wed, Jul 28) HOME TO VALLETTA** Depart home on overnight flights to Valletta, Malta.

**PRE DAY 2 (Thu, Jul 29) ARRIVE VALLETTA** Arrive Valletta and join a group transfer or taxi on your own to our centrally located hotel (2 *nights*). Check in after 4 pm. Welcome dinner & pre-trip orientation.

### **PRE DAY 3 (Fri, Jul 30) VALLETTA WALKING TOUR / ASTRONOMY & SCIENCE IN MALTA**

After breakfast we will have an early morning walking tour of Valletta. See St. John's Cathedral, completed by the Order of the Knights of St. John in 1577. The 16th-century Grand Master's Place was once the residence of the Grand Masters of the Knights of St John, and from Malta's independence until 2015 was the seat of Malta's parliament. The 16th-century palazzo Casa Rocca Piccola is the family home of the 9th Marquis de Piro, who still lives here and has opened part of the palazzo to the public. Visits allow a unique insight into the privileged lifestyle of the aristocracy, and include the family's WWII air-raid shelters, which lie 100ft underground.

Enjoy one of the local eateries for a light lunch on your own.

After lunch, transfer to the University of Malta for an introduction to Astronomy & Science in Malta. Enjoy a special lecture by Stephen M. Brincat, a Maltese astronomer well-known for his photometric work on stars and asteroids. Using ground-based photometric surveys, he has, over the years, discovered and studied numerous variable stars that were yet unknown to the international astronomical and scientific community. He has authored and co-authored many scientific papers from his observational work conducted at his Flarestar Observatory in San Gwann, Malta.

In 2000, the observatory conducted an asteroid photometric collaboration with an observatory in the United States (MPC Code: 713), addressing the challenges posed by the Earth's rotational period. Dinner on your own.



### **PRE DAY 4 (Sat, Jul 31) PRE-HISTORIC SITES OF MNAJDRA & HAGAR / EMBARKATION**

Morning departure for Malta's megalithic temples of Hagar Qim "standing stones" and Mnajdra. Located along a cliff top above the stunning Mediterranean Sea, these are Malta's best preserved prehistoric sites. The Hagar Qim temple consists of connected oval chambers. The "Venus de Malta" and the "Fat Lady" clay figurines dating to 3500-3000 BC, were found here. The more elaborate Mnajdra consists of three temples, each with a trefoil plan and different orientation. The oldest

temple is aligned towards the southwest and Filfla Island. The central temple, pointing towards the southeast, is the youngest. All date from between 3600 and 3000 BC. The southern temple is said to have significant solar alignment. At sunrise during the summer solstice, a sunbeam enters a circular opening in the back of the right-hand apse. Return to Valletta for free time and lunch on your own before embarking the M/Y Voyager for our Malta & Sicily Total Solar Eclipse Voyage.

**For reservations**, phone Terri or Lori (800) 252-4910 or email: [betchartTerri@gmail.com](mailto:betchartTerri@gmail.com)

For costs and other details please see below. We hope you will be able to join us

### **COSTS & CONDITIONS**

**Malta Pre-Trip Fee:** \$1,995 per person (twin share), Single Occupancy \$2,590

**Pre-Trip Fee Includes:** Group airport arrival transfer; hotel accommodations 2 nights; meals as indicated; group entrance fees; sightseeing, leadership, administration.

**Pre-Trip Fee Does Not Include:** Air fare; independent arrival transfers; some meals; beverages at meals; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water or soda, snacks; passport, personal insurance, tips to local guides and drivers.

**Independent Transfers and Pre-Nights:** We can arrange an additional hotel night(s) and individual transfers for you if you are not on the suggested group flight (cost \$tba). Request basis.

**Cancellation:** Deposit is refundable less \$250 per person until 270 days before departure. Within 270 days of departure, payments are nonrefundable. Airfare is nonrefundable. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.

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**RESERVATIONS** #1815 PRE

**YES!** I/We want to join the **Malta Pre-trip, July 28 - 31, 2027** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ double or \_\_\_\_\_ single accommodations.

Please mail to: **Malta Pre-Trip 2027**  
**Betchart Expeditions Inc.**  
**17050 Montebello Road**  
**Cupertino, CA 95014**

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