

## Annual Conference 2017: programme for delegates' partners

### TOUR 1

**0900hrs** Meet guide in hotel reception

Proceed to **Rabat** via the old stores known as Magazzini through Greek's Gate. You will see:

- Roman Domus
- St. Joseph's Church
- St. Paul's Church

Visit **St. Paul's Catacombs**

Proceed to **Mdina**

The mysterious golden-stone Arabic walled city of Mdina crowns the hilltop, and is a world apart from modern Malta. Its hidden lanes offer exquisite architectural detail and respite from the day-tripping crowds, who largely stick to the main street.

The citadel of Mdina was fortified from as long as 1000 BC when the Phoenicians built a protective wall and called their settlement Malet, meaning, 'place of shelter.' The Romans built a large town here and called it Melita. It was given its present name when the Arabs arrived in the 9<sup>th</sup> century – medina is Arabic for 'walled city.' They built strong walls and dug a deep moat between Mdina and its surrounding suburbs (rabat in Arabic). The moat has recently been landscaped to become a garden with surreally neat lawns, a pleasant place for a stroll and a venue for regular festivals.

Starting from the main entrance to the city, you will see:

- Vilhena Palace
- Inguanez Palace
- Mesquita Square
- Mdina Cathedral
- Palazzo Santa Sophia
- The Carmelite Church
- Bastion Square

Visit **Palazzo Falson**

**1230hrs** Lunch at leisure in Mdina

**1430hrs** Proceed to **Dingli**

Dingli is a quiet village with not much to it, but less than a kilometre to the southwest the land falls away at the spectacular 220m-high Dingli Cliffs. Here you will enjoy excellent views along the coast to the tiny island of Filfla.

**1530hrs** Head to the **Three Cities**

Despite their picturesque narrow streets and stunning views, the village-like 'Three Cities', Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua, are surprisingly off the tourist radar and lovely places to absorb some local atmosphere.

**1700hrs** End of tour, drop off at hotel

**Tours organised by ELT Council**

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## TOUR 2

**0900hrs** Meet guide in hotel reception

Drive by **Popeye's Village** in Mellieħa

Proceed to Ċirkewwa for ferry to **Gozo**

Gozo, meaning "joy" in Castilian, is the second largest island of the Maltese archipelago, with a population of approximately 30,000. Though separated from mainland Malta by a mere 5 kilometres stretch of sea, Gozo is distinctly different from Malta. The Island is a third the size of Malta, more rural and tranquil. Its culture and way of life are rooted in tradition and yet open to the present.

Proceed to **Dwejra**

The **Azure Window** was an impressive natural arch standing some twenty meters high. Following decades of natural erosion that caused parts of the arch to fall into the sea, the slab and pillar collapsed completely in stormy weather March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The **Inland Sea** is a secluded bathing pool with crystal clear waters and surrounded by sheer cliffs. A small tunnel connects it to the open sea.

The **Fungus Rock**

Atop this 60 metre monolith, also known as the General's Rock, grows a rare tubular plant that was believed to cure dysentery and many other illnesses.

Proceed for a walk through the streets of **Victoria** and the **Citadel**

Victoria, also known as Rabat or by its title Città Victoria, is the capital city of Gozo. The area around the town, situated on a hill near the centre of the island, has been settled since Neolithic times. Victoria is the name given by the British government on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, at the request of the Bishop of Malta, Mons. Sir Pietro Pace.

The Citadel has been at the centre of activity on the island since possibly Neolithic times, and was certainly fortified during the Bronze Age around 1500 BC. It was later developed by the Phoenicians and in Roman times, it was a complex Acropolis. Gozo was a privileged Roman Municipality, independent of Malta and the Citadel was the centre of its administrative as well as its military and religious life, an important temple to the goddess Juno stood where the Cathedral now stands.

**1230hrs** Lunch at leisure

**1430hrs** Proceed to **Ġgantija Temples** in Xagħra

These are the oldest freestanding structures in the world and potentially Gozo's single most marketable landmark. Excavated from 1816-1820, the complex comprises of 2 Neolithic temples dating from the third millennium BC (c.3500BC) – 7,000 years ago.

Catch the 1630hrs ferry to Malta.

**1700hrs** End of tour, drop off at hotel

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