

Festive Walking in Malta

Trip style: Festive breaks

Destination: 📍 Maltese Islands

Trip code: MTA07-LXL09

Grades: 1 & 2

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 1112kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Make this Christmas extra special by spending the festive season in stunning Malta. With mild winters and more historic sights per square mile than any other country, this sunny Mediterranean isle has plenty to please. Our guided walking holiday is the perfect introduction to Malta's dramatic coastlines, countryside, Neolithic temples, impressive catacombs, and churches built by the Knights of St John. You'll also get to explore the Maltese capital of Valletta on foot – perfect for admiring the twinkling lights and festive decorations in Republic Square and tucking into seasonal treats at the island's Christmas markets.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Spending time in the UNESCO-listed capital, Valletta
- Taking in the dramatic views during coastal walks
- Experiencing the Silent City of Mdina
- Visiting the fishing village of Marsaxlokk

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3 guided walks led by local HF Holidays Leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights half-board accommodation at 4-star hotel
- Festive dinner on 24 December
- Lunch included on 25 December (Please note this is not a traditional Christmas meal)
- Sightseeing trip to Valetta
- Return flights from the UK including hold baggage and airport transfers(on with flight holiday)

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Solana Hotel. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Dingli to Blue Grotto / Mdina

Today's visit is to the Dingli Cliffs, Malta's highest point. We walk through Buskett Gardens (once the hunting ground of the Grand Masters) towards the Dingli Cliffs. Close to the cliffs we see the remains of Ghar ilKbir cave dwellings and a series of distinctive prehistoric cart ruts. This visit will be enhanced by a local guide who was raised in the area. The afternoon is spent sightseeing with the option of: (a) visiting 4th century catacombs, the museum of Roman Antiquities, and soaking up the atmosphere in the Silent City of Mdina or (b) visiting the temple complex of Ħaġar Qim that can be seen before descending to Wied iz-Zurrieq where there's the option of a boat trip to the Blue Grotto (if the weather's good).

Day 3: (Christmas Eve) Free Day

Christmas Eve is a free day when no guided walks are offered. This is an ideal opportunity to relax at the hotel and make use of the spa facilities (booking ahead is recommended for any treatments), soak up the Christmas lights at local Mellieha Square or walk independently to one of the nearby coastal villages, such as Armier. In the evening, we'll enjoy a festive dinner together. You may also travel to Valletta, Malta's capital to admire the architecture and walk around the harbour, or visit historic Rabat or Mdina. (Please note: attractions with entry required will be closed over the festive period)

Day 4: (Christmas Day) Free Day

Merry Christmas. Celebrate a relaxing Christmas Day morning enjoying the hotel facilities or exploring Mellieha before returning for a delicious lunch. The rest of the day is yours to spend as you choose. Unwind by the pool, share a drink at the bar, or relax in your room. In the evening relax and enjoy dinner with our group.

Day 5: (Boxing Day) Marsascula to Marsaxlokk Bay

These walks link two traditional Maltese fishing villages on the South Eastern corner of the island.

Day 6: Valletta Day Trip

Today we'll visit Valletta. Like a vast open-air museum, the entire city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A walking tour with an expert local guide will take in all the city's top sights. Discover fortified citadels and hear tales of the heroic Knights Hospitaller and their defence of the city during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. There'll also be free time in the festively decorated city centre to explore or stop for a drink. We'll also watch the Christmas lights illuminate the streets before heading back to the hotel.

Day 7: Mellieha to Golden Bay

Combine coast and countryside walking through Majjstral Nature and History Park to Golden Bay

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon

Solana Hotel - Malta

Situated in the quiet seaside resort of Mellieħa on Malta's northeast coast, the 4-star Solana Hotel offers both indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a wellness centre, and three restaurants. HF Holidays guests will also benefit from unlimited self-service drinks during dinner including local beer, wine, soft drinks, and hot beverages. There are a cluster of local shops, bars, restaurants, and amenities on the doorstep and the stunningly beautiful Mellieħa Bay – the island's largest stretch of sand – is around a 30-minute walk away.

Solana's rooftop pool offers impeccable views of the sea and Malta's sister islands, with a pleasant outside seating area. There is also an indoor pool (heated October – May).

Vaccinations & health information - SHARED WITH ALL EU NEW 2026

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel. As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure. Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting. For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

Passport & Visa information - SHARED FOR ALL EU NEW 2026

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice. **Passport Requirements** This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long. We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues. If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website. **Visa Requirements** Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling. British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Packing list - Overseas Guided Walking

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Walking boots Waterproof jacket Waterproof trousers Insulated jacket/top Walking

clothing Walking socks (plus spares) Sunhat Gloves/mitts and warm hat Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity) Headtorch High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30) Sunglasses with a dark lens Rucksack (15-30 litres) Mobile phone Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.) Passport Visa (if applicable) Copy of your travel insurance policy UK Global Health Insurance Card (formerly known as EHIC) Recommended Collapsible walking poles Swimwear and travel towel Snacks Dry bags Rubbish bags Insect repellent Optional extras Camera Sit mat Flask for hot drinks Durable lunch box Gaiters GPS device (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)
