

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips



INSIDER TIP Regional cuisine

Everything on the “One Kilometer Platter” at the organic restaurant *The Cliffs* was either raised or cultivated within a 1 km radius → p. 74

INSIDER TIP Luxury in a palazzo

Truly exclusive addresses don’t advertise much. You are just lucky if you find them. This applies to *The Xara Palace*, a gem among luxury hotels where the atmosphere of bygone days lives on → p. 72

INSIDER TIP In the digital age

At the cafe & restaurant *iPlace* in Marsaxlokk, 80 iPads are available for use with the free WiFi. The menu and some games are also installed on them → p. 58

INSIDER TIP Romantic boat tour

For a special occasion, why not hire a traditional *dghajsa*? The skippers will take you round every nook of the Grand Harbour or along the coast → p. 125

INSIDER TIP Gozo from above

In *Xewkija*, you can walk around the cupola of the village church at a height of 50 m (164 ft) and enjoy the bird’s eye view of the entire island including Victoria → p. 90

INSIDER TIP Healthy and delicious

Regional culinary and cosmetic products from Gozo are sold in the lovingly-maintained small shop *Organika* in Victoria on Gozo by a lovely French couple → p. 92

INSIDER TIP Alternative destination

Those seeking an individual holiday head to Malta’s last surviving fishing village. The best accommodation is the *Port View B&B* → p. 59

INSIDER TIP Meal with a sea view

The beach of Ghar Lapsi (photo right) is small and stony, but to make up for that it has one of the finest and best-located restaurants on the island: *Blue Creek* → p. 75

INSIDER TIP Enduring vinyl

The *D’Amato* family has been selling records for over 100 years and will hunt down every collector’s wish → p. 46

INSIDER TIP Where climbers like to fall

Over 1500 routes in 30 climbing areas are marked on Malta, including some where *climbers* can dive straight into the water from the rock face – it takes your breath away just to watch (photo left) → p. 112

INSIDER TIP Restaurant bunker

The *il-Barri* restaurant in Mgarr on Malta doesn’t reveal from the outside what lies within: generous portions of excellent Maltese food and a 225 m (738 ft) long bunker → p. 83

INSIDER TIP Sounds delicious

At *La Valette* and *The King’s Own* in Valletta, enjoy a simple meal – with luck to the sound of rehearsals → p. 103

INSIDER TIP Milk or bubbly

Class barriers are broken down at *Charles Grech* in Valletta. While one guest orders a glass of hot milk for one euro, the other splashes out on expensive champagne and a Havana cigar from the walk-in humidor → p. 49

INSIDER TIP Nature walks

Explore the natural world of Malta on guided tours through the countryside in small groups. Choose from among 6 different options or book your own private botanical exploration tour from November to April → p. 114

INSIDER TIP Down in the quarry

Where does the stone from which almost everything on Malta was built come from and how was it quarried and worked? Find the answers with the slide show at *The Limestone Heritage* and a tour through this abandoned quarry near Siggiewi → p. 75



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● **Superb harbour view**

Although the *Upper Barracca Gardens* (photo) are the loveliest in Valletta, you don't have to pay to get in. Walk through the relaxing park and enjoy the bird's-eye view of all the shipping and other traffic in the Grand Harbour → p. 43

● **Fragile works of art**

How do the glasses, vases, figures and free-formed sculptures made of glass that have become standard souvenirs on Malta come to life? Watch over the shoulders of the craftsmen as they create these hand-blown works of art at *Mdina Glass* and *Valletta Glassblowers* → p. 71

● **MTV invites music lovers**

Entrance to the annual *Isle of MTV* open-air music festival in Floriana is free of charge. The event is fully sponsored by the television network and attracts more than 50,000 fans who come to see bands from all over the world. Most guests bring their own drinks → p. 118

● **Partner eats for free**

Purchase the *Malta Discount Card* for 20 euros and your accompanying guest can eat for free in many restaurants on Malta and Gozo. If you're travelling alone, you get 50% off the food bill. The discount card is available in every tourist information centre → p. 124

● **Tricks of the parking trade**

If the attendants at the craftsmen's village *Ta' Qali* had their way, everyone would have to tip them to park at the entrance. But, you don't need to spend any money because there are plenty of free parking spaces in front of the individual shops → p. 72

● **In the coconut grove**

Among partygoers, Paceville has become one of the nightlife hotspots in the central Mediterranean area – and yet you don't have to pay a cover charge even at the big clubs such as *Havana* → p. 50

●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY ON MALTA

Unique experiences

● **Taking dining to new heights**

Imagine eating outdoors. Nothing special you say? Then try *Dinner in the Sky* which elevates guests to 60 m/197 ft above the ground on a platform suspended from a crane. The Maltese are always on the lookout for the latest thrill → p. 19

● **Dine like a lord**

The *Tà Frenc* luxury restaurant on the island of Gozo has all the atmosphere of an old Gozitan nobleman's estate. Almost all ingredients used here come from the island, and even the herbs come from a little garden in front of the restaurant → p. 91

● **Fireworks every weekend**

The Maltese love their fireworks. Every weekend between April and October every village in Malta holds a festa with an amazing *firework display* to light up the night sky (photo) → p. 118

● **A one-horse power ride**

When you take a horse-drawn carriage at the *Grand Master's Palace* in Valletta, you can feel like the nobles of old as it goes clip-clop through the old knights' city – an experience that's best at dusk as the lights come on → p. 116

● **Delicate silver jewellery**

Silver items are among the few craft products that have a tradition on Malta. The place to find them in Valletta is the *Silversmith's Shop* → p. 47

● **Politics behind closed doors?**

Not on Malta. Each *kazin* of the local party offices has a bar where you'll soon be able to strike up a conversation with locals, such as the bar opposite St Paul's Church in Rabat. But before you start sounding off about politics, find out which party's bar you have come to → p. 72

● **A midday salute**

Don't be alarmed when you hear the cannons of the *Saluting Battery* boom at midday in Valletta. The Maltese are fond of old military traditions and keep them alive by means of re-enactments, some of which even take place daily → p. 44



ONLY ON

DISCOVERY TOURS

1

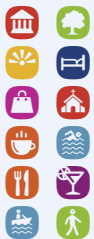
MALTA AT A GLANCE



START: ① Sliema Ferry
END: ① Sliema Ferry

2 days
Driving time
(without stops)
5 hours

Distance:
📏 135 km/84 miles



COSTS: Admission fees 20 euros; with the *Heritage Malta Multisite Pass* → p. 43, you will only pay 5 euros

WHAT TO PACK: Sun protection, swim gear on Day 2

IMPORTANT TIPS: The route is laid out like two bows so that you can spend the night between the two days in your own hotel. Valletta, the Three Cities and Mdina/Rabat are not part of this route because you are better off exploring them separately by public bus.

Malta is full of all kinds of different sites worth seeing. This route takes you to cultural highlights located outside the major towns. It gives you a taste of rural

Would you like to explore the places that are unique to this island? Then the Discovery Tours are just the thing for you – they include terrific tips for stops worth making, breathtaking places to visit, selected restaurants and fun activities. It's even easier with the Touring App: download the tour with map and route to your smartphone using the QR Code on pages 2/3 or from the website address in the footer below – and you'll never get lost again even when you're offline.



→ p. 2/3

Malta allows time for short walks as you steer towards the most beautiful pre-historic temples, churches with gigantic impressive cupolas and grottos along the cliffs and sandy beaches. Explore colourful fishing harbours and dine at rather unusual restaurants. You'll even have time for a boat trip.

This round-trip route begins at the ① **Sliema Ferry dock on the coastal road between St Julian's and Valletta**, which is where most of the holiday hotels are located. First, you will drive along a number of bays. As the road strays from the coast shortly before Valletta and begins to climb slight-

DAY 1
① Sliema Ferry