RENDEZVOUS WITH RIEMANN

Valletta

Malta | Grand Harbour, historic streets and island outings

ARRIVAL & YOUR FIRST TRANSFER

Cruise ships call in Grand Harbour. The waterfront is close to Valletta, but distance and walking access depend on your berth. The Barrakka Lift connects Lascaris Wharf with Upper Valletta near the gardens. Check operating hours, fares, queues and a suitable route from your terminal.

CHOOSE YOUR PORT DAY

Upper Barrakka Gardens

Enjoy views over Grand Harbour and the Three Cities from the gardens on Valletta's bastions. The Saluting Battery is below; check its own visitor arrangements and demonstration times if you plan to enter.

Valletta historic centre

Explore limestone streets, Maltese balconies, squares, shops and cafes. The city is compact but includes slopes and steps. The main bus terminus is outside City Gate in Upper Valletta, separate from the cruise waterfront.

Mdina & Blue Grotto

Mdina is an inland historic city requiring road transport. Blue Grotto is a separate south-coast outing; boat trips depend on sea conditions. Choose an excursion that fits your time ashore and check the return connection.

St John's Co-Cathedral

A richly decorated Baroque interior with Caravaggio paintings. Tourist visits have paid admission and specified opening hours. Follow the current dress and photography rules; the official visitor page prohibits flash photography.

The Three Cities

Vittoriosa (Birgu), Senglea (Isla) and Cospicua (Bormla) lie across Grand Harbour. Ferries can provide a connection from Valletta; check the current landing points, operating hours, fares and weather. Fort St Angelo is in Birgu.

Maltese food

Try pastizzi, ftira, gbejna cheese and other local dishes. Rabbit dishes are a traditional option; Kinnie is a local soft drink. Check cafe hours and allow time for your return route.

Valletta

Malta | Grand Harbour, historic streets and island outings

PRACTICAL PLANNING

Getting around

Use the lift, authorised taxis, local buses or ferries as appropriate. Do not assume the upper-city bus terminus is beside your ship. Verify routes and fares with the operator for the day of your call.

Choose a manageable day

A shorter call suits the lift, gardens and historic centre, perhaps one booked interior. On a longer call, choose the Three Cities or one road outing. Do not plan to return in the evening unless your ship schedule allows it.

Before you leave the ship

Confirm ship time, the official all-aboard deadline, the return pickup or landing and a suitable earlier personal return target. Carry required documents, water and sun or weather protection. Recheck opening hours, tickets and transport for your actual date. This guide is planning guidance, not live port instructions or a navigation map.

OFFICIAL SOURCES & LIVE CHECKS

https://www.transport.gov.mt/maritime/ports-commercial/barrakka-lift-826

https://vallettacruiseport.com/short-trips/valletta-scenic-route/

https://www.stjohnscocathedral.com/

https://www.vallettaferryservices.com/

https://www.stjohnscocathedral.com/visit/

Sources checked for the 25 October 2026 review. Operators and governments can change fares, access rules and timetables. Check again for your sailing.