THIS EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL CLUB VACATION combines two astonishing destinations brimming with thousands of years of history, extraordinary art and architecture, sumptuous cuisine and stunning scenery. Rome is an immense open-air museum with a treasure to be found on every corner. We’ll introduce you to this eternal city on a panoramic coach tour and include a half-day visit to St. Peter’s Square and Basilica and the Vatican Museum. A short flight brings us to Valletta, the 16th-century fortified capital of Malta, with its Renaissance cathedrals and baroque palaces, a vibrant café culture, eclectic shops and historic cobbled streets packed with 320 monuments. An ancient Mediterranean trading hub, Malta’s culture is a mix of Italian, French, North African and Greek—all with a hint of English—in this former British colony where English is the official second language. We’ve arranged a highlights tour of Valletta and Mdina and an amazing full-day excursion that visits the island of Gozo and the Citadel in Victoria.

**RATES**

$3,299 per person double occupancy

INCLUDES round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and fees.

**Single supplement is $485. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just $350.** Call to reserve. Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is $300.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

**DAY 1**  Overnight flight from Boston

**DAYS 2–4** Hotel Universo, Rome

**DAYS 5–8** Hotel Valentina, St. Julian’s, Malta

**DAY 9** Return flight to Boston or similar hotel accommodations

**FEATURES**

Rome: half-day guided tour of Vatican and St. Peter’s Basilica with skip-the-line admission; half-day guided panoramic motorcoach tour. Malta: full-day excursion of Valletta and Mdina including The Cathedral, The Grand Master’s Palace and waking tour of Mdina; full-day excursion to Gozo including admission to Ggantija Temples, lunch and the Citadel in Victoria.

**Day 1: Overnight flight from Boston to Rome**

**Day 2: Arrive Rome – hotel check-in**
After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim. Pass through customs and meet our **tour assistant** who will assist with boarding the transfer coach to Hotel Universo. This evening we’ll enjoy a welcome dinner with wine at a local restaurant. *(D)*

**Hotel Universo**

Best Western Plus Hotel Universo is a four star hotel situated very close to Termini Station. The building has 197 rooms recently renovated, soundproofed, with air-conditioning system, fire prevention system, satellite tv, mini-bar and free Wi-Fi connection. Moreover, Hotel Universo Rome has 4 Junior Suite, in addition to rooms for disabled and services for handicapped persons. This 4 star hotel offers free Wi-Fi in all the buildings, fitness center with sauna, Turkish bath.

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**Day 3: Rome – half-day tour of St. Peter’s Square, the Basilica, the Vatican Museum**

Enjoy buffet breakfast at the hotel and depart on our first half day tour to Vatican City. As we approach the Vatican we see Castel Sant’Angelo. We enjoy a visit of the Vatican Museum – with advance reservations – St. Peter's Square and Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. *(B)*

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*St Peter’s Square and Basilica*
Day 4: Rome – panoramic coach tour
Today we’ll enjoy our half-day panoramic coach tour featuring the Piazza della Repubblica with the Fountain of the Naiads, with the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels in the background. Continue to Via Veneto and Piazza Barberini with the Triton fountain by Lorenzo Bernini which depicts Triton, son of Neptune God of the seas. Later we cross the Tiber and drive on Lungotevere. We view the Circus Maximus, Colosseum, Arch of Constantine, Capitol Hill. We reach Piazza Venezia and marvel at the Victor Emanuel Memorial a splendid white marble monument with the tomb of the unknown soldier. *(B)*

Day 5: Flight from Rome to Malta
After an early breakfast we’ll transfer to Rome airport for our flight to Malta. Upon arrival we’ll meet our tour assistant and transfer to the Hotel Valentina in St. Julian’s. Enjoy a welcome beverage on arrival and this evening, dinner with wine at a nearby restaurant. *(B,D)*
Hotel Valentina
Stay in the Heart of St. Julian’s! Set in the lively district of Paceville in central St. Julian’s, the stylishly designed Hotel Valentina offers a seasonal outdoor swimming pool, free WiFi throughout, and air-conditioned rooms with ultra-modern furnishings. Rooms at the Hotel Valentina come with an iPod docking station, satellite LCD TV as well as a mini-bar and tea and coffee making facilities. The private bathroom includes a hairdryer and shower. Guests can enjoy a drink in the lounge bar open daily and serves a range of cocktails and wines. Breakfast is a varied buffet and is served in the bright breakfast hall. A few steps away, a restaurant under the same ownership, serves Mediterranean dishes. The property is located a 5-minute walk from both Portomaso Marina and Spinola Bay, 10-minute walk to the mall, Dragonara Casino and an easy stroll to beaches.
Day 6: Full-day excursion including Valletta & Mdina
After breakfast we meet our guide and transfer to Valletta, the capital city, for a half day tour. Valletta, The Fortress City, is a living, working city and the administrative and commercial heart of the Islands. Valletta is named after its founder, the respected Grand Master of the Order of St. John, Jean Parisot de la Valette. In Valletta we visit St John’s Co-Cathedral, a gem of Baroque art and architecture. The church is an important shrine and a sacred place of worship. Here you can see the Grand Master's palace with its State rooms and Tapestry Chambers. Enjoy a three-course lunch with wine at a local restaurant before continuing the tour with a walking tour of Mdina.
The history of Mdina traces back more than 4000 years. According to tradition it was here that in 60 A.D. that the Apostle St. Paul is said to have lived after being shipwrecked on the Islands. Mdina has had different names and titles depending on its rulers and its role but its medieval name describe it best - ‘Citta’ Notabile': the noble city. It was home then, as now, to Malta’s noble families; some are descendants of the Norman, Sicilian and Spanish overlords who made Mdina their home from the 12th century onwards. Impressive palaces line its narrow, shady streets. Mdina is one of Europe's finest examples of an ancient walled city and extraordinary in its mix of medieval and baroque architecture. We'll also visit the Dingli Cliffs to take in the panoramic view. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure. (B,L)
Day 7: Full-day excursion to Gozo

Part of the Maltese archipelago, Gozo is the second-largest of the seven-island chain and basks in the Mediterranean off the coast of Sicily. Our tour begins with a ferry crossing to Mgarr. We’ll visit the Ggantija Temples in Xaghra—a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a history of more than 5,500 years, these are some of the oldest religious structures in the world. See the venerated Ta’ Pinu church and the picturesque bay of Xlendi for a panoramic view. Next we’ll enjoy a three-course lunch with wine at a local restaurant. Our tour continues in Victoria – Gozo’s main town and also called Rabat – with a walking tour of the fortress/citadel Il-Kastell. (B,L)
Day 8: St. Julian’s – Day of leisure
Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel and afterwards the day is yours to explore on your own. (We recommend the Barrakka Gardens in Valletta, pictured below.) In the evening you will transfer to Mosta and the Ta Marija restaurant for authentic Maltese cuisine and traditional folk dancing and singing. Transfer back to the hotel for overnight. (B,D)

Day 9: Return to Boston
Transfer to the airport and board your flight to Rome. Upon arrival proceed to your international flight to Boston. (B)
PREPARING FOR YOUR TOUR

Identification  U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months’ validity beyond the date of your return to the U.S. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

Make several copies of your passport. Carry one copy with you and leave one with someone at home. If your passport is lost or stolen, having a photocopy will make replacement easier.

Money Matters  Verify that your credit/ATM cards are valid for the duration of your tour and that they can be used internationally. We suggest that you bring a few days worth of foreign currency with you in case you are unable to get dollars changed or have access to an ATM upon arrival. Notify your bank/credit card companies that you will be traveling abroad so that your overseas purchases are not confused with fraudulent charges.

Tipping  Tips to tour managers, drivers, guides and waitstaff are not included in the price of your trip. Tipping should always be at the travelers’ discretion and should be a reflection of your satisfaction with the service provided. Following are some guidelines for your convenience.

TOUR MANAGERS: 5E per person per day
BUS DRIVERS: 5E per person per day
LOCAL GUIDES: 2E per person
WAITSTAFF: 10E per person per week
TRANSFERS ASSISTANTS (if different from Tour Manager): 5E each way

Medications  Be sure you have a sufficient supply of prescription medications. Obtain written prescriptions for any medication you will be taking on the trip, and for eyeglasses, should replacements be necessary.

Packing  Enclosed is a packing “cheat-sheet” to help you get started. Be sure to tape your name and address inside your luggage in case your baggage tag is lost.
Layers are essential when sightseeing on tour as the weather can change significantly during the day and over the course of the trip. Be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes.

**Accommodations**  While The Travel Club makes every effort to ensure special room requests, special requests are at the discretion of the hotel and cannot be guaranteed.

**On tour**  Generally, longer programs can be filled with long travel days on a coach (rest stops included), and a lot of walking and standing (possibly on uneven surfaces), and some destinations may have altitude or other environmental concerns. Please remember that many historic areas, especially in Europe, cannot accommodate large coaches on their streets and walking tours are the only way to see the area. Whenever possible, we specify such information in your pre-departure itinerary. It is also important to be aware that many sites, especially in Europe, are not designed to accommodate wheelchairs or mobility aids.

**Flights**  The Travel Club assumes no responsibility for applying frequent flyer miles. Please be aware that some Frequent Flyer Miles may not be applied toward certain classes of service under which tickets have been issued. However, you may contact the airline directly to attempt this on your own. Information on your tickets cannot be obtained prior to departure, so please remember to retain your boarding passes, as you may need to submit that information to the airline to redeem your miles.

Because we reserve GROUP air space, some airlines will not allow you to check on your reservation or make requests directly with the carrier prior to departure. In some cases passengers cannot make seat assignments prior to check-in at the airport. While we make every effort to ensure your requests, we cannot guarantee them. It is at the discretion of the air carrier to fulfill any special requests. In addition, many carriers do not allow seating to be assigned until check in at the airport.

**Travel Insurance**
Protecting yourself against unexpected medical emergencies before traveling (your own, a family member's, or a travel companion's) is a smart investment – so we strongly urge you to consider purchasing traveler's insurance. Show of the Month Travel Club recommends CSA Travel Protection for your travel insurance needs. (A brochure was forwarded to you when you reserved this trip.) PLEASE NOTE: You must contact the insurance company directly to purchase a policy and with customer service issues and questions regarding potential or existing claims. They will provide you with the most comprehensive information and assist you with processing.