



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **Day 1: Departure from US**

### **Day 2: Malta**

Upon our arrival, we are transferred to the hotel. Remainder of the day is free.

### **Day 3: Malta**

Christianity has almost 2,000 years of history in Malta. It was brought to the island by the Apostle Paul in 60 AD. According to Acts 27 and 28, Paul was being taken to Rome to be tried as a political rebel, but the ship was wrecked just off the coast during a very bad storm. The Maltese assisted the crew, Paul and others who were onboard the wrecked ship; they looked after them, fed them and provided shelter for them until they could continue with their journey. According to local tradition, Paul preached the gospel of Christianity to the locals, whom at the time were under Roman rule. Even the Governor of the island, Publius, converted to Christianity and became Malta's first Bishop.

We will have a Sabbath morning worship before embarking on today's tour. We will drive by the point of the shipwreck which is located in St. Paul's Bay, and go along the route said to be taken by Paul where he preached, where he baptized the first Maltese at San Pawl Milqi Chapel (meaning "St. Paul Welcomed"), to the place where he rested. Paul stayed for several months in the town of Rabat. Here we visit St. Paul's Grotto where the apostle is said to have stayed.

Our next stop and a short stroll away from Rabat is the old city of Mdina. Mdina, known as Melita during this period, was the capital of the island. We will explore the old city, with its quaint alleys, narrow streets and ancient buildings, and admire the magnificent views from the high bastion walls. We will also visit the Cathedral and Cathedral Museum which are also dedicated to Paul, and perhaps the Roman Villa, leaving shortly after noon. After a boxed lunch on the bus, we will spend the afternoon touring the Hypogeum and the Tarxien Temples.

### **Day 4: Malta/Pozzallo/Syracuse**

After breakfast, we depart for Syracuse by ferry from Malta. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a panoramic tour of this characteristic town where Paul stayed for three days, according to Acts 28:12.

### **Day 5: Reggio Calabria**

This morning, we enjoy a panoramic tour of Rhegium, mentioned in Acts 28:13. The city center, consisting primarily of Liberty buildings, has a linear development along the coast with parallel streets. The promenade is dotted with rare magnolias and exotic palms. Reggio has commonly used popular nicknames: "City of Bronzes", for the Riace bronzes which are testimonials of its Greek origins; "City of Bergamot", which is exclusively cultivated in the region; and "City of Fatamorgana", an optical phenomenon visible in Italy only from the Reggio seaside. There will be leisure time before dinner and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 6: Reggio Calabria/Maratea/Paestum**

Today we depart Rhegium to Amalfi Sorrento. We will stop en route in Maratea, and spend some free time exploring there before heading to Paestum.

### **Day 7: Paestum/Amalfi**

The main reason to come to Paestum is to see some of the most complete Doric temples in Italy. The zone of the Magna Grecia, or Greater Greece, starts here, and Paestum started out as a Greek settlement. Paestum is the Roman name of the city; the original Greek name was Poseidonia. After lunch at a local restaurant, we travel on to Amalfi, where we will spend some time at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 8: Napoli/Pompeii/Amalfi**

After breakfast, we depart for Pompeii, where we will visit one of the most important and interesting archaeological museums in the world. This famous ancient city was buried by the ashes of Mt Vesuvius in AD 79. After lunch at a local restaurant, we return to Amalfi. We will have some free time to explore this picturesque town before dinner and overnight at our hotel.

### **Day 9: Napoli/Herculaneum/Rome**

This morning, we head to Herculaneum to visit its famous ruins. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a tour with a visit to the National Archaeological Museum. This is one of the most important archaeological museums in Europe that contains the collection of objects that belonged to the Bourbon family and also a series of bronzes, sculptures and other objects found in the digs at Pompeii and Herculaneum. After that we will visit the Cathedral-Duomo of San Gennaro, which was built around the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The relics of San Gennaro, the patron saint of Naples, are kept in the cathedral. In the afternoon, we will go on a panoramic ride through Naples. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 10: Rome/Tivoli/Rome**

We will have a Sabbath morning worship in Rome before heading out to a full day tour of Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli. We will enjoy some free time before dinner and overnight in Rome.

### **Day 11: Rome (Focus: Early Christian Persecutions)**

After an early breakfast, we depart at 9:00 am to visit Capitoline Hill, Trajan's Column, Trajan's Forum (panorama), Mamertine Prison, Roman Forum (Vestal temple, Julius Ceasar, Castor/Pollux), Hadrian's Temple Venus and Roma, Arches of Titus and Constantine, and the Colosseum Circus Maximus and Palatine Hill (panorama). In the afternoon, we visit the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Wall, burial site of Paul and Church of Jesus, the Chapel of St. John in Oil, and the Catacombs.

### **Day 12: Rome (Focus: Constantine and Rise of the Roman Catholic Church)**

We depart again at 9:00 am to visit the Vatican Museum and Basilica of St. Peter. In the afternoon, we visit the Palace of Corsini, Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, St. John Lateran (the cathedral of the popes), St. John's Baptistery, the Scala Sancta (Pilate's Staircase), the Pantheon and Obelisk of Minerva.

### **Day 13: Rome**

Today, everyone will have a free day in Rome to visit the sites of their choice.

### **Day 14: Departure from Rome**