

Excursions booklet



Welcome Tour Around St. Paul's Bay aboard the trackless Malta Fun Train

Programme:

- **Malta Fun train**
- **Duration: 45 minutes**

Discover St. Paul's Bay & Bugibba from the comfort of a trackless train.

Sit back and relax as the train slowly winds its way round the seaside resort of Bugibba and the older part of St. Paul's Bay, passing several places of interest including the Wignacourt Tower, Għallis Tower and St. Paul's Shipwreck Chapel. This tour is accompanied by a detailed audio commentary.

The Fun Train tour departs from right next to the Bus terminus and proceeds to explore the surrounding seaside area and its many restaurants, shops, bars and hotels. You will also have the opportunity to capture some great photos of St. Paul's Islands where according to local tradition St. Paul was shipwrecked in AD 60.

A popular activity with families and young students.



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Half day excursion to the Silent City of Mdina visiting St. Paul's Grotto & Mdina Dungeons (Optional entrance to the Catacombs)

Programme:

- A walk to St. Paul's grotto in Rabat
- An optional visit to St. Paul's Catacombs
- Free time shopping for souvenirs
- A walk to Mdina
- A visit to the Mdina Dungeons
- A visit to the Bastions
- A visit to the Cathedral (optional)
- Fontanella Tea Garden (the best chocolate cake in Malta!)

Mdina is the old capital of Malta. It is a medieval walled town situated on a hill in the centre of the island.

Also known as the "Silent City" it is believed that there has been a settlement on the site of Mdina since around 800 B.C. It was the capital of the island until Valetta eclipsed it in importance and, as a consequence of that, the city was bypassed by the ravages of time. The result is that it is now one of the finest examples of an ancient city anywhere in Europe.

Entering through the gate is like stepping back in time. The well-preserved buildings give a feeling of what life was like many centuries ago.

Much of the town was destroyed in the earthquake of 1693 but this allowed the Cathedral and Bishop's Palace to be rebuilt on a much grander scale.



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Ghost night walking tour: Bormla – Its murders & mysteries

Programme:

- **Guided walk from 8.00pm to 10.30pm**
- **Visit to a reputedly haunted place**

Mysteriously intriguing guided tour. This is a haunted history walk led by a qualified guide who tells stories about ghosts, legends and history, walking from one haunted location to the next. You'll be given the most famous ghost stories of the locality visited. These can be found in various books in libraries, or shops, around Malta and Gozo, while some have even made it to feature in international films! We strive to provide our participants with safe and historically accurate tours.



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Full day cruise to Comino and Blue Lagoon - An ideal day out!

Programme:

- **This Cruise is specially designed to give the maximum time in Comino to enable you to make the most of the unforgettable crystal clear waters of the magical Blue Lagoon**
- **Cruising past Comino Caves and St. Paul's Islands where St. Paul was shipwrecked in 60 A.D., and Comino's famous Blue Lagoon**
- **The rest of the day is spent at one's own leisure sun bathing or swimming or going ashore to the small white sandy beach**

Situated between Malta and Gozo, the smaller island of Comino is the perfect hideaway and a paradise for snorkellers, divers and windsurfers. Named after the cumin herb once grown here, Comino, only 3.5 square kilometres, is car-free and apart from one hotel, is entirely uninhabited.

Comino is also ideal for walkers and photographers. With no urban areas or cars on the island, one can easily smell the scent of wild thyme and other herbs.

Comino is a popular location for filmmakers. It appears in the movies **Troy** (starring Brad Pitt), **The Count Of Monte Cristo** (starring Jim Caviezel) and **Swept Away** (starring Madonna).

The Blue Lagoon is one of the best beaches in Malta, situated between the island of Comino and the islet of Cominotto. The crystal clear waters in Blue Lagoon reflect the blue sky with a lovely cyan and let you see the pure white sand bottom of this part of the Mediterranean Sea. This long and narrow bay surrounded by rock and a bit of sand is almost like a pool, which makes it the ideal place for swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving or simply relaxing on the beach.



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Malta National Aquarium

Programme:

- **Visit to Malta National Aquarium**

Located in one of Malta's most picturesque promenades, the Malta National Aquarium is home to over a hundred different species of fish including sharks, rays, seahorses and eels. It is one of the island's top visitor attractions.

The Malta National Aquarium complex comprises also the Cafe del Mar reef club, La Nave Bistro, a public landscape belvedere all with stunning views of St. Paul's islands.



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International Student Party

Programme:

- **Transport and entrance**

Organised by FELTOM (Federation of English Language Teaching Organisations Malta), International Student Parties are held in a variety of locations such as Gianpula, Buskett Roadhouse, Numero Uno, Aria and Caribbean Club. These alcohol-free parties are solely for junior international language students in Malta and have proved to be a great success. Parties have an average attendance of 1,700 students who enjoy meeting with students of different nationalities attending other schools.

All parties are supervised by group leaders and animators and take place from 20:30 to midnight. Great music and a fun atmosphere featuring some of Malta's top DJs. This is one party you should not miss!



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Full day excursion to the Island of Gozo

Programme:

- **Rabat Citadel & Rabat market**
- **St. George's Basilica**
- **Dwejra & Azure Window**
- **Optional boat trip at the Azure Window**
- **Ta' Pinu Church**
- **Xlendi Bay**
- **Ramla Bay - (weather dependent)**
- **Qala - for pictures of Malta, Comino + the Blue Lagoon**

Gozo, meaning "joy" in Castilian, is the second largest Island in the Maltese archipelago, with a population of approximately 30,000. Separated from mainland Malta by a 5km stretch of sea, Gozo is distinctly different from Malta. The Island is a third the size of Malta, more rural and simple, its culture and way of life rooted in fishing and agricultural activity. Exuding a relaxed pace of life, Gozo is the ideal secluded safe haven and at just 25 minutes or so by ferry from Malta, the trip can easily be made for even the shortest stay.

The real beauty of Gozo, apart from its stunning seascape and interior, lies in the villages. Here, it seems as if time really does stand still. The locals treasure their peace and the villages are tranquil, proving to be a wonderful respite from the trials and tribulations of everyday life for visitors.



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Full day at Popeye Village

Programme:

- **Visiting the park**
- **15 minutes boat ride round Anchor Bay and the village – weather permitting**
- **Take2film: the ultimate filming experience**
- **Cinema showing the history of the film set and other animated productions**

Popeye Village Malta has grown from its days as the Film Set of the 1980 Musical Production "Popeye" starring the late Robin Williams into one of the major tourist attractions in Malta filled with a number of colourful fun activities for all the young at heart.

At Popeye Village you will meet famous cartoon characters and enjoy a number of attractions such as boat rides, water trampolines, sun bathing decks, beach lido and food outlets.

Take2film is a fun drama experience in a unique location on the Island, where the students become the actors for the ultimate filming experience. Act, sing & dance in costume, while playing the parts of villains or heroes. Expect many retakes as the actors will not stop laughing. Copies of the film (on DVD) can be bought for the special price of €5.00 as a memento of your visit.



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Full day at Splash and Fun Water Park

Programme:

- Visiting the water park
- Use of all free rides

A lot of water, a lot of rides, a lot of fun!

Splash and Fun is great day out enjoying the thrills of water rides with your friends.

Water slides, wave pool and lazy rivers are just a few of the fun park activities.



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Visit to the Capital City of Valletta

Programme:

- **Visiting the capital city Valletta**
- **Upper Barrakka Gardens**
- **Bell War Memorial + Lower Barrakka Gardens**
- **Visit to the “Malta 5D” cinema**
- **Free time for shopping**
- **Optional visit to “The Malta Experience”**
- **Optional visit to St. John’s Co-Cathedral**
- **Optional visit to the Manoel Theatre.**

Valletta, Malta’s capital and a UNESCO World Heritage site, is nothing short of an open-air museum. It is a living experience of Baroque architecture, a monument built by the Knights of St. John nearly five centuries ago. Throughout the years, Valletta has welcomed emperors, heads of state, artists and poets and is now the permanent seat of the Maltese government.

This is the city the Knights of Jerusalem built after the Great Siege. Valletta was given its name after the hero, Grand Master Jean De La Vallette who gallantly led the Maltese towards a victory over the Turks. Valletta is also known by great historians as the most fortified city in the world and the envy of all of Europe. A capital city that will mesmerize you upon reaching its shore with its honey coloured stone and fortified bastions. On the horizon you will see a unique myriad of church spires and domes. Valletta has thirty three churches.

The Malta 5D Cinema is a new generation attraction which allows you to feel the ‘real’ emotions of the movie. A dive into the midst of a bright and virtual world with images in 3D that simulate the visual movements and creates a so called, “participation effect”. The 5D cinema concept offers specially manufactured seats which strictly follow the movement that you are seeing on the screen, whether it’s flying over the open seas or racing through the narrow streets, your seat will turn you left to right or toss you up and down, enabling you to fully participate in the film. The seat movements, together with the water spray and air blast effects, complement this audio-visual experience. In a 5D cinema you are not just a spectator!



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Evening at the Cinema

Programme:

- **Choice of film to suit the group**
- **Optional popcorn and drinks**

Take a night out with your fellow students to watch a new film at the cinema. The cinema will help you test your newly improved English skills by watching some of the latest films.



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Evening Bowling

Challenge your friends to a game of bowling in St. Julians while you try to hit a "Strike!"

Programme:

- 1 game of bowling with your friends
- Optional snacks and drinks



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Three Cities visit with a guided tour of the Inquisitor's Palace and the Maritime Museum

Programme:

- **Visit the Three Cities and their museums**
- **Tour of the Inquisitors' Palace**
- **Tour of the Maritime Museum**
- **Entrance to Malta at War Museum (Optional)**
- **In Senglea - Gardiola Gardens for the panoramic views of Valetta & Harbour**

The Three Cities offer an intriguing insight into Malta and its history and offer the visitor a slice of authentic life as well as a glimpse into Malta's maritime fortunes.

The Three Cities can rightly claim to be the cradle of Maltese history, as Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua have provided a home and fortress to almost every people who settled on the Islands.

Their harbour inlets have been in use since Phoenician times: the docks always providing a living for local people, but also leaving them vulnerable when Malta's rulers were at war. As the first home to the Knights of St. John, the Cities' palaces, churches, forts and bastions are far older than Valletta's.



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Dinner at the “Hard Rock Cafe” in Bay Street & Valletta Waterfront

Programme:

- **Meal at “Hard Rock Cafe” Bay Street or Valletta Waterfront**
- **Time to browse the shops and surrounding area.**

Hard Rock Cafe is located in two of Malta’s most recently developed areas. Great food and a rocking atmosphere! Share fun meals with your friends and you might also have some time for local shopping and a short stroll.

Bay Street - Towering majestically in the heart of Malta’s busiest tourist destination in the St. George’s area. Bay Street is the vibrant, colourful and appealing leisure complex that offers a multitude of services to shoppers.

Valletta Waterfront - Exciting. Stunning. Amazing. The port to call home. Right in the centre of the Mediterranean, the Valletta. Waterfront is the perfect spot for any modern seafarer looking for an exciting night out.



West Coast Tour

Programme:

- **Mosta Dome**
- **Ta'Qali Crafts Village**
- **Blue Grotto rocky beach and boat trip to the caves**
- **Hagar Qim + Mnajdra Temples**
- **Ghar Lapsi Beach**
- **Dingli Cliffs**
- **Marsaxlokk market (optional)**
- **Time for swimming at Ghar Lapsi!**

Mosta Dome. Built in 1860 over another church that was built in 1614, the church of St. Mary is the Parish church of Mosta. The awesome dome is the fourth largest in the world and famous due to an incident that took place during WWII – a bomb, which pierced the dome in 1942 landed on the church floor and slid across the floor without exploding! The church was crowded when the bomb hit and nobody was hurt. The bomb is now on display in a small museum attached to the church.

Blue Grotto is a natural picturesque grotto and its neighbouring system of caverns mirrors the brilliant phosphorescent colours of the underwater flora. From the nearby Wied iz-Zurrieq one can also see the small island of Filfla. Filfla is uninhabited except for several bird colonies and a unique species of lizards that live there. When Malta was a British colony, the island of Filfla was used for target practice by the British Armed Forces.

Dingli Cliffs are an impressive sight, especially if viewed from sea level on an island cruise. They are the Island's natural fortress, one bastion the Knights did not have to build to protect themselves. From the cliff tops, one of the most striking views and sheerest drops is just west of Dingli village. Dingli Cliffs seem to exude a mysterious charm especially late evening on calm summer days when the sunsets here can be dramatic.



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Traditional Open Air Market at Marsaxlokk

Programme:

- **Marsaxlokk market**
- **Time for shopping and haggling prices!**

Markets are the heart of the Maltese week and a cultural tour of their own. Almost every town and village has its version. They are the time and place for socialising, catching up with neighbours and local news as much as for buying daily necessities. You'll find them a strange assortment from new to old household goods, clothing, music and toys.

Marsaxlokk is a traditional fishing village located in the south-eastern part of Malta. There are many beautiful places in Malta, but one of the most fascinating is certainly this traditional Mediterranean market in Marsaxlokk. Beyond the spectacle of the fish and produce, there are also souvenirs such as honey and local wine you can bring home.



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Limestone Heritage Gardens

Programme:

- **Guided tour of the venue**
- **Multilingual audiovisual presentation**
- **Audio guided walk**
- **Carving stone workshop**

Unique to the region, the Limestone Heritage Park & Gardens celebrates the Maltese Islands' distinct stone, as well as its intricate history dating back over 22,000,000 years.

Conceptualised and founded by Manuel Baldacchino and his family, the award-winning agro-tourism attraction is ideal for all the family, offering immense insight into local history and culture through a multilingual audiovisual presentation and an engaging walkthrough available in 17 different languages.



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Hagar Qim & Mnajdra temples

Programme:

- **Guided tour of the temples**

The 5,000 year old Hagar Qim ("HA-jar eem") temple is the best-preserved of several ancient limestone temples in Malta.

Hagar Qim is thought to date from the "Ggantija phase," which is about 3600 to 3200 BC. Unlike most other Maltese temples, it is a single temple rather than a complex of two or three.

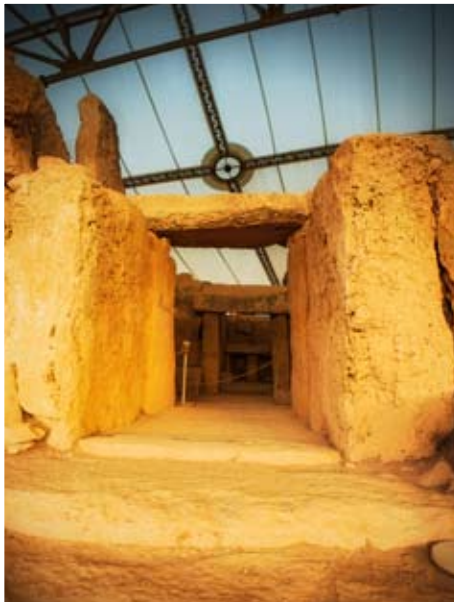
The temple is laid out on a clover-leaf shape and consists of four or five apses, with a forecourt and facade. This design is typical of Neolithic temples across Malta.

One noteworthy characteristic of Hagar Qim are its larger orthostats (upright stones) at the corners, which are notched to take the second of horizontal courses above.

The interior of the temple is more closed off than in other Maltese temples and the view of it seems to have been limited to porthole slabs. A stone decorated with spiral designs and a free-standing altar decorated on all sides were found here.

The right apse has an interesting inner enclosure made of low stone slabs. The left apse has three high table altars and a low-standing pillar at the end. Three steps up from the left apse lead to an additional chamber.

In the outer enclosing wall, note the first upright stone (orthostat) behind the right-hand corner of the façade - this is one of the largest of any temple, at 6.4m long and close to 20 tons in weight. Other related ruins have been uncovered near the main temple, and two "fat lady" statues discovered here are now in display in the national museum in Valletta.



Ta Qali Craft Village

Programme:

- **Visit to Ta Qali Craft Village**
- **Optional visit to the Aviation Museum**

The former World War II military aerodrome was converted into a local hand-crafts centre. It's the ideal place to buy ceramics, jewellery and knitwear, pottery and see glass blowing and moulding as well as other craftspeople at work.

Here one can buy something completely unique and original to take home. Within the craft centre one can find the Aviation Museum displaying aircrafts.



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Sandy Beach Trips

Programme:

- **Transport to the beaches**
- **Time to swim and relax!**

The main coastal resorts and larger sandy beaches are in northern part of Malta.

All are in a superb setting surrounded by superb , dramatic setting of flat -topped, golden and brown rocky cliffs and have excellent stretches of fine sand.



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School DVD Night

Programme:

- **Choice of DVD to suit the group!**

And now...let's test your newly improved English skills!

Turn off the lights, turn the Interactive Whiteboard into a cinema screen, the classroom into a movie theatre and get ready to watch an exciting movie.



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Rabat - Roman catacombs and the Roman house

Programme:

- **Visit to St. Paul's Grotto**
- **Visit to St. Paul's Catacomb**

Rabat is home to the famous Catacombs of St. Paul and of St. Agatha. These catacombs were used in Roman times to bury the dead as, according to Roman culture, it was unhygienic to bury the dead in the city. Mdina and parts of Rabat were built on top of an ancient Roman city.

St Paul's Grotto - The 16th century Church of St Paul is built over a cave where, according to tradition, St Paul took shelter around 59AD. It is believed that St Paul preached here and baptised the country's first converts to Christianity. The cave walls are believed to have miraculous healing powers. Behind the statue of St Paul is an entrance to more catacombs.

St Paul's Catacomb - The large St Paul's catacomb is a maze of gloomy interconnected narrow pathways that twist around ancient tombs that children will enjoy exploring - a torch will prove useful!

Domus Romana - On the outskirts of Rabat, near Mdina's Greek Gate are the remains of a large Roman town house - the well preserved mosaic pavements are amongst the oldest in the Western Mediterranean and date back to the first quarter of the first century.



Falconry centre and show

Programme:

- **Visit to the Malta Falconry**
- **Organised Falconry show**
- **Visit the different types of birds**

Go and enjoy a day at the Malta Falconry Centre watching falconers fly several different species of well-trained birds of prey and catch a glimpse of these majestic birds in free flight. The aviary collection includes The Maltese Falcon, Lanner Falcon, Bald Eagle, Steppe Eagle, African Vultures, Golden Eagles as well as a variety of birds of prey that make up the display team.



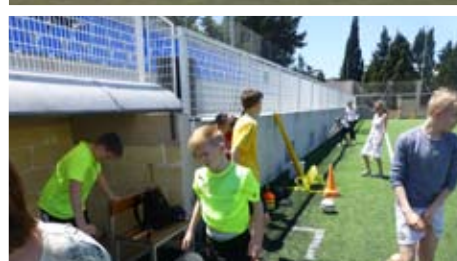
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Football match!

Programme:

- A game of football outdoors
- Play your best to beat your friends

A footballer pro or just for fun, enjoy a game of football with your friends at a local football ground.



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Treasure Hunt

Programme:

- **An outdoor treasure hunt**
- **Time to explore the Maltese outdoors!**

A chance to explore the outdoors in Malta with your friends. Each activity is adjusted to suit the age and type of group for the challenge.

Participants will be asked to find a treasure hidden somewhere in the location. They must find the treasure by following a list of directions and hidden clues.

These treasure hunts are located in some of Malta's best outdoor locations.



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Outdoor BBQ

Programme:

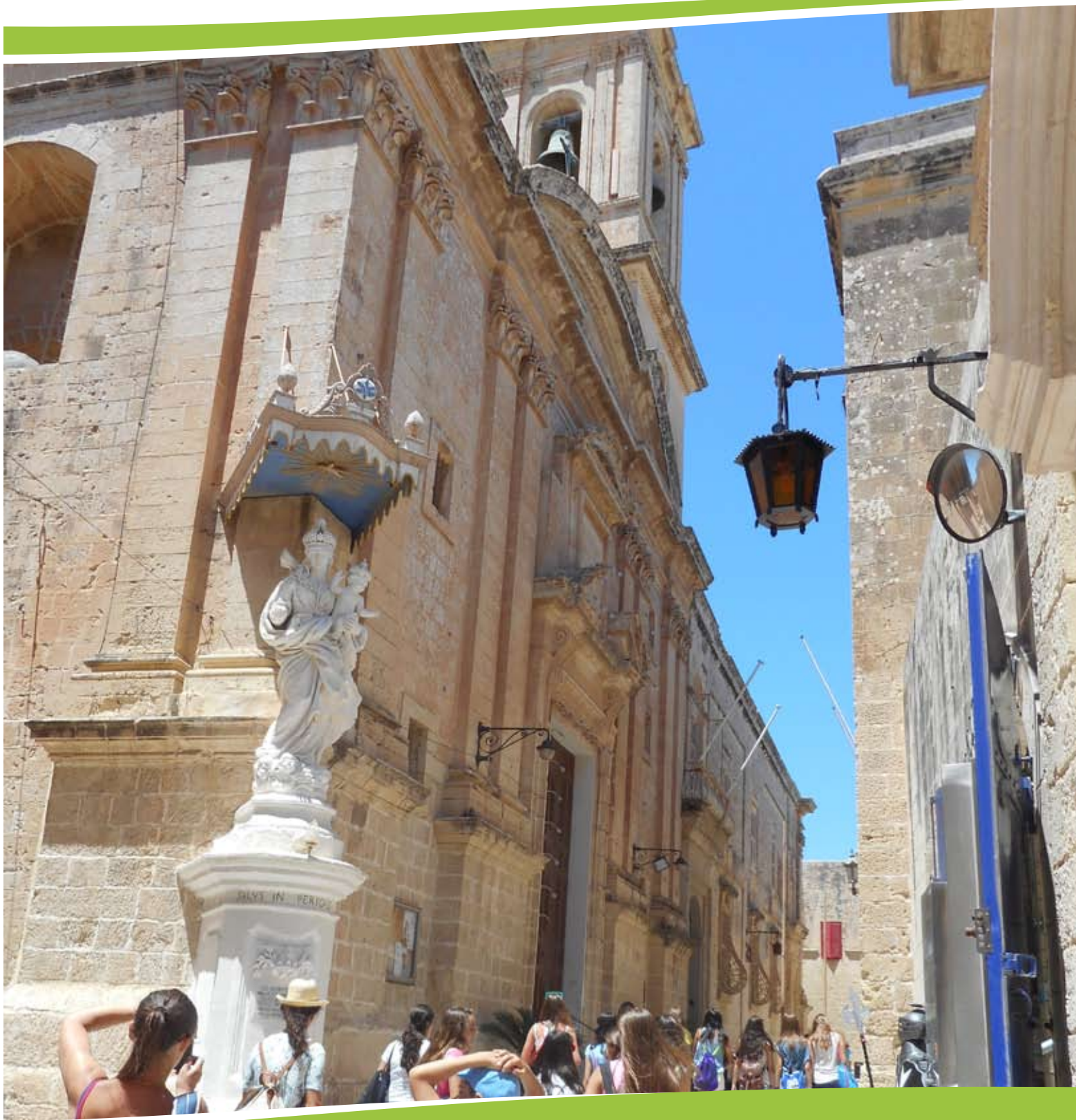
- **An outdoor BBQ of tasty foods.**
- **A chance to swim before or after the food.**
- **Music and a chance to relax with your friends!**

We meet at the coast where students can swim nearby.

Tables and chairs are provided with music and students eat from the set menu of delicious cooked foods.



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Alpha School of English
Arznell Street, St. Paul's Bay, SPB3232 Malta

Office telephone
+356 21 581 474 or +356 21 581 475

