



MCM ARTS



Vancouver Island Choir

May 8 – 19, 2024 (May 6 – 8 England and May 19 Venice Add On if requested)

Malta/Italy Tour Itinerary – subject to change

May 6 – Depart from Home if you are doing the Gatwick add on

✈ Overnight flight to London UK

May 7 Add On -- Arrive London Gatwick North Terminal (or Heathrow)

- ✈ Arrive London Gatwick North Terminal or London Heathrow
 - Clear Customs and collect luggage
 - If you arrive at Heathrow, take the bus to Gatwick
- Met at arrivals London Gatwick North Terminal by John Crozman
- Walk over to Premier Inn Gatwick North

 Check in -- Met by Jane Case

Accommodation: Premier Inn London Gatwick North Terminal


May 8 – Add On -- Flight to Malta

 Breakfast at hotel or airport terminal

 11:25 am Check in EasyJet South Terminal EZY6497 (bag drop closes at 12:45)

 1:25 pm London Gatwick South Terminal EZY6497

 5:50 pm Arrive Malta

 Collect bags then depart for hotel

 Check into Hotel Start of Tour


➤ Rest of the day free to find dinner on your own and relax

Accommodation: Maritim Antonine Hotel & Spa George Borg Olivier Street, Il-Mellieħa MLH 1021


May 9 – Malta

B

 Breakfast at Hotel

 Good Morning! To start our tour we are going to visit the ancient city of Mdina.


- *Mdina is a fortified city located in the central part of the Mediterranean island of Malta. Also known as the "Silent City," Mdina is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, dating back to the 8th century BC. The city is characterized by narrow streets, alleyways, and historic buildings, many of which were constructed during the medieval period. The city's walls, which date back to the 9th century, are still standing and offer impressive views of the surrounding landscape. One of the most notable features of Mdina is the Baroque-style St. Paul's Cathedral, which was built in the 17th century. The cathedral features ornate decorations, including marble floors, gilded ceilings, and intricate paintings. Another popular attraction in Mdina is the Mdina Dungeons, which offer visitors a glimpse into the city's dark past. The dungeons were used as prison cells during the medieval period and are now open to the public as a museum.*

 During our visit we will make time for people to find a relaxing lunch on your own

 From Mdina we will make our way to Ħaġar Qim

 Visit Ħaġar Qim & Mnajdra Archaeological Park

- *Ħaġar Qim dates from circa 3600 - 3200 B.C. It stands on a hilltop overlooking the sea and the islet of Fifla. Set in a hollow above the Southern cliffs, and only 500 metres away, lies the contemporaneous temple site of Mnajdra. The surrounding area is typical of Mediterranean garigue and is designated a Heritage Park. An adjacent visitor centre complements the visit.*

 Depart for the Dingli Cliffs

 Visit to the Dingli Cliffs

- *The Dingli Cliffs offer stunning panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding countryside. Visitors can walk along the edge of the cliffs and take in the breathtaking views of the sea and nearby landscapes. In addition to its natural beauty, the Dingli Cliffs are also of historical importance. The area has been inhabited since prehistoric times, and there are several archaeological sites in the surrounding areas, including the prehistoric cart ruts and tombs. The area also played a significant role in the defense of Malta during World War II, and visitors can see several military fortifications and gun emplacements along the cliffs.*

 Return to Hotel

 Evening free – Dinner on your own

Accommodation: Maritim Antonine Hotel & Spa George Borg Olivier Street, Il-Mellieħa MLH 1021

May 10 – Malta

B

- 🍴 Breakfast at Hotel
- 📷 Today we will take a day trip to the beautiful island of **Gozo**. Sites will include: the **Citadel** which is located in Victoria, the capital city of Gozo; The **Ggantija Temples** which are located in **Xaghra** and are believed to be the oldest free-standing structures in the world. The temples date back to 3600-3200 BC and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site; **Ta' Pinu Basilica**, a beautiful church located in **Gharb** that is known for its stunning architecture. Lunch on your own.
- 🚌 Return to our hotel
- 🍴 Dinner on your own
- 🎵 Evening rehearsal at the hotel

Accommodation: Maritim Antonine Hotel & Spa George Borg Olivier Street, Il-Mellieħa MLH 1021



May 11 – Malta

B/D

- 🍴 Breakfast at Hotel
- 🚌 Board busses for the capital of Malta, Valletta
- 📷 Stroll around the city's historic center and take in the grand architecture of St. John's Co-Cathedral, the Grandmaster's Palace, and the Upper Barrakka Gardens.
- 🍴 Lunch (on your own)
- 📷 Visit to the Three Cities (Vittoriosa, Senglea, and Cospicua) and explore their narrow streets and harbor views. Visit the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa to learn about Malta's history of religious persecution.
- 🎵 Set-up & Sound Check
- 🍴 Dinner (Included)
- 🎵 Performance

Accommodation: Maritim Antonine Hotel & Spa George Borg Olivier Street, Il-Mellieħa MLH 1021

🍽️ Breakfast at Hotel

🚗 Check-out

🚌 Bus to the airport

✈️ 6:35 am Bag drop and check in EJU426 (EasyJet) (Bag Drop closes at 7:55 am)

✈️ Depart Malta 08:35 EJU4264 (EasyJet)

✈️ Arrive Naples 09:50

🚌 Collect our bags and board our bus for Pompeii

🍽️ Lunch on your own

📷 Visit Pompeii

- *Pompeii was an ancient city located in what is now the comune of Pompei near Naples in the Campania region of Italy. Pompeii, along with Herculaneum and many villas in the surrounding area was buried under 4 to 6 m of volcanic ash and pumice in the Eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Largely preserved under the ash, the excavated city offers a unique snapshot of Roman life, frozen at the moment it was buried although much of the detailed evidence of the everyday life of its inhabitants was lost in the excavations.*

🚌 Depart for Rome

🚗 Check-in

🍽️ Dinner (included)

Accommodation: Rome



May 13 – Rome

🍽️ Breakfast at Hotel

📷 This morning we will explore "Imperial Rome".

- *Our tour will start by visiting the Colosseum. We will learn about the history of this ancient amphitheater, which hosted gladiator battles and other events. Next, we will visit the nearby Roman Forum, which was the center of*

political and social life in ancient Rome. Your guide will show you ruins of temples, arches, and government buildings and explain their significance. The tour will also include Palatine Hill, Baths of Caracalla and the Pantheon

🍴 Lunch on your own

📷 Afternoon & Evening free to explore to explore central Rome and we will have a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain.

- *Rome is often referred to as the Eternal City, a nickname from ancient time that reflects the belief that Rome would always endure, no matter what challenges it faced. The city is home to iconic landmarks such as the Colosseum, the Pantheon, and the Vatican City, which attract millions of tourists every year. Rome is renowned for its delicious cuisine, fashion, and vibrant nightlife.*

🍴 Dinner on your own

Accommodation: Rome

May 14 - Rome

B/D

🍴 Breakfast at Hotel

📷 Today we will visit "Religious Rome". We will start our visit at Vatican City, a city-state that is the center of Roman Catholicism and home to the Pope. We will see the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgement), and St. Peter's Basilica.

🍴 Lunch on your own

🚗 Return to hotel to freshen-up

🎵 Sound check & setup

🎵 Performance

🍴 Dinner (included)









🚗 Return to Hotel

Accommodation: Rome



May 15 - Rome to Tuscany








B/D

-  Breakfast at Hotel followed by check-out
-  Board bus for Siena
-  A guided walking tour of Siena start at the Piazza del Campo, which is famous for the annual races during the Palio di Siena Festival. The tour will also include a visit to the 13th century Town Hall and Torre del Mangia bell tower as well as the Siena Cathedral.
-  Lunch on your own
-  After Lunch we will proceed to Florence
-  Check-in
-  Sightseeing
-  Dinner (included)
- Evening free
- **Note: Because of our hotel is located in central Florence we will be doing all activities in this city by foot**

Accommodation: Florence

May 16 – Florence

B/D

-  Breakfast at Hotel
-  Today we will spend a full day discovering the city's most iconic landmarks and cultural treasures.
 - *We will begin by wandering through the charming Piazza della Signoria, a bustling square situated in the heart of the city, surrounded by the imposing Palazzo Vecchio. You will marvel at the Ponte Vecchio, a historic bridge that spans the Arno River and offers a breathtaking view of the waterway below. The tour proceeds to the Baptistery, a medieval structure that houses the legendary Gates of Paradise by Ghiberti, and the Campanile, a towering bell tower that provides a sweeping panorama of the city. At the Academy of Fine Arts, you'll have the unique opportunity to view Michelangelo's original David and other exquisite sculptures by the renowned master, using the whisper system for an enhanced experience. Finally, we will journey up to the magnificent Piazzale Michelangelo, where you can bask in the beauty of Florence from a bird's eye view, taking in the stunning landscapes and vibrant architecture that define this magnificent city.*
-  During our tour we will break so people can enjoy lunch on your own
-  When we are done our tour, people will have personal time for shopping and additional sightseeing
-  Sound-check
-  Performance - Florence
-  Dinner (included)

Accommodation: Florence



May 17 – Modena, Verona, Venice

B

- 🍴 Breakfast at Hotel
- 🚌 Today we get an early start for Venice as we have two great stops on route!
- 📷 Our first stop is Modena, which is in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. Before we have lunch we will make two stops. The first is at a Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese Dairy and the second is at a Acetaia (vinegar house). At both places we will get to see how both of these amazing Italian products are made and of course we will get to try samples!
- 🍴 Lunch on your own
- 🚌 After lunch we will continue our journey to Venice by traveling to Verona.
 - *Verona is a city located in northern Italy's Veneto region. It is a city of rich cultural heritage and is renowned for its history, architecture, and art. It is famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," and is home to many beautiful landmarks such as the Verona Arena, the Castelvecchio Museum, and the Ponte Scaligero bridge.*
- 📷 Short guided tour of Verona
- 🍴 Dinner on your own
- 🚌 We will complete our journey to Venice. We will stay in Quarto d'Altino
- 🛏 Check-in

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Venice East Via della Resistenza, 18/20, Quarto D'altino T +39 042 2703811

May 18 - Venice

B/D

- 🍴 Breakfast at Hotel
- 📷 This morning we will walk to the train station (which is 2 minutes from our hotel) and take a direct train into the heart of Venice. We will drop our dress clothes and music at the San Salvador church and have a morning walking tour includes St. Mark's Square, with entrance to the incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge's Palace where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century.
- 🍴 Lunch on your own
- 📷 After lunch you will have free time to explore or take an optional tour to island of Murano, to visit one of their renowned glass-making factories/shops.
- 🎵 Late afternoon sound check
- 🎵 Performance – San Salvador Church
- 🍴 Farewell Dinner to celebrate another special VIC tour (included)

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Venice East Via della Resistenza, 18/20, Quarto D'altino T +39 042 2703811

May 19 – End of Tour or Venice to Gatwick Add On

B

- 🍽️ Breakfast at Hotel
- End of Tour or Venice to Gatwick Add On
- ✈️ 5:30 pm Check in Venice Airport
- ✈️ 7:55 pm EasyJet EZY6558
- ✈️ 9:10 pm Arrive London Gatwick
-  Check in Premier Inn

Accommodation: Premier Inn

May 20 – Flight Home

B

- Breakfast at Hotel
- End of Tour
-



Malta and Italy VIC Tour – 2024

Ground Cost: \$3,290 CAD per person
(based on a minimum of 40 people traveling)

Ground costs will include:

- Private Motor Coach Transportation as per itinerary
- Accommodation (based on twin). Single supplement is available
- Breakfast daily and 6 dinners
- Performances as per itinerary
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Every effort will be made to accommodate food allergies and other reasonable food issues.
- The group will be assigned a dedicated tour manager
- All Taxes & Gratuities

Not Included:

- International Flights
- Hotel accommodation at Premier Inn Gatwick North (if requested)
- Flight and bag fee from Gatwick to Malta (if requested)
- Flight and bag fee from Malta to Naples
- Lunches, 5 Dinners & All Beverages
- Passport Fees (everyone must have a passport book valid until at least 3 months, 6 months recommended after the day you plan to return to Canada)
- Airfare will include one carry on & one personal checked bag. Excess baggage fees are not included
- Single room supplement charge
- Travel Medical insurance (**required**)
- Trip Cancellation insurance (**optional but strongly recommended**)
- Choir Administration Fee (rehearsals)

Payment Schedule (per person):

- May 25, 2023 \$500 CAD
- Sept 1, 2023 \$600 CAD
- Nov 1, 2023 \$600 CAD
- Jan 15, 2024 \$600 CAD
- Mar 1, 2024 Balance

Cancellation Policy:

- From May 25 up to 180 days before the tour begins: \$100.00 non refundable accommodation deposit
- Premier Inn and EasyJet bookings are non refundable
- 120 - 179 days before the tour begins: 25% cancellation fee of the total costs
- 60 - 119 days before the tour begins: 50% cancellation fee of the total costs
- 0 – 59 days before the tour begins: 100% cancellation fee of the total costs

For more information please contact:

connect@mcmarts.ca