Day 1: Saturday, November 3

Welcome to Valletta: Check-in, and meet at the Hotel Phoenicia at 4:30 p.m. After an initial orientation with Harold, we’ll enjoy a Welcome Dinner at The Phoenix restaurant. (D)

Day 2: Sunday, November 4

Getting to Know Valletta: Following breakfast we will proceed on foot on a professionally guided tour of ancient Valletta. We will end the day with a sunset harbor cruise. (B, L)

Day 3: Monday, November 5

Excursion to the Blue Grotto: Today we will travel by private coach to the Blue Grotto, where we will have a specially arranged photographic tour by rowboat. (B)

Day 4: Tuesday, November 6

Archaeology Day! After touring the National Museum of Archaeology with a guide, we will travel by coach to some of Malta’s most spectacular archaeological sites. (B)

Day 5: Wednesday, November 7

Visiting a Famous Fishing Harbor: Today we explore the ancient fishing harbor of Marsaxlokk and photograph the traditional painted Maltese fishing boats with eyes on the bow. (B, L)

Day 6: Thursday, November 8

Transfer to Gozo: After breakfast, we will bid farewell to the Hotel Phoenicia for two days and travel by private coach to the ferry to Gozo. After arriving on Gozo, we will transfer by private coach to the St. Patrick’s Hotel in Xlendi and start exploring Calypso’s island. (B, D)

Day 7: Friday, November 9

Exploring Gozo: We will spend the day exploring Gozo by private coach. Destinations will include the sea cliffs of Gozo, the special salt-drying ponds, and the Ġgantija Temples. Time permitting we will also visit the Cittadella Victoria for sunset photography. (B, L)

Day 8: Saturday, November 10

Returning to Valletta: Today after breakfast, we will bid farewell to the St. Patrick’s Hotel and travel by private coach to the ferry back to Valletta. Along the way we will make stops for photography, perhaps including Xaghra and the Xaghra Stone Circle, a megalithic archaeological site. (B)

Day 9: Sunday, November 11

Excursion to Mdina: We will travel by private coach to the ancient fortified city of Mdina. Mdina was the first capital of Malta from Antiquity to the Middle Ages. (B)

Day 10: Monday, November 12

Transfer to the Airport: After breakfast, we will bid farewell to the Hotel Phoenicia and transfer as individually required depending on itinerary. (B)

About the Trip

A quick note for photographic travelers.
Day 1: Saturday, November 3

Check-in and Group Meeting

Included meals: Welcome Dinner at The Phoenix hosted by Harold

Hotel: **Hotel Phoenicia**
The Mall, Il-Belt  
Valletta FRN1478, Malta  
Tel: +356 2122 5241

Welcome Dinner: **The Phoenix**
The Mall, Il-Belt  
Valletta FRN1478, Malta  
Tel: +356 2122 5241

Pick-up from the airport to be arranged.

Check in at the hotel after 12:00 pm
Group meeting in lobby: 4:30 pm

Please Note: Each participant will be given a [Heritage Malta “Multisite” Pass](#) as part of the tour. Consider using it to visit many of the special locations during your free time. Click [here for more about Heritage Malta museums and sites](#).

**Planned Activities:**

The **Hotel Phoenicia** is an historic and luxurious 5-star hotel located near the heart of historic Valletta. Your adventure to **Malta** includes pre-paid accommodations at the **Hotel Phoenicia**. Please note at check-in that you are with the Harold Davis group. The hotel has each of your names with the reservation.

At 4:30 pm we will meet in the lobby of the Hotel Phoenicia for a brief orientation with Harold. Paul and Louis—two Maltese photographers who are friends of Harold’s—will join us for the walk and dinner. We will then head out on foot through the nearby main gate of the ancient city of Valletta. Harold will point out some of the nearby highlights of this fabulous walled city. We will return to the hotel in time for a festive Welcome Dinner hosted by Harold at the Hotel Phoenicia’s restaurant **The Phoenix** at 7:30 pm, a stunning dining room that is inspired by the great cafés of Europe.

*From Harold’s blog: Saint Ursula Street, Valletta*

*This is one of the interior streets in the compact, picturesque, and fortified city of Valletta, Malta. I don’t think there is anyplace else in the world like Valletta... click [here to read more](#).*
Day 2: Sunday, November 4

Getting to Know Valletta

*Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel Phoenicia and lunch at a location to be determined.*

**Planned Activities:**

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will proceed on foot on a professionally guided tour of ancient Valletta (approximately 3–4 hours).

After the tour, Harold will host a luncheon at a location TBD.

Following lunch, free time on your own until about 4:00 pm, when we will meet at the hotel lobby and proceed to the embarkation point for a sunset cruise of the harbor.

After the cruise ends, on your own for dinner.
Day 3: Monday, November 5

Excursion to the Blue Grotto

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel Phoenicia.

Planned Activities:

After breakfast, we will meet in the hotel lobby for an excursion by private coach to the Blue Grotto. We will stop first at the overlook to photograph the Blue Grotto from above, and then proceed to the boat launch area where we will have a special photographic tour (meaning more time to photograph inside the grotto!) by rowboat.

Following the tour of the Blue Grotto, the coach will bring us back to the hotel in Valletta. Afternoon free time in Valletta, followed by a presentation at 5:00 pm in the hotel lobby by Harold on black and white photography. We will also review of participants’ work so far, and critique for those who want it.

After the classroom session, those who wish to can join Harold for a optional “split-the-check” dinner in old Valletta.
Day 4: Tuesday, November 6

Archaeology Day!

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel Phoenicia.

Planned Activities:

After breakfast, we will meet a guide who is expert in the archeological side of Malta. We will proceed with the guide on foot to the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

The National Museum is housed in the Auberge de Provence and was originally used by the Knights of Saint John as their headquarters. The Museum exhibits artifacts dating from Malta’s Neolithic Period (5000 BCE) through the Phoenician Period (400 BCE).

Following a museum tour (approximately one hour), we will walk back to the hotel where we will be met by a private coach for transport to some of the most spectacular archaeological sites on Malta, including the Tarxien Temples, Saint Paul’s Catacombs, and the Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum.

There are three temple structures at the Tarxien Temples. The first temple has been dated to approximately 3100 BCE and is one of the most elaborately decorated temple on Malta. Stone rollers left outside the South Temple give insight into how the megaliths were constructed.

Please note: We will have a special Heritage Malta Photography Permit for each site, except the Hypogeum where photography is not allowed.

After visiting the sites, the coach will return us in the late afternoon to the Hotel Phoenicia in Valletta.

Evening and dinner on your own.
Day 5: Wednesday, November 7

Visiting a Famous Fishing Harbor

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel Phoenicia, lunch provided in Marsaxlokk.

Planned Activities:

Today, after breakfast at the hotel, we will proceed by private coach to the ancient fishing port of Marsaxlokk. Marsaxlokk is well known for its colorful, traditional Maltese fishing boats called *luzzu*. These boats have an eye on each side of the prow which is believed to protect the boats from evil (this is something the ancient Phoenicians also believed).

Marsaxlokk Harbor is where the Phoenicians first landed on Malta about 3,000 years ago in the 9th century B.C.E. It was also used as an anchorage by the fleets of the Ottoman Empire. Today, Marsaxlokk Harbor is full of many *luzzu*. In addition, there is always a market around the harbor featuring Maltese crafts, such as lace, sun parasols, hats, and local-origin food products.

We will wander around and photograph the colorful boats and activity in Marsaxlokk Harbor. We will also explore the waterfront of the nearby town and the craft market. Afterwards, we will sit down for a tasty lunch together in a local restaurant.

Following lunch, the coach will take us back to The Hotel Phoenicia where we will be on our own for the rest of the day.
Day 6: Thursday, November 8

Transferring to Gozo

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel Phoenicia and dinner hosted by Harold on Gozo.

Hotel: St. Patrick’s Hotel
Xlendi Bay
Gozo Island, Munxar, Malta
Tel: +356 2156 2951

Welcome Dinner: The Boathouse
Xatt Ix Xlendi,
Il-Munxar, Malta
Tel: +356 2156 9153

Planned Activities:

Today we bid farewell to the Hotel Phoenicia for two days. After breakfast at the hotel, we will be met by a private coach and head east to the Gozo ferry terminal in Ċirkewwa. On the way to Ċirkewwa, we will make several stops including an exploration of Saint Paul’s Bay where Paul the Apostle is said to have landed on Malta. We will visit the Red Tower, also known as Saint Agatha’s Tower or Torri Tal-Mellieha. The Red Tower dates from the 1600s and was the last large bastioned tower to be built in Malta. You may recognize the Red Tower when you see it, because it has made a number of appearances in Game of Thrones.

When we arrive at the ferry terminal in Ċirkewwa, we will leave our private coach and proceed on foot to the ferry which will take us to Gozo. On the Gozo side we will disembark and be met by another private coach to be taken to our Hotel in Xlendi (see Harold’s Blog story).

Once we arrive in Xlendi, we will check into Saint Patrick’s Hotel where we will enjoy the sea view from our rooms over Xlendi Bay.

After we have had time to grab some lunch in Xlendi on our own, we will meet at the hotel and proceed by private coach to the Citadel of Victoria in time for late afternoon light. The coach will bring us back to our hotel in Xlendi, and Harold will host a dinner at the nearby Boathouse Restaurant.

Note to participants: Our bus will not drive onto the Gozo ferry. Since we must carry our luggage onto and off the ferry, you might want to consider packing a light weekend bag for the two days we will be on Gozo, and leave your heavy suitcase with the friendly folks at the Hotel Phoenicia.
Day 7: Friday, November 9

Exploring Gozo

Included meals: Breakfast at the Saint Patrick’s Hotel and lunch hosted by Harold

Planned Activities:

Today we will explore Gozo by private coach. Destinations will include Red Beach, also known as Ix-Xatt l-Aħmar in Maltese, the very special salt-drying ponds, the Ġgantija Temples. The Ġgantija Temples are a megalithic, prehistoric temple site of the ancient peoples of Gozo. We will also take a look at some of the many contemporary Gozo churches, and time permitting we will make a return visit to the Cittadella Victoria (Iċ-Ċittadella in Maltese) for sunset photography.

Along the way we will have a lunch hosted by Harold. Dinner is on your own in Xlendi.

From Harold’ Blog: Church and Lighthouse on Gozo

This is a view of a church and lighthouse on Gozo, an island that is part of the Maltese archipelago of three islands. We photographed the view in the morning light before everything was too harsh. Gozo is a beautiful and laid back place...click here to read more...
Day 8: Saturday, November 10

Returning to Valletta

Included meals: Breakfast at the Saint Patrick’s Hotel.

Planned Activities:

Today after breakfast we will board our private coach for the return to the Hotel Phoenicia in Valletta.

On our way back to the ferry, we will make one or two stops, perhaps including Xagħra and the Xagħra Stone Circle (generally closed to the public, but possible to get special permission to see this megalithic archaeological site).

When we arrive at the ferry terminal, once again please be prepared to disembark from the coach and to proceed on foot to the ferry. On the Malta side at the ferry terminal in Ċirkewwa, we will be met by a private coach.

The coach will take us to Birgu, which is itself an interesting ancient town and across the harbor from Valletta. After lunch on your own and spending a few hours exploring Birgu, the coach will take us back to the Hotel Phoenicia mid-afternoon and we will check in again, and get settled.

In the late afternoon, Harold will make a presentation on night and low-light photography and participants can show their work for critique if they wish.

After the classroom session, those who wish to can join Harold for a optional “split-the-check” dinner in old Valletta.
Day 9: Sunday, November 11

Last day in Valletta; Excursion to Mdina

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel Phoenicia and Farewell Dinner hosted by Harold.

Planned Activities:

Following breakfast, you will be on your own to wander in the wonders of ancient Valletta until we meet at 11:00 am at the hotel for private coach transfer to Mdina. Mdina is a fortified, walled city that was the first capital of Malta from Antiquity to the Medieval Period.

Mdina is a spectacular walled city and was the cavalry base for the Order of Saint John, and has been short-listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Upon our return to Valletta, we will meet at 7:00 pm and walk to a restaurant in old Valletta for a festive Farewell Dinner hosted by Harold.
Day 10: Monday, November 12

Transfer to Airport

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel Phoenicia

Planned Activities:

After a farewell breakfast at the hotel, the workshop ends and we will go our separate ways.

*Individual transfers to the airport are included in the cost of the workshop. Please be sure that we have your arrival and departure information. Thank you!*
About the Trip

When and Where to Meet
The Hotel Phoenicia is an historic and luxurious 5-star hotel located right outside the main gate to ancient Valletta. The hotel boasts spectacular and mature gardens surrounded by ancient fortifications and is a grand, world-class hotel in the tradition of the great hotels of Europe.

Your adventure to Malta and Gozo includes pre-paid, accommodations at the Hotel Phoenicia in Valletta and Saint Patrick’s Hotel in Xlendi, Gozo. The Bay of Xlendi is one of the most famous areas on Gozo, and is delightful to explore. Our rooms at the Saint Patrick’s Hotel will each be “sea view” so you can enjoy the beautiful view of Xlendi Bay.

Please note at check-in at the Hotel Phoenicia on November 3, 2018, that you are with the Harold Davis group. The hotel has each of your names with the reservation.

We will meet in the lobby of the Hotel Phoenicia, at 4:30 pm on Saturday, November 3, 2018. From there, we will proceed on a brief orientation walking tour through the main gate and into the ancient city of Valletta. This will be followed by a Welcome Dinner hosted by Harold. Please be checked into the hotel before we meet. (See page 2 of the Itinerary for details.)

Heritage Malta Multisite Pass
Each workshop participant will be given a Heritage Malta “Multisite Pass.” This Multisite Pass gives admission to 23 Heritage Malta sites and museums plus the Malta National Aquarium and the Citadel Visitor Center for 30 days. Click these links for more about Heritage Malta, the Multisite Pass, and Heritage Malta Museums and Sites.

What to Expect in Weather
This is an autumn photo trip into a southern Mediterranean location. If you think Sicily, you are roughly right, and Malta is not very far from North Africa as the crow flies. Generally, the weather at this time of year in Malta is moderate with nighttime lows of 57˚F and daytime highs of 69˚F on average. So this would be sweater weather and possible layers, but you are very unlikely to need anything as heavy as a winter coat.

The waters of the southern Mediterranean around Malta are very mild. The average temperature in November is in the low 70s°F. While this is not tropical, it is definitely swimmable, and Harold says that he plans to bring his swimsuit. He is also hoping to enjoy the exquisite infinity pool in the gardens of the Hotel Phoenicia.

November in Malta does bring an increased chance of rain, keeping in mind that this is a low precipitation area. In other words, we are likely to encounter some rain, although it is unlikely to be constant or steady.
About the Trip, continued

You should come prepared to protect both yourself and your camera from rain. As Ansel Adams put it, *If you don't go out in the rain, you can't photograph a clearing storm*. In addition to a warm layer such as a sweater, please plan to bring a rain shell.

Maltese Currency and Languages

Malta is part of the European Union, and the Euro is the official currency.

It is advisable to let your credit card company know about your travel plans, e.g. let them know that you will be in Malta. If you plan to use your chip-and-pin card in Malta to get cash advances (which can be a convenient and inexpensive way to get Euros), you should make sure that your bank has provided you with a PIN number for your card.

There are two official languages on Malta: English and Maltese. You may be interested to know that Maltese is an ancient language derived from Arabic, and it is the only Arabian language that primarily uses Roman characters (there are some special additional characters). As a practical matter, everyone speaks English, which makes life easy for visitors, except when the Maltese themselves get together. To find out more about Maltese, take a look at Omniglot: [www.omniglot.com/writing/maltese.htm](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/maltese.htm)

General Items to Bring with You

As noted above, we recommend layered clothing. By all means, bring good walking shoes and socks that will pad your feet to keep them from blisters. Do make sure your shoes are broken in before the trip to avoid rub spots on your feet.

Please keep in mind that power plugs in Malta are shaped differently than American plugs, so you will need to bring a converter for the plugs for your electrical gear. Technically speaking, Maltese power sockets are of type G, which involves three rectangular-shaped prongs. Here’s an example on Amazon of a converter to the type G plug: [https://www.amazon.com/OREI-Grounded-Universal-Adapter-Singapore/dp/B004SCSV2U](https://www.amazon.com/OREI-Grounded-Universal-Adapter-Singapore/dp/B004SCSV2U).

Another possibility is to buy a universal plug converter. Here is an example on Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/Universal-Iron-M-International-European-Countries/dp/B074CR574](https://www.amazon.com/Universal-Iron-M-International-European-Countries/dp/B074CR574)

Photographic Items to Bring with You

Please bring a camera, tripod, wide-angle and telephoto lenses, and a remote release. You may want a head lamp in case we do evening and night photography. Bring plenty of memory cards, your charger, and extra batteries for anything that takes batteries.

Harold travels with his laptop, processes his images on-the-fly when he can, and presents on various photographic topics of interest to the group. You are welcome to bring your own computer if you would
About the Trip, continued

like to process your images and to experiment with the techniques that Harold shows. Bringing a laptop is not, however, required. If you do bring a computer, please be sure to include a card reader.

Harold is happy to answer individual questions about photography gear to bring, so please don’t hesitate to contact him.

Contacting Harold and Phyllis

If you have any questions at all, please contact Harold by email at harold@digitalfieldguide.com or Phyllis at phyllis@bearhome.com. Harold’s mobile phone when he is on the road in Europe or the US is +1.510.295.3982.

Travel Arrangements and Questions

We are happy to assist with advice about travel arrangements upon request. Please be sure to ask us if you have any questions. We will do our best to help with any concerns you may have. Thanks! Grazzi!

Gozo Lace