



Family Folklore & Traditions

Preparation

The strategic position of the Maltese Islands made them attractive to a succession of overlords, all of whom have exercised different cultures and ethnological influences that find expression in local customs and traditions that are still kept alive.

We are offering participants a closer view of local customs. Not only will this serve as a complement and stimulus for a greater understanding of the topic but it is also a motivation for those who will focus their attention on this interesting subject matter. Participants in this course are requested to have a basic knowledge and use of the English language.

They will be asked to complete an online pre-course questionnaire which will give our tutors useful information about their background and about the motivations that have led them to choose this course. This will be followed by our course acceptance and enrolment letters.

Participants should also prepare for this course by doing some reading or internet research on folklore & traditions within their own country so as to add their own knowledge and thoughts to the course discussions.

Prior to arrival applicants will receive by email some general information on Malta as well as a list of suggested reading material and research sites together with a detailed programme and contents of our course.

In addition we will provide:

- Information on how to obtain grants and how to fill out application forms.
- Information of payment schedule
- Hotel accommodation in single rooms on Full Board basis
- All transport except airport transfers

Participants will also be able to log onto the programme's internet site to access information on Malta's historical and cultural background so as to help them prepare better for their course in Malta.



Objectives

The course has been organized so as to make participants conscious of the rich Folklore and family traditions that are still alive in our islands and in most of our neighbouring Mediterranean countries.

The course also aims at motivating teachers of making good use of both published material and site visits and should help them reflect on their approach to teaching today's student as well as improve their command of spoken English.

Participants are encouraged to exchange knowledge and share personal experiences with the other participants and lecturers as well and to promote field works as an important educational element dealing with them as a dynamic source of learning.

It aims to emphasize the importance of our cultural roots in common with our neighbouring countries and to trace Maltese folklore from the 8th century up to the present day and to give both the expert and non expert a smart contribution to folklore. The course should be very interesting to those who are interested in the comparative study of Mediterranean customs and folk narrative or are just lovers of folklore and traditions.

Methodology

The course is spread over five working days (40 hrs.) and will consist of a series of lectures with site-visits to complement the topics of the day. Highly qualified lecturers ensure a simple approach of the highest levels of learning.

The course will be taught interactively and participants are expected to take an active role in all sessions experiencing for themselves the activities covered in the sessions.

The groups of participants are purposely small in number. This promotes a more dynamic, direct and flexible learning process. Most learning will take place in direct contact with the different public during the number of field works outside the classroom. While in the classroom, presentations in power points, an academic dossier, and audiovisual material will be used.

Site visits and field trips are an integral part of the course. Topics to be covered include: Birth and Marriage traditions, Beliefs and Superstitions and traditional Trades and Crafts. Sessions will be practical and should help teachers reflect on their approach to teaching today's students

There will be ample time for discussion on the topics both in the lecture room and on site. At the end of the day handouts / notes will be given to all participants on what has been covered.



At the end of the course there will be a full discussion and an evaluation session so that participants can report their opinion on the quality of the training. This will be followed by the presentation of Certificates to the participants.

Follow-up:

The organizers will keep close contact with all the participants either via email or communication in order to be able to answer queries about particular issues related raised in the course. We will also be available to help course participants in drawing up further courses/modules about folklore and traditions. In addition participants will be given email contact details of all the trainers for further support and guidance.

Participants will be able to access a website dedicated to the project and download the material from the course. They will also be able to view and download photos of the activity as well as have complete access to all participants' contributions. This will help grow and strengthen the relationship between participants and teachers and allow for information exchange and learning even after the course has ended.

All documents and material produced in the course will be made available on line through the association website besides teachers will be introduced to various web-based sites which they could use after the course.

Participants will also be receiving our e-newsletters to keep them adjourned on information on future courses, evaluation of new material and to exchange comments on experiences and opinions through Skype or Facebook.

Day-to-Day Training Programme

Day 1:

Arrival of Participants

19.00: Introductory Meeting, Registration of Participants, Welcome Drink.

20.00: Social Dinner.

Day 2:

07.30: Breakfast

09.00: Lecture 1: A Brief Survey of Maltese Family Folklore & Traditions.

10.30: Coffee Break.

11.00: Lecture 2: Marriage Traditions – Past and Present.

Site Visit: 17th Century nobleman's house and a traditional Maltese church.

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

15.00: Discussion.

16.30: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.

- **Address:** 122, Oats Street, Attard, ATD 3015, Malta • **Tel / Fax:** +356 21 436 384
- **Email:** info@sansfrontierseurope.com • **Website:** www.sansfrontierseurope.com



Day 3:

07.30: Breakfast

09.00: Lecture 3: Popular Beliefs & Superstitions in Central Europe & Malta.

10.30: Coffee Break.

11.00: Lecture 4: Birth and Burial Traditions.

Site Visit: Rabat & Mdina – St. Paul’s Church and Catacombs.

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

15.00: Discussion.

16.30: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.

Day 4:

07.30: Breakfast

09.00: Lecture 5: Village Festas.

10.30: Coffee Break.

11.00: Lecture 6: Traditional Trades and Crafts.

Site Visit: Mosta & the Craft Village.

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

15.00: Discussion.

16.30: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.

Day 5:

07.30: Breakfast.

09.00: Lecture 7: Myths & Legends of the Mediterranean Coast.

11.00: Lecture 8: The Cult of the Mother Goddess in Mediterranean Countries.

Site Visit: The three Villages – Qormi, Zebbug & Siggiewi.

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

15.00: Discussion.

16.30: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.

Day 6:

07.00: Breakfast.

09.15: Ferry to Gozo (weather permitting).

10.00: Lecture 9: Ways of Life & Traditional Folk Music.

12.30: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

14.30: Field Work: Calypso’s Cave and Folklore Museum..

16.30: Ferry Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Evaluation Session.

20.00: Farewell Dinner followed by Presentation of Certificates.

Day 7:

07.00 – 10.30: Breakfast.

Departure of participants.