

REPORTING ABOUT AN INTERESTING ALPS CULTURAL TOUR IN VALLETTA

VISITING:

ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL

Nearly fifty ALPS members and friends, have turned up on the Saturday morning of the 29th November 2014. Everyone was very keen to participate in this tour and therefore, great attention was given by hiring the services of two licensed guides so that in two different groups, a detailed explanation of the places visited could be given.

One could observe that the participants were very attentive to everything that was being narrated by electronic audio system aid that had been distributed for use inside the Cathedral. The tour lasted nearly one and a half hours with many persons asking questions about the treasures that they had just been shown. The most treasured item of course was the collection of hand woven tapestries that are now hanging in an upper level of the Museum. Some are even undergoing restoration by experts in this field. It is said, that the last time that such tapestries were hanging in the Cathedral was in 1989 when Pope John Paul the second had made a visit to Malta and was shown around St John's Cathedral too. Now it has been decided, by the St. John's Cathedral Foundation in charge, that the tapestries must not be mishandled.

A half hour coffee break in the nearby coffee shops was given and the tour resumed at 11.45hrs.

THE GRAND MASTER'S PALACE

Entering the Grand Master's Palace (now housing the Maltese Parliament and the Malta President's office), the ALPS group, under the guidance of two separate guides, gained access to level three and were shown around the magnificent rooms that make up this palace. With lots of history abounding at this location, the participants could admire the method that this building had been constructed, the use that it had been put to over the last few hundred years and the present day function of the Grand Master's Palace serving the state at many different occasions. One could also observe at the palace, the very delicate restoration works that have been carried out over the past few years. The walking tour inside the palace lasted an hour and the

ALPS participants then walked slowly together to The Caravaggio Café in St. John's Square to share a set lunch.

From the feedback that is always given to ALPS at the end of such cultural tours it appears that, we have been planning and organizing interesting events that are most pleasing and we have been asked to do more for the future.

Rest assured, that we have duly taken note of your wishes and we shall be working on the possibility of more interesting guided walking tours to other locations in the coming year 2015. Keep an eye for new announcements in the newsletter.