
Historical & Cultural CRETE

Travel to Crete, the cradle of the western civilisation and follow the steps of the Minoans. Discover one of the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean. Visit significant archaeological sites and numerous Greek-orthodox churches and monasteries. Exciting myths of immortal gods and heroes accompany you when travelling through striking scenery.

Visit Crete's most memorable sites!

- Stay at 3 different places Duration: 8 days / 7 nights
- Comfortable 3*** hotels Tour dates: All year round!
- Relaxed tour Theme: Cultural Roundtrip
- Professional tour guide Price: € 879.- p.p. (price valid for a min. of 25 persons)

Program:

1st day:

Arrival at Heraklion airport, welcome and greet by transfer escort, transfer by coach to hotel.

- Overnight Heraklion area.

2nd day:

During this tour you will be taken back 4000 years to the time of the oldest civilisation in Europe. The Palace of **Knossos**, centre of the Minoan Civilisation, will leave you breathless as you wonder over the technology and facilities of that period. After this fascinating tour, you will board the coach onto Heraklion the capital of Crete. In Heraklion you have a guided tour through the extraordinary **Archaeological Museum**, viewing the unique items from the Minoan culture.

- Overnight Heraklion area.

3rd day:

Between Dicti and Idi mountain to southern Crete. Visit **Gortys** -the capital of Roman Crete with its law stones, the Minoan Palace **Phaestos**, and the nunnery of **Kalivianni** which has a reception centre for girls and nursing home for the elderly. In **Aghia Galini**, a small fishing village and holiday resort, time at leisure. In **Spili** village short stop at the springs with the Venetian lion heads.

- Overnight Rethymnon area.

4th day:

Drive to western Crete. Short stop at the village of **Vrisses**, shaded by old plane trees and famous for its yoghurt with honey. Going up the peninsula Akrotiri and visit the monastery **Aghia Triada**, Holy Trinity. Then further on to **Chania** with a stop at Venizelos graves situated on the hill Profitis Ilias from where a marvellous view over, the former capital of Crete. Guided walk through the town of exceptional beauty, along the monuments of ancient and modern ages. Free time to browse the shops and famous indoor market built in a holy cross. A large variety of Cretan goods such as, leather, honey, cheese, yoghurt, olives, oil etc. are offered at the shops.

- Overnight Rethymnon area.

5th day:

Sightseeing on foot in **Rethymnon** town with buildings dating from the 16th century and Byzantine and Hellenic-Roman remains. South of Rethymnon to Chromonostiri where your 2- hours walk starts in the beautiful undiscovered **Mili Valley**. A real paradise, a place of purifying harmony, beauty and peace, the splendour of nature. Visit to the monastery of **Arkadi** and the village **Margarites**.

- Overnight Gouves-Mallia area..

6th day:

Day trip to Dicti mountain. First stop in the morning at to the **open-air museum Lychnostatis** which offers an insight into the authentic Cretan life. On the way to Lassithi visit the **Kera Kardiotissa** monastery. Stop at Seli, gate to the plain, for a fantastic view over the **Lassithi** plateau and visit the old grain mill. Continue by coach to the plateau for a beautiful drive through villages which are located around the plain. A stop will be made outside the village Psychro, were a path is leading to the **Dicti Cave**. Walk through the main village **Tzermiado**, with local coffee houses and handicrafts shops. On your way back to the hotel passing by the village of Mochos you enjoy the splendid view over de north coast.

- Overnight Gouves-Mallia area.

7th day:

Travel via the old national road and through small mountain villages to the Mirabello Bay. Outside the white washed village Kritsa you visit the church **Panagia Kera** with Byzantine icons from the 13th century. In Elounda embarkation for **Spinalonga** island the former leper colony. In a walking tour of approximately 1-hour through the narrow main street you have the opportunity to admire ruins and renovated houses. After your inspiring stroll on the island return to **Elounda**, a quiet fishing village sheltered within the Gulf of Mirabello. By coach to **Aghios (Saint) Nicholas**, the small chapel gave his name to the homonymous city. Free time in this picturesque harbour town, its small lake is the landmark of the city.

- Overnight Gouves-Mallia area.

8th day:

Departure. Free time till departure and transfer coach to Heraklion airport for return to your home country.

Not included:

- + Lunches - Dinners
- + Beverages
- + Entrance fees, approx. € 30,00 per person
- + Tips
- + Supplement single room BB € 244,-
- + Supplement high season € 120,- per person BB (01.07. - 15.09)

Minimum participants: 25 Persons