

## **BUS ROUNDTRIP PROGRAM FOR GROUPS**

### **West - East Crete**

Travel to Crete, one of the biggest and most beautiful islands of the Mediterranean. You meet friendly people at the villages and find between the silver green olive trees and high mountains, hundreds of Greek orthodox churches and monasteries, and treasures of ancient places. Your guide tells about the rich history, rural life and shows herbs and wild flowers.

Get to know Crete's discovered and undiscovered places!

- Stay at 2 different places
  - Comfortable 3\*\*\* hotels BB
  - Relaxed tour
  - Professional tour guide
- Duration: 8 days / 7 nights  
Tour dates: All year round!  
Theme: Nature and picturesque places  
Price: € .....(on request) .- Minimum 25 Persons

#### **Program:**

##### **1st day:**

Arrival at Heraklion airport, welcome and greet by transfer escort, transfer by coach to your hotel. The first nights you will stay in the **Rethymnon** area. Taste the Mediterranean atmosphere in the narrow streets of the old, picturesque town and in one of the numerous taverns in the Venetian harbour. Overnight in Rethymnon.

##### **2nd day:**

Today you make your way towards the western capital of Crete. Situated on the old port, the lovely city of **Chania** is like a painting. You have the chance to visit the Municipal Market hall, full of local delicacies, honey, herbs and spices. Stroll through the 'leather street' and the back streets of this beautiful town. You see here how Crete, due to its geographical position, was in so many cases the stepping-stone between west and east and east and west. Further on towards Souda Bay and visit the cemetery of the WWII allies. You then head up into the mountains and hills to **Douliana**, a lovely small village with a marvellous view over the Gulf of nAlmirida. Here you can take a break stroll through the village, sample traditional food of west Crete cooked in the open wood oven, or visit the local coffee shop and watch the world go by. You also may descent (35 min.) into the Gorge of Saint John, full of wild flowers and orchids. On your way back to Rethymnon, through Georgioupolis and passing by the old road you admire the lovely countryside. Overnight in Rethymnon.

##### **3rd day:**

Your journey to the mountain villages is a unique experience through the grandeur of the Cretan nature. Driving through the **Kourtaliotiko** ravine, where a possibility to walk into the gorge to see the beautiful nature, and visit the Saint Nicholas chapel. The wind blowing through the narrow gorge makes a

mysterious sound. The **Preveli** Monastery is beautiful located high up on a rock and overlooking the Libyan Sea. The tour continues along the south coast to **Plakias**, this small village has a wonderful long sandy beach, which is ideal for swimming and sea sports. You return to the north coast via the **Kotsifou** Gorge. The endless green and springs are the most characteristic of the historical village **Argiroupolis**. Enjoy a short walk at the Lake of **Kournas** before returning to the hotel. Overnight in Rethymnon.

#### 4th day:

The following days you will explore the eastern part of Crete. Departure with luggage to your hotel in the Aghios (Saint) Nikolaos area, on the Bay of Mirabello. On the way you visit the ruins of the Minoan palace of **Knossos** and continuous to the area of **Archanes** and **Peza**, since the Minoan period famous for its grapes and wines. Visit a winery and wine tasting. Return to **Heraklion**, sightseeing by coach along the Venetian harbour and walls, the daily Market Street and Liberty Square. Afterwards to the museum coach parking for a visit of the Archaeological Museum.

Overnight in Aghios Nikolaos.

#### 5th day:

Free day. Do not miss the chance to book for a relaxed boat trip to the island **Spinalonga**. In the last century people with leprosy lived in the Venetian fortress.

Overnight in Aghios Nikolaos.

#### 6th day:

Along the north coastal road to the open-air museum **Lychnostatis** which offers an insight into the authentic Cretan life. In a guided tour through the compound you will marvel the Cretan architecture, a restored wind mill, a trashing floor and work shops of weaving, ceramics, fragrance distillery and plant dyeing wool activities. A stroll in the garden shows the fruit trees, the bright coloured flowers and aromatic Cretan herbs. After you've got familiarised with Cretan life you drive by coach high up Mount Dicti to the **Lassithi** Plateau, and tour through the villages which are located around the plain. You stop at the village Psychro where a path is leading to the **Dicti Cave**. Going up a steep cobble path it is fifteen minutes on foot or by mule to the entrance of the cave. It has fine stalactites and stalagmites, and is also associated with the birth of Zeus (Jupiter). In **Tzermiado** the main village you make a stroll; An opportunity to experience day to day life with it's coffee-houses, grocery shops and locals selling their products, such as pure olive oil, herbs and ceramics. At the pass Seli Ambellou the gate to the Lassithi Plateau you can enjoy a truly fantastic view over the plain and see the inside of an old grain mill.

Overnight in Aghios Nikolaos.

#### 7th day:

Along the Mirabello Bay with marvellous views and past the old Minoan town of Gournia drive on to **Sitia**. This small town is a peaceful Mediterranean port. Your tour continues and when approaching Monastery **Toplou** its size and high bell tower will impress you. In a guided tour through this medieval monastery you will get an insight to the surviving problems of the monks and the monastery's architecture.

Driving further on, through the hilly, dry landscape with rocks and shrubs only, you come to **Vai**, which deserves your attention while it is one of the nicest beaches in Greece and the only natural palm-forest in Europe. Overnight in Aghios Nikolaos.

### 8th day:

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

### Our services include:

- ~ Welcome envelope with general information
- ~ Assistance at airport upon arrival and departure
- ~ Private comfortable coach services as per itinerary
- ~ 7 overnights, in double room, accommodation at middle class hotels 3 and 4 stars, Greek rating
- ~ Half board basis at hotel breakfast and dinner, starting with dinner on day 1 and ending with breakfast on the last day
- ~ Professional licensed guide, English speaking on days 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7

### Your hotels:

Place	Nights	Categorie
Rethymnon / surroundings	3	B (««««)
Aghios (Saint) Nikolaos / surroundings	3	B (««««)

### Not included:

- + Journey to / from Heraklion
- + Lunches / Dinners
- + Beverages
- + Entrance fees, approx. € .....,00 per person
- + Optional tour to Spinalonga
- + Tips
- + Supplement single room BB € ....., -
- + Supplement high season € ....., - per person BB (01/07. – 15/09)



### Minimum participants:

25 Persons