

MICE

Creating memorable events

Why Crete



- Crete is the largest island in the south of Greece and the fifth largest in the Mediterranean.
- The unique combination of tradition and history with amazing scenery, modern facilities and exciting night life, justifiably make Crete one of the world's favorite travel destinations.
- Is well known for its beautiful beaches, where you can sunbathe or swim and dive in the crystal blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Is also world famous for its historical sites for example Knossos plus a host of other sites such as monasteries and castles.
- Crete has a varied landscape, mountains, deep gorges, fertile valleys with small villages surrounded by olive trees rich farmland.
- The famous Cretan cuisine.
- The climate of Crete Island is the mildest of Greece and maybe of Europe, gentle and healthy. It is a temperate Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers moderated by the northern winds and mild winters in the plains and quite rainy which make them verdant.

What You Need to Know About Crete



The largest of the Greek Islands.



The palace of Knossos, in Heraklion, is said to be the first European palace.



Beautiful hiking trails, quaint villages, & vibrant nightlife.



Has some amazing archaeological sites.



Cretan cuisine

On the Greek Island of Crete, and in Greece in general, food is a way of life, and any meal accompanied by beloved people can take hours! Good wine, nice conversation, and a bit of the traditional strong drink – Raki, are just as valuable ingredients as the fresh products used by an experienced cook. All these make Cretan food such a satisfying and magical experience.

The best thing about the Cretan diet is its simplicity. No intense spices, feeling the natural flavor of fresh products. Based on simple techniques, it's the variety of local produce that distinguishes the dishes: mountain herbs and greens, bulbs, unique cheeses, fresh fish, the famous Cretan oil, and raki a bracing grape brandy.



Program

Day 1

Arrivals

Panoramic Tour

Palace of Knossos Guided Tour

Day 2

10:00 – 15:00

16.00 – 18:00

19:00

Wine Testing

Cretan Traditional Village

Dinner

Day 3

10:00 – 15:00

BBQ

19:00

Half day Cruise to Spinalonga and

Cretan night

Day 4

Departures

Day 1

Panoramic Tour and Palace of
Knossos Guided Tour



Panoramic Tour Heraklion

Upon arrival you will do a panoramic tour to Heraklion city. Learn everything about the history of the city through sightseeing from your bus.

Some of the sights may include:

Archeological Site of Knossos

Venetian Castle "Koules"

Archeological Museum

Historical Museum

N. Kazantzakis' Tomb

Natural History Museum

Old Town Historical Gate

Malevizi Archeological Museum





Palace of Knossos

The Palace of Knossos is the monumental symbol of Minoan civilization, due to its construction, use of luxury materials, architectural plan, advanced building techniques and impressive size.

The palace is fascinating for a number of reasons:

- For one, the palace is incredibly well-preserved, and offers a glimpse into the lives of the Minoans.
- Additionally, the palace was considered to be a magical place – it was here that King Minos kept the legendary Minotaur in a labyrinth.
- Finally, Knossos was also the birthplace of Linear A writing, which is still not completely understood.



Palace of Knossos Guided Tour

You will explore this ancient residence of King Minos. The palace complex is formed of more than 1500 interconnected rooms, a confusing structure that will no doubt remind of you of the Minotaur's Labyrinth...

Discover the legend of the mythological being that terrorized the Cretans thousands of years ago. Who shut him in the labyrinth? What did he eat? Who killed him and how?

As you delve into the island's mythical past, you'll wander through the chambers of the royal family, the sanctuaries and the rooms that were home to the treasures of Crete. The Palace of Knossos is the most significant vestige of the Minoan civilization, considered to be the most sophisticated ancient culture in Europe.

One particular example of the civilization's advanced development is the palace's complex sewage and water system. You'll also get to see the original throne of King Minos, which remains standing even 3,500 years later. After making the most of your tour around the Palace of Knossos and admiring its spectacular frescoes, your visit will come to an end.



Day 2

Wine Tasting



Wine Testing in Crete

- Crete, the largest island in Greece, is well known for its sun-kissed beaches, rugged landscapes, and rich cultural history. However, what many people may not know is that Crete is also home to some of the most unique and delicious wines in the world. From the vineyards of the north to the hillsides of the south, Crete's winemakers are creating distinctive wines that reflect the island's long history of winemaking.
- The history of winemaking in Crete can be traced back over 4,000 years, making it one of the oldest wine-producing regions in the world. The Minoan civilization, which flourished on the island from around 2700 BC to 1450 BC, was known for its advanced culture and sophisticated taste in wine. The Minoans developed a unique method of winemaking that involved fermenting the grapes in large clay pots called pithoi, which were buried in the ground.
- Crete has five distinct wine regions: Peza, Archanes, Dafnes, Sitia, and Chania. Each region has its own unique terroir, grape varieties, and winemaking traditions.



Wine Testing in Crete

The Winery in Crete is built outside Skalani village, on the Fantaxometochos Estate. It is located a few kilometers outside the center of Heraklion city, close to the archaeological site of Knossos, and is the jewel of the viticultural PDO region of Archanes.

In Greek, “Fantaxometochos” means “the haunted domain”. The name that was given to the place “Fantaxometochos” was taken by the legend that was created in order to protect the domain from pirates. Today, it’s the place where Boutari, one of the largest Greek wine producers, has established its winery in Crete.

The grapes grown in the vineyard are used to produce the white wine Fantaxometochos, Heraklion Regional Wine from Chardonnay, Vilana and Thrapsathiri and the red wine Skalani, Heraklion Regional Wine. from Kotsifali and Syrah.

Via guided tours at the vineyard and the winery, the visitor has the opportunity to experience for themselves the special delights of wine: the art of wine-tasting, «vertical» wine-tasting, and finally to enjoy the wines alongside those dishes and flavours which traditionally complement them in the specially- constructed reception hall.





Excursion:
Cretan Traditional Village



Cretan Traditional Village

You will visit a unique **traditional** private **Cretan village**. As a family-run business it was implemented with great passion and love for **Cretan tradition**. Its goal is to bring **Cretan tradition**, the customs and habits of the region, the architecture and the values of Cretan people into relief to visitors and future generations.

The **village** encompasses the **traditional elements** and **beauty** of **Crete**. The guests escape present time and they travel back to the past.

Built on the slope of a mountain, in the wild **Cretan** landscape, the **village** is a feast for the eyes, evoking memories from the past of older generations as for their way of living while revealing the simplicity and beauty of old times to younger generations.





Cooking Lesson 3

- The visitors prepare dishes like stuffed vine leaves, stuffed vegetables, pork with wine sauce, lamp with green beans, ntakos, tzatziki and sarikopites. At the end they receive the respective recipes and they taste the final products. The program can be adapted to several options of dishes and time.
- The group is accompanied by an **English speaking** member of our personnel **dressed in traditional uniform**.
- **Maximum Duration:** 4hrs
- 2hr & 30 min activity
- 60 min tasting & 30 min museum visit
- **Maximum no of participants:** 100



Kombokoi

- After a short presentation of the history of kombokoi on power point, our guests make their own kombokoi with the pearls we provide to them. At the end they keep their creation as souvenir.
- The group is accompanied by an English speaking member of our personnel dressed in traditional uniform.
- Duration: 2hrs (1hr & 30 min activity &30 min museum visit)
- Maximum no of participants: 100

Day 3

Half day Cruise to Spinalonga and BBQ



Spinalonga

The fortified islet of Spinalonga is one of the most famous attractions in Greece. Several small ferries transfer visitors from Elounda, Plaka and Agios Nikolaos. The visitors can wander on the island that the Venetians fortified to keep their saltpans in Elounda safe from their enemies. The island later was inhabited by the Ottomans and afterwards housed a leper colony till the mid-20th century.

While its history is well-known, many are unaware of the beautiful beach on the southwest part of the island. Visitors can relax under tamarisk trees and swim with the stunning backdrop of the fortress and views of the Kolokitha peninsula.



Spinalonga

Guided Tour Highlights:

- Visit Spinalonga: Discover the impressive history of this island near Elounda, known for its Venetian fortress and later as a leper colony.
- Kolokitha Island: After approximately 1.5 hours on Spinalonga, we will depart for Kolokitha Bay. Here, we will enjoy a barbeque and swimming in the crystal-clear waters.



Cretan night



Cretan night

Cretan night, our favorite kind of night, where you will get the chance to spend your time in a unique way, in a typical mountainous village. We invite you to a traditional Cretan night in a quintessential mountainous village, where you'll get a chance to enjoy your time just like the Cretans do.

You will meet Cretan and Greek people and dancers dressed in fascinating traditional costumes. Our music program includes a traditional orchestra with the Cretan lyre, bouzouki and drums.

You will be charmed by traditional songs which are deeply loved by the Greeks of all ages. Besides music and dancing there will be a theatrical performance representing the scenes of the Greek history and mythology.

You will enjoy a genuine Cretan meal and an abundant quantity of local house wine.



Enjoy your stay in Crete

