

ADVENTURES

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ISLAND HOPPING IN THE GREEK ISLANDS

Crete Extension - Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploring Crete, the largest of the Greek islands
- Visiting an active volcano and swimming in hot springs
- Touring locations that housed and inspired Greek myths, legends, and history
- Swimming and snorkeling in warm lagoon waters

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location: Crete, Greece

Activities: Hiking

Trip Overview

If you're just not ready to make your way back home from Island Hopping the Greek Islands, and crave a bit more 'island' time, consider extending your Greece vacation and spending a few days with your Greek guide in Crete! Yes, the island of Crete is the largest of the Greek islands and is located on the southern side of the Aegean Sea. Crete is one of the more popular destinations but has also managed to keep its unique character. You'll be awed by its beautiful lagoons and beaches as well as the history this island has to offer.

Maximum group size: 14

What's Included

- English speaking Trekking Hellas expert tour leader. (There will not be an AGC guide on the extension)
- 4 nights in double occupancy rooms in 3 star accommodations
- Activities mentioned in the itinerary
- Visit to a traditional organic farm and all related activities
- Organized Boat Tour to Balos
- Meals (daily breakfasts / 2 lunches-1 Cretan snack and 1 picnic lunch/ 4 dinners).
Please note: Tips for meals are not included.
- All transfers by private buses and/or taxis
- Entrance fees and professional guiding at the Knossos Palace
- Ferry tickets (Santorini-Crete) / Airplane tickets Chania-Athens
- All transfers from the port to the hotels on the islands.
- Arrival and Departure transfers

What's not included: Travel to and from Athens, departure transportation, beverages (aside from bottled water at meals), meals not noted in itinerary, tips for meals during trip, guide gratuities, optional activities, travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1 (Day 8 of Island Hopping the Greek Islands)

Our last day of full activities for Island Hopping the Greek Islands, and then on to Crete! Today we'll see Santorini from a completely different perspective: the cockpit of a kayak. With the freedom of kayaking, we can enjoy views from the sea of spectacular rock formations and crystal blue water. We'll stop at a beautiful beach for swimming and a picnic lunch, kayaking for a total of about 4 hours and 7 miles.

No previous kayaking experience is needed, you'll get taught what you need to know to be comfortable in your boat. If you choose not to kayak, you can spend the morning exploring town. Your guide can give you suggestions on what to see. After the day's expeditions we will bid farewell to our AGC guide and the others heading back to Athens and continue on with our Greek guide to Crete. We will leave from the port of Thira around 5:00 PM, arriving in Heraklion around 7:00 PM. After transferring to our hotel we'll enjoy our first dinner in Crete.

Overnight: Marin dream hotel <https://www.marinhotel.gr/> or similar (B, L, D)



DAY 2

Our day begins with a visit to the great palace of Knossos. This is where the European civilization began, a place full of myths and legends. The myth tells that Theseus, a prince from Athens, sailed to Crete, where he was forced to fight a terrible creature called the Minotaur, who was a half man, half bull, and was kept in the Labyrinth – a building like a maze – by the king Minos, the ruler of Crete. The king's daughter Ariadne fell in love with Theseus. Before he entered the Labyrinth to fight the Minotaur, Ariadne gave him a ball of thread which he unwound as he went into the Labyrinth so that he could find his way back by following it. Theseus killed the Minotaur, and then he and Ariadne fled from Crete, escaping her angry father.



After our trip into mythology, we will have the opportunity of visiting a traditional organic farming project in the area of Rethymno. Here we will make our own bread in a wood burning oven and we will spoil ourselves with some wine, raki and olive tasting. Our experience will be completed with a traditional Cretan cuisine meal. Transfer to Chania and free evening to explore the city.

Overnight: Kriti hotel <https://www.kriti-hotel.gr/en> or similar (B, Cretan snack, D)

DAY 3

Today an amazing experience lies ahead of us! After our mighty breakfast we will be transferred to the port of Kissamos where we will embark our boat. Heading towards Gramvousa, we will have the chance to observe fascinating geological features, sea caves and beautiful waters. Upon arrival at Gramvousa island, we will have time to walk up to the Venetian castle and to swim as well. Our next stop is Balos, one of the most beautiful places on earth! Here we will have the privilege of swimming in the shallow and warm lagoon waters. Later in the afternoon, we begin our journey back to Kissamos. Then it's back to our hotel and where we end the day with a lovely dinner in the old town of Chania.

Overnight: Kriti hotel (<https://www.kriti-hotel.gr/en>) or similar. (B, D)



DAY 4



On our last day in Crete, we will visit the Imbros Gorge, a magnificent gorge with high walls. The scenery is beautiful on this moderate level hike. The route starts from the small village of Imbros at 700 meters above sea level. This canyon was a theater of several battles between the Ottomans and the Christians during the Turkish Occupation of Crete. The most impressive part of the gorge is Strenada, where its walls approach at 5.3 feet while their height reaches 980 feet! Our hike ends at the village of Komitades where a short rest and, if desired, a bit of refreshment awaits. We will transfer to the Chania airport in time to catch our flight back to Athens. Arriving in Athens we'll head toward our hotel, settle in and meet again for our farewell dinner.

Overnight: Acropolis Hill hotel: <https://www.acropolishill.gr/> or similar. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

You can plan to fly out of the Athens airport anytime today. A shuttle to the airport can be easily arranged through reception. (B)