

Knossos/Heraklion

Half Day excursion

The excursion will take place on May 29th, 2010

Knossos was undeniably the capital of Minoan Crete. It is grander, more complex, and more flamboyant than any of the other palaces known to us, located about twenty minutes south of the modern port town of Heraklion.

It has all the typical features of the architectural type established in 1700 B.C.: four wings arranged around a rectangular, central court, oriented N-S, which is actually the nucleus of the whole complex. The east wing contains the residential quarters, the workshops and a shrine. The west wing is occupied by the storerooms with the large pithoi (storage jars), the shrines, the repositories, the throne room and, on the upper floors, the banquet halls.

The north wing contains the so-called "Customs House", a lustral basin and the stone-built theatral area. The South Propylon is the most imposing building in the south wing. A second, paved courtyard to the west of the palace, equipped with the "processional ways" (narrow causeways), was probably used for religious ceremonies. The palace had many storeys, it was built of ashlar blocks and its walls were decorated with splendid frescoes, mostly representing religious ceremonies. After Knossos, we will arrange a sightseeing tour of Heraklion and you will have time for shopping.

Price per person 60, 00€ including air-conditioned coach service, professional English speaking guide and entrance of Knossos. (Minimum participation 25 persons)



Spinalonga/Aghios Nikolaos

Full Day excursion

The excursion will take place on May 30th, 2010

Embarkation at Elounda - A 20 minute boat trip will bring the participants to Spinalonga, A big part of the visitors of Crete make an excursion towards the island Spinalonga. This isle is known for its Venetian fortress, which was built in the course of the sixteenth century, for its Turkish village, built during the occupation by the Turks and also for the leper colony, which existed between 1903 and 1957.

Coming from the east the large Venetian fort on the islet of Spinalonga is easily seen. Once you round the Akrotiri of Agios Ioannis on the west you will also see the fort. The entrance to the lagoon is between the west mainland and the tip of the islet. The town of Elounda is at the end of the lagoon and there is a causeway that joins the mainland to the larger island of Spinalonga.

The town of Elounda is a luxury resort area. There is a small fishing harbour but it can be filled with tour boats in season. The lagoon of Spinalonga makes an interesting and pleasant boat trip. After Spinalonga, we will arrange a sightseeing tour of Aghios Nikolaos and you will have time for shopping

Price per person 70, 00 € including air-conditioned coach service, boat trip, entrance of Spinalonga and professional English speaking guide. (Minimum participation 25 persons)



Fodele/Chania/Rethymnon

Full Day excursion

The excursion will take place on May 31st, 2010

First stop will be the famous village of Fodele, a quite sleepy place nestling amongst orange groves and plane trees, just 25 km west of Iraklion, a real oasis for the visitor during the hot summer. At the village square under a plane tree, which is over one thousand years old, there is a memorial to the great painter "Domenikos Theotokopoulos", better known as El Greco, who was born in Fodele in 1541.



Afterwards, we drive on to Chania, a city of unique beauty, filled with an abundance of fragrant flowers, and boasting a rich cultural heritage. We will visit ancient, modern and Turkish monuments, the Venetian Harbour, the Old Town, the famous market and have time to visit the narrow shopping streets and to enjoy lunch in one of the beautiful restaurants with traditional Greek food.



In the early afternoon, we drive back north and will stop at Rethymnon, a small Mediterranean town with its Renaissance architecture, Venetian fortress and museums where we'll have time for sightseeing, shopping and a coffee or refreshment.

Price per person 80,00 €including air-conditioned coach service and professional English speaking guide, entrance of Fodele Museum.
(Minimum participation 25 persons)