

## **Crete and Santorini – A Walking Tour in the Footstep of the Minoans - Walk, swim, eat and relax the Greek way**

### **Day 1: ARRIVAL DAY**

A short 15-minute transfer from the International Airport of Heraklion to our hotel overlooking the charming port. If all guests arrive early, we will visit Knossos today. Briefing and Cretan welcome dinner.

### **Day 2: HERAKLION**

If we didn't have the time yesterday, we will have a guided visit of Knossos and the National Museum of Archaeology today, containing some of the best-preserved Minoan artefacts in Greece.

But we will also have ample time to explore Heraklion, the port and the old town.

### **Day 3: CHANIA**

Today we take a taxi for our 2-hour transfer to Chania.

After getting settled in our hotel near the old Venetian centre, we will then have time to explore the town on a guided visit, taking in 4000 years of history from the Minoan period to WWII.

Lunch will be taken in one of the many charming street-side restaurants serving fresh seafood and local fare.

Free time in the late afternoon to shop for locally made crafts.

### **Day 4: SOUGHIA**

Today we will be taking a two-hour taxi ride from Chania to Soughia, a sleepy village on the Libyan Sea once a thriving trading centre where. After enjoying some free time, we follow the coast for an afternoon walk from Soughia to the Bay of Lissos a taxi-boat will bring us back to Soughia for the evening. Lissos was once a busy city-state, minting coins and trading with Egypt but today is an ideal destination for a swim and a nap.

### **Day 5: OMALOS**

Early in the morning we leave the coast and head inland towards the White Mountains, through the Agia Irini Gorge and up a very well preserved and impressive Roman road. We will spend the night in Omalos, the starting point for everybody hiking down the famous Samaria Gorge, Europe's longest.

Walking time: 7 hours.

### **Day 6: OMALOS – SAMARIA GORGE**

From Omalos, we start our walk down the Samaria Gorge, about 12kms of hiking down well-maintained trails before we reach the sea again in Agia Roumeli. After a well-deserved drink in Agia Roumeli, we will take a short ride ferry to Loutros, a blue and white village of small hotels and home reachable only by boat and on foot.

Walking time: 7 hours.

**Day 7: LOUTROS - MARMARA**

An easier day will bring us through ancient olive orchards to Marmara, a little pension/restaurant between Agia Roumeli and Loutros, where we will have ample time for lunch and to have a refreshing swim in the sheltered waters of Marmara Bay. In the afternoon we will take the ferry to Hora Sfakion, then a 90-minute taxi ride back to Heraklion.

**Day 8: SANTORINI**

Our high-speed ferry to Santorini leaves at 09:45 am and arrives at 11:20 am.

The rest of the day is free to explore famous Thira, which is a photographer's bonanza. Santorini, one of the most spectacular of Greece's many islands is a Kodak moment at every stop, with houses perched dramatically above the blue waters.

**Day 9: SANTORINI – AOI**

After a hearty breakfast on the rooftop terrace of our hotel, we will be walking along the coast to Aoi, where we will stay for lunch and a visit of the ruins. An optional hike back or taxi ride back to our hotel.

**Day 10: SANTORINI**

Today is a free day on your own to explore Santorini, read in a café, buy souvenirs or simply enjoy the beach.

**Day 11: DEPARTURE DAY**

Depending on your plans, departure via ferry to Heraklion or Piraeus (Athens), or flight to Athens. From Santorini there are many flights for Athens with international or national flights daily.