

Between Crete and Santorini, King Minos landscapes

Santorini

Trip code: CRELP0013

Self-guided hike

• Hiking • 12 days



Four millennia ago, Crete and Santorini - yet located more than 100 kilometers north of Crete - were two poles of the Minoan civilization which then radiated, south of the Aegean Sea. Around 1600 BC, the explosion of the Santorini volcano was the first step in the disappearance of this advanced civilization whose ruins are still clearly visible on sites open to the public and in museums. But we cannot stop at these archaeological considerations. Discovering these two landscape and cultural op...

Highlights

1. Chania: the most beautiful city in Crete
2. The gorges of Samaria and Agia Irini
3. The towns of Oia and Fira above the Santorini caldera
4. The alternation of walking, swimming, relaxation and sightseeing!

PROGRAMME



D1 Chania

Transfer from Chania Airport to your hotel (included) in the city center. Arrival in the most beautiful city of Crete (Venetian architecture, Turkish quarter and mosque of the janissaries, Venetian port, museums ...). Chania is a particularly pleasant and beautiful city, where you had to stroll through the alleys, on the port, or quite simply "laze" on the terrace of a cafe.

Overnight in Chania in hotel.

Accommodation : Hotel

D2 Chania - Paleochora

Regular bus to Paleochora (at your expense, approx. 3 hours), Cretan seaside village. Installation at the hotel. Free day to get in touch with the Cretan atmosphere. Swimming on the beautiful sandy beach, visit of the village dominated by the ruins of Castello Selino, erected in 1279 by the Venetians.

Overnight in Paleochora in a hotel.

Accommodation : Hotel

D3 Paleochora - Sougia

A superb hike that begins by the sea, gains a plateau before descending through a gorge to the ancient site of Lyssos, paradise for history buffs (Greek and Roman remains), islet of greenery and an emerald cove, and its small port, only accessible by sea or on foot. By a plateau, then by the small shaded gorges of Selinou, you continue to the beautiful village of Sougia, its port and its beach.

Overnight in a hotel in Sougia.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary : 15km, 5 h 00 to 6 h 00, +220m, -220m

D4 The gorge of Agia Irini

Transfer (at your expense) or hike, to the start of Agia Irini gorge (5km). Climb up the gorge of Agia Irini, wilder than this of Samaria. The bed is green, planted with plane trees and oleanders, and the water runs in some years until July. Transfer to the village of Omalos (at your expense, see on site with the hotel); arrival on the plateau in the middle of the sheep: the sea seems very far away ... It is possible to continue past the Agia Irini gorge directly to Omalos. We must then add 2 hours of walking and 400m of vertical drop.

Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Omalos.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary : 10km, 4h 30, +500m, -

D5 Samaria Gorge

Small transfer to Xyloskalo (included), to the start of the famous Samaria Gorge, that you will descend to the village of Agia Roumeli, on the south coast. The gorge of Samaria represents an immense fault of 16 km; it is a site classified by Unesco. The gradual descent into the largest gorge in Europe is sumptuous. Swimming on arrival in the Libyan Sea. Note: opening of the gorge from May 1 to October 15.

Important: outside the opening periods of the Samaria gorge or in the event of bad weather justifying the official closure of the gorge, we offer the following program: you will be transferred early in the morning (included, approx. 1 h) to Sougia (you then take a ferry at your expense, around € 12 / person, departure at 9:20 am, arrival at 10:00 am, for Agia Roumeli, where you can explore the surroundings (walks along the coast, stroll towards the gorge).

Night in a family pension in Agia Roumeli.

Accommodation : Family Pension

Main Itinerary : 18km, 5 h 00 - 6 h 00, +, -1277m

D6 Agia Roumeli - The Marble Beach - Loutro

Coastal hike, passing by the site of **Agios Pavlos** and its 12th-century chapel (it is here according to the legend that St Paul was thrown by the storm and would have baptized his first Christians in the West), to reach **Loutro**, a beautiful village of white houses, isolated by the sea and leaning against the mountain. During this day, you will have the opportunity several times to alternate walking and swimming, especially towards the end of the stage in the turquoise waters of Likos and its small beach with white marble slabs, or at the old Phoenix and its small port, not far from Loutro. At the marble beach, possibility to reach Loutro directly by water taxi (at your expense to be paid on-site). Visit the Venetian fort overlooking the sea and the village. Loutro is only accessible by sea or on foot.

Night in a family pension in Loutro.

Accommodation : Family Pension

Main Itinerary : 15km, 4 h 00 - 5 h 00, +200 m, -200 m

D7 Loutro - Heraklion

A little free time before the boat to Hora Sfakion (not included) then a regular bus to Heraklion via Chania (at your expense, around 25 €).

Night in a hotel in Heraklion.

Accommodation : Hotel

D8 Heraklion - Knossos

If the city of Heraklion does not have the Venetian charm of Chania, it remains an essential destination for the treasures it conceals, whether in the archaeological museum, the historical and ethnographic museum, and the site of **Knossos**, a former **Minoan palace**. partially rehabilitated. You can also enjoy the pleasant area of the Morosini fountain, visit the Byzantine church of Agios Titos, the fort, and the Venetian ramparts.

Night in a hotel in Heraklion.

Accommodation : Hotel

D9 Santorini

Ferry crossing to Santorini (included). Transfer (included) to your hotel in Santorini. Depending on the time of arrival, stroll along the edge of the caldera and in the vines that grow on the volcanic ash terroir of Santorini, giving a famous wine or excursion to the site of Akrotiri in the south of the island. Possible visit of the extraordinary site museum covering the ruins of the Minoan city which was destroyed by the volcanic explosion of - 1500 BC and was then covered with ashes. If the remarkable frescoes are almost all on display in the Athens Museum, it is an amazing visit to make. It will complement a circuit to the south of the island of Santorini, on the Loumorades hillside via the red beach and the modern village of Akrotiri.

Night in a hotel in Santorini.

Accommodation : Hotel

1 hour 30 minutes of visit :

D10 Santorini: Pyrgos - Ancient Thera - Kamari

Departing from Megalochori, climb up through the vineyards to the beautiful village of Pyrgos, before reaching the top of the island (Mount Profitis Ilias - 567m) and its unmissable monastery. A scenic descent follows to the site of ancient Thera. Founded in the 9th century BC, it was the ancient capital of the island under Greek and Roman antiquity (around 1 hour visit). We discover the remains of buildings (theater, church, school ...), columns, engraved ashlar ... in front of an exceptional panorama, and in line with the seaside villages of Kamari and Perissa. Via an old mule track, we descend to the superb Kamari beach (it is said to be the most beautiful beach on the island) passing through the astonishing Zoodochos Pigi cave and its chapel. Relax at the beach and return to the hotel.

Night in a hotel in Santorini.

Accommodation : Hotel

1 hour of visit :

D11 Santorini: Oia - Fira

Hike from Oia to Fira, along the caldera. The hike begins in Oia, the most beautiful village on the top of the caldera. You will walk the alleys in search of blue domes and the most beautiful viewpoints: a great opportunity for magnificent shots for photo enthusiasts! Among the maze of colorful streets follow one another with whitewashed houses and others in pastel shades; all stand out against the azure of the Greek sky. During this hike, you will notice the successive layers of volcanic rocks that correspond to the different eruptions of the volcano. Picnic along the way, with unique views of the caldera.

Free time to enjoy Fira (archaeological museum, shopping).

Night in a hotel in Santorini.

Accommodation : Hotel

Main Itinerary :

D12 End of Stay

Free time, depending on the time of the flight, then transfer to the airport.

Itinerary

We may sometimes have to modify the itinerary indicated somewhat, in particular because of the availability of accommodation. Trust us, these modifications are always made in your best interest, for your safety and better comfort!

SOME PRECISIONS

Grade

Medium, no portage. You have to love walking and be in good shape. 3 to 6 hours of walking per day. The maximum vertical drop is downhill (1100m) in the Samaria Gorge. The maximum uphill is the ascent of the Agia Irini gorges, + 500m.

Luggage transport

You only carry a small backpack with your daily things, the picnic and the groceries. You will have to transfer all of your luggage when traveling from/to the airport or the boat.

Transfers

Here are the transfers included:

D1 Chania airport - Chania city (possibly Heraklion airport - Heraklion hotel)

D5 Omalos - Xyloskalo

D5 Omalos - Sougia if the Samaria Gorge is closed

Luggage transfers from D3 to D6

D9 boat Heraklion - Santorini

D9 port of Santorini - hotel

D12 hotel - Santorini airport

Group

From 2 people.

Duration

12 days, 11 nights

Travelling season

From mid-May to mid-October.

Travel documents

We take care of booking hotels and transporting your luggage. We provide you with a detailed map of the route, an explanatory "step by step". A complete travel file will be given to you, including, among other things, detailed maps, the topo guide, the list of accommodation as well as the vouchers. Depending on the case, you will receive your file before departure, or you will find it at the first accommodation. There is no guide for this trip.

Comfort

? Accommodation

In a type 2 * comfort hotel, equipped apartment or in a comfortable guest house in a 2-person room with bathroom. Possibility to book a single room subject to availability, with supplement.

? Catering

Breakfast included. Dinner at Omalos is included. Local produce can be purchased for the picnic in all the villages. The local taverns are many and varied and it is a real pleasure to go find the one that suits you. Please let us know when registering any food allergy or special diet; we will do our best to adapt your meals.

Start / End

? Start

J1 to Chania Airport.

? End

The J12 to Santorini airport.

If you arrive in Heraklion on D1 and arrive late at the airport, we suggest you spend the first night of your stay in Heraklion. The transfer from Heraklion airport to the hotel in Heraklion is included. On D2 you will have to go to Chania to take the bus to Paleochora (at your expense approximately 15 €).

Access

? By plane

Flights are not included in the price but you can easily find them on regular or low-cost airlines. Crete has 2 international airports in Heraklion and Chania and depending on your program or a possible extension, you can be the judge of it. You have the possibility to book the outward flight to Heraklion, in this case, the transfer to Chania is at your expense (about 2 hours 30 minutes, about 15 € - <https://www.ktelherlas.gr/en/>).

Swimming

A number of our trips are suitable for swimming, during a stage or at the end of the day. It would be a shame not to enjoy. We stress, however, that you are the sole judges of the advisability of a swim; these bathings are therefore done under your responsibility and at your own risk.

Photos

You take great photos! Do not hesitate to send us a CD, a USB key, a Dropbox or WeTransfer link of your best photos taken during your trip. The fact that you provide us with photos implies that you accept that your photos will be used free of charge on our various media (catalog, website, technical sheet, etc.).

Travel Blog

Do you want to share your best moments of the trip and share your experience with the hiking community? Send us your story and some photos illustrating your comments that we will publish for you on our blog.

DATES AND PRICES

Specify

Departure date at your convenience.

Dates		Price per person		
From	To	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons
01/05/2021	31/05/2021	815 €	755 €	725 €
01/06/2021	30/06/2021	825 €	770 €	740 €
01/07/2021	31/08/2021	860 €	795 €	775 €
01/09/2021	30/09/2021	825 €	770 €	740 €
01/10/2021	15/10/2021	815 €	755 €	725 €

*Price for 3 :

- 1 couple + 1 child under 15: price for 3 as indicated above, accommodation in a triple room
- 1 double + 1 single: price for 3 people as indicated above with the single room supplement

Prices include

- accommodation for 11 nights with breakfast
- dinner at Omalos
- transfer Chania airport - Chania city (possibly Heraklion airport - Heraklion hotel)
- transfer from Omalos to Xyloskalo on D5
- the transfer of Omalos - Sougia in case of closure of the Samaria gorges on D5
- luggage transfers from D3 to D6
- the Heraklion - Santorini boat on D9
- transfer from the port of Santorini to the hotel on D9
- transfer hotel - Santorini airport on D12
- the travel file

Prices do not include

- flights
- transfer between Heraklion and Chania (if arriving at Heraklion airport)
- boat transfers not included
- regular bus trips on Santorini and other transfers not included
- the drinks
- lunches and dinners (except dinner at Omalos)
- tourist taxes including government tax to be paid on site
- personal expenses
- site visits
- the insurance
- registration fees
- anything not indicated in "Prices include"

Options, extras and discounts

- low season single room supplement: € 295
- supplement for single room mid season: 305 €
- high season single room supplement: 330 €

- private transfer from Heraklion airport to Chania one way (1 to 4 people): 205 € / taxi
- private transfer from Heraklion airport to Chania round trip (1 to 4 people): € 395 / taxi
- additional night in Chania with breakfast double room / single room: 50 € / person, 75 € / person
- additional night in Heraklion with breakfast, double room / single room: 45 € / person, 65 € / person

Your expenses on place

It is necessary to plan, (per person) for an evening meal approximately 10 to 20 euros, for a picnic from 10 to 15 euros; instead of the picnic you can also go to a small tavern and have a Greek dish or salad for 10 to 15 euros). Entrance to the Samaria Gorge Park costs around € 5. Entrance to Agia Irini Gorge: around € 2. For public buses and optional transfers during the stay at your expense, count around 40 € / person.

IN YOUR LUGGAGE

Luggage

To transport your belongings

- A comfortable 30 to 40 L backpack with a waist belt to carry your personal belongings and picnic during the day
- A following baggage: a backpack, a travel bag in good condition, or a suitcase that is not too bulky.

One piece of luggage per person; less than 20kg

Kelifos team is at your disposal for the success of your trip, so do not hesitate to contact us: we will do everything to make your stay a success.

DETAILS

The country

Country: Greece

Capital: Athens

Population: 10,757,292 inhabitants

Archipelago: Aegean and Cretan Sea

Formalities

Travelers to Greece, including minors, must be in possession of a national identity card or passport (EU nationals).

Health

Bring the European health insurance card, to ask your health insurance fund at least 15 days before departure.

The sanitary conditions are similar to those in most European countries

Phone

Calling code: + 30

Weather

Hot and dry. The weather is nice, in Crete and in Santorini. Thunderstorms are rare but possible. Wind frequent and the proximity to the sea temper the midday heat, during which you will avoid walk. In spring and fall, plan to wear a little warmer gear for the night.

Language

Greek, English, and sometimes a little French or German

Currencies

Euro