

Tour  
Information



# Angela's Chania Walks





## Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. The name on your passport must match the name on your flight ticket/E-ticket otherwise you may be refused boarding at the airport.

## Visas

Visas are not required for Greece for citizens of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



## Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore, you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit; [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage Allowance

We advise you to check the specified baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one** cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25 cm. Overhead locker space is limited on board the aircraft and on busy flights your cabin bag may have to go in the hold.

Please contact the airline for further information <http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

## Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

## Departure Tax

UK Flight Taxes are included in the price of your holiday.

## Transfers

On arrival at Chania Airport please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area. You will find your Tour Manager situated just outside the arrivals area, holding a Travel Editions sign. The journey time to your hotel is approximately 20 minutes.

## Special Requests

If you haven't done so already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



## Accommodation

### Elia Bettolo Hotel, Chania

The “Hotel Elia Bettolo” is in the historic centre of Chania at the back of the town’s Cathedral, in one of the liveliest quarters of the town. Its location lends itself for a walk to all the sights of the old town including the Venetian harbour, the Municipal Market, the Archaeological Museum, the Municipal Gallery and the Hebrew synagogue. All of the bedrooms feature air conditioning, fridge, TV, hair-dryer, safe and an espresso coffee maker.

If you plan to swim during your stay you might wish to bring some waterproof beach shoes that will make getting into and out of the sea easier on pebble beaches.

For more information visit the hotel website; <https://www.eliahotels.com/en/838206/elia-betolo1>

### Dining

The standard of food in Greece is excellent and offers a remarkable variety of freshly prepared and very tasty dishes, many of which use locally grown products and locally produced olive oil.

In Greece, and particularly in Crete, the locals nearly always eat ‘Mezedes’ style. This generally means ordering several dishes, starters and/or main plates, whatever takes your fancy, to put in the middle of the table for all to share. It’s a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! Don’t be shy in the amount you order, or if you only find yourselves ordering starters – any combination is acceptable.

When ordering fish in Crete you will find the price on the menu relates to a cost per kilo. Don’t be put off by this. You are expected to go into the kitchen, choose a fish and then it will be weighed in front of you, so you know what you will pay.

Nearly all tavernas sell their own ‘open’ wine, known as village wine. It is something of an acquired taste, but it goes well with the local food. The Greeks are very proud of their wine and nearly all Cretans make their own. The white is usually always very drinkable, but the red varies quite a lot. If you are unsure you can always ask if you can try the wine before you agree to it. Prices of local ‘village’ wine are usually between 3 and 5 euros per half litre.

Local drinks are ouzo, raki, metaxa and, of course, Greek wine. Raki is the local firewater! This is distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine. You will probably find you come across this whether you want to or not, as it is very often served, complimentary, at the end of a meal.

### Meals included in your holiday

**Breakfast** – Daily

**Lunch** – 5 lunches included

**Dinner** – on arrival day.



# Destination

## Crete

Crete is a fascinating destination for a cultural and historic tour with its wealth of sights reflecting its ancient Minoan culture that dates back some 3,000 years, but it is also an island with a fantastic nature and some wonderful and diverse scenery; picturesque harbours, fertile regions of fruit trees, silver green olive groves, majestic mountains and superb coastlines; these are just some of what you will encounter during this holiday.

## Chania

Set against a spectacular backdrop of majestic mountains and aquamarine seas, Chania is one of Crete's most alluring towns. Its troubled history of occupation by Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Genoese, Turks and Egyptians has left a rich architectural heritage, particularly in the old Venetian quarter around the harbour. Highlights of this charming and quaint district include the magnificent harbour, Naval Museum, Mosque of the Janissaries and the covered market that sells an excellent variety of local produce. In fact most of Chania is clustered close to the harbour displaying wonderful historic buildings, interesting museums, spectacular churches as well as huge choice of shops, restaurants, cafes and bars.

Food is offered in great variety - there are many restaurants and cafes, to sit back and enjoy. The atmosphere has a touch of Florence and Venice (a few years ago when those cities were less crowded), combined with the culture and character of Cretan people and their traditions.

Chania harbour is wonderful at any time of day or evening, the beautiful light producing a different atmosphere and place.

### A little information on the tour walks:

## Diktamos Gorge

The Diktamos gorge lies just southeast of the city of Chania and runs between the villages of Katochori and Stylos. It lies in a very fertile region and there are many large trees such as chestnuts. The start of the walk is mainly along the stream and after that more through the bed of the stream deeper into the valley. There are no real problems

or difficult parts. The distance is about 10 kilometres and it takes about three and half to four hours to make the walk. On your way you will find plenty of shade under the big trees that stand in the gorge. In Stylos we have the opportunity to see the Byzantine church of Agios Ioannis Theologos as well as enjoy lunch under the big shady Plane trees that picturesquely line the village.

## Kambos Circular Walk

Today's walk takes us to the little village of Kambos, where we enjoy a walk that takes us through the Kambos Gorge, the westernmost gorge of Crete. Along the gorge the path is mostly shaded sitting below the shadow of huge plane trees. The path eventually reaches a secluded pebble beach with the opportunity to at least dip your toes in the water. Our return journey is an open path with views over the west coast of Crete towards the village of Kambos where a tasty Cretan lunch awaits.

## Aptera

The archaeological site of Aptera, which was the most powerful city of western Crete during Minoan times, is located 15 km from the city of Chania, just south of Souda Bay. The findings of the archaeological excavations, that are still coming to light, fill the history puzzle of this ancient city. They give details about the settlement's composition, the city's architecture, the religion and habits of the residents. Although the earliest mention of the Aptera is found on the Linear script B tablets of Knossos, which date to the 14th-13th century BC, the name is written as a-pa-ta-wa. The current rich findings of the excavations indicate that the hill was inhabited from the 8th century BC until the 7th century AD, when the site was abandoned due to a strong earthquake and attacks by Saracen Arab pirates.

## Therriso to Meskla

Today's walk takes us high into the hills with fantastic views. Starting at the village of Therriso, with its dramatic mountain scenery and gorge, we walk to the other side of the valley and the village of Meskla. Meskla has traditional stone houses



and is situated between green hills in the heart of the fertile Keritis Valley.

## Sougia to Lissos

Our walk today starts in the seaside village of Sougia where you may notice the original tide mark is approximately 7 meters above the present sea level. Our walk will take us through a small gorge, in the shade of pine trees, and uphill to a plateau with goats and wonderful views. Lissos is set in bowl like area and surrounded by fields and terraces. Here you will find the remains of the Asklepios Temple and Roman necropolis amongst the many remains of houses and two chapels. Lissos is now uninhabited and has an incredibly peaceful atmosphere.

## Your guide

This tour is led by Angela Fenwick. Angela is English but she settled in Crete many years ago and raised her family there. She started leading walks in 1999, predominantly in the far west of Crete. This new tour is planned by Angela to provide a diverse range of scenery and walking areas with, as always, a focus, on introducing guests to the 'real Crete' during the walks.

## Practical Information

**We recommend you bring the following items:**

- 1 light waterproof jacket
- 1 good size day sack
- 1 pair of light trousers (for prickly undergrowth)
- 1 water bottle (although you can buy water cheaply locally)
- Personal first aid kit
- Sun hat & Sun cream
- Insect repellent
- 1 fleece or warm layer for cold in altitude or chilly evenings
- T-shirts/layers so you can adjust to changing early/late season weather conditions
- A walking stick or ski sticks are highly recommended for Cretan terrain

Although none of the walking paths are particularly difficult you will encounter uneven and sometimes rocky terrain, so it is essential to have comfortable, well-fitting and protective footwear. It is advisable that boots are ankle high to provide good ankle support. Vibram soles tend to have better grip. It is always advisable to break in your boots before your holiday. Try two pairs of socks, one thin pair close to the skin, and a thicker outer sock.

Bring a foot care kit, especially useful is moleskin and second skin, compeed is also very good for blisters



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in Crete at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful as is a light rain jacket.

**Time** – GMT +3 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). This means, summer or winter, Greece is 2 hours ahead of the UK

**Language** – Greek

**Religion** – Greek Orthodox

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports and other spots. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros other than bringing euros with you from the UK.

Banks in Crete are open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm.

**Credit cards** – Crete is very much a cash society, so credit cards are not widely accepted, however more places are accepting these nowadays, but it is best to check first in restaurants and shops that they accept credit cards, if you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments and you may like to check these with your credit card supplier before you travel.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink although you should check at the hotel if the bathroom water is safe to drink as it could be tank water rather than mains water. Bottled water is available everywhere in the local shops and very reasonably priced.

**Shopping** - There are plenty of mini-markets scattered throughout Chania for any basic supplies you might need. The mini-markets are usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening, seven days a week.

Cretan olive oil, olives and local honey are all excellent produce if you are interested in taking a little bit of Crete home with you. There are also excellent herbs and mountain tea. You may see people advertising honey on the side of the road or in Kafenions when you are out and about, this will usually be their own home produce and is often the best and most pure you can buy.

**English newspapers** – These can usually be found in various outlets in the town.

**Telephones/mobiles** – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Greece, depending on your operator and contract. If you are calling the UK from a mobile in Greece, you will need to prefix the number with the international dialling code 0044.

**Tipping** –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that, when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.



## Health

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for blisters, bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a Doctor if necessary. There is normally a charge of about 60 Euros for calling out a doctor (or more, depending on the distance the doctor must travel) and there is also a charge to visit a Doctor.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**



## Hospital

The nearest hospital is in Chania. Your tour manager/hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**

### Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Greece.

### Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who, more often than not, will speak good English. Pharmacists will often be able to give advice and medicine for minor ailments. Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday but not on Saturdays.



## Insurance

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

It is essential to carry an EHIC card with you as this will assist you if you are admitted to a hospital in Greece.

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>

### Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad. If you require medical assistance whilst abroad it is essential that you contact the emergency number of your insurance company to advise them of the situation. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of action whilst in resort.



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

0030 6977 465892 (Greek resort manager) or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

**If you are calling a Greek number from a UK mobile you should prefix the number with the Greek international dialling code 0030.**

If you find that you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Vice Consulate Crete

Candia Tower

17 Thalita Street, Ag. Dimitrios Square

71 202 Heraklion

Crete Greece

Email: [crete@fco.gov.uk](mailto:crete@fco.gov.uk)

Tel: 00 30 281 022 4012

### **Open to the public - by appointment only**

Tuesday to Thursday, 9am to 1pm

Please note that an appointment is not necessary for emergency cases requiring consular assistance.

Telephone enquiries - Monday to Friday, 8am to 3pm

In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600.

Travel Editions

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Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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