

Tour
Information



Authentic Crete





Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit.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 extra cost

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. For more information please visit: 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 that you stick to the baggage allowances advised. If your luggage is found to be heavier than the airlines specified baggage allowance the charges at the airport will be hefty.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit

www.easyjet.com

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 or Heraklion 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 transfer time is approximately one hour.

Special Requests

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



Accommodation

The Ideon Hotel, Rethymnon

The 3-star Ideon Hotel was chosen principally because of its excellent location right on the edge of the very picturesque 'old-town' of Rethymnon, which means it is easy to get and about and enjoy this atmospheric town during your stay.

The hotel offers comfortable air-conditioned rooms with private balcony, bath/shower, TV and telephone. The hotel facilities include a swimming pool, street café (seasonal) that overlooks the sea, lounge bar and restaurant.

For more information visit the hotel website: www.hotelideon.gr

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. The cost of a dinner for two with local wine and local dishes is approximately 35 – 40 Euros.

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 your 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.

In Rethymnon there is a huge choice of tavernas and you will soon find your favourites as you wander the narrow lanes and sea front. The tavernas on the Venetian Harbour tend to be a little more expensive, but the little extra may be worth it for the lovely position. Just be aware that on the harbour front the waiters do tend to 'hard-sell' the food, particularly fresh fish, so don't be brow beaten into ordering what they suggest rather than what you want.

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

A buffet breakfast is included daily.

One dinner

Four lunches



Destination

Crete

If you are something of a Grecophile who loves the more traditional side of Greek life, this tour is for you, as it has been designed specifically to introduce a very authentic side of Cretan life. Crete is blessed by nature, fertile and wild, everything grows here, and this agricultural side of life will very much be a focus of our tour along with some excellent local food. We will visit small villages, sample tasty local and very traditional cooking, get involved in some of the islands agriculture and visit some excellent tavernas, well-visited by locals but rarely discovered by visitors.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Villages of the Apokoronos

We start the tour visiting some very traditional and scenic villages. Argiroupolis, famous for its springs that flow in and around the village all year round offer the opportunity to visit a Carob factory and have a walk through the village. In the past, all coastal areas of Crete produced carobs, which were exported all over the world and, in times of poverty, the carob trees of Crete fed the poor as well as the rebels who hid in the mountains. Cultivation declined dramatically until recently and now the carob is becoming a product used once again. We finish our day in the village of Gavalohori, a very old village named after the Gavalades, 12 men that were sent to Crete from Constantinople to govern the region in 1182.

Kissos and Kendrochori

This day's tour takes us south of Rethymnon to the village of Kissos from where we walk to an old monastery, Agio Pnevma. Until recently the monastery was a complete ruin, but it has been renovated and has beautiful gardens. From the monastery we continue to Kendrochori, a typical and very simple hill village where we stop for refreshments before enjoying a short walk to the 'cave' church of Agios Efstratios. We then return to the one taverna of the village, 'Agamemnon', where the owner, Agamemnon, and his wife Ourania will show us how to make the traditional Tsoureki, a sweet Easter bread, that is always prepared on Holy Thursday. They will also prepare

some wonderful food for us to enjoy.

Chania

A full day visit is included to Chania where we will have a short-guided tour of the 'Splanzia' area of the town. The rest of the day will be at leisure to give you the opportunity to explore this lovely harbour town further and take in the Easter holiday atmosphere before returning to the hotel. In the evening we will visit the historical village of Chromonasteri, situated 12kms from Rethymnon, to see the traditional procession of the Epithafios, Christs funeral, which takes place all over Greece on Good, or 'Big', Friday, as it is known in Greece.

Easter Sunday

A day spent celebrating Easter the way only the Greeks do. We will travel to a small village and enjoy an Easter feast of spit roast lamb, village pies, and local wine, just as the locals do!

Margaritas, Amari Valley and farewell lunch

After the celebrations of Greek Easter our final day is a leisurely one. We will visit the pottery village of Margaritas and enjoy a scenic drive through the Amari Valley and a final lunch all together at a traditional taverna.

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him/her immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be 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 and small umbrella.

Time – GMT +3 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). This means Greece is always 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. Rethymnon has a lot of ATM machines easily accessed in the town and you can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdraw cash. The instructions are in English. Just look for signs on ATM's for Delta or Cirrus.

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. Hotels usually always accept credit cards.

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

readily available to buy in all local shops and very reasonably priced.

Shopping - There are plenty of mini-markets scattered throughout Rethymnon for any basic supplies you might need. The mini-markets are usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening. 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. You may see people advertising honey on the side of the road or in Kafenions, this will usually be their own home produce and is often the best and most pure you can buy.

Stamps - In most places you can purchase stamps at the same time you **purchase postcards**. This is much easier than trying to find a post office!

Plumbing - Unless there is information to the contrary please do not put toilet paper down the toilet. As you may know this is common practice in Greece due to the narrowness of the waste pipes.

English newspapers – These can 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. If you are calling a Greek number from a UK mobile you should prefix the number with the Greek international dialling code 0030.

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.

Walking shoes – although we do not walk great distances on this tour some of the sites visited might be rocky underfoot, and sometimes damp, so we recommend that you take good comfortable and sturdy shoes such as trainers or similar footwear.



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 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

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 Rethymnon. 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 will, more often than not, 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:

00 30 6977 465 892 (Greek resort manager) or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

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 are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Vice Consulate Crete

Candia Tower

17 Thalita Street, Ag. Dimitrios Square

71 202 Heraklion

Crete Greece

Tel: 0030 2810 224012

Email: crete@fco.gov.uk

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 and follow the automated instructions.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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