

Tour
Information



Jonathan's Autumn 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Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit.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 of 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. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or 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 you to check the 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 and proceed until you are completely out of the building. You will find your Tour Manager situated just outside the arrivals building, holding a Travel Editions sign. The journey time is approximately 30 minutes.

Special Requests

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



Accommodation

Christina Hotel Apartments, Chania

Situated just outside the Venetian harbour town of Chania, the Christina Hotel is next to a sandy beach and close to some of the best fish tavernas in town. The rooms are 'apartment' style so include simple self-catering facilities and balconies. The hotel has an outdoor heated pool. Bedrooms are comfortable with shower, telephone, TV, safe, air-conditioning, hairdryer, fridge and tea and coffee making facilities.

For more information visit the hotel website: <http://www.christina-apps.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 the fish you want 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 Chania there is a huge choice of tavernas and you will soon find your favourites as you wander the narrow lanes and sea front.

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.

A welcome dinner and five picnic/taverna lunches are included on the tour.



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; and these are just some of what you will encounter during this holiday.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Chania

Our base for the week is Chania, (also spelled: Haniá), a place where different civilizations have flourished throughout the centuries. Wandering around the Old Town's maze-like alleys with the beautiful Venetian mansions, the fountains and the elaborate churches will help you discover well-preserved historical monuments. Chania is one of the oldest cities in Crete, with a rich and tumultuous history. Today it is the second most populated city on the island, a city which has preserved its traditional architecture and most of its monuments from Venetian and Turkish times. The Venetian harbour with its lighthouse and the old town in the centre have bestowed on Chania the reputation of the most picturesque city in Crete, welcoming thousands of visitors each year.

Monastery of Gouverneto

Gouverneto Monastery (Moni Gouvernetou) is one of the oldest monasteries in Crete, built in 1537. The monastery church is dedicated to the Virgin, which is why Gouverneto Monastery is also known as Our Lady of the Angels. The church is cruciform, without domes, and its narthex is set at right angles to the central aisle. The most interesting and impressive features are the monsters carved in relief on the front of the church. The style is also quite unusual, influenced by the Venetian Renaissance and Baroque.

Cave of St. John the Hermit

Next to the ruined but still impressive buildings is the cave of St John the Hermit, who is thought to have come here from Egypt and was active in

many parts of Crete, such as Azogyre, before ending up at Akrotiri. The Cave of St John, once the bed of an underground river, is over 100 metres long and covers an area of 1,500 sq.m. This was the retreat of St John the Hermit, who lived off wild greens in the winter and carobs in the summer. Legend has it that, near the end of his life, he was no longer strong enough to walk upright, due to his poor diet and the hardships of the ascetic life. One day a distant hunter mistook him for an animal, as he was walking all crouched up, and injured him with his arrows. The injured saint returned to his cave and breathed his last lying on a rock, now known as "St John's bed". This rock is supposed to have healing properties and many people used to break bits off to take away with them.

Agia Triada

Agia Triada Monastery or the Monastery of Agia Triada Tsangarolon is a Greek Orthodox monastery in the Akrotiri peninsula. The monastery, which means "Holy Trinity", was built in the 17th century by two brothers of the Venetian Zangaroli family on the site of a pre-existing church.

Stavros Beach

Stavros is located on the north-west tip of the Akrotiri peninsula and about 14km north of the city of Chania. There are two large beaches at Stavros on either side of a narrow headland and both overlooking expansive and beautiful bays with large rock outcrops behind. Many of the beach scenes from the hit 1960s movie 'Zorba the Greek' were filmed here and in the local villages.

Karanos

Karanou is a mountainous village with rich vegetation. The natural environment is characterized by two parallel canyons that enter Mafropilioti river. One is the gorge Borgiana starting from the village with the same name and ending at Mafropilioti river at 1800 meters.

Along the gorge there is an old watermill, caves, the entrances of the old quarries in the attempt to iron mining (known locally as Averoff quarries).

Along the Kidoniou Gorge we meet caves, three small waterfalls, the church of Agios Dimitrios and

the church of Panagia Mousourenas. The length of the canyon is 2,000 meters and is crossed by a stream with a periodic flow, in which there is water from December to June.

Milia

Milia is an authentic 17th century mountain settlement which has been transformed into an eco-friendly tourist complex. A glorious location boasting exceptional rugged beauty in the area of Kissamos. Placed among plane trees, chestnut trees, and mountain tops reaching the skies, the area overwhelms visitors with its unique diversity.

Polyrenia

Polyrenia was a city state that flourished from Archaic (6th century BC) to Roman times. It was the most important Classical city of western Crete after Kydonia (today's Chania). It was a traditional enemy of Knossos and Kydonia and also of the neighbouring harbour of Phalasarna. The site was re-occupied in the late 10th century and remained in use as a Venetian stronghold throughout their occupation. Most of the fortifications that are still visible today date from the 2nd Byzantine period and the Venetian period but were built on older fortifications dating back to Hellenistic and Roman period.

The White Mountains

The White Mountains or Lefka Ori occupy a good part of the centre of West Crete and are the main feature of the region. They are made of limestone and called White Mountains because they are covered in snow until late in the spring. In the summer, the sun reflected on the limestone summits makes them appear white as well.

The highest summit is Pachnes (2453m) and there are over 30 summits that are higher than 2000m. The White Mountains also have about 50 gorges, the most famous being the gorge of Samaria.

Another characteristic of the mountains are the high plateaux in the centre of the mountains. The best known is the plateau of Omalos which is a round plain surrounded by mountains, at an altitude of 1100m.

Stylos

Stylos is a traditional Cretan village found in the Apokoronas area, close to Chania here on the Greek Island of Crete. Stylos is famous for its giant plane trees, natural spring water and Diktamos Gorge. Stylos is famous for its natural spring

water. The brand name of Samaria bottled water has its bottling plant in Stylos and is available all over the western Crete area.

Samonas

Samonas village is a tiny village in Apokoronas region, a hamlet, with a handful of houses just 26km from Chania. The village lives on stock raising and olive cropping and is also a wondrous place for walking and hiking with trails leading to attractive mountain villages.

Your Guide

Johnathan Peat

Johnathan has been guiding walks in Greece for more than 20 years. He is of British/Greek descent and speaks both languages fluently. He spent many years living in Greece but has now settled in France with his French wife, Myriam but returns to Greece every year. His passion for the country is fully represented in his guiding when he aims to introduce the visitor to the islands unspoilt and beautiful nature and a very authentic side of Greek life.

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 can be very useful for Cretan terrain

Although none of the walking paths are particularly difficult you will encounter uneven and 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 Greece 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 and small umbrella.

Time – GMT +3 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). In reality 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. Chania 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 of the local shops and very reasonable priced.

Shopping - There are plenty of mini-markets scattered around 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.

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. Please dispose of the paper in the bins provided, which will be regularly emptied by the hotel.

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 dialing 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 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 has to 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 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

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 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 dialing 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

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.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

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

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