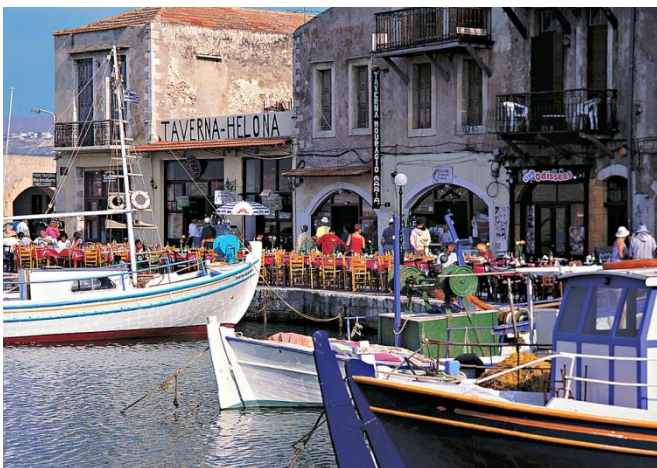




Tour Information



Minoan Crete & Stunning Santorini





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Swiss valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

As a tourist visiting from the UK, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

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 30 days 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.

Departure Tax

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

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.

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one** cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels). If you book an upfront or extra legroom seat you can also take an additional large cabin bag on board.

For more information 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.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.

Transfers

On arrival at Heraklion Airport please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area. You will find the Tour Manager holding a Travel Editions sign.

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

Bio Suites, Rethymnon

The Bio Suites Hotel is a four-star hotel is within a short walk from the atmospheric back streets and narrow alleyways that characterise this fantastic old town and where you will find an excellent choice of tavernas, cafes and interesting small shops.

The hotel offers comfortable air-conditioned rooms, bath/shower, TV, telephone, wi-fi and hairdryer. The hotel facilities include a swimming pool

For more information visit the hotel website: <http://www.biohotel.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 to 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 around 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 maybe 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 the holiday

Breakfast daily plus one dinner and one lunch.

Taking food into EU countries

Please note, you are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



Destination

Crete

Crete is a fascinating destination for a cultural and historic tour with its wealth of sights reflecting both its ancient Minoan culture, dating back some 3,000 years, as well as a more recent history. Periods of Byzantine and Venetian rule have resulted in some beautifully preserved Turkish and Venetian architecture, particularly in the Venetian harbour towns of Rethymnon and Chania. Combined with the islands fantastic natural scenery; picturesque harbours, fertile regions of fruit trees, silver green olive groves, majestic mountains and superb coastline, this tour ensures a diverse and attractive insight into this fabulous island.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Rethymnon

The Venetian harbour town of Rethymnon sits right next to the beach, which runs directly alongside the town, extending for at least 6 kms. The 'old town' of Rethymnon, which is where the hotel is located, is perfect for leisurely strolling its narrow, winding streets that are filled with traditional cafes, tempting tavernas and small shops. It is a wonderful town with a vast history that comes alive as you walk the narrow lanes that meander endlessly throughout the old town to the ancient Venetian Harbour. Historical sites of interest in the town include the 'Fortezza', the Archaeological Museum and the Historical and Folklore Museum.

For more information about Rethymnon visit:

<http://www.rethymnon.biz/>

Phaestos

One of the four great palaces of the Minoan 'Golden Age' Phaestos, inhabited since around 4000BC, was excavated at the beginning of the century, with reconstruction kept to a minimum; it is a magnificent site with a commanding view of the Messara plain and Mount Ida (the highest mountain in Crete) in the distance.

For more information about Phaestos visit:

<http://ancient-greece.org/>

Armeni

The Late Minoan cemetery of Armeni is located 8 kilometres south of Rethymnon on the road to Spili and Agia Galini. The site has been excavated since 1969 with over 200 chamber tombs and one tholos tomb having so far been discovered, all oriented towards the northeast and the Vryssinas mountain, which was at one time the site of a peak sanctuary. The chamber tombs are cut into what is quite a soft rock, known locally as kouskouras, but the rock was hard enough for the tombs to remain well preserved.

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.

Santorini

The world-famous island of Santorini, located 63 nautical miles north of Crete, was inhabited from around 3200 BC. The influence of the Minoan culture on the island was obvious when excavations began on the Akrotiri and a whole village with houses decorated with wall paintings, like those discovered in the Minoan palace of Knossos, were found. The present-day Santorini evolved from a series of volcanic eruptions around 1500 BC, one of which was so huge it is thought to have been the main cause of the destruction of the great Minoan civilization on Crete. The Caldera, atop which modern Santorini sits today, is what remained after the volcano caused the submergence of the central part of the island. The reputed beauty of the island attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Knossos

Little was known about the ancient Minoan civilisation until 1894 with the discovery, by British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans, of the palace at Knossos. Excavations began in 1900 AD, which revealed the remains of an extensive palace and surrounding town. Dating from 1900 BC, the Palace was destroyed by an earthquake in 1700 BC, rebuilt and then finally destroyed in 1375 BC by fire. Controversially restored by Evans, a visit here gives a fascinating insight into this ancient and highly-developed civilization.

For more information about Knossos visit:

<http://ancient-greece.org/>

The Heraklion Archaeological Museum

The excellent Archaeological Museum at Heraklion has a fantastic display of finds from sites all over Crete. It includes some of the most famous and well-known finds including the Phaistos Disc, the ring of King Minos, Bull's head Rhyton, double headed axes, frescoes from Knossos, peak sanctuary figurines and the exquisite gold bee pendant. It also now houses many finds that have never been displayed before.

Reading Suggestions

A History of Crete by Theodorakis Detorakis
A history of Crete up to and including the battle of Crete in 1941. A little weak on Minoan history this book is, however, excellent for all the intervening years including Roman, Arab, Venetian and Turkish Rule, autonomy and unification with Greece in 1913.

Published in Heraklion ISBN 9602207124 and can be found in good Cretan bookshops

The Making of the Cretan Landscape by Oliver Rackham and Jennifer Moody is an absolute must if you want to know more about the landscape of the Cretan archipelago in all its extent and how it was formed in the past millennia not only by natural causes but also human influences. Both authors have studied many aspects of Crete and the surrounding islands, like the trees and plants, people and the settlements, the buildings, the animals, shepherding, etc. They reveal a different vision of the history and the present of Crete, compared to what can be found in most books.

Book Shop

There is a book shop in Rethymnon that sells English language books on Crete and you can also buy books at most of the historical sites visited.

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 or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.



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 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 in all towns. 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 open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm. Rethymnon has many ATMs, so you can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdraw cash, instructions are in English, just look for Delta or Cirrus on the ATM's.

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. Most hotels will accept payments by credit card.

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 local shops and very reasonable priced.

Shopping - There are plenty of mini-markets available for any basic supplies you might need. Mini-markets usually open 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 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.

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 – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

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 awards 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 – as you are visiting archaeological sites that can be rocky underfoot, we recommend that you take shoes which have good gripping soles that are fairly sturdy.



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 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, generally, speak some 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)

Before you travel, make sure you have got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC 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 30 6977 465 892 or

00 44 7841 023807

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 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

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

Tel: 0207 251 0045

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

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