

Full Itinerary

CRETE UNVEILED: MOUNTAINS, MYTHS & MINOANS



TALK TO OUR WELL TRAVELLED TEAM OF EXPERTS

Toll Free US and Canada: 1 (855) 342-4127

Office open: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 8:00pm, Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm (London time). Call answered 24/7



JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Crete Unveiled: Mountains, Myths & Minoans

DURATION:

7 days / 6 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to arrive Heraklion Airport [HER] on Day 1 and depart on Day 7

PICKUP LOCATION:

Heraklion Airport [HER]

OVERVIEW

Sep 27 - Oct 03, 2027

The fascinating Greek island of Crete offers much to discover. Join us to discover this Mediterranean jewel with over 4,000 years of history!

Experience the legendary allure of Crete, where the rugged peaks of the Mediterranean meet the cradle of European civilization. From the beauty of the Cretan mountains to the ancient labyrinth of the Palace of Knossos, every corner of Greece's largest island tells a story of myth and majesty. Whether you're cruising on the blue Aegean, tasting traditional vintages in sun-drenched vineyards, or enjoying the island's world-renowned hospitality, Crete offers a sophisticated blend of adventure, history, and culinary excellence.

Extend your stay with 4 nights in Athens, the bustling capital of Greece and the place widely celebrated as the birthplace of Western civilization, democracy, and philosophy. Visit the Acropolis with a local expert, enjoy a tasting tour of the local food market and spend some time strolling through the royal family's Pyrgos Vassilisis vineyard and gardens.

The Big Journey Company's new European Collection integrates excellent dining, fully equipped self-catering accommodation close to local amenities and immersive excursions led by an expert Big Journey Company Tour Director to deliver an uncompromisingly high standard of travel.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Welcome to Crete

DAY 2 - Heraklion & the Palace of Knossos

DAY 3 - Shepherd's House Experience in the Cretan Mountains

DAY 4 - Aegean Blue Cruise

DAY 5 - Nectar of the Gods – A Cretan Wine Experience

DAY 6 - Spinalonga & Agios Nikolaos

DAY 7 - Farewell Crete and maybe extend Your Journey to Athens?

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - WELCOME TO CRETE

Welcome to Crete, the largest of Greece's islands. On arrival at Heraklion Airport you will be met by your driver in arrivals for transfer to the Village Heights Resort.

After you are checked in to the resort, the rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the facilities. This evening we will meet together to meet your tour director and hear more about the upcoming tour.

Included meals: Welcome Dinner

Accommodation: Village Heights Resort, Hersonissos, Crete

DAY 2 - HERAKLION & THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS

Begin your day at the legendary Palace of Knossos, the heart of Minoan civilization and mythical home of the Labyrinth. Explore its remarkable ruins as your guide brings ancient Crete vividly to life. Continue to the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, home to the world's most significant collection of Minoan artifacts.

There will be some free time for lunch before a guided city tour of Heraklion, revealing the town's rich history and vibrant character.

Afterwards, enjoy free time before we return to the resort together, to explore at your own pace—perhaps strolling through the bustling market, where you can sample local flavours and discover traditional Cretan products such as olive oil, raki, wine, honey, and herbs.

Accommodation: Village Heights Resort, Hersonissos, Crete

DAY 3 - SHEPHERD'S HOUSE EXPERIENCE IN THE CRETAN MOUNTAINS

Today is a day dedicated to exploring authentic Cretan life. We depart from Heraklion and journey into the island's rugged interior, where dramatic mountain landscapes and timeless villages reveal a slower, more traditional way of living. We will arrive at a traditional Shepherd's House, where you'll be welcomed by locals and be introduced to age-old customs that have been preserved for generations, helping all to gain a deeper appreciation for Crete's rich cultural heritage.

For lunch today, you will sit down to a rustic, home-cooked meal prepared with fresh, local ingredients—expect generous servings of olive oil, handmade cheeses, seasonal dishes, and, of course, the island's signature alcoholic drink, raki. Warm hospitality, simple flavors, and stunning surroundings will make this a truly memorable experience.

Afterward, you can relax on your scenic return journey to Heraklion, taking in the beauty of the Cretan countryside along the way. This evening will be spent at leisure.

Included meals: Home-Cooked Lunch

Accommodation: Village Heights Resort, Hersonissos, Crete

DAY 4 - AEGEAN BLUE CRUISE

Today, we trade the mountains for the sea and set out from Heraklion on a private cruise along the island's stunning northern coastline. Your boat awaits, ready to take you into the deep blue of the Aegean for a day of pure relaxation and discovery.

Sail past rugged cliffs and secluded bays, reaching hidden coves accessible only by water. Along the way, enjoy multiple stops for swimming in crystal-clear turquoise waters—perfect for a refreshing dip or simply floating under the Mediterranean sun. Unwind on deck as you take in the coastal scenery, with the gentle sea breeze and endless horizon creating a sense of complete escape. Whether you choose to swim, sunbathe, or simply relax, this day offers the ultimate blend of tranquility and natural beauty—an unforgettable Aegean experience.

As this is a full-day cruise, we will enjoy lunch together along the way. The evening will be spent at leisure.

Included meals: Lunch

Accommodation: Village Heights Resort, Hersonissos, Crete

DAY 5 - NECTAR OF THE GODS – A CRETAN WINE EXPERIENCE

Today we are heading out together to discover Crete's ancient winemaking heritage, enjoying a journey through the renowned wine regions of Peza and Archanes. Departing from Heraklion, you'll travel through rolling vineyards and picturesque countryside, where viticulture has flourished since antiquity.

Visit two carefully selected wineries, each offering a unique perspective on Cretan wine production—from traditional methods to modern techniques. Guided by expert sommeliers, you'll explore indigenous grape varieties such as Vidiano and Kotsifali, learning about their distinctive characteristics and the terroir that shapes them.

We will enjoy lunch together, with the menu and the wines carefully paired for a luxurious enhancing of the flavours and to deepen your appreciation of Crete's culinary traditions. This immersive and flavorful experience combines education, culture, and indulgence—offering a true taste of the island's rich heritage.

Included meals: Lunch at the winery

Accommodation: Village Heights Resort, Hersonissos, Crete

DAY 6 - SPINALONGA & AGIOS NIKOLAOS

We set out a little later today after a morning spent at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the resort. We set out east from Heraklion for an afternoon and evening that blends history, scenery, and relaxed coastal charm. Your journey takes you along Crete's beautiful northern coastline toward the Mirabello Bay area.

Arrive at the evocative Spinalonga Island, a place of striking beauty and powerful history. Once a Venetian fortress and later a leper colony, Spinalonga tells a deeply moving story of resilience and human endurance. We walk through its preserved streets and fortifications as our local guide brings its past vividly to life.

Afterward, we continue to the elegant seaside town of Agios Nikolaos. We enjoy a leisurely stroll around the famous Lake Voulismeni—often called the “bottomless” lake—surrounded by cafés and vibrant local life and take in the picturesque harbour views. We dine here together this evening, to say farewell to Crete with incredible views.

After the farewell dinner, we will be returned to the resort to prepare for tomorrow's departure.

Included meals: Farewell Dinner

Accommodation: Village Heights Resort, Hersonissos, Crete

DAY 7 - FAREWELL CRETE AND MAYBE EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY TO ATHENS?

After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to Crete. Guests returning home will receive a private transfer to Heraklion Airport. Or, come with us to Athens on a 4 day extension to see more of the wonders of Greece!

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: None

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Personal airport transfers included (when arriving and departing via the designated airport and staying at the tour hotel on the official tour dates)
- Welcome pack awaiting you in your room on arrival
- Premium accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- Meals as specified throughout the itinerary
- All sightseeing, touring, and transfers in deluxe air-conditioned vehicles
- All entrance fees, English-speaking local guides, and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a Big Journey Company Tour Director throughout the journey (subject to minimum passenger numbers)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Return flights to/from Heraklion Airport [HER]
- Airport transfers outside the official tour dates or scheduled transfer times, or transfers to/from train or bus stations
- Visas, travel insurance, and medical insurance
- Personal expenses and any items not specifically listed under 'What's Included'
- Meals and beverages not specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to attractions not included in the itinerary
- Optional tours and activities
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and hotel staff

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Flights:** International flights to/from your chosen destination are not included in this package. The Big Journey Company will be happy to provide a quotation for your flights—please contact us for further details.
- **Vaccinations & Health:** Vaccinations may be recommended depending on your destination. Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up-to-date medical advice.
- **Visas & Entry Requirements:** Entry requirements vary by destination, and a visa may be required. Please refer to the travel tips section for full details. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the necessary travel documentation prior to departure.
- **Medical Needs:** Please inform The Big Journey Company prior to travel of any medical conditions or medications you take that we should be aware of to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- **Accommodation Check-in/Out:** Unless otherwise stated in your itinerary, check-in is after 2–3pm and check-out is before 10am. Please note that hotels may be subject to change to the same or similar standard due to availability.
- **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations made within 90 days of departure are subject to a 100% cancellation fee. Deposits are non-refundable, and balance payments are due 14 weeks prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure adequate travel insurance is in place to protect against the need to cancel your holiday.
- **Minimum Numbers:** The Big Journey Company host will accompany the tour should minimum guest numbers be met. We will confirm this closer to the departure date.
- **Terms & Conditions:** Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation. This does not affect your statutory rights. All offers are subject to availability and space is limited.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

BOOK NOW!

27 SEP - 03 OCT 2027

FROM \$4,330 PER PERSON.

Call to Book

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