

COASTAL WALKS OF CRETE

– Hike the Southwestern Coast of Crete along the E4 Walking Path

Day 1: ARRIVAL DAY – HERAKLION

A short 15-minute transfer from the International Airport of Heraklion to our boutique hotel overlooking the historic Venetian port. If all guests arrive early, we will arrange for a guided visit of Knossos and the National Museum of Archaeology, containing some of the best-preserved Minoan and Ancient Greek artefacts in Europe.

If we don't have time on the first day, we will try and visit Knossos when we come back from our hikes at the end of the trip. Briefing and Cretan welcome dinner.



Hotel Lato

Dinner included

Day 2: CHANIA

A two-hour drive along the coastal road brings us to the former capital of the island, Chania.

After getting settled in our hotel near the old Venetian centre, we will have time to explore the town on a guided visit, taking in 4000 years of history from the Minoan period to WWII.

Lunch will be taken in one of the many charming street-side restaurants serving fresh seafood and local fare.

Free time in the late afternoon to shop for locally made crafts.



Hotel Halepa

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Transfer by taxi from Heraklion to Chania (2 hours)

Day 3: SOUGHIA

Another taxi ride of 1.5 hours along a beautiful mountain road takes us from Chania to Soughia, a sleepy village on the Libyan Sea. Once a thriving city-state which minted its own coins, Soughia has become a tourist destination for those looking to set the clock back and enjoy what the island was like 50 years ago. After enjoying some free time, we follow the coast for an afternoon walk from Soughia to the Bay of Lissos, which was once a trading hub with Egypt, but today is an ideal destination for a swim and a nap. A taxi-boat will bring us back to Soughia for the evening.



Hotel Irini



Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



Luggage delivered



Distance: 5km (3m), 4 hours up / down 300m (1000ft)



Transfer by taxi from Chania to Soughia (1.5 hours)



Taxi-boat back from the Bay of Lissos in the afternoon

Day 4: SOUGHIA – DAY-HIKE TO AGIA TRIPITI

After a hearty breakfast, we head out to the white-washed chapel of Tripiti, perched high on a cliff above the sea. Depending on the weather and wind, we will either take a boat to Tripiti in the morning and walk back, or walk to Tripiti and take the boat back to Soughia in the afternoon. Built on an ancient pagan sun worshipping site, we make our way on this mini-pilgrimage to enjoy lunch under the shade of a timeworn Mediterranean pine. Part of the day will be spent at the beach at Tripiti.



Hotel Irini



Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



Distance: 12 km (7.5m), 7 hours, up / down 400m (1300ft)



Taxi Boat to or back from Tripiti to Soughia, 30 min

Day 5: OMALOS

Early in the morning we leave the coast and head inland towards the White Mountains, through the Agia Irini Gorge and up a very well preserved and impressive Roman road. We will spend the night in Omalos, the starting point for the next day's hike down the Samaria Gorge, Europe's longest.



Hotel Neos Omalos



Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



Distance: 10.5km (6.5m), 6 hours, up 700m (2100ft), down 300m (1000ft)



Transfer from Soughia to the trail head at Agia Irini Gorge (15 min)

Day 6: SAMARIA GORGE

From Omalos, we start our walk down the Samaria Gorge, about 12kms of hiking on well-maintained trails before we reach the sea again in Agia Roumeli, our village for the night.

Walking time: 7 hours.



Hotel Calypso



Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



Luggage delivered



Distance: 16km (10m), 7 hours, down 1230m (4060ft)

Day 7: MARMARA - LOUTROS

An easier day will bring us through ancient olive groves to Marmara, a little pension/restaurant between Agia Roumeli and Loutros, where we will have ample time for lunch and a refreshing swim in the sheltered waters of Marmara Bay. An afternoon ferry ride will take us to Loutros, a blue and white village of small hotels and homes, reachable only by boat and on foot.



Hotel Faros

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Luggage delivered

Distance: 15km (9.4m), 6 hours, up / down 400m (1200ft)

Day 8: LOUTROS – AREDINA GORGE

Today you can either relax in Loutros, go back for a swim to Marmara, or join us for an amazing hike up the Aradaina Gorge where bearded vultures are often seen.



Hotel Faros

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Distance: 10km (6.25m), 6 hours, up 400m (1300ft)

Day 9: HERAKLION

We will take the morning ferry to Sfakia, then continue onwards to Heraklion. Farewell dinner will be served in our favourite sea-side restaurant.



Hotel Lato

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Ferry to Sfakia, then taxi onwards to Heraklion (3 hours)

Day 10: DEPARTURE

All guests will depart from Heraklion at their own leisure. We can, of course, help with pre- and post-arrangements.



Breakfast included
