

## CRETE EXCURSIONS

### SPINALONA - AGIOS NIKOLAOS (Group)

#### Highlights

- Explore the historic fortress island of Spinalonga and learn about its fascinating past
- Enjoy a scenic boat trip across the beautiful Mirabello Bay
- Swim in the crystal-clear waters near Elounda
- Stroll through the charming town of Agios Nikolaos with free time to shop or relax
- Discover the secrets of olive oil production at a local olive oil factory

#### Full Description

Embark on a memorable journey through Eastern Crete, blending history, culture, and stunning coastal scenery.

Your adventure begins in the picturesque town of Elounda, where you'll board a traditional boat for a relaxing cruise across Mirabello Bay. Take in breathtaking sea views as you sail towards the legendary island of Spinalonga.

Upon arrival at Spinalonga, step back in time as your guide shares stories of the island's rich history—from its Venetian fortress days to its time as a leper colony. Enjoy free time to explore the well-preserved fortress walls, capture incredible photos, and soak in the unique atmosphere of this historic site.

After your visit to Spinalonga, take a refreshing swim in the calm, crystal-clear waters before returning to Elounda, a tranquil seaside town nestled between the sea and surrounding mountains. Here, savor fresh seafood at a local tavern.

Next, visit a traditional olive oil factory near Agios Nikolaos. Learn about the process of olive oil production, discover different olive varieties, and understand the importance of olive oil in Cretan cuisine. Sample high-quality olive products and purchase authentic local goods at great prices

Finally, travel to Agios Nikolaos, the charming capital of the Lasithi region. Stroll through its vibrant streets, visit the famous Lake Voulismeni, and uncover the legends surrounding its mysterious depth. Take advantage of free time to browse local shops and pick up unique souvenirs.

#### Includes

- Hotel pickup and drop-off
- Professional guide throughout the tour
- Boat ticket for the trip to Spinalonga
- Headsets for clear audio guidance

#### Not Included

- Food and drinks
- Entry tickets to Spinalonga Island (20€ for adults, free for EU citizens under 25 years old)

### Not Suitable For

- People with limited mobility (hiking to the fortress requires effort)

### Important Information

#### What to Bring:

- Passport or ID card
- Comfortable shoes for walking
- Swimsuit & towel for the swimming stop
- Sunscreen, hat & sunglasses for sun protection
- Water bottle to stay hydrated
- Cash for optional purchases and entrance fees

### Know Before You Go

- Free time in Elounda and Agios Nikolaos allows for personal discovery and relaxation
  - Entrance fees for Spinalonga Island are payable on-site
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## GRAMVOUSSA-BALOS (Group)

### Highlights

- Sail across the stunning Kissamos Bay on a scenic boat trip
- Explore the Venetian fortress of Gramvousa, a historic island with breathtaking views
- Relax on the exotic Balos Beach, famous for its turquoise lagoon and white sand
- Hike to the Venetian castle ruins on Gramvousa for panoramic sea views
- Enjoy a full-day guided tour with comfortable transport

### Full Description

Set off on a breathtaking island adventure to iconic locations – Gramvousa Island and Balos Beach.

Your journey begins early in the morning with hotel pickup and a comfortable bus ride to Kissamos Port. Upon arrival, board a boat for a scenic cruise across Kissamos Bay, taking in the stunning coastal landscapes.

The first stop is Balos Beach, a true natural paradise with its shallow turquoise waters, white sand, and unique lagoon. Spend time swimming, sunbathing, or exploring the area before continuing your journey. (A €1 Balos beach fee applies and is not included in the tour price.)

Next, head to Gramvousa Island, home to the historic Venetian fortress, which offers panoramic views over the Cretan Sea. Hike up to the castle ruins and soak in the incredible scenery, or relax by the crystal-clear waters surrounding the island.

After a full day of exploring, relax on the boat as you cruise back to Kissamos Port, where your bus will be waiting to return you to your hotel.

### Includes

- Round-trip transportation by bus
- Boat ticket for the Kissamos Bay cruise
- Professional guide throughout the tour

### Not Included

- Balos Beach fee (€1 per person, payable on-site)
- Lunch

### Not Suitable For

- People with limited mobility (hiking to the fortress requires effort)

### Important Information

#### What to Bring

- Swimsuit & towel for the beach stops
- Comfortable walking shoes for exploring Gramvousa Castle
- Sunscreen, hat & sunglasses for sun protection
- Water & snacks as food options are limited
- Camera to capture the breathtaking views

### Know Before You Go

- The hike to Gramvousa Castle is steep but rewards with amazing views
- There are no sunbeds or umbrellas available at Balos Beach
- The Balos Beach fee (€1 per person) is not included and must be paid upon arrival

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## LEGENDS OF CRETE (Group)

### Highlights

- Discover the legendary Knossos Palace, the heart of Minoan civilization
- Explore the ancient city of Heraklion with a guided city tour
- Enjoy a captivating Minoan show with a traditional "kerasma" welcome
- Travel comfortably in an air-conditioned bus with an professional official guide

### Full Description



Your day begins with a visit to the iconic Knossos Palace, where you'll immerse yourself in the mysteries of the Minoan civilization. Walk through the ancient ruins as your guide shares fascinating stories about the legendary King Minos, the mythical Minotaur, and the palace's intricate labyrinth-like architecture.

Next, enjoy a journey through time with the Heraklion Grand Tour, a perfect blend of history, culture, and entertainment. Take a guided tour of Heraklion, strolling through its classical landmarks, such as the imposing Koules Fortress at the old Venetian harbor, the lively Lion Square with the famous Morosini Fountain, and the grand Agios Titos Church. Explore the charming streets of the old town, visit the vibrant central market, and enjoy some free time to soak in the local atmosphere at a traditional café.

Afterward, continue to Karteros for a unique Minoan show. Witness a fascinating performance that brings ancient Minoan culture to life, complete with a traditional "kerasma" welcome. Experience authentic Cretan hospitality as you enjoy this cultural spectacle, featuring traditional music, dance, and theatrical reenactments of Minoan myths.

This tour is ideal for history enthusiasts and culture lovers seeking an unforgettable experience in Crete.

### Includes

- Comfortable air-conditioned bus transfer
- Official licensed guide
- Vox headsets for clear commentary
- Minoan show with traditional "kerasma" welcome

### Not Included

- Entry ticket to Knossos Palace (€20 per person, payable on-site)
- Food and drinks

### Not Suitable For

- Individuals with mobility issues, as the tour involves walking and uneven terrain at Knossos
- Children under 6 years old, as the historical content may not be engaging for them

### Important Information

What to Bring:

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses for sun protection
- A bottle of water to stay hydrated
- Cash for entrance fees (Knossos Palace: €20 per adult)

### Know Before You Go

- Entrance fees to Knossos Palace are not included in the tour price
- The tour involves moderate walking, so wear comfortable clothing

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### KNOSSOS-LASSITHI

Discover Crete's popular attractions and rich history with an excursion suitable for everyone.

The program begins by showcasing the process of creating traditional Cretan knives. This provides a rare opportunity to witness the skill and precision required to craft these knives, which play a significant role in Cretan culture. Next, the guests will visit the Orthodox Monastery of Kera Kardiotisa. Here, they can learn about the monastery and have the opportunity to make a wish in front of the icon of the Mother of God.

After visiting the Monastery, the program continues with a visit to a ceramic factory where we offer our guests an unmatched experience. They will have the chance and enough time to take their lunch in a Cretan typical tavern.

The program concludes with a visit to the Minoan palace of Knossos, the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete. This palace was the political and cultural center of the Minoan civilization and is famous for its intricate labyrinth, which is often associated with the mythological Minotaur. The guests can explore the palace ruins and learn about the fascinating history and culture of the ancient Minoans.

**Tickets:** // Moni Kera ADULT 2€ // Knossos ADULT 20€

**Included:** Bus transfer, lunch, guide & audio guiding system

**Not included:** Entrance fees, and personal expenses

**What to bring:** Good shoes, sunscreen & camera

## ELAFONISI (Group)

### Highlights

- Discover the Agia Sofia Cave, a stunning natural wonder with ancient history
- Enjoy a delicious lunch in the traditional village of Elos (not included in the price)
- Visit the historic Chrisoskalitissa Monastery, perched on a rocky hill with panoramic sea views
- Relax on the exotic pink sand beach of Elafonissi, famous for its crystal-clear turquoise waters
- Travel in comfort with round-trip transportation and an experienced guide

### Full Description

Embark on a picturesque journey through western Crete, exploring hidden gems and breathtaking landscapes.

The tour begins with a scenic bus ride from Georgioupolis to the Agia Sofia Cave, an impressive limestone cavern filled with stalactites, stalagmites, and a small chapel. Take your time to explore this ancient natural site, steeped in history and local legend.

Next, continue to the charming village of Elos, where you'll enjoy an optional traditional lunch at a local taverna known for its Cretan cuisine.



After lunch, head to the Chrisoskalitissa Monastery, a stunning 17th-century religious site perched on a rocky hill. The name means "Golden Step," referring to a legendary golden stair that only the pure-hearted can see.

The highlight of the tour is a relaxing afternoon at Elafonissi Beach, famous for its soft pink sand, shallow waters, and breathtaking turquoise lagoon. Spend time swimming, sunbathing, or simply soaking in the natural beauty of one of Crete's most iconic beaches.

After a day filled with exploration and relaxation, return comfortably to your hotel.

### Includes

- Round-trip transportation by air-conditioned bus
- Experienced escorting guide throughout the tour

### Not Included

- Lunch at the taverna (available for purchase)

### Not Suitable For

People with mobility issues (some areas require walking on uneven ground)

### Important Information

What to Bring:

- Swimsuit & towel for Elafonissi Beach
- Comfortable walking shoes for exploring the cave and monastery
- Sunscreen, hat & sunglasses for sun protection
- Water & snacks for the journey
- Camera to capture the stunning landscapes

### Know Before You Go

- The monastery has a modest dress code, so bring a scarf or cover-up
- Elafonissi Beach is a protected nature reserve—please respect the environment

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## JEEP SAFARI TRIPITI (MiniGroup)

### Highlights

- Embark on an exciting Jeep Safari adventure through the stunning landscapes of southern Crete
- Visit the St. Sava Gorge, a breathtaking natural wonder with photo opportunities



- Explore the remote and pristine Tripiti Beach, accessible only by 4x4
- Experience traditional shepherd life, including goat herding and cheese-making with locals
- Enjoy an authentic Cretan lunch at a traditional taverna
- Visit the Church of Panagia Tripiti, a mystical chapel built inside a cave
- Capture unforgettable moments at multiple scenic photo stops

## Full Description

This is not an excursion! This is a Jeep Safari adventure through Crete's rugged landscapes!

After hotel pickup, receive important instructions and a safety briefing before setting off in 4x4 vehicles. The journey begins with a scenic drive to St. Savva Gorge, where you'll enjoy a guided tour and stunning photo opportunities.

Continue the off-road adventure toward Tripiti Beach, with a few exciting photo stops along the way. Arriving at the beach, you'll get a unique glimpse into Cretan rural life, as local shepherds demonstrate goat herding and traditional cheese-making.

Next, savor a delicious Cretan lunch at Taverna Mathios, featuring authentic local dishes. After lunch, relax and unwind with free time on the untouched Tripiti Beach, where you can swim, sunbathe, or explore the secluded coastline.

Before heading back, take a short drive to Panagia Tripiti, a historic cave church tucked away in the cliffs. After a moment of reflection and exploration, hop back into the Jeeps for the return drive to Heraklion.

After an adventure-packed day, you'll be dropped off back at your hotel, with amazing memories and incredible photos from this off-the-beaten-path experience!

## Includes

- Hotel pickup and drop-off
- Jeep Safari adventure
- Guided tour
- Cheese-making and shepherd experience
- Authentic Cretan lunch at a local taverna
- Free time on Tripiti Beach

## Not Included

- Personal expenses (souvenirs, drinks, etc.)

## Not Suitable For

- People with back or neck problems (due to off-road driving)
- Pregnant women
- Children under 6 years old

## Important Information



#### What to Bring:

- Comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes (for off-road and walking activities)
- Swimsuit and towel (for beach time)
- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
- Camera (for the breathtaking photo stops)

#### Know Before You Go

- This is an off-road adventure, so expect bumpy roads and dust—dress accordingly!
  - The trip includes physical activities, such as short hikes and walking on uneven terrain
  - Lunch is included, but additional drinks and snacks are at your own expense
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## JEEP SAFARI LASSITHI

By comfortable 4x4 jeeps

Excursion duration: 09:00 – 17:30

This unique route will take you deep into the authentic heart of Crete, revealing breathtaking mountain landscapes, traditional art, sacred heritage, and a refreshing swim to finish the day. The entire journey takes place in comfortable 4x4 jeeps. Starting from the seaside village of Gouves, we ascend into the majestic Cretan highlands, reaching over 1100 meters above sea level, where panoramic views and local hospitality await.

#### DAM VIEWPOINT & GHOST VILLAGE

Our first stop offers a panoramic view over a peaceful lake created by a mountain dam — a perfect photo opportunity to capture Crete's natural beauty. From this viewpoint, you'll also see the abandoned mountain village, a hauntingly beautiful place once full of life, now standing silent among the hills. It's a rare glimpse into Crete's rural past and the changing rhythm of island life.

#### SHORT NATURE BREAK – OFF-ROAD BEGINS

We'll take a quick nature break to stretch and enjoy the fresh mountain air. From this point on, our adventure continues off-road, as we follow winding mountain paths in our 4x4 jeeps. The rugged terrain, changing scenery, and untouched nature offer a real sense of adventure as we climb deeper into the mountains.

#### MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINTS 800M & 1100M

Next, we'll stop at two breathtaking viewpoints — first at 800 meters, then at 1100 meters above sea level. These stops offer spectacular views of the Lassithi Plateau and surrounding mountain ranges. Ideal for photos and moments of quiet awe.

#### CERAMIC WORKSHOP

We'll then visit the renowned ceramic studio. Here, you'll experience a traditional pottery masterclass. Participate in hands-on activities, explore souvenirs, and discover local products including olive oil, herbs, and honey.





### VIDIANI MONASTERY

Tucked among the mountains lies the Vidiani Monastery, an oasis of peace and spirituality. It is surrounded by natural beauty and has deep cultural and historical significance for the locals. You'll have time to explore the chapel, admire the architecture, and feel the serene atmosphere.

### LUNCH AT SELI TAVERN

Around 13:30, we'll enjoy a traditional Cretan lunch at a mountain taverna. The meal includes freshly made local dishes.

### CRETAN KNIFE WORKSHOP

Before we reach the beach, we'll stop at the famous Sapounakis Cretan knife workshop. Here, you'll get a glimpse into the traditional craftsmanship behind Crete's iconic knives. Learn about the history, techniques, and symbolism of these unique blades. You can also visit the shop with handmade knives.

### MALIA BEACH

After lunch, we head down from the mountains to the north coast for some beach time in Malia. Enjoy a refreshing swim in the Aegean Sea or simply relax on the sand.

### RETURN TO GOUVES

We arrive back in Gouves around 17:30

#### **Includes:**

Comfortable, air-conditioned 4x4 jeeps.

Professional guide.

Traditional Cretan lunch

Ceramic workshop visit with hands-on activity.

Free time for swimming at Malia Beach.