

Crete for family

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Sun, sea, and ice cream are the main ingredients of a memorable family holiday. In Crete, you will mix all of that with a number of other activities that entertain and inform. Our trip will take you to the most scenic provinces of the island, Heraklion, Rethymnon, and Chania, where you will see historic sites, enjoy family beach time, and participate in fun activities.

Beginning our journey in Heraklion, we'll explore the ancient site of Knossos before heading northwest to Rethymnon. This enchanting city, with its Venetian-Ottoman charm, will be our base for two nights—filled with hiking and swimming adventures. Next, we'll drive south across the White Mountains to Chora Sfakion, a serene seaside village. During our two-day stay, we will hike through Imbros Gorge and along the coastline, discovering hidden beaches and sea caves. Finally, our tour concludes in Chania, Crete's cultural gem, where we'll delve into cultural adventures and enjoy seaside relaxation for a couple of days

Trip Highlights

- Take a dip in the turquoise waters of Balos Lagoon
- Play “Farmer for the Day” and learn how it feels to make and eat homemade Cretan food
- Visit the three most evocative cities of Crete
- Travel off the beaten path by staying at the fishing village of Chora



Sfakion

Map



Tour Details

Days/Nights: 8 days / 7 nights

Single supplement: Cost based on request. Availability limited.

Condition grading: Easy Active

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Heraklion and welcome dinner

Settled since Neolithic times, with the highest mountain of the island Psiloritis rising behind, Heraklion is Crete's modern capital.

Today we will meet at our hotel for an introductory talk with a walking tour to follow that will reveal the cities riches. Our dinner features delicious local produce and traditional Cretan dishes. Based on simple techniques, it's the variety of local produce that distinguishes the dishes: mountain herbs and greens, bulbs, unique cheeses, fresh fish, and the famous Cretan oil.

Overnight in Heraklion in a 4* hotel

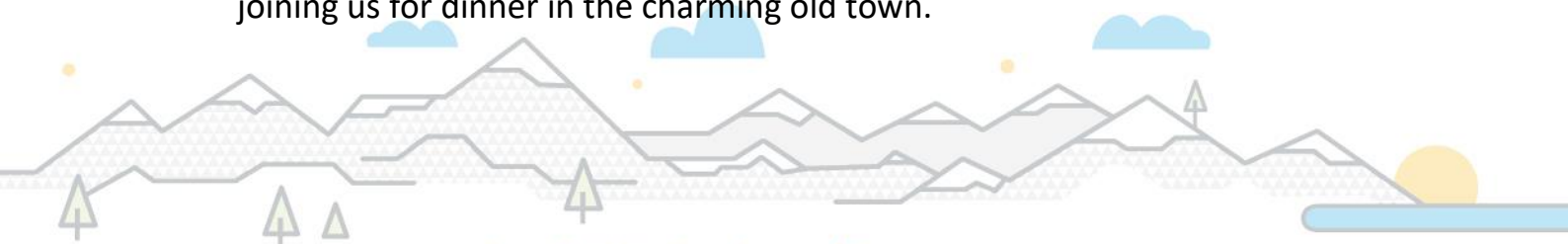
Dinner included

Day 2

Visit the Palace of Knossos and travel to Rethymnon

Get ready to embark on an incredible journey through time as we delve into the ancient Minoan world. Our adventure begins at the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, boasting the world's most significant collection of Minoan art. It's like stepping into a world that existed 4000 years ago! Then, brace yourselves for Knossos, the awe-inspiring palace where the mighty Minoans once ruled the Aegean. Can you picture what life was like in their majestic palace?

After a delicious lunch, we'll head to Rethymnon. You'll have some free time to enjoy the nearby beaches or relax by the hotel's pool before joining us for dinner in the charming old town.



Overnight in Rethymnon in a 4* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Driving distance:

Heraklion to Knossos 5 km / 15 min

Knossos to Rethymnon 80 km / 1 hr 20 min

Day 3

Ancient Eleftherna hike and pottery visit

Nestled in the foothills of Crete's highest mountain, Psiloritis, lies Ancient Eleftherna—a Dorian settlement celebrated by the Archaeological Institute of America as one of its top discoveries in 2009. Our journey begins at the town's ancient Acropolis, leading us through fascinating sights: from the remarkable Roman cisterns carved into the hill's west side to the Necropolis and a 3rd-century BC ancient bridge. The hike concludes in the charming village of Margarites, renowned for its pottery. The tradition of pottery spans many generations in this village, with pieces crafted from local Cretan earth and "lepida" (a special potter's clay), using natural pigments from the mountains. The ceramics, polished with pebbles and adorned with a sheep's wool brush, draw inspiration from both ancient and modern Cretan pottery. Here, your children will get the chance to craft their own ceramic pieces in a pottery workshop while the remainder of the day is free to unwind with some family beach time.

Overnight in Rethymnon in a 4* hotel

Breakfast and lunch included

Hiking distance: 5 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

Driving distance:

Rethymnon to Ancient Eleftherna 30 km / 45 min

Margarites to Rethymnon 30 km / 40 min

Day 4



Explore Imbros Gorge and the hidden charms of Chania province

We start early from Rethymnon, driving through the scenic White Mountains to reach Imbros Gorge. This pine tree-lined gorge offers a nice hike with changing widths, leading to the Libyan Sea. While smaller in scale compared to its well-known counterpart, Samaria Gorge, Imbros holds its own allure. With narrow passages, intriguing caves, and a breathtaking natural stone archway, this approximately three-and-a-half-hour descent promises an unforgettable adventure!

The hike concludes in Hora Sfakion, our home for the next two nights—a tranquil seaside village at the base of Imbros Gorge. Known for its pristine beaches and clear waters, this area invites relaxation. Upon arrival, we'll check in and head straight to the beach. For dinner tonight, we'll enjoy local delights at a family taverna by the sea.

Overnight in Chora Sfakion in a 3* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 8 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 75 m & 700 m

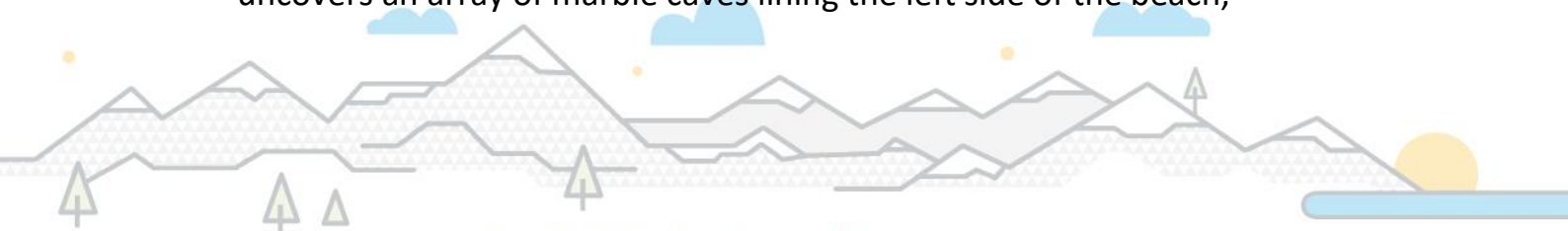
Driving distance:

Rethymnon to Entrance of the gorge 50 km / 1 hr 30 min

Day 5

Hike along Crete's Dramatic Coast and swim at the Marble Beach

Southern Crete unfolds captivating landscapes adorned with untouched bays and stunning scenery. Exploring the region's south coast poses a unique adventure as most areas are accessible solely by sea or footpaths. After a hearty breakfast, our ferry journey leads us to the idyllic village of Loutro, a car-free coastal gem serving as the starting point for our hike. Along our path, we'll traverse goat-filled pastures, quaint farmlands, and charming villages before arriving at Marmara (Marble) beach nestled in a picturesque cove where the Aradena gorge meets the sea. While the land might not reveal its secrets, a swim uncovers an array of marble caves lining the left side of the beach,



carved by the relentless sea. Dive into these caves, discovering hidden passages and enjoying a swim amidst the captivating formations. Post-swim, a delectable lunch awaits at a nearby tavern. A ferry-taxi will take us back to Sfakia where the rest of the day is yours to relax and enjoy the peaceful beauty of the surroundings.

Overnight in Chora Sfakion in a 3* hotel

Breakfast and lunch included

Hiking distance: 3 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 1 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 180 m & 180 m

Ferry:

Chora Sfakion to Loutro: 45 min

Marmara to Chora Sfakion: 1 hr 30 min

Day 6

Cooking in a village and explore Chania

We say goodbye to our hideaway and we head to the medieval city of Chania. Along the journey, we'll pause at the charming village of Vamos for a cooking class. The class unfolds in an olive press dating back to 1846, adorned with Venetian arches and sizable millstones. This unique setting adds an extra layer to your exploration of the aromas and flavors of traditional Cretan Cuisine.

In the afternoon, we reach Chania, the spiritual capital of Crete. Its picturesque backdrop of the White Mountains, bustling harbor, historical remnants, vibrant market, and nearby beaches create an ideal setting. We kick off with an orientation walk and some time for shopping before heading to dinner.

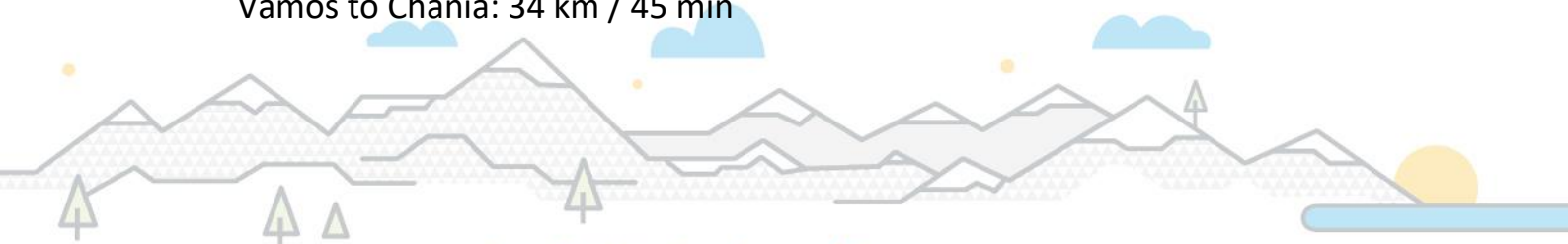
Overnight in Chania in a 4* hotel

Breakfast and lunch included

Driving distance:

Chora Sfakion to Vamos: 42 km / 1 hr

Vamos to Chania: 34 km / 45 min



Day 7

Hop into a 4WD and enjoy a swim at the famous Balos lagoon

Today we will hop on a 4WD and drive towards Balos lagoon, one of Chania's most prized gems which cannot be missed. It is an exotic sandy beach of turquoise waters with a unique geomorphological shape located on the northwest side of the prefecture. Renowned for its untamed natural beauty, it stands proudly among the most beautiful beaches in the country. Take some time to relax and soak it all in before saying goodbye to this coastal paradise.

In the evening, you'll be free to delve deeper into the Venetian city, exploring its enchanting streets and the numerous local designer shops. Later, we'll reunite for our farewell dinner, a perfect culmination of our time together!

Overnight in Chania in a 4* hotel

Breakfast, pic-nik lunch and dinner included

Driving distance:

Chania to Balos 50 km / 1 hr 30 min

Balos to Chania 50 km / 1 hr 30 min

Day 8

Say farewell to Greece or continue on your own

Breakfast is at your leisure at the hotel and following that, your Tripin Adventures trip in Greece concludes. Transfer independently to the international airport of Chania for return flights home or continue your explorations of this marvelous region of Greece.

Breakfast included

What's included

Price includes:



All accommodations as listed (or similar) based on double occupancy
Hotel taxes and service charges
All transportation during the trip
Entrance fee for the Archaeological site of Knossos
Tourist guide for the Archaeological site of Knossos
Services of a guide throughout the tour
Cooking class
Pottery class
Transport and handling of one reasonably sized suitcase and one carry-on per person

Included meals: Breakfasts, lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary

Not Included:

Domestic and/or international air fare
Medical expenses
Travel or emergency evacuation insurance
Gratuities for leader/guide or driver
Alcoholic beverages and meals other than outlined in itinerary
Visas if needed
Transfer to and from the airport/port
Other items of a personal nature
Anything not mentioned in above program

Itinerary Changes

We are constantly updating our unique itineraries based on new information and experiences available. The walks, accommodations, and visits listed may be adjusted. The itineraries presented are subject to modification and change by Tripin Adventures. We reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in our judgment, conditions warrant, or if we deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.

Terrain



This trip level is Easy active and is suitable for most people that are in fairly good physical condition. The itinerary includes walking tours in cities and villages, and four days with hikes of 1-3.5 hours.

Although the paths are quite well-kept the terrain often tends to be very stony and rocky, during the gorge-walking. You will mostly be walking on footpaths, mountain trails and on some tarmac roads.

Condition Grading

Easy active

Trips designated “Easy Active” are perfect for first-timers, or travelers looking for a mild physical challenge. A typical day will consist of 1-3.5 hours of activity.

Starting point and getting there

Starting point is: Heraklion

Finishing point is: Chania

Getting There & Away:

Chania Airport is located about 20 minutes (14 km) from Chania. Chania Airport operates domestic flights to and from Athens Airport, Thessaloniki Airport and other airports in Greece. From April to early November, there are many direct charter flights to Chania Airport from the UK, Germany, Scandinavia and other European countries.

Heraklion Airport is about 5km east of the city center. There are many flights that connect Heraklion airport with Athens. Moreover there are many direct flights from various cities in Europe. Heraklion ferry port is located 500m east of the city center and is connected with major ports in Greece including Piraeus (Athens port), Mykonos and Santorini.

Getting around: We can arrange for a transfer from the airport or the port to your hotel. If you want to come by yourself there is a bus line connecting the airport to the center of the town and there is also the option of the taxi.



Food

Simple, nutritious and flavorsome, the food is one of the pleasures of travel through Greece. Rustic Greek Cuisine reflects the history and bounty of its diverse regions and relies in the fresh, seasonal home-grown produce and generally simple, unfussy cooking that brings out the rich flavors of the Mediterranean.

Greece's relaxed and hospitable dinning culture makes it easy to get into the local spirit. Greeks love to eat out and share impossibly big meals family style. Given the long summers and mild winters, alfresco dining is central to the dining experience. Service could be slow by Western standards, but why being in rush either way.

As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There's no obligation to do this though. Wherever possible we will cater for dietary needs for any included meals, but there may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own. Note that alcohol and soda are not included.

Weather

Spring, summer and fall in Greece are sunny and warm. The daytime temperatures average 25-30 C though temperatures in the 35s are possible in the summer months. Nighttime temperatures cool off slightly to 20° C. Rain showers are rare in the islands, but it's often breezy and rainy on the coast.

Gear Checklist

Greece has a temperate climate. Base your clothing on the "layering system", if it is hot you can "peel off" layers quickly, if it is cooler and windy you can quickly "dress up". The lighter you travel, the easier you travel. Use your best judgement and pack as lightly as possible. You will appreciate light luggage towards the end of your trip

Please consider taking along the following items on your trip.



Official Papers

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Airline tickets

Luggage

- ✓ Duffel bag or rolling luggage
- ✓ Daypack to carry camera, water bottle and snacks etc.
- ✓ Luggage locks and tags

Outerwear

- ✓ Midweight polar fleece sweater
- ✓ Rain jacket and rain pants, or poncho

Clothing

- ✓ Hiking shorts
- ✓ Casual clothing made of light-weight fabrics
- ✓ T-shirts
- ✓ Long-sleeve shirt
- ✓ Hiking pants, loose and easy to move in
- ✓ Underwear
- ✓ Swimsuit

Clothing Accessories

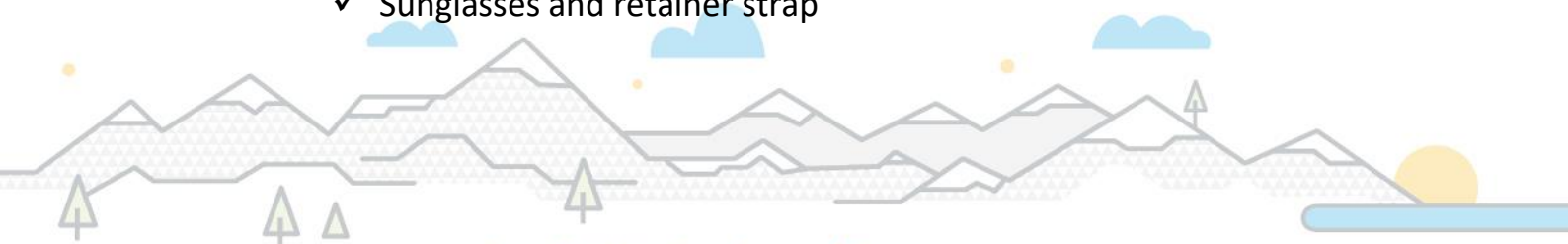
- ✓ Sun hat or baseball cap

Footwear

- ✓ Lightweight and supportive hiking boots, broken-in with good ankle support
- ✓ Beach sandals
- ✓ Casual, comfortable shoes for evening

Accessories

- ✓ Sunscreen and lip protection
- ✓ Sunglasses and retainer strap



- ✓ Beach towel

Optional Accessories

- ✓ Security pouch or money belt
- ✓ Trekking poles or walking staff
- ✓ Camera, memory and batteries
- ✓ Reading and writing materials
- ✓ Watch with alarm or travel alarm
- ✓ Travel pillow
- ✓ Motion sickness remedies
- ✓ Personal first-aid kit
- ✓ Insect repellent (low risk)
- ✓ Electric adapter plug/converter

This is not a fixed list, but more of a guideline, so feel free to add and remove items as you see fit.

Currency & Banking

Greece has adopted the Euro as its currency. The easiest way to obtain local cash is from an ATM. Greek ATMs accept cards bearing the Cirrus, EC, Euro card, Visa and Plus symbols. If you take cash, US or Canadian Dollars can be easily exchanged at banks. Most major credit cards, Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

It is advisable to have some Euros with you upon arrival to be used for a taxi if necessary.

You may want to check the website www.xe.com for current exchange rates.

Passports

You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the conclusion of your trip. Please make sure that you have blank pages in your passport for your visa (if required), entry and exit stamps (one for each). Please make a copy to take with you in the event yours is lost or stolen and keep it separate from your actual passport.

Visas





Currently a Greek Tourist Visa is not required for citizens of Canada, United States, Britain and Australia. If you hold another passport, please check online <http://visacentral.com/visas.php>

