

White mountains

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Birthplace of Zeus and the cradle of Europe's earliest civilization, Crete is justifiably known as the "Great Island". Fabulous beaches and crystalline seas are just the beginning of the story. The mountains, which dominate the view as you approach, consist of dozens of peaks over 2000m of altitude and present a stunning scenic backdrop to life on the western side of Crete. There are few places in the world where high mountains so close to the sea are combined with an often perfect climate.

Our trip starts in Chania, probably the most charming city of Crete, and from there we will head towards White Mountains (Lefka Ori). They borrow their name from the shining bleached limestone in summer and the rich snow cover in winter. For the next week we will hike a network of ancient paths and shepherd trails. We will follow the southern coastline, climb to summits, and submerge to the depths of some of the prettiest gorges of the island, including the most famous one, Samaria. On a hot summer day, heading down to the mouth of a gorge is the ideal hike. We will walk shaded from the sun's ferocity, looking forward to a welcome swim at the end as a reward.



Trip Highlights

- Wander around the historical city of Chania, one of the longest continuously inhabited city sites in the world
- Walk through Samaria, Europe's longest gorge and Crete's 'must-do' experience
- Climb Pachnes, the legendary peak of the White Mountains
- Enjoy awe-inspiring views of the dramatic, rocky seascape while breathing in the fresh, salty air of remote and unspoiled beaches

Map



Tour Details

Dates: From May to October

Days/Nights: 7 days / 6 nights

Theme: Hiking & Trekking/ Cultural

Condition grading: Strenuous

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Chania

We love Chania and we believe you will too. It's perfect setting with the White Mountains as a background, lively harbor, historical remains, busy market, and nearby beaches make it the ideal spot. We will meet in the afternoon at our hotel for an introductory talk and have our first dinner together in a traditional restaurant. Of course, Cretan cuisine plays a starring role and we have spent many hours digesting countless delicacies during the research of this important aspect.

Overnight in Chania, in a 3* hotel

Dinner included

Day 2

From Chania to Agia Irini Gorge and Omalos plateau

Wake up and get ready to enter the White Mountains through the narrow gorge of Agia Irini. Areas of humidity and shade sustain a variety of plants, and gigantic ancient plane trees grace a large clearing halfway up. Our hike ends at Agia Irini settlement and from there, we will have a short transfer to our hotel where you can enjoy the evening breeze listening to the jingling of the occasional goat's bell.

Overnight in Omalos, in a 2* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included



Hiking distance: 8,5 km / **Hiking Duration:** 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 530 m & 70 m

Driving distance:

Chania to Entrance of the gorge 70 km / 1 hr 30 min

Day 3

Samaria Gorge Crossing

"Kalimera!" How about a dip in the clear turquoise waters of the South coast? Yes! But first we have to trek through Samaria, Europe's longest gorge which lead us to our goal over trickling streams, through forests of scented pines and the "Iron Gates", the narrowest point where the rocks on either side are 600m high. After a 16km descent we'll reach the welcoming resort of Agia Roumeli, with its much appreciated fine pebble beach and sparkling sea, in which we will stay overnight.

Overnight in Agia Roumeli, in a 2* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 16 km / **Hiking Duration:** 7 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 200 m & 1300 m

Day 4

Agia Roumeli to Agios Ioannis

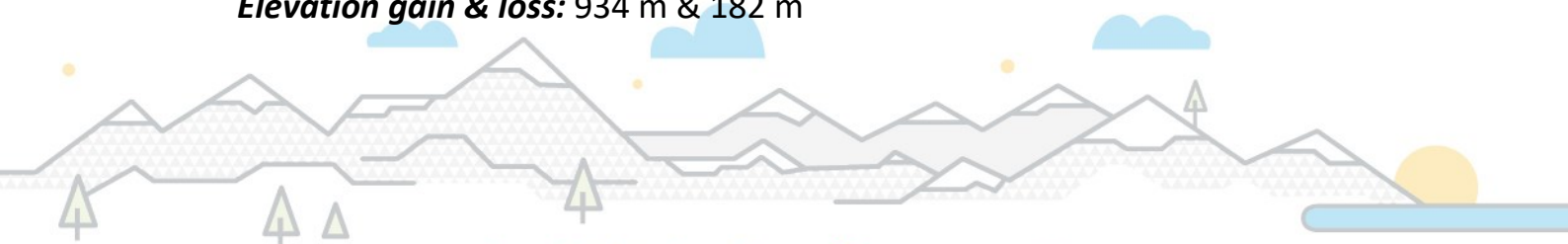
If you've fallen already in love with the blue waters you may start your day with a morning dip or swim. Then put on your hiking shoes again to head towards the mountains, with awe-inspiring views on our way, at one of the best preserved coastlines in all Europe. A cozy small hotel, in Agios Ioannis, a village well hidden in the forest with only 15 inhabitants, has its doors open for us.

Overnight in Agios Ioannis, in a 2* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 10 km / **Hiking Duration:** 4 hr 30 min

Elevation gain & loss: 934 m & 182 m



Day 5

Climb to the summit of Pachnes

Take a deep breath of the mountain fresh air and gear up for today's high ascent. We will climb Pachnes the legendary peak of the White Mountains. The summit is near the southern edge of a complex range of summits (over 30 of them higher than 2000m), in a limestone landscape that is geologically unique on earth and it can be classified as a high desert. The lunar landscape all around, the view of the island of Gavdos to the south and the Mount Psiloritis to the east create a unique experience of images and emotions.

Overnight in Agios Ioannis, in a 2* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 7,7 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 4 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 534 m & 534 m

Day 6

Aradena Gorge to Loutro and return to Chania

In the morning wake up to the quietness our mountain hideaway offers and savor a few moments over a steaming cup of coffee as the dew disappears in the morning sun. From Agios Ioannis we will head down to the Aradena gorge where the rocky riverbed is forced into an extremely narrow gap between sheer walls almost all the way down. This is a superb hike and the sense of achievement at the end is immense. Passing the beach of Marmara we'll follow the coastal path which leads to the picturesque harbor of Loutro. A short ferry ride to Sfakia town will follow and from there we will drive to Chania city where we are going to have our farewell dinner.

Overnight in Chania, in a 3* hotel

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 9,4 km / ***Hiking Duration:*** 5 hr



Elevation gain & loss: 640 m & 1227 m

Driving distance:

Chora Sfakion to Chania 70 km / 2 hr

Day 7

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 from our accommodations in Chania to one of the international airports of the island for return flights home or continue your explorations of this marvelous region of Greece.

Breakfast included

What's included

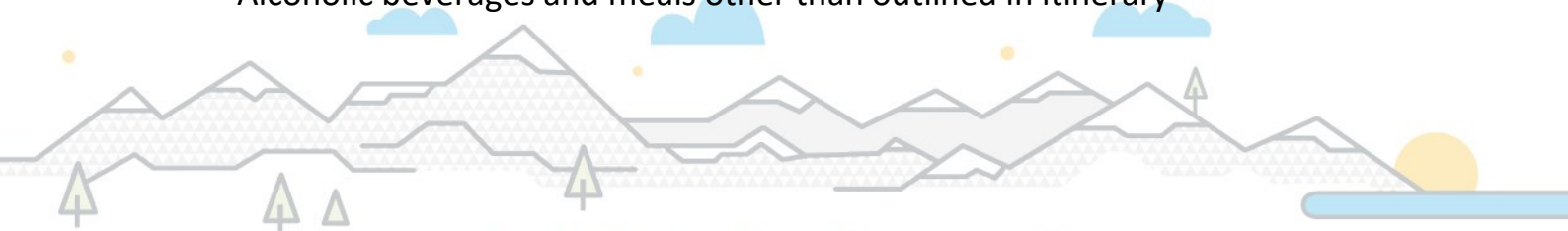
Price includes:

All accommodations based on double occupancy
Hotel taxes and service charges
All transportation during the trip
All activities mentioned in the program
Ferry tickets
Entrance fees at the Gorges of Agia Irini and Samaria
Services of a guide throughout the tour
Transport and handling of one reasonably sized suitcase and one carry-on per person

Included meals: Breakfast, 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 Strenuous. The itinerary includes walking tours in cities and villages, and five days with moderate hikes of 4:30-7 hours with elevation gains and losses of more than 1000m.

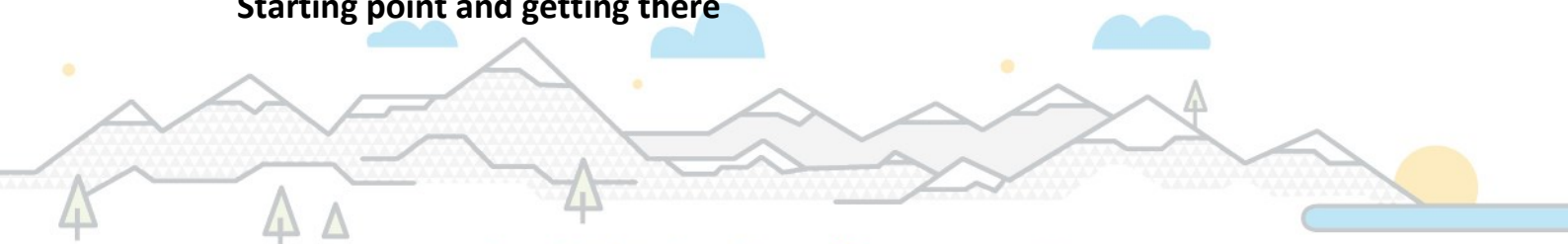
You will mostly be walking on footpaths, mountain trails and some tarmac roads. Although the paths are quite well-kept the terrain often tends to be very stony and rocky during the gorge-walking, and we have to be prepared for few steeper passages with some exposed parts.

Condition Grading

Strenuous

Trips designated "Strenuous" require strong physical stamina, as we're often active for 6+ hours per day. Hikes and treks include traversing more rugged and mountainous terrain.

Starting point and getting there



Starting point is: Chania.

Getting There & Away: Chania airport is 14km east of town on the Akrotiri peninsula. There are many flights that connect Chania airport with Athens. Moreover, there are many direct flights from various cities in Europe. Chania ferry port is located 7km southeast of the city center and is connected with major ports in Greece including Piraeus.

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. From the port you could take a bus or a taxi to your hotel.

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 dining 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
- ✓ 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>

