



Tour Information



Highlights of Crete





Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to Greece. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore, you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit; www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage Allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you**, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels).

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Transfers

On arrival, please collect your luggage and exit the luggage area. You will find the tour manager situated just outside the arrivals area, holding a Travel Editions sign.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

Taking food into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



Accommodation

Atrion Hotel, Heraklion

This modern, 4* minimal-style hotel is right next to Heraklion's vibrant centre, with its cafés, shopping streets, tavernas and museums but also a short stride from the seashore. Facilities include a lobby bar, restaurant, a courtyard patio and a TV lounge. The comfortable bedrooms have private facilities with bath or shower, a private balcony, air conditioning, TV, mini-bar, hair dryer, telephone and free Wi-Fi.

For more information visit the hotel website:

<https://www.atrion.gr/en/hotel>

The Ideon Hotel, Rethymnon

The 3-star Ideon Hotel was chosen principally because of its excellent location right on the edge of the very picturesque 'old-town' of Rethymnon, which means it is easy to get and about and enjoy this very atmospheric town during your stay.

The hotel offers comfortable air-conditioned rooms with private balcony, bath/shower, TV and telephone. The hotel facilities include a swimming pool, street café that overlooks the sea, lounge bar and restaurant.

For more information visit the hotel website:

www.hotelideon.gr

Dining

The standard of food in Greece is excellent and offers a remarkable variety of freshly prepared and very tasty dishes, many of which use locally grown products and locally produced olive oil.

In Greece, and particularly in Crete, the locals nearly always eat 'Mezedes' style. This generally means ordering several dishes, starters and/or main plates, whatever takes your fancy, to put in the middle of the table for all to share. It's a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! Don't be shy in the amount you order, or if you only find yourselves ordering starters – any combination is acceptable. The cost

of a dinner for two with local wine and local dishes is approximately 40 Euros.

When ordering fish in Crete you will find the price on the menu relates to a cost per kilo. Don't be put off by this. You are expected to go into the kitchen, choose your fish and it will be weighed in front of you, so you know what you will pay. An average fish for one person usually weighs approximately 350 grammes.

Nearly all tavernas sell their own 'open' wine, known as village wine. It can be something of an acquired taste, but it goes well with the local food. The Greeks are very proud of their wine and nearly all Cretans make their own. The white is usually always very drinkable, the red too in places like Rethymnon, but it may be a different experience in a village. If you are unsure, you can always ask if you can try the wine before you agree to it. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 5 to 6 euros per half litre.

In Rethymnon there is a huge choice of tavernas to choose from and you will soon find your favourites as you wander the narrow lanes and sea front. The tavernas on the Venetian Harbour tend to be a little more expensive, mainly because of their position. Just be aware that on the harbour front the waiters do tend to 'hard-sell' the food, particularly fresh fish, so don't be coerced into ordering what they suggest rather than what you want.

Local drinks are ouzo, raki, metaxa and, of course, Greek wine. Raki is the local firewater! This is distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine. You will probably find you come across this whether you want to or not, as it is very often served, complimentary, at the end of a meal.

Meals included in the holiday:

A buffet breakfast is included daily.

Two lunches & two dinners.



Destination

Crete

The island of Crete offers a little of everything! First and foremost, it has a very long history that dates back more than 5000 years and is considered the birthplace of European civilization. Scenically, the island is far more diverse than many other Greek islands as, apart from the obvious long coastlines, it has high mountains that are snowcapped in winter. Culturally it is an island that has little changed over the centuries, especially when you leave the coast and head into the hills, where you find village life continuing just as it has done always, making a living from the land. On top of all of these joys you have the handsome legacy of the Venetians in the wonderful towns of Rethymnon and Chania that are always a joy to visit.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Heraklion

Heraklion, also known as Iraklion, is a port city and the capital of Crete. It is known for the Minoan Palace of Knossos, just outside the city. Guarding the city's Venetian port is the 16th-century Koules fortress. A typical feature of Heraklion is its Venetian and Turkish fountains, scattered all around the city.

Knossos

Five km south of Heraklion lies Knossos, one of the most important archaeological sites in Europe, the legendary centre of the Minoan civilization from 1900 to 1400 BC. The Palace, the largest one in Minoan Crete, witnessed two architectural phases. The Palace was an intricate building complex built around a central court. It was laid out on a surface of 22,000 m² and, apart from the royal apartments, ceremonial quarters, treasure rooms, workshops and storage spaces have been identified.

Heraklion Archaeological Museum

The renowned Heraklion Archaeological Museum hosts the largest collection of Minoan artefacts anywhere in the world. The well-laid out exhibition includes unique works of Cretan art, found in excavations across the island, which, roughly, span 5500 years, from the Neolithic (5000 BC) to the Late Roman period (late fourth century AD). Most

objects date to prehistoric times and to the so-called Minoan period, named after the island's mythical king, Minos. They include beautiful pottery, carved stone objects, seal stones, small, sculpted items, metal objects, wall-paintings and frescoes.

Spinalonga

Fortified by the Venetians in the late 16th century this small island rests quietly in the middle of the beautiful bay of Elounda. It was successfully defended against the Turks until 1715, long after the rest of Crete had succumbed. In 1903 the Cretan authorities founded a leper colony here, which was inhabited until 1957. The 17th century fortress is well-preserved as are the ruins of the village, which give a fantastic insight into a past way of life on the island. Our visit here involves a short and tranquil ride by boat from the port of Elounda to the island.

Rethymnon

The Venetian harbour town of Rethymnon sits right next to a long sandy beach, which runs directly alongside the town. The 'old town' of Rethymnon, which is where the Ideon hotel is located, is perfect for leisurely strolling its narrow, winding streets, which you will find filled with traditional cafes, tempting tavernas and small shops. It is a wonderful town with a vast history that comes alive as you walk the narrow lanes that meander endlessly throughout the old town to the ancient Venetian Harbour.

For more information visit:

<http://www.rethymnon.biz/>

The Amari Valley

The Amari Valley remains one of the most untouched and fertile regions on Crete. The abundance of water in the valley means it stays green and vegetated throughout the year. Dotted with tiny churches and traditional hill villages, this wonderful hinterland has kept its authenticity and peacefulness. It's a stunningly scenic region, particularly in spring when the peaks of Ida are still covered in snow.

Margaritas

The pottery village of Margaritas has been a traditional pottery village for centuries and, to this day, this is the main source of income for the people of the village. We will have the opportunity to visit a potter, who will explain the importance of pottery to the village now and in times gone by. He has a marvellous shop where you can see some of his excellent creations, some of which are replicas of some very intriguing pots from Minoan times.

Arkadi Monastery

The Holy Monastery of Arkadi is a place of special historical interest, known for the importance of the tragic events that took place during the revolution of 1866. The monastery is built on the edge of the high plateau. This is one of the most important monuments of Crete because of it was so strategic in ridding the Cretans of the Ottomans after more than 400 years of occupation.

Therriso

Therriso is a small village 16 km from Chania town. This village has a remarkable history, intrinsically interwoven with the freedom and independence of the Cretan people. The beautiful Therriso gorge with its dramatic scenery can be seen from the road which runs through it next to a tree-lined riverbed and surrounded by the greenery of chestnuts and oaks.

Chania

Set against a spectacular backdrop of majestic mountains and aquamarine seas, Chania is one of Crete's most alluring towns. Its troubled history of occupation by Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Genoese, Turks and Egyptians has left a rich architectural heritage, particularly in the old Venetian quarter around the harbour. Highlights of this charming and quaint district include the magnificent harbour, Naval Museum, Mosque of the Janissaries and the lighthouse. Most of old Chania is clustered close to the harbour where there is easy access to the wonderful historic buildings, atmospheric streets, spectacular churches huge choice of shops, restaurants, cafes and bars.

Food is offered in great variety - there are many places where you can sit back and enjoy and just take in the lovely ambience.

Tour Manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him/her immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues.

Grading

This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful as is a light rain jacket and small umbrella.

Time – GMT +3 hours (Summertime Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). This means Greece is always 2 hours ahead of the UK.

Language – Greek

Religion – Greek Orthodox

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are in all towns and cities, as well as airports and other places. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros, other than bringing euros with you.

Banks in Crete are open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm. Rethymnon has many ATM machines easily accessed from the hotel. You can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdrawn cash. The instructions are in English.

Credit cards – Credit cards are far more widely accepted nowadays but it is always best to check first in restaurants and shops, especially in small villages, that they accept payment by credit card, should you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments, you may like to check these with your credit card supplier before you travel. Hotels usually always accept credit cards.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink although you should check at the hotel if the bathroom water is safe to drink as it could be tank water rather than mains water. Bottled water is readily available to buy in all local shops and very reasonably priced.

Shopping - There are plenty of mini-markets in Rethymnon for any basic supplies you might need,

these are usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening. Cretan olive oil, olives and local honey are all excellent produce if you are interested in taking a little bit of Crete home with you. You may see people advertising honey on the side of the road or in Kafenions, this will usually be their own home produce and is often the best and most pure you can buy.

Stamps - **In most places you can purchase stamps at the same time you purchase postcards.** This is much easier than trying to find a post office!

Plumbing - Unless there is information to the contrary, please do not put toilet paper down the toilet. This is common practice in Greece due to the narrowness of the pipes.

English newspapers – These can usually be found in some outlets in the town.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Greece, depending on your operator and contract. If you are calling the UK from a mobile in Greece, you will need to prefix the number with the international dialling code 0044. If you are calling a Greek number from a UK mobile you should prefix the number with the Greek international dialling code 0030.

The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that, when receiving a good service, one awards with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.



Health

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor, if necessary. There is normally a charge of around 60 to 70 euros for calling out a doctor and there is also a charge to visit a doctor.

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

The nearest hospitals are in Heraklion and Rethymnon. Your tour manager/hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay.

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.

Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Greece.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who will, often speak English. Pharmacists will often be able to give advice and medicine for minor ailments. Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday but not on Saturdays.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00)

Outside the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7952 237156 (Jane Freeman) or 00 44 7841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you are calling a Greek number from a UK mobile, you should prefix the number with the Greek international dialling code 0030.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Vice Consulate Crete
Candia Tower
17 Thalita Street, Ag. Dimitrios Square
71 202 Heraklion
Crete Greece
Tel: 0030 2810 224012
Email: crete@fco.gov.uk

Open to the public - by appointment only

Tuesday to Thursday, 09:00 to 13:00.

Please note that an appointment is not necessary for emergency cases requiring consular assistance.
Telephone enquiries - Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 15:00.

In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600 and follow the automated instructions.

Travel Editions Group Ltd

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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