

# The Best of Crete!

September 23<sup>rd</sup>-October 11<sup>th</sup> 2023



*Arrive September 24th: To Athens International Airport. Overnight stay at the Athens Sofitel Airport Hotel(not included in the package)*

*September 25th: We will have a morning departure from Athens International Airport to fly to Chania, Crete. (domestic flights not include but will book as a group rate when available)*

*September 25-29th: Four night stay at Casa Delfino, Chania. Breakfast is included. This luxurious Boutique Hotel, housed in a 17th Century Venetian Mansion which used to be a private home of the Family Delfino. Remaining in the family for six generations now. It is located in the walled Old Town of Chania, just moments from the waterfront, with its chic restaurants , shops, & cafes.*

*September 26th: 9:30 AM We will set off from the hotel with a private transfer to see the beautiful “5<sup>th</sup> Generation” Biolea Estate, producing organic olive oil, then to Karavitakis Winery for a wine tasting and tour. We will then head to the Gramvousa Restaurant in Kaliviani traditional village for an amazing traditional Cretan lunch. (lunch is not included in the tour).*



*September 27<sup>th</sup>: Take time to yourself to explore Chania’s waterfront and old town. A trip to the Central Market is a must or just relaxing on one of the beaches is a nice way to spend your day!*

*September 28th: We will depart from our accommodations at 9:00 AM and transfer to Marathi Bay for our half day boat excursion to the most remote beaches on Creta, followed by a beautiful late afternoon lunch at Patrelantonis Seaside Taverna, where we will have a lovely traditional lunch. We will then return by transfer back to our accommodations. (Excursion, transfers and lunch are included in the tour).*







*A view from Patrelantonis Taverna*



*September 29<sup>th</sup>: Wake up to your last morning in Chania. After breakfast , a private transfer to the Omalos Plateau, to start our trekking adventure. (transfer included).*

*September 29<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>: We will arrive at Omalos, midday. Once we arrive on the Plateau we will check in at our lodging “Agriorodo” Traditional Homes, for our lovely stay up high in the White Mountains of Crete!*

*After lunch and depending on your energy level, you have several choices for hikes. One that will take approx. 5 hours, or one that will be approx. 3 hours. ( breakfasts and dinners included in this stay)*



*September 30<sup>th</sup>: After breakfast we will walk up the road to Xiloskalo, which is the entrance to the famous Samaria Gorge! We will then do a day hike up Linoselli (Gingilos Peak Trek). This is a beautiful hike and the scenery is fantastic. The path is moderately difficult, but well-marked. This hike will take 4-6 hours depending how far you desire to go. You can stop at Linoselli Saddle or go for the Peak. (Breakfast & Dinner included).*

*October 1st: After breakfast we will walk to the entrance of the Samaria Gorge, where we will hike down the gorge, with plenty of opportunities to stop and rest. This is a beautiful foot path. It is shaded mostly by conifers - Cypress & Calabrian Pine. This will be an all day hike down to the Libyan Sea. The Samaria Gorge is world famous for it's unbelievable beauty! At the end of our journey through the gorge, we will be greeted by the Libyan Sea, where we will be staying for two nights. ( the hike down the gorge to our next accommodations will be approx. 9.85 miles).*

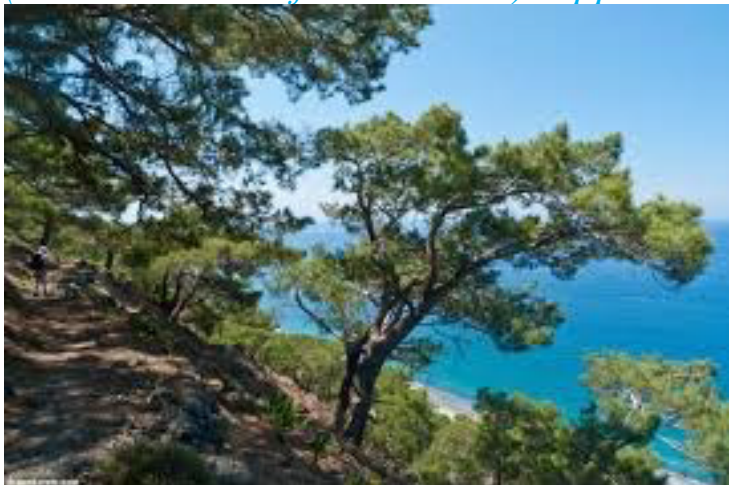


*October 1-3rd: Agia Roumeli, at Artemis Studios. Where our Breakfasts, dinners, and one lunch are included. Agia Roumeli is a seaside village...Fantastic walks up and down the coast are here...or just taking in the Libyan Sea, is not so bad either. There is also an opportunity to learn all about the Family Rousso, who we will be staying with. He is 4th generation Bee Keeper, and produces the most honey that comes out of Crete and a percentage of his honey is exported to Germany. We call him the “Bee Whisperer” .*





*October 3rd: After breakfast we will be given a picnic lunch to carry with us on our next part of the trek up the Selloudha Escarpment... this will be an all day hike, leaving the seaside village and hiking along the coast for several hours until we reach another beautiful pine forest. We will end at the top of the escarpment with the last 45 minutes or so on the kalderimi(ancient stone steps). Once on top we will have a break and eat lunch and continue our walk for several hours more to our next accommodations in the village of Anapoli with the Family Kopasis. The accommodations are basic; comfortable and the food is very traditional. (Dinner & Breakfast included). Approx. hiking distance 14 Miles.*



*October 4th: After our breakfast we will set off by foot back down to the Libyan Sea for our next three night stay at the beautiful village of Loutro! This is a beautiful walk with commanding views of the Libyan*

*Sea as we descend to Loutro. We will stop along the way and see the beautiful little chapel of Agia Ekaterini, which is perched up on the cliff..looking down at Loutro!*

*Hike to Loutro from Anapoli Village 6 miles.*



*October 4<sup>th</sup>-October 6<sup>th</sup>: Three night stay with breakfast included. We will be staying at Akroyiali Rooms. It is perched up on the top of the bay of Loutro. Beautiful little spot run by a wonderful Greek family.*

*While in Loutro, there are many things to do; hiking, swimming, paddling and a must visit is to either paddle or hike to Marmara Beach to swim into the caves and enjoy the views. This is one of my favorite spots on the island!*





*October 7th: We will leave after breakfast to catch a ferry to Chora Sfaklion. This is another village on the sea. It is about a 45 min ferry ride to disembarkation. Once there we will be picked up and transferred to Thalori Traditional Village, where we will be staying for four nights with Marcos and his lovely wife Popi. The transfer is approx. 3 hours by van. The architecture here is so unique and beautiful. The village is perched up high and has fantastic views of the sea as well as the Askifou Range. One amazing peak “Kofinas” that looks like the Matterhorn, stands off in the distance, we will have the opportunity to climb! The ancient Minoan Civilization is heavily prevalent here ! Fantastic history.*



*October 7th-October 11th:*

*Four nights at Thalori.*

*Breakfasts & Dinners included. Here you will have time to hike, view archaeological sites, visit the Koudoumas Monastery, the ruins of seven minoan settlements, numerous Byzantine & post- Byzantine Chapels. Also for adventure seekers we will have canyoning, horseback riding, to name a few of the activities available. Swimming at the sea as well at Thalori in their beautiful pool. This is truly an amazing spot!!*

*October 11th: We will depart after breakfast for Heraklion International Airport for our return flights to the USA. Depending on your international travel you might need to stay overnight again at the Sofitel or possibly book an evening flight back to the USA.*

*\*This trip can be combined with my Mountains of Greece or Pelion Trip following directly before and after this tour.*

*\*Price per person for the above itinerary excluding international and domestic flights, hotel stay before and after the tour, and any additional meals that are not stated above. Single supplement is available as well. Price is based on double occupancy. \$3500 for the tour. A deposit of \$1000 is due upon booking. All payments are non refundable. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure.*

*Payments are to be made to: Stef Woods  
Please call with questions at 208-315-5536 or to reserve your spot today!  
Trip is limited to 12 spaces total!*





