The Hellenic Odyssey

AWAKEN YOUR SENSES

SMALL GROUP TRAVEL TOURS

CRETE, GREECE TRAVEL BROCHURE

ABOUT OUR TOURS

Our tours are an immersive cultural and culinary travel experience. Transformative in nature and aimed at promoting connection with oneself, others and the world. Designed to provide an escape from the noise that can at times block clarity. The experience will allow you to leave behind your everyday routine so you get a proper chance to reset, recharge and reconnect. By travelling with likeminded people in natural surrounds, you can get inspired and focus on the things you truly want.

Our ideal traveller is one who wants to explore Crete as a visitor, not as a tourist. One who is willing to become intertwined with the locals and who will immerse themselves in the experiences.

Our ideal traveller will understand that our tours are different.

BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Small groups
- Fully escorted by us and complimented by knowledgeable local guides
- Tour hosts that care about you as an individual
- Carefully created and well balanced itinerary
- Every detail of your tour is taken care of (you just need show up and experience it)
- Free time to explore independently
- Travel and share experiences with like-minded people
- Authentic and cultural regional experiences
- Unique food and wine experiences
- Meet passionate and hospitable producers





SMALL GROUPS

Our tours are based on small group numbers to create a more personalised experience. We really want the opportunity to get to know you and for you to get to know us and others. We are not bound by rigid time schedules so we're never in a rush. We promote slow travel. We give you the opportunity to form friendships, to share memories, laughter, conversation and experiences. Our tours are holistic in nature. They are designed to inspire and to rejuvenate but they are mainly based around food, travel, culture and connection (both social and community).

On our tours, you will meet friendly open minded people of all ages, genders, nationalities and backgrounds. One of the best parts of our tours is the diversity of people who come together over a love of travel, food, and slow living. Whatever type of traveller you are, you'll be sure to connect with new people. We give you the flexibility and freedom of independent travel without the risks as you travel in the safety of the group.

We provide you with the opportunity to make this tour, your tour. Whatever your motivation is in joining us, whether it's purely because you want to get away in the comfort of a group environment or you are seeking to have a transformative journey, you will have the time and the tools to have the experience that you want; that you dream of.

We hope that you are as excited as we are at the prospect of joining our travel tour. This is your opportunity to do something special for you. You'll be so glad you chose The Hellenic Odyssey to share your next adventure with and we can't wait to welcome you!



WHERE ARE THE TOURS HELD?

Let us introduce you to the largest of the Greek islands. Crete! Experience the culture and culinary delights of the region with our 8 days/7 nights, The Best of Chania Tour, including a day trip to the neighbouring town of Rethymno.

The region of Chania is renowned for its produce, varying landscapes and historic harbour side. We will take you to the main sights of Chania to explore the history of the town. Sample the produce at the local market and agora. Venture out to Vouves to see the oldest olive tree and then continue onto the Kolymvari region to visit an Olive oil refinery.

Chania offers a variety of natural surroundings, from spending the day at the stunning Balos beach in the Kissamos region, to the beauty of the countryside village of Theriso for beautiful walks, goat spotting and lovely tavernas. The city of Rethymno which is only an hour's drive out is also very charming and picturesque.

WHO ARE OUR TOURS DESIGNED FOR?

Our tours are not targeted towards a specific age group or a traveller type. We do not differentiate among travellers. Everyone is welcome. Our travellers are like-minded and are taking part for the same reasons. They are seeking to relax, unwind, enjoy local experiences and connect with new people.

We have created an itinerary designed to be inclusive for all. If you are a traveller who is single, independent, solo, retired, young, mature aged, senior, introverted or extroverted or for travellers who are a couple, a family or whatever your situation, everyone is welcome and fits in beautifully. People are more often travelling alone or have partners who do not like travel, so a need for greater traveller options has arisen.

WHAT ARE THE TOURS ABOUT?

Our tours are for a unique kind of traveller, one who is seeking something more. We would like for you to experience the tour as if you are travelling among friends. We have incorporated experiences with a 'live like a local' focus; what the locals do, where and how they eat, how they socialise and how they live.

Our concept is based on showcasing Chania through a cultural and culinary lens. We want to preserve the art of traditional cooking and uphold cultural values. The focus is on a slower paced mode of travel in order to nurture relationships and to really engage in the activities. Our aim is to revel in nature's scenery and to take our time to enjoy and be present in all that we see and do. We venture off the beaten track and embrace all things local.

We have conducted a vast amount of research and personally participated in the activities that we have included in this tour, to ensure they align with The Hellenic Odyssey's values. We have narrowed it down to the 'best of the best' experiences and those that brought us the most joy. We've kept travel time to a minimum and organised it in a way to provide the greatest insights into Chania, its people, the culture and the food without compromising on the experience of slow mindful travel.



STAY

We stay at a centrally located 4 star property which offers a warm and inviting ambience. The hotel is situated very close to 1866 Square, the main bus stop and Chania Market. It is a short walk from the Old Town, the Venetian Harbour and the main attractions making it an ideal base to explore from. We stay here for the entire time, so you unpack only once.

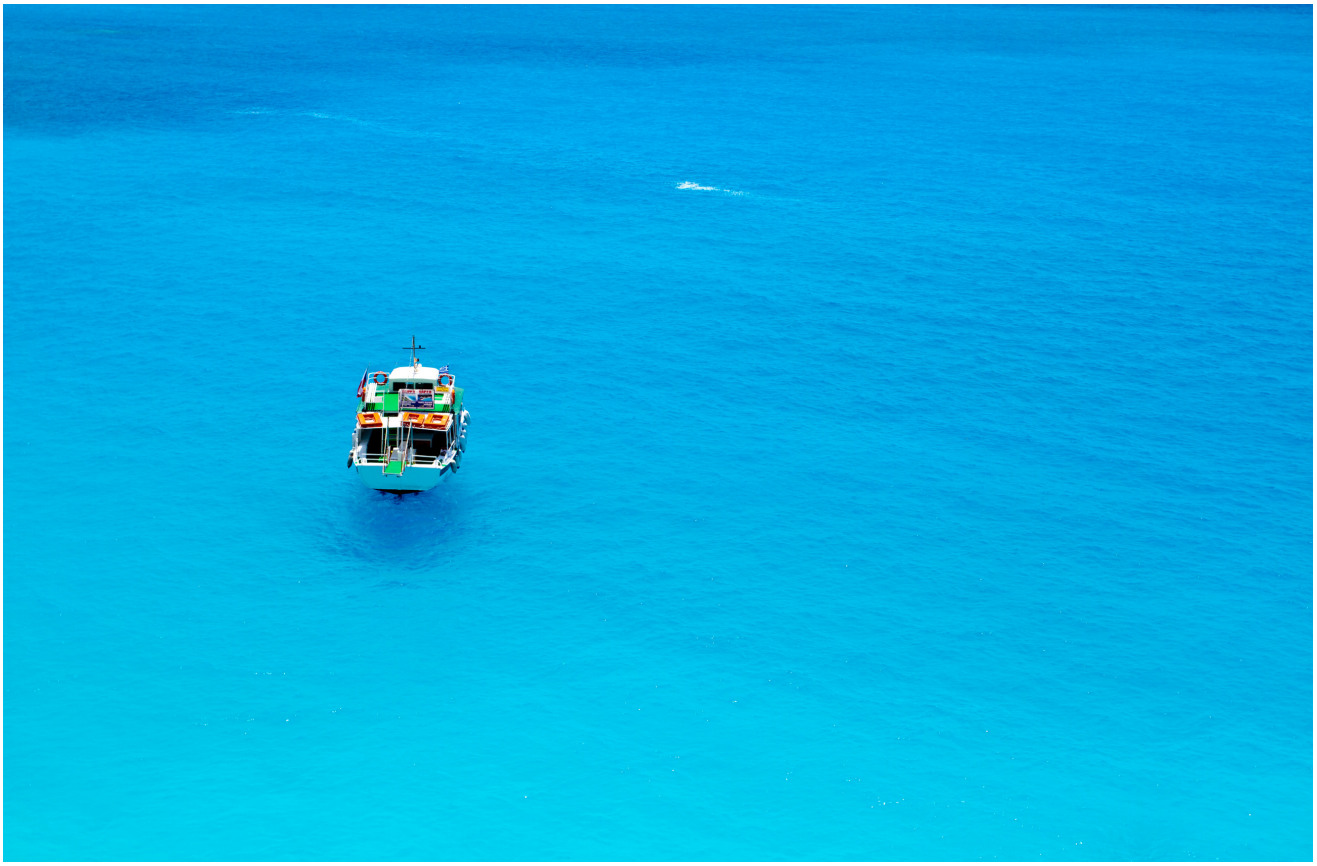


TASTE

Throughout the tour you will meet producers who are passionate about their work and eager to share their stories. We visit carefully selected coffee shops, bakeries, wineries, and traditional restaurants. Extensive planning has gone into sourcing the best culinary experiences to ensure all dining is local, authentic and delicious. Together, with our cooking class host, we will prepare delicious dishes using ingredients collected from the garden and straight to the plate.

SURRENDER

Each day is planned in order to provide for some structure but there will be free time during the tour so you can explore Chania independently. If during the tour, we do see something exciting, we may stop to explore it, as it is these impromptu stops that are sometimes the most memorable. We don't want you to miss out on a rare opportunity to capture something truly special. We can also tailor our stops to suit the group and spend longer at places that we are enjoying.



SEEK

We will seek authentic and unique experiences by trying to 'live like the locals'. The aim is to have a journey of authentic experiences and genuine connections, but you will still explore all the major tourist attractions. After all they are popular for good reason.

DISCOVER

We expose you to the culture, values and traditions of the Cretans and you will discover for yourself what ‘philotimo’ truly means. You will discover how travelling at a slower pace allows you to observe more and gain a greater appreciation for things that often go unnoticed.



EXPLORE

The unique opportunities that we will explore will leave you with fond and lasting memories. The Cretans are so proud to show off their food and culture and this will give you an insight into how they choose to live. You will also treasure the relationships that you form during your travels and meet a variety of people who will make this experience truly unique.



ITINERARY



INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation for 7 nights
- Welcome drinks on arrival
- Daily Cretan breakfast
- Some lunches and dinners
- Private transport
- Town centre guided tours in Chania and Rethymno (Rethymno not part of short tour)
- Nature walk to Holy Monastery
- Visit to Vouves to see the oldest olive tree
- Olive Oil Refinery tour in the Kolymvari region
- Day trip to the he unparalleled Gramvoussa, Balos beach
- Visit to the countryside town of Theriso
- Olive farm visit
- Winery tour at local vineyard
- Cretan dancing
- Cretan cooking class
- Farewell dinner

PRICE

$3, 999 for 7 nights
$2, 299 for 4 nights (tour ends on day 4)

EXCLUSIONS

- Flights
- Airport transfers
- Travel insurance and any other associated insurances
- Meals/Drinks not stated in the itinerary, tips, entrance fees not stated in the itinerary, optional excursions, other goods and services not stated in the itinerary.

PLEASE NOTE

- Terms and conditions apply
- A certain level of fitness is required to do this tour as many of the places we visit are located in mountainous areas and the streets are cobbled and steep with many steps.
- Itinerary is subject to weather conditions and force majeure. Should events beyond our control prevent us from undertaking a particular activity, we will endeavour to find an appropriate alternative. Please read our terms and conditions for full details.
- You don't need to have a keen interest in cooking to enjoy this tour as classes or demonstrations are conducted as a group activity and participation is voluntary.