



Escorted Tour – A Gastronomic Cretan Odyssey



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING:

BROCHURE CODE: 5997
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

As part of a small group, escorted tour we would like to welcome you to a delectable journey through the vibrant flavours of Crete! This isn't just a holiday; it is a sensory voyage, a chance to explore the rich history and culture of Crete through its cuisine. Sample dishes that reflect the sun-drenched olive groves, fertile valleys, and the invigorating Aegean Sea whilst creating your own memories of this fascinating island and its legendary past.



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London Gatwick to Heraklion
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers, all accommodation and activity transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in Hotel Marin (or similar hotel) Heraklion, 3 nights in Arkadi Hotel (or similar hotel) Chania
- **Meals:** 7 Breakfasts, 5 lunches and 1 dinner
- **The following are included in the holiday price:** Welcome dinner in a restaurant by the Venetian harbour, visit Heraklion open-air market, hands-on cooking class and lunch at Arolithos village, Heraklion town and museum tour, visit to Knossos, lunch at Arhanes Village and visits to Lyarakis and Boutari wineries, visit to Vassilakis olive oil farm, lunch at Agios Nikolaos, cheese making demonstration at Anogeia village, "antikristo" barbecue lamb lunch, tour of Rethymno with baklava tasting, visit to Agia Triada monastery and Venizeloi graves, lunch by the Venetian harbour in Chania and Chania city and market tour
- Fully qualified English speaking guide throughout
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

This tour is an invitation to discover Crete, one delicious bite at a time. Together with like-minded food lovers and a knowledgeable and passionate local guide, you will venture beyond the beaches and usual tourist spots to discover traditional villages, meet passionate food producers and sample authentic recipes with each experience revealing more of Crete's culture and history.

Undoubted highlights of your trip will be the taste of Antikristo, slow cooked barbecue lamb prepared in a unique, centuries old way and visits to wineries, an olive oil farm, a traditional cheese makers and seeing how scrumptious baklava is prepared and yes, you can try some! You will also pick up new skills in a cooking class in the charming village of Arolithos and visit some of the most important sites on the island, such as Knossos, Agia Triada monastery and the venetian harbours of Heraklion and Chania.

So, open your minds, loosen your belts, and get ready to embark on a gastronomic adventure you

won't soon forget!

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL IN HERAKLION AND WELCOME DINNER ON THE VENETIAN HARBOUR

On arrival you will be greeted by your guide and taken to your hotel in central Heraklion. This evening you will have the chance to get to know one another as you dine by the Venetian harbour. All included meals on the itinerary will include a water and a glass of wine or beer. Additional drinks will be at the guest's expense.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

HERAKLION OPEN AIR MARKET, COOKERY CLASS IN AROLITHOS AND TOUR OF HERAKLION TOWN AND MUSEUM

This morning you will immerse yourself in the Heraklion open-air market before taking a cookery class in the Arolithos artisan village. The village was created to preserve the traditional lifestyle, arts and of course gastronomy of the island. You will learn how to cook authentic dishes during your hands on lesson. You will also take lunch here and then round off your afternoon with a tour of Heraklion and its museum.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
3

ANOGEIA VILLAGE FOR CHEESE MAKING AND TASTING, ANTIKRISTO LUNCH AND TOUR OF RETHYMNO INCLUDING A VISIT TO HATZIPARASXOS BAKERY

Today you will leave Heraklion and spend the next few nights in Chania. On route you will visit Anogeia to observe cheese making and of course sample the goods too!

Lunch is a real highlight today as it includes the famous barbecued lamb dish antikristo. A traditional and skilled cooking technique perfected by countless generations of shepherd results in the most flavoursome and succulent lamb.

Please do leave some room though, as this afternoon your tour of Rethymno will include a stop at the famous Hatziparassos bakery to see their skilled pastry work their pastry magic turning phyllo into decadent baklava.

On arrival at Chania you will check into your hotel for the night.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
4

FREE DAY

Today has been left free for you to spend as you wish. You can relax at the hotel, explore more of Chania or make your way to one of its beaches (famous for being the best on the island).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
5

AGIA TRIADA MONASTERY AND THE VENIZELOI GRAVES, SEAFOOD LUNCH
IN CHANIA AND TOUR OF CHANIA AND ITS MARKET

Agia Triada Monastery is an impressive example of the Byzantine architectural style and has been home to a community of Orthodox monks for over 400 years. Whatever your own creed or beliefs it is impossible not to absorb some of the serenity of their way of life when you visit. The community also produces and sell their own olive oil and wine.

On route to Chania for a seafood lunch on the Venetian harbour, you will stop at the Venizeloi graves to take in the panoramic views over the city. After lunch, you will take a tour of the city and visit the market.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
6

VISIT TO KNOSSOS, LUNCH AT ARHANES VILLAGE AND VISIT TO LYRARAKIS
WINERY FOR TASTING

It is time to leave Chania today, in order to spend your last two nights in Heraklion. You will also uncover Crete's ancient past with a visit to the world renowned archaeological site of Knossos, before continuing to the beautifully restored village of Arhanes which itself has a history going back over 5000 years. You will enjoy lunch in this traditional rural village surrounded by olive groves and vineyards before visiting the Lyrarakis winery to taste three local wines. You will check in to your hotel in Heraklion at the end of the afternoon.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
7

OLIVE OIL TASTING AT VASSILAKIS ESTATE, VISIT TO AGIOS NIKOLAOS AND
BOUTARI WINERY FOR TASTING

Today you will learn about olive oil production at the family run Vassilakis estate. Olive trees have been cultivated in the Mirambello valley for over 3000 years, and it is for this reason that there has been a settlement in the area since 800 BC. The Vassilakis family have operated their olive mill for over 150 years, a much smaller number but impressive all the same.

The beautiful coastal town of Agios Nikolaos has its own long past, occupying the site of the ancient city of Kamara. You will enjoy a tour of the town and the famous lake at its centre before taking lunch at a restaurant overlooking the lake. Following lunch you will visit the Boutari winery to taste three of their wines.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Sadly, your delicious Cretan adventure concludes today and you will be transferred back to Heraklion airport. It is also possible to arrange a private transfer to Chania airport for a supplement if you wish – please speak to one of our travel experts.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation Notes

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Due to the pressure on hotel rooms and the fact that we have to accommodate a group of travellers in the best and most appropriate accommodation possible, we do reserve the right on rare occasions to change the hotel (and in very rare circumstances the location) if necessary. This will always be on a like for like basis in terms of hotel quality and location and will not impact the itinerary in any way – for example a comparable hotel in Rethymno may be offered instead of Chania.

Included Accommodation

Hotel Marin (or Similar) Heraklion (Nights: 1-2,6-7)



Located in the centre of town and close to the seafront, the Marin Hotel offers views of Heraklion's Venetian harbour and the sea from its rooftop restaurant. The Marin is a modern hotel and boasts amenities which including free Wi-Fi, a buffet breakfast and a variety of on-site dining options with a café and snack bar in addition to the restaurant. The hotel is conveniently located near historical attractions like the Koules Fortress and the Museum of the Battle for Crete.

ROOM TYPE

The standard double rooms are between 20-22 square metres with a city view and king size bed. Featured services are air conditioning, a mini bar, hair dryer, a safe, satellite TV and even a pillow menu!

Hotel Arkadi (or similar) Chania (Nights: 3-5)



The Arkadi Hotel is situated in the centre of Chania and is close to the Old Town, the market and Venetian harbour. There is a ground floor restaurant serving a mediterranean breakfast and a bar on the mezzanine floor.

ROOM TYPE

The standard double and twin rooms are recently renovated in a modern style and have a furnished balcony. The ensuite bathrooms contain a shower and toiletries, air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi, a kettle with coffee/tea facilities (upon request), a safety deposit box, a small fridge and a telephone.

The Specifics

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>

Minimum travellers 10, Maximum travellers 20