

## ***3 NIGHTS ATHENS & 4 NIGHTS CRETE SPECIAL PACKAGE***

### **Itinerary**

**Day 1** Arrival to Athens Airport, meet and greet with our representative and transfer to the hotel for check in.

Free afternoon at leisure

Overnight

**Day 2** After breakfast meet at the hotel lobby with our professional licensed English speaking guide and proceed for Athens city tour

#### ***The Acropolis and the new Acropolis Museum***

This tour gives you an opportunity to observe the striking contrasts that make Athens such a fascinating city. Our expert guides will take you to see the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of modern times were held in 1896 (short stop). Continue and pass by the Prime Minister's residence (ex Royal Palace) guarded by the Euzones in their colorful uniform, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the University, the National Library, the Constitution Square (Syntagma). On the Acropolis visit the Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally "the harmony between material and spirit", the monument that "puts order in the mind", the Parthenon. Continue and visit the place where at last the statues found their home and admire the wonders of the classical era: The new Acropolis museum.

Overnight

**Day 3** Free day at leisure

Or

Optional Full day shopping in Mc Arthur Glen Shopping mall -lunch and Cape sounion tour

Drive along the coastal road, passing the wonderful beaches of Glyfada, Vouliagmeni & Varkiza to the most Southern point of Attica, Cape Sounion, where the white marble pillars of the Temple of Poseidon stand. On the way, you have a splendid view of the Saronic Gulf and the little islands offshore. After visiting the Temple of Poseidon, you have time to walk at leisure on the rocky promontory of Sounion.

**Day 4** After breakfast and check out, transfer from the hotel to Piraeus port for embarkation on board to Crete Island by Standard ferry MINOAN LINES ferry at 21:00, arrival to Heraklion at 06:00 in the morning and transfer to the hotel for check in

Overnight

**Day 5** free day at leisure in Crete

Or

Optional KNOSSOS & CITY TOUR HERAKLION

A visit to Crete is incomplete without visiting the renowned Minoan Palace of Knossos! This fabulous site is dating back 4.000 ago. Two brilliant palaces built in Neolithic times... Visit the room of the throne and the frescoes depicting the Prince of Crete. Every single stone suggests that a great civilization was born in this very place. Dating from 2000 BC this site remains one of the wonders of the world. Afterwards you will discover the capital town of Crete, Heraklion. The town of Heraklion is the largest urban centre of Crete and the economic centre of the island. During the Minoan period the town of Heraklion served as a port to Knossos. Currently it's population is approximately 160.000. Since the Minoan period the town of Heraklion became the host of varied cultures and civilizations whose indelible marks are visible in the form of fountains, castles, walls, palaces, and other monuments. Heraklion is a heaven for architects and historians, as well as a cosmopolitan town, particularly during the summer period when thousands of visitors can be seen shopping in the market or visiting the museums. The city has a lot to offer to those who are in search of culture and entertainment. After enjoying

your free time the bus will pick you up at 17:00 to bring you back to the hotel.

**Day 6** Free day at leisure in Heraklion

Or

Optional ARKADI – RETHYMNON TOUR

Drive along the coastal road to the prefecture of Rethymnon. Visit the settlement of Arkadi where the homonymous monastery of great importance for Cretan people is located. Built on the edge of a fertile upland, the monastery bears a long time history. In 1866 during the Ottoman domination it became the symbol of freedom when monks, citizens and Cretan fighters locked inside burned it down to avoid enslavement. The museum hosted in its premises unfolds its history piece by piece. Next stop is the picturesque Mediterranean town of Rethymnon, characterised by its unique Renaissance architecture, the Venetian fortress Fortezza and the old harbour. Enjoy a city tour in the old town and relax in one of its various cafes by the sea. The seductive personality of Rethymnon will surely bewitch you. Afterwards free time for shopping.

**Day 7** Free day at leisure in Heraklion

Or

Optional Land Trip Safari

This day is the perfect way to explore the central part of Crete with two different plateaus, mythology and lots of information about Crete and the local life. The first stop is a photographic opportunity on a mountain top where we have a panoramic view of both side's of the island, the Cretan Sea and the Libyan Sea. The journey continues to the plateau of Katharo passing through the biggest Forrest on the island, where the roads are non-existent and the mountains reach a height of 1.500 metres and there will be a refreshment stop at a local kafenion somewhere in this wilderness!! You then continue through dirt tracks, goat valley and across rivers, this is where the journey really gets exiting. The next stop gives you the opportunity to take photos from a helicopter view of the Lassithi Plateau from where we drop down to the plateau for your lunch, with unlimited wine. After lunch we take you back in time during the visit of the Eco Park where you can see local crafts being made as they were in olden times. Afterwards the tour passes by Zeus's cave (Dikti cave) where mythology says that Zeus, the father of all the gods was born. On our way to Seli, where once again we have an opportunity to take photos of this unique scenery. As you continue driving, you will reach the village of Krassi, which is famous for a 2,000-year-old plane tree and also has a natural spring water

source. Heading back you will pass through the area of Selinari where you will see vultures, which are now an endangered species. This is a day full of surprises. You certainly won't forget your fun day out on this great adventure.

**Day 8** After breakfast and check out, transfer depending the departure time to the Airport for your Domestic flight to Athens connecting with the flight back home.

Package includes:

- ❖ Accommodation 3 nights in Athens on BB basis
- ❖ Accommodation 4 nights in Crete on All Inclusive basis
- ❖ Round trip transfers by Deluxe AC Coach incl Escort service in Athens
- ❖ Round trip transfers by Deluxe AC Coach incl Escort service in Crete
- ❖ Athens City tour incl English speaking guide, entrance fees to Acropolis and new museum
- ❖ Cabin ferry ticket in Minoan Line ferry 21:00-06:00(next morning)
- ❖ All taxes

Package not including:

- ❖ Personal Expenses
- ❖ Optional Tours (on request)
- ❖ Anything is not mentioned in the itinerary