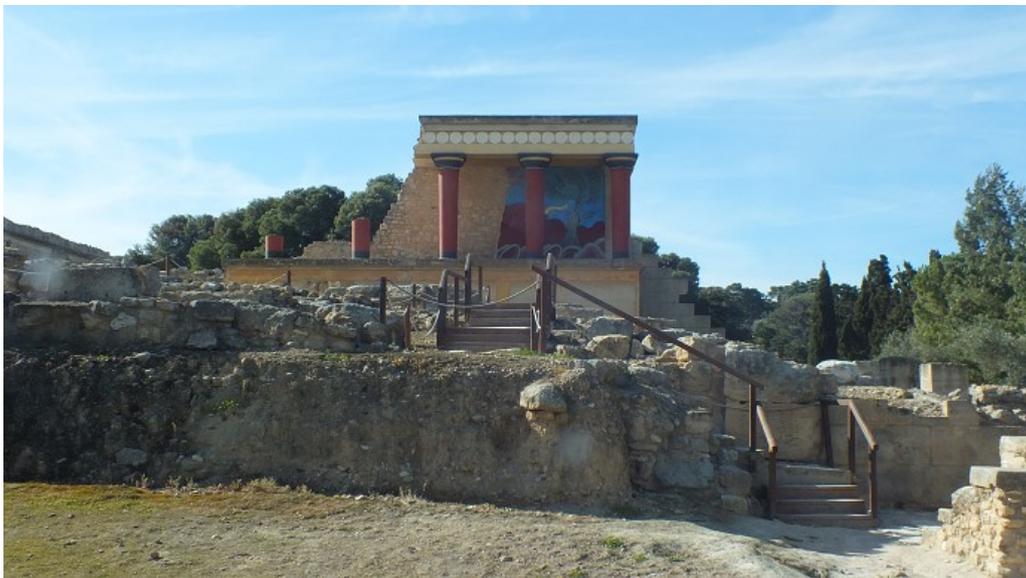


Majestic Crete

A journey through time at the
birthplace of the first European
literate civilization



Knossos

Saturday 01 - Sunday 09 October 2022

SATURDAY 01 OCTOBER 2022

We will depart on a scheduled British Airways flight from London Heathrow to Heraklion, due to depart at 09.50 and arrive in Heraklion at 15.55 local time. We will be accompanied on our flight by our tour lecturer, Gillian Hovell, 'The Muddy Archaeologist'. *(Please note that flights times may be subject to change).*

On arrival in Heraklion, Crete, we will meet our Greek local expert and transfer to our centrally located hotel. After check-in there will be an orientation briefing and introduction by our local expert.

Welcome **dinner** at the hotel.

SUNDAY 02 OCTOBER 2022

After breakfast, we enjoy a **morning lecture** entitled *The Minoan civilization*, after which we walk to the Heraklion **Archaeological Museum** for a fascinating and comprehensive visit through the Minoan age. Light souvlaki **lunch** accompanied by local beer or a soft drink at a local restaurant.

This afternoon we walk through the historical centre of Heraklion. We enter the imposing **St. Minas Orthodox Cathedral**, one of the largest cathedrals in Greece, and continue with a visit of the beautiful nearby **old church of St. Minas**. Adjacent, stands the Venetian church of **St. Catherine's of Sinai**, an offshoot of the monastery of the same name, and a centre of intellectual and artistic activity from the 15th to the 17th century. This is the place where it is believed El Greco first studied art. Today it is used as the **Museum of Christian Art** with a remarkable collection of byzantine icons.



Heraklion Harbour

We continue walking to the heart of the historical centre of the city and reach the **Lions Square** where the famous **Morozini fountain** is located. We pass the **old Venetian church of Aghios Markos**, which dates from the 13th century, currently playing host to all sorts of cultural events. Nearby is the **Venetian Loggia**, one of the most elegant buildings in Heraklion. Built as a private club for Venetian nobles, today it is used as the City Hall. We visit the impressive **St. Titus church** built in AD 961 by the Byzantine Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas and renowned for its stained-glass windows. It served as the island's Metropolitan See before being transformed into a mosque during the Ottoman rule.

We continue on foot along the 25th of August Street known for its beautiful neo-classical buildings, and reach the **old Venetian harbour** where today small fishing boats are moored in the old dry docks. However, what will really catch our eye here is **Koules**, the small castle out on the pier built by the Venetians in the 16th century.

We return to the hotel for our free evening for independent dining. Recommendations will be provided and you will be welcome, if you wish, to join our expert, Gillian, at one of the recommended locations.

MONDAY 03 OCTOBER 2022

After breakfast, Gillian shares with us how to visit **Knossos** with an archaeologist's eye-view, before we depart by coach to this fantastic site, which was the largest, oldest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete, and the centre of the Minoan civilization. The economic, social and cultural acme of this settlement led to the construction of the majestic Palace of Knossos at the end of the second millennium BC. This Palace was imposing in size (10,000 square meters/107,600 square feet on the ground floor alone) and included hostels, outside baths, sanctuaries, workshop for the palace decoration and grooming, food stores, kings' rooms, throne room, adjutants' shelters, and banquet halls, all linked by innumerable stairs and terraces. Enjoy an in-depth visit of this site excavated by Sir Arthur Evans and stroll around its impressive remains.

We follow the beautiful country road which leads to the interior of the island. Enjoy lovely views of the endless vineyards and savour one of the most important wine regions of Crete, where since the Minoan times, excellent wine was produced! Reach the **village of Archanes** where we are planning **lunch** at a local restaurant serving traditional dishes and regional wine.

After **lunch** we walk through the village centre, which has deep roots in Minoan antiquity and is renowned for the architectural style of its buildings. We will also arrange a meeting **with a known ceramist**, an artist who specializes in creating museum reproductions of the Minoan and the Mycenaean art.

On our drive back to Heraklion, we visit the **grave of Nikos Kazantzakis**, one of the most important Greek writers, poets and philosophers of the 20th century. He became famous during the last years of his life, when he published, among others, *Zorba the Greek*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Freedom and Death*, *The Greek Passion (or Christ Recrucified)*, and his autobiography *Report to Greco*.

Return to the hotel for a free evening. Dinner is not included but our guide will provide recommendations. Again, Gillian will be happy to accompany all or some of you for conversation over dinner.

TUESDAY 04 OCTOBER 2022

Today we drive to southern Crete. First we visit **ancient Gortyn** that was one of the oldest and strongest cities in Crete during the prehistoric and historic period. The significance of the great ancient city of Gortyn is recognized and recorded in its rich mythological and religious tradition. The population of ancient Gortyn is believed to be 300.000 people. The Gortynians occupied Phaistos during the 3rd century BC but during the Roman period the city reached the peak of its glory becoming the capital of Crete.



Phaistos Disc

The Odeon of the ancient city was the place where parts of the great Law Code of Gortyn were discovered. The Gortyn Law was inscribed on stones and constituted relics of great importance for the study of the epigraphy and Law of the time. The inscription is in a Dorian dialect and was written at the end of the 6th century BC.

We continue to Phaistos, one of the most important centres of the Minoan civilization, and the most wealthy

and powerful city in southern Crete. It was the second largest palace of Crete after Knossos, commanding the fertile Messara plain, as well as its two ports, Matala and Kommos.

According to mythology, Phaistos was the seat of King Radamanthys, brother of King Minos. It was here that the unique “Phaistos Disc” was found. We proceed to the **village of Vori**, a rural village with a true Cretan character. Due to its unique beauty and historical importance, the Ministry of Culture of Greece designated it as ‘a traditional protected village’ in 1978.

Here we visit the exquisite **Museum of Cretan Ethnology**, which offers a well-rounded exhibition of the cultural and traditional life on Crete. In 1992 the Museum exhibition won the European Museum of the Year Award from the Council of Europe.

We visit the central square and enjoy some free time for tasting the local raki and local gruyere cheese. We continue our drive to **Matala**, a safe natural harbour on the **Bay of Messara**, the place in legend where Zeus swam ashore in the guise of a bull with Europa on his back. Matala is identified with the man-made caves carved out of the rock thousands of years ago in the steep cliffs that rise above the north side of the bay and beach. Spend the afternoon enjoying a magnificent swim in the crystal clear waters of the **Libyan Sea!**

Early evening we will enjoy a delicious **dinner** at a seaside restaurant including wine. We return to Heraklion for overnight accommodation.

WEDNESDAY 05 OCTOBER 2022

Today we explore eastern Crete. Our drive along the north coast offers panoramic views to the Cretan Sea. The region of **Lasithi** is the easternmost region of Crete boasting spectacular sights, and fascinating historical sites. It is also a place of great natural beauty.

Our destination is the archaeological site of **Gournia**, which was a regional production centre of bronze tools and weapons, domestic objects, pottery and stone vases,. It was also a trade centre between other parts of the

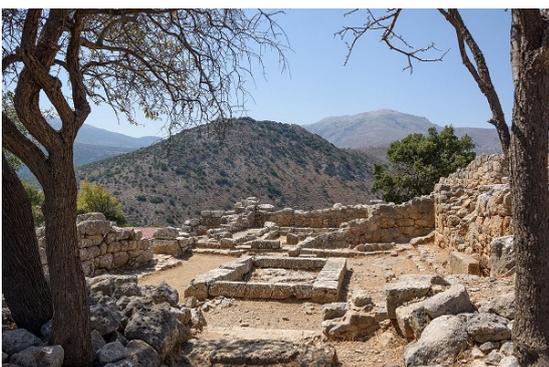
Aegean and the Near East, and the palatial administrative centre for the **Mirabello** region. Possessing some 50 well-preserved houses, a system of cobbled streets, a central court, a Minoan palace, and cemetery, Gournia gives the visitor the best picture of what a Late Bronze Age (1500 BC) town looked like.



Ancient Gournia

Driving by the town of **Aghios Nikolaos** we reach ancient **Lato**, nestling in the mountains of eastern Crete, in a highly defensible position, on a double acropolis. The city was presumably named after the goddess Leto, the mother of Apollo and Artemis. The remains of the ancient city are exceptionally well preserved. Most of the structures currently visible date to the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, so the Late Classical and Early Hellenistic periods.

We continue to the village of **Kritsa**, a traditional village with old houses and narrow streets on the **Dikti Mountains**. Here we will have the opportunity to meet with the “Ladies of Kritsa”, who have created a small cooperative and produce a variety of local delicacies. We will spend some time with them, see them at work and... taste their delicious creations while drinking some homemade raki!



Ancient Lato

In the afternoon we return to Heraklion. After a break, we enjoy Gillian’s brief talk on Crete as a Land of Myths before **dinner** at a renowned restaurant, housed in an old Venetian building, serving slow-cooked Cretan dishes and some excellent local wine.

THURSDAY 06 OCTOBER 2022

After **breakfast**, we depart with our luggage for western Crete. The first stop will be on the northwest slopes of Mount Ida, where eagles nest and the cradle of the greatest of the gods, Cretan-born Zeus, stood. This is where the **ancient city of Eleutherna** was revealed. We visit the museum and then proceed to the nearby village for free time for lunch.

We continue to the important archaeological site of **Armeni**, the largest known Minoan cemetery in Crete. It dates from the so-called late Minoan period (14th to 12th century BC), and has sections for rich people and graves for poor people. All tombs in Armeni were dug in the rock and consist of a corridor and the actual burial chamber.



Armeni Minoan Cemetery

We drive to **Rethymno**, one of Crete’s most enchanting cities, lying between the commanding bastions of its 15th-century fortress and the glittering azure waters of the Mediterranean. We walk through its **Venetian-Ottoman quarter** featured by a maze of lanes, beautiful stone doorways, and attractive balconies. We take a break to savour the **old Venetian Harbour**, where the 9m-high lighthouse has stood since the 1830s, when Egypt ruled Crete (Britain forced Egypt to give Crete back to the Turks in 1840). We drive on and check in to our hotel in Chania. Here we enjoy a group **dinner** with wine.

FRIDAY 07 OCTOBER 2022

After **breakfast**, we enjoy an orientation walk through this beautiful town. The historic centre of Chania with its **Venetian walls** defining the borders between the old and new city and its ramparts, has been designated as 'preserved'. The **harbour** had room for 40 galleys and its entrance was guarded by a beautiful lighthouse built by the Venetians in 1570. Stroll through the **old quarter** and visit the **old Romaniote synagogue**, and the distinctive **church of St. Nicholas**, which is the only church that preserves both a Christian bell tower and a Muslim minaret. We spend some time in the "**Agora**", the covered **Municipal market** built between 1909 and 1913 and modelled on the covered market of Marseilles. It is a vibrant part of the city and houses shops selling vegetables, fish, meat, herbs and spices, Cretan products such as cheeses, olives, raki and more.

Here we shall be treated to a local specialty, **bougatsa**, a pie prepared with thin, crispy phyllo, filled with Chaniot mizithra cheese and sprinkled with fine powdered sugar.



Old Port of Chania

After our delicious light **lunch**, we depart for the peninsula of **Akrotiri** for a visit to the impressive **monastery of Aghia Triada**. The Monastery was built in the byzantine style combining Renaissance architectural elements.

Driving back to Chania, we will pause at the **Profitis Ilias view point**, which offers some spectacular views to the city of Chania. On our return to the hotel, we have a free evening and dinner is not included.

SATURDAY 08 OCTOBER 2022

After breakfast, we take a beautiful drive along Crete's westernmost beautiful coast. Here we visit **Maleme**, mostly known as a landing site for German paratroopers invading Crete in 1941, at the start of the Battle of Crete (Operation Mercury) during World War II. There is a Royal Air Force memorial to the airmen of 30 and 33 Squadrons who died during the battle.

We continue to the **village of Ano Vouves** to see one of the oldest living monuments of Crete, the **ancient olive tree of Vouves**, which after more than 3000 years is still producing olives! In the 2004 Athens Olympics, branches from the tree were used to weave victor's wreaths for the winners of the games.

To complete our olive experience we will visit a **traditional olive oil pressing factory** to learn all about the olive oil production process, as well as to taste some of the finest quality organic olive oil. We return to Chania in the afternoon for some free time. We have our farewell **dinner** at a local restaurant including wine.

SUNDAY 09 OCTOBER 2022

After **breakfast** we will drive to the international airport of Heraklion for departure on a scheduled British airways flight to London Heathrow due to depart at 14.00 and arrive at Heathrow at 16.10 local time. *Please note that flights times may be subject to change*.

Please note that as this tour has been arranged many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary from the above.

Heritage
GROUP TRAVEL

The Muddy Archaeologist

Majestic Crete

TOUR PRICE

£2,950 per person sharing a twin/double room
£370 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

Return scheduled flights (London Heathrow to Heraklion)
5 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Heraklion
(in a locally rated 5 star hotel)
3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Chania
(in a locally rated 4 star hotel)
4 lunches and 5 dinners to be taken in local restaurants
2 glasses of wine (or soft drink) with all dinners
2 small bottles of water per driving day
All entrance fees to sites and visits as per the itinerary
All local coach transport as per the programme
Services of a local English speaking guide throughout
Services of Tour Lecturer, Gillian Hovell throughout
VOX audio guides
Porterage
All taxes

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote. *Please ensure that your insurance policy includes comprehensive cover for all Covid-19 related issues.*

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport: visas are not required for travel to Greece. Other Nationals should contact the Greek Embassy to confirm current visa requirements.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 20 participants

FLIGHTS

We anticipate using the following British Airways flights:
01/10/22 - Heathrow/Heraklion - 09.50 (15.55)
09/10/22 - Heraklion/Heathrow - 14.00 (16.10)

Please note that flight seats cannot be booked until we are in receipt of client deposits.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit of **£500** per person to **Heritage Group Travel** as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 01 April 2022**. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details, flight ticket and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by **Friday 08 July 2022**.

Please note that should ongoing difficulties with Covid-19 prevent the tour from materialising, your deposit will be refunded in full.

YOUR FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3707.

All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate



BOOKING CONDITIONS

Heritage Group Travel Ltd, which is hereinafter called "The Company", holds ATOL number 3707 and ABTOT licence number 5093.

The Client here means the person who makes a booking and any other persons included within that booking.

All arrangements made by The Company on behalf of The Client are subject to The Company's Booking Conditions as set out herein.

All arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions imposed by The Company's suppliers, including ferry companies, hotels, airlines, coach companies, insurance companies and other companies and / or individuals. The Company will accept responsibility for the actions/omissions of its employees. The Company will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all arrangements made are reliable and proper and that the suppliers of all relevant services are efficient and reputable. The Company will also accept responsibility for the actions/omissions of its agents, sub-contractors and suppliers within the scope of the contracted arrangements, subject to any limitations as laid down in international conventions which govern air, sea and land carriers. The Company will not accept responsibility for and will not be liable in respect of loss or damage or changes caused by Force Majeure events such as political unrest, civil unrest, hostilities, industrial disputes, technical problems, weather problems, traffic problems or any other such events beyond its control.

If for reasons beyond the control of The Company the arrangements cannot be fulfilled
The Company will make every effort to provide suitable alternative arrangements.

Payment/Cancellation Terms

The booking form sets out details of deposit payments, with dates by which deposits must be received in The Company's offices.

The booking details also show the dates by which the final balance must be received in The Company's offices. The Company reserves the right to cancel any arrangements made and retain any deposits received if the schedule of payments is not adhered to.

If for any reason The Client wishes to cancel the arrangements made then The Company must be notified in writing.

Cancellation charges will be made on the following scale:

Notice Period Cancellation Fee

More than 56 days before departure Loss of deposit(s)
56 to 29 days before departure 30% (or deposit(s) if greater)
28 to 15 days before departure 60%
14 days to day of departure 100%

NB. The above scale of cancellation charges does not apply where additional services (eg low-cost flights, concert tickets etc) are not included in the tour price. Any refund due will be based on the basic tour price only.

Your Financial Protection

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

Prices

Prices are based on a minimum number of participants as set out. If numbers do not reach the specified minimum by the balance date shown, The Company reserves the right to cancel all arrangements made and refund monies paid.

Flight Ticket Amendment Fee

Flight tickets are non-transferable, non-endorsable and non-refundable. Therefore, once passengers' names have been advised to the airline for ticketing (approximately 8 weeks prior to travel), any changes will be subject to availability and the discretion of the airline and will normally incur a charge by the airline. In addition, we will charge an administration fee of £15.

Passports / Visas

For travel outside the UK, British Citizens require a valid 10 year passport which normally needs 3 - 6 months validity remaining from the date of your return. We will notify you if a visa is required for travel to a country included in your itinerary.

Complaints

Most complaints can be dealt with on the spot either with the relevant supplier or with your tour leader. Failing a satisfactory outcome

The Company must be contacted immediately and every effort will be made to rectify the matter. Should there be no satisfactory outcome, The Client must write to The Company within 14 days outlining the nature of the complaint. In the unlikely event that a dispute between a Client and The Company cannot be solved amicably, a low cost Independent Dispute Settlement may be called upon by either side to bring the matter to conclusion. This scheme is administered by an independent third party on behalf of the Association of Independent Tour Operators of which The Company is a member.

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