

Ollami.com / Sandii Pink / MrsTeresa Ward
Tailor Made Tour Crete & Naxos
31 May – 11 June 2020

Sunday, 31 May 2020: Arrival in Chania and to hotel Porto Del Colombo

1 single room standard town view bb Porto Del Colombo <https://www.portodelcolombo.gr/el/>

Monday, 1st June 2020: Samaria Gorge Hiking Tour

Full day Samaria Tour

One of the most famous places to see on Crete is the Samaria Gorge, Europe's largest gorge. This National Park is 13kms long with unbelievable natural beauty. The gorge is rich with many endemic flowers & herbs with crystal clear spring water flowing from the mountains. – you can even refill your water bottles with it (at specific points). The average walking time through the Samaria gorge is 4-6 hours & is on a foot path with rocks & along the river bed. It is mostly downhill (particularly steep in the beginning). Starting at 1,250m height amongst the White Mountains (Lefka Ori) the path winds down the mountain & into the depth of the gorge, to the narrowest point which is 2m wide! There are rest stops & toilets throughout the gorge & places where the fresh spring water runs to refill your water bottles. At the end of the park, the remaining final walk (3kms) is in the sun. You can get a ride on a minibus for 2 Euros (payable locally), if you don't want to do the last part.

Agia Roumeli village is where you can enjoy a swim in the Libyan Sea or have lunch one of the many tavernas. From here there is a ferry that takes you to Sougia village, where the coach is waiting for you at the harbour & you drive back over the mountains to the north coast to the place where you were picked up.

The guide on the trip will give you information on the coach & you are free to walk at your own pace. The guide follows the group to ensure everyone comes out at the end & he/she is there if you need any assistance. The guide tells you where to meet at the bottom & it is a hassle free trip.

Itinerary - The trip starts with an early pick up from the nearest point to your accommodation (between 05.30 - 06.30) and drive through the mountains passing the plateau of Omalos.

Arrival at approx. 07.30

- The guide collects the entrance fees & he/she issues your tickets
- You will stop at Omalos at one of the tavernas to get a coffee / very simple breakfast and then you are taken to the start of the gorge at the "wooden stairs". There is another shop at the starting point as well selling fruit/sandwiches/drinks & walking sticks.
- The walk should take at least 6-7 hours (if walk slowly & look around to enjoy)
There are toilets and rest stops as well as rangers all the way through.
- Once finished, ample time for a swim in the Lybian Sea and/or have lunch at one of the many tavernas in Agia Roumeli
- Meet the guide to collect ferry tickets. (the guide will tell you where & at what time before you start walking)
- 18.00 the ferry boat leaves for Sougia
- Coach ride from Sougia to the north coast.
- Arrival back at the pick-up point at approximately 20:00-20.30

Note: If you suffer from a heart condition, high blood pressure, breathing problems, weakness of knees or other

knee disorders, vertigo, or pregnant women- THE SAMARIA GORGE IS OFF LIMITS TO YOU, for your own safety! This is not an easy walk. It's 12miles/18kms of sometimes very steep and rough terrain. The heat is also a factor that you must keep in mind. Hiking boots are the best, but trainers with good grip will do. Just don't wear new shoes!

1 single room standard town view bb Porto Del Colombo <https://www.portodelcolombo.gr/el/>

Tuesday, 2nd June 2020: Gramvousa & Balos Tour

Full day Gramvousa – Balos tour with transportation

The voyage starts from the Port of Kissamos following the coastline on your way to Gramvousa Island. After approx. 1 hour sailing time you arrive at Gramvousa where you have time to visit the Venetian castle built between 1579 & 1584.

The island of Gramvousa is associated with the struggle to liberate Crete from the Ottoman occupation. Three thousand revolutionaries used the island as their shelter for 3 years; to solve the problem of food scarcity, they took to piracy.

Gramvousa nowadays is an important bird habitat in the Eastern Mediterranean region and is located along one of the bird migration ways in this part of the world. It is the habitat of over 100 bird species and 400 kinds of plants. Built 137m above sea level on this rocky island, it is one of the most impressive castles in Crete and worth the 15 minute hike up the footpath. Appropriate footwear is advisable & a hat in summer.

Upon your return to the beach you will have enough time to swim in the crystal clear waters, while freshly grilled souvlaki is being prepared on board as well as sandwiches & salads available at anytime to purchase. The boat then departs for the lagoon of Balos, the journey is approx 20 mins. The water is warm and the sand has pink coral in parts. The seabed has white sand and makes the water have a shiny jade-like colour. During your stay at Balos the boat's halls and bar will be at your disposal.

Umbrellas are available to rent on the boat and it's a good idea if you don't bring your own. Plus there are sunbeds & umbrellas for hire on the beach of Balos.

You will have ample time on the beach to explore, relax and swim.

On the beach of Balos, there is a small canteen selling sandwiches, ice creams, drinks etc.

This is a protected natural area so please do not leave litter, camping is not allowed and collection of shells or rocks is prohibited.

Approx. Itinerary for Gramvousa/ Balos Boat Trip

Transfer on coach to harbour

10.20 Boat departs from Kissamos Harbour

11:30 Arrival at Gramvousa Island

13:50 Arrival at Balos Lagoon

17:45 Arrival at Kissamos Harbour

Transfer back to Accommodation with arrival time Chania town approx. 18.30

1 single room standard town view bb Porto Del Colombo <https://www.portodelcolombo.gr/el/>

Wednesday, 3rd June 2020: Free day

1 single room standard town view bb Porto Del Colombo <https://www.portodelcolombo.gr/el/>

Thursday, 4th June 2020: Transfer to Heraclion

- Private Transfer from Chania to Heraclion (pls advise desired pick up time)

- 1 single room standard bb Kastro Hotel <https://www.kastro-hotel.gr/>

Friday, 5th June 2020: Chrissi Island Tour

Chrissi Island Tour with transport

Spend an unforgettable day full of swimming, sunbathing and relaxation on an uninhabited island of Chrissi! Our adventure begins with a trip to the town of Ierapetra located on the southern coast of Crete. From there we will take a boat and continue our journey to Chrissi island, during which you can enjoy stunning views of the Libyan Sea and, if you are lucky, see the dolphins just a few meters away from the boat.

Chrissi is a small, almost tropical island and the most southern point of Europe. Due to its extraordinary beauty and unique ecosystem the island was declared natural reservations and currently protected as an "Area of Intense Natural Beauty".

The pristine beaches, the myriads of shell fossils, limpets and corals, the shallow crystal clear waters, the cedar forest, the fine reddish sand with the mosses and lichens, the old salt marsh, the Roman carved tombs, the small church of St. Nicolas and the peacefulness of this place will stay in your mind forever.

1 single room standard bb Kastro Hotel <https://www.kastro-hotel.gr/>

Saturday, 6th June 2020: Jeep Safari Life & Cretan night

Jeep Safari Life from Heraclion Tour

This jeep safari is the best way to discover the traditional cretan way of life and experience the genuine hospitality of the locals. We will make our first stop at the shepherd's paddock where you will have a chance to see in action the cheese making process. Here you will also taste the Cretan breakfast, wine and raki. After the breakfast we will drive to the mountains, passing by the Aposelemis Dam, sunken village of Spendili and Embassa gorge.

We will visit the plateaus Lassithi and Limnakaro (1250m) and visit the famous Zeus' Cave in Psichro. During one of the stops we will also show you the Cretan herbs and you will have the opportunity to pick up some of them.

Leaving the plateau Lassithi we arrive to the village of Krasi, where we stop for a lunch in the traditional taverna. Here we will also visit the giant plane tree and the water springs. Our last stop we will make in the beautiful village of Mochos and then will drive back to the hotel.

1 single room standard bb Kastro Hotel <https://www.kastro-hotel.gr/>

Sunday, 7th June 2020:

Cretan night including transfer

Would you like to feel the real Cretan spirit? Then join us and spend a memorable night full of music and dances! We will pick you up from your hotel and drive to the traditional village of Karouzana located in the magnificent place on the way to Plateau Lassithi.

Reaching the ancient village, we have a chance to walk through its streets, feel dizzy by the smell of the jasmine, be surprised by the locals' hospitality and treats and admire the traditional color of the area, which seems to have remained unspoiled by time.

At dusk, we are going to enjoy the traditional feast, taste the delicious dishes with the cheese, the honey, the rusk, the olive oil, the meat and all the other products of the Cretan soil, get treated with the wine and the raki of the area, listen to the sound of the Cretan "lyra" and take delight in looking at the dancers, dressed in their traditional costumes, performing Cretan and Greek folk dances. At the end of the night we can also join the dancers, who will teach us the basic steps so that we can also dance like modern Zorbas!

We are sure that this night will be etched in your mind and your memories forever and ever!

1 single room standard bb Kastro Hotel <https://www.kastro-hotel.gr/>

Monday, 8th June 2020:

Transfer from hotel to port of Heraclion

Ferry to Naxos (economy)

Transfer from port of Naxos to hotel

1 single room Naxos Resort bb <https://naxosresort.gr/>

Tuesday, 9th June 2020:

1 single room Naxos Resort bb <https://naxosresort.gr/>

Wednesday, 10th June 2020:

1 single room Naxos Resort bb <https://naxosresort.gr/>

Thursday, 11th June 2020:

Transfer to Naxos airport – END OF SERVICES

Price / person: 1790€

Price Includes:

- **Accommodation** in sgl room bb as mentioned in above itinerary
- **Private Transfers** as follows:
 - o Chania to Heraclion
 - o Heraclion hotel to Port
 - o Naxos port to hotel
 - o Naxos hotel to airport
- **Group tours as follows:**
 - o Samaria Gorge (included transportation exc payable on the spot entrance fee 5€ & ferry to sougia 10€)
 - o Balos Gramvousa (included transportation exc payable on the spot boat fare 19€)
 - o Chrisi Island (included transportation, boat fare)
 - o Cretan Night (included transportation, dinner, unlimited wine)
 - o Jeep Safari Cretan Life Tour (included off road tour with driver, breakfast & lunch)
- **Ferry from Heraclion to Naxos** (economy class)
-
-

Not Included:

- Flight to Chania and from Naxos to Athens

Δ08 – DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM (EN)

- Hotel stayover tax payable by client upon departure to hotel (1,5€/pp for 3 star hotels or 3€/pp for 4 star hotels)
- Fees payable on the spot by participants: Entrance fee to Samaria Gorge 5€ & boat fare to Sougia 10€, Zeus cave 6€ , Boat fare to Balos 19€
- Meals
- Anything not mentioned above