

GREECE OPTIONAL TOURS!!!

**The prices below are from our last trip in 2017
We will update the tours a bit closer to the trip**

TOURS FROM CRETE

Crete Bus Tour with Knossos

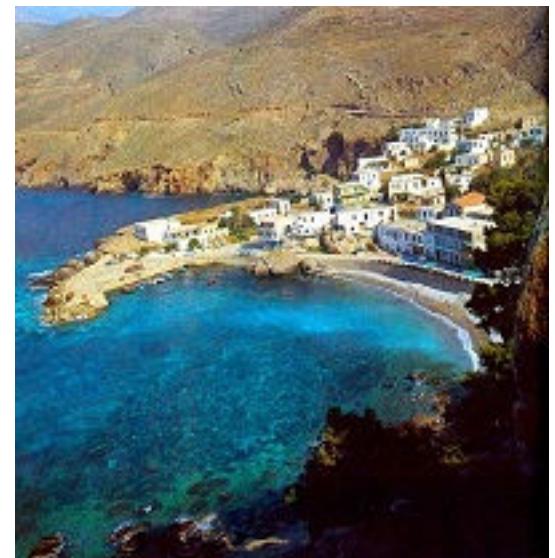
Saturday, May 2nd



Today we will take in a full day bus tour taking in the ruins at Knossos, the old town of Rethymno, the Fortezza (the castle) and a stop at Plakias village. We may stop at a beachfront resort (time permitting) that was on a referral from the hotel owner in Costa Rica for complimentary food and drinks. Lunch is at "Plateia Taverna" at Myrtos village.

Crete is home of the great Minoan Civilization and the mythological home of Zeus.

After a short drive through the town of Heraklion the tour will arrive at the Knossos excavations. Here, Sir Arthur Evans's archaeological discoveries revealed a civilization dating back to 4000 B.C., when a great empire flourished on the island of Crete. Based on the wealth of artifacts that were found, Evans theorized that this was the site of the ancient Minoan Kingdom. These findings will be viewed in detail, as your guide will lead you on a journey of discovery to learn of the sophisticated culture that flourished thousands of years ago on this island. The Palace, decorated with frescoes and shields houses the Hall of the Royal Guard, the Hall of the Double Axes, the King's Chamber with the alabaster throne, the Queen's Apartment, beautiful courtyards and shrines. **COST with admission fees and guide: \$45**



Bus Tour with a Gorge Hike, Villages and Wine Tasting

Sunday, May 3rd

It's another full day of exploring this incredible island. We start off with a downhill hike through a beautiful gorge filled with wildflowers. Imbros is the perfect gorge for those who want an easy hike. It is 8km long, not steep and not particularly difficult, crossing a changing scenery, from its green start by the fertile Askyfou plain to its rocky end near the dry south coast, with some very spectacular sections, especially the several very narrow passages and with a good shade for several parts.. Suitable for anyone in good physical condition and with no hiking experience required, a good option for families too, Imbros offers a great opportunity to descend a Cretan gorge and end by the sea, combining hiking with

swimming in crystal clear waters. Solid walking shoes is a must-have to enjoy the day. After the walk we drive to the village of [Sfakia](#) for lunch by its waterfront tavernas, before the return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

Continuing our drive towards the verdant province of Apokoronas, we will visit a local winery called [Dourakis](#) for a guiding around their estate. We will taste the indigenous and international grape varieties as they are expressed on Cretan terroir, meet a passionate family of winemakers and learn about the uprising of viniculture on the island. We will then continue our exploration of the region, where villages preserve a special traditional color and life continues in the old traditional way. The area offers spots of great natural beauty and interesting drives off of the main highway. Depending on time, stops will include the village of [Gavalochori](#) and the village of [Vamos](#) for a walk in its older part to view traditionally restored stone houses. Late afternoon return at your hotel.

COST: \$38 including bus, guide, hike entrance, wine tasting with olives

TOURS FROM MYKONOS

Horseback Riding

Tuesday, May 5th



With this tour you will get to run your horse if you'd like and you will get to take your horse along a secluded beach while getting your photo taken. We will be with Fanis from Horseland. Fanis Rouvas is professional-riding instructor, horse-trainer & breeder. In winter, he works with horses in Kaimaktsalan (Vorras), one of the most impressive mountain settings in Northern Greece. He has worked with & cared for horses for over 15 years. His techniques are safe & his love for horses apparent. His horses are well-cared for, well-fed, personally trained & groomed to maintain healthy bodies & balanced minds. His experience with horses is certainly unmatched in Mykonos. He's a cool guy and will be taking special care of us giving us his

3-hour tour with soft drinks and beer on the beach for the price of his 2-hour tour. We will have a morning tour and an afternoon tour. He's got just 6 horses so please sign up early. This can also be done in the afternoon of April 26th after Delos (please let us know your preference). We start off and finish at his home. Don't be surprised if he offers you more to drink back at his place. Website:

<http://www.mykonoshorse.com/> **COST: \$85**

Paradise Beach



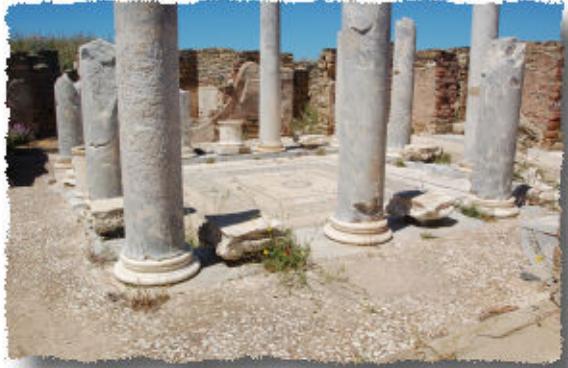
Tuesday, May 5th

Today we recommending you get yourself to Paradise Beach. This is a popular beach set in a beautiful cove. The beachfront bars there are fun and play chill music to relax you on their chaise lounges. Have lunch and some drinks. The fun way to get there is to rent either a quad or a scooter. I will lead the way and will negotiate a group rate on some quads. The other option would be to group together to take taxis. There is also a public bus that takes people there. There are also some other stops along the way that are worthy of a stop that we can discuss.

Half Day Cruise to Delos Island

Wednesday, May 6th

Where light was born. It is strongly believed by many, that this Ancient Archeological Island possesses and releases a heightened sense of light and energy, the very reason for ancient Greece's belief that Apollo, God of Light and Music, had to have been born there? It's a [UNESCO world heritage site](#). It's an ark of history, floating lazily on the waters of the Aegean Sea, just a few miles away from cosmopolitan Mykonos. It's a chance to walk around the revival of the glory of the Greek civilization. It's the head priest of the Cyclades, the birthplace of the immortals.



Imagine: The entire island of Delos, also known as the biggest open air museum in Europe, is an Archeological monument to what was the holiest place in the Aegean Sea. Currently, the only inhabitants on this historical island are the archaeologists who continue to conduct excavations, as well as the guards who are in place to protect it. Come with us and allow our guides to explain the spiritual, historical and cultural importance of Delos. With no traces of modern civilization you will be encompassed by the natural environment and will experience a serene, peaceful,

luminous, and pure atmosphere. Witness how the ancient civilians lived their way of life. Visit their houses, walk into their living rooms, kitchens and bedrooms. Also witness Europe's first Synagogue, first Egyptian Temple, first Indian Temple and other Temples from many foreign Religions. And lets not forget, The Lions Terrace, Cleopatras House and The Temple of Apollo. So come and experience a glimpse of what it may have been like to live on Delos three thousand years ago. Duration:- Departure 10 am Return 12.20 noon.

COST: \$42 includes guide, boat and entrance

TOURS FROM SANTORINI

Santorini by land and Sea

Visit: Akrotiri – Volcano – Hot Springs – Thirassia

Friday, May 8th

This tour will include a land tour by bus, then a sailing tour with a fantastic lunch!

Program: First we visit the important archaeological site of [Akrotiri](#) which was closed for many years but reopened in 2012. Akrotiri Excavations brought to light a Minoan town preserved under the pumice for 3000 years. Our expert guide will lead an interesting and informative tour in the ancient town. From there we will

visit a very cute town called Pyrgos where we will have time to walk to the top along winding, narrow walkways. Excellent



photos! We will also go to the mountaintop of Profitis Ilias where we will enjoy an incredible view.

Then we go by bus to Athinios Port. There you will board the beautiful traditional boat that will sail on to reach the lava islet Nea Kameni where we leave the boat and walk an ascending soil path to approach the crater of the still active **Volcano**. Then back to the boat and we sail to the second lava islet called Palea Kameni. There we find **Hot Springs** and we can have a swim in the green sulphur waters or even take a bath in the warm therapeutic mud. After a half hour the boat will sail to the nice traditional island **Thirassia**. There we can explore the island or swim at the beach next to the port. This is one of the best days of the entire trip. You've got to do this! **Cost:** \$95

LUNCH MENU:

BUFFET LUNCH ON THE BOAT:

Santorinian salad

Green salad

Eggplant salad

Assortment of Greek cheeses

Spinach pie

Fava (split pea puree) with capers

You may also bring your own drinks. We can stock up before boarding.

Pork souvlaki

Chicken souvlaki

Meat balls

Fresh fruit

Assortment of Greek sweets

WINE!

Free Day in Santorini

Saturday, May 9th



Nothing to sign up for here. I do suggest once again renting a scooter, quad, renting a car or hiring a driver. There are a lot of interesting and beautiful places to see in Santorini including [many wineries](#), the [Red Sand Beach](#) and historic towns.

Another idea is to just enjoy a nice walk with your camera. I liked the walk I did to the nearby town of [Firostefani](#). Less touristy, quiet and very picturesque.

Beach Sunset in the world – afternoon and sunset in Oia

Later today we will board a bus for Oia featuring one of the best and most [famous sunsets in the world](#). Oia is built along the rim of the caldera wall. You can walk in the village and enjoy the magnificent panoramic view. People gather along the walkways, cliff and walls to enjoy the epic sunsets here. We will give you time to stroll and dine after the sunset. No need to sign up – it's our treat.