



## Minoan Magic

**Duration :** 14 Days / 13 Nights

**Departure City :** Heraklion

**Meals Included :**

**Breakfasts :** 14

### Description

When you mix romantic sunsets with stunning Mediterranean beach resorts that have been enjoyed for thousands of years by ancient civilizations, your end result is Minoan Magic.

Enjoy a few nights on the world class island of Santorini with its cliff-top pedestrian walkway and the artists village of Oia and be sure to visit the ancient site of Akrotiri, rumored to be the home of Atlantis. Then be whisked away to Crete to explore the earliest recorded civilization in Europe, the Minoan palace of Knossos. Crete is also home to the Samaria Gorge, one of the longest in Europe. Relax on some of the Mediterranean's finest beaches and dine on Cretan cuisine, one of the healthiest in the Mediterranean.

Your journey ends in Athens with a city tour that takes you right to the top of the hilltop Acropolis. Make sure to enjoy the shops in Monastiraki and Ermou.

### Package Includes

- All entrance fees mentioned in itinerary
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- Athens Guide magazine
- Athens map
- Breakfast daily
- Car rental as indicated in the itinerary
- Domestic Flights
- English speaking professional tour guide

### Package Does Not Include

- All personal expenses at hotels
- Beverages and meals not mentioned in the program
- Gratuities of any type
- International Driver
- International flights
- Travel Insurance
- Rental Car Drop Off Fee (must be paid locally)

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Athens - Santorini Arrival

**Location:** Santorini, Greece

**Transfer:** Airport (JTR) to Hotel in Imerovigli

**Description:** Welcome to the most romantic island in the Mediterranean. Upon arrival you will be greeted by your driver and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of your day to be spent at your leisure. You will call Santorini home for 4 nights. Overnight Santorini select hotel.

### Day 2 Santorini at Leisure

**Location:** Santorini, Greece

**Description:** After breakfast, enjoy a full day at leisure. Be sure to sample the wines of Santorini. Overnight Santorini select hotel.

### Day 3 Santorini at Leisure

**Location:** Santorini, Greece

**Description:** Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel. A great day trip to Akrotini is rumored to be home to the ancient civilization of Atlantis. The town is very much like Pompeii which has been perfectly preserved from a volcanic eruption 3500 years ago. A must do: A dinner at a restaurant within a view of the sunset in the artists village of Oia. Overnight Santorini select hotel.

### Day 4 Santorini at Leisure

**Description:** Following breakfast at your hotel, you could enjoy a stroll along the pedestrian pathway from Fira to Imerovigli. Enjoy your final night in Santorini at your leisure. Overnight Santorini select hotel.

Day 5 Santorini - Ferry - Heraklion	
Car Rental:	Pick Up Heraklion - Airport
Transfer:	Hotel in Imerovigli to Port
Ferry:	Greece - Santorini to Heraklion
Description:	After breakfast a driver will meet you at your hotel and transport you to the Port, for a ferry ride to Crete. You will arrive at the Port in Heraklion and make your own way (a 5 minute taxi ride) to the Heraklion Airport at the car rental area. Once you have receive your car, you will drive to your hotel and have the rest of the day at your leisure. Overnight Heraklion select hotel.
Day 6 Heraklion -Self Drive - Rethymnon	
Location:	Heraklion, Greece Rethymnon, Greece
Description:	After breakfast at your hotel, consider a visit the important site of ancient Knossos. Home to the Minoan civilization that flourished 4500 year ago. The site is remarkably well preserved. In the afternoon drive to Rethymnon where you will overnight at your Rethymnon select hotel.
Day 7 Rethymnon at Leisure	
Location:	Rethymnon, Greece
Description:	After breakfast, a full day of leisure follows. A trip to the Archaeological museum in Heraklion houses the worlds finest collection of Minoan treasures. If you are looking for a day trip drive, then a visit to Agios Nikolaos and the beach at Elounda. You will overight at your Rethymnon select hotel.
Day 8 Rethymnon at Leisure	
Location:	Rethymnon, Greece
Description:	Following breakfast, explore some of the beaches. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. This is your last night in Rethymnon at your select hotel.
Day 9 Rethymnon - Self Drive - Chania	
Description:	After breakfast, you will drive to Chania and check into your hotel. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. Be sure to enjoy a dinner out in the old port Chania. Overnight Chania select hotel.
Day 10 Chania at Leisure	
Location:	Chania, Greece
Description:	After breakfast consider a day trek to the Samaria Gorge. It is a one hour drive south from Chania and one of the longest gorges in Europe at 18km. Overnight at your Chania select hotel.
Day 11 Chania at Leisure	
Location:	Chania, Greece
Description:	Breakfast at your hotel followed by a full day of leisure. There are many beaches to explore to the west of Chania. This will be your final night in Chania at your select hotel.
Day 12 Chania - Flight - Athens	
Location:	Chania, Greece Athens, Greece
Transfer:	Airport (ATH) to City Center
Flight:	Chania to Athens
Car Rental:	Drop Off Heraklion - Airport
Description:	This morning after breakfast, you will leave your vehicle at the airport in Chania, and then board your short flight to Athens. Upon arrival at Athens Spata International Airport, a driver will greet you and transport you to your Athens hotel. Overnight Athens hotel.
Day 13 Athens - Morning City Tour & Afternoon of Leisure	
Location:	Athens, Greece
Activity:	Acropolis, City & Acropolis Museum Walking Tour
	This sightseeing tour will afford you the luxury of experiencing the two most important attractions of Athens. The Acropolis of Athens is one of the most famous archaeological sites in all of Greece. The new Acropolis Museum is the home to the masterpieces of the Acropolis, where they are displayed in stunning surroundings bathed in natural light.

The tour begins inside the Syntagma metro station where you will visit the metro Museum with very interesting archaeological artifacts from the daily life of Ancient Athens that came to light during the construction of the metro.

You will then continue on to the House of the Greek Parliament, the Monument to the Unknown Soldier and watch the changing of the guard. Your tour continues towards the National Gardens and on to the beautiful neoclassical Zappeion Hall, in front of which tower the surviving columns of the Temple of Zeus and Hadrian's Arch, both of which you will have the opportunity to visit. From there you enter the famous Plaka district where you see the statue of Melina Merkouri.

You will enter the Acropolis from the south slope so as to avoid the crowds and also to visit the Dionysus sanctuary and Dionysus Theatre built in the 5th century BC. Your guide will take care of the tickets so you can skip the line. As you begin to ascend the sacred hill a breathtaking view of the city below will unfold.

Your guide will give you a detailed explanation of the glorious monuments of the Acropolis such as the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, the Propylaia, the Nike Temple and the surrounding monuments such as the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, the Ancient Agora, the Observatory as well as the Philopappos, Mars, and Pnyx Hills.

After your tour of the Acropolis site, you will have approximately 45-minutes to descend towards the New Acropolis Museum. You will have ample time to take personal photographs from many vantage points on and around the Acropolis prior to reaching the Acropolis Museum. Its unique design has incorporated the excavations which are visible under stunning glass floors. The Acropolis masterpieces are marked out and given the prominence they deserve through ideal interior atmospheric conditions, natural lighting. Additionally, there is easy visitor access, panoramic views and excellent layout of the exhibition areas. The museum exhibits about 4,000 artifacts.

The tour ends at the Acropolis Museum.

**Description:** You will enjoy breakfast at you hotel, then make your way to the meeting point for your guided city tour around Athens and the Acropolis. The afternoon and evening are at your leisure. Overnight Athens select hotel.

Day 14	Athens Departure
Location:	Athens, Greece
Transfer:	City Center to Airport (ATH)
Description:	After breakfast your driver will meet you in the lobby of your hotel, for your transfer to the hotel for your flight out of Greece.

Accommodation

Standard
Santorini
<div>Infinity Suites &amp; Dana Villas Santorini</div> <div>Rating : 4 Star</div> <div>Dana Villas Hotel in Firostefani, Santorini offers elegant accommodation with traditional Cycladic architecture and stunning sea views.</div>
<div>Lava Suites &amp; Lounge</div> <div>Rating : 3 Star</div> <div>Lava Suites &amp; Lounge offers wonderful accommodation in the town of Fira. The hotel's lounge and bar located on the top floor of the property offers one of the finest views in Fira.</div>
Heraklion
<div>Lato Boutique Hotel</div> <div>Rating : 3 Star</div> <div>Lato Boutique Hotel is an independent, family-owned and managed hotel. Operating since 1978, Lato has been transformed into a fine boutique hotel becoming very popular in Heraklion city on the island of Crete. Lato Boutique Hotel is set in an exquisite location. It is situated across the old city harbour offering spectacular panoramic views.</div>
Rethymnon
<div>Hotel Leo</div> <div>Rating : 4 Star</div> <div>Hotel Leo is housed in a historical mansion dating back to the Venetian period. The hotel offers traditional rooms and modern comforts, located in Rethymno's old town.</div>
Chania

### Casa Leone Boutique Hotel

Rating : 3 Star

Casa Leone Boutique Hotel is a 15th century Venetian villa located at the Venetian port of Chania on the island of Crete.

### Fatma Hanoum Boutique Hotel

Rating : 3 Star

In a narrow alley in the heart of the Old Harbour of Chania, you will find the Fatma Hanoum Hotel, an old mansion that harmoniously combines the Venetian and Ottoman architecture. The mix of wood and stone of the old building, the twinkling lights, the warm colors and the modern furnishings create an effect of romantic elegance, warmth and an intimate atmosphere that both relaxes and refreshes.

## Athens

### A for Athens

Rating : 4 Star

This is the new urban hotel in the center of Athens, embracing the city's heritage and contemporary culture. Enjoy a 100% authentic Athens experience, where one gives an A to the best of this enchanting city.

### Plaka Hotel

Rating : 3 Star

This is an excellent choice for those in search of a centrally located hotel in the heart of Athens. This hotel offers a buffet breakfast and rooms with views of the Acropolis, Plaka, or Mount Lycabettus and guests are within a 5 minute walk of the city's main attractions.

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## Superior

## Santorini

### Belvedere Suites Santorni

Rating : 4 Star Superior

The Belvedere Suites Santorini is built into a cliff side overlooking the volcano and nearby islands. With views of the Aegean Sea, this hotel offers a taste of Santorini with its traditional architecture. It is located in the town of Fira, within easy access of beaches and attractions.

### White Hotel

Rating : 4 Star

Built on the highest point of the caldera, in Imerovigli village, the White Hotel offers its guests exceptional service in an idyllic environment complimented by breathtaking views.

## Heraklion

### Galaxy Hotel Iraklio

Rating : 5 Star Luxury

Located in central Heraklion, the capital city of Crete, is the Galaxy Hotel Iraklio. The Galaxy Hotel's proximity to both the business center and a multitude of historical sites puts it in the unique position of being able to facilitate guests wanting to take advantage of the city and the rest of this beautiful island.

## Rethymnon

### Hotel Leo

Rating : 4 Star

Hotel Leo is housed in a historical mansion dating back to the Venetian period. The hotel offers traditional rooms and modern comforts, located in Rethymno's old town.

## Chania

### Casa Delfino Hotel

Rating : 4 Star

Located in the heart of Chania's old Venetian town, the boutique Casa Delfino Hotel is housed in a 17th century Venetian palazzo. This luxury retreat is the perfect getaway for travelers wanting a unique and pampered stay on the island of Crete.

### Porto Veneziano Hotel

Rating : 4 Star

Located on the island of Crete, the Porto Veneziano Hotel is perfectly situated on the waterfront of the Venetian Harbour in the Old Town of Chania. This environmentally friendly hotel provides modern accommodation with beautiful views of the harbour, sea, and town, and a delicious buffet breakfast.

Athens

Athens Hilton

Rating : 5 Star Luxury

Take in Acropolis views from the Hilton Athens Hotel, a contemporary oasis in the ancient, bustling city of Athens. This central Athens hotel is located in the heart of the city's commercial district, with the prestigious shops and cafés of Kolonaki surrounding it.

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