



Travel through the Centuries Tour

Duration: 10 days

Suggested Itinerary

3 overnights in Athens

3 overnights in Crete

3 overnights in Rhodes

In Greek mythology, Minos is a king of Crete, son of Zeus and Europa. Every nine years, he made King Aegeus pick seven young boys and seven young girls to be sent to Daedalus' creation, the labyrinth, to be eaten by the Minotaur. After his death, Minos became a judge of the dead in the underworld. The Minoan civilization of Crete has been named after him by the archaeologist Arthur Evans.



Sites and Places of Interest in Athens

Acropolis of Athens

The Acropolis, and the Parthenon in particular, is the most characteristic monument of the ancient Greek civilization.

Put the best of science, art and philosophy together in one creation and you have the definitive monument of human civilization.

UNESCO calls it the symbol of World Heritage. The world calls it the Athenian Acropolis!



New Acropolis Museum

The new Acropolis Museum has a total area of 25,000 square meters, with exhibition space of over 14,000 square meters, ten times more than that of the old museum on the Hill of the Acropolis.

The Acropolis Museum is an archaeological museum focused on the findings of the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens. The museum was built to house every artifact found on the rock and on its feet, from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. It also lies on the archaeological site of Makrygianni and the ruins of a part of Roman and early Byzantine Athens.



National Archaeological Museum of Athens

The National Archaeological Museum of Athens is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art.

Its abundant collections, with more than 11,000 exhibits, provide a panorama of Greek civilization from the beginnings of Prehistory to Late Antiquity.



Sites and Places of Interest in Crete



Phaistos

63 km southwest of Heraklion lie the remains of the Phaistos Palace, second in importance in Minoan Crete, inhabited since the Neolithic times. The architectural layout of the palace is identical to the one of Knossos. Here too, rooms are clustered around a paved court. As regards the interior decoration, the Phaistos Palace did not yield many frescoes, however, the floors and walls are covered with stark-white gypsum slabs. The Palace occupied a surface of 9,000 m² approximately.



Knossos

Five km south of Heraklion lies Knossos, one of the most important archeological sites in Europe, the legendary centre of the Minoan civilization from 1900 to 1400 BC. The Palace of Knossos, the largest one in Minoan Crete, witnessed two architectural phases and which was devastated by the earthquake of Santorini (1450 BC). The site contains the remains of the palace of Minos, of dwellings occupied by officials, priests and residents, as well as of cemeteries. The Palace was an intricate building complex built around a central court. It was laid out on a surface of 22,000 m² and apart from the royal apartments, it encompassed were also ceremonial quarters, treasure rooms, workshops and storage spaces.



Gortys

Gortys, also known as Gortyn or Gortyna is one of the most important cities in Crete with an unbroken history of 6,000 years and one of the most extensive archaeological sites in Greece. It lies in south central Crete in the fertile Mesara plain, the site of the first human habitation of Crete at the end of the Neolithic period (5th millennium BC).

Gortys is about 40 minutes drive south of Heraklion, on the same road that will take us to Phaistos and Matala. Gortys is about 1 km past the village of Agii Deka, at the side of the main road.

Sites and Places of Interest in Rhodes



Acropolis of Lindos

Beneath the modern village of Lindos lies buried one of the most important ancient cities of Rhodes and the eastern Aegean. The only visible today ancient monuments preserves the mighty bare rock that rises from the sea at an altitude of 116 meters and is a landmark of Lindos' landscape. This is the monumental citadel of the renowned in antiquity sanctuary of Athena Lindia and the medieval castle of the Knights Hospitaller. Lindos' history, though, starts much earlier, as evidenced by the occasional finds that came to light in the wider area and date from the Neolithic to the Mycenaean periods.



Ancient Kamiros

Kamiros was one of the three large Doric cities of the island, which united with Ialysos and Lindos in the 5th century B.C. to create the powerful city - state of Rhodes. Although it was established by the Dorians, it seems like the first inhabitants of the area must have been Achaeans, as the ruins of an ancient Mycenaean necropolis close to the village of Kalovarda reveal. Kamiros was basically an agricultural society which produced oil, wine and figs. During the city's golden era of the 6th century, it was the first Rhodian city to cut its own coins. Kamiros has been often compared to Pompeii, something which is not correct since Kamiros did not fall into decline because of a natural disaster. Its decline, like the decline of Ialysos, was the result of the gradual abandonment by its residents, who decided to move to the city of Rhodes, which as mentioned above, was established in 408 B.C.



Rodos Archaeological Museum

The museum is housed in the monumental edifice that was the hospital of the Knights of St. John . Its construction begun in 1440 and brought to completion in the time of the Grand Master d'Aubusson (1476-1503). The items on display in the Museum come from various parts of Rodos and the neighboring islands.



Daytrip to Kos Island from Rhodes

Archaeological Museum of Kos

In the Archaeological Museum of Kos are found all the findings that came to light during the excavations that are carried out in the island by the beginning of century up to today, mainly from the archaeological site of Market and the Western archaeological site, as well as from individual monuments, as the Altar of Dionisos, the Odeon and the Roman Residence (Casa Romana).



Folklore Museum

Kos gets its own Folklore Museum which will be enriched with artifacts and relics of folklore and cultural heritage from donations of residents of Kos. The building of the Folklore Museum Kos Chani is connected with the economy, the history and the culture of Kos.



Asklepeio

Asklepeio is the most significant archaeological site on the island. During the ancient years, it served as a sanatorium and it was dedicated to Aesculapius, son of Apollo, protector of health and medicine. Many significant people taught and worked here, one of them being the father of Medicine, Hippokrates.

Suggested Hotels in Athens

Grande Bretagne Hotel

5*****

With breathtaking views of the fabled Acropolis, regal Syntagma Square and the Parliament, lush Lycabettus Hill or the original Olympic Stadium, the multi-awarded 5 star Hotel Grande Bretagne offers an unrivalled perspective of Athens' mythical history.

Situated right in the heart of the city, since 1874, the landmark hotel is within walking distance of exclusive shopping areas, museums and the business district.

Not only do our interiors pay homage to celebrated Greek culture, with intricate moldings and classic décor, but also each of the 320 hotel rooms and suites provide enchanting views of our courtyard, or entrancing, panoramic scenes of our Athens' timeless landmarks.

Escape to the GB Spa Athens for a GB Collection Exclusive Massage or an indulgent respite in the Thermal Suite. The GB Roof Garden Restaurant & Bar serves the finest champagne – the ideal compliment for the setting sun beyond the imposing Acropolis. The Cellar stocks more than 3,000 bottles of the finest vintages – allow us to create the finest wine tasting has never been so exquisite.

<http://www.grandebretagne.gr/>

✓ Spa



Suggested Hotels in Athens



Grand Resort Lagonissi

5*****

Grand Resort Lagonissi welcomes you to enjoy a seafront paradise, set on a 72-acre verdant peninsula. Boasting twenty exclusive sandy beach coves and lush natural beauty the resort is nestled in a magnificent private peninsula offering breathtaking sunsets and views to inspire.

The resort provides endless choices of luxurious accommodations, all on the waterfront with direct access to sandy beaches or to the sea. Deluxe rooms with stunning sea views, bungalows with private pools, suites with gym quarters and villas with private spa areas, compose the Grand Resort's luxurious scenery. The latest in comfort of technology pervade every single room combined with sleek interiors creating an ambience of residential charm and unparalleled beauty

The THALASPA Chenot at the Grand Resort Lagonissi offers a complete range of services for body, mind and spirit. Rediscover the world of natural rules and free yourself from all pressures and tensions through the unique Chenot Method.

<http://www.lagonissiresort.gr/>

- ✓ Spa
- ✓ Mini-golf



Suggested Hotels in Crete

Out Of The Blue Capsis Elite Resort 5*****

Capsis Elite Resort is 100 metres from the centre of Agia Pelagia. The Minoan Palace of Knossos is 28 km away, while Heraklion International Airport is 25 km away. Boasting private botanical gardens and a zoo, Capsis Elite Resort rests upon its private peninsula in Agia Pelagia. It features 7 fresh-water pools, 7 restaurants, and a spa with hydrotherapy pool. Resembling a Cretan village, Out of the Blue Elite Resort accommodation is surrounded by extensive gardens, a river and 3 beaches. All units have a balcony with garden or sea view. Out of the Blue Capsis offers a variety of restaurants varying from French gourmet to Italian, from Fusion to traditional Greek and Cretan cuisine.

<http://www.capsis.com/default-el.html>

✓ Spa



Suggested Hotels in Rhodes

Lindian Village 5*****

The luxurious Lindian Village is located right on the breathtaking Lardos Beach, nestled in a lush garden with tropical flowers and trees. It boasts a private beach and a pool complex, a lavish spa and gym, 5 gourmet restaurants and stylish accommodation. This 5-star luxury hotel resort in Rhodes offers elegant rooms and suites. Mediterranean Classic rooms are surrounded by heavenly scented bougainvilleas. Romantic stone paths lead to the luxurious suites, all offering private pools and hot tub. With 5 gourmet restaurants, that range from Asian cuisine, to Thai, Mediterranean and gourmet seafood Lindian Village hotel is a sophisticated dining destination.

<http://www.lindianvillage.gr/>

✓ Spa



Sheraton Rhodes Resort 5*****

Overlooking Ixia Beach, the 5-star Sheraton Rhodes is located 4 km from Rhodes's Medieval Town. It features 4 swimming pools, a fitness centre and 3 gourmet restaurants. Buffet breakfast and dinner is served at the relaxing setting of Castellania Restaurant. Mediterraneo Restaurant serves Greek cuisine close to the pool, while there is also an Italian-inspired restaurant overlooking the Aegean Sea. Guests can relax at the poolside bar enjoying cocktails and refreshing soft drinks.

<http://www.sheratonrhodesresort.com/>

✓ Spa