

## **Shamanism in Prehistoric Crete: Experiencing the Evidence**

### **Archaeological Tour**

with Robinette Kennedy, Ph.D. and Christine Morris, Ph.D.

May 5 to 12, 2015     Crete, Greece

Join feminist archaeologist, Christine Morris, and clinical anthropologist/shamanic practitioner, Robinette Kennedy, as we take you into worlds on Crete that few people even know exist.

Drawing from our extensive years of original research (in different disciplines) about shamanistic practices in the first European civilization (7,800 -750 BCE), we are offering a unique tour this spring that introduces you to the material evidence of shamanism in prehistoric Crete.

As a member of our group, you will:

- Enjoy lectures and lively discussions as we see the material evidence that links prehistoric Crete to shamanism.
- Explore several off-the-beaten-path Bronze Age ritual sites; a small but significant museum; the magnificent temple of Knossos; a 4,000-year-old funeral town; and the extraordinary, recently renovated, Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, Crete.
- Immerse yourself in the daily life of a traditional mountain village where you'll enjoy delicious meals and boundless hospitality

#### **The Setting**

Our tour begins in a 5,000-year old village in the mountains of eastern Crete that I've been visiting regularly since 1975. Whenever I am living and working on Crete, I am sustained by strong, mutually respectful relationships with my friends, all local people who will greet you as an honored guest.

These relationships, along with my knowledge of Crete's traditions, customs and language will open doors to you, as a visitor, that are richer than anything encountered by the typical tourist.

#### **An Overview of Our Itinerary**

The first evening, we'll gather in the courtyard of the inn for dinner and introductions. Robinette and Christine will present a lecture about the sites we'll see and tell you about the next day's excursion.

The next morning we'll pack up and check out of the inn. Heading east, we'll visit one of Crete's few extensively excavated Minoan towns. Work on the site began in 1901 and was led by the first woman archaeologist to finance and run her own dig site. What choice did she have? None of the male archaeologists would allow her to join theirs!

We'll enjoy a few urban pleasures as we stop in the bustling port town of Aghios Nikoloas on the Gulf of Mirabello for lunch. After lunch, free time to explore and browse in the shops. From there, we travel a few hours to the high mountains of Crete's most fertile plateau where it's said that Minoan mystery schools once flourished.

There, we'll spend two nights in restored, 17<sup>th</sup> century stone cottages. Our hosts promise us amazing traditional meals, that feature dishes prepared by using only locally grown, often organic, ingredients and recipes they learned from their grandmothers.

Early the next morning we'll hike the highest mountain in Eastern Crete (1100 meters), to an archaeological dig where the descendants of the original residents of Crete fled with their sacred figurines. Here they continued to practice the old shamanic ways for 300-400 years after Minoan culture fell to the Mycenaeans.

After exploring other recently excavated sites in the area, we'll travel by private coach to one of Europe's most beautifully preserved towns, Arkhanes. We'll look around town, and have a delightful lunch in one of our favorite tavernas. However our true destination is the nearby 4,000-year-old Fourni cemetery, where we will see for ourselves the shamanic features of one of the most significant archaeological discoveries in Greece.

From here we'll go to the island's modern, bustling capital city, Heraklion, to a boutique hotel with all the modern amenities and views of the Sea of Crete. We'll tour of the sprawling archeological site of Knossos, truly one of the most impressive sites in Greece. Christine and Robinette are joined by a licensed archaeological guide and together they'll point out the evidence of the shamanic dimensions of life in what is widely considered to be the economic, architectural, social and spiritual center of Minoan culture. We'll also have time while in Heraklion to do a bit of shopping and people watching.

Our grand finale on the last day of the tour, again with an experienced local guide, Christine and Robinette, we'll visit one of Europe's most important museums: the recently renovated Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, rightly considered the museum of Minoan art and culture.

And, as if your experiences throughout the tour were not enough, in this museum you will see hundreds of prehistoric sacred objects that will leave no doubt in your mind that the first European civilization had strong ties to shamanism.

## **Tour Details**

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**Tour Price:** \$1,950.00

### **Tour Price Includes:**

- Five nights accommodations (double occupancy) in a small, traditional inn.
- Two nights accommodations (double occupancy) in a cottages with kitchens.
- Three nights accommodations (double occupancy) in a modern boutique hotel with internet, laundry service, room service, concierge and other amenities
- Meals: Ten breakfasts; two lunches; and three dinners, with wine.
- All tour excursions described above.
- Guided tours of four Bronze Age archaeological sites and two museums.
- Entrance fees to all archaeological sites and museums.
- Robinette Kennedy as your guide throughout the tour.
- Five days with Christine Morris.

### **Not Included:**

- Airfare to Greece
- Airfare to and from Crete
- Items of a personal nature (such as: laundry services, bottled water, medical supplies, optional excursions and other items not cited above.)
- Additional alcoholic beverages, snacks, meals or food items you may choose to have during the tour.
- Gratuities for archaeological guides, drivers, and hotel staff (estimated total: 80-100 euros)
- Any costs resulting from transportation delays and/or lost or delayed luggage while traveling in Crete or to and from Crete.

**To Register or for More Information:** Contact Robinette Kennedy at [robinettekennedy@windstream.net](mailto:robinettekennedy@windstream.net) or phone (001) 706-746-5485