



# AEGEAN ODYSSEY TOUR TO CRETE 2024

MONDAY 3 JUNE – SUNDAY 16 JUNE

13 NIGHT / 14 DAY CULINARY AND CULTURAL TOUR



# WEEK ONE: AGIOS NIKOLAOS

FOR THE FIRST WEEK WE WILL BE STAYING FOR SEVEN NIGHTS IN THE PORT OF AGIOS NIKOLAOS IN EASTERN CRETE WITH ROOMS OVERLOOKING THE “BOTTOMLESS” LAKE – LAKE VOULISMENI.

## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- A WELCOME DINNER AT STUNNING TERRASSA RESTAURANT OVERLOOKING THE BAY OF ELOUNDA
- A LOCAL FISHING BOAT TRIP TO THE ISLAND OF SPINALONGA FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE LAST LEPER COLONY OF EUROPE
- A SUBLIME SEAFOOD MEAL AT THE WATER’S EDGE IN A FISHING VILLAGE
- A DAY IN THE HISTORIC MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF KRITSA, WHERE AGE-OLD TRADITIONS SUCH AS POTTERY, LEATHERWEAR, LACEMAKING AND WEAVING ARE STILL CARRIED ON TODAY. WE WILL VISIT LOCAL HEROINE RODANTHE’S MUSEUM AND EAT A TRADITIONAL CRETAN LUNCH UNDER THE SHADE OF ANCIENT PLANE TREES





- VISITING A 13TH CENTURY BYZANTINE CHURCH, POPULAR FOR ITS WELL-PRESERVED FRESCOES
- LUNCH AND LEISURELY CRUISE AROUND THE BAY OF ELOUNDA ON A TRADITIONAL FISHING BOAT
- JOINING THE LOCALS AT THE WEEKLY FARMERS' AND TRAVELLERS' MARKET
- SPENDING A GLORIOUS EVENING UNDER THE STARS LISTENING TO CRETAN MUSIC AND ENJOYING LOCAL MEZZE PLATES, LOCAL WINE, AND RAKI
- PLENTY OF FREE TIME FOR WALKS, SWIMMING IN THE AZURE WATERS OF MIRABELLO BAY, EXPLORING, EATING, SHOPPING AND JUST LAZING AROUND
- THE OLIVE TRAIL - FROM THE OLIVE GROVE TO THE TABLE. INCLUDING A MASTERCLASS ON HOW TO COOK, BAKE AND FRY WITH OLIVE OIL!



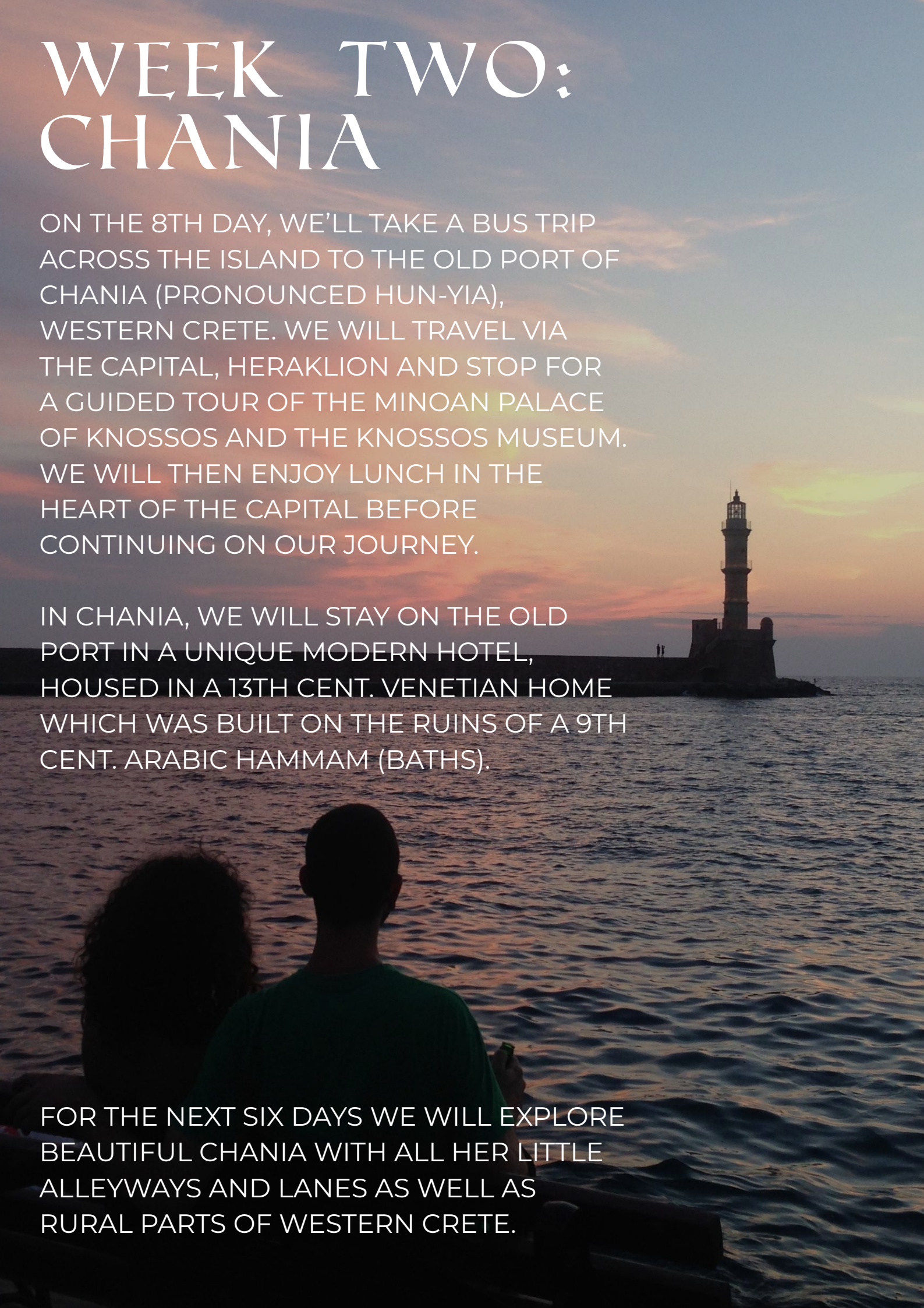


# WEEK TWO: CHANIA

ON THE 8TH DAY, WE'LL TAKE A BUS TRIP ACROSS THE ISLAND TO THE OLD PORT OF CHANIA (PRONOUNCED HUN-YIA), WESTERN CRETE. WE WILL TRAVEL VIA THE CAPITAL, HERAKLION AND STOP FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE MINOAN PALACE OF KNOSSOS AND THE KNOSSOS MUSEUM. WE WILL THEN ENJOY LUNCH IN THE HEART OF THE CAPITAL BEFORE CONTINUING ON OUR JOURNEY.

IN CHANIA, WE WILL STAY ON THE OLD PORT IN A UNIQUE MODERN HOTEL, HOUSED IN A 13TH CENT. VENETIAN HOME WHICH WAS BUILT ON THE RUINS OF A 9TH CENT. ARABIC HAMMAM (BATHS).

FOR THE NEXT SIX DAYS WE WILL EXPLORE BEAUTIFUL CHANIA WITH ALL HER LITTLE ALLEYWAYS AND LANES AS WELL AS RURAL PARTS OF WESTERN CRETE.





## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- WALKING TOUR OF THE OLD PORT, ENDING WITH A MEZZE LUNCH IN THE VENETIAN SECTOR
- GUIDED TOUR OF THE HOLY SANCTUARY OF AGIA IRINI – ONE OF THE OLDEST CRETAN MONASTERIES – INCLUDING THE MUSEUM, REFECTORY, AND ICON PAINTING, EMBROIDERY AND SEWING WORKSHOPS. WE WILL ALSO HAVE BREAKFAST WITH THE NUNS
- WINE TASTING, LUNCH AND TOUR OF THE KOURKOULU WINERY
- VISITING DOURAKIS WINERY AND MELISSAKIS OLIVE OIL MILL, TO LEARN THE SECRETS OF OIL AND WINE PRODUCTION AND CUSTOMS. THIS IS LED BY SOMMELIER ANNA MARIE AND HER APIARIST HUSBAND VASILIS - WE WILL THEN HAVE LUNCH AT THEIR VINEYARD
- A TRIP INTO THE VILLAGE OF VAMOS IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS FOR A COOKING LESSON IN A DISUSED OLIVE PRESS WITH CRETE'S MOST FAMOUS COOK – KIRIA KOULA, WHO WILL SHOW US THE SECRETS TO COOKING CRETAN DISHES. THIS DELICIOUS MEAL HAS BEEN DEEMED THE TOUR HIGHLIGHT!
- PLENTY OF FREE TIME TO SHOP, EXPLORE AND VISIT MUSEUMS. EACH EVENING WE WILL SIT AND WATCH THE SUNSET WITH A COCKTAIL IN HAND!





# TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- TRANSFER FROM HERAKLION TO AGIOS NIKOLAOS – 1 HOUR
- 7 NIGHTS SINGLE/TWIN/DOUBLE SHARE ACCOM. IN AGIOS NIKOLAOS
- 6 NIGHTS SINGLE/TWIN/DOUBLE SHARE ACCOM. IN CHANIA
- WELCOME DINNER OF TRADITIONAL FOOD AND WINE
- TRANSPORT TO PLAKA, RETURN LOCAL FISHING BOAT TRIP TO SPINALONGA, ADMISSION AND GUIDED TOUR OF SPINALONGA
- SEAFOOD LUNCH AND LOCAL WINE IN PLAKA
- TRADITIONAL MEZZE DINNER AND WINE OVERLOOKING THE LAKE
- TRANSPORT TO THE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF KRITSA
- LUNCH AND A MUSEUM TOUR DEPICTING EARLY LIFE IN KRITSA
- VISIT TO 13TH CENT. MEDIEVAL BYZANTINE CHURCH FAMOUS FOR ITS FRESCOES
- VISIT TO THE FARMERS'/TRAVELLERS' MARKET IN AGIOS NIKOLAOS
- NIGHT OF TRADITIONAL CRETAN MUSIC
- OLIVE TRAIL AND MASTERCLASS
- TRANSPORT, ADMISSION AND GUIDED TOUR OF KNOSSOS (KING MINOS' PALACE)
- ADMISSION AND GUIDED TOUR TO THE KNOSSOS MUSEUM
- TRADITIONAL LUNCH IN HERAKLION
- PRIVATE BUS TRIP TO CHANIA
- WALKING TOUR OF CHANIA'S VENETIAN, JEWISH AND TURKISH QUARTERS
- TRADITIONAL MEZZE LUNCH AND LOCAL WINE IN THE VENETIAN QUARTER
- BREAKFAST AND TOUR WITH THE NUNS OF AGIA IRINI MONASTERY
- WINE TASTING AND LUNCH AT THE FAMILY-OWNED KOURKOULOU WINERY
- THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL TOUR – OLIVE OIL, WINE TASTING AND BEE-KEEPING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN CRETE
- CRETAN COOKING CLASS + DINNER IN AN OLD DISUSED OLIVE PRESS
- ALFRESCO FAREWELL DINNER OF GREEK, TURKISH AND MIDDLE EASTERN CUISINE
- 14 BREAKFASTS / 5 DINNERS / 8 LUNCHES



## TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL TO AND FROM CRETE
- TRAVEL INSURANCE (ESSENTIAL!)
- LOCAL BUS FARES AND TAXIS DURING FREE TIME
- ALL MEALS INCLUDE LOCAL WINE (WHICH IS PRESERVATIVE AND ADDITIVE FREE - AND VERY DRINKABLE!); ANY OTHER DRINKS MUST BE PURCHASED SEPARATELY
- MEALS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN ABOVE INCLUSIONS
- LAUNDRY
- TIPS FOR MEALS, GUIDES, BUS DRIVERS ETC.





FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN STAYING IN ATHENS OR TRAVELLING TO OTHER ISLANDS - ONCE YOU HAVE PAID YOUR DEPOSIT I CAN HELP WITH ACCOMODATION AND ADVICE!

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE NOTE SOME TOURS ON THE ITINERARY MAY BE SWAPPED AROUND. I MAY ALSO SWAP TO ANOTHER DAY TO AVOID CLASHING WITH TOUR GROUPS.

TOUR STRICTLY LIMITED TO EIGHT PEOPLE, SO FIRST IN BEST DRESSED!

TOUR COST: \$8200 (AUD)

NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: \$900 DUE 02/07/2023, TO SECURE BOOKING

TWO PAYMENTS: \$3650 DUE 1/11/2023, AND \$3650 DUE 01/02/2024

PLEASE NOTE: NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PAYMENT IS NECESSARY; YOU ARE GUARANTEED YOUR OWN ROOM (I DON'T BELIEVE YOU SHOULD HAVE TO PAY EXTRA JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE TRAVELLING SOLO!).

A TOUR WHERE EVERY DAY IS DELICIOUSLY DIFFERENT!

