



ANCIENT ISLANDS: CRETE & SANTORINI

A PRIVATE TOUR FOR ARLINE & MICHAEL ROCHKIND

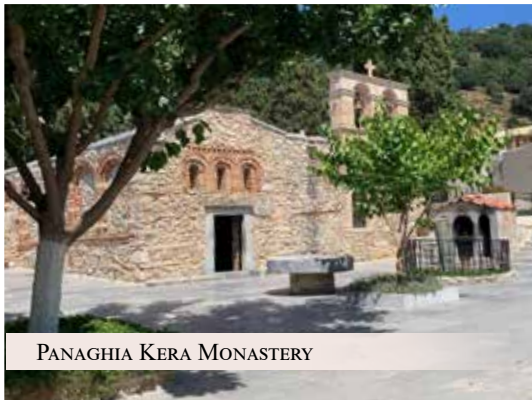
JUNE 3RD - 12TH 2021

Crete has an ancient and fascinating history stretching back into the mists of time. It is said that the mighty Zeus was once enchanted by the beauty of Europa, the daughter of Agenor, king of Tyre. He took the form of a white bull and carried her on his back across the sea to Crete. Here she settled and founded the dynasty that was later named for her son, King Minos – the mysterious and enigmatic Minoan civilization that flourished here between about 1700 and 1400 BCE.

Whatever the truth of its founding, we will come face to face with the evidence of Minoan wealth, power and sophistication as we visit the remains of their fabulous palaces and cities at Knossos, and Festos from our base in the modern capital of Heraklion.

A short fast-ferry ride across the wine-dark sea brings us to the island of Santorini (known locally as Thira). Some say that this island was the model for ancient Atlantis. A volcanic island, it erupted massively around 1500 BCE, literally “sinking beneath the waves.”

This June, before the crowds of summer have arrived - and before the weather becomes paralyzingly hot - why not join Discover Europe president, Michael Induni, and his lovely wife, Sarah, on this trip to see these *Ancient Islands*.



PANAGHIA KERA MONASTERY



SUNSET OVER SANTORINI

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (INTERNAL FLIGHTS INCLUDED) \$4470

*Transatlantic airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities.
Please call for details.*

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- FLIGHTS: One way tickets from Athens to Heraklion and Santorini to Athens. Checked bag fees and all airport taxes and customs charges are included.
- HOTELS: 8 nights' accommodation at first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- FERRIES: One way ferry tickets from Crete to Santorini
- MEALS: Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- GUIDES: Discover Europe tour guide Michael Induni throughout, local guides where necessary
- BAGGAGE: Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*



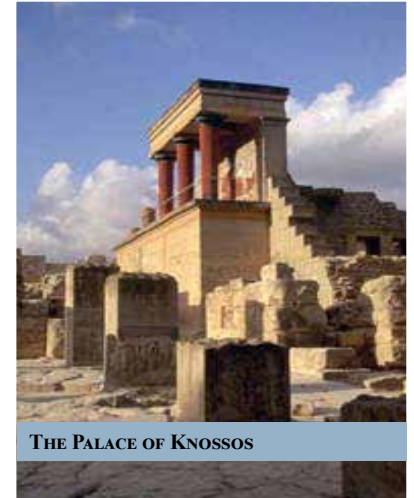
THURSDAY, JUNE 3RD - Departure today from your chosen international gateway city to Athens. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, JUNE 4TH - On arrival at Athens Airport, you will be met and escorted to the Sofitel Hotel attached to the airport terminal. After a chance to rest and recover from the long flights, we will gather for welcome drinks and dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS AIRPORT**

SATURDAY, JUNE 5TH - Returning to the airport this morning we board the short flight to Heraklion in Crete. On arrival, we will transfer to our hotel in the city center.

There will be time to unpack, relax and find some lunch in a local restaurant. This afternoon, when we are ready, we'll visit the National Archaeological Museum, just around the corner from the hotel, where many of the treasures discovered at the Palace of Knossos are on display. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 6TH - This morning we visit the Palace of Knossos. Forever associated with King Minos and the fabled Minotaur, Knossos is the largest and best-preserved palace of the Minoan civilization, dating from between 1700 and 1400 BCE. After an extensive visit of this large site we will return to our hotel in Heraklion, where the rest of day is free to enjoy the city. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**



THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS

MONDAY, JUNE 7TH - This morning we head inland, to the 3,000 foot high Lasithi Plateau, green, fertile, and irrigated by white-sailed windmills. Our first stop will be at Agios Nikolaos where we'll have time to stop and explore this beautiful resort town, then we'll visit the 13th-century church of Panaghia Kera, with its frescoes from the late Byzantine period. We'll continue up into the mountains, stopping at little villages en route. Lunch is included in the village of Psychro home of the Diktation Andron, otherwise known as the Dictaeon Cave. This is (according to legend) where the infant Zeus was kept hidden from his father Cronos to avoid being eaten! We return to Heraklion for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

TUESDAY, JUNE 8TH - This morning we drive south across the island to the lesser known, but equally impressive Minoan site at Festos. We'll stop in Matala, famous for its cliff caves, and return to Heraklion via the ancient Roman city of Gortys. We will end our stay in Crete with an evening of traditional Cretan food and dancing. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9TH - This morning we take a short taxi ride to the port and board the fast ferry from Heraklion direct to Santorini - a crossing of just under 2 hours. After time to check in and have lunch we will gather for an afternoon visit to Akrotiri, one of the most important prehistoric sites in the world, showing evidence of settlement from as early as the 4th millennium BCE. Like Pompeii, much of the site was preserved as a result of a volcanic eruption covering it in a layer of ash - however, the eruption at Akrotiri occurred 1,650 years earlier! Dinner is included this evening **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SANTORINI**



YOUR TABLE AWAITS

THURSDAY, JUNE 10TH - This morning we take a panoramic tour of the island villages with their distinctive architecture, and have lunch on one of the famous black-sand beaches. The afternoon and evening are free to explore the town and enjoy the facilities at the hotel. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: SANTORINI**

FRIDAY, JUNE 11TH - We'll get a different perspective on the island this morning as we take a boat trip around the Caldera - the crater left by the volcano when it erupted, that is now flooded by the sea. A free afternoon to relax before we gather for our final farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SANTORINI**

SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH - Transfer to Santorini Airport this morning for the short flight to Athens, where you connect with your returning flights to the US. You may want to consider breaking the journey with a stop in London to see some old friends. **(B)**