



## EXPLORING ATHENS & THE ISLAND OF CRETE OCTOBER 21 - 29, 2016

The Island of 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, Festos and Gournia.



We'll make our base in the lively capital of Heraklion and explore a variety of sites in a series of day trips, encompassing the whole history of the island from the Minoans to the present day. We'll break our journey on the way over with a two-night stop in Athens, where we'll visit the Acropolis and the fabulous New Acropolis Museum located at its base (and just around the corner from our hotel). This fall, why not join Sandi Tinyk, director of the Barrington Community School, for an odyssey on the Island of Crete.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup>** - Early morning transfer from Barrington to Boston, Logan Airport for our departure aboard British Airways' daytime flight to London. Connect at London Heathrow to your onward BA flight to Athens. On arrival we will be met for the transfer to our city center hotel.

**OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>** - A leisurely start this morning as we stroll around the corner from our hotel for a guided visit of the New Acropolis Museum. This is followed by a tour of the Acropolis itself, the main site of Classical Athens dominating the ancient city center. The afternoon is free to wander through the Plaka, the old part of the city with narrow winding streets bursting with stores and cafes. This evening we have dinner at a local taverna.

**(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>** - After free time this morning, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the National Archeological Museum in Athens and head straight from there to the airport for the short flight to Crete. Enjoy time to unpack and settle into our hotel before we gather for dinner.

**(B, D) OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>** - Today 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 BC. After an extensive visit of this large site we will return to Heraklion and visit the National

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

BOSTON DEPARTURE	<b>\$3390</b>
LAND ONLY (includes internal flights)	<b>\$2390</b>
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	<b>\$ 780</b>

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

The following services are included:

<b>AIRFARE:</b>	Round trip air from Boston to Athens and from Athens to Crete. All airport taxes and customs charges included
<b>HOTELS:</b>	8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels All hotel taxes and service charges included
<b>COACHING:</b>	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, including round trip transfers from Barrington to Logan Airport.
<b>MEALS:</b>	Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
<b>GUIDES:</b>	Local English-speaking guides throughout. Sandi Tinyk will also escort the group throughout the tour
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
<b>ENTRANCES:</b>	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & REGISTRATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
SANDI TINYK AT THE BARRINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
(401) 245-0432



Archaeological Museum of Crete. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B)**

**OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>** - Our excursion today takes us south across the island to the ancient Minoan site of Festos, second only to Knossos in terms of size and importance. We'll stop for lunch (included) in the seaside resort of Matala, famous for the Roman burial caves, carved into the cliff sides. After lunch we'll visit the fabulous Roman remains of the city of Gortys. We'll return to Heraklion for a free evening. **(B, L)**

**OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning a short drive out of the city brings us to the Monastery of Arkadi. Built during the last Venetian period (completed in 1587), the monastery has become a symbol of freedom to the Cretan people, due to the events in 1866 when it was destroyed during a siege by the Turkish Army. From here we will visit the nearby village of Margarites, known for its traditional Cretan village architecture and its local pottery industry. We return to Heraklion and have the rest of the afternoon free – you may like to visit the local history museum or take a stroll around the city walls. The evening is free. **(B)**

**OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>** - Today begins with a visit to the Minoan site at Mallia, the third-largest on the island. From here we drive up into the mountains and onto the 3,000-ft-high Lasithi Plateau, green, fertile, and irrigated by white-sailed windmills. We'll stop here for lunch (included), and pass close to the Dicteon Andron, the cave where his mother, Rhea, hid the crying infant Zeus from Cronus, his father. On our way back to Heraklion we'll visit the 13<sup>th</sup>-century church of Panaghia Kera, with its frescoes from the late Byzantine period. The evening is free in Heraklion. **(B, L)**

**OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>** - Our first stop will be the Minoan city of Gournia, discovered and excavated around the turn of the last century by the American archeologist Harriet Boyd-Hawes. A beautiful drive along the coast brings us to the town of Sitia, where we'll visit its delightful small museum, known for its collection of Linear A tablets (the writing of the Minoan people). We'll return to Heraklion with time to freshen up before we gather for a farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

**OVERNIGHT: HERAKLION**



A LASITHI PLATEAU WINDMILL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning transfer to Heraklion Airport for the short flight to Athens, where we connect with our returning British Airways' flights to Boston. Your arrival at Logan Airport will be met for the transfer to Barrington. Or you may wish to stay on for an optional 3-night stay on the magical island of Santorini. **(B)**

**OVERNIGHT: HOME**

**OPTIONAL SANTORINI EXTENSION**

THE COST OF THE SANTORINI EXTENSION IS: **\$980** PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (\$350 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT) INCLUDING ALL FLIGHTS, HOTELS, MEALS AND INCLUSIONS AS LISTED.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>** - You will transfer in Athens to the short flight to Santorini. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel. 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

4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC. 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**



FIRA, SANTORINI

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we take a panoramic tour of the island villages with their distinctive architecture, and stop to view one of the famous black-sand beaches. In the afternoon, the more energetic among us may choose to climb to the top of the active volcano for stunning views of the island. The evening is free. **(B)**

**OVERNIGHT: SANTORINI**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>** - A free day. You may take an optional boat trip around the volcano crater to view the island from the water. **(B)**

**OVERNIGHT: SANTORINI**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>** - Morning transfer to Santorini Airport for the short flight to Athens, where we connect with our returning British Airways' flights to Boston. Your arrival will be met for the transfer to Barrington. **(B)**

**OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **D** - dinner