

*February 7, 2018*

*Dear friends,*

*It is with great pleasure I invite you to join me on the Greek adventure I have spent many hours dreaming of, creating and planning!*

*Our time spent in the beautiful country of Greece will include the ancient cities of Heraklion and Chania as we explore the beautiful countryside, culture and experiences together.*

*During our time together, for those who wish, we will begin each morning with Yoga and end each evening with restorative, Yin Yoga, or guided meditation. Not familiar with Yoga? Don't worry. All levels are welcome and encouraged.*

*Details and pricing are attached. If you will be joining us, please note a 50% deposit will be required March 26, with the balance remaining due August 1.*

*Whether friends we have known or new friends we will have the opportunity to get to know through our travel and adventures, all are welcome to join and we look forward to experiencing this incredible time together!*

*In health and love,*

*Gretchen.*



# **8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS** **SEPTEMBER 15-22, 2018**

## **01 DAY, 15 SEP 2018, HERAKLION ARRIVAL**

Arrival in Heraklion Airport, meet & greet with your English Speaking Assistant and transfer to Heraklion city.

Check-in at selected hotel.

Rest of the day at your leisure.

In the evening, enjoy a welcome cocktail party at the hotel.

Overnight in Heraklion



## 02 DAY, 16 SEP 2018, HALF DAY PRIVATE TOUR KNOSSOS

Breakfast at hotel.

Meet your driver and proceed to Knossos, where you will meet your local English speaking licensed guide and visit the Knossos site on private basis.

Only few kilometers south of Heraklion, Knossos, the capital of King Minos and the center of the magnificent Minoan civilization is located. Our visit here will take us a step back in time and some 4000 years, 2000 BC. Knossos and her Palace, famous throughout the world through the myths of Europa, the Minotaur, the Labyrinth and Theseus, Daedalus and Ikarus, will open us a window to the most ancient civilization of Europe and its reality you can't miss.

Knossos' architectural feats include several storey buildings (first in the world) with light wells and bathrooms, impressive pillars and an ingenious drainage system, aqueducts, irrigation systems, paved roads and magnificent frescoes. All these will impress you and show an advanced beautiful jewelry and a way of life you never thought possible in the dawn of history.



On the way back to Heraklion, enjoy a wine tour and wine taste in one of the most renowned wineries in Crete, located in Scalani village (Boutari Wines).

Your next stop will be Archanes village, which is very famous for its typical Cretan architecture. Most of the houses have been recently restored and the village has won the second award for "the best restored village in Europe"

Return at hotel after the tour. Rest of the day at your leisure

Overnight in Heraklion



### **03 DAY, 17 SEP 2018, HERAKLION - CHANIA**

Breakfast at the hotel & proceed to check-out.

Meet your driver and transfer to Chania area. On the way to Chania, you will enjoy a short stop to village of Margarites, near to Rethymno city, to explore the beautiful alleys. It is also called the village of "pitharades", the jar makers, since Margarites have a tradition in pottery. Walking around the alleys, you see the large pots of clay outside the doors and the few tourists entering the pottery. The flowers flood the courtyards, the breeze is cool, the frozen raki (a local spirit) and the life simple and nice. Perched at an altitude of 300 meters, at the northern foothills of Psiloritis, Margarites are 27 kilometers from Rethymno. Ancient monasteries, towers, paths, chapels hidden in caves and canyons and a fertile valley that stretches out in front of the village make up the backdrop of the picturesque village.



Arrival in Chania & check-in at hotel selected. Rest of the day at your leisure.

Overnight in Chania

## **04 DAY, 18 SEP 2018, HALF DAY VISIT TO MONASTERY OF CHRYSOPIGI**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Meet your driver and enjoy a day dedicated to the visit to the Monastery of Chrysopigi (“Chrysopigi” means in Greek “Golden Source”). The Patriarchal Monastery of Chrysopigi was founded in Chania during the last period of the Venetian Period (end of 16th century) and is dedicated to Panagia Zoodocho Pigi. Every year come thousands of pilgrims from Greece and the abroad to kneel the miraculous icon of Panagia (the “Virgin Mary”).

During the centuries the monastery came across periods of blooming and decline. It suffered from numerous raids and serious destructions by the Turks and German conquerors of Crete. The Monastery accommodated males until 1976, when it was transformed into a female monastery and was also restored from foundations.

Return at hotel after the tour. Rest of the day at your leisure.

Overnight in Chania



## **05-06 DAYS, 19-20 SEP 2018, LEISURE DAYS IN CHANIA**

Breakfast at hotel.

Enjoy leisure days at Hotel in Chania area.

Overnights in Chania

## **07 DAY, 21 SEP 2018, FULL DAY TOUR TO SAMARIA GORGE**

Breakfast at hotel.

Today the longest tour of your holidays is waiting for you, accompanied by an English speaking local escort/ guide.

Leaving early in the morning and driving along the north coastline to Chania and on to the Plain of Omalos, 1300 meters above sea level, where we begin our descent into the gorge. The 18 km walk begins with our descent from Xyloskalo 800 meters onto the floor of the gorge.

The gorge of Samaria is one of the longest in Europe, some 18 klms (12 miles) and varies from 2-40 meters wide, with a depth of 250-600 meters. It takes 6-7 hours to walk through and it is essential for you to have the correct footwear as it is rocky in some places. However the ever changing view and the wonderful scents of pinewood and Cretan herbs make the walk pleasant and the effort worthwhile.

Following the path next to the river bed of Taras, with its crystal sparkling water, you pass the stone huts and Osia (Santa) Maria church in the deserted village of Samaria, through fantastic rock formations which have been carved and etched by

thousands of years of winter torrents, taste the fresh cold water from the springs on these rocks, and finally into the narrow pass of Sideroportas (Iron doors) that rises to a height of 300 meters but is only a mere few meters wide.

This brings you to the mouth of the gorge, which is on the shores of the Libyan Sea, at the small fishing village of Aghia Roumeli. Here you can taste a meal in one of the local taverns or enjoy a refreshing swim in the blue water of the Libyan Sea. From here you are transported by boat to Chora Sfakion, where we meet our coach for the return journey through the scenic route of Imbros Gorge and the Plateau, the villages of Askifou and Vrisses.

Definitely a trip for the adventurous and fairly fit.

(At the beginning and end of the season a change of socks and a jacket would be essential)

Return at hotel after the tour.

Overnight in Chania



## 08 DAY, 22 SEP 2018, DEPARTURE

Breakfast at hotel.

Check out from your hotel in Chania

Meet your English speaking escort and transfer to Chania airport, in order to take your domestic connection to Athens and then your International flight back home.



*We leave Greece, dreaming of our return!*

HOTEL PROPOSED IN HERAKLION OR SIMILAR



HOTEL PROPOSED IN CHANIA OR SIMILAR



## TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 2 Nights in Heraklion at Hotel Galaxy, or similar
- 5 Nights in Chania area at Hotel Amalthia Beach Resort, or similar
- Breakfast daily
- Private Luxury transportation with A/C Mercedes Benz Sprinter 19 seater minibus as per above itinerary description
- English speaking escort during arrival transfer from the Heraklion Airport to hotel in Heraklion area
- Welcome cocktail party at Hotel Galaxy upon arrival day, with Ouzo, Cretan raki (it is like the grappa), Campari or Aperol, Fruit Punch, Mineral water & finger food. Duration 1 & half hour.
- Special area on the swimming pool of the Hotel Galaxy to dedicate to 2 yoga sessions on day 16 September 2018.
- Private half day tour to Knossos site with local English speaking licensed guide & wine taste in Skalani village
- Private transfer from Heraklion to Chania with short stop at Margarites village, without guide.
- Area of the lawn at Hotel Amalthia for daily yoga sessions.
- Private half day tour to Monastery Chryso Pigi in Chania area, with English speaking assistant/guide (4 hours approx)
- Private full day tour to Samaria Gorge (long way), with English speaking escort (more than 8 hours)
- Farewell cocktail party at Hotel Amalthia, with finger food menu. (Beverage excluded.)
- Entrance fees to Knossos site, Ancient Aptera, Samaria Gorge.
- Ticket to winery in Skalani village.
- Accommodation and service free of charge for the tour leader.
- Ferry ticket to Samaria Gorge
- Two small bottles per person per day in bus (during the transfers and the excursions).
- 24 hours phone assistance for any case of emergency
- Travel Kit (Maps, English brochures etc.)
- VAT

## **NOT INCLUDED:**

- City taxes (to pay on the spot)
- Any domestic & international flight
- Meal not specified in the above section.
- Drinks, beverage throughout
- Drinks, water, beverage during the farewell cocktail dinner at Hotel Amalthia.
- Tips in Greece (On the spot)
- Porters
- Any personal expenses of the guests
- Anything not mentioned in the above section

<b>Tour and hotels (HERAKLION &amp; CHANIA)</b>	<b>Tour net rate per person (Double-shared room)</b>
<p>5* HERAKLION, 2 NTS: HOTEL GALAXY, IN DBL SUPERIOR BB <a href="http://www.galaxy-hotel.com/">http://www.galaxy-hotel.com/</a></p> <p>4* CHANIA, 5 NTS: HOTEL AMALTHIA BEACH, IN DBL GARDEN VIEW BB <a href="http://www.amalthia-hotel.gr">http://www.amalthia-hotel.gr</a></p> <p>*HOTELS AS NOTED ABOVE OR SIMILAR.</p>	<p><b>\$2,480*</b></p> <p>*Note: tour pricing does not include airfare.</p>

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

**FROM 01 JAN 2018 AN ADDITIONAL TOURIST TAX WILL APPLY TO BE SETTLED BY GUESTS ON THE SPOT. THE AMOUNT IS:**

**5\* HOTELS: 4.00 EUR PER ROOM PER NIGHT**

**4\* HOTELS: 3.00 EUR PER ROOM PER NIGHT**

## **Additional items (included in tour price):**

**CHANIA BUS:** 4 hour disposal of one mini bus Sprinter 19 seater, within Chania area.

### **EXCURSION TO ELAFONISSI**

Today we are heading the Elafonisi beach. Elafonisi is an island located close to the southwestern corner of the Mediterranean island of Crete, of which it is administratively a part, in the regional unit of Chania.

When the weather is fine it is possible to walk to the island through the shallow water. The island is a protected nature reserve. It is known for its pink sand beaches, created by tidal and wave-induced deposits of pigmented microorganisms living in a symbiotic relationship with native seaweed.



**Included:** private transportation with minibus, English speaking escort, one small bottle of water per person in bus, V.A.T. & taxes.

**Not included:** tips, meal, any persona expenses of the guests, anything not specifically mentioned in the section "Included".

### **SPECIAL OFFERS :**

#### **SPA Services**

**Hotel Galaxy/ Heraklion:** 10% discount on all kind of massages

**Hotel Amalthia/ Chania:** 10% discount on SPA treatments

