

**ΠΡΟΣΚΥΝΗΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΕΚΔΡΟΜΗ
ΣΤΗ ΚΡΗΤΗ
ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ
ΚΑΙ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ
11 ΜΑΙΟΥ 2026 (7 ΜΕΡΕΣ)**



Hersonissos



Hersonissos (Chersonissos) is a resort town 25 kilometers east of Heraklion. It is suitable for tourists of all ages because the harbor of Hersonissos is famous for its night life with many bars, clubs and pubs. You will also find a wide range of accommodation - hotels, apartments, villas and a camping sites. There are various restaurants, taverns, bakeries, fast food, shops, a bank and a medical center.

There are a few sandy beaches in and around Hersonissos. The largest one is next to the harbor but it gets crowded in high season. Water sports are also available, as well as a small water park 5 km away from Hersonissos - Star Beach.

Palmera Beach Hotel & Spa ★★★★★



The 4-star Palmera Beach Hotel & Spa is located at the beach in Hersonissos, Heraklion Region. Palmera Beach Hotel & Spa offers to its guests garden, pool bar, bar and outdoor swimming pool. No kids are allowed at the hotel as it is only for adults.

The rooms offer sea view. Amenities of the rooms include a/c, heating, tv, fridge, etc. In the bathroom there is hairdryer.

The wireless internet is free and available in all areas of the hotel.

CHURCH GROUP IN CRETE

2026



NEW PROGRAMME

1ST DAY - HERAKLION - HERSONISSOS

Arrival at Heraklion airport. Our guide will be expecting the group to take it to Hersonissos, at Hotel Palmera Beach (or similar)

Check in for your room and overnight stay.

2ND DAY HERSONISSOS - HERAKLION



After breakfast, sightseeing of Heraklion town. First stop at the **Cathedral of Saint Titus** also known as **Agios Titos**, is an Orthodox church in the city dedicated to Saint Titus. The current church was built in 1869 as the **Yeni Cami** ("New Mosque") after the previous building was destroyed by the earthquake of 1856. In 1925 it was converted to Christian worship. The church was declared a cathedral of the archdiocese of Crete in 2013. The church is an eclectic style square temple with a dome. The exterior of the temple is dominated by vertical elements, while at the top there is a stone-carved apse.

The Museum of Christian Art "**St. Catherine of Sinai**" is housed in the church of the same name. The central theme is religious art in Crete from the 14th to the 19th century. This former 15th century cathedral houses a permanent exhibition of beautiful icons from several Cretan places of worship and examples of murals, carved wood, manuscripts and other artwork. A must visit for those interested in the art of icons and exciting for all.

Lunch during excursion.

The third and last visit of the day will be at **Agarathos Monastery**, one of the oldest monasteries in Crete, most probably established during the second Byzantine period and originally belonged to the Kallergis family. It is built on a lush green location at an altitude of 538 meters, approximately 24 km east of Heraklion.

Welcome drink.

Dinner and overnight in Hersonissos.

3rd DAY HERSONISSOS – ARCHANES – MONASTERY ST GEORGES EPANOSIFI



This excursion takes you right to the nice village of Archanes, Epano Archanes is located at an altitude of 400 meters at the northeastern end of the valley formed by Mount Yuchtas.

Near the northwest side of Archanes is the Minoan necropolis of Fourni.

You will enjoy this small vibrant town with meticulously restored old houses and pleasant squares

Archanes Village is surrounded by endless vineyards and cool springs and the town itself is full of colorful houses, and vibrant flowers that decorate the yards and the streets.

Lunch during excursion .

Route then to Monastery of Epanosifi which is one of the oldest monasteries in the Prefecture of Heraklion, but also in Crete in general. Many brothers of the monastery later became bishops of Arcadia. The brothers of the Monastery include Archbishop Makarios of Australia and Metropolitans Nathanael of Chicago, Arsenios of Austria and Bishop Paisios of Apamea.

This monastery houses valuable relics, gospels, crosses with wood-carved depictions, a silver chalice from 1842, vestments and much more.

Dinner and overnight in Hersonissos.

4th DAY HERSONISSOS - LATO- KRITSA - SPINALONGA - AGIOS NIKOLAOS



In the morning, the coach will take you to the Church of **Panagia Kera** Cretan Byzantine church at a small distance from the small village of Kritsa in the Dikte Mountains. It contains the finest-preserved Byzantine-era frescoes in Crete and for that reason, has become one of the most culturally and historically significant churches on the island.

Later visit Lato, nestled amidst stunning olive groves, is one of the few surviving Greek sites from the Archaic period. Founded by the Dorians in the 7th century BC, the city was fortified with towers and boasted two acropolises, a theatre, an agora.

Next departure to Elounda where you will embark to **Spinalonga** .The island was maintained as a fortress for centuries under Venetian rule. It later became a refuge for Muslim families fearing persecution, and finally a leper colony in the early 20th century. It has been uninhabited since 1962; though it has undergone some restoration work in the years since. Today it is the second most visited tourist site in Crete, and sixth in Greece overall

Lunch during excursion.

The afternoon the bus will take the group to the picturesque city of Agios Nikolaos.

Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

5th DAY HERSONISSOS – SITIA- TOPLOU



After breakfast, departure to the east of the island and first stop at **Sitia**, the easternmost city on Crete near the Cape Sidero, 64km from Agios Nicolaos. During the Byzantine period, the town flourished as a commercial port, the medieval city flourished as a castle, protected by a large

wall, and the fortress Kazama, located today on a hill near the port.

Also Sitia area is famous for the production of agricultural products; olive oil, wine and raki. Indeed, the olive oil of Sitia is one of the best in the world, winning several international awards every year.

Route to **Toplou Monastery** currently active monastery located in a semi-arid area of the Lasithi regional unit, It is dedicated to Panagia (Virgin Mary) and St John the Theologian. The monastery, especially the main building, is a composite of structures resulting from its frequent destruction and consequent rebuilding.

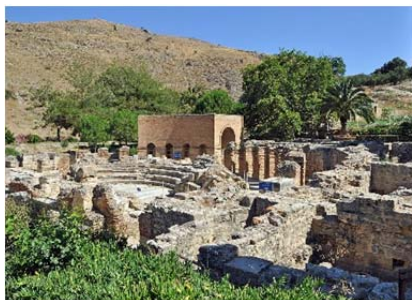
The monastery has this entire time been economically and politically proactive. The monks, dressed in blue robes, under the direction of the Abbott, run a number of businesses. As the main road from Sitia to Vai runs through the premises, the monastery is open to the public

Within the main gate are a store and a museum. The museum is a repository for many works of art, containing also collections of manuscripts. On the outside, much of the land around the monastery buildings is used for viticulture and oliviculture. They manufacture and export wine and olive oil.

Lunch during excursion.

Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.





Passing through the grape-producing valley of Malevisi, you will take the road towards the Messara plain, the largest and most important of the agricultural areas of Crete. Olives feature highly in the local produce, as do fruit and vegetables.

Your first guided visit will be to the ruins of the ancient city of **Gortys**. Inhabited from at least Minoan times, Gortys came into its own during the occupation of the Dorians, and reached the height of its powers under the Romans, from 67 BC. The impressive ruins include temples, a theatre and other buildings. Most important of all are the large blocks of stone engraved with the 'Code of Gortys'. Dating from about 500 BC, this is a law code which gives fascinating information about the structure of the society at that time. You will also visit the remains of the early Christian church of Agios Titos, built in the 6th century. It is dedicated to Titus who was sent by St Paul to convert the island to Christianity.

Next stop will be at the Monastery of **Panagia Kaliviani**, located near Mires and Festos, is a breathtaking monastery dedicated to the Virgin Mary, combining Christian faith with social service. The monastery stands at an impressive 80 metres above sea level and dates back to the 14th century. It is believed that the original church was built by a Venetian lord and dedicated to Panagia Kaliviani, in the monastery is **the tomb of Gerontissa Galaktia**.

The **Holy Monastery of Hodigitria** will be your next visit. It is a male monastery, formerly stauropegic, located on the western edge of the Asterousia Mountains, in a fortified position. The monastery has been mainly associated with the legendary hero Xopateras, who along with the other fighters became the fear of the Janissaries. In the last years of the Revolution of '21 during the Turkish purges in Asterousia, Xopateras chose to close himself in the monastery with his wife and other relatives.

After a highly cultural morning, you will be able to relax in the seaside town of **Matala**. After lunch you will have free time to enjoy the clear waters and the spectacular sandy beach surrounded by cliffs which are known for the numerous caves to be found there.

Lunch during excursion.

In the afternoon the group will visit the tomb of Gerontas Evmenios at the village of Ethia.

Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.



7TH DAY**LASITHI – MONASTERY GOVERNIOTISSA – PANAGIA KARDIOTISSA -**

Attendance of Sunday morning service at the church of **Metamorfofi tou Sotiros** at Piskopiano village close to Hersonissos

Today, you will discover the area of Lasithi, with the **Monastery of Gouverniotissa**

The monastery of Panagia Gouverniotissa is built on a small hill with a beautiful view of Lagada and the Aposelemis dam, which is the largest hydroelectric project in Crete.

The church, cruciform with a dome, is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and is one of the oldest in Crete. It is decorated with important frescoes with various themes, such as Christ the Pantocrator on the dome, the Prophets, the Crucifixion, the Virgin Mary, etc., which rank it among the most important churches with frescoes in Crete with artistic influences from Constantinople.

Another interesting monastery is **Panagia Kardiotissa**

Dating from the early fourteenth century, the monastery was named after an old icon of Theotokos that according to tradition was miraculous.

The monastery is surrounded by fortified walls. The main church) was originally built as an arch-covered single space structure and was later expanded with two narthexes and a smaller chapel. The church features murals dating to the 14th and 15th centuries.

Lunch during excursion.

Dinner and overnight in Hersonissos.

8th DAY**HERSONISSOS – HERAKLION - ENGLAND**

Breakfast and free day at Hersonissos.

Lunch at the hotel.

Late in the afternoon route to the airport, check-in and departure.

End of services.

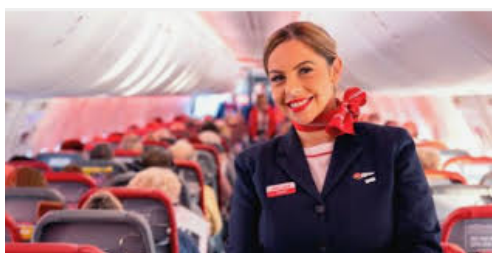


WHAT IS INCLUDED IN OUR 11 MAY 2026 TOUR OF EASTERN CRETE

- Airport/hotel/airport transfers mentioned in the program by air-conditioned coach –
- Welcome drink –
- Accommodation in double/twin/triple or single rooms with half-board (breakfast and dinner buffets), 7 nights in Hersonisos Palmera Beach Hotel
- Visits and excursions with entry to sites, museums and monasteries indicated according to the program.
- A qualified English-speaking guide (Konstantina)
- 6 lunches in selected taverns and restaurants, with meals based on traditional Cretan cuisine, 4-course menus (starter, salad, main course, dessert)
- The boat trip to the island of Spinalonga
- Olive oil tasting
- Tour guide headphones for all the stay
- Assistance from our office
- Local services and taxes, as well as accommodation tax
- Liability insurance

Prices do not include:

- Extra drinks and personal expenses,
- Anything not expressly mentioned
- Tips to the guide and the driver (mandatory)



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ΛΕΠΤΟΜΕΡΕΙΕΣ ΠΤΗΣΕΩΝ

LS 1241 11 MAY BIRMINGHAM-HERAKLION 1735 2340
LS 1242 19 MAY HERAKLION-BIRMINGHAM 0030 0255