



# CRETE

*With Vivi Paleogeorge*

## GREEK EASTER TOUR

(16<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025)

### Day 1 /AGIAS NICHOLAS ( Wed. 16th) FREE DAY

From Athens, please book AEGEAN AIRLINES to Heraklion, (10am or 11.25 )

You will be met at 12.30pm and transferred to our hotel. On the way, we will visit the incredible Palace of Knossos, dating back to the Minoan civilization. Our hotel, with its fabulous views, is the perfect spot to enjoy our surroundings.

Welcome drinks followed by dinner, featuring traditional Cretan dishes. (D)

### Day 2/ AGIAS NICHOLAS ( Thurs. 17th)

Agias Nicholas is filled with fish tavernas by the sea wall. The small village is a maze of twisting narrow alleys surrounded by whitewashed homes with brightly painted wooden shutters and balconies. Voulasmeni Lake, lined with fishing boats, is a wonderful, iconic Greek scene for our first painting day! (B)

### Day 3/ AGIAS NICHOLAS (Fri. 18th) GREEK ORTHODOX GOOD FRIDAY

Kritsa ,a nearby picturesque village, is well known for its traditional Cretan architecture, textiles, crafts and stunning views.

Panagia Kera, a medieval Byzantine church makes a fabulous painting subject!

This evening, along the harbour, we will witness the incredibly moving Good Friday procession. Beautiful epitaphs festooned with garlands of flowers are followed by a candle-lit procession.

Dinner at a seaside taverna - enjoy the super fresh catch of the day (B,D)



**Day 4/ AGIAS NICHOLAS (Sat. 19th)**

**Spinalonga Island** is a rocky islet just off the coast with a 16<sup>th</sup> century Venetian castle and fortress, which makes a fabulous subject. Heading back to the mainland to Plaka beach with its cafes, we also have the chance to take a dip or do some seascape painting.

If you are not too tired, why not join the locals for evening mass, followed by the chiming of all the church bells in the village at midnight! **(B)**

**Day 5/ AGIAS NICHOLAS (Sun. 20th )\_GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER SUNDAY (FREE DAY).**

**Free morning** to perhaps finish off your work or take a stroll along the waterfront.

**You are invited to a lunchtime Greek Easter feast**, with live music and dancing followed by our evening down by the harbour where the whole island gathers to parade along the waterfront. The cafes are spilling over with festivity and the mountains surrounding the town are a blaze of fireworks. Truly unforgettable! **Afternoon review. (B, L)**

**Day 6/ HORA SFAKION (Mon. 21st )**

**Hora Sfakion.** Early morning departure to Hora Sfakion, stopping at pretty mountain villages.

**Alagni** is a charming mountain village surrounded by fabulous vineyards and olive groves dotted in wildflowers. We will set up in the olive grove to paint these ancient trees with their sinewy trunks and silver-flecked leaves. Crete produces some of the best wines in Greece, which we will sample from Lyrarakis Winery. After lunch, we continue our journey to Hora Sfakion, through the interior of the island, covered in wild thyme and oregano.

Dinner by the sea at a gorgeous little taverna. **(B, D)**

**Day 7/ HORA SFAKION (Tues. 22nd)**

The coastline around our hotel is filled with lovely, serene bays with rocky headlands. **(B)**

**Day 8 / HORA SFAKION (Wed. 23rd)**

**Boat trip to Loutra**, with its crystal- clear little harbour lined with fishing boats and tangled nets. With its' cafes perched on the waters edge, it is the perfect spot for our painting session.

Dinner at one of Hora Sfakion's popular family tavernas. **Afternoon review (B, D)**

**Day 9 /CHANIA(Thurs. 24th)**

**Early morning departure for Chania**, stopping on the way at the beautiful dramatic **Samaria Gorge** for some landscape painting. After our picnic lunch, we will continue to our accommodation in Chania, surrounded by endless painting & sketching subjects. **(B, L)**

**Day 10/ CHANIA (Fri. 25th )**

**Chania .** We will spend the morning painting one of the most stunning harbours in Greece with its rows of pastel- coloured houses and cafes with colourful awnings. Chania is a beautiful town of faded elegance. Dinner at a traditional taverna in the cobbled backstreets of Chania. **(B, D)**





**Day 11/ CHANIA(Sat. 26th)**

**Elafonissi Beach** with its shimmering pink sand and turquoise water is one of Crete's most beautiful natural reserves. With our beachside picnic of delicious Cretan snacks and organic fruit, it is the ideal location to spend our day **(B, L)**

**Day 12/ CHANIA (Sun. 27th)**

**The Old Town** is a magical place to stroll with its medieval cobbled lanes and Venetian buildings connected by beautiful arches.

The view of the fortress crowning the town and the lively harbour is a lovely in the late afternoon light. **(B)**

**Day 13/ CHANIA (Mon. 28th) FREE DAY**

Time to finish off our work for our late afternoon critique.

**Afternoon critique** accompanied by farewell cocktails. **Group dinner** on the stunning waterfront of Chania overlooking the harbour, strewn with festive lights. **(B, D)**

**Day 14/ DEPARTURE (Tues. 29th )**

Please book **AEGEAN AIRLINES** (9:20am or 12:55) from Chania to Athens.

**\*Please note** that the return flight to Athens is from **CHANIA**, not Heraklion.



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