



LIFESTYLE HOLIDAYS – GREECE

Crete Bike & Boat Tour – 8 days ex Heraklion



Explore the fascinating and diverse island of Crete by mountain bike and motorised sailing yacht on our 7 day bike and sail tour. We take time along the way to relax, admire the scenery, meet the 'authentic' Cretans, enjoy the beautiful beaches, explore the history and indulge in the local cuisine. Our tour starts from the port of Heraklion and finishes at the southern side of Crete at Aghia Galini. The program includes daily biking tours of 35 to 65 km per day with riding options to suit the needs of both advanced and beginner cyclists. There is always the option to travel shorter distances according to your level of fitness. A support vehicle will accompany the riders or meet the group at certain points throughout the riding. We will move from port to port and stay aboard our floating hotel each night.

Explore Crete - Our tour begins in Heraklion, the capital of Crete. We travel in a westerly direction exploring ancient and historical sites, beautiful beaches, and country villages with the opportunity to meet the locals along the way.

Adventurous days - The daily biking routes are between 35km and 65km and offer a mix of dirt tracks, old trails and tar seal roads with some hills. Of course, if you choose you can miss a day's riding to relax on the ship instead.

Relaxed evenings - Our accommodation or floating hotel is on-board a wooden motor yacht. The cabins have private facilities and air-conditioning. Our on-board chef is a member of the crew and will prepare breakfast and an evening meal daily. The perfect place to relax and unwind

Tour Itinerary

Day 1. Heraklion - Bali - Rethymnon

This morning we cycle inland along the old Heraklion-Rethymnon Road which passes the natural lagoon of Voulismeno Aloni and legend has it, is where the goddess Athena bathed. We ride to the villages on the North side of Mt Psiloriotis, the highest mountain on Crete. We visit the old Monastery of Halepa which was once the centre of activity during the revolution against the Turks and was destroyed in 1821. We continue riding along dirt and asphalt roads until we reach the village of Melidoni with its historic cave which was once a place of worship in ancient years. From Melidoni the port of Bali is just a 10km away. We meet our boat in Bali where it is time to relax our weary legs as we cruise to Rethymnon on our floating hotel.

Boat: Bali - Rethymnon (32km)

Meals: Dinner

Cycling: 62km



Day 2. Rethymnon - Georgioupolis - Chania

Today we explore the countryside in the province of Rethymnon which is known for its small traditional villages. We will enjoy the springs in the picturesque village of Argyroupoli before descending to the unique natural lake of Kournas, the only lake on Crete. From Kournas we continue to Georgioupolis a small village located on a very long sandy beach. After exploring Georgioupolis we will rejoin the boat for a sail around the Akrotiri peninsula to Chania.

Boat: Georgioupolis - Chania (49km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 40 km

Day 3. Chania - Therissos - Meskla - Kissamos

We leave behind the busy roads of Chania as we move southward crossing the spectacular Therissos Gorge. We visit the village of Therissos at the foot of the White Mountains which is famous for its struggles against Ottoman domination. It is here that the revolt of 1905 began which led to incorporation of Crete to Greece. We continue riding uphill to the village of Zourva and then descend down to the villages of Meskla and Fournes. From here we follow mostly dirt roads and pass through a landscape of pasture fields, orange and olive groves, which is scattered with traditional agricultural villages. We will reach the north coast again back at the town of Chania. From here we sail to Kissamos.

Boat: Chania - Kissamos (57km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 48km

Day 4. Kissamos - Paliochora

Today's riding gives us the chance to visit the breathtakingly beautiful beaches of Balos and Falassarna. We start our riding from Kastelli and follow the dirt road on the peninsula of Gramvousa. We reach the very north-western end of Crete and from here we follow a path to the spectacular beach of Balos. We will have time to admire the islands of Iremi (Calm) Gramvousa and Agria (Wild) Gramvousa before we continue riding to the beach of Falassarna often regarded as one of the nicest natural beaches in Crete. From Falassarna we visit the village of Platanos and from there we return back to Kissamos riding along dirt and asphalt roads. We take a longer boat trip this evening to the southern coast of Crete and the port of Paliochora.

Boat: Kissamos - Paliochora (80km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 30km

Day 5. Paliochora - Sfakia - Plakias

Today starts with a morning sail along the southern coast of Crete to Sfakia. From here we travel on the Panorama Road which runs along the untouched southern coast of Crete. Be prepared for some intriguing climbs, however we will be rewarded with breathtaking views! If we are lucky we will see dozens of vultures in the Koutzifou Gorge.

Boat: Paliochora - Sfakia (43km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 32km



Day 6. Plakias - Aghia Galini

We continue along the coast heading for our final destination - the port of Aghia Galini often referred to as the 'holiday pearl' of the south coast of Crete. Along the way we pass many historical villages in this southern region of Chania. All the way we are reminded of the beauty of Crete.

Boat: None

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 30km

Day 7. Aghia Galini - Heraklion

The cycling has now been completed and we will transfer by bus back to Heraklion

Boat: None

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: None

Tour Information



Included in the tour price:

- 6 nights on a motor yacht in a double/twin cabin with ensuite
- 6 evening dinners
- 6 breakfasts
- Bed linen and towels
- 2 English speaking tour guides
- Support vehicle
- Bike hire

Not included in the tour price

- International Flights and/or Travel Visas (where applicable) or Travel Insurance
- Transport to and from Crete
- Single Supplement (for single travellers wanting sole occupancy of a cabin)
- Drinks & snack bars on board
- Meals eaten ashore
- Personal expenses
- Passport or travel visa requirements

Tour Grade:

This tour is graded 5/6 active. Active Tours have an expectation that you have an interest and regularly participate in the activities. Routes chosen will require a reasonable level of fitness and experience on different terrains, suitable for increasing your abilities and pushing new limits.

Fitness Required:

A good level of fitness is required. You will need to be doing some form of exercise three-four times a week on the build up to this tour.

Alterations:

We reserve the right to make alterations to this itinerary, which will normally be due to wind and weather conditions or organisational requirements.

Accommodation – Ship Agios Georgios:

Technical Specifications:

- Length Overall: 22m
- Beam: 7.50m
- Draft: 2.50m
- Speed: Cruising 9.5 knots - Max 10 knots
- Engines: 1 Mercedes 320 HP
- Construction: 2000, refurbished 2007

Ship facilities and services:

- Cabins: 12 outside cabins with air-con and private facilities
- Main deck: 2 cabins
- Lower deck: 10 cabins
- Restaurant and Bar
- Canoes and snorkeling equipment available for use