

STAGE TRIP - CENTRAL AND EASTERN CRETE

EXPERIENCE WITH A CRETAN

Sunday: Welcome to Crete

Individual arrival to Crete

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Adam's House or nearby

Monday: Dyskos near Lentas, the long beach in the south

We start from Siva in a southerly direction. After 12 km we visit the Roman tombs in the village of Agios Thomas and take our first break. On a low-traffic route we then reach the village of Apesokari at the foot of the Asteroussia Mountains. We continue uphill on a picturesque and serpentine road and later on a panoramic road downhill to the fishing village of Lentas. The rock above the village in the shape of a lion (Leontas) gives the village its name. We drive past Lentas to the small village of Dyskos, where the sea invites you for a refreshing swim. At Mrs Voula's place, the fantastic panorama can be enjoyed with cold drinks and a sumptuous lunch.

Route 58 km - Time 5 hrs - Ascent 1000 m - Descent 1300 m - Dirt road 0 km

Meals: Breakfast, lunch / Accommodation: Voulas' Apartments or similar

Tuesday: Tris Ekklisies, the lonely beach in the south

We first drive 9 km uphill to the village of Krotos. Then we head east for about 30 km at the foot of the Asteroussia Mountains past many villages to the village of Charakas. From here we drive south uphill to an altitude of 630 m until the Libyan Sea spreads impressively in front of us. With a breathtaking view, we drive 5 km downhill and have the turquoise blue sea within reach. The smell of thyme and sage, as well as the buzzing of bees accompany us throughout the descent. Panagiotis and his wife Marinela await us in their taverna right on the beach of Tris Ekklisies, where we enjoy Cretan cuisine.

Route 45 km - Time 5 hrs - Ascent 1250 m - Descent 1250 m - Dirt path 1.5 km

Meals: Breakfast, lunch / Accommodation: Marias' Apartments or similar

Wednesday: Via the ceramic centre of Crete to Mochos

Today we will be driven by minibus to the village of Choudetsi. Our route from Choudetsi to Mochos leads through one of the most fertile regions of Crete. We are here in an extraordinary wine region. Green hills and countless vineyards characterise the landscape. First we visit the impressive ceramic workshop of Kostas in the village of Thrapsanó. Then we drive over the mountains to the picturesque village of Avdou, where we take a break. We then continue uphill towards Mochos, an idyllic village on the way to the fascinating Lassithi plateau. In Mochos, Varvara and Yorgos welcome us with homemade traditional delicacies in their taverna "Odysseas".

Route 50 km - Time 5 hrs - Ascent 870 m - Descent 910 m - Dirt path 500 m

Meals: Breakfast, lunch / Accommodation: Apartments Helen or similar

STAGE TRIP - CENTRAL AND EASTERN CRETE

EXPERIENCE WITH A CRETAN

Thursday: Across the Lassithi plateau to Istro beach in north-eastern Crete

From Mochos we drive 12 km uphill eastwards to the Lassithi plateau. The attractions of the plateau are the windmills, the Zeus Cave, considered the birthplace of the father of all the gods of Olympus, the variety of extremely tasty vegetables and the aromatic potatoes and apples. Our drive towards the Cretan Sea takes us along an idyllic route and offers a fascinating view of the other side of the plateau. We cross an impressive landscape that compensates for the effort of the 25 km descent. We then continue downhill via the beautiful mountain village of Kritsa to our destination of Istro.

Route 71 km - Time 5 hrs - Ascent 1100 m - Descent 1500 m - Dirt road 1 km

Meals: Breakfast, lunch / Accommodation: Apartments Minoas or similar

Friday: Myrtos, the long beach west of the southernmost city in Europe

We start in a southerly direction and cross the southernmost mountains in Europe until we reach an altitude of 700 metres. From here we then look down on the southernmost city in Europe, Ierapetra. Numerous greenhouses characterise this area, fascinating and alarming at the same time. We continue 24 km uphill and pass through the idyllic mountain villages of Prina, Kalamafka, Anatoli and Males. After 32 km we take a break under the shady plane trees at the impressive church of Agia Paraskevi. Here we enjoy the rushing spring water also as a refreshing drink, the traditional cheese of the shepherd Theofilos and other culinary nibbles. We then continue downhill to the coastal village of Myrtos, where the Libyan Sea invites you to swim. In the evening, we will have our farewell dinner together at Jannis' in the village of Kyparissi.

Route 47 km - Time 5 hrs - Ascent 890 m - Descent 890 m - Dirt road 0 m

Meals: Breakfast, lunch / Accommodation: Adam's House or nearby

Saturday: Farewell to Crete

Drive to the airport and return flight home

Meals: Breakfast