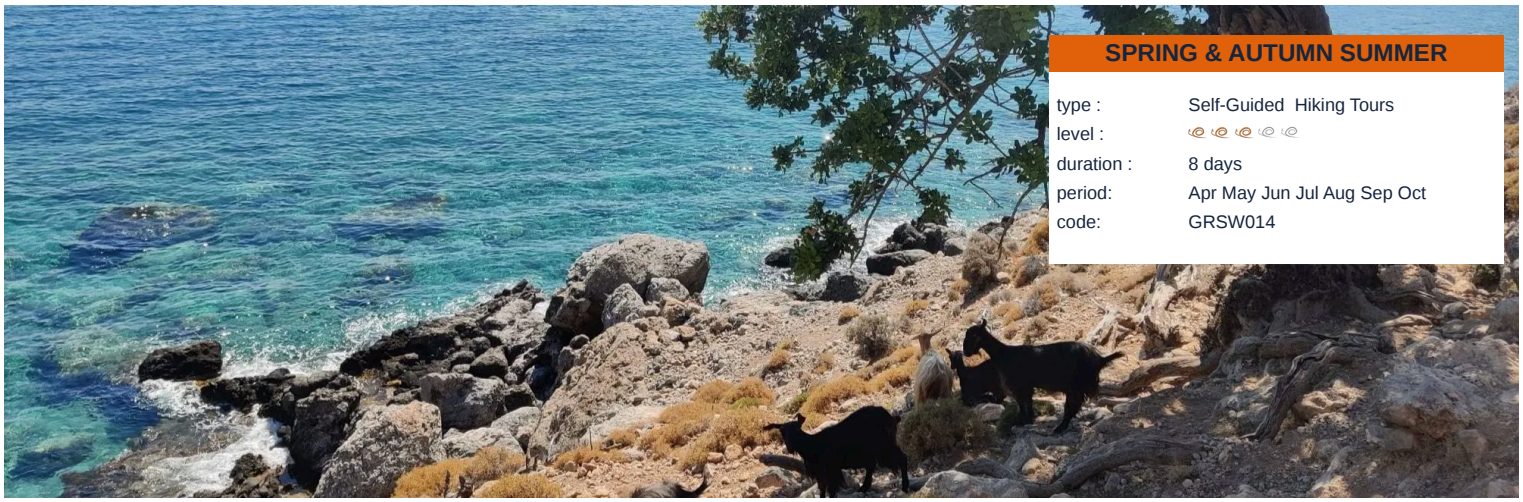

SPRING & AUTUMN SUMMER

type :	Self-Guided Hiking Tours
level :	
duration :	8 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	GRSW014

Creta: mountains to gorges - Greece

Creta: mountains to gorges

8 days, PRICE FROM *€ 638*



A demanding but beautiful walk through the mountains and gorges of the legendary island of Crete: the perfect start for anyone dreaming of **hiking in Crete**. From the lush landscape countryside of **Apokoronas** to the impressive gorges of **Sfakia and Aradhena**, you'll cross traditional villages and wander through scenery that will take you straight to the heart of every myth you can think of — ideal for unforgettable **walking holidays in Crete**.

You'll enjoy endless views over the deep blue Libyan sea whilst **walking along Europe's most impressive coast**: this wild and dramatic area, where 2000m mountains plunge into the water, is a dream for lovers of **hiking tours in Crete** and travellers seeking authentic nature.

Deep blue water and clear blue skies, with lots of opportunities to swim on deserted beaches and hike through the untamed landscape of this blessed island — an experience perfect for anyone looking for inspiring **walking holidays in Crete** .

Route

Day 1 Paleochora

Arrival in **Paleochora**, by taxi (may be arranged in advance) or by public transport from Chania or Heraklion Airport. From Chania it takes about 1,5 hrs by taxi, from Heraklion the taxi ride is about 3,5 hrs. Depending on your flight schedule, you'll have time for a first stroll through the pleasant seaside town of Paleochora, whose population of 1800 makes it one of the largest villages on the south-west coast. There is a **Venetian fortress** and several sandy and rocky beaches.

Day 2 Walk through the Anidri gorge, 10,5 km

In the morning you will be transferred by taxi to the village of Azogires, from where your walk starts along the 'Monastery of the 99 Monks'-trail. You will encounter a variety of scenery today including olive groves, the quiet hilltop village of Anidri, with a Byzantine church, and the popular school house tavern, the small gorge of Anidri, the tranquil each of Gialiskari and a coastal stretch back into Paleochora. You may swim before going back to your hotel.

Distance: 10,5 km

Elevation gain: +75 / -450 m

Day 3 Walk from Paleochora to Sougia, 15 km

Todays walk starts in Paleochora. You follow a dirt track into an undisturbed natural wilderness, then continue along a stunning coastal path overlooking the sea. You will pass ancient **Lissos**, an important harbour for the Dorian city of Elyros, which boasted a population of 30.000 at it peak. In ancient times, people came to Lissos **to be cured by the local waters.** You can enjoy a picnic lunch on this historic spot and swim in the curative waters before heading further east to Sougia, by way of **a beautiful narrow gorge.**

Distance: 15 km

Elevation gain: +375 / -375 m

Day 4 Walk from Sougia to Omalos plain, 12 km or 21 km

Today you traverse two impressive gorges, from sea level up to 1000m! You walk through the impressive **Irini Gorge** along a well-made path. The ascent is demanding but not too steep. Leaving the Irini Gorge behind, you walk into the steeper **Figou Gorge**. From a certain height onwards, you will enjoy stunning views. The walk ends at a **chapel, 'Agios Theodoros'**, where the hotel's minibus will pick you up. The hotel is on the **Omalos plain** surrounded by the spectacular summits of the White Mountains.

Distance: 12 o 21 km

Elevation gain: max +1200 / -100 m

Day 5 Walk through the Samaria gorge, 16 km

Today you walk through Europe's longest and most famous gorge: **the Samaria Gorge**. You can either start very early or rather late, avoiding the crowds of people who walk the gorge as a day trip. During quieter hours, you'll enjoy the true beauty of this spectacular gorge. You spend the night in the seaside **village of Agia Roumeli**, at the end of the gorge, which leaves you as much time as you need for the walk. There will still be plenty of time for a relaxing swim in the crystal clear Lybian sea before you set off for dinner at one of the local taverns in Agia Roumeli.

Distance: 16 km

Elevation gain: +50 / -1200 m

Day 6 Walk from Agia Roumeli to Loutro, 14,5 km

A splendid coastal walk with lots of variety. First you walk along the beach to the **Byzantine church of Agios Pavlos**. Then you walk at a higher elevation through fir forest. From the **forest**, you continue on to the beach at "**Marmara**". Great views to massive mountains at your left and the sea to your right. There's a tavern on the small beach at Marmara, and you may want to enjoy a swim here as well! From Marmara, you'll need another hour along the coast to reach the car-free village of **Loutro**.

Distance: 14,5 km

Elevation gain: +275 / -275 m

Day 7 Round walk from Loutro, 15,5 km or 9,7 km

You take a steep zig-zag path up to the **village of Anopolis.** From here you walk further on to **ancient Aradhena,** situated at the edge of the impressive Aradhena Gorge. A spectacular path takes you down into the Aradhena Gorge all the way to the coast. The last part of today's walk follows a path along the coast back to Loutro. It is possible to do a shorter route of 4 hrs today, via the **tiny village of Livaniana,** then descend via the Aradhena Gorge to the sea. Depending on your flight departure tomorrow, you may need to travel back to Chora Sfakion by ferry today, and on to Chania or Heraklion.

Distance: 15,5 km or 9,7 km

Elevation gain: +840 / -840 m

Day 8 Departure

Today you travel back to **Chora Sfakion by ferry** in the morning and, from there, by public transport or pre-booked transfer to Chania or Heraklion Airport. Departure from one of the most beautiful areas of Crete.

Accommodation

Nights in a double room in hotels ***



Hotel Aris - Paleochora



Hotel Syia - Sougia



Hotel Neos Omalos - Omalos



B&B Pachnes Pension - Agia Roumeli



Hotel Kyma - Loutro

Practical info

The nearest airport to Western Crete is Chania Airport, but also the bigger airport of Heraklion is possible. From Chania Airport it takes app. 2,5 hours by public bus and from Heraklion app. 5 hours to get to Paleochora.
You may also book a private transfer from either airport to Paleochora by taxi with S-Cape.

At the end of the trip you travel by ferry from Loutro in 20 minutes to Chora Sfakion. From there you travel by public transport to the airport of Chania in app. 2 hours. The public bus from Chora Sfakion to Heraklion takes app. 4 hours including a stop-over in Vrysses.
You may also book a private transfer from Chora Sfakion to either Chania or Heraklion Airport.

GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 7 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels with breakfast
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- Transfers: Paleochora-Azogirai, Sougia-Irini Gorge, Agios Theodoros-Omalos, Omalos-Xyloskala
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.