



## Trekking Crete April 18-28, 2008

Crete is Greece's largest, most varied, and beautiful island—after all, it is the birthplace of *Zeus, Aretousa and Erotokritos, Nikos Kazantzakis... and Nostos Wines!* It has tall mountains, valleys full of olive trees, vineyards, fruit orchards and many deep gorges strewn with unique flora and fauna. From the famed *Kri-Kri*, Crete's wild goat, to condors, eagles, and many more birds—it is a veritable paradise for nature lovers! Participants should be in good physical condition. Our hikes are of varied intensity from Level 1 to 3.

### Itinerary

**Day 0: April 18.** Arrival at *Chania* airport, transfer to our hotel. An evening stroll by the Old Harbour.

**Day 1: April 19.** Walkabout in *Chania*, a city with a millenia of history behind it. Welcoming dinner at one of the city's best traditional restaurants in the *Koum Kari* area.

**Day 2: April 20.** Our first hike, through the *Imbros Gorge*. We'll start at the southern end, at the village of *Komitades*, and walk to the village of *Imbros*, ~8 km. Oak trees and cypress, ferns, flowers and medicinal plants abound.

**Day 3: April 21.** Today we'll start our hike in ancient *Polirinia*. We'll walk to *Kastelli* by meandering through olive groves and gardens—and if we're lucky, we'll catch a local milking the goats. On the way back we'll stop for a dip in the bluest waters of *Agioi Apostoli Beach*.

**Day 4: April 22.** We'll start at the village of *Agia Irini*, and descend to *Sougia* on the Libyan Sea, ~7 km of oleanders with lots of shady spots for a leisurely picnic.

**Day 5: April 23.** A day of culture, away from the hiking paths. We'll visit *Iraklion's* world-renowned Archeological Museum, the *Knossos* archeological site, and stop on our way back at the city of *Rethymno* to have dinner at the old harbour by the sea.

**Day 6: April 24.** We visit *Dionysos'* country—we'll hike across the 10 hectares of the *Nostos Vineyards* at a 600 metre altitude surrounded by the *Lefka Ori*, the plain of *Chania*, with the Aegean Sea stretched out as far as the eye can see. Lunch will be under a 1,000 year old olive tree, accompanied by the *Nostos* wines.

**Day 7: April 25.** Today we walk amongst the fruit bearing trees, aromatic shrubs and lush vegetation between the villages of *Therisso* and *Zouvra* at a 500 metre altitude—a feast for the eyes and senses.

**Day 8: April 26.** An easy hike in the *Akrotiri* area near *Chania*, with excellent views of *Souda Bay* and some impressive medieval monasteries. We'll attend midnight mass of the Greek Easter services, a spectacle not to be missed!

**Day 9: April 27. Easter Sunday.** An easy day that will start with our going away Easter Brunch, and end with some free time to visit favorite spots in *Chania*.

**Day 10: April 28.** Departure day. Transfer to the *Chania* airport. We return home...to savour our memories.

**Price:** Can. \$3,295/person, double occupancy. **Includes:** All accommodation and breakfasts; all ground transportation including airport transfers; entries to museums and sites; winery visit; three special meals. Airfare not included.

**Contact: Caterina Pizanias, The Art Exchange**  
**Tel: (403) 251-5297 E-mail: cpizanias@artexchange-greece.com**

