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ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
REGION OF CRETE



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΧΑΝΙΩΝ
MUNICIPALITY OF
CHANIA · CRETE



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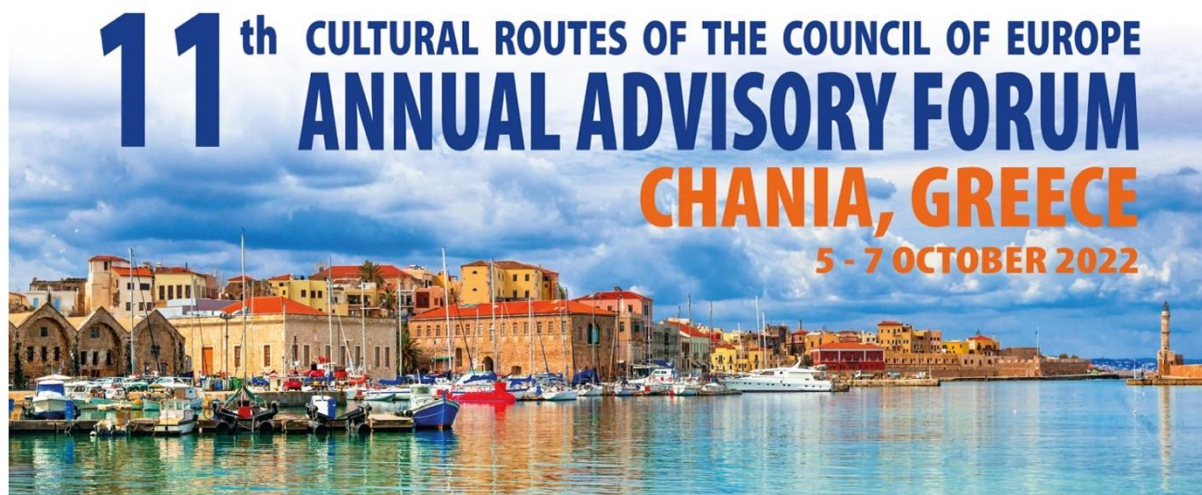
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

11th Annual Advisory Forum on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

5-7 October 2022 Chania — Crete (Greece)

OPTIONAL CULTURAL PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER



To book one of the proposed excursions, please contact Ms. Stephanie Tsouroupaki (**stephanie@elgreco.gr**)

Kindly note that additional fees are required for the optional excursions (except one). The indicated prices are valid for a minimum of 20 persons per excursion.

Ancient city of Aptera & Chania Archaeological Museum



- ✓ Visit of the ancient city of Aptera, one of the most interesting archaeological sites in western Crete. Aptera was inhabited since Minoan times but it only became a significant city around the 8th century BC. Its location above the bay of Souda was also strategically important: close to its two seaports Minoa (today's Marathi) and Kasteli (near Kalyves). Aptera could control the circulation of ships and it became a very important trading post in Crete and one of the greatest cities on the island. Walk duration About 45 min.
 - ✓ Visit of the Archaeological museum of Chania, in Chalepa, a historic suburb in Chania, housed in an iconic building constituting a landmark for the whole city. The museum's permanent collection is developed in three main halls on the ground floor and one more on the first floor, presenting the wealth of archaeological material that has been retrieved from the periphery of Chania through the course of time.
- Departure at 09:00 and return at approximately 14:00. (Minoa Palace)
 - Price **33€**/person.

- Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus and English speaker professional guide.
- NOT including the entrance at the archaeological museum - **6€**/person and the entrance at Archaeological site of Aptera - **2€**/person

Holy Trinity/Agia triada Monastery –Chrisopigi Monastery



- ✓ Visit of the Monastery Agia Triada at Akrotiri peninsula near the Savros village, a location planted with olive groves, vineyards and cypress trees. Architecturally, it is one of the most significant examples of the Cretane Renaissance. It was funded by brothers Jeremiah and Lorenzo of the old Venetian family. The Holy Trinity (Agia Triada) Monastery is probably the most impressive monastic complex of the final period of Venetian rule on Crete, due to both its scale and architectural form. The small museum displays relatively few heirlooms rescued from the continued historical adventures of the monastery, mainly icons, holy utensils, and official documents. It combines elements of the Orthodox monastic style with western architectural forms, and this reflects the spirit of convergence of the two dogmas on the island of Crete. There is a small Monastery-Shop where Monks offering their organic olive oil and wine. The olive oil of the Monastery Agia Triada has won many awards.
- ✓ Visit of Chrisopigi Monastery. The Convent of Chrysopigi, just outside Chania, is dedicated to Mother Mary, the Life-Giving Font (Panagia Zoodochos Pigi). The convent was built like a fortress, in the 16th century and was founded as a monastery by Ioannis Chartophylakas. During Venetian rule, it was a significant spiritual centre with a well stocked library. It started to decline during the Ottoman siege in the summer

of 1645, when Philotheos Skoufos, the Father Superior, escaped to the Ionian Islands, taking with him the holy heirlooms of the monastery.

- Departure at 08:30 and return at approximately 14:00. (Minoa Palace)
- Price **29€**/person.
- Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus and English speaker escort.
- NOT including the entrance at Agia Triada monastery site - **3€**/person

Agia Small power station /Lake of Agia –Typography museum- El.Venizelos home



- ✓ Visit of the Artificial Lake of Agia and the Small Power Station. The Artificial Lake of Agia and the Region of Crete developed redevelopment projects with hiking trails around the perimeter of the lake as well as the shaping of the surrounding area of the Small Hydroelectric Station with natural materials compatible with the character and sensitive landscape of the area. PPC Renewables S.A. in collaboration with the Region of Crete restored the factory building and its surrounding area and turned it into a public educational/exhibition space for the promotion of Renewable Energy Sources (RES).



- ✓ Visit of the Typography Museum, first museum of that kind in Greece. It comes from a private initiative by Yannis Garedakis, founder of the newspaper "Haniotika nea", who has been collecting, for more than thirty years, machines and other exhibits that mark the evolution of European typography. Since it's opening in 2005 to this day, the museum has continuously enriched its collections, widened its field of interest and expanded its premises to cover every aspect of the art that was born in the 15th century in Gutenberg's workshop and literally changed the course of history.



- ✓ Visit of El Veniselos residence & museum. The House of Eleftherios Venizelos was built in 1878, houses today the Institution of Eleftherios Venizelos and still operates as a museum, space of historical memory of Eleftherios Venizelos. Everything has his personal stamp and all the rooms have retained till today the original form that they had at the time he lived there. Furniture of the decade 1925-1935, chosen by himself and his wife Elena, who brought them from Athens and abroad, mobile decorative objects and period paintings, original photographs, personal objects of a particularly significant value adorn the interior of the house.
- Departure at 8:00 and return at 14:30 (Minoa Palace Hotel)
- **Free participation**

- Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus and English speaker escort.

A Route of the Olive Tree in the Chania region (Platanias, Vuves, Astrikas, Gerani)



The Routes of the Olive Tree proposes the discovery of a unique natural and cultural landscape of olive trees through a tour of different points of interest (the emblematic olive tree of Vouves, the Vouves Olive Museum, the VIOLEA olive mill, the Fysika soap factory). The excursion is proposed by the 'Routes of the Olive Tree', a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe (2005) to promote the unique civilization of the region, the olive tree civilization, and to offer participants a unique experience that stimulates all the senses...

- ✓ touch: touching the trunk of a millennium-old olive tree
- ✓ smell: enjoying the smell of extra virgin olive oil or soap,
- ✓ sight: looking at the vast landscape of olive groves and an old olive mill
- ✓ hearing: listening to the rustling of olive leaves
- ✓ taste: enjoying a traditional meal at the VIOLEA olive mill that includes a variety of authentic Cretan local flavors, dishes and drinks: *a variety of olives, gruyere with thyme honey, traditional pastries, 'apaki' marinated in sage oil, bruschetta with caramelized tomatoes and myzithra, bruschetta with 'staka' and fresh tomatoes, oil cheese, fresh cream cheese with jam and seasonal fruit, cold salad with 'skioufihta' spaghetti and dried cream cheese, 'kalitsunia' with sweet pumpkin and feta cheese, spoon sweet with goat's*

yoghurt, fruits, iced mountain tea with herbs, spices and olive leaves, homemade lemonade, raki, white wine...

- Departure at 9.30 am and return at 14.30.
- Price **67€** /person including transfer from/to Minoa Palace Hotel.
- Including transfer from/to Minoa Palace Hotel, by luxury bus, guided tours, olive oil tasting, traditional lunch (buffet), tote bag with the gifts of the 'Routes of the Olive Tree' (publications, products, souvenirs).
- **Registration:** <https://forms.gle/4dacdUjXzea6XGyG6>
- Maximum number of participants: 40
- Minimum number of participants: 20
- Registration until 30 September 2022 (priority order will be followed)

Vouves Elia - Botanical Garden



- ✓ Visit of the Vouves village, where is located one of the oldest Olive trees in the world, that still produces olives today.
- ✓ Optional visit to the Museum close to the Olive tree, and visit of the botanical park which offers the unique opportunity to discover fruit trees, herbs, spices, medicinal and decorative plants from all over the world as well as to observe animals in their natural habitat.

- Departure at 8:00 and return at 14:30 (Minoa Palace Hotel).
- Price **25€**/person.
- Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus and professional guide.
- NOT including the entrance fee to the Botanical Park - **6€**/person.

Arkadi Monastery - Ancient Eleftherna



- ✓ Visit of the historical monastery of Arkadi, a large fortified complex built at the end of the Venetian period, with a fascinating location and architecture.
 - ✓ Refreshment in a local cafe/kafenio and then visit to ancient Eleftherna, one of the most important ancient settlements in Crete.
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- Departure at 7:30 and return at 15:00 (Minoa Palace Hotel)
 - Price **44€** /person.
 - Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus/ professional guide.
 - NOT including the entrance to the Arkadi Monastery (**3€**/person), the entrance to Ancient Eleftherna & the Museum (**8€**/person), and lunch or any kind of refreshment.

Plakias – Frangokastello



- ✓ Arrival in Plakias area around 10:00.
 - ✓ Free time for lunch and a walk in the village.
 - ✓ Departure to Frangokastello, a castle known for its legend of the *drosoulites*, the shadows of riders that appear on the walls at dawn at the end of May and the beginning of June.
 - ✓ Possible to swim in the crystal-clear water.
-
- Departure at 8:00 and return around 18:00 (Minoa Palace Hotel).
 - Price **39€** /person.
 - Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus/ professional guide.
 - Lunch not included (or other refreshments).

Ancient Aptera- Knossos



- ✓ Visit of the Ancient Aptera, one of the most interesting archaeological sites in Western Crete. Aptera has been inhabited since Minoan times and became particularly important around the 8th century BC. Its extremely strategic location above the bay of Souda and close to the two seaports of Minoa (now Marathi) and Kastelli (near Kalyves), allowed it to control the flow of ships, giving it the status of a commercial city of the utmost importance and allowing significant development.
- ✓ A walk of approximately 45 minutes will be made and then departure to Knossos, the center of Minoan civilization and capital of Minoan Crete, for a guided tour with a professional guide.
- ✓ Departure to Heraklion City, free time, optional HER Archaeological Museum.

- Departure at 8:00 and return around 18:30 - 19:00 (Minoa Palace Hotel)
- Price **45€** /person
- Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus/ professional guide
- NOT including the entrance to Ancient Aptera (**2€**/person) and the entrance to Knossos (**15€** /person)
-

Elafonisi Pink sand Beach



- ✓ Breakfast stop (20-30min) on the way to Elafonisi island.

- ✓ Stop to Komolithi Potamida : there are alternating small hills consisting of soft clay, which due to time erosion, have turned them to wonderful conical shapes. During this stop, a welcome drink will be organized.
 - ✓ The visit of Elafonisi island will last approximately 4 hours, during which time it will be possible to walk through the shallow waters to the island and discover the beauties of the flora and fauna and swim in the crystal-clear waters of this place which is called "Cretan Maldives".
 - ✓ A lunch stop will be made on the way back to Minoa Palace.
- Departure at 8:00 and return around 17:00 (Minoa Palace Hotel).
 - Price **43€** /person.
 - Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus/ professional guide.
 - Lunch not included (or other refreshments).

Gramvousa Balos Cruise



- ✓ Boarding of the cruise ship at the port of Kastelli.
- ✓ Sailing for about an hour in the bay where it will be possible to admire incredible isolated beaches, steep cliffs, and an infinite blue. At the end of the bay visitors will witness an impressive geological phenomenon that takes place due to the movement of the African tectonic plate under the Eurasian plate. Then, the boat will sail between the island of Agria

Gramvousa and Cape Vouxa (Tripiti). The landscape, dominated by Valenti, Pontikonisi, Balos Lagoon and Imeri Gramvousa, is breathtaking.

- ✓ Due to the incredible natural beauty and preserved ecosystem, both Gramvousa and Balos are included in the European NATURA 2000 initiative. The preservation of the island's natural environment, beyond the moral dimensions, is enforced by a strict national and European institutional protection system. Thus, any form of pollution is strictly forbidden.
- Departure at 8:15 and return around 17:00 (Minoa Palace Hotel)
- Price **61€** /person
- Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus/ professional guide & the boat tickets for Grambousa, Balos

Samaria Gorge Entrance view-Omalos & Agia's Lake



- ✓ The tour includes a trip across western Crete to the famous Omalos plateau, surrounded by the beautiful Lefka Ori (White Mountains). Only about 40 km from Chania, the altitude reaches 1250 m above sea level. It is here that visitors will find the Xyloskalo (wooden steps), where the famous Samaria Gorge trail begins.
- ✓ On the way back, there is a refreshment stop and a stop at the Agia Lake, a protected wetland area classified as Natura 2000. The environmental area of Lake Agia is known for

its rich flora and fauna. It is a favourite place for ornithologists, particularly for monitoring and observing aquatic and migratory species.

- Departure at 8:00 and return around 13:00 - 14:00 (Minoa Palace Hotel).
- Price **40€** /person.
- Including the transport from/ to the hotel with private bus/ professional guide.
- Lunch not included (or other refreshments)

These excursions are organized by El Greco Tours:



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