



The Samaria Trail

Highlights

- > Explore impressive gorges
- > Discover hidden bays
- > Hike through the longest trekking gorge in Europe

Profile

- > From hotel to hotel
- > With luggage transport
- > Routes mostly well laid out and easily walkable, surefootedness required
- > Itinerary

Service

- > 7 nights in selected hotels, rooms with bath/shower and toilet
- > Transfers according to itinerary
- > Luggage transport from hotel to hotel
- > GPS data available
- > 7x breakfast
- > ASI tour book

Southwest coast of Crete - a paradise for hikers and nature lovers. Enjoy the silence and grandiose view on the Omalos plateau and hike through impressive gorges that lead you to hidden beaches. Experience fantastic panoramic views as far as the Libyan Sea, hike through the longest gorge in Europe, the unique Samaria Gorge and enjoy the scent of wild thyme and sage. Let yourself be enchanted by the secret cuisine of the Cretan specialities.

Trip type
Trekking trips, hiking trips

Area covered
Greece

Travel Code
2GRHER001


Minimum number of participants:
from 1 person

Length of trip
7 days



Day 1 Lively Paleochora

Individual flight to Heraklion or Chania. Transfer to Paleochora either by taxi or by public transport.


 Accommodation
Hotel Glaros
GR
or similar


Day 2 Lonely coasts and forgotten sanctuaries


Today you can experience the unique flora and fauna of the region as well as the crystal-clear water in Lissos. Hike uphill to Cape Flomes, a protruding spur of the steep coast - a great view is guaranteed. On the headland are the ruins of ancient Lissos with the Asclepius Temple and the former source of the sanctuary. A peaceful atmosphere that invites you to linger. The long-distance hiking trail E4 runs through the green Lissos gorge in a dry river bed. Hike through the impressive rock faces and at the end you will reach Sougia, the stage destination, with its cosy cafés and taverns.

Daily tour


 Ascent
approx. 380 m

 Descent
approx. 380 m

 Distance
approx. 15 km

 Walking time
approx. 5:30 h

 Meals
breakfast


 Accommodation
Hotel Santa Irene or similar
GR





Day 3 Scenic highlight: Sougia - Agia Irini gorge - Omalos


The Agia Irini gorge is a deep cut through the western foothills of the imposing White Mountains and will enchant you with its pine trees, plane trees and oleanders. You hike in the shade and 1,000 m uphill. The Omalos plateau is fascinating - pine, maple and oak trees alternate in the midst of imposing mountain peaks. For the overnight stay in Omalos: Your luggage will be transported from Sougia directly to Agia Roumeli, so only pack the essentials in your backpack for today.

Daily tour

 Ascent
approx. 1.250 m

 Descent
approx. 100 m

 Distance
approx. 16 km

 Walking time
approx. 7:00 h

 Meals
breakfast


 Accommodation
Neos Omalos Hotel ** or similar
GR




Day 4 A must: The Samaria Gorge


A moderately difficult hike with easily accessible paths awaits you, which nevertheless requires a good basic level of fitness - a unique nature experience. The most frequented gorge by far usually opens from May to October but is closed by the authorities for safety reasons in bad weather conditions. It is best to start the day early in the morning to enjoy the sea and taste the traditional cuisine at the end of the hike in Agia Roumeli.

Daily tour


 Ascent
approx. 50 m

 Descent
approx. 1.250 m

 Distance
approx. 16 km

 Walking time
approx. 6:00 h

 Meals
breakfast

 Accommodation
Hotel Gigilos or similar
GR


Day 5 South coast classic: Agia Roumeli - Loutro


An impressive hike at the foot of the steeply sloping coastal mountains, past small and large pebble beaches and the remarkable Byzantine church of Agios Pavlos. Pine trees offer wonderful shade and break up the landscape. In the remote Marmara Bay, you have earned a swim stop as well as a delicious meal in the tavern above. You continue hiking, always along the coast, to Loutro, the stage destination. The former fishing village lies in a crescent-shaped bay with clear water and is car-free.

Daily tour

 Ascent
approx. 280 m

 Descent
approx. 280 m

 Distance
approx. 15 km

 Walking time
approx. 5:30 h

 Meals
breakfast

 Accommodation
Hotel Madares or similar
GR



Day 6 Wild and rugged: the Aradena Gorge

You climb up to the village of Anopolis at 580 m altitude and then follow a rocky path down to the south coast. Enjoy the fantastic view over the Libyan Sea, Loutro and the island of Gavdos. After the ruins of the almost abandoned village of Aradena, the hike through the Aradena Gorge begins going past a river bed until you reach Loutro again along the coast.

Daily tour

↗ Ascent approx. 850 m ↘ Descent approx. 850 m S Distance approx. 16 km ⌚ Walking time approx. 5:30 h

🍴 Meals breakfast

🏠 Accommodation Hotel Madares or similar GR



Day 8 Goodbye

After breakfast, individual transfer to Heraklion airport

🍴 Meals breakfast



Day 7 Wild and rugged: the Aradena Gorge

Two beautiful beaches invite you to swim during the hike. Behind the beach you climb up the few metres in altitude that surround the small Cape Poutna. The freshwater beach Glika Nera is enclosed by almost vertical, spectacular steep walls and contains, as the name suggests, large freshwater resources. The path meanders through huge boulders and then climbs up an alpine path and continues exposed to Chora Sfakion. For this stage, you should not suffer from vertigo. In the small town, you will find some taverns and a small market at the harbour.

Daily tour

↗ Ascent approx. 90 m ↘ Descent approx. 50 m S Distance approx. 7 km ⌚ Walking time approx. 3:00 h

🍴 Meals breakfast

🏠 Accommodation Hotel Xenia *** or similar GR

