



## Tour Name

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Private Crete: Heraklion Bites & Sights

## Tour City

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Crete

## Tour Snapshot

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Bypass the concrete and head straight for the heart of Heraklion on a private tour with your own personal local guide. Hit the backstreets and hidden pathways, checking out the highlights, sampling local treats, and discovering all the forces that have combined to make Heraklion the city it is today.

### Highlights

- Dive into Heraklion's history with stories of its turbulent past and visits to its legendary churches, fountains, and monuments
- Learn the secrets of the Cretan diet by sampling its best products at a local market
- Discover the local side of Heraklion through its lesser-known streets, forgotten laneways, and old city walls
- Admire art collections in unique locations
- Indulge in local flavours like a *meze* platter and oh-hey-that's-strong *raki and tsikoudia*

## Local Impact: How you will help the local community by joining this tour:

- On this tour you will visit 100% local, family-owned businesses and meet vendors at a local market who sell their own and Cretan-only products.
- All of the food you sample during your tour is locally sourced from villages, farmers, and stock-breeders of Crete
- You'll have the chance to buy from stores and eateries and support locals that don't generally benefit from tourism.

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, food and beverage samples as indicated in the itinerary, rusks, olives and cheese, coffee or soft drink, a meze platter.

Exclusions: Additional food and drink, items of a personal nature, tips / gratuities for your local guide.

## Schedule details

- Duration: 4 hours
- Meeting point:  
Eleftherias Square, in the city centre. Eleftherias Square is the main square in Heraklion, near the Archaeological Museum, the Astoria Hotel, the Prefecture, and the Gate of Saint George.
- Find the exact meeting point with what3words: [///firmly.training.began](https://www.what3words.com/?w3w=///firmly.training.began)
- Starting time: 9.00 AM
- Ending point:  
Venetian port of Heraklion.

## Full Itinerary

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One of the most vibrant cities in all of Greece, Heraklion has been at the crossroads of civilisations for centuries. In its infancy, the city was known as "Kastro", which historians believe indicates that the city was surrounded by fortification walls. Take a private tour of Heraklion and get to get to know the city as it is now, but also as it was centuries ago, uncovering remnants of

occupations by the Byzantines, Arabs, Venetians, Turks, and pirates...yes, pirates.

Heading off from “Freedom Square” aka Eleftherias Square, our tour of Heraklion will continue through lesser-known streets and neighbourhoods to give you the opportunity to see the real city as a local insider. Appropriately, you’ll start off with a freshly brewed traditional coffee paired with a wander through the local market, where you can sample local products such as barley rusks and olives and cheese (what else would you expect?!), and chat with local shop owners.

From there, take a hop back in time with a walk atop Heraklion’s great Venetian wall fortifications for some of the best view of the city. It’s also a great vantage point to see how these walls (ahem, the longest in Europe, ahem) divide the old city from the new city. Continue along to the lonesome tomb and monument of Nikos Kazantzakis, the son of Crete, and discover what inspired him to write *Zorba*.

Moving on, we’ll walk along the pedestrian street, 25 August, admiring some of Heraklion’s major highlights, like St. Titus Cathedral and the Morosini Fountain in the heart of the city. Continue along the hidden backstreets of Heraklion, where your private local guide will discuss the city’s history and point out further evidence of how the city has been shaped into the lively place it is today.

After our morning exploration, your Heraklion walking tour will end at a local favourite – a *meze* tavern, where you’ll finish things off with a bang, or, rather, a drink! Dig in to a meze platter and sip local specialities like *raki* and *tsikoudia*, the island’s famous (and oh so strong) distilled spirit. Opa!

*(If you’d prefer to travel as part of a regular group experience, please book our [Heraklion Bites & Sights group tour](#).)*

### **Additional information**

**Inclusions:** Local English-speaking guide, food and beverage samples as indicated in the itinerary, rusks, olives and cheese, coffee or soft drink, a meze platter.

**Exclusions:** Additional food and drink, items of a personal nature, tips / gratuities for your local guide.

**Dress standard:** As this is a walking tour, we advise you wear comfortable walking shoes. During summer, don’t forget your sunglasses and a camera, of course, as Heraklion is sure to amaze you!

**Confirmation of booking:** If you have your voucher, your booking is confirmed. We’ll see you at the start point. Get in touch if you have any concerns or require more information via the email address or phone number (business hours only) on your voucher.

Additional Information: The guide will point out places of interest, such as museums, and make recommendations of places that participants can visit in their own time after the tour.

Child Policy: This is a child-friendly tour. Children between the ages of 6 and 11 inclusively are permitted on this tour at the rate listed above. Please select 'child' above when booking. Children under the age of 6 are permitted to join this tour free of charge. Please inform us at the time of booking if you'll be bringing a child under the age of 6. You can do so in the special request box on the checkout page.

**Local contact**

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