



Tour Name

Pop-up Tour: Easter Traditions in Crete

Tour City

Crete

Tour Snapshot

Celebrate Easter, the most popular and colourful Greek holiday, on the beautiful island of Crete. Spend Good Friday in the great outdoors, exploring the picture-perfect village of Argyroupolis, set high in the Cretan mountains. Experience the traditional Easter celebrations that have been part of life here for many centuries, including the greatest of all feasts for Greeks! This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, offering you the opportunity to get off the beaten path and celebrate Easter, Greek-style!

Highlights

- Experience the traditional celebrations of Greek Orthodox Good Friday with a local by your side to guide you
- Discover Argyroupolis village's centuries-old history as you wander its cobbled streets, past carved tombs, old mills and mini waterfalls
- Learn how the people of Crete celebrate Easter
- Savour homemade traditional Lenten food like the locals do during the 40-day Lent period before Easter

- Discover Crete's culinary traditions and find out why it's home to one of the healthiest diets in the world

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

- By joining this tour you are helping to promote rural tourism, which supports local economies that don't generally benefit from tourism.
- Your tour highlights centuries-old Cretan traditions that could be lost if not preserved.
- On this tour you will visit a 100% local, family-owned restaurant that serves traditional Cretan dishes.
- All of the food you sample during your tour is locally sourced from villages, farmers, and stock-breeders of Crete.

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, transportation, nibbles (local dish with rusks, olives, tomatoes and cheese), seasonal fruit, local sweets, raki (a local spirit).

Exclusions: Additional food and drinks, souvenirs, personal items, tips/gratuities for your guide. Light dinner will be at your own expense.

Schedule details

- Duration: 10 to 12 hours
- Meeting point:

Dependent on departure city:

Chania: Chania Municipal Market at 1.00 PM

View on [Google Maps](#).

OR

Rethymnon: The Square of the Four Martyrs in the centre of Rethymnon at 2.00 PM

View on [Google Maps](#).

- Find the exact meeting point with what3words: [///indeed.offline.cobras](https://www.what3words.com/?q=///indeed.offline.cobras)
- Starting time: 1.00 PM
- Ending point:
Chania city center or Rethymnon city center

Full Itinerary

On this tour, we will experience the unique and devout atmosphere of traditional Easter celebrations in a charming village in the mountains of Crete, miles away from the usual tourist trail. We will introduce you to our local culinary traditions by tasting homemade Lenten food prepared by the women of the village and enjoy fresh fish in a lush green atmosphere, full of springs.

Our first stop will be at the church of the Holy Five Virgins located at the site of the ancient Lappa Cemetery. We will feel the eerie charm of the site, which was built inside the chamber of a Roman tomb. Listen to the tale of the five virgins who found refuge here and lived in the carved tombs until they died and were buried here.

Next, we will move to the idyllic mountain village of Argyroupolis, situated on the site of the ancient city of Lappa. We will visit a *kafenion*, a Greek coffee shop where we will taste *Elliniko* coffee and local *raki*. Moreover, we will have the opportunity to sample and savour homemade, traditional Lenten food like the locals do during the 40-day Lent period before Easter.

While you eat, your expert local guide will talk to you about delicious Cretan cuisine, one of the healthiest and tastiest diets in the world, dating back to the Minoan civilisation.

Moving on, after passing an old archway, we will enter the upper old part of the village where we'll explore Venetian mansions, colourful Roman floor mosaics and old churches. From here, we'll also admire stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

Next up, we will stop for a light dinner in a recreational area of the village, well-known for its greenery, springs and multiple mini waterfalls, and taste fresh fish from the surrounding area.

After that, we will head to the main square to witness the unique custom of *lambades* (meaning torches), which takes place only in Argyroupolis on Good Friday and dates back to the period when the village had no electricity. Giant torches up to 6 metres tall are made by the village's youngsters using reeds from the nearby countryside. Carried by a minimum of three people, each torch is gathered in the square and set alight to lighten the route of the Epitaph procession (which mourns the death and burial

of Christ).

Finally, we will follow the Epitaph through the village's cobbled streets and narrow laneways and soak up the devout atmosphere of the procession.

Our long day of celebration will come to an end around 11:00pm after some more culinary delights.

Additional information

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, transportation, nibbles (local dish with rusks, olives, tomatoes and cheese), seasonal fruit, local sweets, raki (a local spirit).

Exclusions: Additional food and drinks, souvenirs, personal items, tips/gratuities for your guide. Light dinner will be at your own expense.

Dress standard: Please bear in mind that during this tour, we will pay a visit to a Greek Orthodox Church so please dress accordingly. Please do not wear shorts or flip-flops as they are not considered to be respectful. Ladies, please wear modest clothing; your shoulders should not be shown in church, so please avoid wearing anything low-cut, strapless or with thin straps. Long sleeves are advised as is at least a knee-length skirt or trousers.

Your Trip: For your Urban Adventure you will be in a small group of a maximum of 12 people.

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.

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.

Dietary Notes

We can accommodate vegetarians and other dietary restrictions. Please notify us in advance if you have any dietary requests. You can do so in the 'Additional information' box at checkout, or by emailing us at info@creteurbanadventures.com.

Local contact

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