BRIEF OVERVIEW:

It is no wonder why nearly a quarter of all tourists coming to Greece choose to go to Crete. It is the largest of the Greek islands and the diversity you will experience is astounding. A rich blend of the old and the new, the culture of Crete is demonstrated in many ways, particularly through music. Situated on the Mediterranean Sea, Crete is renowned for its natural beauty. Traveling through Crete, you can’t miss the mountains lining the island or the coves detailing the shore. The legendary birthplace of Zeus, the rich history of the island is always evident. Symbols of the culture left behind with each era of occupation, lay tribute to the unique diversity of Crete. Take the opportunity to visit the Palace of Knossos or Phaestos, taking in a glimpse of the Minoan civilization. Walk the narrow streets of Chania and view the traditional folk art, or visit Rethymno, where the Venetian influence is demonstrated through the Turkish minarets and narrow, curving streets. Visit Spinalonga or Matala for the opportunity to relax in the pristine water around the island.

SUGGESTED SHORT-CUTS TO SIMPLE PLANNING:

Register for the following “bundles” of trips based on your interests.

**Art and Architecture:**
Day 1: CRE 100-101 Palace of Knossos and Heraklion City Tour

**Nature & Outdoors:**
Day 2: CRE 103-201 Spinalonga

**Historical Perspective:**
Day 1: CRE 101-101 West Crete: Chania & Rethymno
Day 2: CRE 102-201 Festos, Gortis, Matala

**Cultural Highlights:**
Day 2: CRE 104-201 Traditional Village Life

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: In selling tickets or otherwise making arrangements for field programs (including transportation, shore side accommodations and meals); the Institute of Shipboard Education (I.S.E.) acts only as an agent for others who provide such services as independent contractors. All participants accepting or using tickets or other arrangements for such services shall be deemed to agree and consent that I.S.E. shall not be liable or responsible in any way for any loss, death, injury, or illness to person or loss, theft or damage to personal property arising from or in connection with such services. I.S.E. shall not be responsible for cancellation of field programs for reasons beyond its control and in such event, at its option, may refund the purchase price.
Day 1: Monday, July 8

CRE 100-101  PALACE OF KNOSSOS AND HERAKLION CITY TOUR  Half Day

Discover the secrets and life of the Minoan Civilization and learn the spiritual strength which made Crete famous all over the world. Visit the Palace of Knossos, the monumental symbol of Minoan Civilization. Walk the narrow corridors of the labyrinth construction where you’ll have the opportunity to see the samples and symbols of the progress and culture developed in Crete 4000 years ago as well as feel the mystical evidence of the Minoan grandeur. The myths come alive again after visiting the Palace of King Minos at Knossos. After Knossos Palace, take a guided tour of the beautiful city of Heraklion which is the capital of Crete. You will see many places of interest which will include the recently restored Venetian castle and some other nice Venetian remnants – the Famous Morosine Fountain and the beautifully restored Loggia, along with many shops and sidewalk cafes.

Please Note: The entrance fee to Knossos is €6/person, or €3 with student Id. This is not included in trip price.

CRE 101-101  WEST CRETE: CHANIA & RETHYMNO  Full Day

Travel along the northwest coast to reach Chania, the former capital and the most attractive town of Crete. Enjoy a relaxing walk through the charming narrow streets in the old part of the city with the “oriental” market. Here you can find a large variety of leather goods and Cretan folk art items. You will have enough free time in the old city or by the Venetian Harbour for lunch at your own expense. On the way back, stop in Rethymno. Visit the Venetian part of the city with the curling narrow streets and the Turkish minarets and fountains and feel the local turbulent history. Enjoy a coffee in one of the sea front cafes (not included).
Day 2: Tuesday, July 9

CRE 102-201  FESTOS, GORTIS, MATAŁA  Full Day

Enjoy a relaxing trip to “antiquity” and sunshine, south-west of Heraklion, beyond the mountains and through Crete's unique scenery! The first stop is Phaestos, the second major Minoan archaeological site of the island, situated on a hill overlooking the fertile Messara plain and offering a wonderful view of the Ida and Asterousia mountains. The ruins of the palace complex here bring evidence of a glorious past destroyed by fire and earthquake and rebuilt shortly after.
The next stop is Gortys, the capital of the island during the Roman occupation. Visit the ancient Forum and Amphitheatre, St. Titus Basilica (dating from 5th-6th cent. AD.), and admire the famous Doric Law Code carved into stone.
The last stop is village of Matala, a modern resort area on the south coast. Enjoy swimming and lunch (not included in price) and explore the Neolithic Caves surrounding the bay.

Please Note: The entrance fee to Festos is €4/ person, or €2 with student Id. The entrance fee to Gortis is €4/ person, or €2 with student Id. Entrance fees and lunch are not included in the price of the trip.

CRE 103-201  SPINALONGA  Full Day

Enjoy a cruise inside the calm waters of the Mirabello Gulf, to the island of Spinalonga.
The remains of its Venetian fortification and ghostly leper barracks, almost untouched through the centuries, lie silently opposite Elounda’s coast. Spinalonga’s Venetian castle is one of the main castles in Crete which was never conquered during the Turkish occupation.
A guided tour will help you learn the sorrowful destiny of the islet. The boat sails afterwards to Kolokytha Bay for swimming in the crystal waters and a barbeque lunch. In the early afternoon, head to the picturesque town of Agios Nikolaos, where you can enjoy your coffee in one of the many street cafes along the pretty lake in the town center before your return to the ship.

Please Note: The entrance fee to Spinalonga is €2/ person, or €1 with student Id.
Experience the Cretan way of life by visiting a replica of a traditional village with cobbled streets and houses with tiled roofs and terraces. You can also see the former workshops of Cretan craftsmen and artisans such as the ironsmith, the ceramic painter, the weaver etc. You will see two traditional houses that display the architecture and the decoration of the very old houses of Crete. In this beautiful place you will enjoy activities related to Cretan culture including:

KNEADING BREAD
Following the instructions of the baker, the visitors knead their own bread which is baked in the traditional oven. At the end they receive the recipes and also their own bread.

CRETAN TRADITIONAL DANCES
A professional teacher of dances will show you the more popular dances of Crete and Greece. At the end receive a copy of a CD with Greek and Cretan music.

NTOLMADES MAKING
Receive the ingredients and learn to make Ntolmades, stuffed grape leaves. At the end receive the respective recipes and taste the product.

KOMBOLOI MAKING-
Learn to make your own komboloi, Greek worry beads. At the end keep your creation as a souvenir.

Please Note: There is no entrance fee to the village, however, if you wish to visit the rural museum, there is a general admission of €1.50/ person.