

Suzanne Lax-Bojtos
P. O. Box 368
Edgware, Middx.
HA8 9SF
Tel. 07970 478857
Email: suzanne_bojtos@hotmail.com

Santorini and Crete – in the footsteps of the Minoans

June 2019

The island of **Crete** is the largest Greek island with today's population of over 600.000. It is a beautiful island with a long history of human settlements, the first dating to the Paleolithic period.

We will be exploring the many sites of the Minoan civilization such as the palaces of **Knossos, Phaistos and Malia**. Our journey will begin however at the stunning island of **Santorini**, the site of the volcanic eruption in c. 1500 BC which contributed to the demise of the Minoan civilization. The site of **Akrotiri** was destroyed in the eruption but retained some of the houses with magnificent paintings. From Santorini we cross to Herakleon from which we start our daily excursions of the island.

The price of the eight-day trip to Santorini and Crete will cost £1995 which includes 7 nights in hotels on both islands, international flights, English speaking guide, transport and entrance to the sites. Not included is single room supplement and meals other than breakfast.

Booking form

Name.....

Address.....

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Telephone number.....

E-mail

Date of birth

I wish to participate in the study tour to Santorini/Crete and I am enclosing a non-returnable deposit of **£300**.

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Day 1	Flight to Santorini, check in to the hotel
Day 2	We start our day at the Museum in Fira which has some of the fabulous paintings from Akrotiri as well as many artifacts from the excavations. We continue to the site of Akrotiri destroyed by the volcanic eruption in c. 1500 BC & buried the city in ash. Overnight at Santorini.
Day 3	We drive to the ancient city of Thera and later to Panagia Episkopi , a Byzantine cathedral with beautiful frescoes. Transfer by catamaran to Heraklion and check into our hotel.
Day 4	Visit the Bronze Age palace Knossos ; we continue to Minoan manor house at Vathypetro with a shrine & wine press; the museum in Heraklion , which displays some of the wall-paintings from the palaces.
Day 5	Graeco/Roman site of Gortyn & continue to the palace of Phaistos where thousands of documents were found inscribed with still undeciphered 'Linear A'. We continue to Ayia Triada- a grand Bronze Age villa.
Day 6	Our day will start at the palace of Malia and continue to the Minoan town of Gournia where traces of houses, court and cemetery were discovered. Afternoon optional visit to island of Spinalonga a former leper colony until 1962.
Day 7	The picturesque ruins of Chamaizi and optional journey to the tiny island of Mochlos where an important Minoan town once stood.
Day 8	Flight to London.