

CRETE

With Jane Blundell

(10th - 24th April 2027)

Day 1 /AGIAS NICHOLAS (Sat. 10th) FREE DAY

From Athens, please book AEGEAN AIRLINES to Heraklion(flight time to be advised)
You will be met at 12.30pm and transferred to our hotel. On the way, we will visit the incredible Palace of Knossos, dating back to the Minoan civilization. Our hotel, with its fabulous views, is the perfect spot to enjoy our surroundings.

Welcome drinks followed by dinner, featuring traditional Cretan dishes. (D)

Day 2/ AGIAS NICHOLAS (Sun. 11th)

Agias Nicholas is a fabulous place to explore with its array of shops and tavernas surrounding the lake and seaside. **Vouliasmenei Lake**, lined with fishing boats with wonderful reflections, is an iconic Greek scene for our first painting day!

The view from our hotel of the distant mountains is lovely for our afternoon painting. (B)

Day 3/ AGIAS NICHOLAS (Mon. 12th)

Panagia Kera, a medieval Byzantine church, set in an olive grove, makes a fabulous painting subject! We will head off to a very popular local restaurant for lunch, followed by free time to explore **Kritsa**, a picturesque village well known for its traditional Cretan architecture, textiles, crafts and stunning views. (B,L)

Day 4/ AGIAS NICHOLAS (Tues. 13th)

Spinalonga Island is a rocky islet just off the coast with a 16th century Venetian castle and fortress, filled with Spring flowers. Heading back to the mainland to **Plaka Beach** for lunch by the sea, we also have the chance to take a dip or do some seascape painting. (B,L)



Day 5/ HORA SFAKION (Wed. 14th)

Early morning departure for Hora Sfakion, passing several charming mountain villages surrounded by vineyards and olive groves, dotted in wildflowers. We will set up in a winery to capture the vineyard and olive trees with their sinewy trunks and silver-flecked leaves. Crete produces some of the best wines and olive oil in Greece, which we will sample from one of the wineries. After lunch, we continue our journey to Hora Sfakion, through the interior of the island, covered in wild thyme and oregano. (B, L)

Day 6/ HORA SFAKION (Thurs. 15th)

Hora Sfakion. The rocky inlets provide a great opportunity for some practice with textures. Afternoon painting above the village from a café with a panoramic vista of the coastline. (B)

Day 7/ HORA SFAKION (Fri. 16th)

Boat trip to Loutra, with its crystal- clear little harbour lined with fishing boats and tangled nets. With its' cafes perched on the waters edge, it is the perfect spot for our painting session. Afternoon review (B)

Day 8 / RETHYMNON (Sat. 17th)

Early morning departure for Rethymnon. On the way we will stop to paint at Café Panorama overlooking the verdant valley of **Askifou** followed by a visit to **Agias Yorgos Monastery**. Beautiful turquoise **Kourna Lake** is lined with traditional tavernas for lunch. (B, L)

Day 9 /RETHYMNON (Sun. 18th)

The Old Town, with its maze of twisting , narrow backstreets is full of atmosphere and faded elegance. Dinner at a traditional taverna in the cobbled backstreets of Rethymnon.(B, D)

Day 10/ RETHYMNON(Mon. 19th)

Arkadi Monastery We will spend the morning painting one of the most stunning monasteries in Greece, followed by a visit to Margarites, well -known for its beautiful pottery. (B)

Day 11/ CHANIA (Tues. 20th)

Morning transfer to Chania. Free morning to explore. The backstreets are a magical place to stroll and paint in the late afternoon with their cobbled lanes and Venetian buildings. (B)



Day 12/ CHANIA (Wed. 21st)

Chrisokalitsa Monastery towering over an inlet is a stunning painting spot, followed by a visit to Elafonissi Beach, one of Crete's most beautiful natural reserves, with its shimmering pink sand and turquoise water. Lunch at an organic restaurant in a valley overlooking the sea. (B, L)

Day 13/ CHANIA (Thurs. 22nd)

Xilokalo, set in the mountainous interior, is a fabulous location to take in the atmosphere and capture those craggy rugged peaks. (B)

Day 14/ CHANIA (Fri. 23rd)

The view of the fortress crowning the town and the lively harbour is a lovely subject. Afternoon critique accompanied by farewell cocktails. Group dinner on the stunning waterfront of Chania overlooking the harbour, strewn with festive lights. (B, D)

Day 15/DEPARTURE (Sat. 24th)

Please book AEGEAN AIRLINES from Chania to Athens (flight time to be advised)

***Please note that the return flight to Athens is from CHANIA, not Heraklion.**



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