

An 8-Day Catholic Pilgrimage to St. Titus's Crete (Heraklion Roundtrip)

Apostolic Heritage & Island Devotion

Discover the blessed island of Crete, where St. Paul laid the foundations of the Early Church and appointed his trusted disciple, St. Titus, as its first Bishop. As Greece's premier faith-based B2B DMC, **Mazi** designs this 8-day Catholic pilgrimage with absolute operational and theological precision. Operating as a roundtrip from Heraklion Airport, the program offers an immersive spiritual route from the ancient Roman basilicas of Gortyna and biblical Fair Havens, to the historic monasteries of Arkadi and Agia Triada Tzagaroli. Operated with our own private fleet of luxury coaches, handpicked licensed guides with specialized theological expertise, and strictly selected **4-star accommodations in Heraklion and Chania**, every detail is executed with reverence. We enhance your congregation's experience with **daily lunches at authentic traditional taverns** and restful hotel dinners, while meticulously coordinating serene venues across Crete for your Spiritual Director to celebrate the **Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Mass)** without distraction.

Sustainability Certification



Awards



We are members



mazi[®]
TRAVEL & EVENTS

Highlights

- **Gortyna & The Epistle to Titus:** Explore the ancient ruins of Gortyna, where St. Titus served as Crete's first Bishop, establishing the early Christian Church.
- **Fair Havens / Kali Limenes (Acts 27:8):** Visit the isolated southern coast where St. Paul's ship found shelter during his perilous voyage to Rome.
- **Historic Arkadi Monastery:** Pray at this global symbol of faith and self-sacrifice, reflecting on the sacrificial dimension of the Christian life.
- **Agia Triada Tzagaroli Monastery (Chania):** Discover the grand 17th-century monastery on the Akrotiri peninsula, experiencing Byzantine monastic tradition.
- **Daily Holy Mass Coordination:** Pre-arranged, serene venues for your Spiritual Director to celebrate Holy Mass daily.
- **Full Authentic Hospitality:** Enjoy curated daily lunches featuring Cretan specialties at local taverns, combined with relaxed dinners at your 4-star hotels.



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23 September 2026

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General Information

Departures

All Year Round

Inclusions:

- **4-Star Hotel Accommodation:** 7 nights in strictly selected 4-star hotels in Crete (4 nights in Heraklion, 3 nights in Chania).
- **Full Board Basis:**
 - Daily rich buffet breakfasts at the hotels.
 - **Daily lunches** at carefully selected traditional local taverns and restaurants featuring authentic Cretan cuisine.
 - **Daily dinners** served at the 4-star hotel restaurants.
- **Private Ground Transportation:** All transfers (including airport transfers in Heraklion) and excursions operated by Mazi's private fleet of luxury coaches.
- **Specialized Theological Guide:** Services of a fully licensed, English-speaking guide with specialized knowledge in Catholic theology and biblical history throughout the tour.
- **Holy Mass Arrangements:** Complete logistical coordination and venue reservations for your Spiritual Director to celebrate daily Holy Mass.
- **24/7 Operations Support:** Round-the-clock dedicated assistance from Mazi's specialized operations team.

Exclusions:

- International airfare to and from Heraklion.
- Entrance fees to archaeological sites (Knossos, Gortyna) and museums/monasteries.
- Beverages during meals.
- Personal expenses.
- Gratuities for the spiritual director, local guide, driver, and hotel staff.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Heraklion - The Calling to Biblical Crete

Arrival at Heraklion International Airport (HER). A warm welcome by your theologically trained Mazi guide and private driver. We begin our pilgrimage with a **welcome lunch at a traditional Cretan restaurant**, offering a first taste of authentic island hospitality. Transfer to our 4-star hotel in Heraklion for check-in. The afternoon is dedicated to gathering our thoughts and preparing our hearts. Your Spiritual Director will lead the opening **Holy Mass** at a reserved, quiet venue, invoking the Holy Spirit's blessing upon our journey. **Dinner at the hotel restaurant** and overnight in Heraklion.

Day 2: Heraklion, Knossos & Early Christian Heritage

After a rich buffet breakfast, we visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, discovering the island's historical background prior to the advent of Christianity. We then tour the historic center of Heraklion, honoring the early Christian heritage of the city where the sacred relic of St. Titus's head is venerated. This is followed by **lunch at a traditional tavern** featuring regional specialties. The afternoon offers free time for quiet reflection and prayer. A venue will be arranged for **Holy Mass**. **Dinner at the 4-star hotel** and overnight in Heraklion.

Day 3: Gortyna & Fair Havens - In the Footsteps of the Apostles (Acts 27:8)

A day of deep biblical exploration in southern Crete. We depart for Gortyna, the ancient Roman capital of Crete, where St. Titus served as first Bishop. We walk among the ruins of the early Christian basilica, praying for the timelessness of Faith. We then drive to Kali Limenes (Fair Havens). Gazing at the bay where St. Paul's ship found shelter from the storm, we reflect on how God's Grace protects us in life's tempests. We enjoy a **traditional seaside lunch at a local tavern**. Return to Heraklion, **dinner at the 4-star hotel**, and overnight.

Day 4: Arkadi Monastery & Rethymno - Transfer to Chania

We leave Heraklion and head west. Our first stop is the historic Arkadi Monastery, a global symbol of faith and self-sacrifice, reminding us of the sacrificial dimension of Christian witness. We then reach the atmospheric city of Rethymno, strolling through the alleys of the Old Town and the Venetian harbor, enjoying an **authentic Cretan lunch at a picturesque tavern**. We continue west to Chania and check-in to our 4-star hotel in Chania. **Dinner at the hotel restaurant** and overnight.

Day 5: Chania & Agia Triada Tzagaroli Monastery

Today we explore the city and region of Chania. We begin with a visit to the impressive 17th-century Agia Triada Tzagaroli Monastery on the Akrotiri peninsula, admiring its Byzantine architecture and peaceful monastic life. We then transfer to the Old Town of Chania, walking along the famous Venetian Harbor and praising God for the beauty of His creation. A **traditional lunch at a local restaurant** follows. Free afternoon for quiet prayer. A venue will be arranged for **Holy Mass**. **Dinner at the 4-star hotel** and overnight in Chania.

Day 6: Chania Countryside - The Serenity of Nature

A day dedicated to spiritual renewal amidst the nature of the Cretan inland. We travel through lush valleys and traditional villages of Chania, visiting mountain sanctuaries. Your Spiritual Director will lead a prayer gathering and celebrate **Holy Mass** at a quiet venue. We gather for a **hearty traditional lunch at a mountain tavern**. Return to our 4-star hotel in Chania. **Dinner at the hotel** and overnight.

Day 7: Return to Heraklion - Spiritual Review

We depart Chania and make our way back toward Heraklion. Along the way, we visit coastal or hillside villages for a final taste of local heritage. We gather for a **traditional lunch**, conducting a spiritual review of this biblical pilgrimage. Check-in to our 4-star hotel in Heraklion. In the evening, we enjoy a special **farewell dinner at the hotel restaurant**, giving thanks for the spiritual blessings received.

Day 8: Departure from Heraklion - Sent Forth in Faith

Following breakfast at the hotel, and depending on your flight schedule, a final **traditional lunch** will be arranged before departure. Your Mazi coach and driver will transfer your group directly to Heraklion International Airport for your return flight home. You return to your parishes renewed in spirit, carrying the grace of St. Titus's apostolic blessing.

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For more information and real-time availability:

[View the trip online](#)

or contact us

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