

CRETE NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD | 2024 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

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Festival Coordinator

It is hard to believe that three months from today we will be in the middle of the Feast. There remains quite a bit of details and preparation needed.

This coming week I will be assigning any remaining volunteer responsibilities. I gather that information from the registration link found at <https://www.ucg.org/members/feast/sites/2024>.

Click on “Click here to find a site and register” and then find Crete, Greece.

We still have about 150 people who haven't registered here so please do so or if you aren't sure you can check with me.

Who else is coming to Greece? Facebook Group

Some have asked for a list of others coming to Greece. Registration is personal information and I can't announce publicly who will be attending, but you can find others attending in a private group on Facebook called **FOT Crete**

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Good To Know!

Food Allergies - When you first registered for the 2024 UCG Crete Festival you had the opportunity to list allergies or dietary restrictions. If anything has changed for you, please go into your reservation and update your information in the Questionnaires. Click the Questionnaire box under each person's name.



Compression Socks -

Compression socks help increase circulation and reduce the risk of swelling or worse deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and clotting on long flights. Here's a great article on this:

<https://www.travelchannel.com/roam-blog/news-deals/why-you-should-wear-compression-socks-when-you-fly>



Roommates - Many already know who their roommates are but for those who don't we will be sending out a list of all the roommates via email.



Passport Information Needed Soon!

We will be adding a questionnaire to your reservation to get each person's passport information. This information will be needed by the resort before we arrive. We will email you when it's ready.

Continued from page 1

2024 at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fot.crete.2024>. Request to join the group and it should be processed within a day.

Atonement, October 12

- **Athens** - Services will start at 1:30 p.m. See page 7 for more details.
- **Santorini** - I'm still looking for a place to meet. If you haven't already told me where you are staying in Santorini, let me know.

Sabbath Services October 26 (after the Feast)

This is undetermined at this point.

Church Attire

Acceptable Church attire for both Sabbaths and week days is business casual for both men and women. No jeans and no shorts.

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Packing List

[Click Here for a Packing List!](#)

Packing Tips

[Click Here for Packing Tips!](#)

How to Fold Clothes

Some great tips in this video for folding clothes, they might help your clothes take up less space in your suitcase and arrive with less wrinkles! It's worth a look...

[How to Fold Clothes](#)



Creta Maris Resort

Facilities - Services - Amenities - Activities

[Click Here](#) to see all that the Creta Maris has to offer!

Laundry Services

There is no self service laundry at the Creta Maris. They provide laundry service for a fee. Click below to see the pricing in Euros.

[Laundry List](#)

Dinner Reservations at the Specialty Restaurants

The Enomy and Mademi restaurants need no reservations. Reservations for the remaining five need made after you check in at the resort. You can download the app and make bookings one day in advance till 15.00. Bookings may also be made with the hostesses at the entrance of the two main restaurants.

Spa Reservations

Following is the email address of the Creta Maris spa center. You can communicate directly with the Spa to book therapies and treatments.

aegeospas@cretamaris.gr

Creta Maris Dress Code

Dress Code for dinner: flip flops and shorts are not allowed.

Renting a Car in Crete?

We have verified with the resort that there is parking available, and there is no cost for parking.

Extra Nights at the Creta Maris Resort

For those arriving to Crete early, or staying late and you want to stay at the Creta Maris please let us know when you submit your Air Schedule. Once you submit your schedule, here's what will happen:

1. We will email and let you know the price for an extra night and get your approval to ask the resort for the room.
2. Once you approve the price we will ask the resort for the room.
3. Once we receive a confirmation number from the resort, it is considered non-refundable.

Note: Extra nights at the Creta Maris Resort are not guaranteed, so please get your request in via the Air Schedule as soon as possible.

<https://www.travelgallery.com/ucg-crete-2024>

Daily Schedule

Here's our schedule for the Feast:

9:00 am: Optional Seminars (will be announced later)
 10:30 am - Noon: Services
 12:30 pm: Lunch Begins
 1:30 pm: Depart for All Tours or Do Your Own Thing

Dress for Church

Acceptable Church attire for both Sabbaths and week days is business casual for both men and women. No jeans and no shorts.

Tips for Using Your Cell Phone Internationally

- ❖ Contact your mobile carrier and decide which calling and data plan is best for your budget.
- ❖ Purchasing additional text messages and using texts instead of calling avoids the international calling rates.
- ❖ To reduce possible expenses for large cellular data downloads turn off all apps and change email to “fetch only” which means you only receive or send email when you instruct it to.
- ❖ Then limit your app, email, and web searches to “wi-fi” locations.
- ❖ Plan to be off-line most of the time and enjoy the trip. Set your expectation for web access to low and you will be happier.
- ❖ Sim Cards - Many travel journals talk about the the concept of purchasing a local sim card once you arrive. While this works if your are going to make a large number of local “in country” calls, it will have different rates for international calling and text.


Standard Trip Protection Still Available for U.S. Travelers!


If you did not add Trip Protection to your reservation when you registered for Crete there is still time to add the Standard Trip Protection. This Trip Protection can help if you miss a connection, have travel delays, travel interruption, lose your luggage or need to cancel for covered reasons.


Coming Soon! Passport Information Needed

We will be adding a questionnaire to your reservation to get each person’s passport information. This information will be needed by the resort before we arrive. We will send an email when it’s ready for you.

from US to Greece







In Greece, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type C and type F are used. The standard voltage is 230 V at a frequency of 50 Hz.

- ! Yes, you need a power plug travel adapter for sockets type C and F in Greece.
- ! You also need a voltage converter.
- i Be extra careful with certain devices because of the difference in frequency.

Optional Tours During Feast Update

Thank you to all who selected to participate in the Optional Tours! We have had to close some tours because they reached the maximum number of participants. Other tours are closed because they didn't reach the minimum number of participants. There's a lot of variables and we appreciate your patience as we work to finalize the tours.

The list below is current as of July 25 at 11 a.m. If you would like to participant in any open tour please do so today. Tours will close in a couple of days, see date below.

Here's an update on all the optional tours (listed in code and date order):

18Oct-C01 Knossos & Heraklion City - This tour is running and can take 13 more people.

20Oct-C01 Knossos & Heraklion City - This tour **needs 15 more participants in order to run at the current price point.**

18Oct-C05 Knossos & Winery Tour - This tour will run and can take 29 more people.

20Oct-C05 Knossos & Winery Tour - This tour **needs 7 more participants in order to run at the current price point.**

18Oct-C10 Arolithos Village with Cooking - This tour is running and is at capacity.

20Oct-C10 Arolithos Village with Cooking - This tour is running and is at capacity.

21Oct-C10 Arolithos Village with Cooking - This tour is running and is at capacity.

21Oct-C15 Krista Traditional Village - This tour is running and is at capacity.

22Oct-C15 Krista Traditional Village - This tour did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

19Oct-C20 Cretan Evening Dinner with Show - This tour is running and can take 30 more people.

21Oct-C25 Heraklion City Coach to/from - This shuttle is running and can take 25 more people.

22Oct-C25 Heraklion City Coach to/from - This shuttle did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

23Oct-C26 Heraklion City Coach to/from - This shuttle did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

19Oct-C28 Heraklion City Coach to/from - This shuttle did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

21Oct-C28 Heraklion city Coach to/from - This shuttle did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

20Oct-C30 Heraklion City & Cretan Evening - This tour did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

21Oct-C30 Heraklion City & Cretan Evening - This tour did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

20Oct-C40 Biking at Mochos - This tour is running and can take 16 more people.

22Oct-C40 Biking at Mochos - This tour did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

18Oct-C45 Hiking Krista Gorge - This tour is running and can take 23 more people.

21Oct-C45 Hiking Krista Gorge - This tour is running and can take 10 more people.

18Oct-C50 Land Rover Safari w/Driver - This tour is running and can take 10 more people.

20Oct-C50 Land Rover Safari w/Driver - This tour is running and can take 2 more people.

18Oct-C55 Safari Self Drive - This tour is running and can take 10 more people.

20Oct-C55 Safari Self Drive - This tour did not meet the minimum numbers and is not running.

20Oct-C60 Island of Tears Boat - This tour is running and can take 26 more people.

22Oct-C60 Island of Tears Boat - This tour is running and is at capacity.

21Oct-C65 Hersonissos Gulf - Eleni Boat - This tour is running and can take 7 more people.

23Oct-C65 Hersonissos Gulf - Eleni Boat - This tour is running and can take 2 more people.

Tours in BOLD need additional registration to operate at the current price point. If you want to add a tour, now is your chance. Please go into your reservation and click on Add-ons and select the tour by the code listed. **Tours will close on Sunday evening, July 28.**

Crete 2024 - Golf Scramble - Wed., October 23, 2024 - [Information & Link to Sign-up Form](#)

Coordinator Mike Cook - contact details on the form.

Transfer Information

In order to arrange the included transfers we need to have your air schedules. Once all the air schedules are received we'll be able to make arrangements for:

- ◆ Those arriving early and staying at the Creta Maris.
- ◆ Group transfers on arrival - October 16.
- ◆ Group transfers on departure - October 25
- ◆ Those staying at the Creta Maris post Feast.

So, please be sure to fill out the Air Schedule if you haven't already!



Weather in Crete

October is the start of the Cretan autumn and will almost always have some rain, sometimes heavy. But on the whole temperatures remain pleasant and warm and the sun shines most days (and on average almost 7 hours a day).

The sea temperatures are still very pleasant at around 23°C / 73.4°F.

The table below lists weather averages in October for 7 towns of Crete.

Note that these weather stations are located near the sea, more or less at sea level and they generally get less rain than inland locations, especially higher up. Temperatures in hills and mountain areas can be considerably cooler.

October weather averages in Crete					
City	Monthly Max. Temperature	Monthly Min. Temperature	Monthly Average Temperature	Average Rain	Days of rain
Chania	23.7°C	15.6°C	19.4°C	82mm	8
Rethymnon	24°C	16.6°C	20.6°C	90mm	8.2
Heraklion	23.4°C	16.5°C	20°C	65mm	7.8
Sitia	23.6°C	16.8°C	20.2°C	54mm	6.1
Paleochora	24.6°C	17.7°C	21.4°C	14mm	
Tymbaki	24.9°C	14.9°C	20.2°C	47mm	4.5
Ierapetra	24.9°C	16.7°C	21°C	44mm	4.7

Air Schedules Due July 31, 2024

AIR SCHEDULES NEEDED

Once you've made your airline reservations please go to our website and click the "Submit Your Air Schedule" button to give us your air schedule. Knowing your schedule allows us to arrange your included transfer to and from the Creta Maris resort in Heraklion.

While submitting your schedule, you'll be asked if you'd like to add the cost of your ticket(s) to your Trip Protection, this is applicable if you have Trip Protection already.

Please note: adding your air to your Trip Protection will increase the cost of your Trip Protection.

<https://www.travelgallery.com/ucg-crete-2024>

You can also add the cost of other components of your trip, if you want.

For Standard Trip Protection add 4.55% of the cost and for Enhanced Trip Protection add 7.6% of the cost.

Weather Information from:

<https://www.west-crete.com/weather-crete-october.htm>

Staying On Your Own in Athens?

Are you staying on your own in Athens but you want to join the group for Atonement, on the Athens Walking Tour or Corinth Tour? You can join any of them by selecting them in the Add-on section of your reservation!

Following is a link to the reservation system where you can go to the Add-on section and select any of these three options:

- Athens Atonement Services, Saturday, October 12
- Corinth Tour, Monday, October 14
- Athens Walking Tour, Tuesday, October 15

[LINK TO RESERVATION SYSTEM](#)

SPACE AVAILABLE

Athens Walking Tour

Tuesday, October 15 at 9 a.m.

With headsets and Museum Admission

Cost per person: \$98

Under 5 years old: Free and no headsets

SPACE AVAILABLE

Athens Atonement Services

Saturday, October 12

Wyndham Grand Athens

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Cost per adult: \$30

The cost covers the meeting rental space and support. We need your response by July 31.

SPACE AVAILABLE

Corinth Tour

Monday, October 14

Full Day Tour including lunch

Cost per person: \$158

Coming in next month's newsletter:

- * More about the Resort
- * Exchange Rate Information
- * Tipping
- * And more!