

CRETE NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD | 2024 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Optional Tours During Feast

The good news is we have enough participation to operate all of the optional tours. We are finalizing scheduling and will notify you on next steps for final registration and payment.

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Festival Coordinator

Hello Everybody:

I can't believe it is already the middle of May.

Currently, we have around 670 attendees registered. Quite a few cancellations have hit us recently so we are trying to fill in, but many on the wait list have made other plans so that wait list is significantly decreased.

Over the next month we should be finalizing activities, Bible studies, and other volunteer needs etc.

I sent out an email on May 15 asking you to officially register for the Greek Feast site specifically at the UCG Greek Feast site page. I realize for some people this might be considered a 3rd registration so sorry for the inconvenience, but this will provide information I need

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Important To Know!

Greek Room Tax Increase

Starting January 1, 2024, and according to Greek legislation, a new levy – or the so-called “Climate Change Resilience Tax (stay-over tax)” – will be imposed to all hotels’ guests in Greece based on the number of overnight stays, and will amount to **€ 10.00 per room, per night** in five-star hotels. Guests are required to pay the aforementioned amount in person, upon their arrival.

Please note: The amount of this tax has gone up from the € 4 it was when you signed up for the UCG Crete Festival. Please be aware that by law you must pay for this tax when you arrive at the hotel.

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for filling in various service responsibilities that every site needs.

If you have questions, contact me or Travel Gallery.

All the best,

Charles Melear
 United Church of God
 Conference Planner
 (970) 484-5878 office / home
 (972) 279-3347 mobile
www.ucg.org/members/feast



Do you have an infant to add to your reservation?

If you’ve had a baby since registering for the Feast in Crete please email groups@travelgallery.com with the Baby’s name (as it will appear on their passport) and their birthdate. Once we add the infant to your reservation you’ll be able to select Trip Protection for him or her.

Register for the Feast with UCG

The Feast of Tabernacles link for notifying UCG where you will be attending the Feast is now live. Please use the following link (international sites) and register:

[Feast of Tabernacles 2024 - Registration](#)

Password: Crete2024Greece (Please do not distribute the password.)

Santorini Ferry Update

We're excited to let you know the ferry from Santorini (Thira) to Crete (Heraklion - HER) on October 16 is now available!

If you plan to travel from Santorini to Crete you can now purchase your tickets through this link:

[SeaJets Ferry](#)

Please note:

1. Travel Gallery will **NOT** be purchasing the ferry tickets for you.
2. For those arriving on October 16, we will arrange a transfer to the Creta Maris to coincide with your arrival on the ferry into Heraklion. The cost of the transfer is included in the Festival room package.

PASSPORT VALIDITY

Some countries require that your passport have at least **six months** of validity beyond the dates of your trip. Some airlines will not allow you to board if this requirement is not met.

At a minimum it must be May 1, 2025 or later depending on your return date.

Now is the time to check your passport expiration date and be sure it is within the guidelines of any country you are traveling to.

Getting to Crete (Heraklion)

If you are flying to Crete, please [make sure you have booked flights all the way to Heraklion](#). If your roundtrip tickets from home are to/from Athens, then you'll need to purchase tickets to/from Athens-Heraklion.

If you purchased tickets from home to Athens and then Heraklion to home then you are missing the Athens-Heraklion flight.

We just want to make sure everyone is getting to Crete (Heraklion) by Wednesday, October 16 - check in day at the Creta Maris Resort (unless you are arriving early).

If you need to purchase your Athens-Heraklion flight please do so now, don't wait.

Island Jewels

Here's a link to a Biblical Archaeology Society article on understanding ancient Cyprus and Crete:

[Island Jewels](#)

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

If you did not add Trip Protection to your reservation when you registered for Crete please consider adding the Standard Trip Protection now. It is available until October 15. Trip Protection can help if you miss a connection, have travel delays, travel interruption, lose your luggage or need to cancel for covered reasons.

Athens Pre-Feast

We have confirmation on the hotel rooms for the the following pre-Feast packages:

1. 2 Nights Athens
2. 5 Nights Athens & Corinth
3. 3 Night Athens (hotel included) & 2 Night Santorini (hotel on your own)

If you requested a package, the costs have been added to your reservation. Please review your reservation and make a payment on it.

If you have any questions, please contact us at groups@travelgallery.com

Additional Bookings for the Pre-Feast Packages

If you are still interested in booking a pre-Feast package please note the following:

Hotel space is subject to availability. Please message groups@travelgallery.com if you are interested in one of the Athens Pre-Feast packages and we will check with our contact to see if there is a room available.



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 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 amount of your ticket(s) to your Trip Protection, this is applicable if you have Trip Protection already.

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

T R A V E L
T I P S

Roommates Tip

If you are rooming with someone during the Feast AND you use white noise to help you sleep please make sure you use ear pods. White noise might have the opposite effect on your roommate and using ear pods is a nice way for both of you to get sleep! Please communicate with your roommate now about any idiosyncrasy you have.

Staying On Your Own in Athens?

Are you staying on your own in Athens but you want to join the group on the Walking Tour, Corinth Tour and/or Atonement Services? The following information is for you! If you are interested in any of these options tour please email by June 15, groups@travelgallery.com and let us know:

- 1) Which option you want to be part of.
- 2) How many people, including names want to sign up. See prices below.

SPACE AVAILABLE

Atonement Services

Saturday, October 12

Time: To Be Determined

Cost per person: To Be Determined

Note: The cost covers the meeting rental space and support, and will depend on the final number of participants.

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

Corinth Tour

Monday, October 14

Full Day Tour including lunch

Cost per person: \$158

Coming in next month's newsletter:

- * More from Festival Coordinator Charles Melear
- * Weather
- * Dress for church, Dress for dinner
- * Packing List, Tips to Pack Smart
- * And more!