



///ICONHIC2019

The Samaria Gorge

25 JUNE



For those loving hiking and adventure, one of the most famous places to see is the Samaria Gorge. A 18km long National Park, a visit to which is definitely a lifetime experience.

# Local

One of the most famous places to visit on the island of Crete is this National Park; 18km long and exceptionally rich in animal and plant beauty. Inside the gorge you will find unique species protected under international law and you may even meet its famous inhabitants, the wild goats of Crete, which the locals call “agrimia” and tourists call “kri-kri”.

The Samaria footpath is very well signposted all along its length and is thought to be the most-walked footpath in the whole of Greece. More than a quarter million people walk through the gorge every year from beginning of May to the end of October. The walk takes 4-8 hours depending on your pace. Six hours is the normal time, especially if you stop to take pictures and enjoy the amazing natural landscape. Agia Roumeli village is where the walk ends and you can enjoy a swim in the Libyan Sea or have lunch one of the many tavernas.

However, if you don't feel up to the whole route, there is also the “lazy way” as the tour agents call it. This is a much shorter route from Agia Roumeli up to the “Iron Gates” (Sideroportes), the narrowest point of the gorge. At the Iron Gates, the gorge is so narrow that you can almost touch both sides as they rise up sheer 500 m above your head. The short route is certainly an easy way to experience some, though not all, of the magic of the Samaria Gorge.





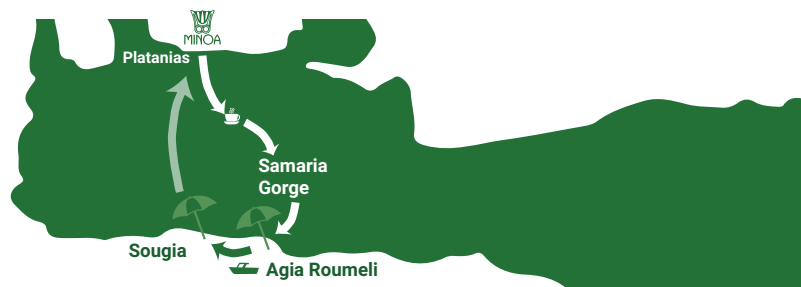
## TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 25 June

<b>Pick up from hotels</b>	<b>5:20 – 6:10</b>
<b>Coffee stop</b>	<b>7:30</b>
First stop at Omalos Plateau for coffee/breakfast.	
<b>Explore the Samaria Gorge [starting at Xyloskalo 1.200m altitude and ending at Ag. Roumeli (sea level)]</b>	<b>8:00 – 14:00</b>
Walk through the footpath at a steady pace, enjoying the wild beauty and the rich flora and fauna of the gorge. You will meet the river several times on your way, as well as many springs where you can refill your bottle of water. Take a rest in the shade of large plane trees at Neroutsiko, at the church of Agios Nikolaos or the abandoned village of Samaria in the middle of the gorge. If you walk quietly, you are very likely to see some "kri-kri" jumping around along the way! Hold your breath for the amazing scenery at the "Iron Gates", the narrowest and most famous part of the gorge.	
<b>Swimming &amp; Lunch at Ag. Roumeli</b>	<b>14:00 – 16:45</b>
The crystal clear waters of Agia Roumeli beach will definitely lure hikers for a swim after the long hike. Along the beach there are also plenty of "tavernas" serving traditional Cretan food.	
<b>Meet the tour guide at "Samaria" tavern</b>	<b>16:45</b>
<b>Take the boat from Agia Roumeli to Sougia</b>	<b>17:30</b>
<b>Return travel</b>	<b>18:10</b>

Estimated arrival time between 20:00 – 20:30.

\*plus €5 entrance fee at Samaria Gorge & €10 boat ticket from Ag. Roumeli to Sougia



Samaria Gorge



## TIMETABLE

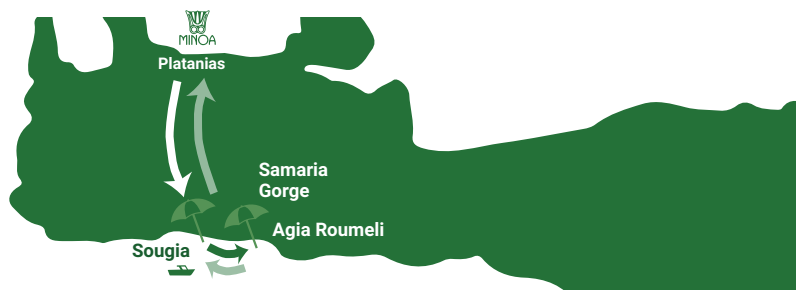
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For those not willing to walk through the entire footpath of Samaria gorge, the following alternative will be also provided:

Pick up from hotels	5:20 – 6:10
Continue with the bus to Sougia	7:30
Take the boat from Sougia to Agia Roumeli	9:00 – 9:40
Enjoy the Beach at Agia Roumeli and a short Visit at Samaria Gorge	9:45 – 16:45
Meet the tour guide at "Samaria" tavern	16:45
Take the boat from Agia Roumeli to Sougia	17:30
Return travel	18:10

Estimated arrival time between 20:00 – 20:30.

\*\*plus €5 entrance fee at Samaria Gorge & €15 boat ticket Sougia-Ag. Roumeli-Sougia



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 **ICONHIC2019**

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