



GREECE GOLF TOUR

Crete, Santorini, Costa Navarino, Peloponnese, Athens

October 21 - 30, 2024



The International Olympic Academy Golf Course, Costa Navarino



RDGA

Allied Golf Association of the **USGA**

Dear Members,

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement I invite you to join us October 21-30, 2024 for RDGA's inaugural *Greece Golf Tour*, a wonderful journey designed for golfers, their companions and families to a premier golf destination awarded the coveted accolades of 'World's Best Golf Venue' and 'Europe's Best Eco-Friendly Golf Facility' at the 2023 World Golf Awards.

While Greece is renowned for its long and important history and culture, incredible ancient monuments, fabled islands, exquisite landscape, healthy cuisine and the warm hospitality of its people, it is also an exceptional year-round golf destination. Signature courses by celebrated golf designers and architects José María Olazábal, Bernhard Langer, Bob Hunt and Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects grace idyllic settings and offer players world-class golf experiences.

On our Greece Golf Tour, RDGA members will play the country's leading courses, specifically the impressive Crete Golf Club, located on the storied island of Crete, and the award-winning courses at Costa Navarino located on the southwest corner of the Peloponnese, one of Greece's most important and interesting regions.

In addition to providing unforgettable golf experiences, travelers on our touring program will enjoy exploring the breathtaking beauty and bounty of the sustainable Costa Navarino resort, experience the remarkable 4,500-year-old historic and cultural heritage of the area and tour nearby ancient sites such as the Mycenaean Palace of Nestor and medieval Methoni. On Crete, the center of Europe's first advanced civilization, travelers will visit stunning Minoan ruins and archaeological sites, including Knossos. And in between we will spend a day exploring Santorini, perhaps the Mediterranean's most iconic island and site of a massive volcanic eruption in the late 17th century BC. Luxurious accommodations and arrangements round out the journey.

For a different and memorable golf and touring experience, we hope to see you on RDGA's *Greece Golf Tour* to delight in this glorious and ancient land.

Warm regards,

Tim Vangellow
Executive Director
Rochester District Golf Association



Oia, Santorini



ITINERARY



Monday, October 21, 2024

DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Depart the United States for Heraklion, Crete, Greece.

Tuesday, October 22

HERAKLION, Crete

Arrive in Heraklion, the largest city on the island of Crete. The largest of the Greek islands, Crete was home to Europe's earliest civilization, the Minoan, which flourished during the Bronze Age, starting around 2000 BC. In addition to its important ancient sites, Crete features incredibly beautiful and varied landscapes, rich natural history, picturesque towns and villages, a centuries-old cuisine that has formed the basis of the famed Mediterranean diet, and a superb 18-hole championship golf course. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel of the Crete Golf Club. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Wednesday, October 23

CRETE

Golf: Crete Golf Club

Designed by Bob Hunt of PGA Design Consulting in the UK, and built in 2003 on a rugged mountain terrain, the Crete Golf Club course provides spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and the Aegean Sea. Stretching to an overall length of 6,430 yards, the course is one of the most impressive in the Mediterranean. It offers five sets of tees at every hole with generously proportioned fairways. Playing to a par of 71, the course with its challenging holes, superb greens, and undulating hills guarantees to challenge all handicaps.

Tour: Palace of Knossos, Heraklion, and its Archaeological Museum

Leave the hotel in the morning to tour the magnificent palace of Knossos, the largest and most impressive Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably inspired the concept of the labyrinth. More than any other palace in Crete, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. After lunch at a restaurant specializing in Cretan cuisine, visit the superb Heraklion Archaeological Museum, which houses masterpieces from the Minoan and other periods. (B, L, D)

Thursday, October 24

CRETE/SANTORINI/CRETE

In the morning, all guests will board the fast *Seajet* boat to sail to Santorini, perhaps the Mediterranean's most iconic island. As the boat approaches Santorini, admire the island's main white-washed town perched on the 1,000-foot-high palisade of the volcanic caldera. During the Bronze Age, Santorini was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a prosperous society. In the late 17th century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried its main town in a thick layer of ash and pumice, thus preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Upon arrival, explore the excavated ancient town, now called Akrotiri. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy time at leisure to explore the town on your own, its narrow streets lined with shops and cafes. Later in the afternoon, sail on the *Seajet* back to Crete and drive to the hotel after dinner. (B, L, D)

Friday, October 25

CRETE/ATHENS/COSTA NAVARINO

Fly in the morning to Athens. Upon arrival, drive to Costa Navarino and check-in at the *Hotel Romanos*, a Luxury Collection Resort. Located on the southeast corner of the Peloponnese, near many historic sites and quaint towns, Costa Navarino is spread along the crystal-clear waters of the Ionian Sea, amidst lush gardens and tree groves. Its four signature award-winning golf courses are built in idyllic settings. (B, L, D)

Saturday, October 26

COSTA NAVARINO

Golf: The Dunes Course

Designed by two-time US Masters Champion and former Ryder Cup Captain Bernhard Langer, this championship course is set in a diverse natural landscape, offers spectacular sea and river views, and incorporates some links-style features in areas closest to the sea. A par-71 course, it measures 6,581 yards, with parts venturing into olive and fruit groves, while some holes run along a small river meandering through the site. Combined with large undulating greens, wide fairways and steep-faced pot bunkers, the links elements of the course adds to its unique style and playability.

Tour: Palace of Nestor

After a morning at leisure to enjoy the hotel's splendid facilities, tour in the afternoon the nearby Palace of Nestor, perhaps the best-preserved Mycenaean palace in Greece. Built in the 13th century BC and believed to be the palace of the elderly King Nestor who

figured prominently in the war against Troy as described by Homer in the *Iliad*, the palace was later destroyed by fire. Among the most important finds uncovered during excavations are a group of clay tablets inscribed in Linear B, the earliest Greek writing, dating from about 1450 BC. (B)

Sunday, October 27

COSTA NAVARINO

Golf: The International Olympic Academy Golf Course

Designed by two-time Masters champion and Ryder Cup legend José María Olazábal, and named as the "World's Best New Golf Development" at the 2020 World Golf Awards, the 18-hole, 72 par course, stretching out across 375 acres, is situated in a magnificent hill setting facing historic Navarino Bay. "The setting is one of the most spectacular that I have seen," commented Olazábal, adding "we are spoiled as golfers because there are so many great places to go, but Costa Navarino is the whole experience that is exceptional."

Tour: Olympia

Spend the day exploring Olympia, whose importance throughout antiquity, along with its beautiful setting in a river valley covered with evergreen oaks, poplars, planes and pines, make it one of the most significant archaeological sites in Greece. A sacred precinct dedicated to Zeus, it was at Olympia that the Panhellenic games were held every four years from 776 BC to 393 AD, giving rise to the modern Olympics. Tour Olympia, seeing its temples, other public buildings and the stadium where the games were held. Also, visit the Archaeological Museum. (B, L)

Monday, October 28

COSTA NAVARINO

Golf: The Bay Course

The 18-hole, 71 par seaside course, designed by Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects, provides a fun and challenging test for

golfers of all levels. With the majority of tees offering sublime sea views and two holes playing along historic Navarino Bay, the course meanders through three distinct natural landscapes. The seaside, canyon, and grove holes provide striking contrasts and create a memorable golf round.

Tour: Methoni

In the morning, tour Methoni, the formidable fortified fort built by the Venetians in the 12th century to protect their shipping trade routes and to garrison knights on their way to the Crusades. Facing the sea on three sides and entering across a moat, the massive fort contains extensive remains, including a Venetian cathedral. After exploring this evocative and historic site, stop in Pylos, a picturesque and stylish town that is built around one of the finest natural harbors in Greece. Spend the afternoon at leisure at the hotel, and enjoy a farewell dinner in the evening, served at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Tuesday, October 29

COSTA NAVARINO/NAFLION/ATHENS

Leave the hotel in the morning for Athens. Stop in Nafplion, one of the loveliest towns in the country, for lunch and then continue to the *Hotel Sofitel* for the night. The hotel is conveniently located across the street from the departures hall of the Athens airport. (B, L)

Wednesday, October 30

ATHENS/USA

Depart Athens for the flight home. (B)

OPTIONAL ATHENS EXTENSION

For those interested, an optional 2-day extension to Athens will be available. Arrangements will include accommodations at a deluxe hotel, tours of the city's main ancient monuments, a lunch and a dinner at local restaurants, and hotel/airport transfer.



The attractive town of Nafplion.

The Dunes Golf Course, Costa Navarino

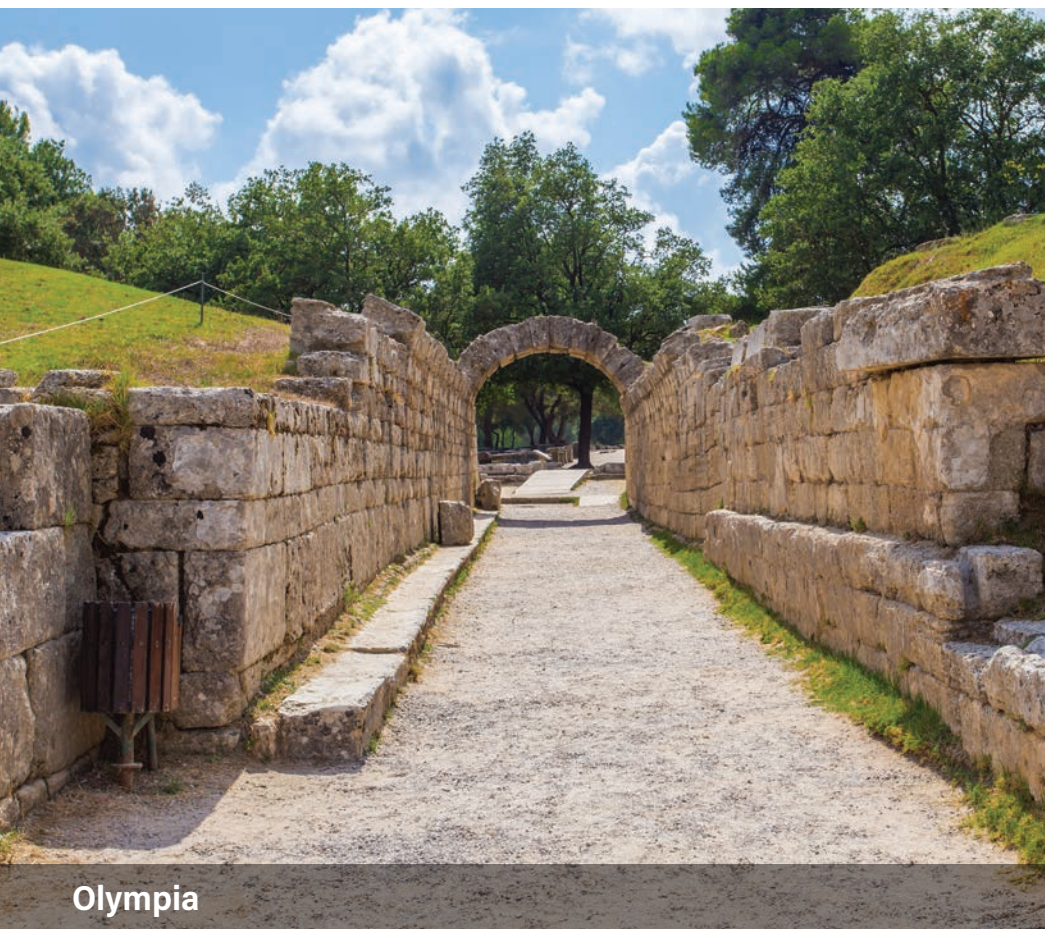


For Reservations and Information, Please Call **Thalassa Journeys** at 866-633-3611 or email reservations@thalassajourneys.com



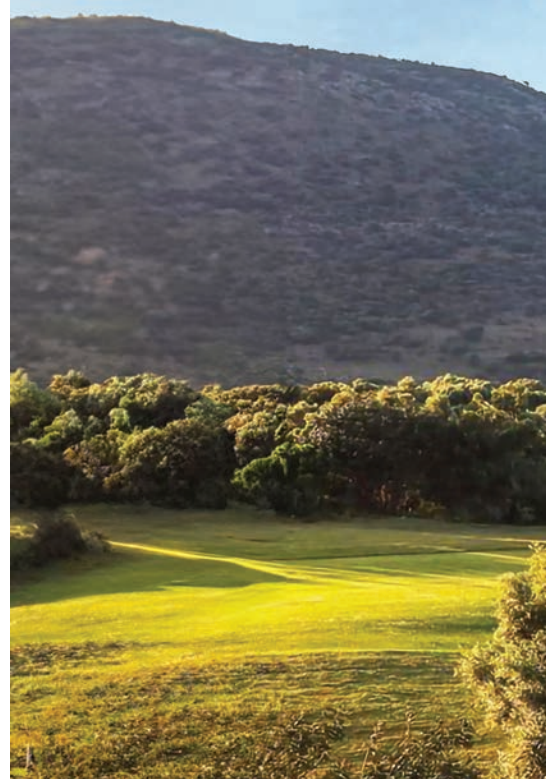
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The Bay Golf Course, Costa Navarino



Olympia

Crete Golf Course





Methoni



Crete Golf Club Hotel



Occupying a superlative spot within the grounds of the Crete Golf Club, the elegant hotel consists of 25 luxurious suites. Each measuring 485 square feet, the suites feature a large balcony that provides views of the mountains and sea, a spacious marble bathroom, large



flat TV screen, private ultra high speed Wi-Fi, and other amenities. Common areas include a fitness center with Technogym equipment, a shop, a 245-ft long outdoor swimming pool, and a restaurant that serves authentic local cuisine.

Hotel Romanos, Costa Navarino



Built in an enchanting setting between a long sandy beach and lush olive groves, this Luxury Collection Resort at Costa Navarino is recognized as one of the finest resort hotels in the Mediterranean. It features incredible vistas and luxurious rooms, suites and villas, all attractively appointed to create a distinctive and inspiring environment of authentic elegance



and heartfelt hospitality. The award-winning hotel also features an outstanding array of cultural, leisure and sports activities, and a diverse choice of high-quality spa facilities and treatments, as well as fine all-day dining, with a wide variety of international and Greek cuisine, based on locally sourced organic ingredients.

RATES

Golf rate: \$8,790 per person, double occupancy.

Touring rate: \$6,890 per person, double occupancy.

Single room supplement: \$1,590

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Deluxe hotel accommodations: three nights at the *Crete Golf Club Hotel*; four nights at the *Hotel Romanos*, Costa Navarino; one night at the *Hotel Sofitel*, Athens Airport.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Five lunches and five dinners, with wine or beer and soft drinks included.
- Greens and cart fees and other related expenses.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary with a professional English-speaking guide.
- Flight from Heraklion, Crete, to Athens.
- Transportation within Greece with modern air conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach.
- Airport/hotel transfers and handling of luggage in Greece.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Gratuities to drivers, guides, porters and restaurant personnel.
- Experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and the Tour Inclusions.



Enjoy typical Greek cuisine.



Palace of Knossos, Crete

GENERAL INFORMATION

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PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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Flower-filled Cretan
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