

## Crete Small Group Tour: The Minoans

### Reading List

#### **Minoans: Life in Bronze Age Crete**

by Rodney Castleden

Bang up to date, and thoroughly researched, Rodney Castleden's *Minoans: Life in Bronze Age Crete* here uses the results of recent research to produce a comprehensive new vision of the peoples of Minoan Crete.

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#### **Minoans**

by J. Lesley Fitton

Who were the Minoans, and what is interesting about them? This book assesses what we really know about their life and times, defining the essential characteristics of a distinctive Cretan culture and setting within its contemporary historical context.

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#### **History of Crete**

by Theocharis E. (trans John C. Davis). Detorakis

Theocharis Detorakis is Professor of Byzantine Philology at the University of Crete. His love for his home island led him early in his career to focus his academic work on its complex and eventful history. He is a well known authority on Crete and has published extensively on subjects ranging from the island's history to its language and folklore. In 1985 he was awarded the Nikos Kazantzakis prize for the quality and range of his scholarly work. In 1993 he was also awarded the title of Archon megas Protonotarios of the Holy and Great Church by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

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#### **Crete On The Half Shell**

by Byron Ayanoglu

*Crete on the Half Shell* is a fascinating hybrid of a book, part travelogue, part culinary adventure, and part personal odyssey for the author. Byron Ayanoglu is a food critic and writer with an intriguing resume. He has written such well-received cookbooks as *The New Vegetarian Gourmet* and *Simply Mediterranean Cooking*, more than a dozen plays, a novel (*Love in the Age of Confusion*), served as the personal chef for Mick Jagger, and been the restaurant critic for Toronto's *NOW* magazine and *The Montreal Gazette*. Yearning for a quieter life, he decides to retreat to Greece, the land of his ancestors, but one he left behind for Canada at an early age. The richly historic island of Crete is his destination, though he's more attracted by its culinary than archaeological treasures: "In Chania, one never questions the purpose of life, one simply eats it." Ayanoglu's retirement plans are put on hold when long-time friend and master chef Theo decides the island's cuisine desperately needs the pair's talent. In what could be called *Byron and Theo's Excellent Adventure* (or perhaps *Big Fat Greek Feast*), they scour Crete for new taste treats and opportunities to dazzle the locals. Ayanoglu's aromatic descriptions of the ingredients and cooking will leave the reader literally drooling on the pages. Freshly caught fish, organic vegetables and meats, raw goat cheeses, local honey and yoghurt, and the omnipresent olive oil are all given loving treatment in the kitchen and in the book. Additionally, descriptions of the island's history, culture, and inhabitants are nicely integrated into the text. It is a pity more photographs could not have been used, especially as some of the best stories involve the author's photographer friend Algis, but that shortcoming is amply compensated for by Ayanoglu's breezy and colourful prose style.

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## **The Dawn of Genius: The Minoan Super-Civilization and the Truth about Atlantis**

by Alan Butler

The Dawn of Genius puts back into the place the missing pieces of the puzzle that is Europe prior to a massive watershed in population and culture that took place after 2,000 BC. A cataclysmic volcanic eruption in the Eastern Mediterranean destroyed an almost totally forgotten infrastructure that encompassed an entire continent, and opened Europe to an unparalleled invasion of much less sophisticated people from the East. The book recreates the culture and religion and scientific knowledge that was shattered in an instant and which plunged the world into a dark age from which it has taken over 3,000 years to emerge. This is probably the most comprehensive explanation of mysteries from a truly ancient world that has ever been written. Those interested in exploring the genuine origins of the modern world are certain to be enthralled.

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