





Photo:



Crete, the largest Greek island, is washed by the waters of the eastern Mediterranean, and so enjoys a mild climate. An island where Myth meets History, where the age-old Cretan culture has its roots in the long-ago, where the sea meets the mountains and unspoiled nature coexists with modern tourist infrastructure. Crete has a thousand faces: one for each and every sort of traveller: the naturalist, the explorer, the cosmopolitan, the lover of history and culture. The list is long and all-encompassing!









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and is featured...



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The Minoan Palace of Knossos

Knossos, the largest and most brilliant centre of the Minoan civilization, i...





THE ISLAND



Crete, the largest island in Greece, is one of the most popular travel destinations in the Mediterranean. An island with a thousand faces that combines everything a traveller might ask for: a long and varied history, major attractions, a genuine culture of its own, magnificent nature, a mild climate, famous hospitality, a high level of infrastructure for tourism, cosmopolitan resorts and pristine, unexplored corners.

On Crete flourished the first prehistoric civilization of note on European soil, that of the Minoan Bronze-Age, with its majestic palaces that can be visited today (Knossos, Festos, Zakros, Malia etc.). In the long history of the island a multitude of different cultures and conquerors have passed through, leaving behind important monuments and attractions scattered throughout the island. As a result present-day Crete has a high level of historical, archaeological and cultural points of interest for the visitor.

At the same time Crete stands out as a destination for its unique natural environment. On one hand, a seemingly endless and indented coastline offers countless beaches for each and every taste: organized or otherwise, crowded or deserted. Some are even world famous: Balos, Elafonissi, Vai, Elounda, Falasarna etc.

At the other extreme, there is the spine of high mountains which are ideal for hiking and mountaineering. Gorges innumerable to wander through, caves to explore, fertile valleys to appreciate: all waiting the visitor's glance. And linking all, those scenic trails that tie natural beauty to cultural attractions to blissful repose.

The heart of Crete beats in its cities: from Chania, the Venice of the East, through Renaissance Rethymno, to cosmopolitan Heraklion, on to bijoux Aghios Nikolaos and ultimately to picturesque Sitia and Ierapetra. Each Cretan city has its own character, emerging from its rich history, a vigorous modern being and of course the contemporary tourist infrastructure.

Meet Crete too through its world-famous gastronomy: both delicious and healthy! Discover the Cretan culture through its traditional music, dances and customs that are still alive on the island! Enjoy the famous Cretan hospitality that comes open-handed from Zeus Xenios, King of gods (born here, in the mountains of Crete: a local lad made good ...)!



TOP 10



Crete is surrounded with history and beautiful scenery. You will never get bored: always there is some new landscape or geological feature, some unique eco-system, or beach of outstanding natural beauty! Here are the 10 things you should not miss!

Balos



On the northwest coast of Cape Gramvousa, in a bay formed between the lesser capes of Tigani and Vouha, lies the sea-lagoon of Balos. A quiet beach,

opposite the two Gramvousa islands (Wild and Tame), it enjoys warm, turquoise waters and white sands. The last are actually partly composed of minutely crushed sea-shells, which impart a pinkish hue to the very white sand. The water immediately off shore is shallow, but deepens elsewhere.

During July and August, Balos receives a daily influx of crowds of tourists. For that reason, as well as stagnant reaches of water, parts can get somewhat smelly. In the summer season, sea trips are made daily from Kasteli Kisamou to Balos (with the 2-hour stop-off on 'Tame' Gramvousa): the last stage from the island to Balos takes 15 minutes.

Address: Gramvousa Cape, Kisamos, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan ia-west-a-south-coast/periochi-gramvousas/mpalos

Elafonisi & Kedrodasos



Elafonisi beach is one of the most emblematic of the island, and is featured on countless postcards. It is to be found 80 km from the Chania. Elafonisi is a

small island, connected to the Cretan mainland by a shallow crossing of several hundred meters, which can be made on foot. The whole area, which is part of the NATURA 2000, is characterized by its pale sands, its shallow and crystal-clear waters, turquoise in colour, and the small pink patches made up from crushed sea-shells.

Ideally one should visit Elafonisi outside of the tourist season, when it is not over crouded!

Camping is not permitted here.

South of Elafonisi is another area of wild and remarkable beauty – Kedrodasos or the Forest of Cedars. Access can be made by car (up to a certain point) by a dirt-road through the plastic green-houses, or on foot following the E4 walking-route from the beach of Elafonisi itself.

Dunes of white sand and the ancient cedars cover the whole vicinity. The main beach is sandy and boasts crystal-clear turquoise waters; along the coastal path from Elafonisi to Kedrodasos are small deserted coves. Unlike Elafonisi, Kedrodasos is absolutely untouched: no food or water is to be had there, so make sure you take what you need with you on a visit! Kedrodasos too is part of the NATURA 2000 programme



Because of its shady nature and isolation, the spot is a favourite haunt for unsupervised camping and nudists.But be warned: here too camping is illegal!

Address: Elafonisi, Kisamos, Chania

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan

ia-west-a-south-coast/periochi-elafonisiou/elafonisi-b

Chrysi (Gaidouronisi)



Gaidouronisi (or Chrysi) is some 5 km long and by 1 wide. Uninhabited, it is very lovely with beaches appropriate to Paradise. The general impression a

visitor receives is that he is on some exotic south-sea island!

The beaches have white and golden sands, coloured pink from crushed seashells that are strewn far and wide. The waters are crystalline and translucent with a turquoise colouring. On Chrysi there survives a large cedar forest, of some 85 acres extent, with large and impressive specimens.

Address: Chrysi (Gaidouronisi), Ierapetra, Lasithi Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/lasit hi-south-a-east-coast/periochi-dytika-ierapetras/hrisi-gaidouro nisi

The Old Town of Chania



The old town of Chania embodies the long history of the city; in the picturesque alleys, visitors can see the marks left by every civilization

that has settled here for a period of time in the past. Venetian, Ottoman, Neoclassical

monuments and architectural elements, old neighbourhoods, historical sites and a lot of local colour characterize the old town of Chania, which is justly called by some "Venice of the East".

It used to be surrounded by walls, however only parts of them survive today. It extends inland from the Venetian port and it includes the districts of Topanas, Splantzia, Kasteli, Santrivani and the Jewish quarter.

The old town of Chania, full of different sounds and colours, figures in every visitor's photographs. The Venetian and Turkish monuments, the neoclassical buildings, the narrow alleys with balconies full of flowers, the traditional knife shops and Cretan boot shops, the promenade along the Venetian port, the lively restaurants and cafes, all make up a vivid picture of a historical city that remembers the past and celebrates the present.

In front of the city, there is the Venetian port of Chania, including the Venetian lighthouse, is one of the symbols of the city and a favourite walking area for locals and visitors alike.

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/monuments-other/chania-a-monuments-other/chania-city-monuments-other/alla-mnimeia-chanion

The Minoan Palace of Knossos



Knossos, the largest and most brilliant centre of the Minoan civilization, is located 5 kilometres south of the historical centre of the city of

Heraklion.

In the labyrinthine arrangement of corridors and



rooms of the palace complex, many scholars have visualised the famous Minoan "Labyrinth". Such a notion of the existence of a labyrinth may be only a mythological remembrance of a great civilization, however one could say that it really does correspond to the architectural structure which can be seen today in Knossos.

Twisting corridors and stairwells which used to connect as many as five storeys, create a truly labyrinthine complex. There, visitors can admire important architectural innovations, such as water supply systems and sewer networks, shafts for the lighting and ventilation of the lower levels of the palace complex, and rooms equipped with baths and sanitary facilities that almost match modern constructions in ingenuity and function.

It is believed that the first palace complex of Knossos was probably built in the 19th century BC and was destroyed in the 17th century BC. It was later rebuilt (16th century BC) in a remarkable, functional way, as one can ascertain by seeing the surviving ruins. In the mid 15th century BC, Knossos is believed to have reached its acme, which lasted until approximately 1450 BC; then, an extensive natural disaster occurred, probably due to an eruption of the volcano of Santorini(known as the "Thera eruption").

Address: Knosos, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: (1 April-31 October): Monday-Sunday 08:00-19:30, (1 November-31 March): Monday-Sunday 08:30

-15:00

Tickets: 6€

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/archaeological-sites/irakleio-archaeological-sites/anaktoro-knossou-archaeological-sites tes

Elounda & Spinalonga Island



Feeling for a celebrity hunt? Elounda is the part of Crete where all the rich and famous people come for a vacation. Here you can gaze at all the

luxurious villas and hotels but also enjoy the charming old fishing village.

From Elounda you can take a boat trip to Spinalonga Island known for its Venetian fortress and being one of Europe's last leper colony.

Spinalonga is a small island-fortress located at the northern entrance to Elounda bay, at a strategic point that secures control over the natural harbour of Elounda. An ancient fortification existed on the site of the fortress that can be seen today, for the protection of the port of the ancient town of Olous.

The Venetian fortress of Spinalonga is well-preserved. It has two fortified protected zones. The first, which is lower down, follows the coastline, while the second runs along the cliffs above it.

The two strong crescent-shapedfortifications, which were built to protect the port of Elounda with their cannons, stand out. The castle of Spinalonga, together with the fortresses of Souda and Gramvoussa in Western Crete, were considered impregnable, and remained under Venetian rule for many years after the Turkish conquest.

Opening hours: Summer Season: Daily 09:00-19:00

Tickets: 2€ Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/monuments-other/spina-logka



CreteAquarium



Explore the wonderful life of the Mediterranean sea. Here you can see hundreds of different fish and other marine species and let your self be

fascinated by their shapes and colours.

Cretaquarium, as a fruit of scientific research, is coming to give us knowledge and the experience of mediterranean marine world. A part of marine park research, culture, education and recreation of the Cretaquarium, is based on the knowledge, the expertise and the innovation which is produced by the Greeks marine scientists in the last 20 years.

Cretaquarium is representing the Mediterranean marine life with modern ways and means and provides a unique spectacle that will always fascinate children and adults and it will inform, educate and sensitize the public about the diversity of Mediterranean species and the habitats.

Address: Former American Base at Gournes, 71003 Heraklion

Opening hours: Summer Season (May-September): Daily 09:30-21:00 Winter Season (October-April): Daily 09:30-17:00

Phone: +30 2810 337788, 337707

Tickets: 6€, Entrance Free: Disabled, Members, Children

from 0-5

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/museums/irakleio-muse

ums/thalassokosmos

Email: thalassocosmos@cretaquarium.gr

Samaria Gorge



The gorge of Samaria is the longest and one of the most imposing gorges in Europe. Perhaps the most popular trekking path of Greece runs along its

course.

The gorge is 18 kilometres long and its width varies between 150 and 3-4 metres at its narrowest point, which is known as "Sideroportes". The walk down the gorge begins at "Xiloskalo", in Omalós (at an altitude of 1.200 metres) usually, quite early in the morning, since it requires 4-8 hours, depending on the walking pace.

Six hours on average are enough for those who wish to enjoy the route without being in too much of a hurry.

Walking down the Samaria gorge, one discovers a varied landscape, with water springs, pools and impressive large rocks lying in the watercourse, as well as numerous trees, such as plane trees, pines and cypresses. Trees and deciduous oaks rooted on the highest cliffs, ineffable scents of herbs and an occasional Cretan wild goat (kri-kri) climbing on a steep slope make this gorge unforgettable.

After its narrowest point "Portes", the landscape evens out a bit and the watercourse begins to widen. Entrance tickets are re-checked at the outlet of the gorge, to make sure that no one has been left behind or decided to camp inside the gorge. After 18 km of walk, the Libyan Sea is close-by. Accommodation is available in Agia Roumeli. There is also the possibility to take the boat that goes to Loutro, Chora Sfakion, Sougia



or Paleochora.

Address: Omalos Plateau, Agia Roumeli, Sfakia, Chania

Opening hours: May - October

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/gorges-crete/samaria-gorge

Minoan city of Phaistos



The palace complex and the city of Phaistos were built on a hill, offering a panoramic view, especially to the east, to the north, and to the

south.

The rich and fertile plain of Messara opens up ahead to the east for a distance of 40 kilometres. On the background, one can see the mountains of Lassithi. To the right, towards the south, the Asterousia mountains come into view. On the left-hand side, to the north, majestic Psiloritis dominates the scenery, together with the verdant hills at its foot. An olive grove with centuries-old olive trees lies to the north-west. The view is magnificent all day long, especially in the afternoon; this panorama alone makes Phaistos well worth visiting.

Phaistos was the second largest Minoan city, and an important administrative centre of south-central Crete. The Minoan city covered a large area around the palace complex.

Mythology links Phaistos to Rhadamanthus, a brother of Minos, whose dynasty is believed to have ruled in the city. According to another story, it was founded by Phaistos, a son of Hercules. Homer mentioned that the city took part in the Trojan War, led by Idomeneus, king of Knossos and the whole of Crete.

Address: Tibaki, Festos, Heraklio

Opening hours: Summer: Monday-Sunday 08:00-19:30,

Winter: Monday-Sunday 08:30 -15:00

Phone: +30 28920 42315

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/archaeological-sites/arc

haiologikoschoros-faistou

Lake Kournas



Between the cities of Chania and Rethymnon, at the north edge of the White Mountains, you can find Lake Kournas, the only freshwater lake in

Crete.

It lies in a beautiful valley and this is a perfect spot for an afternoon picnic. If there are any orts the ducks waddling around are most likely interested.

The lake creates an fascinating environment, which changes with the seasons. In winter the water level rises and the lake grows, in summer it falls, revealing sandy beaches and the spring that feeds it – the Amati.

The dark colours at the centre of the lake are the result of algae growth. The ecosystem of the lake and the River Delphina are amongst the most vital on the island, and indeed in Greece too. Correctly the locale has been included in the Natura 2000 network. It is a stopping place for migratory birds, and a spot where one meets many species endemic to the island, or the east Mediterranean.

Whether you are swimming in the summer, walking on its shores, sailing in a boat, or on a picnic, Kournas Lake is a destination that can combine many activities – including lunch or coffee in the tavernas on the banks that overlook the turquoise waters.



Address: Kournas (Georgioupoli), Apokoronas, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/other-nature-crete/chan ia-other-nature/kournas-lake

DO & SEE



Crete is surrounded with history and beautiful scenery. You will never get bored: always there is some new landscape or geological feature, some unique eco-system, or beach of outstanding natural beauty! At the same moment, Crete is a cosmopolitan island, whilst nonetheless retaining those elements which belong customarily to the folk tradition.

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Tickets: 6€

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/archaeological-sites/ira~kleio-archaeological-sites/anaktoro-knossou

tes

The Archaeological Museum of Heraklion



The Archaeological
Museum is located much
in the center of
Heraklion: it is one of the
most important
Archaeological Museums

of the world, thanks to its unrivalled collection of artifacts from the Bronze-age Minoan culture – the first of note on what is now European soil. The exhibits cover a period of ten millennia, from the Neolithic era until late Roman times.

A tour would start on the Ground floor: the halls are dedicated to the Neolithic and Minoan cultures. Organized chronologically, covering all phases of the Minoan civilization, the rooms channel you from the Pre-palatial period (3000 - 1900 BC), through three phases of Palaces, down to the Post-palatial era (1350 - 1000 BC).

The introductory texts in each room explain the key features of each period – and so the evolution of culture. In these halls the visitor is held entranced by objects of Minoan art and craft: jewelry and seals, pottery and metalwork, ivory, faience and glass. Items of the daily life, items used in religious worship, items from the burial chamber. Through further and often thematic texts are clarified the practices and ways they organized their economic, religious and social life. Among the exhibits are some of the most famous Minoan icons: such as the Snake Goddess, the Phaistos Disk, the Ring of Minos and the Mallia wasp (or bee) pendant. And many, many more!

Visitors to the museum can admire unique artifacts recovered from the excavations at the Palaces of Knossos, Phaistos, Aghia Triadha, Malia and Zakros – let alone the numerous other major centers and sites of Minoan Crete.

Address: Xanthoudidou 2, Heraklion

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 08:00-19:00, Monday & Sunday &

Holidays: 09:00-16:00 Phone: +30 2810 279 000

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/museums/irakleio-muse

ums/archaiologiko-mouseio-irakleiou



The Natural History Museum of Crete



A museum in Heraklion where you can find a lot of interesting things for all ages. There are a discovery centre for children, an earthquake

simulator, small aquariums and terrariums housing living animals from this region, a large collection of fossils, and a replica of the largest mammal ever lived on Crete, 9 million years ago. It does not only present the natural wealth of the island, but also of the rest of Greece and of the Eastern Mediterranean.

In the 800 square metres of the museum, in specially transformed areas, visitors have the opportunity to learn about the geological evolution of Crete, various important geological formations such as caves, the species that once lived on Crete but are now extinct, endangered animals such as the Monk seal and the Bearded vulture, as well as about plants and organisms of all kinds that thrive on the island.

The animals are displayed by way of accurate representations, in their real dimensions (dioramas). The museum also has an outdoor botanical garden.

Address: Sophocles Venizelos Avenue, Heraklio, Heraklio Opening hours: Monday to Friday 09:00 - 16:00, Weekends

10:00 - 17:00

Phone: +30 2810 393630, 282740

Tickets: 8 €, Children 4 - 18 year old: 5 €

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/museums/irakleio-muse

ums/mouseio-fisikis-istorias Email: infonhmc@nhmc.uoc.gr

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Tickets: 2€ Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/monuments-other/spina-logka



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Phone: +30 2810 337788, 337707

Tickets: 6€, Entrance Free: Disabled, Members, Children

from 0-5

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/museums/irakleio-muse

ums/thalassokosmos

Email: thalassocosmos@cretaquarium.gr

Samaria Gorge



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Six hours on average are enough for those who wish to enjoy the route without being in too much of a hurry.

Walking down the Samaria gorge, one discovers a varied landscape, with water springs, pools and impressive large rocks lying in the watercourse, as well as numerous trees, such as plane trees, pines and cypresses. Trees and deciduous oaks rooted on the highest cliffs, ineffable scents of herbs and an occasional Cretan wild goat (kri-kri) climbing on a steep slope make this gorge unforgettable.

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or Paleochora.

Address: Omalos Plateau, Agia Roumeli, Sfakia, Chania

Opening hours: May - October

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/gorges-crete/samaria-gorge

The E4 European Walking Trail



Another way to experience the island of Crete is to walk it - by way of the E4 European Walking Trail, traversing virgin terrain and rare

ecosystems! 91 hiking routes – Total length of 560 km!

Address: Crete
Internet:

www. destinationcrete. gr/en/explore-the-island/e4-at-crete

Labyrinth Musical Workshop



The Musical Workshop of Labyrinth was established in 1982 by Ross Daly, and is focused on initiating young musicians to a creative approach

towards traditional musical idioms from around the world.

In this spirit, Seminars and Master Classes are organized, while the Houdetsi Festival, one of the most important musical festivals of Crete, is held here every summer, as well as other concerts.

Labyrinth has been housed in an old, beautifully renovated building in the village of Houdetsi (20 km from Heraklion). In Labyrinth one can also see a permanent exhibition of traditional musical instruments from across the world, such as are

considered social, historical and cultural expressions of their country of origin.

Address: Houdetsi, 71000, Archanes, Heraklio

Phone: +30 2810 741027

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/museums/mousiko-erga

stiri-lavirinthos

Venetian walls of the city of Heraklion



Heraklion had been fortified already in the years of the First Byzantine period (330-840 AD). These fortifications were

supplemented by the Arabs (840-961), the Byzantines (961-1204), and the Venetians, after 1211.

Indeed, the looming Turkish threat compelled the Venetians to reinforce the defence of the capital city of Regno di Candia(Kingdom of Crete), using the latest technologies of the time. The fortifications that can be seen today were based on the designs made by the Venetian architect Michele Sanmicheli, and they were built somewhere between 1462 and 1560.

The main wall was three kilometres long, and had four gates and seven bastions. It was surrounded by a large moat which had additional bastions on the outside that do not survive today.

The fortification works of Heraklion are rightfully counted among the most important in the Eastern Mediterranean, regarding their size, aesthetics and their functional superiority.

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/monuments-other/irakle io-monuments-other/irakle io-city-monuments-other/enetika-texi-piles



Trekking at Agios Nikolaos Gorge



The gorge of Agios Nikolaos is flanked by the peaks of Ambelakia, to the east, and Samari, to the west. It is considered as the most important

gorge of Psiloritis and of Central Crete, and it was named after the Byzantine chapel of Agios Nikolaos which is located at its southern entrance.

It extends along the imposing southern part of Psiloritis, from the north heading south, and it connects Rouvas forest to the north with the valley of Koutsoulidis river to the south, in the Zaros area.

The gorge is 4 kilometres long in total. It begins north of the chapel of Agios Ioannis, where there is a recreation area, and ends up at the Monastery of Agios Nikolaos, to the south. Passing through the gorge takes 4 hours.

The largest section of the route, which is 2,7 kilometres long, is landscaped and ideal for mild recreational activities, such as walking, mountaineering, rock climbing. This magnificent environment is also great for those who love nature and enjoy watching wildlife species in their habitat.

Address: Zaros - Rouvas Forest, Phaistos, Heraklio Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/gorges-crete/irakleio-go rges/agios-nikolaos-gorge

Nikos Kazantzakis Museum



"My father's family comes from a village called Varvari", wrote the famous Cretan author Nikos Kazantzakis in his book "Report to Greco".

This village, known today as Mirtia (15 km from Heraklion) is where the Museum of Nikos Kazantzakis is located.

Visiting the museum, one has the opportunity to become acquainted with the personality of the author, by way of his personal correspondence and diaries, various other personal items and momentos from his travels, seldom published photographs, models of theatrical sets and costumes from theatrical performances of his plays, rare audio-visual material, as well as works of art inspired by his books.

Address: Mirtia (Central Square), 70100, Archanes, Heraklio Opening hours: Summer Season: Daily 09:00-17:00, Winter

Season: every Sunday 10:00-15:00

Phone: +30 2810 741689, Fax: +30 2810 742232

Tickets: 3€, 2€ (Group visits, Students)

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/museums/mouseio-niko

u-kazantzaki

Email: nfo@kazantzakis-museum.gr

Plateau of Lassithi



At an altitude of 850 m, the Lasithi Plateau is the largest mountain plain in Crete – and the only one occupied all the year round. Today this huge

polje of the Dikte massif has been transformed into a giant garden. Up to a few years ago irrigation was managed by thousands of small windmills.

The Dictean cave, above Psychro village, is



where - according to legend - Zeus was raised. Neolithic and Minoan finds are quite extensive.

There are numerous traditional settlements at the plain, where you can taste local delicacies and drink some shots of the traditional raki drink. Lasithi plateau and its surroundings are also ideal for trekking walks or even biking or mountain biking!

Address: Dikte, Lasithi Plateau, Lasithi

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/plateaus-crete/oropedio-lasithiou

Traditional Festivals & Fairs



Every summer the traditional festivals and fairs act as real attractions in Cretan villages for natives and foreigners alike. In

particular, they provide occasions for social gatherings and the maintenance of old customs and ways.

The festivals are usually connected to a religious occasion, taking place in the village square where there is dancing to the strains of the lyra and the lute – of course with lashings of local foods and wines aplenty.

Sometimes these traditional festivals are organized around a local product... focused on the same. Thus we have the Potato festival (Tzermiado on Lasithi plateau), of Wine (Dafni, Heraklion inland), of Pottery (Thrapsano, Heraklion), of Citrus Fruits (Garazo, Mylopotamos), of Shepherds and their Cheeses (Zoniana, Mylopotamos) and so on... The local product has a field day in all sorts of ways – and be assured there will be fun, music and dancing!

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/paradosiaka-panigiria

Toplou Monastery



Panagia Akrotiriani (Our Lady of the Cape) Monastery, colloquially known as Toplou, is one of Crete's most impressive and historic

monasteries. It is a true bastion and a living museum of the island's monastic history.

To make the most of the limited space inside the fort's walls and the safety they afforded, cells were built across three storeys.

Some of the murals of its small but solemn and stirring two-aisled church that is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and to Saint John the Theologian still survive, and its chancel screen features noteworthy 18th century icons.

The monastery was already thriving in the 15th century, as is evidenced by a number of icons from that period.

The Ecclesiastic Art Museum houses some of Crete's most significant icons, including Megas ei Kyrie' (Great Art Thou, Lord) a 1770 icon by Ioannis Kornaros. The icon is made up of four main sections, further separated into 57 smaller areas, and includes hundreds of faces which come together magnificently to depict the Great Blessing of Waters.

The organic vineyards on the monastery's grounds produce wine of excellent quality and it is also possible to visit the winery.

Address: Kavo Sidero, Siteia, Lasithi

Phone: +30 28430 61226, +30 6932259412

Internet: http://www.destinationcrete.gr/en/monasteries/lasit



hi-monasteries/moni-toplou

Trekking at Zakros gorge ("Valley of the dead")



This is the most famous and probably the most frequently visited gorge in Eastern Crete. It was named "Valley of the dead", because of the

Minoan cave burials which were found in the gorge.

The lovely route begins south-east of the village of Zakros , passes through the gorge and ends up next to the Minoan palace at Kato Zakros.

It can be passed through almost all year round. It is 2,5 kilometres long in total, and the elevation difference between the entrance and the outlet is approximately 100 metres.

Address: Zakros-Kato Zakros, Sitia, Lasithi Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/gorges-crete/irakleio-gorges/zakros-gorge

Trekking at Aradena Gorge



The gorge of Aradena is one of the most significant and impressive gorges of Crete. Its entrance is located at the deserted village of

Aradena, which is to be found at the western end of the plateau of Anopoli of Sfakia, below the imposing, high peaks of the White Mountains (Lefka Ori) range.

Near the entrance to the gorge there is an iron Bailey bridge, which connects Anopoli with Aradena and the small settlement of Agios Ioannis to the west. It is the tallest bridge in Greece and the second tallest in Europe, therefore ideal for bungee jumping.

The gorge of Aradena is 7 kilometres long and its impressive walls rise vertically for many tens of metres. The walk down the gorge takes $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 hours, a trekking route of medium difficulty. Numerous trees and endemic plants grow in the watercourse and on the high walls, while wild goats, other small mammals and many endangered bird species nest in the cliffs.

The gorge ends up through the characteristic, narrow opening of its outlet, at the lovely, secluded Marmara beach. From there, visitors can take a boat or walk to the quiet coastal settlement of Loutro (about 1 hour) or to Chora Sfakíon (approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour).

Address: Anopoli, Sfakia, Chania Opening hours: April-November

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/gorges-crete/chania-gor

ges/aradaina-gorge

Arkadi Monastery



Arkadi Monatery is perhaps the best known monastery on Crete due to the Holocaust of 1866. However, its location and impressive architecture

make it all the more special.

It is a large fortified complex built during the end of the period of Venetian rule. Apart from the monks' cells, the central building also includes warehouses, premises for processing agricultural products, as well as stables.

The impressive two-aisled church, dedicated to Saint Constantine and Saint Helen and to the Transfiguration of the Saviour, is one of the most



important architectural monuments of the Cretan Renaissance. It was completed in 1587 and its facade clearly demonstrates the penetration of western architectural trends in 16th and 17th-century Crete.

The history of the monastery begins during the Byzantine Empire. From the 16th century onwards, the monastery was a major intellectual centre.

Address: Arkadi, Rethymnon

Phone: +30 28310 83076, 83126, 83129

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/monasteries/rethimno-

monasteries/moni-arkadiou

Trekking at Rikhtis gorge



This is one of the most beautiful small gorges of Eastern Crete and it has a marked route. It follows the stream which flows all year round, creating a

splendid waterfall. The gorge begins a little outside the village of Exo Mouliana and ends up at the beach of Rikhtis, east of Kalavros village (15 km west of Siteia).

Its total length of the route is approximately 3 kilometres.

Address: Exo Mouliana-beach of Rikhtis, Sitia, Lasithi

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/gorges-crete/rihti-gorge

Minoan city of Phaistos



The palace complex and the city of Phaistos were built on a hill, offering a panoramic view, especially to the east, to the north, and to the south.

The rich and fertile plain of Messara opens up ahead to the east for a distance of 40 kilometres. On the background, one can see the mountains of Lassithi. To the right, towards the south, the Asterousia mountains come into view. On the left-hand side, to the north, majestic Psiloritis dominates the scenery, together with the verdant hills at its foot. An olive grove with centuries-old olive trees lies to the north-west. The view is magnificent all day long, especially in the afternoon; this panorama alone makes Phaistos well worth visiting.

Phaistos was the second largest Minoan city, and an important administrative centre of south-central Crete. The Minoan city covered a large area around the palace complex.

Mythology links Phaistos to Rhadamanthus, a brother of Minos, whose dynasty is believed to have ruled in the city. According to another story, it was founded by Phaistos, a son of Hercules. Homer mentioned that the city took part in the Trojan War, led by Idomeneus, king of Knossos and the whole of Crete.

Address: Tibaki, Festos, Heraklio

Opening hours: Summer: Monday-Sunday 08:00-19:30,

Winter: Monday-Sunday 08:30 -15:00

Phone: +30 28920 42315

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/archaeological-sites/arc

haiologikoschoros-faistou

Lake Kournas



Between the cities of Chania and Rethymnon, at the north edge of the White Mountains, you can find Lake Kournas, the only freshwater lake in

Crete.



It lies in a beautiful valley and this is a perfect spot for an afternoon picnic. If there are any orts the ducks waddling around are most likely interested.

The lake creates an fascinating environment, which changes with the seasons. In winter the water level rises and the lake grows, in summer it falls, revealing sandy beaches and the spring that feeds it – the Amati.

The dark colours at the centre of the lake are the result of algae growth. The ecosystem of the lake and the River Delphina are amongst the most vital on the island, and indeed in Greece too. Correctly the locale has been included in the Natura 2000 network. It is a stopping place for migratory birds, and a spot where one meets many species endemic to the island, or the east Mediterranean.

Whether you are swimming in the summer, walking on its shores, sailing in a boat, or on a picnic, Kournas Lake is a destination that can combine many activities – including lunch or coffee in the tavernas on the banks that overlook the turquoise waters.

Address: Kournas (Georgioupoli), Apokoronas, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/other-nature-crete/chan ia-other-nature/kournas-lake

BEACHES



Crete has over 1000 kilometers of coastline to offer, along which have formed beaches to cater for every taste: beaches with endless stretches of sand, beaches made up only of pebbles; some organized and cosmopolitan in tone, others yet deserted and pristine; beaches suited to unhampered (unsupervised) camping, beaches for diving, fishing and water-sports.

Balos



On the northwest coast of Cape Gramvousa, in a bay formed between the lesser capes of Tigani and Vouha, lies the sea-lagoon of Balos. A quiet beach,

opposite the two Gramvousa islands (Wild and Tame), it enjoys warm, turquoise waters and white sands. The last are actually partly composed of minutely crushed sea-shells, which impart a pinkish hue to the very white sand. The water immediately off shore is shallow, but deepens elsewhere.

During July and August, Balos receives a daily influx of crowds of tourists. For that reason, as well as stagnant reaches of water, parts can get somewhat smelly. In the summer season, sea trips are made daily from Kasteli Kisamou to Balos (with the 2-hour stop-off on 'Tame' Gramvousa): the last stage from the island to



Balos takes 15 minutes.

Address: Gramvousa Cape, Kisamos, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan ia-west-a-south-coast/periochi-gramvousas/mpalos

Falassarna Beach



The beach at Falassarna is exceptionally beautiful. In effect it is a number of large sandy stretches that together run on for 3 km. The main beach of

Pacheia Ammos (Deep Sands) is some kilometers in length and made up of white sand and turquoise waters: it is one of the most popular in Crete. It is developed, with sun-beds and umbrellas, facilities for water-sports and courts for beach-volleyball.

Because of the strong winds that blow hereabouts, Falasarna is an ideal destination for wind surfing-afficianados. Close by are rooms for rent, tavernas and cafés to make your stay the more comfortable.

If you wish to avoid the crowds at Pacheia Ammos, you can seek out one of the other strands which are to be found nearby, both to the north and south. They are smaller, rather isolated and without facilities; some have pebbles, others sand: but all are ideal for 'chilling out'.

Address: Falasarna, Kisamos, Chania

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan

ia-west-a-south-coast/chania-ditiki-akti/falassarna

Elafonisi & Kedrodasos



Elafonisi beach is one of the most emblematic of the island, and is featured on countless postcards. It is to be found 80 km from the Chania. Elafonisi is a

small island, connected to the Cretan mainland by a shallow crossing of several hundred meters, which can be made on foot. The whole area, which is part of the NATURA 2000, is characterized by its pale sands, its shallow and crystal-clear waters, turquoise in colour, and the small pink patches made up from crushed sea-shells.

Ideally one should visit Elafonisi outside of the tourist season, when it is not over crouded!

Camping is not permitted here.

South of Elafonisi is another area of wild and remarkable beauty – Kedrodasos or the Forest of Cedars. Access can be made by car (up to a certain point) by a dirt-road through the plastic green-houses, or on foot following the E4 walking-route from the beach of Elafonisi itself.

Dunes of white sand and the ancient cedars cover the whole vicinity. The main beach is sandy and boasts crystal-clear turquoise waters; along the coastal path from Elafonisi to Kedrodasos are small deserted coves. Unlike Elafonisi, Kedrodasos is absolutely untouched: no food or water is to be had there, so make sure you take what you need with you on a visit! Kedrodasos too is part of the NATURA 2000 programme

Because of its shady nature and isolation, the spot is a favourite haunt for unsupervised camping and nudists.But be warned: here too



camping is illegal!

Address: Elafonisi, Kisamos, Chania

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan

ia-west-a-south-coast/periochi-elafonisiou/elafonisi-b

Gialiskari Beach (Paleochora)



Following the road east out of Palaiochora you will find a nice and secluded beach, Gialiskari. Actually Gialiskari is a twin beach,

one each side of a small spit of land projecting into the sea, but both equally charming and idyllic.

The west side is made of small pebbles, the east has a deep and pale sand. The water is clear and deep. The area is but slightly developed: a café-canteen and a few umbrellas and sun-beds. To the east grow plentiful tamarisks which shed a natural shadow and give relief from the hot suns of South Crete.

Here nudism is tolerated, especially on the eastern side.

Address: Paleochora, Kantanos-Selino, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan ia-west-a-south-coast/periochi-palaiochoras/anidri-gialiskari

Beach at Fragokastello



The beach at
Fragokastello (Fort of the
Francs) is huge: sandy
with dunes, and shallow
turquoise waters; all
beneath the towering

walls of the Venetian fort. The fort and this beach are in a small plain southeast of the White Mountains to the south of Chania. Organized, with umbrellas, sunbeds and showers, it gets crowded during high season.

The gently shelving waters make it most suitable for families with young children.

Address: Fragokastello, Sfakia, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan ia-west-a-south-coast/periochi-fragkokastelou/fragkokastello

Agios Ioannis at Gavdos



Agios Ioannis beach, at Gavdos isle, is totally unspoilt, with no infrastructure: which means that you have to take care of the

necessities for yourself. The water is clear and shallow; here too the beach ends in dunes with cedar trees that offer shade to campers. You should be aware that the beach - indeed the whole island - attracts many nudists.

It is a landscape of incredible natural beauty and that is why the Discovery Channel a few years past voted it as the second best beach in the world.

The beach is located 4 km west of Sarakiniko. To get there you follow the surfaced road until you find the only restaurant in the area, then you continue walking amongst the rocks and sand (and ideally this is why you would not make the trip in the afternoon, when the heat is too strong and the sand burns the feet).

Address: North Gavdos, Gavdos, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/chan ia-west-a-south-coast/periochi-gavdou/agios-ioannis-beach



Preveli Beach



Preveli with its riverside palm-groves is one of the most famous and beloved beaches in Crete. Its name – and that of the broader region – is taken

from the historical monastery nearby, dedicated to St. John the Theologian.

The forest of palms, covering some 10 acres, is the second largest of its sort in Crete: it consists of this endemic form - the Theophrastus palm.

A walk on the bank or a pedalo up the river itself through the palms and oleanders and into the gorge is a quite unforgettable experience. At the mouth of the gorge, where the river Kourtaliotis ends in a delta, is the exquisite beach of Preveli. It has pale sands and a stony bottom to the crystalline water.

Address: Preveli, Aghios Vasileios, Rethymno Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/rethi mno-south-coast/periochi-plakia/preveli

Triopetra & Agios Pavlos



Triopetra beach is sandy, with crystal-clear water – and breathtaking sunsets: a perfect setting for peace and quiet and so relaxation. It is not a

coincidence that a Yoga centre has chosen to operate there: in the summer months, it offers accommodation and conducts lessons on the beach; at night meditation sessions are conducted by the seaside, under the starry heavens.

Next to Triopetra there are the sand dunes of the charming Aghios Pavlos beach. The vast dunes

that enclose the beach are the chief attraction: they can attain 30 feet in height! The beach itself is, naturally, sandy, with very clear water and a wonderful sea-bed, begging to be explored. At the middle of the beach you will find the interesting sea-worn caves.

Address: Aghios Pavlos, Aghios Vasileios, Rethymno Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/rethi mno-south-coast/periochi-keramianis-akoumianis-gialias-kai-a giou-pavlou/paralies-agiou-pavlou

Kommos Beach



Kommos is a single huge beach divided for convenience into two: the north part, called Potamos (River) is one of the largest venues for

nudism. It is secluded and without organization; no hotels and catering facilities exist in the area as it has been classified as a protected archaeological zone. On every side are not only tamarisks and carobs that extend their shade to campers, but also sand-dunes.

In contrast the southern part, by Kommos proper, is well-organized – with umbrellas, sunbeds, showers and a lifeguard.

Both sections have sand, clear water and large smooth rocks in the sea. As with other beaches, this one too is exposed to the west winds, which can create large waves.

Address: Kommos (Pitsidia), Phaistos, Heraklio Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/irakl eio-south-coast/periochi-messaras/kommos



Beaches at Lentas



Dyskos is a small village with a lovely long beach, very close to Lenta. The beach has both sand and small pebbles and very clear green waters than

deepen abruptly. The west part, and most remote from the village, is preferred by nudists. As a whole, the beach is ideal for camping, because of the trees that grow all along it and proffer their shade to the campers.

The beach in front of Lentas village has small pebbles and very clear water. Organized, it has all about it traditional tavernas that serve fresh fish, as well as numbers of rent-rooms.

Address: Lentas, Gortina, Heraklio

 $In termet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/irakl\\ eio-south-coast/periochi-kentrikon-asterousion/paralies-periochis-lenta$

Chrysi (Gaidouronisi)



Gaidouronisi (or Chrysi) is some 5 km long and by 1 wide. Uninhabited, it is very lovely with beaches appropriate to Paradise. The general impression a

visitor receives is that he is on some exotic south-sea island!

The beaches have white and golden sands, coloured pink from crushed seashells that are strewn far and wide. The waters are crystalline and translucent with a turquoise colouring. On Chrysi there survives a large cedar forest, of some 85 acres extent, with large and impressive specimens.

Address: Chrysi (Gaidouronisi), Ierapetra, Lasithi

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/lasit hi-south-a-east-coast/periochi-dytika-ierapetras/hrisi-gaidouro nisi

The beaches of Makrigialos



Makrigialos is a popular tourist resort. Basically there are two settlements than have run together – Makrigialos and Analipsi, with a large and lovely

sandy beach with shallow and crystal-clear waters. Organized, in addition to the expected umbrellas, sunbeds and showers, hotels, rent-rooms, shops and tavernas (where the Cretan cuisine may be enjoyed!).

Adjacent to the strand of Makrigialos, this one is basically composed of two small ones with sand and quiet, shallow blue waters that are not disturbed by the local winds that can blow. In the western bay, the beach is well enough organized. By contrast, the east beach is less developed, and so conducive to a more relaxed atmosphere.

Address: Makrigialos, Ierapetra, Lasithi Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/lasit hi-south-a-east-coast/periochi-makri-gialou/paralies-makri-gia lou

Kato Zakros



Kato Zakros is a small seaside settlement with a wonderful and peaceful pebble beach, and blue crystalline waters with a fascinating sea-bed, just

right for exploration. It is made up of two small coves with tamarisks for shade; not really organized and thus not many umbrellas and sunbeds are to be seen.



Nonetheless, near it are some tavernas, cafeterias and rent-rooms, as well as some basic facilities like a minimarket.

Address: Kato Zakros, Sitia, Lasithi

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/lasit

hi-south-a-east-coast/lasithi-anatoliki-akti/kato-zakros

The beaches of Palekastro



Chiona beach is quiet enough - large, very beautiful and quite without organization: sandy and with shallow blue crystal waters, and

some tamarisks for shade. At the north/west end of the beach are some tavernas: with the view of the promontory and small islands of Grantes, you can enjoy some fresh fish for which the tavernas are known as the sea laps close by your table. Nearby are some rent-rooms. Next to the beach proper are some small bays, which being more isolated and are favoured by nudists.

Kouremenos is a quiet beach with sand and pebbles and clear crystalline water: it stretches for some 1.5 km. Right by the beach are numerous tamarisks. In some places it is a little organized with a few umbrellas and sunbeds. By the beach again are the tavernas, also with fresh fish, and also hotels and similar for a stay.

Maridati is the smallest, but the most attractive of Palekastro beaches, with sand, small pebbles and clear crystalline waters. Naturally, the beach is not developed, but there are enough tamarisks around to cast shadows for you to enjoy. On the beach there is a small taverna: a few rooms for rent, if you want a quiet stay.

Address: Palekastro, Sitia, Lasithi

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/lasit hi-south-a-east-coast/lasithi-anatoliki-akti/paralies-palaikastro u

Vai beach



Vai, with its palm forest and its lovely beah, attracts each a huge number of visitors – it is one of the most popular destinations in all

Crete.

The palm forest - the biggest on the island, with some five thousand specimens of the Theophrastus palm - covers about 70 acres. The long beach has blue-green water, fine sand and pebbles. Combined with the palm trees, the effect is that of some more exotic location.

The beach is organized: umbrellas, sunbeds, canteens and refreshments; also opportunities for water-sports.

Address: Vai, Sitia, Lasithi

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/lasit hi-south-a-east-coast/lasithi-anatoliki-akti/paralies-sto-vai

Platanias



Platanias is rife with nightlife: many big hotels, apartments and rooms for rent, numerous tavernas, restaurants and bars abound. You can get

anything you need: banks, medical centres and the police. Being one of the most popular and cosmopolitan destination in Crete, you will encounter every summer throngs of Greeks and foreign tourists.

The lovely beach is sandy, extending for 3 km:



well-organized, it is suitable for all sorts of water-sports, with the usual umbrellas, sunbeds and beach bars. Lifeguards watch over your safety in the water.

Address: Platanias, Chania

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/cret

e-north-coast/chania-boreia/platanias

Stavros (Akrotiri)



On the northwest flank of the Akrotiri peninsular is Stavros (the Cross) - a sheltered bay with sand and turquoise waters. It is organized - umbrellas,

sunbeds, showers and a lifeguard, and some chances for water-sports.

It was here that Michaili Kakoiannis filmed 'Zorba', based on the book by Kazantzakis, which took three Oscars in 1964.

Stavros is quite popular, and attracts its fair share of tourists in the summer. Nearby there is quite a large number – albeit smallish in size – of hotels, apartments and rooms to rent, many eating places, banks and shops.

Address: Stavros (Akrotiri), Chania, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/cret e-north-coast/chania-boreia/stavros-akrotiri

Georgioupolis



Georgioupolis is a seaside resort with a huge sandy beach some 12 km long – with clear blue-green waters that drop away suddenly. Well-organized,

the beach is supplied with umbrellas, sunbeds and showers with lots of options open for water-sports enthusiasts. Though there is a lifeguard here, you must also take care if you choose to swim as the sea hereabouts has strong currents.

Georgioupolis is a particularly favoured destination – it has many hotels, rooms to rent, shops, tavernas and cafeterias.

Address: Georgioupolis, Apokoronas, Chania Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/cret e-north-coast/chania-boreia/georgioupoli

Geropotamos beach



Geropotamos beach is located 18 km from the city of Rethymno. This is small and enclosed within a bay: it has pebbles, sand and quite a few

rocks around it. The waters are clear and crystalline, but cold: this is because at the east end of the beach, the Geropotamos river flows into the sea, forming a small lake just behind the beach.

Only a basic level of infrastructure is in place, but since not many people visit it, it yet remains perfect for those searching for relaxation and quiet. You will not find anything there, other than a few umbrellas and a canteen for the bare necessities.

Address: East of Panormos, Rethymno, Rethymno Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/cret e-north-coast/rethimno-boreia/geropotamos



Aghia Pelagia



Aghia Pelagia is one of the most popular summer destinations in the Heraklion prefecture. This is 21 km from Heraklion and has a long

beach of some 450m with fine sand.

Often horrendously busy, you will always find a crowd of people about. The water is crystalline, blue and almost always calm as the sea here is shut in within the bay that opens to the east, and so is protected from the northerly winds.

It is fully organized with sunbeds, umbrellas, showers, a lifeguard, water-sports .. you name it, it's there! A diving school operates too. The village has many tavernas, restaurants, cafeterias, bars – and a choice of hotels of all grades, rentable rooms and apartments for your sojourn.

Address: Aghia Pelagia, Malevizi, Heraklio

In termet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/cret

e-north-coast/irakleio-boreia/apelagia

Potamos beach (Malia)



Mallia lies 37 km east of Heraklion and is a popular destination, with an excellent infrastructure and 'vibrant' nightlife. It has

several beaches.

Those who prefer to avoid/escape the crowds that the main beach at Malia attracts choose that of Potamos to the east: it is named after a small river that flows there forming a wetland of great importance. It is some 700 m long: with sand, blue crystalline waters and a few tamarisks

around. If you go at the start of autumn, you will chance upon the white sea-lilies that grow in the sand: the heralds of autumn.

Potamos is well organized: you will find sunbeds, umbrellas, toilets, showers and plenty of water-sports.

Address: Malia, Hersonissos, Heraklio Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/cret e-north-coast/irakleio-boreia/potamos malia

Voulisma beach (Istron)



At a distance of 12 km south of Agios Nikolaos is the settlement of Istro. You will discover this community as you pass along the main national

road east from Aghios Nikolaos towards Ierapetra or Siteia.

Voulisma is a large beach with fine white sand and shallow, blue waters. It is developed, with umbrellas, sunbeds, showers, water-sports and a lifeguard. It is a good location for young children: the water deepens only gradually, and by one end is a canteen for food and drink.

Address: Istron, Mirampelo, Lasithi Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-cretan-beaches/cret e-north-coast/agios-nikolaos-boreia/istro



CITIES & TOWNS



From the mansions of Chania, through the Renaissance structures of Rethymnon, to the Great Castle (Heraklion), and on east to picturesque Agios Nikolaos and Siteia, the home of Vicenzos Kornaros ... each and every city has its own personality and colour.

The great Cretan cities house important monuments and museums, but are also centres of contemporary cultural creations: thus they are major destinations for the visitor who wants to know more about the island of Crete and its history down the centuries.

Heraklion



Heraklion is the largest city of Crete and the island's capital. Its history properly begins in post-Minoan times. Today it is a modern, lively town

and an important economic centre. It preserves traces of its long history, and the conquerors who passed through.

Today Heraklion is a large modern city, cosmopolitan and busy the year round; an important economic centre with a rich cultural life. As in any big city, and in addition to the museums, attractions and other tourist draws, it is worth your while to enter into Heraklion's

rhythms of being: to saunter along the pedestrian streets of its historic centre, to lose yourself in the alleyways of the Old Town, to take your ease in the coffee bars and raki-joints that area part of Herakliot culture.

In recent years, many streets around the centre have become pedestrianized and so link the major monuments of the city. One can go about more readily, free from the rush of traffic.

Moreover, in the summer, it is worth attending the numerous cultural events held in the moat of the Venetian walls, or put on in the recently renovated gates and galleries of the fortification walls that have been converted into exhibition spaces.

Address: Heraklion

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/home/irakleio-city-m

Chania



Chania, or 'Venice in the East', is the second biggest city in Crete, built on the site of old Kydonia. The distinctive colour of the old town with all that

it has inherited from earlier manifestations, the iconic Venetian harbour and the unique architecture have together established Chania as one of the most popular tourist destinations on the island.

Chania has managed to keep its original appearance and its authentic 'colour' in balance with the strong growth of the recent years. It is one of the most beautiful cities in Greece, keeping alive the imprint of the various cultures that have passed through down the centuries.



In recent decades, Chania has emerged as one of the fastest growing tourist centres on Crete. Especially during the summer, the Venetian harbour and the narrow lanes of the Old Town are swamped by visitors from all round the globe. At the same time, cultural activities reach a peak with the hosting of sundry festivals and events in the renovated historical buildings, such as the impressive Moro shipyards.

But it remains a living city beyond the limits of the tourist season. The numerous student population and the active local groups continue the long intellectual and spiritual heritage of Chania to this very day.

Address: Chania

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/home/chania-city-m

Rethymno



The third largest city on Crete, built on the site of the older Rithymna, it still retains today the character of its Renaissance appearance:

it is a major attraction to visitors from all over the world.

Rethymnon is, without exaggeration, one of the most attractive towns in Greece, with its particular 'colour', its wealth of history and architecture – preserving one of the best surviving Venetian cities.

In the Old Town Renaissance architectural elements of the Venetian era co-exist with Ottoman structures: the rich history of the city is in step with the development of modern tourism. In the summer, Rethymnon has visitors from all over the world, who base themselves here for the

exploration of the Prefecture and indeed the whole island, whilst in the winter the students of the local University bring a buzz to the place.

Further the Rethymnon Carnival, an institution now a century old, has witnessed a great development in recent years: it is famous throughout the country – and is a major draw to visitors every spring.

Address: Rethymnon

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/home/rethimno-city-m

Agios Nikolaos



Aghios Nikolaos is one of the most picturesque towns in East Crete. It enjoys a strategic location on the Gulf of Mirabello: in the summer it turns

itself into a cosmopolitan tourist resort.

A feature of 'Aghios', as the locals call it, is the Vouliagmeni Lake, where according to old myth Aphrodite and Athena were wont to come and bathe. Beautiful Neo-Classical buildings were put up round and about the small harbour, and also up the steep streets of the town.

The city chiefly subsists on tourism, but despite the boom it has not lost its picturesque quality. Every summer the small harbour and the lake, surrounded with restaurants, cafes and shops – it is a favoured spot for a "volta" (the walk in the evening) for locals and visitors alike.

East of the lake is another favoured spot in Aghios Nikolaos – the beach of Kitroplateia, for a quick 'dip' inside the city limits, alongside of which are a good many ouzeries and cafes, with a view of the sea.



As well as all this, Aghios Nikolaos enjoys another advantage: it is built in a strategic position on the Mirabello Gulf: one close enough to the cosmopolitan and up-market resort of Elounda. It may well be the ideal place from which to explore East Crete.

Address: Agios Nikolaos, Crete

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/home/agios-nikolaos-city-m

Sitia



Sitia is the best
'ambassador' for east
Crete: genuine,
unspoiled, friendly and
picturesque. It is the
home of 'Erotokritos' and

the ideal base for the exploration of the easternmost parts of the island.

Leaving its troubled history behind, Sitia today is a picturesque enough seaside town with about 11,000 inhabitants, built like an amphitheatre on the hills around the lovely harbour.

The home of Vitsentzos Kornaros, who wrote the Cretan epic 'Erotokritos', it has retained its local colour and its leisurely pace of life. It offers a beautiful seaside promenade next to the multi-coloured boats and dinghies, but also a long sandy beach that gets flooded with locals and tourists.

The port and the seaside promenade every summer are full of life, as the area is filled with restaurants, taverns, cafes and, of course, the legendary taverns of the city that are very popular with the young.

Address: Sitia

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/home/siteia-city-main

lerapetra



The southernmost city of Crete, Ierapetra has a long history. Today it combines the infrastructure of a tourist resort with easy access to

pristine beaches and important ecosystems in the surrounding area.

Today Ierapetra is the fourth largest city of Crete and the southernmost in the island – and in Greece in general. It is a city with a high per capita income (one of the largest in the entire country): it is the main commercial centre of the province for agricultural exports to Europe. Economic prosperity is due both to tourism and to the production of early vegetables grown in the many greenhouses in the area.

Without exaggeration, Ierapetra is a city full of life throughout the year. Its icon is without a doubt the Kale fortress and the focus of life is on the promenade with its cafes, taverns and restaurants. In the summer in particular there gather here the locals and visitors alike.

Address: Ierapetra

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/home/ierapetra-city-main

Hersonissos



Hersonissos is the night-life paradise of Crete. There are hundreds of bars, big hotels and nice restaurants. There are

also nice beaches, especially "limanakia," a number of very small bays. Ideal for sea, sun and



fun lovers.

Half an hour distance from the centre of Heraklion and you can go there by bus. The buses leave from the station near the port—Kountourioti str, Limenos area.

Address: Hersonissos, Heraklion, Crete

Malia



Malia has plenty to do—day and night. Plenty of taverns, pubs and discos and a lovely beach. A great party place! It is ninety minutes away from

Heraklion. Get the bus from the same place as for Hersonissos.

Address: Malia, Hersonissos, Heraklion

DINING



In the restaurants and traditional tavernas of the towns and villages of Crete, you'll always find all the genuine flavours of the Cretan cuisine with its insistence on using local products.

Herb's Garden



With a beautiful view of the Venetian harbour Herb's Garden will give you the best of service. The restaurant is located on the roof top of Lato

Boutique Hotel and on the menu you will find fresh sea food, salads, and meat dishes. Don't miss the homemade ice cream!

Address: 15 Epimenidou St, Heraklion 71202

Opening hours: Daily from 13.00 - late night, during May to

early October.

Phone: +30 2810 334971

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-dinning/iraklei

o-city-dinning/herbsgarden

Bakaliko Crete



Bakaliko Crete is a deli (grocery and eatery) that brings you fine foods and wines from Crete and the rest of Greece. It is a place where all dishes are

made from the quality products that you can buy from the store. You taste our creations, buy our products and try them yourself at home.

Their first shop was chosen to be in the main square of what is arguably one of the most endearing villages in Crete - Archanes. It can trace its origins back to minoan times and it is ideally situated in the heartland of Heraklion's wine and olive oil region. A large number of their grocery products are from this special area of Crete. In addition, local artisanal farmers, many of them organic, will be highlighted and their products used in the restaurant.

Address: Main Square of Archanes, Heraklion, Crete Opening hours: WINTER: Saturday & Sunday 10:00 - 22:00, SUMMER: Every day 10:00 -- 24:00



Phone: +30 2810 751 117

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-dinning/bakaliko

Email: info@bakalikocrete.com

Pan Asia Restaurant



Pan Asia Restaurant has many years of experience and selects the best and most popular recepies from Canton, the imperial Peking and the

welcoming Szechuan cuisine is based on authentic recepies taken from monasteries of Thibet.

The head chef, as well as his assistant chef come from Thailand, they both have been living in Greece for many years, they have a great deal of experience in the field of cooking and they are both masters in their line of work. The kitchen staff has been in PAN ASIA for the past 15 years and this leads to having constant quality in our food and our customers feeling rest assured, trust and at ease with us.

Address: Kokkini Chani, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Winter (November - March): Monday closed, Tuesday - Saturday: open from 17.00, Sunday: open from 12.00 | Summer: Monday-Saturday: open from 17.00,

Monday: open from 12.00

Phone: +30 2810 761526, +30 6947804602

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-dinning/panasia

Email: in fo@panasia.gr

Nea Roumata Traditional Tavern



Tavern Nea Roumata is located, about 25 minutes from the city of Chania, at Nea Roumata village. It is a special place to enjoy unique traditional flavours in a beautiful environment that consists of wood and stone. At Nea Roumata you will taste special dishes of Cretan cuisine prepared with special love and with fresh, local meat, vegetables, oil and owners wine.

Address: Nea Roumata, 73005, Platanias, Chania

Opening hours: Saturday and Sunday: 12:00 pm - 12:00 am

Phone: +30 28210 77937, +30 6947354415

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/explore-the-island/west ern-crete/chania-therisso-lakoi-omalos-sougia/nea-roumata-ta

vern

Email: tavernanearoumata@gmail.com

Parasties restaurant



Parasties is an atmospheric, cozy restaurant in the square of the Historical Museum and of the most popular gourmet hangouts of

Heraklion, since 2000. Our desire and goal is to combine classic nostalgic flavours and special blends even at the simplest dishes so that we can please every taste. It is a daily challenge and a great honor for us, when guests, as we like to call our customers, recognize and appreciate our culinary philosophy.

Your hosts, the good food, the finest wine labels and a coordinated team, make sure you feel comfortable while enjoying scents, flavours and authentic recipes and offer you and your guests an ideal suggestion for quiet lunches and lively dinners.

Address: Sof. Venizelou 19, Historical Museum Square,

71302, Heraklion city

Opening hours: All year round, 12:00 to 01:30

Phone: +30 2810 225009

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-dinning/iraklei

o-city-dinning/parasties Email: info@parasties.gr



Thalasea sea food restaurant



Thalasea sea food restaurant is just a few meters from the beach Gournes in the area of Crete Aquarium "Cretaquarium" ... It

offers delicious meals overlooking the sea.

With inspiration & fantasy, Thalasea plans with you, any significant and special moment of your life. With ideas and knowledge, it offers solutions in order to create reference events, always with respect to the particular preferences.

Address: Former American Base Gournes - Cretaquarium,

71003, Gournes, Heraklion

Opening hours: From 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Phone: +30 2810 310412

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-dinning/thalasea

Email: info@siganos.gr

Krites



The taverna is located close to the CretAquarium, in the area of the former U.S. base at Gournes . All of their dishes are prepared

in accordance with the Cretan dietary pattern, with exclusive use of extra virgin olive oil. Here you will experience genuine Cretan recipes and meat cooked in the wood-oven.

Address: Gournes, Hersonisos, Heraklio

Opening hours: All year round Phone: +30 2810 762666

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/dinning-route10/krites-irakleio

Argoulias



The guest house restaurant "Argoulias" at Tzermiado enjoys unrestricted views of the Lassithi plateau and the mountain range of Dikti.

It comprises two rooms of high aesthetic, fully harmonized with the environment, dominated by stone and wood.

In the upper room, you can enjoy your breakfast, coffee, drink, as well as home-made sweets, apple pie, chocolate pie and also other special sweet tastes, accompanied by local herb teas. Try also alternative sandwiches with local products and freshly prepared fruit juices... The terrace brings you even closer to the wonderful nature, while the scent of local herbs is particularly intense (lures you to a unique journey). In the lower room, there is the cuisine, which is based on the local culinary tradition.

The piano pleasantly accompanies your special moments and if you practice playing it you can take the seat!!! Throughout the year music evenings are organized, as well as seminars about singing & music.

Address: Jermiadon (Tzermiadon), 71052, Lasithi Plateau, Lasithi

Phone: +30 2844022754, 6972234275

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/dinning-route11/argouli as-tzermiado

Terzakis



Their cousine is based on traditional recipes, cooked using modern culinary techniques by experienced professionals. They



guarantee that all dishes will delight even the most discerning customer. Try everything... They are confident that nothing would leave you indifferent..!

Terzakis' delicacies, to be relished for lunch or dinner, are a great excuse to get away your daily routine. Fifty years now, their menu reflects their love and respect for the culinary marvels of the Cretan land. Enjoy delicacies, with a bottle of good wine or a glass of cool ouzo. Relax and let them introduce you to the Cretan culinary delights!

Like their friends say "in the Terzakis' they not only know all about good food, they also know how to serve it!".

Address: L. Marineli 17, Ag. Dimitrios sq. Heraklio city Opening hours: Daily from $10{:}00$ in the morning untill late at night

Phone: +30 2810 221 444, 6937 137 220

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-dinning/iraklei

o-city-dinning/terzakis Email: info@terzakhs.gr

Brillant



A hospitable modern area, with a warm relaxing atmosphere and friendly service offers unique delicacies, selected wines,

refreshing cocktails, carefully picked tunes and quite affordable prices. Brillant Restaurant of Lato Boutique Hotel in Heraklion Crete offers unique culinary experiences since 2007. Fine raw local ingredients cooked with imagination and respect towards local traditions result in delicious outcomes enjoyed in every bite.

The restaurant is open from noon till late at

night from November to April. Then, it steps aside and passes the torch to the Herbs' Garden Restaurant to welcome the Cretan spring.

Address: 15 Epimenidou street, 71202, Heraklio

Opening hours: From November to April, daily from 13:00

until late at night

Phone: +30 2810 334959

Internet:

www. destination crete. gr/en/dinning-irakle io-city-walk/brillant

Email: info@brillantrestaurant.gr

Alana



The ideal "meating" place. Alana is located at the heart of the old town, in a beautiful garden site where local residents and foreign guests

harmoniously coexist. Enjoy the local quality fresh, grilled or cooked meat, delicious dishes from the Cretan cuisine and friendly service. Affiliate your dinner with a unique homemade dessert.

Alana opened in 1986 in the old town of Rethymnon on Salaminos street, the main street below the castle of Fortezza and it was one of the first taverns of the area. With 200 seats, it was the busiest part of the old town. In 2002, under new management, the space turns into a 100-seat restaurant based on good quality products, attentive service and reasonable prices.

Alana made a completely fresh start by changing the style of the restaurant, which serves unique dishes of the traditional cuisine in a relaxing environment full of flowers and plants, creating the perfect background for a dining experience based on the imaginative local cuisine and the impeccable service. The restaurant has attracted



both visitors and city locals with great food, environment and hospitality of its owners.

The restaurant serves healthy Cretan and Mediterranean cuisine, always using the best local market products, always cooked well. Thus, the restaurant has been established as one of the best restaurants in the city, based on reviews of its customers. It is not a coincidence that Alana has created customers who come again and again to enjoy the special flavours of the restaurant.

Address: 15 Salaminos St., 74100, Rethymno Phone: +30 28310 27737, +30 6948 374330

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/rethimno-dinning/rethi

mno-city-dinning/alana

Email: info@alana-restaurant.gr

Prima Plora



In a privileged location, opposite the Fortezza and just next to the sea, the Prima Plora restaurant serves creative Greek cuisine. The tables are set

by the sea, and the dishes are cooked with olive oil using exclusively goods from small, local producers. Seafood and meat dishes, pasta, risottos and casseroles recipes to suit all tastes.

Address: 4 Akrotiri St., Rethymnon

Opening hours: All year round, from 11:00 in the morning

until 01:00 at night Phone: +30 2831056990

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/rethimno-dinning/rethi

mno-city-dinning/prima-plora
Email: info.primaplora@gmail.com

To pigadi tou Tourkou (the Well of the Turk)

Three interconnected rooms painted in ochre and blue with strong oriental touches with the well in the middle room and a beautifully carved fountain. Here you can taste the authentic

flavours of Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon, such as hummus. The cuisine is tasty without being too heavy. The place is truly atmospheric and the music selection goes the food.

Address: 1-3 K. Sarpaki St., Chania

Opening hours: Every night, except Tuesday

Phone: +30 2821054547

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/chania-dinning/chania-c

ity-dinning/well-of-the-turk

Email: jenifer perschke@hotmail.com

Apostolis



Apostolis always procures the freshest fish straight from the fishing boats. Depending on the season and the time you will find every kind of fresh

fish

Indicative menu: Lobster pasta, fish soup, stuffed calamari, shrimps, scallops, whitebait and similar. For dessert spoon-fulls of sweet-preserves with youghout.

Address: 10 coast Union St., Chania

Opening hours: From 10 am until late at night

Phone: +30 28210 43470, 54879

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/chania-dinning/chania-c

ity-dinning/apostolis

Kouzina EPE



This modern tavern is the perfect place to eat and drink well ... and pay little. Manos and his mother have done an excellent job and the

"Kitchen LTD" (Kouzina EPE) has become the favourite haunt of the young and the old alike .. and the discerning tourists.



Choose one of the 'household' dishes for your lunch and enjoy home-cooking. This is the basic concept of the restaurant. Excellent and quick service.

Address: 25 Daskalogianni St., Chania Opening hours: Daily: 12.00 - 20.00

Phone: +30 2821042391

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/chania-dinning/chania-c

ity-dinning/kouzina-epe Email: mesarchas@yahoo.gr

Sto Scholeio (At School)



The old school-house has been turned into a beautiful cafe with a terrace and amazing views. You may taste cold and hot dishes, and if you

fancy something sweet, try the traditional baklava with fig or a cheesecake.

Address: Anhydroi, Kantanos-Selino, Chania

Opening hours: All year round Phone: +30 28230 83001

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/chania-dinning/sto-scholeio

Agia Fotia



The taverna is located on a secluded beach in the bay of Agia Fotini, near Kerames village, literally next to the sea: it serves fresh fish and local food

and drinks at an excellent price.

Agia Fotia opened in the 1960's as a local cafeteria. Today is a traditional Greek taverna which has kept 1960's look!

Address: Ag. Fotini, Kerames, St. Vasilios, Rethymno Opening hours: During the summer season (end of April till end of October). Phone: +30 2831056483, +30 6937124600

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/rethimno-dinning/agia-photia-dinning-rethimno

Chiona



Taverna with modern island style, serving on a terrace and tables located by the sea near Palaikastro. There is always fresh fish and

seafood soup. The vegetables are from their garden.

Address: Hiona Beach, Sitia, Lasithi Opening hours: April-October: daily

Phone: + 30 28430 61228

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/lasithi-dinning/chiona-dinning

Migomis



In a historic 1890s building, at the edge of a high cliff, the restaurant enjoys a unique view of the lake of Agios Nikolaos. Stylish decor,

international cuisine and an extensive wine list with labels from around the world. The whole atmosphere complements the sound of a live piano, playing tunes from the international repertoire.

Address: 20 Nikos Plastiras St, Ag. Nikolaos, Mirampelo,

Lasithi

Opening hours: Open from early of April untill late of

October, from 12:00 to 00:00 Phone: +30 28410 24353

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/lasithi-dinning/agios-ni

kolaos-city-dinning/migomis Email: info@migomis.com



Balcony



Located on the first floor of a renovated neo-classical house in the center of Siteia, a short walk from the harbour.

The menu is diverse and

multicultural: from creative Greek cuisine to traditional Cretan dishes, alongside Mexican and Chinese specialties. All you can accompany with a variety of Greek and Cretan wines.

Address: 19 Fountalidou St., Sitia, Sitia, Lasithi

Opening hours: All year round, 12:00 - 15:00, 18:00 - 24:00

Phone: +30 28430 25084, 6973002281

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/lasithi-dinning/siteia-cit

y-dinning/mpalkoni-siteia

Email: tonya@balcony-restaurant.com

Roussos

In the village square of Houdetsi, a taverna offering Cretan cuisine. All materials used are fresh and local, while the owners produce their own oil, olives and raki. Traditional flavours and authentic Cretan recipes.

Address: Houdetsi, Archanes, Heraklio

Opening hours: All year round Phone: +30 2810 742189

Internet:

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-dinning/roussos-irakleio

ACCOMMODATION



Accommodation options in Crete are countless and can satisfy both those who love luxury and comfort, as those who are seeking, in terms of budget, affordable accommodation options.

Avli Lounge Apartments



Avli is a boutique hotel located in the centre of the Old Town of Rethymnon, Crete. The 15th century historical building houses seven

unique, high aesthetics suites. Each suite has been decorated individually and combines traditional architecture, antique furniture and modern comfort and luxury. A high class get-away for guests who are looking for an exceptional experience and personal service in accommodation.

Address: Xanthoudidou 22 & Radamanthios, 74100,

Rethymnon

Phone: +30 28310 58250, +30 28310 26213

 $In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/hote \\ ls/hotels-rethymno/avli-lounge-apartments-candy-suites$

Email: info@avli.gr



Lato Boutique Hotel



With its fine aesthetics and high quality services, Lato Boutique Hotel is one of the most popular hotels in Heraklion. Its intimate, richly-appointed

rooms and suites are constantly upgraded, and refurbished often, to fulfil the expectations and needs of all guests.

Lato Boutique Hotel is a complex with two neighboring buildings on Epimenidou Street.

Besides its sophisticated rooms and suites, the main building houses all the common areas, the reception, the lobby, three restaurants, a bar, multifunctional halls, and a small wellness centre. The annex building is situated right across the street. Both buildings are functionally united, and were fully refurbished at the beginning of 2013.

Guests enjoy common facilities, services as well as accommodation comfort.

Address: 15 Epimenidou street, 712 02 Heraklion

Phone: +30 2810 228 103

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/hote

ls/hotels-heraklion/latoboutique

Email: nfo@lato.gr

Enagron Ecotourism Village



The "Enagron Ecotourism Village" offers high quality hotel services without being just a hotel. Visitors are not just clients rather than

guests; Their wellbeing is important to thw owners.

It offers exquisite traditional Cretan gastronomy without being just a restaurant. The ingredients are selected carefully and everybody can participate in the preparation of the meals. Most of the time the preparation of the food is more like "cooking with friends" in front of the open fire or ends up in a traditional cooking class.

Address: Axos, 74051. Milopotamos, Rethymno Opening hours: For 1 November - 31 March the hotel is open only Friday & Saturday. From 1 April - 31 October, the hotel is open daily.

Phone: +30 6977 276069

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/guesthouses-rethymno/enagron

Email: info@cretenatural.com

Cressa Ghitonia Village



Cressa Ghitonia Village
offers you the opportunity
to escape at a unique
reconstructed
neighbourhood of the
1800's found in a

picturesque village of Eastern Crete, which is famous for its authentic and well-preserved mountain villages, its beautiful landscapes and its virgin, untouched character.

At each of Cressa Ghitonia's 15 houses, suites, studios or rooms you will have the opportunity to escape at a destination where time has stood still over the centuries! While still benefiting from all modern luxuries, you will walk through the village's small alleys to reach the Hotel, you will hear the church bell sound, you will dance to the Cretan Lyra and you will gaze at the virgin views of the Aegean Sea and mountains.

Address: Sfaka, 72057, Sitia, Lasithi

Phone: +30 28430 29040, +30 6979112482

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/hote

ls/hotels-lasithi/cressa-ghitonia



Email: info@cressa.gr

Kapsaliana Village Hotel



Kapsaliana Village Hotel can be found on the island of Crete in an area of great natural beauty, surrounded by the largest olive grove on the

island.

On approaching Kapsaliana you will realise that the hotel is the village itself, a fascinating group of stone buildings of Cretan and Venetian architecture, nestling in peaceful surroundings with superb views of the countryside and the sea. It is the perfect place for rest and relaxation, particularly as the whole settlement has been painstakingly renovated using natural materials to create a harmonious blend of old and new. The mixture of the traditional Cretan architecture of the houses and courtyards combined with Venetian carved stone vaults and outside staircases, make it a visually appealing compound.

Address: Kapsaliana, Milopotamos, Rethymno

Phone: +30 2831083400

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/questhouses-rethymno/kapsaliana

Email: info@kapsalianavillage.gr

Eleonas



Eleonas" is situated on a peaceful and refreshing mountain slope of Psiloritis and just 800 meters from the lake of Zaros. The 20 rural

independent cottages are surrounded by olive trees and sweet-scented herbs, and are facing a magnificent view. This is the perfect getaway land.

The beauty of the landscape makes it ideal for nature-lovers. Be it summer or winter, wild nature and its enchanting beauty will cast a spell on you. Experience moments of relaxation and tranquillity, and admire nature in all its grandeur. Eleonas cottages are located in a distance of 1,5 km from the village of Zaros, in Heraklion of Crete.

Address: Zaros, 70002, Phestos, Heraklio Phone: +30 28940 31238-9,+30 6976670002

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/guesthouses-heraklion/eleonas

Email: info@eleonas.gr

Lefkoritis Resort



"Lefkoritis Resort" have been created with respect to both the natural and anthropogenic environment of the region of Sfakia, and by using

only local materials such as stone and wood. It's located at an altitude of 780 m. in the Askifou Plateau in Sfakia and the units offer a terrace or balcony with view across the surrounding imposing peaks of the White Mountains.

The apartments also, are featured with an outdoor pool and hydromassage. American breakfast is available, which you can taste in your rooom.

Lefkoritis Resort has a central hall with a restaurant where you can taste traditional Cretan cuisine with dishes cooked in a traditional wood-fired oven, a sitting area-bar where you can enjoy your coffee or favorite drink and barbecue. The 24-hour reception can organize activities, such as horse-riding, mountain biking



and hiking. Free Wi-Fi is available in common use areas. There is also, tennis court, basketball and billiard room.

"Lefkoritis Resort" is a venue in a place both for nature lovers as well as for those seeking an alternative and out of the ordinary break. It is an ideal destination for relaxation, recreation and activities all year round. The impressive landscape of Sfakia invites you in a unique life experience, which will be most certainly not just unforgettable but also one you'll wish to revive and share with your friends.

Address: Askifou, Ammoudari 73013, Sfakia, Chania

Phone: +30 28250 95455, 6942 558866

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/guesthouses-chania/lefkoritis Email: lefkoritis@lefkoritis.com

Milia Mountain Retreat



Ecotourism, agrotourism, ecology, the 'great outdoors' and respect to humanity and its needs: simplicity, harmony, clean air, warm

hospitality, relaxed atmosphere, home-cooking.

This is what you will find in Milia, a small forgotten corner in Western Crete.

Milia is an authentic 17th century mountain settlement which has been transformed into and eco-friendly tourist complex; it seems to have sprouted from the lands of Crete. A glorious location boasting exceptional rugged beauty in the area of Kissamos. Placed among plane trees, chestnut trees, and mountain tops reaching the skies, the area overwhelms visitors with its unique diversity.

The philosophy of "back to basics" has found true meaning here. Milia is open all year round.

Address: Vlatos, Milia, 73012, Kissamos, Chania Phone: +30 28210 46774, +30 69457 53743

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/guesthouses-chania/miliaretreat

Email: info@milia.gr

Monastery Estate



Monastery Estate is built with stone and wooden on the foothills of Leuka Oroi, offering lodgings with catering, fireplace, free Wi-Fi and terrace

with an amazing view of the mountains from inside the apartments. It is also located in the traditional village of Moni Chania, just a breath away (4,5 km) from the famous beach of Sougia in the South coast of Chania in Lybian Sea.

The apartments of Monastery are equipped with wooden floors and beamed roof, combine modern and traditional elements. Each unit accomomodates up to 3-4 guests and consists of a spacious living room, a separate large bedroom, a fully equipped kitchen as well as its own private terrace. The stone bathroom offers shower and hairdryer.

The famous village of Sougia, just 4 km from the guesthouse with the long beach has plenty of taverns where you can enjoy excellent traditional food as well as fresh fish. As a bonus, there is an excellent pizza restaurant by the beach. The second most famous gorge of Crete "Gorge of Agia Irini" takes only four hours, whereas Paleochora, which is the other well know village of the South Coast of Chania, is 28km away, enjoying the sandy beach and the very good restaurants and taverns... Free private parking is



available on site.

Address: Moni Selinou, Sougia 73009, Kantanos-Selino,

Chania

Phone: +30 6944 711 277

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/guesthouses-chania/monasteryestate
Email: guesthouse@monasteryestate.com

Thalori



The Thalori Traditional Village is a complex of fifteen traditional houses which were restored to reflect the particular style of vernacular

architecture which was dominant in the host village of Kapetaniana in the very old days.

Kapetaniana is a small village perched at an altitude of 800 meters on the Asterousia range, west of the Kophinas peak. It commands a magnificent view of the Libyan Sea and combines in harmonious ways the wilderness of the mountain and the serenity and benefits of the sea.

At the center of the complex there is a larger building which in the old days was associated with legends. It now is a common area offering our guests recreation and the opportunity to taste a rich selection of traditional dishes made from fresh, local ingredients that mother earth has been nursing in this area for centuries.

The position of the traditional village of Kapetaniana, at an altitude of 800 meters on the Asterousia hills, against the wide open space which forms the Libyan Sea, sets the conditions for a unique climate. When conditions are proper, clouds race to take interesting formations around the village and dissipate just

as fast. Also, the visibility is so perfect that the eye can see very far into the horizon, which has a soothing effect for the body and mind.

The heightened sense of beauty which is evident in the traditional village and the services available can keep satisfied even the most demanding guests who need to establish a starting point for their exploration of the island of Crete.

Address: Kapetaniana, 70016, Gortina, Heraklio

Phone: +302893041762, +306976994896

In ternet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/guesthouses-heraklion/thalori

Email: in fo@thalori.com

Petronikolis Hostel



The traditional accommodation of Petronikolis hostel, is located in the heart of the village, and have four comfortable apartments

decorated with original Cretan aesthetics

Beautiful, cozy apartments created with love and respect to tradition, with all comforts, are awaiting to welcome you in a dreamlike stay.

Each apartment has its own traditional name and has a history behind it.

Wood, stone and a lot of love created the minimal spaces of the accommodation. The traditional hostel Petronikolis, is a wonderful choice to explore the mountainous tourism and to enjoy the authentic Cretan hospitality in a family atmosphere. Finally, it is the ideal motive to escape from the daily routine, and a small vacation to the beautiful nature and the peaceful life of the village.



If you are ready to get out.. of the reality, you are in the ideal place to escape to the nature in a unique mountainous environment. The traditional hostel is a friendly energetic and relaxing place.

Address: Houdetsi, Archanes, Heraklio

Phone: (+30) 2810 743 203,(+30) 6972 337021, (+30) 6973

039 641

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue

sthouses/guesthouses-heraklion/petronikolishostel

Email: info@petronikolis.info

Katalagari Country Suites



The elegantly simple
Katalagari Country Suites
Hotel is situated in
Katalagari, a charming
little village on the
outskirts of Heraklion city

in Southern Greece. Due to the wonderful surrounding natural environment, this location gives visitors the opportunity to discover all the hidden aspects of Crete - historical, archaeological, cultural, environmental, the flora & fauna, natural interest, agricultural, culinary and religious - such a wealth to be found on our doorstep!

The resort consists of 4 main buildings, an outdoor pool, gardens and groceries, with distinctive Cretan Renaissance architecture, rests on a hillside in absolute harmony with its environment, olive trees and vineyards.

Address: Katalagari Village, 70100, Archanes, Heraklio

Phone: +30 2810 753350, 6949 444 592

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue sthouses/guesthouses-heraklion/katalagari-country-suites

Email: info@cretanvillas.gr

Ksa Sou Traditional Guesthouses



Two old cottages build from stone, both fine examples of Cretan rural architecture, were renovated and were transformed into two

separate guesthouses that offer their guests the comforts of a contemporary accommodation.

Both guesthouses are located in the heart of Listaros village. For their renovation the basic construction materials - wood and stone - were used. The original plain cubic form of their architecture was maintained in order to preserve the "character" of a typical cottage house of the broader Mesara region . At the same time, a lot of attention was paid so as to equip them with all luxuries comforts that meet the high standards of a modern accommodation.

The balconies offer a superb view of the Libyan Sea, the mount Idi (Psiloritis) and mount Lefka Ori.

Address: Listaros Ltd, 70200, Phestos, Heraklio

Phone: +30 2892042804

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/gue sthouses/guesthouses-heraklion/ksasouguesthouses

Email: info@ksasou-guesthouses.gr

Porto Veneziano Hotel



Porto Veneziano Hotel enjoys a privileged location on the waterfront of the Old Venetian Harbor of Chania. Just 300 meters away from

the city center and the Old Town, the hotel is an ideal place of stay, also having all the renowned site in walking or cycling distance.



In the spirit of renewal, Porto Veneziano Hotel completed a full renovation of all rooms (51 rooms & 6 suites) in March 2013, thereby sporting a minimal navy design along with the unforgettable views of the Venetian harbor, the Cretan sea, the Old Town, the White Mountains and the private garden.

Enjoy a relaxing sleep on our cozy, double-mattress beds and breathe freely in our "smoke-free" environment, as the hotel proudly operates a smoke-free policy on all communal spaces, rooms and suites.

In the hotel's restaurant, start off your day with a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice and indulge on our certified "Greek Breakfast" buffet, filled with fruits, local products and homemade delicacies, before taking a stroll along the charming harbor.

At the end of the day, head back to the hotel and enjoy drinks and desserts at the hotel's Bar, catch up with family on our free WiFi access and enjoy the traditional fishing boats bathe in the sunset.

Address: Akti Enoseos & Glafkou, Old Venetian Harbor, 731

32, Chania, Chania Phone: +30 28210 27100

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/hote

ls/hotels-chania/portovenezianohotel Email: hotel@portoveneziano.gr

Sitia Bay Hotel



Sitia Bay Hotel lies on the blue flag sandy beach, over the most beautiful part of Sitia and a 5-minute walk from the town centre of Sitia. The

hotel offers self-catering accommodation

overlooking the Cretan Sea.

Sitia Bay Hotel offer 19 luxurious single and double apartments. All apartments have a magnificent view of the sea and all rooms are comfortably furnished to a high standard and provide all the comforts for a pleasant stay.

The hotel's swimming pool, with water sterilization and without the use of chlorine, is set in a peaceful flower-filled courtyard where there is plenty of space to sunbathe. The swimming pool is also, equipped with whirlpool-jacuzzi.

The hotel's roof terrace can also be used by the guests to relax and watch the amazing sunset!

Address: 27, Patriarhou Vartholomaiou Str. 8, Tritis Septemvriou Str., Beach Avenue, 72300, Sitia, Lasithi

Phone: +302843024800, +302108071045

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/all-accommodation/hote

ls/hotels-lasithi/sitia-bay-hotel Email: reservations@sitiabay.com

CAFES



The traditional Cretan Kafenios are sadly beginning to disappear, replaced by Western style cafes and coffee culture, but for now the tradition lives on. Be sure to specify your desired sweetness level when ordering: "sketo" is without sugar, "metrio" is medium sweet, and "glyko" is very sweet. If you prefer a more



familiar espresso, cappuccino or filter coffee, there are plenty of excellent modern places to be found everywhere on the island.

Miniatoura

In the small plaza of Agia Aikaterini church, that is just behind the famous temple of Agios Minas, Miniatoura is put in place. In Miniatoura coffee lovers will be excited by its quality, and the place also provides a wide variety of snacks, uplifting main dishes, delicious burgers, fresh salads, club sandwiches and side dishes.

What is unique for the character of the place is the large variety of extraordinary wine labels from the local and international vineyards that are kept in a special wine cellar. Music adjusts to the environment and is very carefully selected to match the time of the day and the mood of the patrons.

Address: Arhontopoulou & Monis Odigitrias 71206, Heraklion

city

Opening hours: 08:00 - 02:00 daily

Phone: +30 281 033 4019

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/irakleio-entertainment/i

rakleio-city-entertainment/miniatoura-heraklio

Email: miniatoura.cafe@gmail.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



If the pursuit of Fun is what your holiday in Crete is all about, then you will not be disappointed, especially in the summer months when things heat up! Choose a trendy café, bar or club in the lively cosmopolitan centres in Crete – or perhaps sip cocktails at a beach bar or club by the seashore in the summer season.

Fagotto Jazz Bar



One of the oldest and most well known jazz bars in the city located in a wonderful Venetian building of the 15th century. While you

enjoying your cocktail drinks, the music plays jazz, swing and blues rhythms. Often, small scale and atmospheric live music shows take place here.

Address: 16 Angelou St., Old Chania town Opening hours: All year round, 19:00 - 03:00

Phone: +30 28210 71877

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/chania-entertainment/c

hania-city-entertainment/fagotto-jazz-bar



SHOPPING



Heraklions commercial centre is located in the triangle formed by the Averof, 1821 and Kalokairinou streets, as well as in the surrounding streets. There are many commercial stores with clothes and shoes for all ages and styles. The shopping centre of the city, does not have many differences from the shopping centres of other European cities.

It's nice to combine your shopping with the special delicacies you can find in the same streets. "Loukoumades" with honey and the famous bougatsa (pie filled with cream) will make even an outstanding shopping bill look sweeter! Beyond the clothes stores, you can find popular art stores and the traditional knife stores where you can buy the famous Cretan knives.

In the lively traditional market in the 1866 street, you can find products for making your own Cretan meal. On the same street and off the main streets there are many small shops which sell local products and many gifts shops (some of them with really strange gifts).

WINERIES



Cretan wine-making establishments – with their long winemaking traditions – are open to the public. You can tour the vineyards and cellars, whilst in the more modern set-ups you can taste Cretan wines accompanied with appetizers from the famous Cretan cuisine.

Lyrarakis Winery



A second-generation family business that started their wine-making activities in 1966, it is based in the Peza wine-making zone: one of

the most important in Crete. They have a private vineyard of 35 acres, lying at around an altitude of 550 m.

Since the mid 1980s they have specialized in rare local varieties: they managed to recover the almost extinct varieties of "Dafni" and "Plyto". They also grow and cultivate the varieties of Vilana, Moshato White and French Sauvignon blanc. As far as the red varieties are concerned the local ones of Kotsifali, Madilari and Moshato are combined with international varieties Syrah, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Address: Alagni, Heraklion, Phone: +30 2810 741482

Internet

http://www.destinationcrete.gr/en/wineries/gea-liraraki



Email: visit@lyrarakis.gr

Boutaris



The Boutaris family has a long history of making wine, beginning as far back as 1879. Of the seven wineries the company runs, the only

one in Crete is located at Skalani, on the estate "Fantaxometocho". This is just 8 km away from Heraklion and 4 km from the archaeological site of Knossos.

The vineyard is located at an altitude of 200 m and is protected from the hot southern summer winds by the natural lie of the land. The grape-types grown include both red varieties (Kotsifali, Mandilari, Syrah) and also white (Chardonnay, Malvasia Aromatica, Vilana and Muscat Spina).

Address: Skalani, Heraklion

Opening hours: All year round, from Monday to Friday, 09.00

- 17.00 (appointment requared) Phone: +30 2810 731617

Internet:

http://www.destinationcrete.gr/en/wineries/mpoutari

Email: crete.winery@boutari.gr

Dourakis Winery



his winery is built in the east foothills of the White Mountains, in a fertile region known for its agricultural production of old, as the stone

threshing floor and an ancient wine-press suggest. Their modern facilities of stone and wood are designed with respectful deference to Cretan architectural tradition. The vineyards are situated in the area called Alikambos at an altitude above 330 m. The cultivation processes

are purely organic. Beside their own output, the winery cooperates with other new and dynamic wine-makers in the region. Together they produce red, white, rosé, and sweet wines both from international varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenage Rouge but also from local varieties such as Malvazia, Kotsifali and Romeiko.

Address: Alikampos, Apokoronas, Chania

Phone: +30 2825051761

Internet:

http://www.destinationcrete.gr/en/wineries/winery-ntouraki

Email: info@dourakiswinery.gr

Manousakis Winery



In the foothills of the White Mountains, on the road to the Omalos Plateau, you can find the Manousakis vineyards at an altitude of 320-380 m

and again a little higher at 550-600 m. They cultivate several varieties of grapes such as the red Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre and white Roussane. They also experiment with local varieties such as Vidiano, which they have been growing since 2010.

The Manousakis philosophy is quite a simple one: to carefully cultivate their vineyards in order to absorb the unique flavours of White Mountains, the aromas from local herbs and wild aromatic plants. The wines found in the winery are red, rosé, white. In a short while the new label Mazi (white and red) will be introduced to the market.

Address: Vatolakkos, Platanias, Chania

Phone: +30 28210 78877

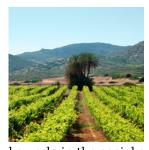
Internet: http://www.destinationcrete.gr/en/wineries/nostos-

wines-manousaki

Email: info@nostoswines.com



Toplou Monastery Winery



The Sacred Monastery of the Panagia Akrotiriani and St John Theologos at Toplou, near Siteia, was built in the 14th century. It has played ever since a

key role in the social and wine-making history of the area. Both organic vineyards and olive groves are cultivated, producing wine, tsikoudia and olive oil that are appropriately labelled and distributed to both the local and overseas markets. The most popular labels of the Winery are considered to be the combination of local white varieties of Thrapsathiri and Vilana and the combination of red varieties Merlot and Syrah. Lately the local variety of a sweet red wine called Liatiko is gaining a lot of attention. Organic production is certified and the choice of the grape varieties grown has been made based on the region's special characteristics. The winery is open to public given prior notice.

Address: Toplou Monastery, Sitia

Phone: +30 28430 29630

Internet: http://www.destinationcrete.gr/en/wineries/iera-mo

ni-toplou-winery

Email: m.gialitakis@biositia.gr

ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCES



The rich and varied terrain of the island - the mountain massifs, the countless canyons, the caves, the sometimes wild, sometimes tender Cretan countryside, the measureless miles of coastline, the unusual and rare eco-systems and different microclimates that make up the island... all provide ideal opportunities for extreme sports, nature activities and other unique experiences.

A flight over the last hideouts of the cretan Vulture



Trekking and bird-watching at Asterousia, the southernmost mountain range of Europe. These are places that, although

a stone's throw away, may have never crossed your mind ... A penetrating look into the wild yet hospitable nature of our island through the eyes of a scavenging bird that has touched Cretans more than any other: the Griffon Vulture.

The itinerary entails trekking through unknown gorges, river beds, the famous, breath-taking cliffs of the Asterousia mountain range, and the Kofinas peak that has excited the imagination and awe of local residents since antiquity.

Watching these rare birds with the help of



modern equipment and having them presented by experts, through descriptions, a slide show, a printed guide and the use of techniques of audience participation will add to the excitement.

Address: Asterousia mountain range, South Heraklion Opening hours: Every Saturday: 9.00 - 17.00 (May -

October), Upon Request All year round

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €120 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/activities-land/vulture-a-flight-over-the-last-hideouts-of-the-cretanulture-a-flight-over-the-cretanulture-a-

-vulture

Email: in fo@destinationcrete.gr

The secret aromas of Cretan wines



A trip through Dionysos'
"juices" (musts), in time
and place... a trip for
wine tasting and
acquaintance with the
Cretan "terroir" in the

most famous wine-area of Crete.

A glass of wine includes the aroma of the florescence of the vine and the herbs which grow on its border, the taste of the ripen grape that the picker tastes before throwing it in the bucket, the sound of the viticulturer's steps and the pickers' laughs, the touch on the shoots which is either soft or violent, the sight which is lost in the extended green (canopy) and calms the spirit.

The indigenous Cretan grape varieties are well incorporated, since centuries, in the natural environment of the island and express the richness (in flavours) of the land which had nourished them. Those are the elements to be discovered by the travelers, at this eight hours trip, in the heart of the viticultural area of Heraklion.

Address: Wine Routes, Heraklion hinterland, Heraklio

Opening hours: Upon Request all year round

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €110 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/acti

vities-land/grape-the-secret-aromas-of-cretan-wines

Email: info@destinationcrete.gr

Lassithi Plateau Biking Tour



Lassithi plateau is a dreamy destination on the inland of Crete where the 10.000 white-sailed windmills, which still make a splendid sight

against the mountains, used to break the otherwise green landscape. Located in a peaceful and fertile region, it is surrounded by the wild mountains of Dikti and several smaller plateaus.

The 18 villages of the plateau are built at the foot of the surrounding mountains, leaving the plains free to be cultivated, and they are connected by road.

Actually, this beautiful route is ideal for cycling as there are no large hills and, along this, you will have the chance to visit all the attractions of the plateau.

The most important attraction of Lassithi is the Cave of Psychro, mainly known as Diktaean. The cave has played an important role in ancient times, due to a myth that put the birth of Zeus here.

The tour ends in the beautiful traditional village Plati. Every season in this area has its particularity and it has something unique and special to offer to the visitor.

Address: Lasithi Plateau at Dikte mountain, Lasithi/East Crete



Opening hours: On Summer season: Monday - Wednesday -

Friday, Upon Request (All year round)

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €100 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/acti

 $\label{lem:continuous} vities-land/lassithi-plateau-biking-tour \\ Email: info@destinationcrete.gr$

Walking from Sfakia to Agia Roumeli



This hiking trip is one of the best coastal walks in Crete including fantastic beaches, great views and the church of Saint Paul which is built on a beach

near Agia Roumeli. In addition there are small beach-tavernas along the way so it is easy to find refreshments.

Apart from the heat this is a relatively straightforward walk as the path is easy and there isn't much ascent or descent, however it is about 19 km long and takes from 6 - 7 hours so it is only for those who have some experience of walking.

This hiking trip starts from Sfakia and passes through some of the best beaches of Crete, such as Glika Nera beach, Loutro - a small, idylic seaside settlement and Marmara beach at the entrance of Aradena gorge. At Marmara beach there is a taverna and the swimming is a unique experience as the rocks are white and the water is crystal clear.

The longest leg of the walk, is from Marmara to Saint Paul's church which takes about two hours. The path goes around the headland of Plaka and through a pine forest down to the beach and the church.

Depending on the time, as we have to catch the

5.30 p.m. ferry from Agia Roumeli to Sfakia, we can have another swim in the cobalt-blue waters. The last leg of the walk to Agia Roumeli takes about one and a half hours.

Address: White mountains of Crete, Sfakia, Chania Opening hours: Upon Request (May to October)

Phone: +30 6977 276069

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/acti

vities-land/walking-from-sfakia-to-agia-roumeli

Email: info@destinationcrete.gr

The last days of Candia's siege



One-day trip around the fortifications & monuments of Heraklion city. The tour around the fortifications of the city of Heraklion includes walks

on the ramparts, and the external ditch, aiming to a deeper knowledge of this magnificent monument.

This trip outlines the dramatic days just before the fortified city of Chandax (today's Heraklion) surrendered to the Ottomans. You will wander around the Venetian fortifications that reveal the secrets and the functions of the defensive art of that era, while, in the same time, they reflect all the episodes that allowed the fatal blows, and led to the attackers' final victory.

Address: Heraklion city

Opening hours: EVERY WEDNESDAY: 10.00 - 14.00 (May-

October), Upon request all year round

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €90 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/acti

vities-culture/the-fall-of-the-city-crown Email: info@destinationcrete.gr



What is the sound of wine?



The wine tasting seminar under the title "what is the sound of wine?" is the first one in Greece which offers a dimensional interactive and

experience in wine tasting and music simultaneously. The seminar is based on synesthesia, the connection between two senses. For the Sound of wine seminar, the tasting notes of six Cretan wines were translated in music in a very unique way.

An expert enologist, owner of a small and cozy wine tasting room in the cretan countryside, made the choice of these wines and leads the seminar. The music was composed and played by Ross Daly, Kelly Thoma, Sofia Efklidou, Nikos Vogiatzakis and Taxiarhis Georgoulis.

The tasting seminar "What is the sound of wine?" offers the unique opportunity to the participants to taste six different Cretan wines and listen to their hidden sound and rhythm. This seminar proves that wine doesn't only have aromas, flavours and colour but has got as well a complex and unique sound.

Address: Houdetsi village, Heraklion, Heraklio

Opening hours: Winter season: Friday 19:00 - 21:00, Summer

season: Friday 19:00 - 21:00, Sheduled also upon request

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €25 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/acti

 $vities\hbox{-}culture/what\hbox{-}is\hbox{-}the\hbox{-}sound\hbox{-}of\hbox{-}wine$

Email: info@destinationcrete.gr

Rib Safari at Souda Bay, Akrotiri and Drapano Caves



Speed boat safari, secret bays, caves and crystal clear blue waters... Enjoy a relaxed and adventurous day in an a 9 meters high speed RIB

and admire the natural beauty of Souda bay and Drapanos Caves.

The cruise starts from Souda Bay port heading towards Marathi area in a modern and adventurous speed boat. While enjoying the magnificent ride and listening to information about the area provided by the skipper, our adrenaline is raised up and our day starts!

The first dive takes place in a secret bay in blue waters. Here you can enjoy and relax before we continue our tour near the rocky natural beauty of Akrotiri peninsula.

We reach a nice and private bay with turquoise waters where we enjoy swimming in clear waters. The beauty of the scenery, the privacy and the panoramic views helps you to relax far away from croudy beaches.

Afterwards your skipper will guide you around the area of Drapanos and the famous caves around there. The last dive takes place there before we take the ride back to Souda port.

Address: Souda Bay, Chania

Opening hours: Upon Request all year round

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €140 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/activities-sea/rib-safari-at-souda-bay-akrotiri-and-drapano-caves

Email: in fo@destination crete.gr



Hora Sfakion - Loutro Seak Kayak trip



This is a lovely sea kayak trip in one of the most protected areas in Crete, Sfakia at South coast of Chania. The trip is ideal for people with no

experience at all. There are sea caves and wonderful beaches along the paddling distance.

This kayaking adventure trips explore remote sections of coast. A full day allows for 1-3 hour travel (if we start from Heraklio to Chania) and set-up time, 3-4 hours paddling and 2-3 hours out-of kayak time: relaxing, swimming, snorkeling, sea cliff climbing and jumping, walking or exploring.

Address: Sfakia region (Hora Sfakion, Loutro), Chania Opening hours: Upon Request (Summer season)

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €80 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/acti

vities-sea/hora-sfakion-loutro-seak-kayak-trip-1-day

Email: info@destinationcrete.gr

An agro-ecological journey to the olive's environment



Discovering olive's environment, Culinary (cooking lessons). How is the most basic ingredient of Mediterranean diet cultivated? Is olive oil

better than other oils and why?

You may join us in a journey through the Cretan olive orchards and the millennial history of olive oil and get familiar with the annual circle of farming practices which deliver a high quality product. This journey also includes cooking lessons with local cooks in a traditional tavern and lunch.

Address: Messara Plain, Center of Crete (Heraklio

hinterland), Heraklio

Opening hours: Upon request: with at least 7 days' notice

(May-October)

Phone: +30 6977 276069 Tickets: €180 per person

Internet: www.destinationcrete.gr/en/activities-and-tours/acti

vities-land/secrets-of-the-olive-orchad Email: info@destinationcrete.gr

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Climate

Crete has an average of 300 days of sunshine a year – one of the best climates in Europe.

Generally and for the greater part of the island there exists a temperate Mediterranean climate, although the winter sees snow on the mountains.

Broadly speaking, the winter in Crete is relatively mild, spring, autumn and summer are sunny and warm, even hot. The rainfall is concentrated from autumn until spring, highest at the west of the island, lessening as one goes east. The prevailing winds are westerly; in the summer, a wind from the north, the "meltemi", can bring a much appreciated coolness – and ideal conditions for surfing. Further, in the summer (and winter ones too), the Livas (a southerly wind from the African continent) can bring hotter blasts – and sand!



How to get to Crete

Crete is connected with the rest of Greece by air (Aegean, Olympic Air, Skyexpress, Minoan Air) and by boat (Minoan Lines, Anek Lines, Superfast, Hellenic Seaways etc). The island has two international airports (Heraklion, Chania) and a national one at Sitia (Astra Airlines) with connections to other transport hubs in Greece.

Chania airport is 12 km from the city of Chania and 68 km from the town of Rethymnon. The airport of Heraklion is but 5 km from the city of Heraklion and 65 km from Agios Nikolaos.

Similarly, the two major ports of the island are also in Chania and Heraklion, with four smaller: Kissamos, Rethymnon, Agios Nikolaos and Siteia.

In the summer (say between Easter and late October) there are frequent flights between Crete and numerous centres inside and outside Europe. For economic travel, visit the Ryanair (to Chania) and Easyjet (Heraklion) websites. Or search on-line for other charter companies too.

Within Greece, and in addition to Aegean Airlines and Olympic Airways, take a look at the timetables and routes of Skyexpress and Minoan Air. Whatever you choose, remember that an early booking can bring substantial reductions in the costs.

Getting Around the Island

In Crete, there operate two main bus companies (KTEL for short). For the centre and east of the island, you need KTEL Heraklion-Lassithi and for the west KTEL Chania-Rethymnon. The two companies work in tandem, so one can purchase a ticket that crosses their nominal border. Tickets can be purchased at the main bus terminals/depots.. and on board.

The web-sites of the companies provide the main and local timetables: but it is always worth checking by phone, especially where the more local and quieter routes are concerned (there may be but one or two buses a day).

Inevitably the buses cannot cover every hamlet, landmark and beach on the island! So for that sort of flexibility and in order to be able to explore at your whim, then it is better to travel by a rented car.

In all major, and some much smaller, locations, you will encounter car-rental companies for your needs: tourist resorts and airports also house outlets.

Main Chania Office KTEL Chania-Rethymno Kydonias & Kelaidi Str.

Tel.: 28210 93052

email: post@bus-service-crete-ktel.com

Main Rethymno Office KTEL Chania-Rethymno Kefaloyiannis Str.

Tel: 28310 22212

email: post@bus-service-crete-ktel.com

Main Heraklio Office Heraklio Port

Tel: 2810 246530, 245020

email: info@ktel-heraklio-lassithi.gr

Other Cities - timetable information Agios Nikolaos, Tel: 28410 22234

Sitia, Tel: 28430 22272

Ierapetra, Tel: 28420 28237



Post

The main post-offices are open Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 20.00 and Saturday 08.00 to 14.00. Other post-offices will generally be open from 08.00 to 14.00 only from Monday to Friday.

Phone: +30 2810 28 9993

Pharmacy

Normal opening hours of the pharmacies are the same as shops during week days. On Saturdays they are generally closed. Each pharmacy has a notice in the window showing which ones are open out of normal hours and the address where they're located.

Useful Phone numbers

Useful telephone numbers in the cities of Crete are listed below:

Heraklio

Airport: 2810 397800 Port Police: 2810 244912 Olympic Air: 2810 288073 Aegean: 2810 330475

Minoan lines: 801 1175000 ANEK lines: 2810 222481

Taxi: 2810 210102, 2810 361362, 2810 211212

Touristic Police: 2810 283190 Traffic Police: 2810 247790

General University Hospital of Heraklio: 2810

392111, 2813 402111

Venizelio Hospital: 2810 368000, 2810 408000

Chania

Airport: 28210 63171, 63264 Port Police (Souda): 28210 89240

Olympic Air: 28210 53760 Aegean: 28210 63366 ANEK lines: 28210 27500

Hellenic Seaways: 28210 75444

ANENΔYK: 28210 95511

Taxi: 28210 94300, 28210 98700 Touristic Police: 28210 25930 Traffic Police: 28210 25903-5

Hospital: 28210 22000-9

Rethymno

Port Police: 28310 22276 Olympic Air: 28310 22257 ANEK lines: 28310 29874

Taxi: 28310 24316, 2810 25000 Touristic Police: 28310 28156 Traffic Police: 28310 22589

Hospital: 28310 87100, 28313 42100

Agios Nikolaos

Port Police: 28410 22312 Olympic Air: 28410 28929 LANE sealines: 28410 26465

Taxi: 28410 24000

Touristic Police: 28410 91409 Traffic Police: 28410 91423

Hospital: 28413 43000, 28410 66000

Population

620,000

Currency

Euro €1 = 100 cent

Opening hours

Shops open around 09.00 and close around 13.30 or 14.00 Monday to Saturday. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday they are also open from around 17.00 to 21.00. Always closed on Sundays and holidays.

In tourist areas & resorts they are open every day from 09:00 to 21:00.

Interne

www.destinationcrete.gr/en/index.php

Emergency numbers

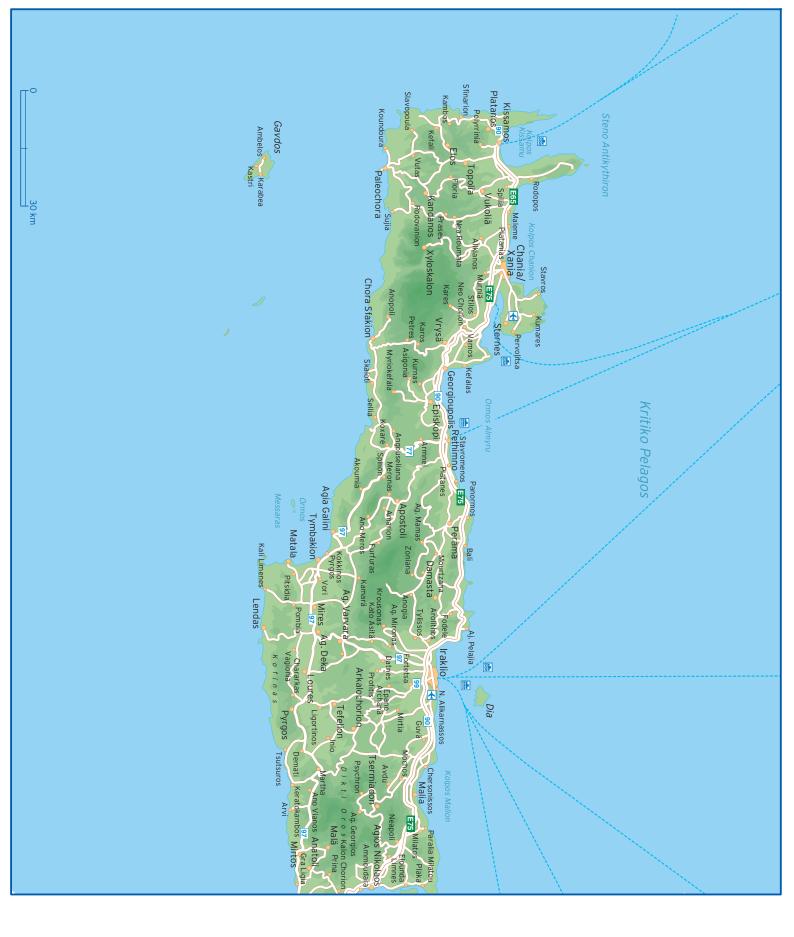
Police: 100

Fire department: 199

Tourist information

Destination Crete Thalita 13 str. 71 202 Heraklion Crete

71 202 Heraklion Creto +30 6977 276069







25 Avgoustou	C1 C2	Gorgolaini	A2	Papadopoulou	A2
Ag Titou	C2	Grevenon	B2	Papandreou G	C4 D4
Agios Mina	B2 B3	Harilaou Trikoupi	C4 D4	Passifais	D2
Akadimias	C4	Idis	B2	Pediados	C3 C4
Akti Sof Venizelou	A1 B1 C1 D1	Idomeneos	C2	Petraki	C4
Alber	B3 B4	Ikarou	D2	Piranthou	A4
Amalthia	В3	Ioustinianou	В3	Platia Agios Ekaterinis	B2
Androgeo	C2	Kagiambi	B2	Platia Agios Titos	C2
Anopolis	C3	Kalokerinou	A3 B2	Platia Arkadiou	В3
Anthemiou	D2 D3	Kalokerinou L	B1	Platia Daskalogiani	C3
Archanon	C3	Karterou	В3	Platia El Venizelou	C2
Archimidi	D3	Kastrinaki	C4 D4	Platia Eleftherias	C3
Aretoussas	C2	Kazani	B2	Platia Fereou	В3
Ariadnis	D2	Kazantzaki	B2	Platia Kiprou	C4
Arkoleondos	C2	Kidonias	B2	Platia Kolundourioti	D1
Athanassiou	C4 D4	Kikladon	A4	Platia Kornarou	В3
Athinas	D4	Knossou	C4	Platia Romanou	B3 C3
Averof	C3	Kokini	B4	Porta Bethlehem	A3
Beaufor	D2	Kokinidi	A2	Porta Kenouriad	C4
Bizaniou	В3	Kondilaki	A4	Psichari	A4
Chalzidaki	A4	Korai	C2	Renieri	C3
Chandaka	B1 B2	Koroneau	C2	Rollen	B4
Chanion	B2	Koroneou	B2	Romanou	В3
Charkoutsi	A1 A2	Kounali	A4 B4	Samoil	A2
Cheretidou	B4	Kourmoulidon	A3	Sapoutie	C2 D2
Chorgon	B2	Kritovoulidi	В3	Satha	A3
Chrissostomou	C4	Lasthenous	A2	Savathianon	A2
Daliani	C4 D4	Leoforos Dimokratias	D3 D4	Sfakion	A3
Dedalou	C2	Malikouti	D2	Simiakou	A1 A2
Delimarkou	A2	Markopoulou	В3	Sitias	A2
Dendidaki	A2 B2	Markou Moussourou	В3	Skordilon	A2
Diakou	D4	Mastracha	A2	Skra	A2
Dikeossinis	C2	Matiou	A2	Smirnis	C3
Diktis	A2	Merambelou	D2	Soumerli	C3
Doiranis	B2	Michelidaki	B2	Spinalongas	A3
Drakondopoulou	D4	Milatou	C2	Stavraki	B4
Epimenidi	C1 C2 D2	Miliara	C3	Talo	A3
Eptanissou	A4	Miliaraki	D4	Thalita 	B1 C1
Ethnikis Andistasseos	D4	Mirionou	A2	Thenon	A4
Evans	C3	Missonos	D4	Thessalonikis	B3
Evropis	C2	Mitsotaki	B1	Tilissou	A2 A3
Gavaladon	A2	Monis Kardiotissas	A3	Tirnadou	C4
Gazi	B1	Neas Ionias	C4	Titou Georgiadi	D3
Georgiadi	A4 B4 C4	Nikolaidi	A2 B4 C2	Trifitsou	C3
Geronimaki Giamalaki	D3 D4 B2	Nikolaou Plastira	A3 B4 C3 B4	Tsakiri Tsirindanidon	B2
Giamaiaki Giamboudi	B2 B3	Nikoussiou Odos 1821	B2 B3	Tsouderon	A3 C3
Gianikou Gianikou	B3 B4	Odos 1821 Odos 1866	C2 C3	Valestra	A2
Gianitson	C3	Odos 1878	B2	Vanou	A2 B3
GidilliSUII	C3	Ou05 10 / 0	D2	v aliuu	D3



VassilogeorgiA3VistakiB2ZervoudakiC4VikelaB3VourdoumbadonA2ZoudianouA3VironosB1 C1XanthoudidiD2D2