

Crete

Photo: Olga Gavrilova/shutterstock

Crete, the largest of Greek islands, is a place where myth meets history, where the age-old Cretan culture teems in modern villas, 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 nature-lover, the explorer, the cosmopolitan, the lover of history, and the classic culture.

Georgios Tsihchlis/Shutterstock.com

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THE ISLAND



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Crete, the largest island in Greece, is one of the most popular travel destinations of the Mediterranean. It's an island with a thousand faces that combines everything a traveller might ask for: a rich history, several major attractions, a unique food culture, a vibrant nightlife, magnificent nature and pristine beaches.

On Crete, the first prehistoric civilisation of note on European soil found its footing, back in the Minoan Bronze-Age. Its majestic palaces can still be visited today. In the long history of the island, a multitude of different cultures and conquerors have passed through, leaving behind their mark. As a result, present-day Crete has countless places of historical, archaeological and cultural interest.

The heart of Crete beats in its cities: Chania, the Venice of the East, Renaissance Rethymno, cosmopolitan Heraklion and picturesque Agios Nikolaos, Sitia and Ierapetra. In addition to museums, historical sites and buildings, you'll find many shops selling local products, lively bars and cafés, as well as restaurants where you can try delicious and healthy Cretan cuisine.

At the same time, Crete stands out for its unique natural environment. On the one hand, a seemingly endless and indented coastline offers

countless beaches for each and every taste. At the other extreme, there is a ridge of tall mountains ideal for hiking and mountaineering. Gorges to wander through, caves to explore, valleys to admire, all waiting for the visitor's glance. In Crete, you'll never run out of things to do.

CITIES & TOWNS



Olga Gavrilova/Shutterstock.com

From the colourful Old Town of Chania to the Renaissance buildings of Rethymnon, and from the cosmopolitan city of Heraklion to the picturesque Agios Nikolaos and Sitia, each and every Cretan city has its own attractions and personality.

Heraklion



Heraklion is the island's capital and largest city. Its long history began in post-Minoan times, and saw the succeeding of various conquerors, whose traces are still evident in the city. For instance, one of Heraklion's most important landmarks is the Kouless Fortress in the Venetian harbour. In recent years, many streets around the centre have become pedestrianised and link the major monuments of the city, so that one can go about on foot more easily, free from the rush of traffic.

Photo: Georgios Tsihlis/Shutterstock.com
Address: Heraklion, Crete
Internet: www.visitgreece.gr/islands/crete/irakleio

Chania



Chania, or "Venice of the East", is the second biggest city in Crete, built on the site of old Kydonia. One the most picturesque cities in Greece, Chania

oozes with artistic influences of the various cultures which have passed through it. Historical buildings have been renovated and now house museums and cultural centres, for example, the former Venetian Monastery of Saint Francis now hosts the Archaeological Museum of Chania.

Photo: Neirfy/Shutterstock.com
Address: Chania, Crete
Internet: www.visitgreece.gr/islands/crete/chania

Rethymno



The third largest city on Crete, Rethymno came to life during the Venetian era and is home to many historic buildings, notably hilltop Rethymno's

Fortress, which dominates the city's skyline. In the Old Town, Venetian architectural elements coexist with Ottoman ones, creating a unique charm. During spring, the Rethymno Carnival takes place, which is a century-old celebration that has become an institution famous throughout the country.

Photo: leoks/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rethymno, Crete
Internet: www.visitgreece.gr/islands/crete/rethymno

Agios Nikolaos



Agios Nikolaos is a gateway to the East of Crete. With a strategic location on the Gulf of Mirabello, in summer the town becomes a cosmopolitan resort.

However, the town's ancient feel lives on. Vouliagmeni Lake, where, according to old myths, Aphrodite and Athena were wont to come and bathe, is not far from the beach of Kitroplateia and the famous island of Spinalonga. Beautiful Neo-Classical buildings line the Old Harbour, a lively spot with an abundance of bars, restaurants and hang-out spots.

Photo: Rostislav Ageev/Shutterstock.com
Address: Agios Nikolaos, Crete
Internet: www.agiosnikolaoscrete.com

Sitia



Sitia is the best 'ambassador' for East Crete: authentic, uncrowded and picturesque. It can be an ideal base for the exploration of the easternmost parts of the island, including the popular Vai Beach, home to Crete's biggest palm forest.

Originally founded by the Minoans, the tranquil seaside town is known for its lovely harbour, featuring colourful boats, several eateries and a beautiful promenade. Historic attractions include a fortress, an Archaeological and a Folklore museum, as well as a long sandy beach.

Photo: Anilah/Shutterstock.com
Address: Sitia, Crete

Ierapetra



The southernmost city of Crete and the fourth largest one in the country, Ierapetra combines the infrastructure of a tourist resort with easy access to pristine beaches and beautiful countryside. A popular tourist destination within easy reach from here is the unspoilt Chrysi Island with its golden beach.

Photo: Georgios Tsihliis/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ierapetra, Crete

Malia

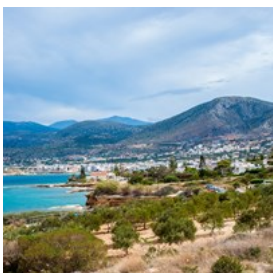


Malia offers plenty to do, both day and night. Its bars and nightclubs rival Ibiza's, and after a night of revelling, there are tranquil beaches, a charming old town and a Minoan palace to explore.

Photo: konstantinks/Shutterstock.com

Address: Malia, Heraklion, Crete

Hersonissos



Hersonissos is the epicentre of night-life in Crete, boasting numerous bars, nightclubs, hotels and restaurants. There is also a series of nice beaches and very small bays for a relaxing day on the sand. Only half an hour drive from the centre of Heraklion, the town is accessible by bus, departing from the station near the port.

Photo: krasky/Shutterstock.com

Address: Hersonissos, Heraklion, Crete

DO & SEE



Mila Atkovska/Shutterstock.com

Crete is filled with history and scenic landscapes. Archaeological sites, historical landmarks, fascinating museums, isolated monasteries, wandering walking trails and much more await you in this amazing place.

Old Town of Chania



"The Venice of the East", Chania is characterized by a blend of Venetian, Ottoman and Neoclassical monuments and architecture. Its streets are narrow, colorful and picturesque, passing by flowered balconies, traditional knife shops, Cretan boot shops, lively restaurants and cozy cafes. Don't miss the beautiful promenade along the Venetian port, where you can see the Venetian lighthouse, one of the symbols of Chania.

Photo: Aetherial Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Old Town of Chania, Chania, Crete

Koules Fortress



The Venetian Koules Fortress, also known as Castello a Mare (which means "fort on the sea"), is one of Heraklion's main landmarks and is located on the old harbour. This big, square-shaped structure was built in the 16th century to protect the city and was subsequently armed with cannons. The rooftop offers scenic views over the sea and Heraklion city.

Photo: Rostislav Ageev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Heraklion, Crete

Internet:

visitheraklion.eu/en/koules-fortress-the-fort-on-the-sea

Historical Museum of Crete



Founded in 1953, the Historical Museum of Crete in Heraklion hosts a permanent collection showcasing the history of Crete from the third century AD to the end of the Second World War. Artefacts, paintings, sculptures, manuscripts and other objects of interest are displayed in chronological order, with visual materials, multimedia and audio guides available during your visit to help you learn more about Crete's fascinating past. A section of the museum is dedicated to the famous writer Nikos Kazantzakis. Another highlight of the exhibition are two paintings by the Greek artist El Greco: The Baptism of Christ and The View of Mount Sinai and the Monastery of Saint Catherine. The museum also hosts temporary exhibitions.

Photo: saiko3p/shutterstock

Address: Leoforos Sofokli Venizelou 27, Heraklion, Crete

Phone: +30 2810 283 219

Internet: www.historical-museum.gr/en

Email: info@historical-museum.gr

Minoan Palace of Knossos



The ruins of the Palace of Knossos, the largest and most brilliant centre of the Minoan civilization, are located 5 kilometres south of the historical centre of Heraklion. Twisting corridors and stairwells, which used to connect as many as five storeys, create a truly labyrinthine complex which rivals the mythological Minoan "Labyrinth".

Photo: Neirfy/Shutterstock.com

Address: Knossos, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 8am-6pm

Phone: +30 2810 231 940

More Info: Hours might change according to the season

Heraklion Archaeological Museum



This museum is located in the center of Heraklion and is one of the most important archaeological museums in the world, thanks to its unrivalled collection of artefacts from the Bronze-age Minoan culture. The exhibits cover a period of ten millennia, from the Neolithic era until late Roman times. The introductory texts in each room explain the key features of each period, and so the evolution of culture.

Photo: saiko3p/shutterstock

Address: Xanthoudidou 2, Heraklion, Crete

Phone: +30 2810 279 000

Internet: www.heraklionmuseum.gr

Natural History Museum of Crete



The Natural History Museum of Crete does not only present the natural wealth of the island, but that of the entire Eastern

Mediterranean. Here you'll find, among other things, a discovery centre for children, an earthquake simulator, aquariums and terrariums, a large collection of fossils and a replica of the largest mammal ever, which lived on Crete nine million years ago. You'll also be able to learn about the geological evolution of Crete, about plants and organisms that thrive on the island or about extinct and endangered species. The animals are displayed by way of accurate representations in their real dimensions (dioramas). The museum features an outdoor botanical garden as well.

Photo: Elizaveta Galitckaia/Shutterstock.com

Address: Leoforos Sophocles Venizelos, Heraklion, Crete

Phone: +30 281 039 3630

Internet: www.nhmc.uoc.gr/en

Elounda & Spinalonga Island



Elounda, with its luxurious villas and hotels, is the preferred escape of the rich and famous. From Elounda, you can take a 25-minute

boat trip to Spinalonga Island, known for its well-preserved Venetian fortress, small pebble beaches, and for being one of Europe's last leper colonies.

Photo: photoff/Shutterstock.com

Internet: www.eloundaisland.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, passing by varied landscapes, water springs, different types of trees, cliffs, pools and impressive rocks. 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), and takes between 4 and 8 hours, depending on walking speed.

Photo: Oleg Voronische/Shutterstock.com

Address: Omalos Plateau, Agia Roumeli, Sfakia, Chania, Crete

Opening hours: Usually open to the public from May to October

Phone: +30 2821 045 570

Internet: www.samaria.gr

Email: info@samaria.gr

E4 European Path



Another way to explore the island of Crete is by walking and hiking. The E4 European Walking Trail section in Crete features 91 hiking routes,

for a total length of 560 kilometres, traversing diverse landscapes and rare ecosystems. If you wish to complete the entire path, you should allow 3 or 4 weeks to do so, but you can also choose the trails that appeal the most to you. For more information about the path in Crete, visit the website below.

Photo: Georgios Tsihliis/Shutterstock.com

Internet:

www.discoveronfoot.com/walking-on-crete/the-e4-in-crete

Venetian Walls of Heraklion



The fortification works of Heraklion are rightfully counted among the most important in the Eastern Mediterranean. Built in 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). Under threat of invasion by the Turks, a three-kilometre long wall with four gates and seven bastions was added in 1462, and is still visible today.

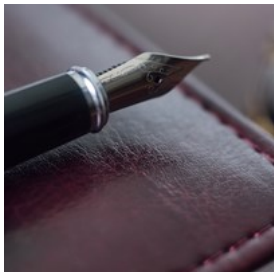
Photo: Georgios Tsihliis/shutterstock

Address: Leoforos Nikolaou Plastira 25, Heraklion, Crete

Internet:

visitheraklion.eu/en/walk-around-the-venetian-fort-walls

Nikos Kazantzakis Museum



This museum is dedicated to the famous Cretan author Nikos Kazantzakis, who wrote "Zorba the Greek" and "The Last Temptation of Christ".

Among the exhibits are his personal correspondence and diaries, souvenirs from his travels, photographs, models of theatrical sets and costumes from performances of his plays, rare audio-visual material, and works of art inspired by his books.

Photo: Mizin Roman/Shutterstock.com

Address: Myrtia (central square), Archanes, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Summer: daily 9am–5pm. Winter: Mon–Fri & Sun 10am–3pm

Phone: +30 2810 741 689

Internet: www.kazantzaki.gr/en

Email: info@kazantzaki.gr

Lasithi Plateau



At an altitude of 850 metres, the Lasithi Plateau is the largest mountain plain in Crete. Nowadays, it has been transformed into a giant

garden. There are numerous settlements at the plain where you can try local delicacies and the traditional raki drink. Lasithi plateau and its surroundings are also ideal for trekking walks or even cycling and mountain biking. A major attraction is the Dikteon cave above Psychro village, where — according to legend — the god Zeus was born and raised.

Photo: Anton Chygarev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lasithi Plateau, Lasithi, Crete

Toplou Monastery



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

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

There is a small but solemn and stirring two-aisle church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and to Saint John the Theologian, decorated with murals that still survive and featuring a chancel screen with noteworthy 18th century icons.

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 organic wine of excellent quality and it is also possible to visit the winery.

Photo: Georgios Tsihliis/Shutterstock.com

Address: Toplou, Sitia, Crete

Internet: www.unescositesincrete.gr/en/simeia-endiaferontos/toplou-monastery

Minoan Palace of Phaistos



The palace complex and the city of Phaistos were built on a hill, offering a jaw-dropping panoramic views. Sights to look out for include the Lasithi

mountains in the background, and the verdant hills which surround the city.

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.

Photo: Luxerendering/Shutterstock.com

Address: Phaistos, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Summer: daily 8am-8pm. Winter: daily 8am-3pm

Phone: +30 2892 042 315

Arkadi Monastery



Arkadi Monastery was built at the end of Venetian rule. Apart from the monks' cells, the central building also includes warehouses,

stables and premises for processing agricultural products.

The 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.

Photo: Dziewul/Shutterstock.com

Address: Arkadi, Rethymnon, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 9am-7pm

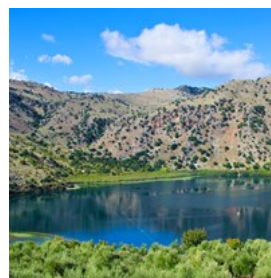
Phone: +30 2831 083 135

Internet: www.arkadimonastery.gr

Email: info@arkadimonastery.gr

More Info: Hours might change according to the season

Lake Kournas



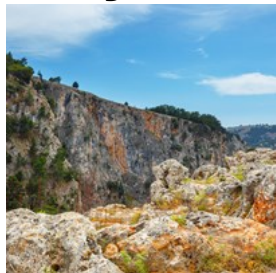
Between the cities of Chania and Rethymnon, at the north edge of the White Mountains, you can find Lake Kournas, the only freshwater lake in

Crete.

Photo: Harald Lueder/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kournas, Apokoronas, Chania, Crete

Trekking in Crete



In addition to the famous Samaria gorge, there are several other beautiful gorges where you can go trekking in Crete. The gorge of Agios Nikolaos is 4 kilometres long and is flanked by the peaks of Ambelakia and Samari. It is considered to be the most important gorge of Psiloritis and Central Crete, and was named after the Byzantine chapel of Agios Nikolaos which is located at its southern entrance.

Zakros gorge in Eastern Crete is also called the “valley of the dead” because of the Minoan cave burials that were found there. The trekking route is 2.5 kilometres long and begins south-east of the village of Zakros, passing through the gorge and ending next to the Minoan palace at Kato Zakros.

The gorge of Aradena is an impressive 7-kilometre long gorge. Its entrance is located at the deserted village of Aradena, at the western end of the plateau of Anopoli of Sfakia, below the imposing, high peaks of the White Mountains (Lefka Ori). 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.

Rikhtis gorge is a beautiful small gorge of about 3 kilometres, located in Eastern Crete and featuring a marked route. It follows a stream that flows all year round and creates a splendid waterfall. The gorge begins a little outside the village of Exo Mouliana and ends at the beach of Rikhtis, east of Kalavros village (15 kilometres

west of Siteia).

Photo: Dziewul/Shutterstock.com

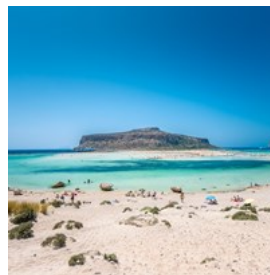
BEACHES



MillaF/Shutterstock.com

Crete has over 1,000 kilometres of coastline, composed of seemingly endless stretches of sand, pebble beaches, deserted beaches, beaches for camping, water sports, and more. Try going to more than one before choosing your favourite — which will likely still prove a challenge.

Balos Lagoon



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 features warm, turquoise waters and white sand. The sand is actually partly composed of minutely crushed sea-shells, which impart a pinkish hue to it. The water immediately off shore is shallow, but deepens elsewhere.

Photo: Lucian BOLCA/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kissamos, Chania, Crete

Matala



Located on the southern coast of Crete and part of the Heraklion prefecture, the village of Matala has an organized sandy beach with crystal clear deep water and cliffs featuring caves carved in the rock, which you can visit. These caves were once used as residences, most famously by the hippies in the 1960s and 70s. Every year in June, the three-day Matala Beach Festival takes place, attracting many visitors to the village.

Photo: Georgios Tsihliis/Shutterstock.com

Address: Matala, Heraklion, Crete

Falassarna Beach



Falassarna Beach is a series of large sandy stretches that together run on for 3 km. The main beach of Pacheia Ammos (Deep Sands), one of the most popular in Crete, is made up of white sand and turquoise waters. It has sun-beds and umbrellas, facilities for water-sports and courts for beach-volleyball.

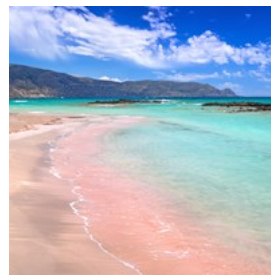
If you wish to avoid the crowds at Pacheia Ammos, you can seek out one of the other strands which are to be found nearby, both to the north and south. They are smaller, rather isolated and without facilities; some have pebbles, others sand: but all are ideal for chilling out.

Because of the strong winds that blow here, Falassarna is an ideal destination for wind surfing lovers.

Photo: Aetherial Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Falassarna, Kissamos, Chania, Crete

Elafonissi & Kedrodasos



Elafonissi beach is one of the most emblematic of the island, and is featured on countless postcards. It can be found 80 km from Chania. Elafonissi is a small island, connected to the Cretan mainland by a shallow crossing of several hundred meters. The whole area, which is part of the NATURA 2000 programme, is characterized by pale sands, shallow and crystal-clear waters turquoise in colour, and small pink patches made up from crushed sea-shells.

South of Elafonissi is another area of wild and remarkable beauty: Kedrodasos, also part of the NATURA 2000. Access can be by car (up to a certain point) or on foot following the E4 walking-route from the beach of Elafonissi itself. Dunes of white sand and ancient cedars cover the vicinity. The main beach is sandy and also boasts crystal-clear turquoise waters. Along the coastal path from Elafonissi to Kedrodasos there are small deserted coves. Unlike Elafonisi, Kedrodasos is absolutely unspoilt and because of its isolation nudists like to come here.

Photo: Patryk Kosmider/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kissamos, Chania, Crete

Gialiskari Beach



Following the road east out of Paleochora, 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 pale sand. The water is clear and deep. The area is slightly developed, with 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.

Photo: Vladimir1984/Shutterstock.com

Address: Paleochora, Chania, Crete

More Info: Here nudism is tolerated, especially on the eastern side

Preveli

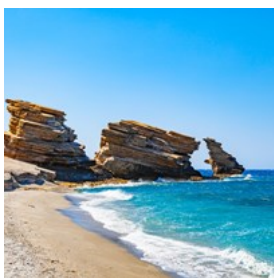


Preveli Beach, with its iconic riverside palm-groves, is one of the most famous and beloved beaches in Crete. The forest of palms, covering some 10 acres, is the second largest of its sort in Crete and consists of an endemic species: the Theophrastus palm. A walk on the banks of the river or a pedalo ride through the palms and oleanders and into the gorge can be unforgettable experiences. Preveli beach is located at the mouth of the gorge, where the river Kourtaliotis ends in a delta. It has pale sands and a stony bottom to the crystalline water.

Photo: Aygul Sarvarova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Preveli, Agios Vasileios, Rethymnon

Triopetra & Agios Pavlos



Triopetra beach is sandy, pretty much unspoilt, featuring crystal-clear water and breathtaking sunsets. Its name means "Three Rocks" and refers to the impressive rocks that characterise its

landscape.

Next to Triopetra, you'll find the charming Agios Pavlos beach. The vast dunes that enclose the beach are its chief attraction and they can attain up to 30 feet in height. The beach itself is sandy, with very clear water and a sea-bed that begs to be explored. In the middle of the beach there are some sea-worn caves.

Photo: Mikhail Yuryev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Agios Vasilios, Rethymnon, Crete

Kommos Beach



Kommos is a single huge beach divided for convenience into two: the north part, called Potamos, 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 there are tamarisks, carobs and sand-dunes.

The southern part, is by contrast very well-organized with umbrellas, sunbeds, showers and a lifeguard. Both sections have sand, clear water and large smooth rocks in the sea. As other beaches, they are exposed to the west winds, which can create large waves.

Photo: Dziewul/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kommos, Tympaki, Heraklion, Crete

Belegrina (Chrysi Island)



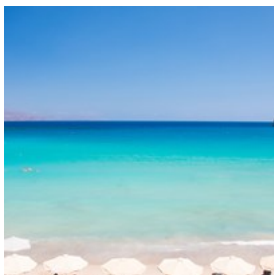
Belegrina Beach on the uninhabited Chrysi Island is known as the "golden beach" due to the colour of its sand, which can also have white and pink shades. It is a pristine beach with crystalline turquoise waters, ideal for snorkeling. On Chrysi Island, there survives a large cedar forest of some 85 acres, with large and impressive specimens.

Photo: tuulijumala/Shutterstock.com

Address: Chrysi Island, Ierapetra, Lasithi, Crete

More Info: You can reach the island by boat during the summer months, departing from Ierapetra.

Voulisma



At a distance of 12 km south of Agios Nikolaos is the settlement of Istron. You will reach it as you pass along the main national road east from Agios Nikolaos towards Ierapetra or Siteia. Located here is Voulisma, 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, as the water deepens only gradually. By one end there is a canteen for food and drinks.

Photo: Artem Konratiev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Istron, Agios Nikolaos, Lasithi, Crete

Vai Beach

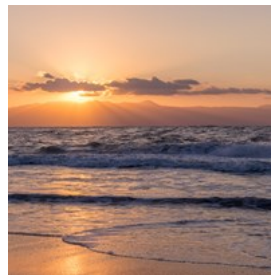


Vai, with its palm forest and its lovely beach, attracts each year a huge number of visitors. The palm forest — the biggest on the island, with some five thousand specimens of the Theophrastus palm — covers about 70 acres. The long beach has blue-green water, fine sand and pebbles. It is very organized, featuring umbrellas, sunbeds, canteens and refreshments, as well as opportunities for water sports.

Photo: Dziejul/Shutterstock.com

Address: Vai, Toplou, Sitia, Lasithi

Platanias



In Platanias accommodation options, services, eateries and bars abound. Being one of the most cosmopolitan destination in Crete, here you will encounter every summer throngs of Greek and foreign tourists.

Platanias beach is sandy and extends for 3 km. Well-organized, it is suitable for all sorts of water-sports and has the usual umbrellas, sunbeds, lifeguards and beach bars.

Photo: Daniel Bay Jensen/Shutterstock.com

Address: Platanias, Kissamos, Chania, Crete

Stavros



On the northwest flank of the Akrotiri peninsula is Stavros, a sheltered bay with sand and turquoise waters. It is organized with umbrellas, sunbeds,

showers and a lifeguard, as well as some chances for water-sports. It was here that Michaili Kakiannis filmed 'Zorba', based on the book by Kazantzakis, winning three Oscars in 1964.

Photo: PaulSat/Shutterstock.com
Address: Stavros, Chania, Crete

Georgioupoli



Georgioupoli is a seaside resort with a huge sandy beach some 12 km long. It has 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.

Photo: Vlad Ispas/Shutterstock.com
Address: Georgioupoli, Apokoronas, Chania, Crete
More Info: Nearby you'll find many shops, tavernas and cafeterias

Agia Pelagia



Agia Pelagia is one of the most popular summer destinations in the Heraklion prefecture. It is 21 km from Heraklion and has a long beach of some 450 metres with fine sand. 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.

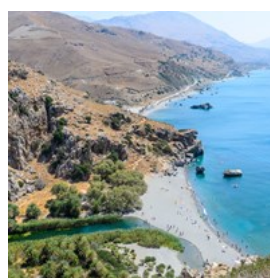
The beach is fully organised with sun beds, umbrellas, showers, a lifeguard, water-sports

and more. A diving school operates here too. The village doesn't lack tavernas, restaurants, cafeterias, bars, hotels of all grades, rentable rooms and apartments.

Photo: Kiev Victor/Shutterstock.com
Address: Agia Pelagia, Malevizi, Heraklion, Crete
Internet:

www.agiapelagia.com/Beaches/Agia-Pelagia-beach.html

Potamos Beach

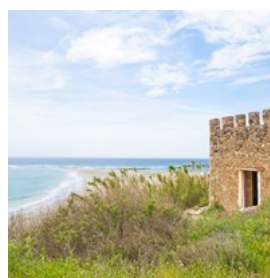


Potamos Beach is located in Malia, 37 km east of Heraklion. The city is a popular destination with a vibrant nightlife and several beaches, of which Potamos is one of the least crowded. It is named after a small river that flows there, forming a wetland of great importance. It is some 700 m long, with 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 opportunities.

Photo: Vladimir1984/Shutterstock.com
Address: Malia, Hersonissos, Heraklion, Crete

Fragokastello Beach



Frangokastello beach is named after the Venetian fort that towers over its sandy dunes and shallow turquoise waters. It is located on 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 suitable for families with young children.

Photo: tagstiles S Gruene/Shutterstock.com
Address: Fragokastello, Sfakia, Chania, Crete

DINING



NDT/Shutterstock.com

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

Mediterranean cuisine is inherently healthy and vegetarian-friendly, and everyone is bound to find something to suit their tastes. Apart from an abundance of olive oil, fish, and seafood, local specialities to try include cheese pie, fried snails, smoked pork and raki — an alcoholic beverage served after the meal.

Herb's Garden (Heraklion)



Herb's Garden restaurant is located on the rooftop of Lato Boutique Hotel and offers a beautiful view over the Venetian harbour of Heraklion. On the menu you will find fresh seafood, salads, meat dishes and homemade ice cream.

Photo: InnaFelker/Shutterstock.com
Address: Epimenidou 15, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: May–October: daily 1am–midnight

Phone: +30 2810 334 971
Internet:
www.lato.gr/dining-heraklion/herbs-garden-restaurant

Pan Asia Restaurant (Heraklion)

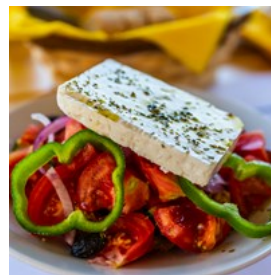


Pan Asia Restaurant has many years of experience in Heraklion and selects the best and most popular recipes of Chinese, Thai and Japanese cuisine.

They only use fresh meat and vegetables without preservatives and the cooking is done with the traditional wok. Choosing the set menu for two will allow you to try various specialities at a competitive price, but you can always choose your favourite ones a la carte.

Photo: nana77777/Shutterstock.com
Address: Kokkini Chani, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: Summer: Mon–Sat 5pm–1am, Sun noon–midnight. Closes for winter
Phone: +30 2810 761 526
Internet: www.panasia.gr
Email: info@panasia.gr

Bakaliko Crete (Heraklion)

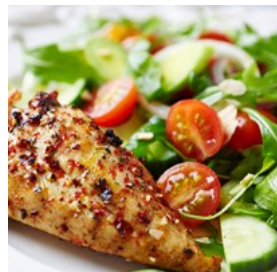


Bakaliko Crete is a deli (grocery and eatery) that brings you fine foods and wines from Crete and the rest of Greece. It is a place where all dishes are made from the quality products that you can buy from the store. Their shop is in Archanes, ideally situated in the heartland of Heraklion's wine and olive oil region, from which many of the products come from.

Photo: Toms Auzins/Shutterstock.com
Address: Eleftherios Venizelos Square 13, Epano Archanes, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: Summer: daily 10am–10pm. Winter: Mon–Wed & Fri–Sun 11am–7:30pm

Phone: +30 2810 751 117
Internet: www.bakalikocrete.com
Email: info@bakalikocrete.com

Parasties (Heraklion)



Parasties restaurant is located near the Historical Museum of Heraklion. Its name refers to a traditional way of cooking in Crete, which involves a fire between two parallel stones. If the weather allows, you can dine al fresco in the terrace or the balcony. They serve Mediterranean and Cretan food, combining classic and special flavours to create original dishes.

Photo: Barbara Dudzinska/Shutterstock.com
Address: Chandakos 81, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: Daily 12:30pm-11:45pm
Phone: +30 2810 225 009
Internet: www.parastiescrete.gr
Email: info@parasties.gr

Terzakis (Heraklion)



Terzakis's cuisine is based on traditional recipes, cooked using modern culinary techniques by experienced professionals. On the menu you'll find Cretan delicacies with a focus on fish and seafood dishes, like fried sardines, steamed mussels and shrimps with artichokes. You can accompany your meal with a bottle of good wine or a glass of cool ouzo.

Photo: Angel Simon/Shutterstock.com
Address: Leoforos Marineli 17, Plateia Agion Dimitrios, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: Daily 11am-midnight
Phone: +30 2810 221 444

Internet: www.ouzeri-terzakis.gr
Email: info@terzakhs.gr

Krites (Heraklion)



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 and meat cooked in a wood-oven.

Photo: [annaj77/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/annaj77)
Address: Ταβέρνα ΚΡΗΤΕΣ, Gournes PEDIADOS, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: Summer: Wed-Sun 11am-11pm. Winter open only during weekends and holidays.
Phone: +30 2810 762 666
Internet: www.kritesplace.gr/en/tavern

Brillant (Heraklion)



Brillant Restaurant of Lato Boutique Hotel in Heraklion has been offering fine dining since 2007. Here, fine raw local ingredients cooked with imagination and respect towards local traditions result in delicious outcomes of Nouvelle Greek Cuisine.

The restaurant is open from noon till late at night from November to April. Then, it steps aside and passes the torch to the outdoor Herbs' Garden Restaurant to welcome the Cretan spring.

Photo: Joyce Mar/Shutterstock.com
Address: Epimenidou 15, Heraklion, Crete
Phone: +30 2810 334 959
Internet: www.lato.gr/brillant-restaurant
Email: info@brillantrestaurant.gr

Ligo Krasi, Ligo Thalassa (Heraklion)



"Ligo krasi, ligo thalassa" translates into English as "a little wine, a little sea". Indeed, the restaurant boasts a nice view over the Koules Fortress and

the Venetian harbour, serving a variety of dishes prepared with fresh fish and seafood. The menu is typically Mediterranean and the wines are local.

Photo: Nadya Chetah/Shutterstock.com

Address: Λίγο κρασί Λίγο θάλασσα, Lohagou Marineli & Platia Mitsotaki Agglon 18, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 9am-1am

Phone: +30 2810 300 501

Internet: www.ligokrasiligothalassa.gr/en

Email: info@ligokrasiligothalassa.gr

Lemonokipos (Rethymno)



Lemonokipos is situated near the centre of the medieval town of Rethymnon, in the courtyard of an old Venetian mansion. The

restaurant has a history of over a century, since it was originally opened in 1910. The name means "the lemon tree garden", as the restaurant features a lovely one. The cuisine is based on the local Cretan tradition, but with a modern twist, so you will have the opportunity to taste both old traditional recipes and modern flavours of Greek and international cuisine.

Photo: MNStudio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ethnikis Antistaseos 100, Rethymno, Crete

Opening hours: Open seasonally

Phone: +30 2831 057 087

Internet: www.lemonokipos.com

Email: info@lemonokipos.com

Alana (Rethymno)



Alana restaurant, featuring 100 seats and a spacious garden, is located in the heart of Rethymnon old town and was one of the first

taverns of the area. They serve healthy Cretan and Mediterranean cuisine, always using the best local market products. On the menu, there are different types of salads, grilled and cooked meat, fish and pasta dishes, all with reasonable prices.

Photo: photo stella/Shutterstock.com

Address: Salaminos 15, Rethymno, Crete

Opening hours: Summer: daily noon-midnight. Closed for winter

Phone: +30 2831 027 737

Internet: www.alana-restaurant.gr

Email: info@alana-restaurant.gr

Agia Fotia Taverna (Rethymno)



The tavern is located on a secluded beach in the bay of Agia Fotini, near Kerames village. Open in the 1960s, it still keeps its original style and is

beautifully located next to the sea. It serves fresh fish and local food and drinks at reasonable prices.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Agia Fotini, Kerames, Rethymno, Crete

Opening hours: Open from April through October

Phone: +30 2842 061 288

Internet: www.agiafotia.gr

Email: info@agiafotia.gr

Prima Plora (Rethymno)



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, organic local producers. They have seafood and meat dishes, pasta, risottos and casseroles recipes to suit all tastes.

Photo: Piccia Neri/Shutterstock.com

Address: Akrotiriou 4, Rethymno, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-midnight

Phone: +30 2831 056 990

Internet: www.primaplora.gr

Email: info.primaplora@gmail.com

The Well of the Turk (Chania)



The Well of the Turk, in Greek To Pigadi tou Tourkou, features three interconnected rooms painted in ochre and blue, with strong oriental

touches and a well in the middle room, as well as a beautifully carved fountain. Here you can taste the authentic flavours of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine, including specialities from Greece, Morocco, Egypt, Turkey and Lebanon. Music from those countries will accompany your meal.

Photo: vs1/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sarpaki 1, Chania, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 6pm-11:30pm

Phone: +30 2821 054 547

Internet: welloftheturk.gr

Email: welloftheturk@gmail.com

Kouzina EPE (Chania)



This modern tavern serves Greek and Mediterranean dishes at affordable prices. As a family-run business, it has a special focus on

home-cooking dishes. The menu features different types of cheeses and salads, grilled meat, pasta dishes and a variety of appetisers that include fried zucchini flowers, grilled mushrooms and spinach pie.

Photo: Fascinadora/Shutterstock.com

Address: Plateia 1821, Chania, Crete

Phone: +30 2821 042 391

Internet: www.instagram.com/kouzina_epe

Apostolis (Chania)



The Apostolis restaurant always procures the freshest fish straight from the fishing boats, which means the menu reflects the season and the

catches of the day. Some examples of dishes you might find here are Lobster pasta, fish soup, stuffed calamari, shrimps, scallops and whitebait.

Photo: juliannedev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Akti Enoseos 10, Chania, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 11am-1am

Phone: +30 2821 043 470

Internet: www.instagram.com/apostolis_restaurant

Email: apostolisrestaurant@hotmail.com

Argoulias (Lasithi)



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

It has an upper room where you can enjoy breakfast with coffee, local herb teas, fresh juices, homemade sweets and alternative sandwiches. In the lower room, there is the restaurant, which offers a menu based on the Cretan culinary tradition.

Photo: Francesco Ricciardi Exp/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jermiadon (Tzermiadon), Lassithi Plateau, Lassithi, Crete
Phone: +30 6972 234 275
Internet: www.argoulias.gr
Email: reservations@argoulias.gr

Sto Scholeio (Anidri)



The old school-house of Anidri closed in 1970 and was subsequently turned into a cafe with a terrace offering amazing views.

Here you can taste hot and cold dishes belonging to Greek cuisine, and if you fancy something sweet, you should try the traditional baklava with fig or perhaps a cheesecake.

Photo: Alexander Mogilevets/Shutterstock
Address: Anidri 1, Anidri, Crete
Phone: +30 2823 083 001
Email: anichri@otenet.gr
More Info: Listed on Google Maps as "old school house"

Pelagos (Agios Nikolaos)

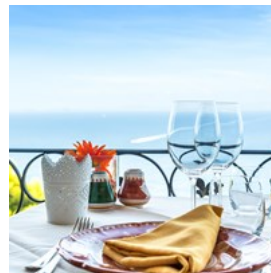


Pelagos is located in Agios Nikolaos, in a beautiful mansion of the early 20th century and is one of the most elegant dining options in the city.

You can eat in the courtyard courtyard and enjoy fresh fish, seafood and more delicacies of the Cretan cuisine.

Photo: Egor Myznik/unsplash
Address: Stratigou Koraka 10, Agios Nikolaos, Lassithi, Crete
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 5pm-11pm, Fri-Sun 1pm-11pm
Phone: +30 2841 082 019
Email: pelagos9@hotmail.com

Almyra Seaside Food & Cocktails (Agia Pelagia)

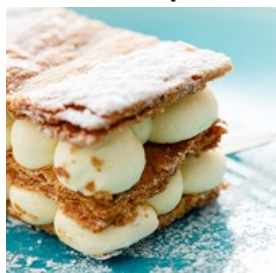


Located at the picturesque and windless cove of Agia Pelagia, Almyra Seaside Food and Cocktails is a restaurant and beach bar with a view over the endless blue of the Cretan sea.

They serve typical Mediterranean food, like seafood risotto, moussaka, and Dakos, a Cretan speciality made with dried bread, tomatoes, and cheese. During the summer, they organise parties and special events.

Photo: Marcelo Alex/Shutterstock.com
Address: Agia Pelagia, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: May-October: open all day
Phone: +30 2810 811 388
Internet: www.almyracrete.gr
Email: almyraseaside@gmail.com

7 Thalasses (Heraklion)



7 Thalasses, meaning "7 seas", is a restaurant with two locations, in Heraklion and Rethymnon, specializing in fish and seafood

dishes. Some of the specialities featured in both menus are fisherman's pasta, seafood risotto, carpaccio, steamed mussels, grilled octopus, fish soup and salmon fillet. The Heraklion location also offers sushi options for dinner. Their signature dessert is the crunchy mille-feuille with vanilla cream.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Iraklitou & Irodotou 1, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Daily noon-midnight

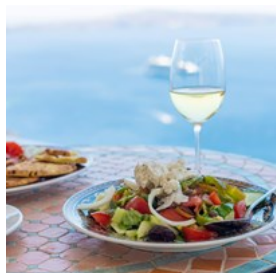
Phone: +30 2810 342 945

Internet: www.7thalasses.gr

Email: info@7thalasses.gr

More Info: Second location at Stamathioudaki 89, Rethymnon

Hiona Taverna



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.

Photo: Tatevosian Yana | Shutterstock

Address: Hiona Beach, Sitia

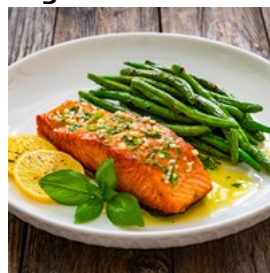
Opening hours: May through October: daily noon-midnight

Phone: +30 2843 061 228

Internet: www.hiona.gr

Email: info@hiona.gr

Migomis Piano Restaurant & Café



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.

Photo: Jacek Chabraszewski | Shutterstock

Address: Nikolaou Plastira 20, Agios Nikolaos

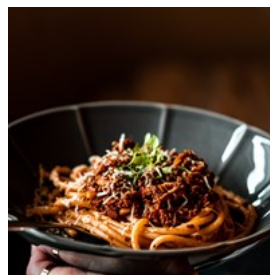
Opening hours: Early April until late October: daily noon-midnight

Phone: +30 2841 024 353

Internet: www.migomis.com

Email: info@migomis.com

Via Pastarella



Since 2014, the restaurant Via Pastarella has been serving genuine Italian and Mediterranean food in Heraklion city centre.

Their menu features many pasta dishes, pizzas, fresh ravioli and risottos.

Photo: Emanuel Ekström/Unsplash.com

Address: Kantanoleontos 2, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 9am-1am

Phone: +30 2810 280 505

Internet: www.viapastarella.gr

Email: viapastarella@viapastarella.gr

Avli



Housed in a beautiful Venetian mansion from the 16th century and featuring a spacious courtyard, Avli is a fine dining restaurant offering

modern and traditional Cretan cuisine. Their wines are from Greece and they use plenty of local and organic ingredients.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: Radamathios 17, Rethymno

Phone: +30 2831 058 250

Internet: www.avli.gr/the-avli-experience/savouring

Email: info@avli.gr

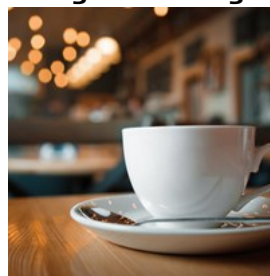
CAFES



ANDROMACHI/Shutterstock.com

The traditional Cretan Kafeniös are sadly beginning to disappear, replaced by Western-style cafés and coffee culture, but for now the tradition lives on. Remember that Greek coffee is quite strong and you need to specify your desired sweetness when ordering. The numerous modern places that you can find everywhere on the island offer, among other things, espresso, cappuccino, filter coffee, sweet treats and savoury snacks.

Livingroom Lounge Café (Rethymno)



Livingroom Lounge Café is an elegant and trendy venue in Rethymno, located on the beautiful seafront promenade. It is open all year round and

offers sweet treats accompanied by coffee and fresh juices, as well as savoury snacks including finger food, salads, burgers, pizza and cold dishes. After dark, DJs and cocktails liven up the evening.

Photo: Mindscape studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Eleftheriou Venizelou 5, Rethymno, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 9am-late

Phone: +30 2831 021 386

Internet: www.livingroom.gr

Email: livingroom@livingroom.gr

Kentrikon Cafe (Chania)



Kentrikon Cafe is located in the old town centre of Chania. It is located in a historic two-storey building and, despite the modern decor, it retains

its old charm. During summer it turns into a restaurant offering Greek food and it hosts live music nights.

Photo: Mut Hardman/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bettolo 6, Chania, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 8am-11pm

Phone: +30 2821 041 442

Internet: www.kentrikon-restaurant.gr

Email: info@kentrikoncafe.gr

Sintrivani Cafe (Chania)



Renovated in recent times, the Sintrivani Cafe is beautifully located at the Old Venetian port of Chania, with tables offering a view of the sea.

They serve a variety of drinks like juices, coffee, beer and cocktails. They also have a food menu that includes, among other things, burgers, pizza and salads, plus ice cream, waffles and other desserts.

Photo: Juice Team/Shutterstock.com

Address: Akti Koundourioti 1, Chania, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 7am-3am

Phone: +30 2821 074 274

Internet: sintrivani-cafe-restaurant.business.site

Fabrica (Hersonissos)



Situated in the picturesque village of Koutouloufari and housed in a 17th century building, Fabrica is a cafe-bar and creperie.

They offer a variety of Greek and Mediterranean dishes, as well as cocktails, beer and, of course, hearty crepes that can be served with ice cream.

Photo: Vitaliy belozerov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Alexi Minoti 6, Koutouloufari, Hersonissos, Crete

Phone: +30 2897 023 981

Internet: www.jmfabrica.gr

Email: info@jmfabrica.gr

Koukouvaya (Chania)



Situated 5 km from the city centre of Chania, Koukouvaya is worth the ride at least for the panoramic view that you can enjoy from its

terrace, which overlooks Chania bay and the old Venetian harbour. Its name means "the owl" in Greek and the decor of the interiors is inspired by these fascinating nocturnal creatures. The cafe serves snacks and salads prepared with fresh local ingredients, as well as mouth-watering homemade desserts and a variety of beverages with or without alcohol.

Photo: Santorines/Shutterstock.com

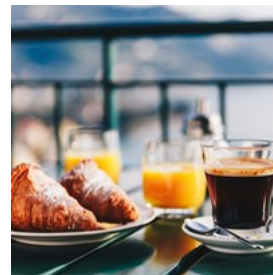
Address: Alexi Minoti 1, Venizelos Graves, Chania, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 10am-1am

Phone: +30 2821 027 449

Internet: www.koukouvaya.gr

Café du Lac (Agios Nikolaos)



Café du Lac in Agios Nikolaos city centre features a terrace with a wonderful view of the lake Voulismeni. To start the day off right, you can choose from a vast array of breakfast items like pancakes, bacon and eggs, sandwiches, bowls, pastries and more. The cafe also has light meal options and at night it turns into a bar specialising in cocktails.

Photo: Ekaterina Kondratova/Shutterstock.com

Address: 28is Oktovriou 17, Agios Nikolaos, Crete

Opening hours: Daily 8am-2am

Phone: +30 2841 026 837

Internet: www.instagram.com/dulac_cafebar

Email: dulacafebar@gmail.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



chasdesign/Shutterstock.com

The two main party towns of Crete are Malia and Hersonissos, located within easy reach from the cosmopolitan Heraklion and the quieter Agios Nikolaos. Korai Street in Heraklion is notably lined up with bars and clubs, but also Chania's Old Town and Rethymno have no shortage of places where you can spend the night dancing and drinking refreshing cocktails. If you're looking for a chill evening, just stop by one of the many friendly taverns scattered around the island, or end your lazy beach day at a beach bar.

Fagotto Jazz Bar (Chania)



Fagotto Jazz Bar is one of the oldest and most popular jazz bars in Chania. It is housed in a beautiful Venetian building of the Old Town that dates back to the 15th century. While drinking a cocktail or a beer served from the saxophone beer tap, you can enjoy jazz, swing and blues music in the background. Small scale and atmospheric live music shows also take place here quite often.

Photo: Stocksnapper/Shutterstock.com
Address: Aggelou 16, Chania, Crete
Opening hours: Daily 9pm-late
Phone: +30 2821 071 877

Internet: www.instagram.com/fagottojazzbar
Email: fagottojazzbar@gmail.com

Sinagogi (Chania)



Open during the summer season, Sinagogi is an open-air bar in the centre of Chania. The location is unique because, as the name suggests, it is located in an old synagogue. The bar specialises in cocktails and sometimes organises DJ sets and live music performances.

Photo: Volodymyr Tverdokhlib/Shutterstock.com
Address: Parodos Kondilaki, Chania, Crete
Phone: +30 2821 095 242
Internet: www.instagram.com/sinagogi
Email: sinagogi@gmail.com

The Bitters Bar (Heraklion)



The Bitters Bar is a speakeasy-style location with a decor inspired by the 1920s. The bitters referred to in its name are spirits flavoured with herbs and spices, which were once used for medical purposes. Nowadays, they are used in cocktail preparation. Here you'll find both classic cocktails such as Martini, Daiquiri and Bloody Mary, as well as house specialities. They also have wines, beers, stronger alternatives like whiskey and rum, and some non-alcoholic beverages.

Photo: VDB Photos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Idis 25, Heraklion, Crete
Phone: +30 6981 033 702

Palm Beach Club (Hersonissos)



Since 2012, Palm Beach Club is a popular day and night destination, situated just a few steps away from the beach of Hersonissos. It features two swimming pools, 3 full bars, a lounge area, a terrace, as well as a dance floor under the stars. Open during summer, it frequently hosts parties and special events.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com
Address: Machis Kritis, Hersonissos, Crete
Phone: +30 6974 638 305
Internet: www.palmbeachclub.gr/en

Zig Zag Club and Lounge (Malia)



During summer, fun is guaranteed every weekend at Zig Zag Club and Lounge, a venue for house music lovers. The club is located in the resort town of Malia and features a huge dance floor with special lighting and a central bar. Check out the website below for information about upcoming events. Parties usually start at midnight.

Photo: Maxim Blinkov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Dimokratias 101, Malia, Crete
Phone: +30 6907 323 886
Internet: www.zigzagclubmalia.com
Email: info@zigzagclub.gr

Apollo Club (Malia)



Apollo Club is an urban club right in the heart of Malia's party street. It's open every night during summer and the DJs usually play hip-hop,

grime, R&B, trap, dancehall and garage music. Check out their website to learn about the latest events.

Photo: View Apart/Shutterstock.com
Address: Dimokratias 110, Malia, Crete
Phone: +30 6948 859 581
Internet: www.apolloclubmalia.com
Email: info@apolloclubmalia.com

La Brasserie



Every week, this small, colourful bar on Korai street organises live concerts and themed nights, such as karaoke nights, Latin music evenings and LGBTQI+ parties. The full bar offers wine, beer and cocktails, while the food menu includes light snacks and some Greek specialities.

Photo: Click and Photo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Korai 5, Heraklion, Crete
Phone: +30 281 400 1418
Internet: www.instagram.com/la_brasserie_heraklion
More Info: Locals call La Brasserie "La Bras" or simply "La"

SHOPPING



Viktorii Adamchuk/Shutterstock.com

Crete offers a vast amount of local products worth buying, such as olive oil, honey, herbs and spices. In addition to typical delicacies, you'll find many natural beauty products, leather

goods, unique souvenirs and beautiful ceramics. All Cretan cities are dotted with small local shops, markets and stalls where you can find real bargains. In the capital Heraklion, the commercial area is located around the triangle formed by the Averof, 1821 and Kalokairinou streets.

Chania Leather Lane



Skrydlof Street in Chania is a narrow street lined with shops selling leather goods like bags, wallets, belts and shoes. For this reason, it is known as Chania Leather Lane or as Stivanadika, after "stivanaki", the traditional Cretan boots.

Photo: Matej Kastelic/Shutterstock.com

Address: Skrydlof 43, Chania, Crete

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-11pm, Sat & Sun 10am-11pm

Pottery Workshop (Heraklion)



At Pottery Workshop in Heraklion, you can discover local ceramic art and purchase beautiful souvenirs, from bowls and mugs to vases and jewellery. Everything on sale is handmade and painted with unique colourful motifs.

Photo: Viktoriia Adamchuk/Shutterstock.com

Address: Idomeneos 29, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Mon 11am-5pm; Tue, Thu & Fri 11am-8pm; Sat 10am-5pm; Wed closed

Phone: +30 2815 202 388

Zalo (Heraklion)



If you want something Greek to bring home, Zalo is the place to go. This small gift shop in Heraklion sells a wide range of souvenirs designed and sold by Greek creators, such as mugs, diaries, jewels, magnets, pins and bags.

Photo: MintImages/Shutterstock.com

Address: Papa Alexandrou 2, Heraklion, Crete

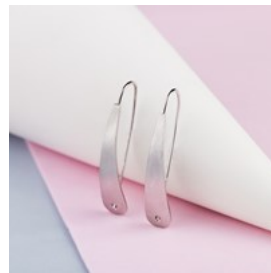
Opening hours: Mon, Wed & Sat 10am-6pm; Tue, Thu & Fri 10am-9pm; Sun closed

Phone: +30 2810 331 391

Internet: www.zalo.gr

Email: info@zalo.gr

Kosmima Gold & Silver (Heraklion)



Kosmima Gold & Silver is a jewellery store in the centre of Heraklion. They have been selling handmade jewellery since 1987 and all the items on sale are unique designer creations made of silver or gold.

Photo: TorriPhoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Papa Alexandrou 20, Heraklion, Crete

Phone: +30 2811 117 990

Olive Wood Corner (Rethymno)



The Olive Wood Corner is a gift shop in Rethymno selling handmade and traditional souvenirs like Cretan knives, musical instruments, chessboards, pottery, kitchenware, toys, trinkets and ornaments. Many of the items are made of quality olive tree wood.

Photo: Sergey Kohl/Shutterstock.com
Address: Chimaras, Rethymno, Crete
Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-11:30pm
Phone: +30 6974 923 324
Internet: www.souvenirgallery.gr

Melissa Traditional Products (Agios Nikolaos)



Melissa Traditional Products sells Cretan delicacies like olive oil, honey, herbs, spices, wine, raki, as well as natural beauty products.

Everything, of course, is prepared with quality local ingredients.

Photo: Robert Kneschke/Shutterstock.com
Address: Roussou Koundourou 18, Agios Nikolaos, Crete
Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-10:30pm
Phone: +30 2841 024 628
Email: melissa.traditionalproducts@gmail.com

WINERIES



Irina Chetverikova/Shutterstock.com

Many Cretan wine-making establishments are open to the public. You'll be able to tour the vineyards and cellars, learn more about the production process and the local wine tradition, as well as taste wines accompanied by typical Cretan appetisers.

Lyrarakis Winery



Lyrarakis Winery is a family business that has been making wine since 1966. It is located in the Peza wine-making zone, one of the most important of Crete. Their vineyard of 35 acres lies at an altitude of around 550 m.

The winery specializes in rare local varieties of wine, like the ancient Dafni and Plyto. Other varieties they produce are Vilana, Moshato White and French Sauvignon blanc. As for red varieties, the local Kotsifali, Madilari and Moshato are combined with international varieties such as Syrah, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon. To learn more, you can have a guided tour of the vineyards, cellar and vine museum, and then take part in a wine tasting.

Photo: G.PAGOMENOS/Shutterstock.com
Address: Alagni, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: April-October: Mon-Sat 11am-7pm.
November-March by appointment only.
Phone: +30 2810 741 482
Internet: www.lyrarakis.com
Email: visit@lyrarakis.gr

Boutari



Boutari is a family business that has been making wine for five generations, starting from 1879. The company runs seven wineries, one of which is located in Crete, more precisely in the Skalani area, 8 km from Heraklion and 4 km from Knossos. On the vineyard, located at an altitude of 200 m, they cultivate both red (Kotsifali, Mandilari, Syrah) and white varieties (Chardonnay, Malvasia Aromatica, Vilana and

Muscat Spina). They organise informative tours and wine tastings all year round.

Photo: sama_ja/Shutterstock.com

Address: Skalani, Archanes, Heraklion, Crete

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun closed

Phone: +30 2810 731 617

Internet: www.scalareaestate.gr

Email: crete.winery@boutari.gr

Dourakis Winery



Nominated "Greek winery of the year" by Luxury Travel Guide in 2018, Dourakis Winery is located in the fertile region of the east

foothills of the White Mountains. Its vineyards are in the area of Alikambos, at an altitude of more than 330 metres. Together with other regional wine-makers, they produce organic wines. Here you can taste red, white, rosé, and sweet wines from international varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache Rouge, as well as local varieties such as Malvazia, Kotsifali and Romeiko. Note that tours and tastings need to be pre-booked.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Apokoronou, Krionerida, Chania, Crete

Phone: +30 2825 051 761

Internet: www.dourakiswinery.gr

Email: info@dourakiswinery.gr

Manousakis Winery



The Manousakis vineyards are located at an altitude between 320 and 600 metres, in the foothills of the White Mountains. The wines

cultivated here — red, rosé and white — are organic and they belong to both local and

international varieties. Some varieties they cultivate are the red Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre and white Roussane. You can book tours of the winery and the vineyard, as well as wine tastings and entire meals at their restaurant.

Photo: G. Pagomenos/Shutterstock.com

Address: Vatolakkos, Platanias, Chania

Phone: +30 2821 078 787

Internet: www.manousakiswinery.com

Email: info@manousakiswinery.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 the public given prior notice.

Photo: [nadia_acosta](#) | Shutterstock

Address: Toplou Monastery, Siteia

Phone: +30 2843 029 630

Internet: www.ktimatoplou.gr/en

Email: m.gialitakis@biositia.gr

Douloufakis Winery



Since the 1930s, the Douloufakis family has been producing both local and international varieties of wine. Located in the Dafnes wine

region, the vineyards cover 20 hectares and are situated at an altitude of 350 metres. Farmers from the nearby area supply additional quality grapes to the winery. The most characteristic grapes produced are the Cretan Liatiko and Vidiano. Other varieties they produce here are Malvasia, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Kotsifali and Syrah.

To learn more about the varieties and the wine-making process, guided tours and wine tastings are available for booking. Scheduled tours of the vineyards also take place every day at 10 am, noon and 2 pm.

Photo: RukiMedia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Dafnes, Heraklion, Crete
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-3:30pm
Phone: +30 2810 792 017
Internet: www.douloufakis.wine

TOURIST INFORMATION



Leszek Glasner/Shutterstock.com

How to Get to Crete



You can get to Crete either by air or by boat. Crete has two international airports (Chania International Airport and Heraklion

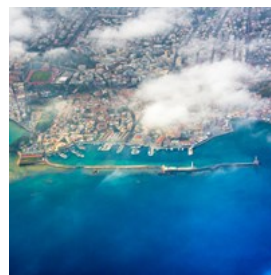
International Airport) as well as a national one at Sitia with connections to other transport hubs in Greece.

For transportation from and to the airports you can check out the website of the local public transport. Taxis are also available at the airports.

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

Photo: Brandon Hoogenboom/unsplash
Internet: www.e-ktel.com/en
Email: info@e-ktel.gr

Chania International Airport (CHQ)



Chania International Airport "Daskalogiannis" is an international airport located near Souda Bay.

It is 12 kilometres from the city of Chania and 68 kilometres from the town of Rethymnon.

Photo: Georgios Tsihliis/shutterstock
Phone: +30 2821 083 800
Internet: www.chq-airport.gr/en
More Info: The airport is named after Daskalogiannis, a Cretan rebel against Ottoman rule in the 18th century.

Heraklion International Airport (HER)



Heraklion International Airport "Nikos Kazantzakis" is the primary airport on the island of Crete and is the second busiest airport in Greece. The airport of Heraklion is only 5 kilometres from the city of Heraklion and 65 kilometres from Agios Nikolaos.

A new airport for Heraklion, located 39 kilometres to the south-east of the city at Kastelli, is under construction. It is scheduled to open by 2027. The new airport will replace the current Heraklion International Airport as the hub for central Crete.

Photo: Dan Rentea/shutterstock

Phone: +30 2810 397 129

Internet: www.iahc.gr/en

More Info: The airport is named after Heraklion native Nikos Kazantzakis, a Greek writer and philosopher.

Passport & Visa



Citizens of European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) countries do not need a visa to enter Greece and may travel with a valid ID. Many other countries, including the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Australia, and New Zealand, benefit from visa-free entry for short stays of up to 90 days within a 180-day period.

Visitors from visa-exempt countries must hold a valid passport and will need to apply for an ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) authorisation online before travelling, once it is implemented

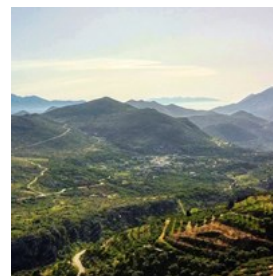
(expected from late 2026).

For those requiring a visa, such as travellers from some Middle Eastern, African or Asian nations, a Schengen visa must be obtained prior to arrival. All travellers should ensure their passport is valid for at least three months beyond their intended stay.

Photo: KKulikov/shutterstock

Internet: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-policy_en

Best Time to Visit



Crete boasts one of the best climates in Europe, with an average of 300 days of sunshine a year. Generally speaking, there is a temperate

Mediterranean climate, although during winter there is usually snow in the mountains. Winters in other parts of Crete are relatively mild, while spring, autumn and summer are sunny and warm, or even hot. The rainfall is concentrated from autumn until spring and is more frequent in the western part of the island.

Summer is, of course, peak season in Crete. The best time to visit is probably during shoulder season, namely in April, May, September and October, when the temperatures and the weather are good for beach days and sightseeing, but the touristic spots are not too crowded.

Photo: Evangelos Mpikakis/unsplash

Public Transport



In Crete, there are two main bus companies: for the centre and east of the island, you need KTEL Heraklion-Lassithi, while 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, at some kiosks and on board. The website of the companies provides all timetables and the possibility to book tickets.

Photo: kavalenkau/shutterstock

Address: Partheviou Kelaidi 33, Chania

Phone: +30 2821 093 052

Internet: www.e-ktel.com/en

Email: info@e-ktel.gr

Taxi



Crete Taxi Services +30
6970 021 970 of +30
6945 027 933
info@crete-taxi.gr
www.crete-taxi.gr/en
Crete Cab +30 6955 171

473

info@crete.cab

www.crete.cab

Cretan Taxi

+30 6946 281 620

info@cretantaxi.com

www.cretantaxi.com

Photo: Fotis Fotopoulos/unsplash

Agios Nikolaos Cruise Port



Cruise ships dock right in the centre of Agios Nikolaos. The small town with ancient history serves as a hub to the thirty or so small villages and settlements in the Lassithi region. The rural areas close to the port are experiencing rapid growth, especially in alternative forms of tourism.

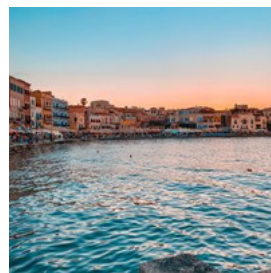
The most alluring tourist attractions include the small island Agioi Pante, the archaeological museum and local fairs. Lake Voulismeni — now a lagoon right next to the post — features a small park, traditional fishing boats, cosy cafes and even an amphitheatre.

Photo: rogov/unsplash

Internet: www.agiosnikolaoscrete.com

More Info: The name Agios Nikolaos means Saint Nicholas.

Chania Crete Cruise Port — Port of Souda



Cruise ships stop about 6 kilometres (20 minutes by bus) from Chania, in the neighbouring town called Souda. Most ships tender. You can use a hop-on

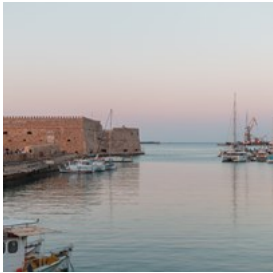
hop-off bus or a small tourist "train" to go between the port and the city centre.

The buses are right outside the terminal. Take the opportunity to explore the charming medieval town, some of the best beaches in Greece, ancient castles and the unique natural landscapes. Restaurants, free city WiFi, bars, shopping malls and traditional tavernas are at your disposal.

Photo: Manos Chainakis/unsplash

Internet: www.greeka.com/crete/chania

Heraklion Cruise Port



Cruise ships will dock at the port. The city provides convenient shuttle buses to the passenger terminal, which is only 15 minutes away from the city centre. The walk is quite nice, but you can always take a taxi, too.

Regularly scheduled ferries serve the routes to the Greek islands Ios, Paros, Mykonos, Rhodes and Santorini. There are also daily ferries to Piraeus-Athens in mainland Greece.

Heraklion offers a plethora of museums, summer art festivals, numerous historical sights, great cuisine and fun nightlife.

Photo: Clovis Wood Photography/unsplash
Internet: www.porthera.klion.gr

Post



The main post offices are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm and Saturday from 8am to 2pm. Other post-offices will generally be open from 8am to 2pm only from Monday to Friday.

Here are the main post offices of the bigger cities:

Leoforos Ethnikis Antistaseos 49, Heraklion, Kreta
+30 281 021 2963

Peridou 10, Chania, Crete
+30 2821 028 444

Moatsou 19, Rethymno, Crete
+30 2831 022 303

Photo: Egor Myznik/unsplash

Pharmacy



Normal opening hours of the pharmacies are the same as shops during week days. On Sundays 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.

Here are some pharmacies located in the main cities:

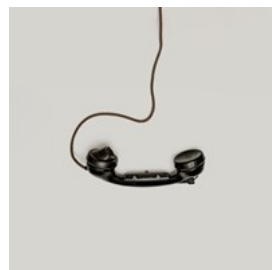
Kaniadakis Anthony pharmacy
Odos Kassanon 203, Heraklion, Crete
+30 2810 239 923

Pharmacy Mpitsaki-Verigakis
Πλατεία 1866 και, Kriari 45, Chania, Crete
+30 2821 092 447

Pharmacy Michail Papadakis
Adelianos Kamos 59, Rethymno, Crete
+30 2831 071 431

Photo: Mika Baumeister/unsplash

Telephone



Country code: +30 Area code: 2810

Photo: Alexander Andrews/unsplash

Electricity



Greece uses the Type F electrical plug with two round pins, same as in many countries in Continental Europe. The standard voltage is 230

volts, but some hotels have special plugs for 110 or 120-volt shavers.

Photo: Hasan Almasi/unsplash

Population

617,360 (2021)

Currency

Euro €1 = 100 cent

Opening hours

Shops usually open around 9am and close around 1:30pm or 2pm from Monday to Saturday. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday they're also open from around 5pm to 9pm. Always closed on Sundays and holidays.

In tourist areas and resorts they are usually open every day from 9am to 9pm.

Internet

www.visitgreece.gr/islands/crete

Newspapers

Nea Kriti: www.neakriti.gr

Patris: www.patris.gr

Crete Gazette: www.cretegazette.com

Emergency numbers

European emergency number: 112

Police: 100

Ambulance: 166

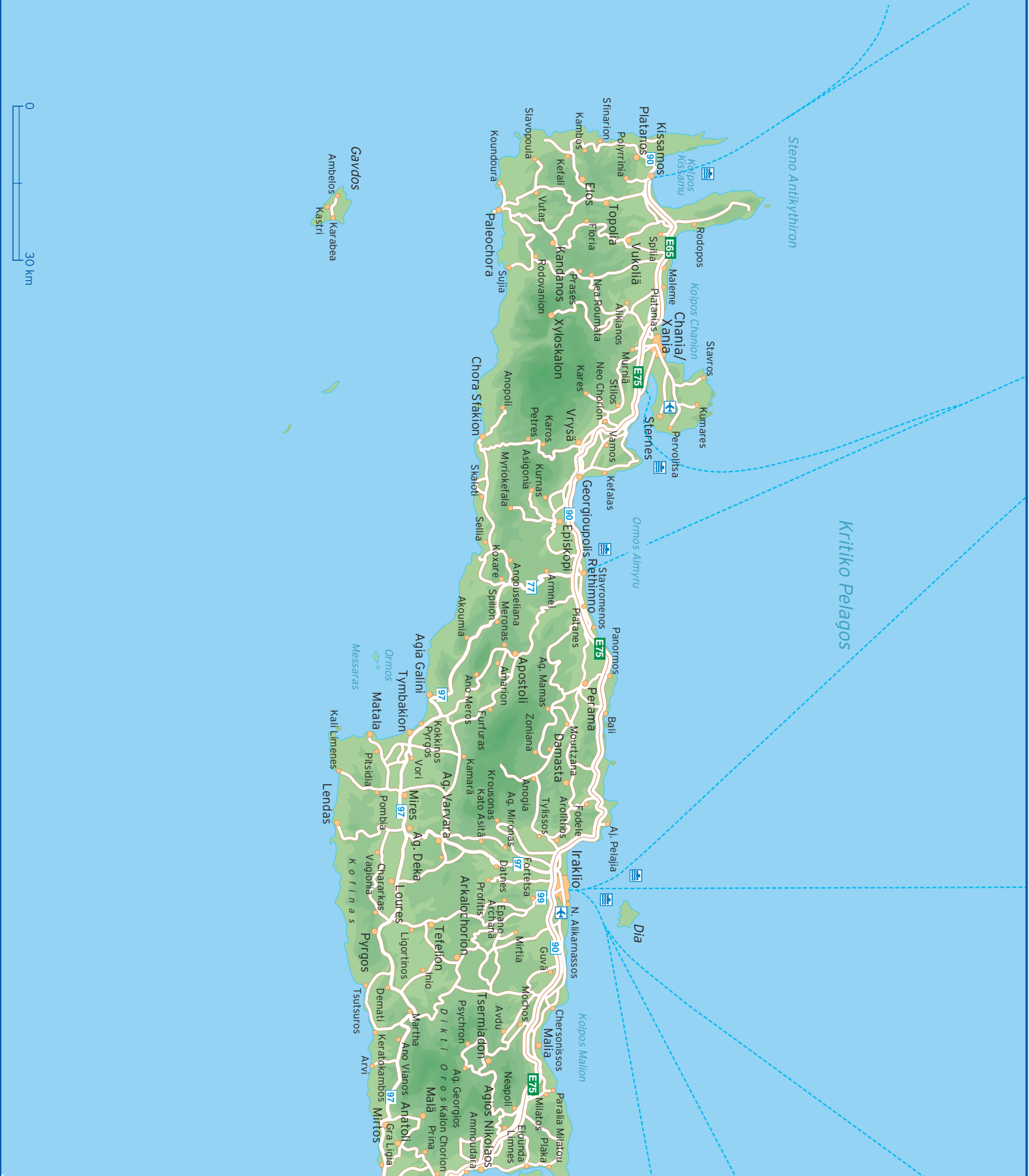
Tourist information

Tourist Information Office of Municipality of Chania

Milonogianni 53, Chania, Crete

Open Mon–Fri 8:30am–2pm

+30 2821 341666



Steno Antikythron

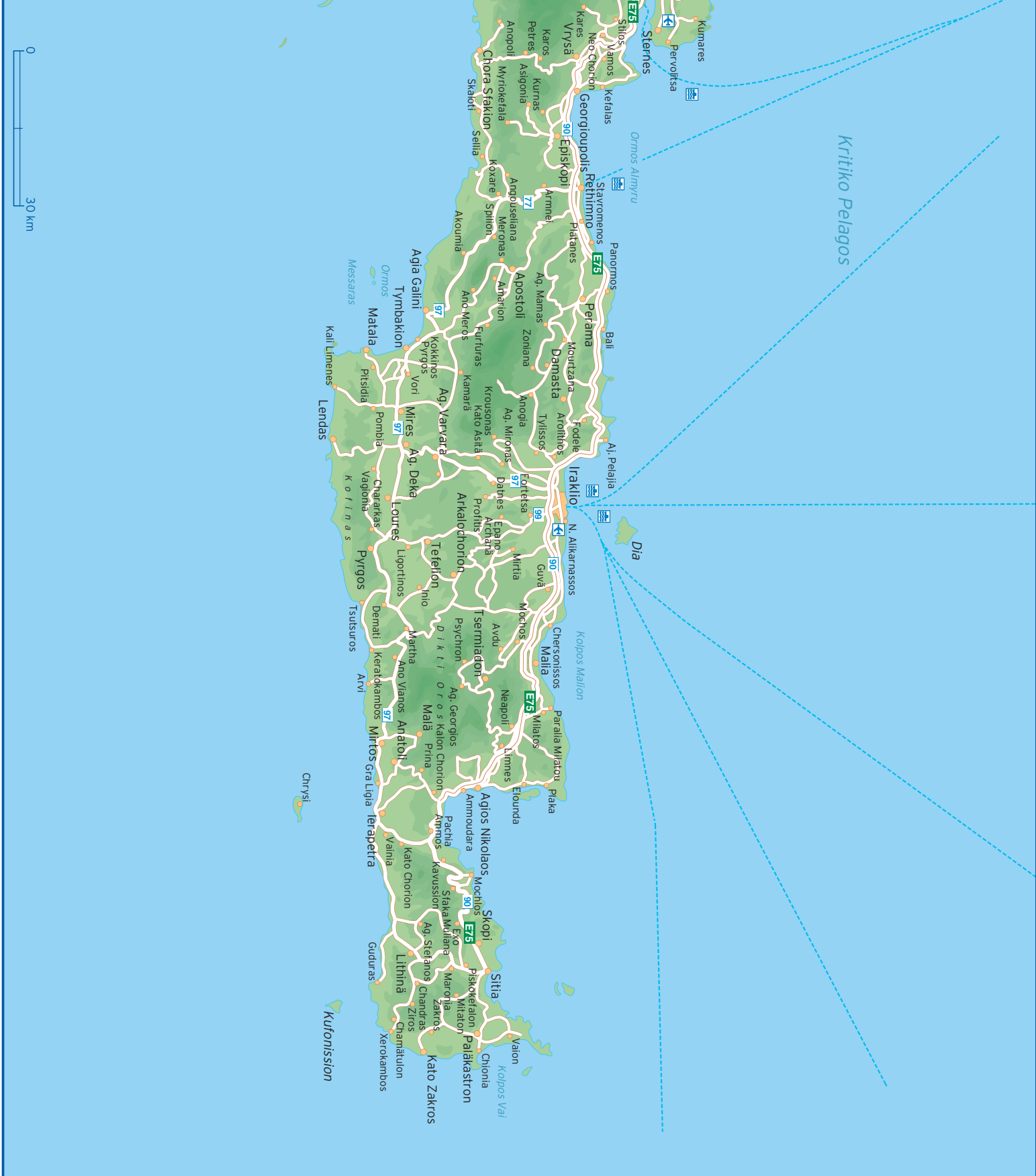
Kritiko Pelagos

Ormos Almiryu

Kolpos Mallou

Gavdos
Ambelos
Karabea
Kastri

0 30 km



Kritiko Pelagos

Ormos Almvrü

Kolpos Mallon

Kolpos Vai

Kufonission

0 30 km



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	B3	Ioustinianou	B3	Platia Agios Ekaterinis	B2
Androgeo	C2	Kagiambi	B2	Platia Agios Titos	C2
Anopolis	C3	Kalokerinou	A3 B2	Platia Arkadiou	B3
Anthemiou	D2 D3	Kalokerinou L	B1	Platia Daskalogiani	C3
Archanon	C3	Karterou	B3	Platia El Venizelou	C2
Archimidi	D3	Kastrinaki	C4 D4	Platia Eleftherias	C3
Aretoussas	C2	Kazani	B2	Platia Fereou	B3
Ariadnis	D2	Kazantzaki	B2	Platia Kiprou	C4
Arkoleondos	C2	Kidonias	B2	Platia Kolundourioti	D1
Athanassiou	C4 D4	Kikladon	A4	Platia Kornarou	B3
Athinas	D4	Knossou	C4	Platia Romanou	B3 C3
Averof	C3	Kokini	B4	Porta Bethlehem	A3
Beaufor	D2	Kokinidi	A2	Porta Kenouriad	C4
Bizaniou	B3	Kondilaki	A4	Psichari	A4
Chalzidaki	A4	Korai	C2	Renieri	C3
Chandaka	B1 B2	Koroneau	C2	Rollen	B4
Chanion	B2	Koroneou	B2	Romanou	B3
Charkoutsis	A1 A2	Kounali	A4 B4	Samoil	A2
Cheretidou	B4	Kourmoulidon	A3	Sapoutie	C2 D2
Chorgon	B2	Kritovoulidi	B3	Satha	A3
Chrissostomou	C4	Lasthenous	A2	Savathianon	A2
Daliani	C4 D4	Leoforos Demokratias	D3 D4	Sfakion	A3
Dedalou	C2	Malikouti	D2	Simiakou	A1 A2
Delimarkou	A2	Markopoulou	B3	Sitias	A2
Dendidaki	A2 B2	Markou Moussourou	B3	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	Nikolaïdi	A4	Triftitsou	C3
Geronimaki	D3 D4	Nikolaou Plastira	A3 B4 C3	Tsakiri	B2
Giamalaki	B2	Nikoussiou	B4	Tsirindanidon	A3
Giamboudi	B3	Odos 1821	B2 B3	Tsouderon	C3
Gianikou	B3 B4	Odos 1866	C2 C3	Valestra	A2
Gianitson	C3	Odos 1878	B2	Vanou	B3

Vassilogeorgi
Vikela
Vironos

A3 Vistaki
B3 Vourdoumbadon
B1 C1 Xanthoudidi

B2 Zervoudaki
A2 Zoudianou
D2

C4
A3