



Crete

As well as the magnificent beaches and warm seas, the size and physical variety of the island invites exploration. Uniquely among Greek islands, Crete's mountainous spine creates a sense of space, a life distinct from sea and sand. Head to the interior and you will find rugged peaks, a fertile countryside peppered with tiny chapels filled with frescoes, and mountain villages where life goes on much as it always has.

Offering huge interest and variety, Crete caters for all tastes and truly encapsulates the very best of Greece on one island.



North West Crete

Crete's north western shores unveil a treasure trove of diverse experiences. For a dose of historic charm, take a stroll through the narrow lanes of Chania or Rethymnon's maze-like historic old town, with architecture drawing on influences from both the east and west.

For a relaxed village life, head to Kalives. This north coast community has two lovely sandy beaches and a good selection of authentic tavernas. If you seek a touch more vibrancy, Almirida offers a scenic beach, lively cafes, and the opportunity to explore the vast Souda Bay by boat. And, then there is picturesque Panormos with its traditional vibe, harbour, beachfront and narrow streets hiding some excellent tavernas.

Inland rise the White Mountains, their slopes are carpeted with verdant forests, vibrant wildflowers and hidden gorges. Quaint villages, nestled amongst olive groves, are home to thriving communities. Here you will discover the true soul of Crete – timeless, genuine, and imbued with a warmth that transcends generations.



North East Crete

North east Crete calls for wider exploration and is particularly suited to a fly-drive holiday. Start your journey in bustling Heraklion, the modern capital of the island, where the 16th century Koules fortress guards the harbour and the Minoan Palace of Knossos beckons.

From Heraklion venture east to Elounda, an upmarket haven where pebble beaches are lapped by turquoise waters. You can visit Spinalonga island from here, a former leper colony with an intriguing history, and swim over the sunken city of Olous. Nearby, Agios Nikolaos offers a bustling harbour town.

Further east is the working town of Sitia, crowned by a Venetian fort. Untouched by mass tourism, agriculture and fishing still dominate. Relax on the fine sandy beach, savour fresh seafood at harbourside restaurants, and explore remote monasteries and iconic beaches like Vai.

Zaros shows another face of Crete. Nestled in the mountains inland from Heraklion it is a very traditional Cretan village with several fine Byzantine monasteries in the area and excellent walking terrain.



South Crete

Crete's south coast has a different feel to the north. Lapped by the waters of the Libyan Sea, there are no large towns here. The east is flatter and largely agricultural. The further west you venture the more rugged the terrain - home to gorges, remote chapels and wild goats.

The spectacular southwest coast embodies the essence of Crete's allure. Wind your way through the mountains to the sparkling Libyan sea. Paleochora, our featured village, sits nestled amidst this stunning scenery. The golden sand beach stretches for a kilometre, inviting refreshing dips in the crystal-clear waters. The village has an abundance of excellent tavernas and dolphin spotting boat trips operate. Inland offers wonderful walking – try Agia Irini gorge as an alternative to popular Samaria.

For those seeking true seclusion, Loutro awaits. This unrealistically picturesque village, with a population of just 100, is accessible only on foot or by boat. Guarded by steep mountains, some dozen waterfront restaurants serve an amazing variety of dishes.



Venture east and discover Plakias, a charming resort village nestled on a crescent bay with a huge beach. Between Plakias and the pretty fishing village of Agia Galini are a number of remote beaches and Preveli Monastery. Ierapetra is the south coast's largest town and a significant Hellenistic city.

Chania

Chania is the main town in the west and has a strong Venetian flavour, particularly around its immense harbour, lined with restaurants. Behind, a maze of narrow lanes and crumbling Venetian facades conceal more restaurants, small shops and atmospheric cafés.

Doma Hotel Chania, Crete

This most civilised hotel, full of antiques, has an old-world elegance. It was the British Consulate, and is across the road from the sea, 1 km from the town and a 15 minute walk from the harbour.

The Doma is run by the genteel sisters, Rena and Ioanna, whose family home this once was.

The 24 rooms and suites are all with A/C, WiFi and shower room. Front rooms have sea views, but we favour those to the rear which have a balcony overlooking the small

attractive garden. The hotel has three 1st floor suites at the front and a Penthouse Suite with a huge roof-terrace and views to the sea and town.

The breakfast room has wonderful views over the sea to the harbour. To the rear of the hotel there is a small 'secret' garden littered with pieces of pottery and sculpture.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
 Guide price from **£1043 per person***



Flamingos Hotel Apartments Agii Apostoli, Crete

5 kms from Chania, Agii Apostoli, is ideal for those wanting a beach holiday with access to the Venetian city. Flamingos Hotel Apartments, a few minutes' walk from three sandy beaches, has 39 apartments, in 2- or 3-storey buildings set in gardens.

The standard and superior studios are 25 sq m and twin/double bedded. All have A/C, WiFi, bathroom (hip bath and/or shower), light cooking facilities and balcony with garden or pool views. The

1-bedroom apartments (45 sq m) have an additional living room with 1 or 2 sofa beds for children. The Superior Deluxe have a modern style. There are maisonette apartments on 2 floors.

The pool has a children's section.

Tavernas, cafes, shops and bus stop are a 5 to 10 minute walk.

Board Basis: Self Catering
 Guide price from **£865 per person***

Airis Boutique Hotel Agii Apostoli, Crete

With 4 sandy beaches within a 10 minute walk - the nearest is 3 minutes - plus Chania Town being only a 15 minute bus ride away, a stay at this modern 4 star hotel offers the best of all worlds.

There are 56 rooms in several 3 floor buildings (no lift). They have a contemporary design with double or twin beds, A/C, shower room, WiFi and balcony/terrace.

The hotel has 2 pools of 50-60 sq m serviced by the pool bar for drinks and light meals. The a la carte

restaurant is open for dinner. The roof terrace is a quiet spot in which to relax and has sea views.

This is a stylish small hotel offering high standards of modern comfort, facilities and service and in an excellent location.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
 Guide price from **£1062 per person***



Kalives

Kalives has retained its relaxed village atmosphere and boasts two long sandy beaches, one to either side. Centred around a tree-shaded square, housing a couple of cafés and the handsome church, Kalives has a good choice of authentic local tavernas and small shops.

Kalives Beach Hotel Kalives, Crete

This popular hotel is the only one in Kalives village. It enjoys a lovely location, central (5 mins from the square) yet virtually on the beach, and has a small river running to one side.

The hotel's 2 buildings, separated by a small road leading to the beach, have a total of 100 rooms on the upper floors, served by a lift. All rooms are decorated in an attractive light modern style and have A/C, WiFi, shower room and balcony. There is a lounge and riverside

terrace restaurant (buffet) - live entertainment most evenings during the summer months.

Each building has a pool.

There is an indoor pool, fitness room and local charge for the spa.

The very nice rooms, views, friendly atmosphere and excellent location ensure many guests return every year.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1043 per person***



Afrodite Apartments Kalives, Crete

The Afrodite are good value, spacious apartments. They are back from the main road to Kalives, a 10-15 minute walk from the village and 160m from the sandy beach.

There are eight 1-bedroom apartments and two studios, all with A/C (local charge), WiFi, kitchenette, shower room and balcony with countryside views.

The apartments have a large separate living room. Balcony views are sea, side sea, country or pool. Some units can interconnect.

Furnishings throughout Afrodite are traditional and comfortable.

The pool measures 60 sq m and has a children's section.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from **£871 per person***

Kamares Houses Macheri, Crete

If you wish to find the true essence of Crete then a stay at the exceptional Kamares Houses is a must. Located in the traditional hamlet of Macheri, the surroundings and views are glorious, with rolling green hills leading down to the sea and the White Mountains as an imposing backdrop.

Add accommodation that combines traditional character with comfort, genuine Cretan warmth and hospitality from your hosts Kostas and Roula, and the sights and sounds of the country all around -

the houses are surrounded by flowers, trees and shrubs.

There are five 1- and 2-bedroom apartments converted from the old village houses, plus an independent 2-bedroom house, all sharing a large pool and each with shower room, kitchenette and WiFi. Below is a 2-bedroom villa with private pool.

For beaches Kalives is a 15 minute drive.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from **£1099 per person***



* Guide prices are based on 2-sharing a lead-in room type for 7 nights in May and include return flights and transfers (car hire included for Kamares Houses). Prices are subject to change and increases in airfares. Please visit our website for our latest prices and important further information on these properties, as well as more accommodation choices.

Almirida & Panormos

Life in the thriving small resort of Almirida revolves around the beach. The village has several café-bars, a bakery and a pair of well stocked mini-markets. Panormos has everything we look for – oodles of laid back charm, two sandy beaches, a photogenic harbour and, above all, a true Greek village atmosphere.

Aeolos Apartments Almirida, Crete

This well-liked accommodation in peaceful country surroundings has glorious views. It is 500m down to the village and beach. There are five 1-bedroom apartments here, each with a small twin bedroom, a spacious living room with a sofa-bed and corner kitchenette and shower room. All apartments have A/C (local charge), WiFi and a front balcony with extensive views.

The ground floor studio, open plan and double-bedded, has the same facilities.

The pool measures 80 sq m and has a children's section.

The Aeolos combines quiet rural surroundings and super views with good standards and tavernas/beach not far away.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from **£996 per person***



Almirida Beach Hotel Almirida, Crete

This popular hotel offers an excellent standard of comfort. It is just back from the beach and two minutes' walk from the seaside restaurants.

It has 66 twin/double rooms served by a lift. All rooms have A/C, WiFi, bath or shower and balcony with sea/side sea views.

There are also spacious Junior Suites and Family Rooms.

There is a restaurant, pool with children's pool and sun terrace with pool-bar.

Guests are welcome to use the facilities of the sister-hotel (Almirida Residence) next door which include a roof-top a la carte restaurant, fitness room and a mini-spa with treatment rooms (paid locally).

We have worked with the Almirida Beach for many years and see many repeat guests.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£976 per person***

Konaki Apartments Panormos, Crete

Located a three minute walk from Panormos' main square with its cafes and restaurants overlooking the central beach below, and the same to Limni beach, the setting is ideal.

Around the 8m x 5m pool and mature gardens, are 10 studios and 8 apartments of 1 or 2 bedrooms.

Studios sleep 3 in a double and single. 1-bedroom units have separate living area with two single beds. 2-bedroom units have a separate living room with single bed. All have shower room, kitchenette,

A/C in bedroom (studio) or living room (apartment), WiFi and balcony/garden terrace.

A day bar for drinks and snacks. Everything about the village, the apartments and the friendly reception epitomises what one expects from a 'Real Greece' holiday.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from **£980 per person***



Panormos & Paleochora

Panormos has everything close to hand, including some ten tavernas and a good selection of local shops in the narrow streets leading down to the harbour and beach. A winding drive through the mountains is the only way into Paleochora, where there are plenty of restaurants and cafés above the sea or in the main street.

Iliana Apartments Panormos, Crete

These modern, well located apartments are near the top of the village a 3 minute walk from the main square, where you will find cafés and restaurants. The sandy beach is to one side below.

Iliana is a mix of studios and apartments built around a courtyard pool. The open-plan studios are twin bedded, all with a kitchenette, shower room (some with bath), and balcony or patio with views to the village or over the pool. Apartments are similar, with the addition of a

separate living room with 1 or 2 sofa-beds. Most have 2 balconies.

Units have A/C, WiFi and TV, and are furnished in a contemporary style.

The freshwater pool measures 40 sq m.

Breakfast is available at a supplement.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£912 per person***



On The Rocks Hotel Paleochora, Crete

This smart hotel is indeed almost on the rocks above the sea south of Paleo's jetty, and looks east to the ruggedly beautiful coastline here.

There are 16 rooms of contemporary design. All have twin/double bed, A/C, WiFi, bath or shower and balcony with exquisite sea views.

There are a couple of double bedded Suites (25 sq m) with a separate living room with sofa bed for 1 adult or 2 small children. The penthouse suite (80 sq m) sleeps up

to 6 in 2 bedrooms - a double and a twin - plus living room with 2 sofa beds and kitchen, dishwasher and washing machine. A balcony to the front has spectacular views.

There is a lounge and café-bar.

Seafront restaurants are a minute's walk away, and the big sandy beach 5 minutes.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1085 per person***

Relax Hotel Paleochora, Crete

The family owned Relax Hotel is a very welcome addition to our hotels in Paleochora. The Triskaki family started with the construction of a few rooms in 1980. Today a second building had been added and a 19 metre swimming pool including a children's section.

The hotel offers a very wide variety of room and apartment types to suit all tastes and requirements. Furnishings are contemporary and the rooms are light and welcoming.

Breakfast is homemade and wholesome with locally sourced ingredients. There is a small gym and a small spa in the process of being added.

A very friendly, professionally run hotel in one of our favourite villages in Crete.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1130 per person***



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Paleochora & Loutro

Paleochora's main beach is of fine golden sand and stretches for nearly a kilometre – it affords superb swimming. Inland offers wonderful walking opportunities. Unrealistically pretty and quite tiny, you can only reach Loutro on foot or by boat – there are no roads and no cars! Guarded by steep mountains, some dozen waterfront restaurants serve an amazing variety of dishes.

Manos Studios Paleochora, Crete

Manos Studios are in an excellent location in Paleochora, quietly tucked away from the road yet just 50 metres from the centre of the magnificent sandy beach.

Our studios have the usual simple kitchen facilities shower room, A/C (payable locally) and balcony or terrace - most have views to the mountains which encircle the village.

Ground floor units are twin bedded and have the traditional simple pine furnishings and decor. Top floor

studios are decorated to a high modern standard throughout - reflected in the pricing

The beach is a minute's walk; tavernas, cafes and a small shop are within 2-3 minutes. The village centre with its many restaurants is an 8 minute walk.

A very convenient base!

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£938 per person***



Filoxenia Apartments Paleochora, Crete

These apartments are quietly located 50 metres from the wonderful sandy beach.

Studios, simply furnished, are on the ground floor and are double bedded with a small kitchenette area, A/C (payable locally), WiFi, shower room and balcony/terrace, some with mountain views.

Apartments have a bathroom (hip bath and shower), separate bedroom and living room with 2 sofa beds. Balconies have partial sea, mountain and village views. Beach cafes and

restaurants are nearby and the village centre and harbour are a 10 minute walk.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£958 per person***

Porto Loutro Hotel Loutro, Crete

You really could not stay any closer to the sea than this! There are two hotels here. Porto Loutro I ('on the beach') run by Alison Androulakakis and Porto Loutro II ('on the hill') run by her daughter Sophia.

Porto Loutro I, 5 metres from the sea has 18 rooms. All have A/C, WiFi, shower room and balcony with side or full sea views. A small bar and terrace is on the 1st floor.

On the ground floor are four spacious double-bedded studios. They have basic kitchenettes and

the same facilities as the rooms.

Porto Loutro II is above the bay to one side with a beautiful terrace, cafe-bar and restaurant. Its elevated position ensures breathtaking views. Rooms have the same facilities as Loutro 1.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1175 per person***



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Explore Crete Fly Drive



Using smaller family-run hotels on a bed and breakfast basis, our first fly-drive was featured in 1975 - the magic remains. Choose between a 10 or 14 night itinerary. Feel free to extend, to shorten and alter the number of nights in each place - total flexibility!

Heraklion

The Venetian port city and eastern capital, dominated by the 16th-century Koules fortress. Visit the famous Minoan civilization's Palace of Knossos nearby and Archaeological Museum. Relax and people watch in the squares and swim at nearby beaches.

Elounda

Well known small resort with pebble beaches, relaxed upmarket atmosphere and 5 star hotels. Visit Spinalonga island (ex-leper colony) and swim over the sunken city of Olous. Close to bustling Aghios Nikolaos with its pretty fishing harbour.



Sitia

A traditional port town, still little touched by tourism, topped by a Venetian fort. A good town beach and harbour of cafes and restaurants. A base for exploring northeastern Crete, its hidden beaches and rugged coastline.

sandy beach on the island's north coast. Explore the town and citadel, people watch in the many cafes and tavernas.

Ierapetra

An important city in Hellenistic times, set on the beach of Ierapetra Bay in southeastern Crete. Swim from nearby excellent, long sandy beaches and sail across to uninhabited Chrissi Island. A good touring base.

Plakias

Small resort village set on a crescent bay with a fine sandy beach on the south coast and Libyan sea. A not-too-busy resort surrounded by mountains with beachfront cafes and tavernas. Villages to visit and walks to be hiked.

Zaros

Nestled in the mountains inland from Heraklion and famous for its spring water, an attractive, unspoilt village with several fine Byzantine monasteries. Excellent walking centre (Rouvas Gorge), Votomos Lake and farm-raised trout.

Agia Galini

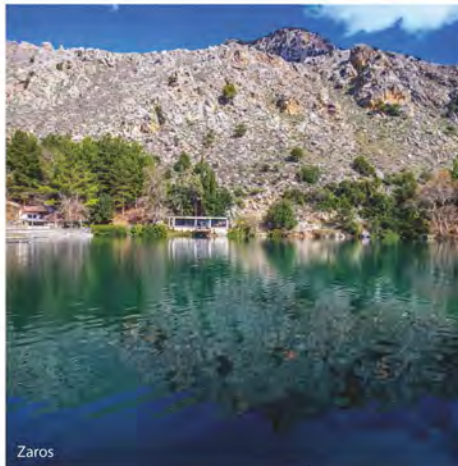
A pretty fishing village on the south east coast in the Rethymnon region, Galini still retains an authentic charm combining mountains and sea. Discover nearby beaches by car or boat and simply relax.

Rethymnon

A well preserved 16th century Venetian old town with picturesque fishing boat harbour and long

Chania

For many the most beautiful city in Greece, with its 14th century exquisite Venetian harbour, narrow streets and waterfront restaurants. Explore Crete's wild west and fabulous Balos, Falasarna and Elafonissi beaches.



Itineraries

Eastern Crete

- Heraklion (1)
- Elounda (3)
- Sitia (3)
- Ierapetra (1)
- Zaros (2)

Guide price from
£1576 per person*

Western Crete

- Rethymnon (2)
- Heraklion (1)
- Zaros (1)
- Plakias or Aghia Galini (3)
- Chania (3)

Guide price from
£1475 per person*

Full Crete

- Rethymnon (2)
- Heraklion (1)
- Elounda (2)
- Sitia (2)
- Ierapetra (1)
- Zaros (1)
- Plakias or Aghia Galini (2)
- Chania (3)

Guide price from
£1839 per person*

