

# Crete

Crete is a place apart – not just another Greek island, more like a separate country. Crete lies on the same latitude as Tunisia with the same baking hot summers; but here pleasantly tempered by breezes from the sea.



The land is infinitely varied – mountain ranges rise up to 8,000 feet, Europe's deepest gorge winds for twelve miles through rock walls at times 1,000 feet high, and countless beaches lead to a clear blue sea. Add to these high alpine meadows, well watered plains and valleys, a rich archaeology, and flora and fauna as yet largely unthreatened and you have a country worth a visit.

But the most striking aspect of this land is its people. Shaped by centuries of struggle against oppression, they are as rugged as the mountains, fiercely independent, and passionately loyal to Crete and one another. Read 'Zorba the Greek' for a marvellous evocation of the people and the place – or any other of Kazantakis' novels.

It is a good idea to hire a car and explore. You needn't go far, because the holiday trade is confined largely to the four main towns and the coast. Any working village will reward your effort – perhaps with an invitation to a celebration (there's always something to celebrate!) or just to drink raki at the coffee shop, you never know.



Seek out a Minoan palace, a mountain plateau, a Byzantine monastery. Turn southwards into the high, wild hinterland for the essence of an ancient legend-haunted land.

Quite unlike any other island Crete is for travellers as well as for tourists. It is an experience not to be missed.



Samaria Gorge

## CRETE INFORMATION

### Getting to Crete

Tuesday Day flight Gatwick, Stansted or Manchester to Chania (other regional airports may be available – please enquire). Then by coach or taxi – see resort description. For flight details see page 270.

### Multi-Centre Options

All areas can be mixed – suggest North with South coast, or Paleochora with Loutro. For multi-centre details see page 8.

### Car Hire

See page 268-9 for details.

### Representative

Based in Chania area (will visit all NW resort areas) and Paleochora.





Paleochora

# Our chosen areas on Crete

## North West Coast Chania area, Kalives & Almirida

**Transfer time 20-30 mins (Chania), 45 mins (Kalives), 1 hour (Almirida)**

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 cafés.

A half-hour drive east of Chania, neighbouring Kalives and Almirida are at the entrance to Souda Bay (the largest natural harbour in the Aegean), the White Mountains behind forming a majestic backdrop. Both enjoy fine sandy beaches and beautiful rolling countryside.

Walking in this beautiful region, called Apokoronas, is a major attraction and your Sunvil representative is happy to give advice and hand out walking maps.

**Kalives** has retained its 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 which cater for most needs.

Life in the thriving small resort of **Almirida** revolves around the beach and the dozen tavernas now here. The area has developed in recent years and the village now has several café-bars, a bakery and a pair of well stocked mini-markets. Almirida now has just the right balance between lazy days on the long curve of sandy beach - there are plenty of sunbeds and beach cafés as well as non-motorised water sports (windsurf, kayak, paddleboard, pedalo) - and a vibrant but not OTT evening atmosphere. For a change of scene why not walk up the hill to the traditional village of Plaka (20 mins.) and enjoy dinner in the square in one of the several fine local tavernas here? From both Almirida and Kalives bicycles can be hired, excursions operate (from late May), there is a bus to Chania and taxis are available.



Kalives

## North Coast Rethymnon & Panormos

**Transfer time 1-1½ hours**

Historic **Rethymnon** is the only town on the island which can rival Chania in terms of atmosphere and character. In many ways a more compact version - the old harbour is a fraction of the size of Chania's (but none the worse for that) - the Venetian/Turkish old town behind is equally maze-like and enchanting.

Rethymnon also has a sandy beach in town itself, below the palm-fringed promenade, although when this gets busy we prefer to walk the short distance beyond the harbour wall to the miles of sandy beach which lie beyond. The whole is dominated by a massive Venetian fortress above.

20 minutes drive beyond Rethymnon, the atmospheric village of **Panormos** has everything we look for - oodles of laid back charm, two good sandy beaches, a photogenic harbour (with church above and tavernas to each side) and, above all, a true Greek village atmosphere. Yet, remarkably for such a pretty place, foreign tourism here is still low-key and there is only one hotel.

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 fun trip is the 'road-train' which runs to villages in the hills. For bright lights Rethymnon can be easily reached by the frequent local bus.



Panormos



Almirida

## South West Coast Paleochora & Loutro

**Transfer time 90 minutes (Paleochora) to 2 hours (Loutro)**

Transfer time 90 minutes (Paleochora) to 2 hours (Loutro)

The spectacular south-west coast encapsulates the best of Crete - dizzy mountain scenery, a sparkling sea and some fine beaches. In fact a winding drive through the mountains is the only way in to **Paleochora** other than by sea.

There are plenty of restaurants and cafés above the sea or in the main street. In the summer evenings there is a positively cosmopolitan atmosphere, as both roads are sealed to traffic.

The main beach is of fine golden sand and stretches for nearly a kilometre - it affords superb swimming. Inland offers wonderful walking - try Agia Irini gorge as an alternative to popular Samaria.

Boats run to the foot of Samaria, to Sougia (another gorge here), remote Elafonissi island, or simply for spotting dolphins. During high summer Paleochora can be windy. In the early season, there is the bonus of countless wild flowers up in the hills.

Unrealistically pretty and quite tiny (pop. 100!), you can only reach **Loutro** on foot or by boat - there are no roads and no cars!

Guarded by steep mountains, half-a-dozen waterfront restaurants serve an amazing variety of dishes. Canoes can be rented to explore nearby sea caves and beaches, and a small boat runs to others. This is superb walking country and the hotel is happy to give further information.

Much of the time Loutro is peaceful, but it does get busy at weekends and in the high season. For a complete break in an idyllic setting, you could do no better.

Paleo and Loutro make an excellent twin centre holiday, using the ferry which runs along the south coast via Roumeli where you change boats. Book Paleo as the first centre to avoid a long wait here.



Paleochora

## Serenissima Boutique Hotel Chania Old Town

The Serenissima is a beautiful hotel - a fitting tribute to such an atmospheric town and an ideal luxury base. Located within the narrow alleys of the old Venetian town, the hotel is within a few minutes' walk of the old port.

The building is a monument in itself and has been lovingly restored. Arches from the Venetian period are prevalent throughout. The unique, fully restored Ottoman Hammam (bath) is representative of the hotel's philosophy - serenity, luxury and relaxation.

The hotel has just 7 rooms (19 sq m) and open plan suites (27-48 sq m), each with its own character. Facilities are the same in all and include luxury king-size bedding with pillow menu, room safe, AC, Wifi and high speed internet, complimentary tea-making facilities, smart TV, mini bar, shower room with luxury bathroom amenities and hairdryer. Room service is available 0730-2230.

Views are over the courtyard or of the old town. Due to the age of the building there are no balconies (there is seating in the courtyard to which the Superior double room has direct access) but the two top floor Superior Suites each have a furnished private terrace. One of these is split level, with the bedroom on a gallery above the living area.

The hotel houses an exclusive restaurant and wine bar with some excellent local and imported wines.

The Hotel: [Luxury Boutique Hotel](#)  
[Bed & Breakfast](#)  
[Air Conditioning](#)  
[Free WiFi](#)



Doma Hotel breakfast room

## Doma Hotel Chania

This most civilised hotel combines comfort with an old-world elegance and has been featured several times in 'The Good Hotel Guide'. It used to be the British Consulate, and stands across the road from the sea 1 km from the centre of town and a 10-15 minute walk from the harbour. A five minute walk brings you to a safe (albeit) narrow sandy beach.

Personally run by the genteel sisters, Rena and Ioanna whose family home this once was, the hotel is full of antiques, family heirlooms and photographs, historical prints and generally fascinating Cretan ephemera collected over many years. It has 20 rooms and 4 suites, all with air-conditioning, ceiling fan, TV, safety deposit box, hairdryer and shower/wc. Those at the front have good sea views but no balcony and are above a busy road; we favour those to the rear which have a balcony overlooking the small attractive garden.

The hotel also has three first floor suites and a very private Penthouse Suite which has a huge roof-terrace to itself and panoramic views to the sea and old town. On the third floor

and served by a lift is a beautifully decorated breakfast room with 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.

**Note:** Our rooms, unless otherwise requested, will be to the rear of the hotel with balcony and garden view.

The Hotel: [Traditional Hotel \(First Class\)](#)  
[Bed & Breakfast](#)  
[Air Conditioning](#)  
[Free WiFi](#)



Mrs Irini Valiraki and sister Ioanna Koutsoudaki

## Casa Veneta Chania Old Town

Casa Veneta is an old 3-storey Venetian house now renovated to house modern apartments just a minute's walk from Chania's harbour front.

The studios have double or twin beds, air conditioning, TV, kitchenette, shower room and a sofa-bed for a child.

The apartments are open-plan and on three levels linked by wooden stairs, with the kitchen and shower room downstairs, living area in the middle and a twin-bedded sleeping gallery above. The Family Apartments are similar but larger and have two sofa-beds on the middle level.

Unlike the studios, the apartments have a narrow balcony over the

small street, most with a side sea view.

Simply but comfortably furnished, Casa Veneta enjoys an excellent location from which to explore this historic and atmospheric town. A 15 minute walk to the west brings you to the organised sandy beach of Nea Hora, backed by a row of very authentic local fish tavernas which few visitors find.

The Hotel: Self Catering  
Studios for 2  
Apartments for 2/4  
Air Conditioning  
Free WiFi



Chania Town



## Kalives Beach Hotel Kalives

This popular hotel remains the only one in Kalives village. It enjoys a lovely location, central yet virtually on the beach, and has a small river running to one side, home to a family of friendly ducks!

The hotel has two buildings, separated by a small road leading to the beach, and 100 rooms on its upper floors, served by a lift. Rooms have been refurbished in a most attractive light modern style, all with twin or double (king size) beds, TV, fridge, tea-making facilities, air conditioning (with ceiling fan also), room-safe (€3 per day) and shower room (some have a hipbath too). Sea, river or village views are had from the balcony. Some rooms can interconnect and the hotel has family rooms for up to four.

The main building has reception, lounge and restaurant (buffet) – dine on the riverside terrace during the summer months. Half board includes your evening meal but this can be swapped for lunch if advance notice is given to reception in the morning.

The hotel has a pool to the front (c 72 sq m, depth 1m-1.6m - pool towel €1.50) and a bridge over the

river leads to Kalives' central sandy beach with free sunbeds for guests. The second building has its own larger pool (c 160 sq m, depth 0.80m-1.60m).

Other facilities include free Wifi, laptop rental (free for the first 30 mins), a fitness room and, at a local charge, sauna and hydro-massage. You can walk to the main square in 5 minutes.

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

Early Booking Offer  
Reduction applies if booked by 28/2.  
Please enquire or check online availability for a costing.

The Hotel: 4 Stars  
Half Board  
Air Conditioning  
Swimming Pool  
Free WiFi

## Afrodite Apartments Kalives

These good value and spacious apartments have the benefit of a very nice swimming pool set in the garden to the rear. They are just back from the main road which leads to Kalives, a 10-15 minute walk on the flat from the village and only a 2 minute walk (160m) from the fine western sandy beach.

They comprise eight 1-bedroom apartments and two studios, either on the upper ground or top floor and all with air-conditioning (local charge). The two studios are twin-bedded with a corner kitchenette (cooking rings, fridge), hairdryer, room-safe (local charge), shower room with wc, and balcony. There is a full sized sofa-bed.

The apartments are of a similar description with the addition of a large separate living room containing the kitchenette and a sofa-bed (an extra folding bed can also be placed here for a child). Both rooms in the apartments have balcony access, with sea, side sea, country or pool views. Some studios and apartments can combine via an inter-connecting door as a Family Unit.

Furnishings throughout Afrodite are traditional, simple and comfortable. WiFi access is free and safety deposit boxes cost 5 euros a week. There is a well stocked library of holiday reading, an iron and ironing board is available, and use of a washing machine for a nominal charge.

The swimming pool is approximately 60 sq. m. in size (depth 0.80m-2.50m). It has steps in, a children's section and is furnished with sunbeds and umbrellas.

**Air-conditioning:** Available at a local charge of €5 per day.

**Early Booking Offer**  
Up to £100 off per apartment per week (max discount £200) for bookings made by 31/1. Conditions apply - see page 267.

**The Apartments:** Self Catering Studios for 2/3 Apartments for 2/4 Air Conditioning Swimming Pool Free WiFi



Beach close to Afrodite Apartments



Mistrali beach restaurant

## Mistrali Apartments Kalives

For those who want to be central in Kalives and right beside the main beach, the Mistrali should suit.

The 2 studios are on the ground floor. This is a good thing as they are cool and have direct beach access with no steps. They are spacious and twin-bedded, all with AC, light cooking facilities (2 rings, fridge), shower room, hairdryer, a full-sized sofa bed and patio terrace.

The apartments on the upper levels are built around three sides of a courtyard. These are of a similar description with the addition of a spacious living room containing 2 sofa-beds. Ours have a balcony or patio overlooking the courtyard.

Beach towels are provided at a local charge of €10 for the duration.

The Mistrali has a popular restaurant to the front across the small beach road here. Other restaurants and cafes can be found nearby and it is a 5 minute flat walk to the centre of Kalives.

**Air-conditioning:** available at a local charge of €6 per day.

**The Apartments:** Self Catering Studio for 2 Apartments for 2 - 4 Air Conditioning Free WiFi



Kalives

## Aeolos Apartments Almirida

This well-liked accommodation has glorious views, especially from its lovely swimming pool area, and peaceful country surroundings.

A little up the hill behind Almirida, it is 500m (6-7 minutes walk) down to the village and beach. The road back up is a steady gradient - steeper for the final 40m - so unsuited to anyone with walking difficulties without car hire.

There are five 1-bedroom apartments here, modern with good quality fixtures and fittings. Interior decor is in attractive cool shades which, together with the marble floors, gives a light airy feel.

Each apartment comprises a small twin bedroom, a spacious living room containing a full sized sofa-bed and a corner kitchenette (mini-oven and rings), and a tiled shower room. All apartments have air-conditioning, free wifi, safety deposit box (€5 per week), a hairdryer, an iron and board, and a spacious front balcony with extensive views over the countryside and Almirida to the sea and the Akrotiri peninsula opposite.

There is also a ground floor studio, open plan and double-bedded with

the same facilities except for the kitchen which has cooking rings, not a mini-oven.

There is a communal washing machine (€3 per wash). The swimming pool measures a generous 80 sq. m., has steps in and a children's section and is furnished with sun loungers and umbrellas.

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

**Air-conditioning:** Available if required at a local charge of €5 per day.

### Early Booking Offer

Up to £100 off per apartment per week (max discount £200) for bookings made by 31/1. Applies to apartments only, not the studio. Conditions apply - see page 267.

### The Apartments:

Self Catering Studio for 2/3  
Apartments for 2/3  
Air Conditioning  
Swimming Pool  
Free WiFi



Almirida

## Almirida Beach Hotel Almirida

This popular hotel had a full renovation in 2014 and offers an excellent modern standard of comfort. It is just back from the main part of Almirida's beach and only a minute's walk from the seaside restaurants here.

It has 66 rooms on the upper two floors, served by a lift. All rooms are very well appointed with twin or double queen sized beds, air conditioning, TV, fridge, safety deposit box, bathroom with bath or shower, and balcony with sea or side sea views. The hotel has some disabled-adapted rooms and Family Rooms for up to 4 (with room divider).

The ground floor has a large open-plan reception, restaurant and lounge. To the front there is a good-sized swimming pool, with adjacent children's pool and a wide sun-terrace with pool-bar. Pool/beach towels are available (€1 per fresh towel) and the hotel has an extensive holiday library and a fitness room.

Guests can use the facilities at the hotel next door which include tenpin bowling, a roof-top a la carte

restaurant, and a mini-spa with treatments (all paid locally).

We have worked with the Almirida Beach since the hotel opened and see many repeat guests, always a good sign. With contemporary standards of comfort, friendly service and an excellent location, we consider the hotel offers great value, especially if you take advantage of our free meals offer.

**Half Board:** £98 adult; £49 child 2-12 per week.

**Note:** early and late season bookings (usually April and late October) may be accommodated at the 4 star Almirida Residence next door.

Book early for free Half Board Pay B&B stay Half Board for all stays if booked by 15/4. Please note: this offer is not redeemable for cash if meals not taken.

### The Hotel:

4 Stars  
Bed & Breakfast or Half Board  
Air Conditioning  
Swimming Pool  
Free WiFi



Almirida



Panormos beach



Panormos



## Iliana Apartments Panormos

These modern apartments are towards the top of the village a three minute walk from Panormos' main square, where you will find cafés and restaurants above the sea. The sandy beach is to one side below.

A mix of studios and apartments, the accommodation is built on two floors around a courtyard swimming pool.

The open-plan studios are twin-bedded, all with a kitchenette (mini-oven and/or cooking rings, fridge), shower room (some with bath), and balcony or patio with views to the village or over the pool (sea views are limited).

The apartments are similar, with the addition of a separate living room containing one or two full-sized sofa-beds. Most have two balconies, one off each room.

All units possess air conditioning and TV, and are furnished / decorated in a light contemporary style. Safety deposit boxes are available (€10 per week) and Wifi is free of charge from the reception area. A good buffet breakfast is laid out here each morning.

The swimming pool is freshwater and measures some 40 sq m.

Iliana offers comfortable modern standards, a handy location and we think represents fine value for a most comfortable stay in this small village.

**Breakfast supplement:** £40 per week.



Panormos harbour

The Apartments: Self Catering Studios for 2 Apartments for 2/4 Air Conditioning Swimming Pool Free WiFi



# Porto Loutro Hotel Loutro

Porto Loutro is one of our favourite spots in Greece. You really could not stay any closer to the sea than this!

There are two sister 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, just 5 metres from the sparkling turquoise sea, has traditional blue and white decor and comprises 18 rooms. All possess air conditioning (which can provide heating for early season), WiFi, fridge, room safe, shower room and a balcony with sea views to the front or side. There is a small bar on the first floor where you can take breakfast or enjoy a drink on the terrace above the sea.

On the ground floor are four spacious studios. They are double-bedded and possess a basic kitchenette with cooking rings and fridge, a shower room and a small living area to the front containing a sofa-bed. They share a large common sun terrace just above the beach. A fifth studio is set slightly behind.

An upgrade is planned for winter 2018 which will see new decor/furnishings, luxury bedding and new walk-in showers in all rooms.

WiFi is provided in the rooms and on the beach but it is not permitted on the terrace. Please note that the hotel will not accommodate children under 7 years.

Porto Loutro II is above the bay to one side, accessed by steps. Its elevated position ensures breathtaking views, especially from the deluxe rooms on the top floor which have large sun terraces. The rooms offer the same facilities as those in PL1 and a high standard of decor and furnishings.

PL2 has a beautiful sea-facing terrace to the front housing a cafe-bar and restaurant.

Both hotels have limited number of rooms and understandably high demand so you need to book early. There is an ATM at Chora Sfakion a short ferry hop away.

**Transfer note:** Includes 20 mins. by ferry (unescorted, tickets provided) and there will be a short wait at Chora Sfakion harbour. You will need to carry your



Porto Loutro I

baggage the short distance to the jetty, on/off the boat and to the hotel (1 minute). Loutro combines very well with Paleochora - please see twin- centre holidays note on resort intro. page.

### Walks around Loutro

This useful book is available locally in Loutro for around 7 euros.

The authors, Keith Linton and Danny Staples, describe it as 'a guide to ten thyme-scented walks on ancient limestone paths: graded from an easy evening stroll to a whole day adventure'.

The book is 44 pages and includes maps and photographs.

### The Hotel:

- 2 Star Hotel
- Bed & Breakfast rooms
- Self Catering Studios for 2/3
- Air Conditioning
- Free WiFi



Porto Loutro II



Loutro



## On The Rocks Paleochoira

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

The hotel has 16 rooms on its upper floors, all served by a exterior glass lift. Rooms have a cool contemporary design. All have free Wifi, TV, mini-bar, hairdryer, shower room and balcony with exquisite sea and coastline views.

The ground floor houses reception (safe facilities here), lounge and café-bar.

You will find an array of seafront restaurants starting just a minute's walk away, and the big sandy beach is 5 minutes. Due to the generally flat nature of Paleo and the fact that the hotel has a lift, On The Rocks would be a good choice for those with mobility problems.

The Hotel: 3 Stars  
Bed & Breakfast  
Air Conditioning  
Free WiFi



Paleochoira restaurant

## Filoxenia Apartments Paleochoira

Quietly tucked away next door to our Manos Studios, so just 50m from the widest part of Paleo's wonderful sandy beach, the Filoxenia Apartments enjoy a great location.

Studios are on the ground and first floor and are double bedded with a small kitchenette area (2 rings, fridge). They all possess A/C, room-safe, shower/wc and balcony or terrace, some with views of the mountains to the rear of the village. Furnishings and decor are typically neat and simple.

The three apartments are on the top floor and possess a A/C double bedroom and a separate living room (also A/C). They possess a half-bath with shower attachment above, and one large balcony or two smaller ones with partial sea,

mountain and village views. The living room has two sofa-beds - a double and a single - so good for a family of up to 5 at a squeeze.

From here you can be on the beach in less than a minute, and there is a choice of beach cafes and restaurants nearby. The centre of the village and the harbour side of town is a 5-8 minute walk.

**Air-conditioning:** available at a local charge of €5 per day (Studio); €10 per day 1-bedroom (which has 2 AC units).

The Apartments: Self Catering  
Studios for 2/3  
Apartments for 2/5  
Air Conditioning  
Free WiFi



Paleochoira beach

## Manos Studios Paleochora

Next door to our Filoxenia Apartments, Manos Studios have a similarly excellent location in Paleochora, being quietly tucked away from the road yet just 50 metres via footpath from the centre of the magnificent wide sandy beach here.

The studios here are twin bedded and, although typically simply furnished in pine, are very well kept, quite roomy and comfortable. All possess the usual basic 2-ring kitchen unit for light meals and snacks, tiled shower room, air conditioning, room safe and a furnished balcony or terrace - most

with very nice views to the mountains at the rear which encircle the village.

The beach is just a minute's walk; tavernas, cafes and a small shop can be found within 2-3 minutes; and the centre of the village, with its many restaurants either in the main street or by the sea, is a 5-8 minute easy stroll away.

A comfortable and wonderfully convenient base from which to make the most of village, beach and sea.

**Air-conditioning:** Available at a local charge of €5 per day.



Paleochora

### Early Booking Offer

Up to £100 off per apartment per week (max discount £200) for bookings made by 31/1. Conditions apply - see page 267.

The Studios: Self Catering  
Studios for 2/3  
Air Conditioning  
Free Wifi



Paleochora café

## Mimayia Apartments Paleochora

These apartments are centrally located in the village just a minute's walk from the main street and five minutes from the wide sandy beach. They offer simple, comfortable and spacious accommodation for couples or families of up to 4 persons.

There are six apartments in all, either on the upper ground or first floor. All possess a twin bedroom, an air conditioned living room with two full-sized sofa-beds and open-plan fitted kitchen area (2-ring mini-oven, fridge), nicely tiled shower room, safety deposit box (€10 per week) and balcony.

Furniture is of beech wood and décor light and unfussy.

Apartments are either all on one level or open-plan maisonette-style, so split-level with stairs between the living area and bedroom/sleeping area. There is free WiFi. The owner provides use of a washing machine at a local charge (€5) and an iron and ironing board for clients' use, and outside there is a paved communal courtyard with seating.

**Air-conditioning:** Available at a local charge of €6 per day.



Paleochora

### Early Booking Offer

Up to £100 off per apartment per week (max discount £200) for bookings made by 31/1. Conditions apply - see page 267.

The Apartments: Self Catering  
Apartments for 2/4  
Air Conditioning  
Free WiFi

# Walking, Painting and Insight Holidays to Western Crete

Western Crete is the perfect location for walking and painting so we are very pleased to offer these options here. There is also an Insight Week for those wishing to explore Crete's general culture and enjoy some hands-on experiences.

Led by Iakovos Triantafyllou, an engineer and walker from this part of Crete with an intimate knowledge of the area, and English artist Camille Marquand you will be in very good hands.

The painting and/or walking weekly programme includes

- Welcome dinner on the first evening
- 5 morning walks
- 4 painting workshops
- Painting exhibition and party on the last night

There are three options to choose from depending on how much walking or painting you wish to do, and if you want to mix them.

## The Walking

Five walks taking in the hills and the valleys around the town of Kissamos and the surrounding area, as well as traditional villages and quiet ancient sites. The countryside here is particularly beautiful in the spring, early summer and autumn with an abundance of wild flowers and plants. Each expedition starts at 9 am at the hotel.

### During Walking and Painting weeks (departures 21/5, 17/9)

Five mornings of leisurely paced walks of light to medium difficulty. Walks end between 12.30 and 1 pm back at the hotel. Other than the introductory 90 minute walk to Kissamos, which gives time to see the town and museum here, walks are 2½ to 4 hours.

### During Walking Only weeks (departures 24/9, 15/10)

Five longer walks of medium difficulty lasting approximately 5-6 hours, ending between 2 pm and 3 pm at the hotel.

Each walk has regular rest stops. Some walks involve travel on the local bus which is inexpensive and paid locally. Essentials to bring with you are strong walking shoes, small rucksack, swimming costume, sun glasses, sun hat, sun cream. For more details on the walks please enquire.



## The Painting

### During Walking and Painting weeks (departures 21/5, 17/9)

Four afternoons of painting workshops for beginners and more advanced artists, sketching with either the medium you have brought with you (e.g. pastels, oils or watercolour) or the medium we provide (pencils, pastels and acrylics). Each workshop starts at 17:30 and ends at 19:00. The painting sessions will take place either at the Studio or out in the landscape; if the group wishes, the sketching workshop can be combined with the walk, instead of the afternoon session, freeing up the evening and giving you the chance to paint interesting aspects of the walk. On Saturdays in the late afternoon we exhibit our paintings and have a party.

### During Painting Only weeks (departures 18/6, 03/9)

As above but with five painting days plus morning sessions in addition to afternoon or evening. The longer sessions allow the chance to venture further afield for some stunning subject matter.

Basic materials are provided, including a board, pencils, pastels and a wetbox with acrylic colours but artists are encouraged to bring their own mediums and also a collapsible stool if wished, to sit on.

### Accommodation

These holidays are based at the Cormoranos Hotel Apartments featured in our regular holiday programme. Please note there are two important variations to our description.

- These holidays are on a bed and breakfast basis, so breakfast will be served to your terrace each morning
- Air Conditioning is not included but is available at a local charge of €7 per day. This is because they take place outside the hottest times, so AC may not be required.



## Insight into Crete

(departures 11/6 and 10/9)

This one week holiday is intended to give guests a genuine insight into Cretan culture and life through a mix of activities, visits and hands-on demonstrations. The programme includes:

- Welcome dinner on the first evening
- Leisurely walking by the sea and inland
- Learning a little Greek
- Cooking some Cretan dishes in a village taverna
- Visit to an olive oil factory
- Learning about the Mediterranean Diet and Cretan herbs
- Cretan dancing
- Full day boat trip to Gramvousa Peninsula and Balos Lagoon (optional swim)
- Sketching and painting
- Tour of a local winery with tastings
- Visits to Kissamos' archaeological museum, the Botanical Gardens of Chania and local places of interest

## General (all holidays)

All activities are of course optional and take place in the morning and early evening, leaving most afternoons with free time for relaxation. There is one completely free day in the week. See our website for sample itineraries. Entrance fees and bus tickets are payable locally. These holidays may be combined with an additional week in any of our featured resorts and accommodation (all transfers included) - please ask for a costing.

**Prices:** vary according to departure date but are c. £1293 per person for Painting/Walking weeks and £1419 for Insight weeks sharing twin apartment. Single supplement is c. £125-£148. Please enquire for a firm costing. The price includes Tuesday flights from Gatwick or Stansted (Manchester and other regional flights price on request), transfers (1 hour), a welcome dinner on the first evening, 7 nights BB accommodation and activities as described. For further details and sample itineraries please see our website.

# Cormoranos Hotel Apartments

## Near Kastelli/Kissamos

The Cormoranos is located just 150m from the beach in the hamlet of Nopigia, 7 kms east of the main town of Kissamos (aka Kastelli).

The 10 apartments here comprise a living room with kitchen (3-ring mini-oven, fridge) and pull-out extra bed(s), a twin bedroom, shower room and spacious covered balcony or terrace with fine views to the surrounding countryside (some to the sea). All possess AC (included), hairdryer, room-safe and Wifi.

Although equipped for self catering, a good breakfast can be provided with some Cretan specialities and homemade treats included (local charge).

To the front the Cormoranos has lush gardens and a beautiful pool (12m x 7m, depth 0.80m-2.40m) with sun-beds on the grass. Mountain bikes can be rented.

It is a two minute walk to the long pebble beach (gently shelving and sandy in the water). Nopigia has a pair of traditional tavernas, a beach cafe (seasonal - sun-beds free for patrons) and a mini-market nearby. There is an hourly bus service to Kissamos from the top of the road.

This is a beautiful area of Crete with untouched countryside and little development, which is why the Cormoranos is also the base for our 7-night walking and painting holidays. (Note: those trips are with breakfast included but AC at an extra charge).

The Apartments: Self Catering Apartments for 2/4 Swimming Pool Air Conditioning Free WiFi



## Explore Crete Fly-Drive

The size, shape and dramatic scenery of Crete lend themselves perfectly to fly-drive holidays and ours are the most flexible you will find. We do not list any pre-planned itineraries. Rather, we list the resorts in which we can arrange short stays in comfortable BB hotels and allow you to choose your own route.

### Fly-Drive Centres & Pricing

**North Coast:** Heraklion, Chania, Rethymnon, Elounda, Mochlos, Sitia, Palekastro

**South Coast:** Paleochora, Aghia Galini, Ierapetra, Plakias

**Mountains:** Zaros

Please ask for advice should you want help with your route, or would like to know approximate driving times.

Prices vary as there are so many permutations, but a typical per person price for each of 2, including flights, car and hotels would be, depending on the season, approximately: 1 week £950-£1095; 2 weeks £1250-£1500. Please enquire for exact costing.

CRETE		Guide prices per person in £s departing during								
ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - early Jul & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (mid Jul - early Sep)				
		From		To		From		To		
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wk	
Aeolos	Studio	2 SC	696	811	773	901	773	910	829	941
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	739	900	823	1001	823	1013	882	1047
		3 SC	685	789	761	877	761	885	816	915
Afrodite	Studio	2 SC	678	777	754	863	754	870	808	900
		3 SC	644	707	715	785	715	790	767	817
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	713	846	793	940	793	951	870	1003
		3 SC	667	754	741	837	741	844	815	892
Almirida Beach	Standard Room	2 BB	770	982	1000	1398	1000	1404	1028	1432
	Family Room	2 BB	822	1086	1071	1540	1071	1548	1100	1576
		3 BB	785	1011	1013	1423	1013	1428	1039	1455
Casa Veneta	Studio	2 SC	764	943	854	1081	854	1084	880	1110
		3 SC	804	1023	878	1130	878	1134	904	1160
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	824	1064	899	1170	899	1175	925	1201
		3 SC	753	934	818	1020	818	1023	843	1048
Cormoranos	1 Bedroom	2 SC	842	1010	924	1236	1006	1323	1032	1350
		3 SC	774	906	835	1064	889	1122	914	1147
		4 SC	790	905	840	1028	881	1072	906	1097
Doma	Standard Room	2 BB	868	1184	988	1361	988	1458	1106	1576
	Suite	2 BB	1021	1489	1191	1768	1191	1922	1366	2098
	Top Floor Suite	2 BB	1382	2210	1639	2664	1639	3011	2008	3380
Filoxenia	Studio	2 SC	852	980	928	1098	956	1145	997	1186
		3 SC	892	1060	976	1228	1038	1293	1064	1318
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	860	996	937	1129	978	1172	1003	1197
		4 SC	844	964	917	1079	948	1112	972	1136
Iliana	Studio	2 SC	768	878	852	1014	879	1043	904	1068
		3 SC	796	935	879	1070	908	1100	932	1126
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	707	803	783	913	802	933	826	957
		4 SC	729	802	801	900	816	916	839	939
Kalives	Standard Sea View	2 HB	926	1294	1220	1838	1220	1847	1251	1878
	Standard Side Sea View	2 HB	908	1276	1179	1756	1179	1765	1210	1796
	Standard Village View	2 HB	846	1134	1138	1674	1138	1683	1168	1713
Manos	Studio	2 SC	720	817	796	902	796	910	850	940
		3 SC	699	772	771	852	771	858	823	886

CRETE		Guide prices per person in £s departing during								
ACCOMMODATION	PERSONS BASIS	Low Season (May - early Jul & mid Sep - Oct)				High Season (mid Jul - early Sep)				
		From		To		From		To		
		1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wks	1 Wk	2 Wk	
Mimayia	1 Bedroom	2 SC	754	884	833	977	833	987	910	1039
		3 SC	709	793	782	876	782	882	856	931
		4 SC	686	748	757	825	757	830	829	877
Mistrali	Studio	2 SC	702	849	812	1008	812	1011	836	1036
		3 SC	655	755	748	882	748	884	772	908
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	748	941	870	1126	870	1130	896	1156
		3 SC	685	817	788	960	788	963	812	988
On The Rocks	Standard Room	2 BB	840	1096	946	1299	999	1358	1026	1385
		2 BB	964	1344	1072	1507	1080	1522	1109	1550
	Suite	2 BB	1004	1412	1072	1486	1072	1492	1100	1521
Porto Louro I	Studio	2 SC	884	1172	950	1242	950	1246	976	1273
		3 SC	748	942	812	1009	812	1012	837	1037
	Standard Sea View	2 BB	884	1172	950	1242	950	1246	976	1273
Porto Louro II	Standard Room	2 BB	1004	1412	1072	1486	1072	1492	1100	1521
	Deluxe Room	2 BB	1085	1573	1154	1649	1154	1657	1183	1686
Serensissima	Standard Double	2 BB	1141	1730	1280	1948	1280	1958	1313	1990
		2 BB	1209	1866	1382	2151	1382	2163	1416	2196
	Junior Suite	2 BB	1378	2202	1590	2566	1590	2582	1627	2618
		2 BB	1514	2475	1765	2916	1765	2934	1805	2974
	Superior Terrace Suite	2 BB	1582	2612	1834	3055	1834	3074	1876	3115
		2 BB	1634	2716	1904	3194	1904	3214	1946	3256

Prices shown are indicative only and variable due to offers, changing flight prices and seasonal supplements - please call or check online for a confirmed costing (note: not all holidays can be checked online). Prices based on Gatwick flights and include transfers or car hire (see text); accommodation as described; and all airport/fuel charges & taxes known at the time of printing - for our surcharge policy see booking conditions at the back of this brochure. To add: regional flight supplements, room and board supplements (see text) - single room prices on request. Not all our accommodation is suitable for guests with reduced mobility. Please contact us to answer any questions you may have regarding our properties and to advise their suitability for people with health conditions or impairments.

**Not included: Overnight Stay Tax of €0.50 to €4 per room, apartment or villa per night payable locally - the amount varies according to the category of the accommodation (i.e. most self catering and 1-2 star hotels = €0.50, 5 star hotels = €4).**