



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 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.

Walking in Crete

A good website is www.discoveronfoot.com – particularly strong on the Apokoronas region which includes Kalives and Almirida.

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, some 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.

In recent years Loutro has become a popular destination for the Greeks and, although accommodation is still limited, can be busy, especially at weekends and in the high season. Visit off-season if you can.

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 two minute walk of the old port.

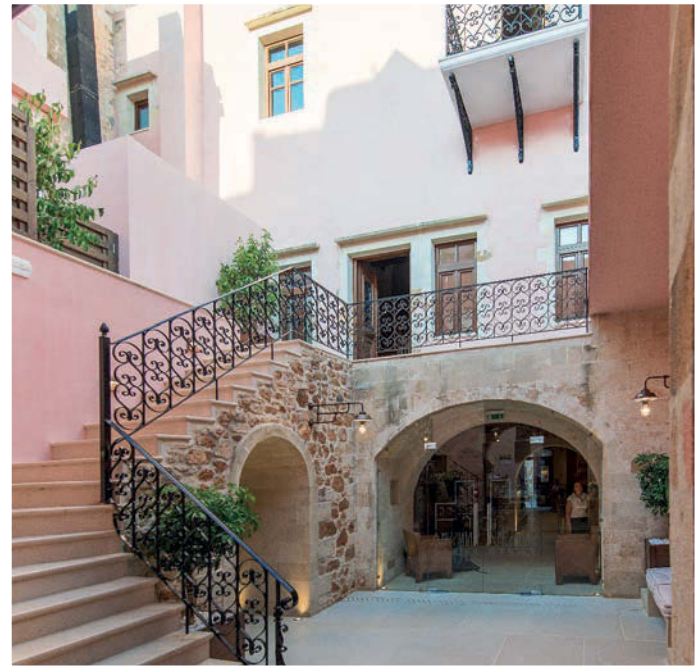
The building is a monument in itself and has been lovingly restored. Arches from the Venetian period are prevalent throughout. The fully restored Ottoman Hammam (bath), although not operational, is a unique feature.

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 during the day and evening.

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) 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: Air Conditioning
Luxury Boutique Free WiFi
Hotel
Bed & Breakfast



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 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: Air Conditioning
Traditional Hotel Free WiFi
(First Class)
Bed & Breakfast



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



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.

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.

Half board: £49 per week (note: dinner can be swapped for lunch if reception advised).

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

The Hotel: Air Conditioning
4 Stars Swimming Pool
Bed & Breakfast 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 with country view. 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.

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 and a microwave oven.

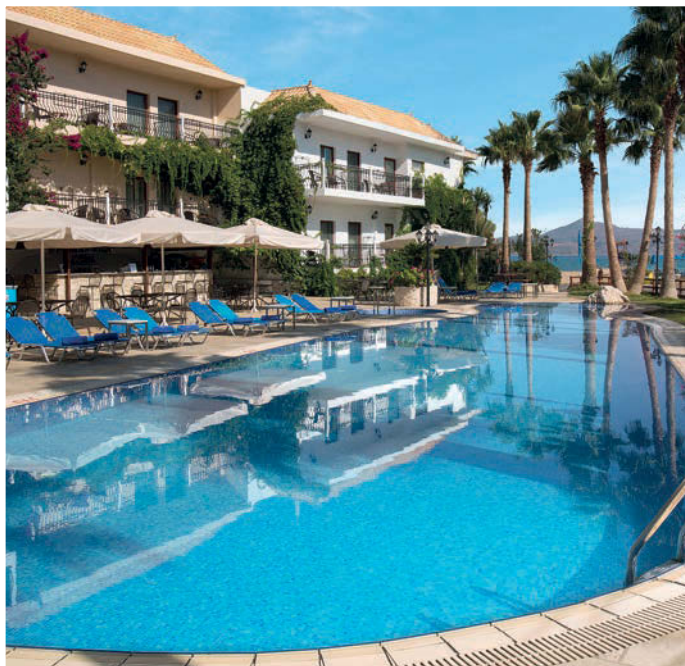
There is a communal washing machine (€3 per wash). The swimming pool measures a generous 80 sq. m., has walk-in steps and a children's section and is furnished with sun loungers and umbrellas.

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.

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

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).



Panormos beach

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: £42 (adult), £25 (child) per week.

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



Panormos harbour



Konaki Apartments Panormos

Panormos is one of our favourite seaside villages in Crete. It is intimate, relaxed and pretty with a truly welcoming Greek character.

Much the same can be said of the well appointed and run Konaki Apartments and the family - Sayomi and Manolis - that owns them.

Located a three minute walk from the main square with its cafes and restaurants overlooking the central beach below, and the same distance again to Limni beach just outside the village, the setting could not be more convenient.

The apartments are built around the 8m x 5m pool (depth 0.90m-2m) and mature hanging gardens. There are 10 studios and 8 apartments of one or two bedrooms.

The studios can sleep 3 persons in one double and one single bed. The 1-bedroom apartments have a double bed in the bedroom and two single beds in the living area. The 2-bedroom apartments have one double and one twin bedroom plus an extra bed in the living area.

All units possess a bathroom with shower, well equipped kitchenette with fridge and light cooking facilities (2 rings or 3-ring mini-oven in the 2-bedroom), air conditioned bedroom (studio) or living room (apartment), TV, safety deposit box (€10 per week), free Wifi and balcony or garden terrace with pool views.

There is a pool bar that operates during the day for drinks and snacks.

Everything about the village, the apartments and the friendly reception epitomises what one expects from a 'Real Greece' holiday.

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

Porto Loutro Hotel Loutro

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.

A recent upgrade (2018) saw 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



Loutro



Loutro



On The Rocks Paleochora

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: Air Conditioning
3 Stars Free WiFi
Bed & Breakfast



Paleochora restaurant

Filoxenia Apartments Paleochora

Away from the road and 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.

From here you can be on the beach in less than a minute, and there is a choice of beach cafes and restaurants nearby. Please note that the village primary school is nearby so you may hear some playground noise before mid-June and from mid-September onwards. 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: Apartments for 2/5
Self Catering Air Conditioning
Studios for 2/3 Free Wifi



Paleochora 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, fridge, hairdryer, 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.

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



Paleochora

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.



Paleochora café



Paleochora

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

Libyan Princess Paleochora

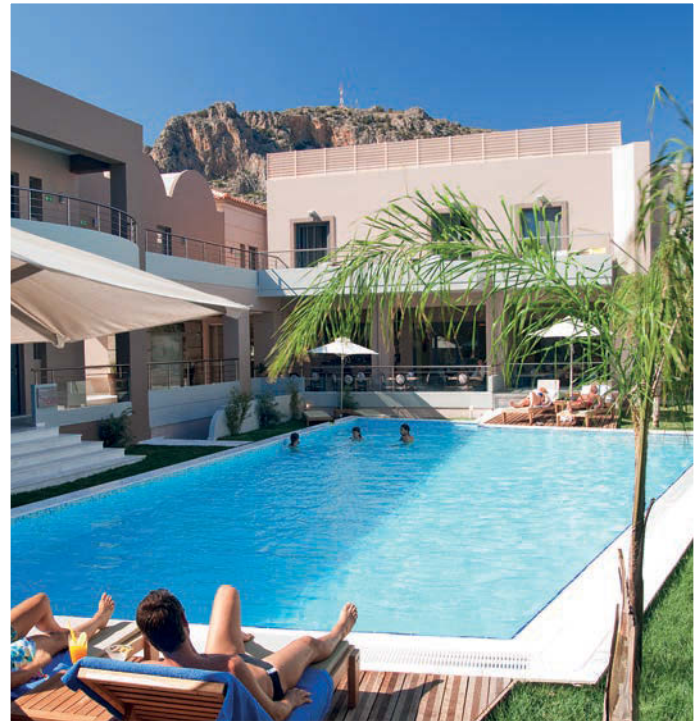
Taking its name from the Libyan Sea that laps the shores of south west Crete, Paleo's newest and highest category hotel is at the entrance to the village, a 2-3 minute walk to the pebble beach and the centre and 7 minutes from the sandy beach.

The hotel has a contemporary design and rooms have all mod cons, including a/c, mini-bar, tea/coffee-making facilities, TV, free WiFi and ADSL internet connection, safety deposit box (free), hairdryer and either a hydro-massage shower or a bath with standard shower attachment. There is one Suite for 2/4. Balcony views are over the street and village to the mountains or, at a supplement, over the pool. Other facilities include pool bar (snacks and light meals available to

8pm), room service, a fitness room, jacuzzi and sauna (free of charge for up to 3 hours use per day), massage treatments and a 120 sq m pool (depth 1.0m-1.60m, heated if necessary early and late season – pool towels can be provided).

For a hotel of just 33 rooms in a simple village environment, the Libyan Princess offers high comfort levels and good facilities. Because Paleo is on the flat and the hotel has ramps, some disabled rooms and a lift, a stay here is a good choice for those with mobility problems.

The Hotel:	4 Stars Bed & Breakfast Air Conditioning Swimming Pool Free WiFi
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Paleochora



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 26/5, 02/6, 22/9)

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 12/5, 19/5, 29/9, 06/10)

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 26/5, 02/6, 22/9)

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 16/6, 01/9)

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 09/6, 08/9)

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 (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, Istron (half board), Mochlos (room only), Sitia

South Coast: Paleochora, 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	716	831	797	925	797	934	854	991		
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	758	916	845	1020	845	1032	905	1093		
		3 SC	704	807	784	898	784	906	840	962		
Afrodite	Studio	2 SC	699	798	778	888	778	895	834	951		
		3 SC	665	728	739	809	739	814	792	867		
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	733	867	818	966	818	976	875	1034		
		3 SC	687	774	765	861	765	868	820	923		
		4 SC	664	727	739	809	739	814	792	867		
Almirida Beach	Standard Room	2 BB	816	1070	1040	1454	1040	1460	1069	1490		
	Family Room	3 BB	831	1100	1056	1486	1056	1491	1084	1519		
Casa Veneta	Studio	2 SC	810	1033	878	1105	878	1108	905	1135		
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	834	1082	902	1154	902	1158	929	1185		
Cormoranos	1 Bedroom	2 SC	864	1032	948	1179	948	1266	1057	1375		
		3 SC	796	928	859	1034	859	1092	939	1172		
Doma	Standard Room	2 BB	888	1204	1012	1385	1012	1482	1131	1601		
	Suite	2 BB	1045	1517	1219	1800	1219	1954	1395	2131		
	Top Floor Suite	2 BB	1406	2238	1667	2696	1667	3043	2037	3413		
Filoxenia	Studio	2 SC	876	1004	956	1126	984	1173	1026	1215		
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	916	1084	1004	1256	1066	1321	1093	1347		
		3 SC	884	1020	965	1157	1006	1200	1032	1226		
		4 SC	868	988	945	1107	976	1140	1001	1165		
Iliana	Studio	2 SC	808	928	898	1060	915	1079	941	1105		
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	844	1000	940	1162	976	1202	1003	1229		
		3 SC	795	901	880	1031	904	1057	929	1082		
		4 SC	770	851	850	964	868	984	893	1009		
Kalives Beach	Village View	2 BB	848	1176	1182	1740	1182	1748	1214	1779		
	Side Sea View	2 BB	868	1236	1224	1821	1224	1830	1255	1863		
	Sea View	2 BB	888	1296	1264	1902	1264	1912	1297	1945		
Konaki Apartments	Studio	2 SC	876	1064	978	1210	984	1218	1011	1245		
		3 SC	816	944	906	1062	909	1068	935	1093		
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	916	1144	1019	1291	1025	1301	1052	1328		
		3 SC	843	997	933	1116	937	1123	962	1149		
		4 SC	806	923	889	1029	892	1034	917	1059		
	2 Bedroom	3 SC	870	1051	964	1171	964	1178	990	1204		
		4 SC	826	964	910	1070	912	1075	938	1100		
	5 SC	800	911	880	1009	882	1013	907	1038			

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
Libyan Princess	Standard Room	2 BB	RQ		RQ		RQ		RQ	
	Standard Pool View	2 BB	RQ		RQ		RQ		RQ	
	Junior Suite	2 BB	RQ		RQ		RQ		RQ	
Manos	Studio	2 SC	744	841	824	930	824	938	879	993
		3 SC	723	796	799	880	799	886	852	940
Mimayia	1 Bedroom	2 SC	824	997	933	1149	933	1194	1067	1369
		3 SC	764	877	858	1000	858	1030	964	1163
		4 SC	734	816	821	925	821	947	912	1059
Mistrali	Studio	2 SC	722	869	836	1032	836	1035	861	1061
		3 SC	675	775	772	906	772	908	797	933
	1 Bedroom	2 SC	768	961	894	1150	894	1154	921	1181
		3 SC	705	837	812	984	812	987	837	1013
		4 SC	674	774	770	901	770	903	795	928
On The Rocks	Standard Room	2 BB	864	1120	974	1327	1027	1386	1055	1414
	Suite	2 BB	988	1368	1100	1535	1108	1550	1138	1579
		3 BB	891	1173	988	1307	993	1317	1021	1345
Porto Loutro I	Studio	2 SC	1024	1332	1094	1406	1094	1412	1122	1439
		3 SC	924	1132	992	1203	992	1206	1019	1232
	Standard Sea View	2 BB	1024	1332	1094	1406	1094	1412	1122	1439
Porto Loutro II	Standard Room	2 BB	1124	1532	1196	1610	1196	1616	1225	1646
	Deluxe Room	2 BB	1205	1693	1278	1773	1278	1781	1308	1811
Serenissima	Standard Double	2 BB	1161	1750	1304	1972	1304	1982	1338	2015
	Superior Double	2 BB	1229	1886	1406	2175	1406	2187	1441	2221
	Junior Suite	2 BB	1398	2222	1614	2590	1614	2606	1652	2643
	Superior Suite	2 BB	1534	2495	1789	2940	1789	2958	1830	2999
	Superior Terrace Suite	2 BB	1602	2632	1858	3079	1858	3098	1901	3140
	Superior Split Level Suite	2 BB	1654	2736	1928	3218	1928	3238	1971	3281

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).