

**WSEAS – NAUN CONFERENCE GUIDE**

**Conference Location:**

**Minoa Palace Resort & Spa Hotel**

**Address:** Platanias, Chania, Crete, Greece, 73014

**Tel:** +30 28210 36500, Fax: +30 28210 36555

**URL:** <http://www.minoapalace.gr/>



## How to get to Greece, Crete (Chania)

### Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos"

**Code:** (ATH)

**Address:** Attiki Odos (Αττική Οδός), Spata-Artemida, 190 04, Greece

**Phone:** +30 21 0353 0000

**E-mail:** [airport\\_info@aia.gr](mailto:airport_info@aia.gr)

**Website:** [www.aia.gr](http://www.aia.gr)

### Chania International Airport

**Code:** CHQ

**Address:** Chania 731 00, Greece

**Phone:** +30 2821 083800

**Website:** <http://www.chania-airport.com/>

## By Air

The city is served by Chania International Airport (IATA code: CHQ) on the Akrotiri Peninsula a bit north-east of the city. The airport is named after Daskalogiannis, a Sfakiot hero who was skinned by the Turks in the 18th century. It is rather small with six gates. tel: +30 28210 83800

There are several flights a day from Athens to Chania, with Aegean Airlines and Olympic Airlines. From April to early November, there are many direct charter flights to Chania from the UK, Germany, Scandinavia and other European countries. It has recently become a Ryanair hub connecting Chania to over 20 European and Domestic destinations.

There are frequent buses which can take you from the airport to the center of town for a few euros. The KTEL site is in Greek/ English/ German. Buses are arranged around arrivals of flights and the journey to Chania Central Bus Station takes about 20-30 min. Otherwise you can take a local taxi at approx. 18-24 euros or book an airport transfer in advance.

## By Ferry

Ferry services from Athens (Piraeus port) to Chania (Hania) anchor at the nearby port of Souda. Daily ferries, one ordinary with ANEK and one fast catamaran with Hellenic Seaways.

## Visa:

Before you start planning your travel to Greece you should visit the Ministry of foreign affairs' web page to see if you need to get a Visa.

For more details: <http://www.mfa.gr/en/visas/visas-for-foreigners-traveling-to-greece/>

- National Visas: <http://www.mfa.gr/en/visas/visa-types/national-visas.html>
- Schengen Visas: <http://www.mfa.gr/en/visas/schengen-visas/>
- Visas for Foreigners traveling to Greece: <http://www.mfa.gr/en/visas/visas-for-foreigners-traveling-to-greece/>

## Chania City

**Location:** 35°31'N 24°1'E

**Population:** 53.910

**Area:** 12.56 km<sup>2</sup> (5 sq mi)

**Chania** (Greek: Χανιά) is the second largest city of Crete and the capital of the Chania regional unit. It lies along the north coast of the island, about 70 km (43 mi) west of Rethymno and 145 km (90 mi) west of Heraklion. Chania is built over the ruins of the ancient city of Kydonia. Since the ancient times, the city of Chania has faced many conquerors and the influences of many civilizations through time, evident on the city monuments. The beautiful city of Chania managed to preserve its original colors and historical character, despite the fast-growing tourist industry. It is considered as one of the most beautiful cities of Greece and the most picturesque city of Crete. The city of Chania is also characterized by a rich cultural life. A plethora of cultural events are organized every year (exhibitions, festivals, theatrical and musical performances, ect.)



The city has an airport and the port of Souda, the largest natural port of the Mediterranean.

The Municipal Market is one of the most central spots in the city, hosted in a 1913 building. In a short distance from the center, there is the Municipal Garden and next to it, the park "Eirinis kai Filias" (meaning, the "park of peace and friendship). The Municipal Garden is one of the most beautiful in Crete, and it also includes a small zoo with animals of the Cretan flora.

The Venetian port provides pleasant promenades through picturesque streets and attracts many visitors throughout the year. There are also many bars and restaurants by the seaside for every taste. The districts of the city outside the walls still preserve their Venetian nobility. Narrow passages surrounded by elegant houses built in different historical periods offer visitors pleasant routes to discover. Many neoclassic buildings are also preserved in neighboring districts, such as in "Halepa".

**Source:** <http://www.chania.gr/en/city/chania-city/welcome-in-chania.html>

## History of Chania

The history of Chania began in the Neolithic period, when the first inhabitants of the site created a settlement on the low hill of Kastelli, now above the Venetian harbour. The hill was chosen not for its wonderful view but for its defensive properties. Any height provides timely warning of an enemy's approach and is harder to attack, especially if it has steep sides making access difficult or impossible.

### History of Kydonia, the Minoan Chania

The settlement gradually grew into the largest city in west Crete, with a harbour which, albeit rudimentary, played a major role in its prosperity, given that the economy of Minoan Crete was based on sea trade.

Ancient Cydonia or Kydonia, as Chania was called in Minoan times, developed a flourishing handicraft industry and accumulated wealth through trade.

Its inhabitants built a great palace, the Minoan palace of Kydonia. It has not yet been excavated because it lies under the centre of modern Chania.

There are many theories concerning the derivation of the city name. According to mythology, it was founded by Kydon, the son of Apollo and Akakallis, the daughter of Minos.

Clay tablets inscribed in Minoan script (Linear A and B) have been found on Kastelli Hill, believed to be the site of ancient Kydonia.

**Source:** <http://www.explorecrete.com/chania/EN-Chania-history.html>



# City Map



- 1. The Lighthouse - Ο Φάρος
  - 2. Byzantine collection - Βυζαντινή Συλλογή
  - 3. Naval museum - Ναυτικό Μουσείο
  - 4. Mosque of Kioutsoúk Hasan - Τζαμί του Κιουτσούκ Χασάν
  - 5. The Great Arsenal - Το μεγάλο Αρσενάλι
  - 6. The Shipyards - Τα Νεώρια
  - 7. The Archeological Museum - Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο
  - 8. Folklore museum - Λαογραφικό μουσείο
  - 9. The Cathedral - Μητρόπολη
  - 10. Municipal market - Δημοτική αγορά
  - 11. The wall of eastern trench - Τείχος ανατολικής τάφρου
  - 12. Stadio - Στάδιο
  - 13. Clock at municipal garden - Ρολόι Δημοτικού κήφου
  - 14. The Town Hall - Δημαρχείο
  - 15. Bus station - ΚΤΕΛ
  - 16. Olympic airways - Ολυμπιακή
  - 17. War museum - Πολεμικό μουσείο
  - 18. The Prefecture - Νομαρχία
  - 19. St. Magdalena - Αγ. Μαγδαληνή
  - 20. Technical University - Πολυτεχνική σχολή
  - 21. The house of El Venizelos - Το σπίτι του Ελ. Βενιζέλου
  - 22. Church Evagelstria - Ναός Ευαγγελιστριάς
  - 23. The Tabakaria Neighbourhood - Τοιμακαριά
  - 24. The Catholic Church - Καθολική Εκκλησία
- P Parking  
T Taxi

## Access to the Hotel

### **By Public Transportation:**

Chania is connected with the rest of Crete by regular bus lines operated the KTEL company. The coaches are modern, comfortable and air-conditioned. Fare is reasonable. Public transportation is fairly frequent and timetables quite trustworthy. Bus services along the north coast and towards the south coast are excellent, reliable, frequent and cheap.

**Tickets:** Rethimno 7.00 € (two hours)  
Hiraklio 14.00 € (three hours)

### **By Car:**

Highway E75 (A90) goes along the North coast of Crete from Heraklion to Kissamos, it goes by the southern outskirts of the town. The old road, that still has the name 90, is parallel to the new highway and is the main road through all the small resorts west of Chania.

In case you would like to rent a car during your stay in Chania you are able to visit the information spot of the Airport which will guide you and show you the Car Hire Companies.

### **By Taxi:**

- Radio Taxi Hermes call-center tel: 18300
- Chania Taxis tel: (0030)6944463470

### **Distances from Airport to Minoa Palace Resort & Spa Hotel:**

*Approximately 40-45 minutes*

#### **Private Airport Transfers**

*Approximate price from Chania Airport to the City centre*

- 30.00 € for a sedan
- 52.00 € for a minibus 7-seater

**Rent a Car:**

**Rental Center Crete**

**Website:** <http://www.rental-center-crete.com>

**Tel:** +30 2810 240 120

**Email:** [info@rental-center-crete.com](mailto:info@rental-center-crete.com)

**Justrentals.gr**

**Website:** <http://www.justrentals.gr>

**Tel:** +30 28970 23083

**Email:** [info@justrentals.gr](mailto:info@justrentals.gr)

**Rent-a-car-Chania.gr**

**Website:** <http://www.rent-a-car-kania.gr>

**Tel:** +30 6948628998

**Go Rent a Car**

**Website:** <http://www.gorentacar.gr>

**Tel:** +30 2810 300865

**Email:** [info@gorentacar.gr](mailto:info@gorentacar.gr)

**Auto-Kappa**

**Website:** <http://www.auto-kappa.gr>

**Tel:** +30 28210 68782

**Email:** [info@auto-kappa.gr](mailto:info@auto-kappa.gr)

**Crete Rental Station**

**Website:** <http://www.crete-rental-station.com>

**Tel:** +30 6940724918



## Information



### **Weather**

The city enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate, with sunny dry summers and mild rainy winters. During the period between April and October, clear-sky weather is almost an everyday feature. The atmosphere is always warm, but fierce heat waves (temperatures above 38 °C) are not very common, since the prevailing Etesian winds ("Meltemia") blow from northern directions and pleasantly moderate the conditions. Intervals of sunny days are frequent during the windy and rainy winter as well.



### **Time**

Time Greece: GMT +2



### **Banks**

Monday – Friday 07:30am – 14:00 pm



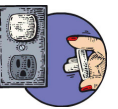
### **Post Office**

Monday – Friday 07:30am – 14:00 pm. Saturday and Sunday closed.



### **Shopping**

Mondays and Wednesdays: 09:00 am – 14:00 pm. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 09:00 am – 14:00 pm and 17:30pm – 20:30pm  
Saturday: 09:00 am – 14:30 pm. The Malls and Super Markets are open daily from 09:00am – 21:00pm. Closed on Sundays.



### **Electricity**

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Greece usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.



### **Special Needs**

Delegates and accompanying persons with disabilities are invited to advise the Congress Secretariat of any special requirements.



### **Pharmacy**

Mondays and Wednesdays: 08:30 am – 14:30 pm. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 09:00 am – 14:00 pm and 18:00pm – 21:00pm



### **Currency**

Greece is a Member-State of the European Union and uses its uniform currency – the Euro. Greece, as is the case with the other Member-States of the E.U. uses eight coins as follows: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents (lepta in Greek) and 1 and 2 Euros. The banknotes are issued in the following denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Euros. Currency exchange rates are clearly displayed in every bank that accepts currency exchange, while credit card holders may acquire money from the ATMs of the collaborating banks. Euros can also be exchanged for notes of other foreign currencies at exchange offices that are situated at the airport and certain main ports, in the larger cities, as well as at many tourist destinations. A passport is required when exchanging currencies.

## Walking Tours/Places to visit

### Chania Municipal Agora

Built in 1913 as vegetable, fish and meat market for the city of Chania, it officially opened to the public 3 days after the union of the island of Crete with Greece. The architect, K. Drandakis, built the market where the mortar of the southern Venetian walls were. This is evident by the difference of height between the north and south entrance to the building. During the Nazi occupation, most of the market place was used as a storage space for the German army. Today, although there are some shops selling local products, there are also many souvenir stores. Entrance is free.



### The Public Gardens



The Public Gardens, situated between Andrea Papandreou and Tzanakaki streets, is an attractive recreation centre for the city of Hania. It was planned and created by Reouf Pasha in 1870 on European standards. It was planted with several ever-green trees and plants, under the supervision of the Pasha himself. At the beginning of the 20th century a cafe was opened with both indoor and outdoor facilities for people to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. This cafe, renovated, is still in operation. An integral part of the Public Gardens is the outdoor cinema. On the north-east corner of the Gardens, stands the city's clock-tower, built between 1924-1927 by the engineer D. Kollaros.

### **Chania Cathedral Trimartiti** (*Chalidon Street*)

The church was built in 1860 during the Ottoman rule of the island. On the same site there was an original Byzantine church that had been converted into a soap factory after the sack of the city by the Ottoman Turks in 1645. The architectural style has influences from the Venetian style and also the 'eikones', paintings of saints in the church itself are not according to the strict Byzantine style. On the contrary, the western influence is evident with background colours and softer facial features.

### **Our Lady Catholic Church** (*Chalidon Street*)

It was built in 1879 in the site of a Capuccin monastery in existence since 1566. For a time the monks also ran a hospital.

### **Archaeological Museum of Hania** (*Chalidon Street*)

The original edifice was built in 1605 as a Franciscan Monastery of St Francis of Assisi. Before being turned into a museum it was converted into a mosque and a cinema. It now houses the Archaeological Collection of the city with findings from ancient Kydoniai (Chania) and Aptera. There is also a recent collection added by the ex-Prime Minister Konstantinos Mitsotakis who is born in Chania.

### **Splatzia Square** (*Daskalogianni Street*)

Easily reached from Daskalogianni Street behind the Agora. A huge plain tree stands in the middle of the square where you will find Cretan men drinking 'tsikoudia' a local spirit. Behind, you will find **St Nikolas' church**. Originally built for the Dominican Order it was turned into a mosque during the Ottoman occupation and now it is an Orthodox church. The minarets have recently been restored and not surprisingly, they do not follow the Ottoman architectural style but a more western Venetian influence.

### **Dikastiria Square**

This square is dominated by the neoclassical building of the Court House. It is a nice part of town to sit back and enjoy coffee. From the square, Iroon Polytechniou Street, lined with fine examples of neo classical architecture reminiscent of the time the Chania was the capital of the short lived Cretan Republic, leads to the sea and the Koum Kapi beach and coffee shop area. Dimokratias Avenue will take you back to the Agora through up market boutiques and the more exclusive shopping area of the city.

Source: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Chania>



## Gramvousa



**Gramvousa** is a small islet off the exotic beach of Balos, western Crete. On top of this islet, there is a steep castle built by the Venetians between 1579 and 1582. The view from this castle is breathtaking.

## Venetian Lighthouse



The port of Chania is one of the busiest places during the day and the most romantic spot at night. The beautiful Venetian lighthouse is ideally located at the extreme end of the pier, at the entrance of the port and is considered to be the symbol of Chania.

Initially the lighthouse was built by the Venetians in 1570 and later on it was reconstructed for the last time in 1830. It is conspicuous by its rectangular shape and it's made of stone blocks. The lighthouse is no longer operational but it is still one of the top attractions of Chania for its magnificent architecture and historical interest.

At night the lighthouse shines in the dark and it makes for a truly kaleidoscopic vignette. Visitors can walk along the Venetian walls but it is not allowed to enter its interiors. The view from the port of Chania is absolutely amazing.

## Chania Public Baths (Hammams)



The Hammams were brought to Chania by the Ottomans of Asia Minor. These Hammams or public baths constitute a very old Moslem tradition. Body hygiene was closely associated with worship and meditation and according to the Koran, only running water can purify. The Hammams played an important role in Middle-eastern Culture and served as places of social gathering, ritual cleansing, and as architectural structures, institutes etc.

The Hammams in Chania were built by the Turkish Empire after they took over the city in 1645. One Hammam is located on the corner of **Zambeliou and Douka streets in the Old Town**. It initially had six large drumless domes to which another floor was later added. The glass, bell shaped “eyes” that decorate the dome are the only source of light besides the three arched windows on the North West side.

It is relatively simple and its structure is characteristic of traditional Turkish Hammams.

Today, the Hammam is the property of the Ministry of Culture. Another Hammam is situated on **Halithon Street**, which was built on the site of the Venetian Monastery of St Clara, near the place where a Roman Bath used to be, and is decorated with beautiful mosaics. It is a multiple-domed structure with an arcade on the perimeter, which was eventually demolished in 1941.

## The famous Gorge of Samaria

The Gorge of Samaria lies on the southern side of Chania prefecture and is a wonderful place for hikers. Visitors from all over the world attempt trekking at this gorge. In 1962, Samaria Gorge was declared a National Park for the survival of the endangered species kri kri, the rare Cretan wild goat that lives only in Samaria. Apart from kri kri, many other endemic and rare species of flora and fauna live in this gorge.

A small village used to be there, Samaria village, but it was abandoned by all its inhabitants in 1962, to make the gorge a national park. The village and the gorge were named after the church of Santa Maria that is found inside the gorge.

The length of this gorge is 16 km and it is said to be the longest gorge in Europe. It has been created by a river that runs between the enormous White Mountains and Mount Volakias. The gorge begins below the northern side of Omalos Plateau and ends in the shores of the Lybian Sea, at the village of Agia Roumeli.



## The Fortress of Frangokastello



Frangokastello is an important historical monument in the region of Chania, Crete. This castle was built between the period 1371-1374 BC. The construction work started by the Venetians, who had conquered Crete that time. In fact, this castle was set up to maintain a military base for the Venetian army. Apart from protecting the area and the properties of the noblemen from pirates and enemy attacks, this castle would also be used as a base for attacks in the inland of Crete, who was still resisting to the Venetian conquerors.

At first, the castle was named Castle of Saint Nikitas to honor a close church, but later it was named Frangokastello by the locals, which means the "Castle of the Franks" (Venetians). During its construction, men from Sfakia used to evade in the area and destroy all the recent constructions, so that the Venetians will not have an invasion base to move towards the inland. However, one night, the soldiers from Skakia led by Patsos brothers were trapped and hanged a bit later.

## The beautiful Lake Kournas



Lake Kournas is the only lake with fresh water in Crete. It is situated in a magnificent location, just 4km away from Georgioupolis Chania. It is a rather small lake, known from antiquity with the name Korisia. Lake Kournas is a remarkable destination for an afternoon walk or a day trip. The relaxing and beautiful landscape is ideal for nature lovers.

In Lake Kournas, there are two fountains with only one of them being visible, especially during the end of the summer: the Eye, as the locals call the fountain. This natural lake was created by the holdback of the underwater that comes from the White Mountains, the resistant rocks and the lie of the natural cavity. Basically the lake is a huge hollow which is fed from the southeast side with water due to its soil.

### **Venizelos Family Tomb**



This area also known as Profitis Ilias is situated on a hill above the city. Access is easy by buses leaving from outside the National Bank of Greece opposite the Agora. **Eleftherios Venizelos** was a politician that marked Greek history of the 20th century and was born in Chania. The view, especially in the late afternoon is breathtaking. There are coffee shops at the level of and below the tombs. Don't forget your camera

### **The Grand Arsenal Port**



The buildings in this part of the port were basically store rooms for the Venetian fleet. In fall, the Venetians would pull their ships out of the sea, repair and store them until spring. The building itself, built in 1585 was also used as a school, a theatre, a hospital, the city Town house. Currently, it is being used as the Center of Mediterranean Architecture.



## The Minoan Ship



Last Arsenali at the far end of the port. In 2003, a replica of the merchant ships that the Minoans used to control the trade in the eastern Mediterranean was built in Chania. It's maiden voyage was to Athens for the opening ceremony of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. It's worth having a look.

Source: <http://www.greeka.com/crete/chania/chania-excursions.htm>  
<http://wikitravel.org/en/Chania>

## Top Villages of Chania

### **Paleochora:**

Paleochora is a lovely summer resort located 80 km south west of Chania town. The picturesque village lies between two coves where is also found a lovely port from where boats depart from Sougia and other villages of Crete.

The village consists of two wonderful beaches, one with soft sand and one with nice pebbles. Both are gifted with refreshing crystalline waters which are always protected from the strong winds making an ideal place to relax during the summer holidays.

Paleochora is a popular summer destination for tourists and is extremely busy during the high season but still there are many quiet places for those who care for some relaxation and tranquility. The village offers many types of accommodations, plenty of restaurants and taverns, shops and bars that remain open until the late hours.

The Venetian fortress of Paleochora is called "Selino" and stands at the top of the settlement. It was built on 1820. Among the things that captivate every visitor in Paleochora are the beautiful whitewashed little houses dressed in colourful flowers and picturesque alleys. Regular buses connect Chania Town with the village of Paleochora.

Sfakia The unspoilt and historical village of Sfakia is built on the hill slopes, overlooking the natural bay. It is situated around the White Mountains range and the famous Samaria Gorge. Sfakia lies 72 km south east of Chania town. Most of the inhabitants here are involved in fishing and goat rearing producing delightful cheeses such as anthotiri or mizithra.

The main town of **Sfakia** constitutes an excellent place to start your exploration of the southern coast of Crete. The village is very traditional and authentic and its calm atmosphere is only interrupted during the afternoon by the arrivals of hikers coming from the Samaria Gorge with small boats.

The village is known for its local cuisine and a few excellent restaurants can be found on the seafront and inside Chora. The picturesque port of Sfakia is surrounded by many cafes and fish taverns and nearby is the main beach of Sfakia which is an excellent choice for swimming. This part of Crete is linked regularly with the town of Chania. From Sfakia you can visit the remarkable cliffs of Imbros and Samaria gorge.

**Kissamos:** Kissamos is a beautiful town lying 41 km west of Chania town, in one of the most fertile valleys of Crete. Today it counts on 3000 inhabitants most of whom are engaged in agriculture and trade. It is famous for the production of wine.

Kastelli Kissamou (Kissamos) is surrounded by a beautiful landscape with a gorgeous and calm beach that consists of golden soft sand and nice pebbles. The town keeps its authentic character and is built on the ancient city of Kissamos which used to be the commercial centre of western Crete.

Due to this fact, Kissamos was always well-protected by the strong fortification walls that Venetians built. Today remains of the castle can still be seen in Kissamos. The Venetian fortress called Castello is actually the landmark of Kissamos and is built at the top of the settlement. Churches, monasteries and beautiful mansions are also part of the ancient Kissamos which are worth admiring in the town.

Various accommodations of all categories can be found in Kissamos as well as camping sites, excellent taverns and traditional cafes. Regular local buses connect Kissamos to Chania town while ferries depart from the port of Kissamos to Gythion, the Peloponnese, and the island of Kythira.

From Kastelli Kissamou one has access to the interesting archaeological sites of Polyrenia and Falassarna, the impressive gorges of Topolia, the isles Gramvousa, also called Pirate Isles, the idyllic lagoon of Balos, the wonderful sandy beaches and their crystalline waters, and the numerous enchanting medieval villages.

**Maleme**, Old national road Chania Kissamos (15 km after Chania town). See the German Cemetery on Kaukales hill at Maleme. It is a haunting experience as on the graves there are names of 16 year old German soldiers. This was the site of the first airborne attack in the history of mankind. The Battle of Crete is thought of as one of the most glorious moments in Greek history as it took the Nazis the same amount of time to sweep through Holland, Belgium and central and northern France as it took them to conquer Crete. Don't be surprised if you see Kyria Eleni, an old woman dressed in black lighting candles for the dead soldiers. If asked why, she will tell you that she hopes that some German daughter will be doing the same for her father who was exterminated in a concentration camp. You can also see the historical airport battlefield and for nature lovers the beach of Gerani where the sea turtle *Caretta Caretta* is preserved.

## Dining in Chania

### Chania the ultimate food lovers' paradise

Set out on an **exhilarating journey of gastronomic imagination** to Chania or Hania, one of the most desired Cretan destinations!



A **Bouyatsa** with cream, a delicious cream pie dusted with powdered sugar based on an old Asia Minor recipe, is the sweetest way to start your day! Continue your culinary quest with a visit to the “**temple of gastronomy**”, the Chania Municipal Market.

Here, in a deep mystic atmosphere, wander around various food stores, and taste the divine gifts of Cretan Nature!

**Search for all the ingredients** of the world renowned Cretan diet: aromatic herbs and fresh edible weeds, virgin olive oil, pulses and vegetables, cereals, fish, meat, dairy products, honey and fennel.

**Taste culinary delights** like fresh handmade wedding cookies, dry bread wreaths, yравиéra cheese (full fat sheep's cheese with appellation of controlled origin), sweet smelling anthótyros from Sfakiá (fresh, soft, white cheese made of either sheep's or goat's milk), fresh staka butter (the cream of the butter) for the Cretan wedding rice (rice cooked in meat broth), roasted goat or sea food delights – special ingredients blended in delicious sea-urchin salads or divine fish soups!

Indulge your palate with **traditional Cretan specialties**: eggs with stàka, cretan kalitsoùnia (sweet mini cheese pies), lamb served with spiny chicory, dácos (the traditional hard Cretan bread accompanied with tomato, mizithra cheese and plenty of virgin Cretan oil), snails boubouristi (popping fried snails), haniotiko boureki (patty from Chania, a vegetable specialty) and kserotigana (honey dipped spiral pastries). Gourmet specialists will be delighted by the wide range of choices that can easily satisfy all tastes and desires!

Accompany your dinner with a glass of deep-red **Cretan wine**, the divine marouvás or drink after your meal an ice-cold tsikoudia (or raki), traditional Cretan spirits distilled from pomace, with a delicate aroma of ripe grapes. The treat is always on the house, a sign of traditional Cretan hospitality!

The non-alcohol lovers can have a hot soothing drink instead, the herb dittany, widely known in Crete as “**diktamo**”. The Cretans prefer to call it “eróntas” (meaning “love”). They definitely feel true love for it. Otherwise, we couldn't explain the reason why they climb up the steep slopes of Mt. Food

Cretan culinary glossary: Chochlius: snails that are cooked in a lot of ways, either boiled in salt water with onions and tomato sauce and are titbits for raki, or fried in olive oil, with vinegar and rosemary.

- Kakkavia: is the tastiest fish soup that you have ever tried! It includes fish (every fish you can imagine), a lot of lemon, olive oil, potatoes and onions for unique perfume.
- Ahinosalata (echinus salad): even if it is an expensive titbit in order to accompany a glass of raki, it is worth trying.
- Dakos: it is a snack made by barley bread, soaked in water and vinegar, which is accompanied with small pieces of tomato, garlic and onion, and feta cheese.
- Apaki: smoked meat, usually lamb.
- Ofto: meat cooked in earthen utensil and fried non pilled potatoes. Staka: dairy product, a kind of butter, custard from fresh milk that is used in many dishes.
- Gamopilafo: it is the most famous Cretan dish, a kind of risotto, cooked with sauce from meat and staka.
- Cheeses: mizithra, anthotyro, Cretan graviera.
- Kaltsounia: sweet snack with Cretan honey of exceptional quality.
- Bougatsa: special sweet. It is a kind of pie, such as the cheese pie, that includes custard cheese and sugar.

**Source:** [http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/gastronomy/chania\\_the\\_ultimate\\_food\\_lovers\\_paradise](http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/gastronomy/chania_the_ultimate_food_lovers_paradise)  
<http://www.fantasticgreece.com/en/DestinationGuides/en/Chania-en/chania-dining-guide-en.asp>

## Restaurants in Chania

### *O Platanos tis Splatzias*



In the picturesque square of Splantzia in the Old Town of Chania you will find the restaurant - mezedopoleio - ouzeri "Platanos of Splantzia". The friendly and spacious environment, the excellent service and the quality food, satisfy the most demanding customers. Your visit to "Platano tis Splantzias" will be an enjoyable experience. Every Friday and Saturday night live music completes the picture creating a convivial and friendly atmosphere.

**Area:** Mezedopoleio, Ouzeri, Rakadiko

**Address:** Square Splantzias(Daskalogianni str.), Old Town

**Phone:** +30 28210 59830

**Opening Hours:** Daily 09:00 to 03:00

### *The Well of Turk*



The Well of the Turk restaurant and bar offers a delicious selection of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern specialties, to be enjoyed to the sounds of a great collection of Middle Eastern music.

Set in a historical building in the center of the Turkish district of Splantzia, with its labyrinth of narrow streets and two remaining minarets, one will find The Well of the Turk restaurant at Rouga Square, across the unique 13th century underground church of Agia Irene.

**Address:** Kallinikou Sarpaki 1-3, Splantzia

**Phone:** +30 28210 54547

### ***Zafferano Restaurant***

Ideally located on an elevated level, the spacious dining terrace is beautifully decorated offering both style and comfort. It's a place where you can easily relax and enjoy excellent food dining 'al fresco' in harmony with the lovely tempo of summer music, whilst watching the sun setting over the olive groves and the moonlight as it hits the evening ocean.

Our "food filosofia" means using only top quality ingredients. The very best dry-cured meats and cheese from Italy together with the wonderful vegetables, herbs and extra-virgin olive oil of Crete. A winning combination which is both nutritious and healthy.

To compliment your dinner we offer over one hundred different wines to choose from - promoting the very best wines of Greece as well as famous wines from Italy and other well-known wines from around the world.



**Address:** Platanias  
**Phone:** +30 28210 55600  
**Opening Hours:** *Daily*

### ***Semiramis Restaurant***



In the lanes of the **Old Town of Chania**, within a labyrinth of **myth** and **time**, where magic blends with **tradition** and good taste is combined with **imagination** and **creativity**, you will find **Semiramis Restaurant**.

At **Semiramis**, fine **traditional Greek food** is accompanied by **live music**. To us, your taste-bud satisfaction and fun is not just a matter of mere service, but an **experience of authentic hospitality!**

**Address:** Skoufon 8, Chania Old Harbour  
**Phone:** +30 28210 98650  
**Opening Hours:** *Daily*

### ***Bahar Restaurant***



**Bahar** is a restaurant - cafe with gourmet **award-winning Mediterranean cuisine** with a unique aesthetic. In the beautiful surroundings and impeccable service promises **unique moments**.

Near to **Chania City** in the road for **Stavros** you find restaurant - cafe **Bahar**.

**Address:** Chorafakia, Akrotiriou

**Phone:** +30 28210 39410

**Opening Hours:** *Daily (Except Monday and Thursday)*

### ***Monastiri Restaurant***

The Venetian engineers spent two millenniums building and maintaining the beautiful **harbour** of **Chania**. They would calculate the air and the sun's position and build the **harbour** piece by piece always knowing its potential. The **Monastiri** is a **taverna** which has adjusted to the heart of this **tradition**. The **traditional cuisine** in conjunction with a charming sunset, good wine accompanied by the soft sound of the waves, and the **friendly** service, make **Monastiri restaurant** one of **Chania's** top choices of **dining** - both in the afternoon and in the evening. It is a must to try all the house **specialties** and the very original cakes.



The people at **Taverna Monastiri** have given much attention to their exquisite **traditional cuisine**, the very carefully chosen **wines**, their excellent hospitable staff and all this in a unique atmosphere. Our tavern offers its guests a wide range of **Cretan wines** and wines from all parts of **Greece**, as well as local draft wine. Our range also offers exquisite wines from smaller wine producers.

**Address:** Akti Tompazi 12, Venetian Old Harbour

**Phone:** +30 28210 55527

**Opening Hours:** *Daily*

**Source:** <http://gochania.com/restaurants.html>



## Swim & Beaches

**Platanias:** The cosmopolitan beach of Platanias is one of the most developed tourist resorts in Crete. The beach is well visited in July and August but you will find some quiet spots as well. Nestled in the northern coast of Crete, it is the remedy you need for boredom. Activities and amusements are plenty to choose from and the beach is well catered by beachfront bars and cafe-restaurants.

It is a clean, blue-flaged beach with a magnificent view to Theodorou islet that lies near the beach. You also have the option of jet skiing, banana boats and snorkeling. Strolling along the sand, you can also find rock enclaves with the shade of trees as well as pebble stretches. Platanias village also offers loads of activity with a number of shops and party resorts.

The nightlife here is lively with several bars as well as privately organized parties. To reach Platanias, take a bus or car on a 11 km trip on the national road from Chania to Kastelli. Also check the status of the meltemia summer winds that can hit the coast.

plane near the village of Platanos and 58 km west of Chania town. It consists of pure and soft golden sand and incredible clean and turquoise waters. A few umbrellas and sun beds can be found along the beach.

Falassarna is truly an idyllic and quiet place and has been declared as one of the cleanest beaches in Greece. During windy days it is better to avoid swimming. From the beach the view is astonishing and the sunsets are really magical. A few accommodations and taverns can be found in the surrounding area.

**Elafonisi:** Elafonisi (or Elafonissos) is a small islet connected to the rest of Crete by a shallow reef that can be crossed when the sea is calm. This islet lies 82 km northwest of Chania town and can be reached by boat from Paleohora or by car from the village of Vathi, until a point and then cross the reef. Elafonisi (Island of Deer) is like paradise on earth, and has a wonderful beach with pink coral sand and crystalline waters. This magical place was deserted for a long time but now it has become a popular sight and can get pretty crowded during high summer season. Only a couple of cantinas can be found on the beach and no accommodations are available, but camping is allowed. Falassarna Chania: Falassarna is one of the best beaches of Crete located in a beautiful fertile



**Balos:** Balos is among the most beautiful beaches in Crete that lies 60 km north west of Chania Town. It is seen as a lagoon from the hills above the beach.

Balos has white sand, soft seabed and crystal water. Opposite the beach, there is a rocky island called Gramvoussa and on top of this island, there is a steep Venetian castle with gorgeous view to the region and the sea.

Balos is reached through a track road from Kaliviani, a village close to Kissamos. This track road is about 10 km and can be crossed by a 4-wheel car. Otherwise, visitors can go by excursion boat from Kissamos.

**Stavros beach:** Stavros (i.e. cross) is a seaside village located 17km northeast of Chania, at the northernmost edge of Cape Akrotiri. One characteristic feature of the area is the very steep camel-shaped mountain rising opposite the harbor of Stavros. The mountain is famous, because there were filmed scenes for the film "Zorba the Greek", where Anthony Quinn danced the famous Sirtaki Dance in 1964.

The main beach is located east of the village, at the foot of the mountain, and next to the picturesque harbor. A circular bay is formed, fully protected by winds blowing in the region. The lagoon-like bay has marvelous white sand and shallow turquoise waters. The contrast of the wild mountain with the peaceful beach in the foreground makes Stavros a unique place for swimming. As expected, the beach is very well organized and provides all possible services. The second beach of Stavros is located north of the village, 200m northwest of the main beach. It has sand and rocks in places and is less organized than the first, but cleaner. The main drawback of this is that it is unprotected and the sea is usually wavy. At the peninsula dividing the two beaches of Stavros, you can see the remains of the ancient quarry, used for extracting limestone for building the Walls of Chania during the Venetian Era (13rd- 17th century).

**Source:** <http://www.greeka.com/crete/chania/chania-excursions.htm>  
<http://www.cretanbeaches.com/Beaches/Chania/stavros-beach/>

## EXCURSIONS

If you want to come in touch with the real Crete, then a tour or day trip with Chania Holidays is the way to go!  
Choose a tour or day trip from our broad selection:

- **Cretan Evening**
- **Samaria Gorge**
- **Knossos**
- **Elafonissi Beach**
- **Falassarna Beach**
- **Gramvousa & Balos Bay**
- **Limnopolis Water Park**
- **Santorini (Best Value!)**
- **...and more!**

Added bonus: This is a good way to meet other people and co-travellers, as well. All of this, at your own pace.

We offer the most entertaining and well-organized day trips and excursion in West Crete, for more than two decades. Our experienced English-speaking guides take care of all the details, so all you have to do is... relax, listen and enjoy the trip.

But that's not all: In order to make it easier for you to enjoy more of Crete, we have secured the lowest prices for you. More specifically:

- Infants join the excursions for free.
- Children join the excursions at very low prices.
- All entrance fees for museums, monasteries etc, are included in the price.
- All boat trips are included in the price.

On top of that, you always travel in comfort, in our privately owned fleet of modern, fully air-conditioned coaches.

### **Chania Holidays**

**Address:** 73014 Plataniass Kydonias Chanion

**Tel:** +30 28210 68963, 60411-4, 68901

**Home page:** [http://www.chania-holidays.gr/en/tours\\_&\\_daily\\_trips/](http://www.chania-holidays.gr/en/tours_&_daily_trips/)

### **Notos-sailing**

Our company is based at the Notos (south) of Greece and the southernmost point of Europe, in particular Chania, Crete.

We have an active experience in sea tourism for more than 20 years now. Our experience in the sea and our love for it, as well as sailing, is what we wish to pass on to everyone. Our goal is to provide high quality, professional and friendly services so as to make your trip a truly unforgettable experience. Each sailing trip for us is a combination of professionalism and pleasure, since we love the sea and the happy moments of our travellers are also our happy moments.

Our trips embark from the Old Harbour of Chania, with a variety of choices in our boats, whether sailboats or motor boats. It is the visitor's call to choose between a relaxing sailing trip in the Chania Bay or a longer trip to the mesmerizing Balos or Gramvousa.

As for the extreme-sports lovers, weather permitting, they can experience race sailing teaching lessons. Last but not least, we offer the possibility of multi-day trips in the Southern Aegean Sea as well as in South Crete.

#### **Multi-Day trips**

For Multi-Day trips whether by sailboats or motorboats, you have to contact us. Among the most popular destinations are the beaches of South Crete as well as, islands of the Southern Aegean Sea such as Kythira, Mylos, Santorini and more beautiful islands. You name it and we will sail you there.

#### **Contact**

**Mobile:** +306947181990

**E-mail:** [notosmail@gmail.com](mailto:notosmail@gmail.com)

**Home page:** <http://www.notos-sailing.com/en/about>

### **Diana's Travel Chania Crete**

We at Diana's Travel offer a large choice of excursions on Crete and holiday services to make your holiday on Crete a pleasant & memorable trip. You can find lots of helpful information about Western Crete & in particular around the area Chania, as that is where we are based. Diana's Travel has been representing Freelance Holidays Ltd, a UK based Tour Operator for 25 years who specializes in Villas on Crete.

Diana's Travel ensures that their customers arrangements have been organized as well as providing them with local information and a back up service 24/7

Diana's Travel is an accredited agent by the Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO- License Nr 1042E606100222301) and a member of the Hellenic Association of Travel & Tourist Agencies (HATTA).

## Knossos Palace & Heraklion Town

A visit to Crete is not complete unless you have visited the magnificent Palace of Knossos - the legendary palace of King Minos. The Palace is 5 km south of Heraklion and dates back to 2000 BC. Excavated and partly restored by Sir Arthur Evans at the beginning of the century, Knossos gives a vivid picture of the prosperous and sophisticated capital of Minoan civilization. The intricate Palace is claimed by some to be the mythical labyrinth in which Theseus slew the Minotaur.

You will have the services of a guide who will present the facts and legends of this incredible discovery. Then there is time to explore Heraklion city where you can go to the Archaeological Museum. Although part of it is closed for renovations for a few years, all the important items are on display in the temporary exhibition.

### Itinerary

- The Knossos trip starts with an early pick up from the nearest point to your accommodation (between 06.30am -08.00am) & proceeds eastwards.
- After approximately one hour, we take a coffee break outside the town of Rethymno.
- Approximate arrival is 10:30am at Knossos Palace/Temple. Tour on foot for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Arrival at Heraklion city at approximately 13:00. Two hours are allotted for lunch, shopping or an optional visit to the Archaeological Museum.
- Departure from Heraklion at approximately 16:00.
- After 1 hour, a short break at an olive oil factory.
- Arrival back to the pick-up point at approximately 18:00.

Price for Knossos Day Trip:

**Adults:** 34.00 €

**Children (5 -11 years)** 17.00 €

**Duration-12 hours**

**Home page:** <http://www.dianas-travel.com/index.html>

**Tourism – Transports-Emergency- Service-Cultur- Information:**

<http://www.chania.gr/en/city/usefull-phones/usefull-phones.html>



**Day of Trip: Sunday only**

Pick up time: 06.25am - 08.00am

(Depending on where you are staying)

### Includes

- Transfers on air-conditioned buses
- Greek/English/German speaking guide

### Contact:

**Address:** Chryssi Akti, Chania, Crete

**Tel:** +30 28210 33575

**Email:** [diflance@otenet.gr](mailto:diflance@otenet.gr)





**Sources:**

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