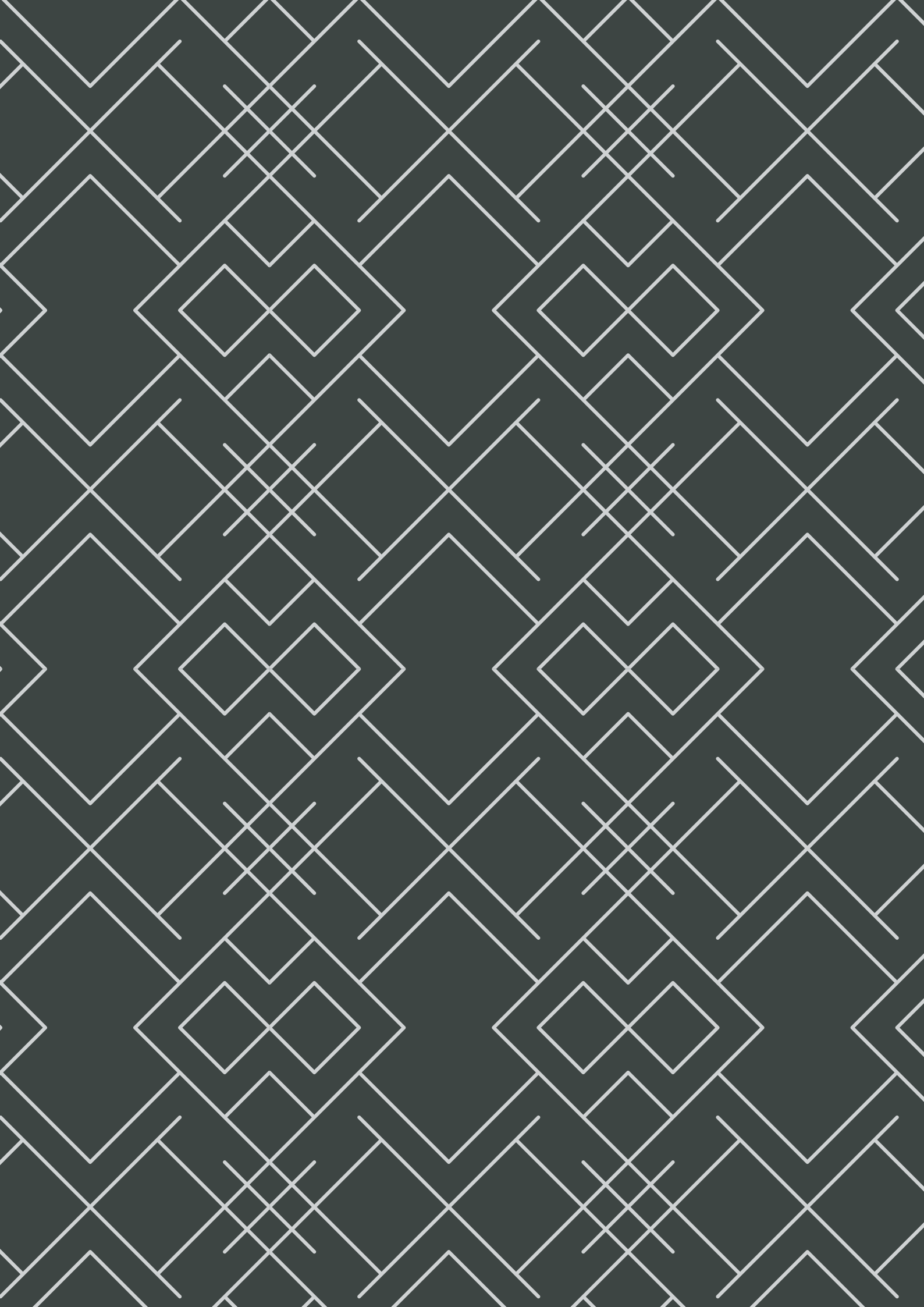


DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF EAST CRETE



NUMOIERAPETRA



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LET US INTRODUCE THIS UNIQUE ISLAND TO YOU

THE PEOPLE

If there is one thing that sets Greece apart from any other holiday destination on the planet is the warmth of the Greek people; an open heart and genuine hospitality is part of their DNA. Greeks love to welcome and embrace visitors.

Cretans in particular are the friendliest and most hospitable people in the country. Do not be surprised if you are greeted by a stranger in Crete, since every visitor is considered as guest. They are proud to believe, that this is inherited from Zeus Xenios, the most important God in the Greek pantheon and ancient patron of hospitality, who according to the legend was born in a Cretan cave. Cretans are a distinctive clan of Greeks with their own spirited music and dances, remarkable cuisine, and traditions. The official language is Greek, English is widely spoken but Cretans love to express themselves using their own local dialects. Proud, patriotic, and fierce, these famously hospitable people, maintaining a rich connection to their culture, will often identify themselves as Cretans before they say they are Greeks!

It is not surprising that visitors often develop lasting friendships with a local, even if they come from thousands of miles away. If you let the locals lead you, they will show you how to indulge in the beauties of the island, the local gastronomy, the dancing, the singing, and their customs. The best way to start your journey is by sharing with them a shot of Tsikoudia. Tsikoudia (or Raki) the most genuine expression of unique Cretan hospitality, is the local transparent alcoholic distillate from grapes that builds and strengthens the social bonds and enhances the expression of deep emotions.

THE ISLAND

GEOGRAPHY

Crete is the largest and most populous Greek island (625.000 permanent inhabitants), the 5th largest in the Mediterranean, and 88th largest island in the world. It has an elongated shape and a total area of over 8.335 square kilometers (5.179 mi) with 1.000 km (621 mi) of coastline. It is not a secret that Crete boasts some of the most beautiful and cleanest beaches in Greece, a great number of which is awarded a Blue Flag (prestigious EU certification). Crete, with Ierapetra being the southernmost city in Europe, is actually closer to Lybia and the African coast, than it is to the Greek mainland. Thanks to its geographical location, climate, diverse natural beauty as well as its unique cultural and historical treasures it is one of the most prosperous areas in Greece and almost a small universe itself. Here you can admire the remnants of brilliant civilizations, explore glorious beaches, imposing mountain ranges, impressive caves, fertile valleys, and breathtaking waterfalls in steep gorges.

CLIMATE

With over 300 days of sunshine Crete enjoys not one but two distinct climates! The Mediterranean climate is typical of the northern coast of Crete, while in the southern part the climate is North African. In the hot summer months, the sea breeze offers pleasant temperatures but in winter do not be surprised if you see the high mountains covered with snow, where the locals enjoy winter sports.

FLORA

Blessed Crete also hosts a large number of rare flora and fauna species. In the valleys and the semi mountainous areas one can find more than 100 endemic varieties of flowers, plants, and herbs. The vegetation is deep green and olive trees have thrived on the island for centuries. Near the small village of Kavousi in the region of Lasithi, you can visit one of the oldest olive trees in the world that is still pretty much alive. The impressive palm tree forest –variety Phoenix Theophrasti or Cretan date palm - in Vai Beach, Sitia, is the biggest and most important palm forest in Europe. Despite the fact that the island is well-known by the massive olive groves, vineyards and endless citrus groves, the truth is that almost every other kind of fruit grows on the island. Thanks to the North African climate different types of tropical fruit such as banana, kiwi, mango, avocado and many others, also thrive on the southern coast of Crete.

FAUNA

Crete is home to animals growing nowhere else in the world. The most famous of them is the wild Cretan goat, known as Agrimi or Kri Kri. This beautiful creature lives in the protected reserve of Theodorou island (opposite Chania) and in the gorge of Samaria. Other rare endemic animals are the Cretan wildcat and the Cretan shrew. According to the Greek mythological tradition, in an attempt to please the god Zeus, Hercules drove all harmful animals away from Crete. As a result, all animals in Crete are harmless. During prehistoric times, Crete even used to have its very own variety of elephant, a dwarf mammoth.

HISTORY

Crete is the birthplace of the modern European civilization. The history of the island can be traced as far back as the 7th millennium BC, more than four millennia before the Minoan civilization appearing on Crete. As a matter of fact, the history of Crete is older than the history of the continent itself! The Minoan city of Knossos, now home to one of the most visited archaeological sites in Greece, is considered to be the oldest city in Europe. Another interesting fact about Crete is that the island became again part of the Greek State in December 1913, after endless years of foreign occupation.

ECONOMY

Despite the fact that the local economy is mostly based in the tourism industry, agriculture is still an important asset, so much so that Crete is one of the few islands in Greece, which could still support itself independently, even if it didn't rely on seasonal tourists. The entrance points to Crete for the vast majority of the visitors coming from all over the world are the two international airports. One that serves East Crete is in the capital town Heraklion and the other serving West Crete is in Chania. Apart from the above, there is also a small airport in Sitia in East Crete only for domestic flights. Another important element that adds to the economic growth of the island, are the internationally acclaimed universities that attract numerous Greek and foreign students.

**DISTANCES
FROM
NUMO HOTEL**

Ierapetra Town	6km / 3.72mi	10'
Heraklion Airport	97.7km / 60.7mi	1h25'
Heraklion Town	100km / 62mi	1h30'
Agios Nikolaos Town	39.3km / 24.41mi	45'
Sitia Town	66.7km / 41.44mi	1h15'
Rethymno Town	177km / 110mi	2h31'
Chania Town	238km / 147.8mi	3h20'

**THE
CULTURE****FOLKLORE**

The Cretan spirit is proud and rebellious, and culture is the soul of Crete, revealed through several events and numerous traditions preserved until today. Weddings, baptisms (christenings), feasts, festivals and religious celebrations are big occasions with huge numbers of guests and are always framed with Cretan music and dance. They take place at village squares or near churches, reviving customs of the Minoan ages. The entertainment lasts for days, with nonstop music, dancing, singing, and eating. People come together and visitors are more than welcome to join the festivities, since this relates to the practice of 'Filoxenia' or Hospitality according to which, the tourists to Crete are considered as guests and therefore friends.

The Cretan Lyra, the most popular of all the musical instruments, is an ancestor of most European bowed musical instruments and a surviving form of the medieval Byzantine Lyra. There is also no music without the Mandolin, the Laouto (or Cretan lute) and the unique Askomandoura which is a kind of bagpipe. Along with the Lyra are usually performed short rhyming, often improvised poems, called the Mantinada. The name of this unique and own form of poetry comes from the Venetian term matinada, meaning morning song. They usually celebrate love, friendship, and the island itself, but they can also be sad and even sang in funerals. Among the most distinguishing features of Cretan culture is the extraordinary folk dancing. The most emblematic dance, spirited and bursting with national pride is the Pentozali, historically performed by men as a war-dance. An authentic example of Cretan culture is also the Cretan cuisine, popular for its unique quality and taste, considered to be the epitome of the Mediterranean cuisine. Fresh local products are used to create delicious dishes: meat, cheese, fish, vegetables, herbs, honey, yogurt, olive oil, wine and of course, tsikouda (or raki) take their own place on the Cretan table.

RELIGION

Crete is known for its strong religious past. From the Ancient shrines in the Palace of Knossos to dozens of monasteries and various places of worship, the island is full of religious monuments that attest to the importance of religion in Crete. This destination is indeed one of the cradles of orthodoxy since the beginning of Christianity. As a religious community, superstition and belief in the evil eye are also very common.

ART & CRAFTS

The locals have always been fascinated by crafts, be it weaving, pottery or even leather product. Knife manufacturers in Chania and Heraklion convert steel into the famous Cretan knife, the inseparable companion of each Cretan. Engraved depictions and poems adorn the blades. Women's cooperatives in all major villages still weave on the loom, just like women did in the Minoan times. Sariki, the Cretan head scarf with fringes resembling tears, symbolizes lamentation for the hardships Crete experienced in the past centuries. The black Sariki is worn as a sign of mourning, while the white Sariki is worn as a sign of joy during weddings, feasts, births, and christenings. Wood and marble sculptors give life to materials of the Cretan land by carving logs and stones and by manufacturing elaborate works, mainly of ecclesiastical art.

FAMOUS CRETANS

Crete was the birthplace of the Cretan Renaissance painter El Greco as well as of the famous writer Nikos Kazantzakis. In the town of Chania was born not only the singer Nana Mouskouri but also the Cretan actor Yannis Anastassakis who changed his name to John Aniston and is the father of the famous Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston.

AT THE SEA

WATER SPORTS

The Lybian sea lying in front of you invites you to enjoy the Greek summer through a range of the most stimulating water sports.

Kayaking, skiing, tube rides, water rings even Japata racing Flyboard and Hoverboard!

DIVING

Discover the endless paradise hidden below the sea surface exploring the natural treasures. There are courses and programs ranging from beginners' sessions up to Assistant Instructor Level.

FISHING

Leave the noisy town and the crowded beaches behind and indulge in the tranquility of secluded spots for swimming and fishing. Catch your on fish and your host will prepare it for you on the spot. Apart from the most fresh and delicious meal, it is also going to be one of your most enjoyable and rewarding experiences!

BOAT TRIPS

Make the most of your time in Crete by planning a boat trip. Always with comfort and safety luxury motor yachts or a traditional caique boat are available to take you the well-known Chrissi and Koufonissi Islands and other secluded beaches. Enjoy a swim off the boat, explore the underwater world by snorkeling or even enjoy the sunset while drinking champagne.

On the north coast you have the opportunity to visit Spinalonga Island and enjoy the always calm waters of Mirabello Bay.

A wide variety of options including semi-private or bespoke tours, boat types, choice of meals and drinks on board promise to suit all tastes!

ON THE LAND

HORSE RIDING

If you wish to ride for fun, take private lessons with a certified instructor or just enjoy a refreshment watching the prideful and loving horses in action, then this is the place for you.

HIKING

Crete, with more than 95% of its soil consisting of limestone, is a land of canyons. For millions of years, the geological upheavals are reflected strongly in the intense relief of the island. While mountains rose, the river water continued its corrosional route through the limestone terrain, forming today's "land of gorges". With more than 400 canyons, Crete hosts the largest number of gorges in Greece, many of which are very popular to hikers. Among the easiest to explore are Sarakina, Pefki, Butterfly, Milonas and Richtis gorge.

CYCLING

Yearning to explore the great outdoors? Ierapetra and its surroundings offer an abundance of opportunities for either road cyclists or mountain bikers. You can complete a full loop of Bramiana lake (7km/4.35mi), visit nearby beaches or discover the beauty of mountain villages surrounded by lush vegetation. There are bicycle and equipment options that suit the needs of both beginners and more experienced bikers.

JEEP SAFARI

Explore the Cretan mountains and nature enjoying the breathtaking panoramic views over the coasts of the Island. Your adventure may take you through rustic mountain villages and then bring you to cosmopolitan Elounda and Agios Nikolaos town. You will have time to stroll around, go shopping and enjoy Greek specialties. There is always the option of bespoke adventures based on your interests.

CRETAN EXPERIENCES

BIO AROMA - AGIOS NIKOLAOS TOWN

Bioaroma is an inspiration from the vast history and heritage that surrounds the land of Crete. Here are developed 100% natural herbal cosmetics based on research and archaeological finds that have been passed down from generation to generation. The aim is to take the bounty from the earth cultivated by Bioaroma, together with the traditions of the past and offer a handmade product with the distinct identity.

Bioaroma has created a very interesting museum of Cretan herbs and herbal products and a unique herbal garden with 40 different Cretan pharmaceutical and aromatic plants.

Traditional olive oil soap, handmade therapeutic beeswax cream, perfume making: Visitors learn how to make their own homemade olive oil soap, a 100% natural therapeutic cream with no preservatives, only by using olive oil, beeswax, herbs, essential oils e.t.c. and a perfume. You can visit the botanical garden, the botanical museum or the distillery, individually or in a small group. Highlighty Do not miss the opportunity to make your own perfume, soap or cream.

ALTHAEA NATURAL PRODUCTS

ANATOLI VILLAGE

A little heaven in the mountains that oversees the Lybian Sea. Here are made and crafted goods for wellbeing based on organic products and extracts from herbs that grow in the botanical garden of Althaea.

Become familiar with the beekeeping practices that date back to the Minoan period and the processing of beeswax.

Learn everything about the practices at each stage of cultivation and harvest of the olive tree. Taste the olive oil which is an authentic product that reflects a philosophy based in a balanced way of living, inherited from the Cretan culture.

Try on creams crafted in the highest quality standards; All the essential oils and extracts are produced here from selected herbs and plants that have grown in the wild or are organically cultivated.

CRETAN EXPERIENCES

CRETAN OLIVE OIL FARM

See, smell, taste and touch a long-lost side of Crete.

Join this interactive experience and learn everything about the Cretan way of life, including old traditions, Cretan herbs, authentic recipes of Crete and the production of olive oil, honey, original types of cheese, wine and raki. You have the chance to participate in a guided tour around the farm, followed by a cheese making activity, where you can milk the goats and participate in the preparation of two original types of Cretan cheese. You can also attend a traditional cooking lesson or join a pottery class. You have the option to enjoy either the entire experience or the parts of it you are mostly interested in.

At the end of your visit, you can taste homemade products, including olive oil, wine, raki, honey, carob products and many more.

CRETAN EXPERIENCES

ANIMAL WELFARE - TAKIS SHELTER

The most prominent nonprofit animal welfare organization in Crete. Meet Takis, the Cretan who gave up everything he owned and dedicated his life to rescuing dogs and cats. Takis offers protection to abandoned and abused animals and his dream is to find a loving home for each one of them. His shelter relies on the generosity of the public worldwide and is only supported by donations.

Contact by phone is essential prior to your visit.
The Concierge will be happy to assist you.

FESTIVALS

Kyrvia

(series of cultural events)

Kales fortress Ierapetra, Jul – Aug

Casa dei Mezzo

(classical music festival)

Makrygialos, end of June

Nautical Week

(sailing races and cultural events)

Port of Sitia last week of June, every other year

Kornareia

(series of cultural events)

Sitia, early June–late Aug

Lato

(cultural festival)

Ag. Nikolaos, Jun-Oct

Kato Chorio 20/7

(traditional event)

Going On Excursions

- Since you are visiting one of the most sun-kissed islands of Europe a hat, a bottle of water and sunscreen are essential especially on hot summer days.
- Comfortable shoes are always recommended.

Visiting Beaches

- Sunbeds with umbrella come at extra charge. Sometimes this charge is waived if you order a snack or a beverage from the snack bar.
- Depending on the direction of the winds (Meltemi) blowing in the summertime in Greece, some beaches are more favored than others. The Concierge will be happy to assist you in making the best choice.

Visiting Museums and Archaeological Sites

- EU senior citizens 65+ are entitled to reduced rates of single tickets upon presentation of their ID card or passport for verification of their age and country of origin.
- Their operation may be suspended due to restoration works on holidays or for any other reason without previous notice. It is advisable to consult with the Concierge before your visit.

Visiting Monasteries

- Appropriate clothing for everyone is required otherwise entry may not be allowed. Gentlemen should avoid sleeveless clothing and shorts above the knee whereas ladies are advised to wear skirts below the knee or even a long skirt-like shawl around their waist. Their shoulders should also be covered. Usually skirts and shawls are available to use free of charge at the entrance of the Monasteries.

Visiting Mountain Villages and Peaks

- Depending on the season and the time of the day, the temperature may drop significantly at higher altitudes especially in the evenings. Therefore, carrying a jacket is recommended for your comfort.
- Weather conditions such as humidity, clouds and haze may reduce the visibility and obstruct the views.

Visiting Gorges, Waterfalls and Lakes

- The volume of water you will encounter depends on the previous months' rainfalls. It may be significantly lower than expected or even inexistent especially in the hot summer season.
- Tempting though it may be to explore gorges and wild Cretan landscapes by yourself, it is strongly recommended that you are accompanied by an experienced local guide who is very familiar with the exigency of each terrain and can suggest which activity is most suitable for you.

Driving In Provincial and Mountain Roads

- Some extra care is required since goats, hares or other animals may catch you by surprise and suddenly appear in front of you in the middle of the road.

The Guest Experience Team of NUMO Hotel is always at your disposal to assist you with your reservations, help you plan your excursions and provide you with all the information that will turn your visit to Crete into the most memorable experience.

IERAPETRA

NUMOIERAPETRA



Ierapetra is the southernmost town of Europe. Small but full of life, the so-called bride of the Libyan Sea, is the most important town on the southern coast of Crete and comes fourth in population. Its current name means sacred stone and before that was also known as Pytna and Kamiros. Facing the African coast Ierapetra has a mild climate and rightfully earns a place among the most sun-kissed holiday destinations in the Old Continent. The temperature here hardly ever drops below 12°C /53.6°F and summers are hot and dry. Privileged with a unique microclimate Ierapetra is one of the most productive farming towns of fruit and vegetables of Greece.

In ancient times it used to be one of the most important cities of Crete thanks to its strategic position. Though little is left to remind of its glorious past, the town of Ierapetra has an impressive history with interludes being a Roman port and a Venetian stronghold as attested by the medieval fortress that is the landmark of the old harbor. The Ottoman period is still present by the few monuments and the narrow alleyways of the old Turkish quarter today called Kato Meria.

Ierapetra is a calm town where everything takes place at its own pace. In the evenings the seafront is transformed into a vibrant esplanade with plenty of visitors swarming the Rakadika (little taverns one next to the other where you can drink Tsikoudia / Raki) and taste the local delicacies.

Apart from its enthralling history what truly makes the area of Ierapetra so special and worth visiting is that it can be an ideal gateway for day trips and exploration of the easternmost part of Crete. The unique wilderness of the landscapes, the traditional mountain and seaside villages, the plateaus, the caves, the virgin forests, the beaches of incomparable allure, the wonderful gorges and waterfalls are only some of the natural beauties that promise to add to your experience and offer you a memorable holiday in Crete.

EXPERIENCES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION OF IERAPETRA

(Currently Closed Because Of Renovation Works)

Contact: Dimokratias Str. 2, Tel. +30 2842 028 721

KALES VENITIAN FORTRESS

(Currently Closed Because Of Renovation Works)

Contact: Samouil Str. 10

GIFTS & PURCHASES

LIONTAKIS

Type: Women's & Men's Clothing

Contact: Koraka 61, Tel. +30 2842 023 930

MERCEDES FASHION

Type: Women's Clothing

Contact: M. Kothri, Tel. +30 2842 25430

IRIS LEATHER GOODS

Type: Gift & Leather Shop

Contact: Markopoulou 61, Tel: +30 2842 026 229

BLUE SHADES

Type: Gift & Souvenir Shop

Contact: Stratigou Samouil 28, Tel: +30 2842 026 011

BY THE SEA

Type: Gift & Souvenir Shop

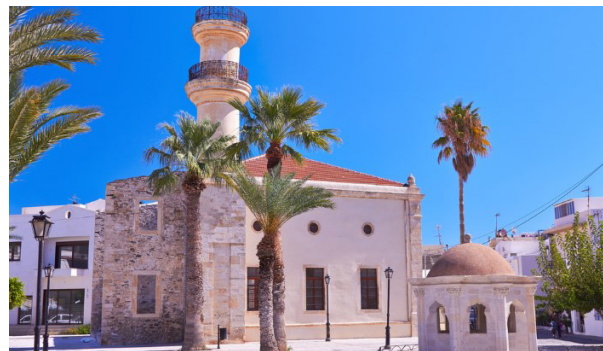
Contact: Dimitriou Markopoulou 41, Ierapetra

Tel:+30 2842 028 283, +30 697 764 1334



KALES FORTRESS

The medieval fortress Kales dominates the entrance of the ancient port of Ierapetra. It was built by the Venetians in the 13th century AD, to protect the town from enemy attacks. Its name derives from the Turkish word Koules meaning tower in Turkish. Today the well-preserved castle host cultural events organized by the local municipality during the summer.



MOSQUE – OTTOMAN FOUNTAIN

The mosque of Ierapetra in the old quarter of the town dates back to the end of the 19th century. When the Ottoman Turks conquered Ierapetra, they modified the orthodox Christian church of Saint John into a Muslim house of worship. They added a minaret that dominates the district and an inscription from the Koran on the marble lintel of the entrance. Opposite the mosque there is a sebil fountain that was used by the Turks for ablutions.



OTTOMAN SCHOOL – ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION

The Ottoman school or Mehtepi was built in 1899 for the Turkish kids of Ierapetra after Crete was liberated from the Ottoman rule. This landmark building is part of the town's history and today houses a tiny but important archaeological collection including Minoan, Geometric, and Roman artifacts. The exhibits that stand out are the beautiful statue of the goddess Perse, a fascinating mold of a Minoan ax and the Roman marble head of a man found near the ancient theatre of Viglia.



OLD TOWN – NAPOLEON'S HOUSE

The oldest neighborhood of Ierapetra called Kato Meria stretches along the seafront between the Ottoman school and the Kales fortress. The heart of the most picturesque part of the town beats in the peaceful cobbled streets and flowery yards of the houses that recall the past with their intriguing architecture.

One of the most bizarre attractions in the old city is Napoleon's House where according to the tradition Napoleon stayed for one night in July 1798. Sadly, the building is not well preserved, and the visitors have to use their imagination in order to revive the glory this House hides.

VIRA POTZI

Enticing menu packed with culinary twists right next to the sea.

Type: Restaurant

Cuisine: Greek and Cretan

Contact: Stratigou Samouil 82, Ierapetra, Tel. +30 2842 028 254

BAKALOGATOS

Cozy old fashion stone house with an atmospheric backyard. (Ideal on windy days)

Type: Restaurant

Cuisine: Greek

Contact: Oplarchigou Lakerda 13, Ierapetra, Tel. +30 2842 024 277

SEAROCCO

Ideal seafront location to enjoy the fresh summer breeze.

Type: Restaurant

Cuisine: Greek and Cretan

Contact: Stratigou Samouil 64, Ierapetra, Tel. +30 2842 110 220, +30 694 71 39 523

KLIO RESTAURANT

Atmospheric tavern right next to the beach.

Type: Traditional tavern

Cuisine: Traditional Greek

Contact: Lebadea, Ierapetra, Tel. +30 2842 028 420

Open daily: Monday is closed, Tuesday till Sunday: 10:00 – 23:50

CHOCOLICIOUS

Here you can enjoy the most well-known ice-cream of the town!

Type: Café-Patisserie

Contact: Stratigou Samouil 18, Ierapetra, Tel: +30 2842 022 256

CASABLANCA ALL DAY CAFÉ BAR

The garden of this aristocratic villa is ideal for a calm brunch or a refreshing cocktail, especially on windy days.

Type: Restaurant Café Bar

Cuisine: International

Contact: Oplarchigou Lakerda 5, Ierapetra, Tel. +30 2842 500 140

WAIKIKI COFFEE HOUSE

Modern and atmospheric all day café bar by the beach with umbrellas and sunbeds.

Type: Café / Bar

Cuisine: International

Contact: Georgiou Tzardi 2, Ierapetra, Tel: +30 2842 025 731

KERMEN SEASIDE EXPERIENCE

Get the ultimate seaside experience while enjoying a cup of coffee or an afternoon cocktail.

Type: Café

Cuisine: International

Contact: Stratigou Samouil 74, Ierapetra, Tel: +30 2842 301 149

CARAVAN COCKTAIL BAR

The hottest spot of the town with cocktails served by the sea from a...VW camper.

Type: Bar

Contact: Kyrva 15, Ierapetra, Tel: +30 693 972 8082

NTOUKIANI

Atmospheric cozy little bar with great cocktails and music.

Contact: Ethnikis Antistaseos 19, Ierapetra, Tel: +30 699 907 2810

PELAGOS

Unique gastronomic experience at an awarded restaurant with the finest list of wines.

Type: Seaside restaurant

Cuisine: Modern Greek

Contact: Koutsounari, Ierapetra, Tel: +30 2842 061 263

ALATSI TOU VASILI

Cozy tavern, located right on the beach, ideal for lunch after swimming or for a quiet dinner.

Type: Tavern on the beach

Cuisine: Sea food, Greek

Contact: Koutsounari, Long beach, Ierapetra, Tel: +30 2842 062 040



CHRISSI ISLAND – BELEGRINA BEACH

The Island of Chrissi is undoubtedly a little tropical heaven on earth. Surrounded by the Libyan Sea and only 8 nautical mi out of the coast of Ierapetra, this small island attracts every summer thousands of visitors who want to enjoy the shallow turquoise waters and the superb white sandy beaches. The rich natural setting is a mosaic of colorful volcanic rocks covered in gold sand, dunes, and a Juniper Forest unique in Europe. This landscape forms an inimitable ecosystem which is nominated as a natural wildlife refuge and is protected by the Natura 2000 Networking Programme; for this reason, removing stones and shells from the island is not allowed and visitors are kindly requested to move around the Junipers with caution in order to avoid breaking their branches.

The most beautiful beach is considered to be Belegrina or Golden Beach on the northern side of Chrissi Island. People reach the island by boats departing from Makrygialos and the port of Ierapetra and after a 50' trip they are dropped off on the southern side. It takes less than a 10' walk through the juniper forest to arrive at the Golden Beach. Uncountable broken shells give the sand a pinkish color and turn the beach into a major attraction for geology lovers. On the east end of Belegrina lays a stunning geological sight consisting of thousands of fossilized shells. The beach is organized only with umbrellas and there is no snack bar selling refreshments or snacks.



PSAROPOULA

4.3km/2.6mi East of NUMO Hotel, 5'

- Usually calm
- Soft sand
- Depth of sea normal
- Very popular
- Well organized
- Taverns nearby
- Rocky bottom ideal for snorkeling
- Watersports
- Tree shade



AGIA FOTIA

8.3km/5.1mi East of NUMO Hotel, 10'

- Usually calm
- Coarse grey sand
- Depth of sea normal
- Very popular
- Well organized
- Taverns and bars nearby
- Ideal for snorkeling
- Beach volley
- Tree shade



ACHLIA

15.2km/9.4mi East of NUMO Hotel, 20'

- Usually calm
- Coarse grey sand
- Depth of sea normal
- Quiet, family friendly
- Limited facilities
- Taverns nearby
- Tree shade



MAKRYGIALOS

20.2km/12.5mi East of NUMO Hotel, 25'

- Usually calm
- Fine golden sand
- Shallow water
- Very popular, family friendly
- Well organized
- Taverns and bars nearby
- Easily accessible



XEROKAMPOS

61km/38mi east of NUMO Hotel, 1h20'

- Usually calm
- Sand
- Shallow water
- Authentic, quiet
- Limited facilities
- Taverns nearby
- Ideal for snorkeling

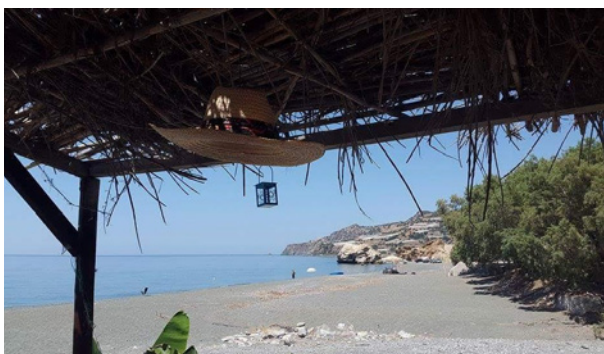
The settlement of Xerokambos is one of the most remote areas of the island. The paved road leading there passes through green plateaus, deserted medieval villages (Etia, Chametoulia) and as it descends, offers spectacular views of the South Cretan Sea.



MIRTOS

21.3km/13.2mi west of NUMO Hotel, 30'

- Usually calm, not affected by strong winds
- Coarse gray sand
- Depth of sea normal
- Popular but not too crowded
- Well organized
- Taverns nearby
- Water sports, beach volley



TERTSA

26.7km/16.5mi west of NUMO Hotel, 37'

- Usually calm
- Coarse gray sand
- Depth of sea normal
- Authentic, quiet
- Limited facilities
- Taverns nearby
- Ideal for snorkeling

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

LAMBROS

Traditional family tavern on an unspoilt beach, ideal for a coffee, drink or meal while enjoying the sea.

Type: Traditional tavern

Cuisine: Cretan, Greek

Contact: Tertsa beach, Tel: +30 2895 061 437



VOULISMA

28 km/17mi north of NUMO Hotel, 25'
13 km/8 mi from Agios Nikolaos, 15'

- Usually calm
- Fine golden sand
- Shallow
- Very popular
- Well organized
- Taverns nearby



BRAMIANA LAKE

12km/7.45mi west of NUMO Hotel, 20'

The artificial lake of Bramiana was inaugurated in 1986 in the middle of an arid area in order to meet the irrigation needs of Ierapetra's central valley that is home to about 30,000 greenhouses. It is located 5km/3.1mi northwest of Ierapetra next to the road towards Kalamafka village.

Lake Bramiana has become an important wetland and a resting point for migratory birds, where more than 214 species have been spotted. Rare species such as glossy ibises, great bitterns, white-eyed pilchards, black storks, kestrels and lanner falcons spend the winter in the safety of the lake's rich vegetation. Moorhens, grebes, coots, herons, seagulls, terns, and mallards can be observed from the bird-watching towers located on the shore. The largest populations of waterfowl in Crete also find shelter at this protected reserve.

In early spring the water level is at its peak whereas if during summer the water is at its lowest one can see the church of Prophet Elijah emerging from the lake. The dirt road that surrounds the lake is ideal for hiking and cycling enthusiasts.



KALAMAFKA VILLAGE

21km/13mi west of NUMO Hotel, 30'

Kalamafka is a lively and picturesque rural community and one of the most beautiful mountain villages of Ierapetra. It is situated 15km/9.32mi northwest of the town and boasts a landscape of unique beauty; of geological formations, ancient caves, several small canyons, gorges, and an abundance of water that literally flows everywhere.

The landmark of the village is Kastellos, a unique limestone formation which is also called the " Meteora " of Crete thanks to its striking resemblance to the famous vertical rock formations in Thessaly of central Greece. The top of the cliff can be reached from the main square of the village and after climbing about 240 steps. This prominent rock was once the look-out of the village since its position was offering unobstructed views to the plain of Ierapetra and the Libyan Sea. On top of Kastellos there is an impressive cave that used to be a sanctuary of the Minoan era. Today it is home to the cavernous chapel of the Holy Cross.

About 1km/0.62mi northwest of the village lies the Havgas gorge of Kalamafka.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

PANORAMA

Tasteful home-cooked food and a beautiful view of the wild Cretan nature.

Type: Traditional tavern

Cuisine: Greek

Contact: Kalamafka village, Tel +30 2842 092 459

ANATOLI & MALES VILLAGES**ANATOLI 23.5km/14.6mi west of NUMO Hotel, 30'**

The traditional settlement Anatoli (meaning sunrise in Greek) took its name by the first morning sun rays that flood the village. Throughout its long history, the village flourished during the Venetian domination and as indicate the ruins of the great Venetian Tower on its east end, the village, occupied a strategic position. Built amphitheatrically on the slopes of mountain Dikty at an altitude of 600m/1970ft., the settlement offers a magnificent view of the South Cretan Sea. The cobblestone paths, the natural fountains, the old buildings, and the beautiful rocky and mountainous scenery.

**TAVERNA AGIA PARASKEVI****34km/21.12mi West of NUMO Hotel, 50'****via KALAMAFKA & ANATOLI VILLAGE****40km/24.85mi West of NUMO Hotel, 1h10'**

Males is one of the largest villages of Crete and is overlooking the Valley of Mirtos and the Libyan Sea, from an altitude of 600m/1970ft. This thriving village is located on a green slope with olive groves and is surrounded by lush vegetation.

Right after Males village, hidden in the heart of the mountains and next to a spring, is located Agia Paraskevi tavern. The epitome of simplicity, an authentic Greek tavern that is by itself a complete experience!

Type: Traditional tavern**Cuisine:** Greek**Contact:** Between Males Village & Christos Village, Tel. +30 2842 091 316**SELAKANO WOODS****40km/24.8mi West of NUMO Hotel, 1h****via KALAMAFKA & ANATOLI VILLAGE****45.5km/28.27mi West of NUMO Hotel, 1h25'**

The mountain forest of Selakano is located on the southern slopes of Dikti mountain range and is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular and important surviving ecosystems of the island. It is protected by the Natura 2000 program and is one of the major pine forests (Pinus Brutia) of the entire Mediterranean. The largest beekeeping operations in Crete take place here and beekeepers from all over the island install hives in the area of Melissokipos (bee garden).

The honey produced in Selakano is of outstanding quality and has been granted Protected Geographical Status under European Union law. During the flowering period of the pines (July-September) the bees are swarming the forest *and some extra care is recommended when we visit their territory*. The landscape is captivating with gorges, springs and birds of prey adding to its wild beauty. Apart from the pine trees the rich vegetation includes among others plane, oak, juniper and maple trees. A magnificent route leads to Selakano village through the village of Males. A complex network of forest roads expands in the woods and is mainly used by the beekeepers.

STELLA'S CAFE**Real Greek rural experience, traditional Cretan mom's cooking.****Type:** Traditional Tavern**Cuisine:** Cretan**Contact:** Selakano Village



SARAKINA GORGE

26km/16.1mi West of NUMO Hotel, 35'

The gorge of Sarakina is located at a short distance from the traditional village of Mithi. The gorge is 1.5-2km/1mile long and 3m/9.8ft to 10m/32.8ft wide, offering visitors a chance to explore a magnificent landscape rich in vegetation, wildlife, and geological interest. The gurgling waters of River Kryos running in the heart of the gorge create beautiful pools and waterfalls. The impressive rock formations often as high as 150m/492ft are enhancing its wild beauty. Exploring the gorge, the visitor must occasionally climb over or pass under huge rocks that are spread over the whole length of the route. The walk is quite easy and the trail is well-marked; though when it becomes less apparent, the path is indicated with yellow arrows and red squares on rocks.

The start of Sarakina Gorge is located 1.2km/0.75mi north of Mithi Village. After you pass the center of the village you take the first turn right, follow the road downhill until you get to a bridge. You can park your car near the water treatment plant on the left side of the bridge. The gorge ends near the coastal village of Mirtos.



MIRTOS VILLAGE

21.3km/13.23mi West of NUMO Hotel, 30'

Mirtos is a small seaside village that maintains its traditional style, despite the development of the recent years that turned it into a popular resort. It is ideal for a pleasant stroll either in the picturesque narrow streets with the blossoming gardens or along the waterfront and the promenade with the numerous taverns and coffee shops. The village is boasting one of the finest beaches of southern Crete and is located at the output of a wide valley crossed by the River Kryos that flows through the imposing Sarakina Gorge.



KATO SYMI

37km/23mi West of NUMO Hotel, 40'

The forested village of Kato Simi, along with the ruined village of Pano Simi, is hidden in the heart of the largest pine forest of Crete, neighboring with Selakano and Malles woods. This picturesque village, a nature lover's delight, lies in the embrace of caves, small plateaus, waterfalls, and springs that gather water from the slopes of Dikti Range and irrigate many species of trees such as plane, walnut, cherry, and others. Boasting such natural wealth, Kato Simi belongs to the EU's Natura2000 network which protects, and conserves threatened species and habitats.

A massive plane tree in the center of the village square offers its shade to the visitors, sheltering them from the hot sun in the summertime. Visiting the area, you may admire the small waterfalls and wander in the amazing forest that surrounds the village. You also have the chance to see the church Galatoktisti (built using animal milk (Gala) instead of water).

If you wish to go a little further it is worth wandering in the ancient sanctuary of Hermes and Aphrodite (5km/3.1mi,10'northeast of Kato Simi village). Another option is the Omalos Plateau with the beautiful Alpine-like lake (12km/ 7.45mi,30' northwest of Kato Simi).

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

OMALOS TAVERN

Experience the authentic Crete with all of your senses.

Type: Traditional tavern

Cuisine: Greek - Cretan

Contact: Kato Simi Village, Viannos Tel. +30 2895 031 472



PSYCHRON WOODS

AGIOS IOANNIS VILLAGE

12km/7.45mi East of NUMO Hotel, 20'

SCHYNOKAPSALA VILLAGE

21km/13mi East of NUMO Hotel, 45'

The small and traditional village of Agios Ioannis is built at 500m/1640ft above sea level, at the slopes of the southern side of the Thripti mountain range. This little hidden paradise is placed in a magical landscape and this "natural balcony" offers unobstructed views to the Lybian sea.

Sadly, most of its inhabitants were compelled to leave the village looking for a better life and are now involved in tourism and agriculture (greenhouses) in the area of Ierapetra. Despite the apparent traces of abandonment made obvious by the ruined and deserted houses, what makes this village attractive and worth visiting is that it nests in the heart of a unique pine forest extending from the area of Thripti Mountain up to the village of Schynokapsala. A beautiful mountainous 9km/5.6mi long route through the pine forest of Psychro connects Ag.Ioannis and the rich in waters Schynokapsala village.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

51TY 51VE MUSIC CAFÉ WINE BAR

55 labels of beer, 55 labels of wine, a unique décor and an amazing view over the Libyan Sea.

Type: Music Café / Wine bar / Restaurant

Cuisine: Greek & Mediterranean

Contact: Agios Ioannis Village,

Tel: +30 697 66 77 640



ORINO VILLAGE

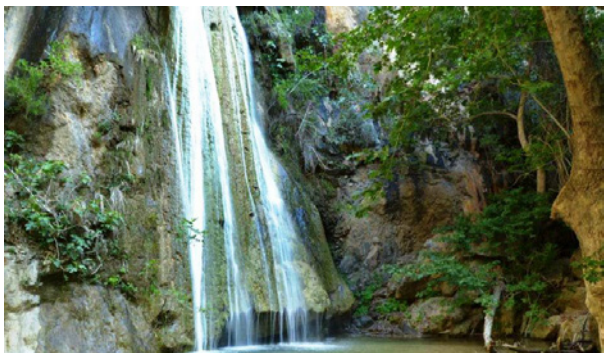
23.9km/14.8mi East of NUMO Hotel, 35'

Via AGIOS IOANNIS & SCHYNOKAPSALA VILLAGE

26.4km/16.4mi East of NUMO Hotel, 45'

Orino village is the highest inhabited village of Ierapetra region, built at the slopes of Thripti mountain and is overlooking the Lybian sea from an altitude of 620m/2034ft. This is yet another mountain settlement that suffered abandonment and decline when its inhabitants sought a better life closer to the town. Some newly restored houses are bringing an air of freshness and rebirth to this out-of-the-bitten-path village.

Mount Thripti, the fifth largest mountain range in Crete, is the perfect example of the wild beauty of Cretan nature. Gorges flanked by pine and brushwood and a distinctive pine forest prevail the landscape. The breathtaking view from its highest peak Afendis Stavromenos at 1476m/4842.5ft stretches from Ierapetra to Sitia and offers a panoramic aspect of both the Cretan and the Lybian sea.



MILONA WATERFALL AND GORGE

7km/4.35mi East of NUMO Hotel, 15'

The Gorge of Milona (or Agios Ioannis gorge) starts near the village of Agios Ioannis and ends at the beach of Kaki Skala. The descent from the village is impossible due to a high waterfall whereas the gorge features several hiking trails some of which are rather demanding and canyoning equipment is necessary.

The most popular and easy hiking trail begins at Kaki Skala beach near the coastal village of Ferma. It is on the pinewood side of the gorge and a good part of it follows a concrete ditch. The ascent takes about 20' and leads to the 20m/65.6ft high waterfall of Milona. The spectacular waterfall is flanked by evergreen vegetation and surrounded by the imposing natural formations of the gorge like deep ravines, steep cliffs and numerous caves. Right underneath there is a small pond with crystal clear water, ideal for a refreshing jump in the water. Especially in winter and spring and after the rain season, there is plenty of water while in the summertime the water becomes much less.

There is another trail, though much longer and strenuous, that leads from Kaki Skala beach to the Falls if you follow the riverbed.



PERISTERIONA WATERFALL

RED BUTTERFLY GORGE

via MAVROS KOLIMPOS

21.5km/13.3mi East of NUMO Hotel, 30'

Orino village is surrounded by lush vegetation and many springs that supply with their waters one of the steepest rivers in Crete. After flowing through the main square of the village, the river enters the rugged gorge of Orino – a demanding descent that requires special equipment- and its abundant waters form impressive waterfalls and ponds. The highlight of Orino gorge is its last part where the river shapes three amazing waterfalls at Peristerionas spot.

The river continues its flow by entering the gorge of Red Butterflies and ends at Koutsouras beach. Despite the major fire that damaged the area in 1993 the vegetation of the gorge is still lush, whereas the population of the endemic red butterflies that find shelter here has declined dramatically. Spring-time visitors can still spot them enjoying nature, flying among the bushes and the wildflowers.

The entrance to the Butterfly gorge is 2km/1.24mi south of Orino settlement, where the Orino Gorge ends. Starting from Orino village and skipping the rough part of Orino gorge, it takes 3 to 4 hours through an indicated path to reach the end at Koutsouras beach.



STAVROCHORI

22.9km/14.2mi East of NUMO Hotel, 30'

The small humble houses of the village and the quaint narrow alleys which meet at the square in the center are a great example of traditional Cretan architecture with contemporary elements. Built at an altitude of 313m/1026ft the small Village of the Cross, as its name indicates, boasts the surprisingly large number of 24 churches and chapels.

The picturesque church of Saint Konstantinos on the south of the village stands out, as it is built next to a beautiful waterfall. The village offers magnificent views to the sea and visitors are also attracted by the main square with the pretty coffee shops and taverns where religious festivities and cultural events take place.



MAKRYGIALOS

20km/12.4mi East of NUMO Hotel, 25'

The coastal village of Makrygialos (meaning Long Beach) has flourished the last few decades as a popular holiday destination, especially among families. The fishing port is certainly the most picturesque part of the village, and the promenade is lined with a good variety of taverns, restaurants, bars and coffee shops promising to suit all tastes. Before its tourist growth Makrygialos was just a small fishing village with few inhabitants. Its little harbour with a small number of storehouses used to serve as a hub from where the local agricultural products were exported to the rest of the island since the transport network was inadequate.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

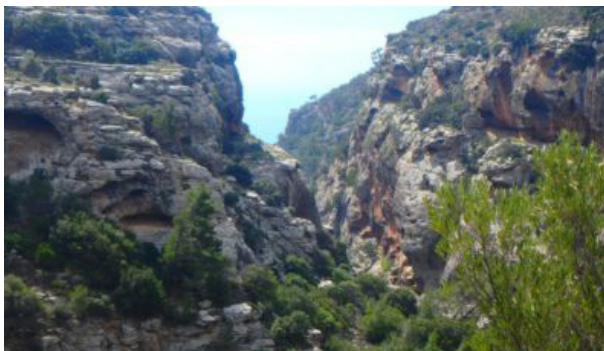
KALIoTZINA

Traditional family tavern right on the beach with the sunset in the background.

Type: Traditional tavern

Cuisine: Greek

Contact: Koutsouras Beach Tel. +30 2843 051 207



PEFKI PINE FOREST AND THE GORGE

26.6km/16.5mi East of NUMO Hotel, 35'

Pefki is a small and magnificent gorge with impressive rock formations and thriving vegetation. It is extending in a pine tree forest of unique beauty, whereas next to the riverbed one can see mostly plane trees and herbs.

The gorge is about 4.5km/2.8mi long and the crossing is easy and lasts approx. 2 hours. It starts a bit south of the beautiful and picturesque village Pefki and ends in Aspros Potamos settlement, 2km/1.24mi north of Makrygialos. On the south side of the gorge near the exit there is a spring of fresh cold potable water coming from the mountains, an ideal refreshing stop. The entrance of the gorge and the route are well-indicated with the typical black and yellow E4 signs of the European Trail. The path is quite clear and follows the riverbed almost in its entire length.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

PIPERIA

Family tavern known for its fresh and tasteful Cretan food and the breathtaking view.

Type: Traditional tavern

Cuisine: Greek & Cretan

Contact: Pefki village,

Tel. +30 693 67 75 069



MONASTERY KAPSA

29.7km/18.45mi East of NUMO Hotel, 35'

Kapsa male monastery is dedicated to the Beheading of St. John the Baptist and is in the dependency of Toplou Monastery near Sitia town. Probably established in the fifteenth century, though the exact date of its founding is not known. Built on the steep rocky hillside of the exit of Pervolakia gorge resembles a fortress overlooking the sea. In a nearby cave lived the legendary monk Iossif Gerontoyannis, thanks to whom the monastery became well-known. Tradition has it that he was performing miracles like walking on the sea surface and experiencing the occurrence of divine visions.

EXPERIENCE

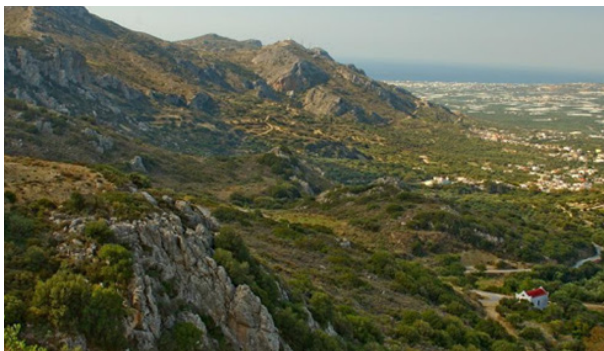
MONASTERY KAPSA

Opening hours: 06:30 – 12:30 & 15:30 – 19:00

Price: Free entrance

Contact: Agios Ioannis Kapsa,

Tel. +30 2843 051 458



THRIPTI PLATEAU AND THE VILLAGE

24km/15mi North of NUMO Hotel, 45'

Thripti Plateau is located at Thripti mountain range at an altitude of 850m/2789ft and is beyond any doubt one of the most beautiful locations worth visiting in Crete. Apart from the well-known pine tree that embraces Thripti, Orino and Schynokapsala villages, the lush vegetation of the plateau includes many fruit trees like apple, pear, walnut, almond trees, and many vineyards.

Like many other mountain villages, the scenic village of Thripti suffered the abandonment by most of its permanent inhabitants, who moved closer to the urban centers chasing a better living. During weekends and summertime, the village becomes more lively attracting visitors who want to enjoy the countryside and the pleasant temperatures of the plateau. Very common is also the presence of farmers keeping their crops and shepherds herding their flocks on this fertile land.

The plateau can be easily reached through a paved road starting from the village Pano Chorio. A more adventurous and demanding option is following the dirt road starting from Orino village on the southern slopes of Thripti above Makrygialos. The Thripti mountain hiking trails are part of the European path E4 that begins in the Pyrenees mountain range, crosses the Alps, continental Greece and ends in Crete.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

THE PROVARMA

Original Cretan tavern with tasteful and authentic mom's hand-cooked food.

Type: Traditional Tavern

Cuisine: Greek & Cretan

Contact: Thripti Village, Tel. +30 694 22 63 773



MASTORA WATERFALL – HA GORGE

20.2km/12.5mi North of NUMO Hotel, 35'

One of the best preserved parts of the Thripti pinewood, on the western part of the mountain range, is the starting point of Ha Gorge. Ha is one of the wildest and most imposing gorges in Europe as well as one of the most challenging to traverse. Apart from canyoning equipment, a lot of experience is definitely required. The impressive Gorge lies near the villages of Kato Chorio and Monastiraki at an altitude of 370m/1214ft. Thanks to its wilderness Ha is a virgin flora and fauna habitat beyond human reach. The lush vegetation of this protected environment is home to many mammals and its ponds are important wetlands offering shelter to endemic and migratory birds.

Towards the end of the gorge, waters falling from a height of 215m/705.3ft create the majestic Mastora waterfall, one of the highest known free falls in Greece. The water is flowing from springs located next to the village of Thripti right in the middle of the pristine pine forest. The Mastora fall is located just above the small village of Monastiraki and is visible from the plain that stretches west and below the village.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

KAPILIO

A hidden gem with incredible views of the olive groves and the sea up to Agios Nikolaos town.

Type: Traditional Tavern

Cuisine: Greek

Contact: Monastiraki Village,

Tel: +30 2842 093 320

DOMA CAFÉ BAR

Ideal for a cup of coffee or a drink enjoying incredible views of the olive groves and the sea.

Type: Café / Bar

Cuisine: Greek

Contact: Monastiraki Village, Tel: +30 695 92 00 925



GOURNIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

21.6km/1.42mi North of NUMO Hotel, 25'

The Minoan settlement of Gournia is located on a hill west of Pachia Ammos village, northwest of Ierapetra and is ranked as the best preserved excavated Minoan town in Crete. The excavations were performed in 1901-1904 by an American Archaeology Group under the guidance of Harriet Boyd. Named Gournia after the stone and wooden bowls (urns) that were discovered in the archaeological site, the town was flourishing in 1550-1450BC until it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1450BC. The last inhabitants abandoned the settlement around 1200BC leaving behind various objects and tools (chisels, hooks, hammers, pots, etc) that were found by the archaeologists and help us visualize the everyday life of the Minoans.

At the top of the hill, the excavations revealed a small palace along with an ample courtyard (the market), a primitive theater and a temple dedicated to the Goddess of Snakes. A stroll in the paved streets of the site unveils what the Minoan town must have looked like; there are two-storey houses with stairs taking to the second floor, workshops and storage rooms and an amazingly well-developed sewerage system.

EXPERIENCE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF GOURNIA

Summer Season: 1st of April till 31st of October

Contact: Pachia Ammos,

Tel. +30 2842 093 028



PANAGIA FANEROMENI MONASTERY

29.2km/18.1mi North of NUMO Hotel, 30'

The historical Monastery of Panagia Faneromeni (Our Lady Revealed) or Virgin Mary of Gournia is a male monastery built on a steep slope at an altitude of 540m/1771.6ft. It is overlooking the Minoan city of Gournia offering at the same time incredible views to the sea. The fortress-like architecture along with the position where the Byzantine monastery is built, reflect its defensive character against the frequent pirate raids in the coasts of Crete.

The cavernous two-aisled church of Faneromeni is dedicated to the Dormition of Virgin Mary and to Zoodochos Pigi (Spring of Life). The spring inside it is believed to be miraculous. The monastery is one of the most well-known in eastern Crete and attracts pilgrims from all over the island on the 15th of August, the day of its celebration.

EXPERIENCE

PANAGIA FANEROMENI MONASTERY

Price: Free entrance

Contact: Gournia area,

Tel: +30 2841 024 444



MONUMENTAL OLIVE TREE AZORIA

24.7km/15.34mi North of NUMO Hotel, 30'

The monumental grove of Kavousi is located 2km south of Kavousi village, at an altitude of 252m/827ft and is one of the most important ancient olive groves dating back to the Minoan period. In the center of the grove dominates an imposing olive tree, a protected natural monument considered to be the oldest olive tree in the world. The diameter of the trunk is about 22m/72.1ft proving that the impressive tree is over 3000 years old. The winner of the Women's Marathon of the 2004 Summer Olympics held in Greece was crowned with a wreath of a branch from this particular tree.

EXPERIENCE

EVOTRY– Traditional Grape Must Products

Indulge in sweet traditional flavors based on grape must and other natural raw materials such as raisins, grapes, almonds, molasses, figs and sesame.

Contact: At the entrance of Kavousi village

Tel. +30 6942 673 375

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

PANORAMA

Refreshing stop for a coffee or a meal with a great sea view.

Type: Café / Restaurant

Cuisine: Greek & Cretan

Contact: Platanos of Kavousi village,

Tel. +30 6977 657 946

HALF-DAY EXPLORATIONS

NUMOIERAPETRA



AGIOS NIKOLAOS

39.3km/24.41mi from NUMO Hotel,45'

The city of Agios Nikolaos is an international cosmopolitan seaside resort attracting thousands of visitors every year. The capital of the prefecture of Lassithi took its name from the old church of Saint Nicholas, who is the patron saint of sailors in Greece.

The lake Voulismeni, the town's jewel, is 64m/210ft deep and connected with the sea through a narrow canal. It is surrounded by red rock formations and lush vegetation and is known for many legends according to one of which goddesses Athena and Artemis were bathing in these waters. Voulismeni Even the famous French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau was fascinated by this legendary lake and challenged to explore it.

Strolling around the shops of the town you will find unique traditional Cretan artifacts, copies of items exhibited in the local archaeological museums, jewels, and impressive embroidery. Worth mentioning are also the local products and delicacies that will intrigue everyone's palate. The town is filled with traditional coffee shops and taverns that serve local dishes and of course tsikoudia (or raki). Agios Nikolaos is equally magical at night offering numerous bars for all tastes.

EXPERIENCES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF AGIOS NIKOLAOS

Due to maintenance, the museum currently houses periodic exhibitions only.

Contact: Tel. +30 2841 024 943
Konstantinou Palaiologou Str. 41, Agios Nikolaos

FOLK MUSEUM OF AGIOS NIKOLAOS

Contact: Tel. +30 2841 025 093
Konstantinou Palaiologou Str. 1, Agios Nikolaos

ENJOY YOUR MEAL & DRINK

GIOMA MEZE

Excellent Cretan cuisine with panoramic views of the town and lake.

Type: Greek restaurant
Cuisine: Cretan
Contact: Tel. +30 28411 02056
Dionisiou Solomou 10-12

MIGOMIS

Panoramic view of the lake, international cuisine and extensive wine list from all around the world.

Type: Piano restaurant
Cuisine: Greek, international
Contact: Tel. +30 2841 024 353
Nikos Plastiras Str. 20

BLE KATSAROLAKIA

Simple decoration with artistic details. Special varieties of Cretan Wines.

Type: Restaurant
Cuisine: Greek and Cretan
Contact: Tel. +30 28410 21955
Akti Koundourou 8

FYSALIDA WINE BISTRO

Stylish wine bar near the lake Voulismeni.

Type: Wine bar / Café
Cuisine: Creative Greek
Contact: Tel. +30 2841 025 006
Palaiologou Kostantinou 1,
Lake of Agios Nikolaos

GIFTS & PURCHASES

BIOAROMA

Organic Cosmetics and Perfumes
Crossroad Agios Nikolaos-Heraklion
Ammouda Xirokampou 72100 Agios Nikolaos
Contact:Tel. +30 2841 082 293

EXPERIENCE

CRETAN OLIVE OIL FARM

2nd km Agios Nikolaos - Elounda
72100, Lassithi, East Crete, Greece.
Tel. : +30 28410 24139
Mob.: +30 6944 630 706



ELOUNDA 49km/30.44mi north of NUMO Hotel, 55'
PLAKA 53.6km/33.30mi northwest of NUMO Hotel, 1h
PLAKA 15.7km/9.7mi from Agios Nikolaos, 20'
PLAKA 4.5km/2.8mi from Elounda, 15'

Elounda is considered as one of the most sophisticated holiday destinations attracting A-Listers from all over the world. In the bay of Elounda called Mirabello, is located the small island of Spinalonga, a significant attraction most known for its long and turbulent history. First called Kalydon, the island was renamed Spina Lunga (meaning long thorn) by the Venetians. In antiquity first it was used as a fortress, then during the Venetian era as a stronghold, during the Ottoman years was a settlement and a place of exile and towards the end of the 19th century became an important port.

After an aggressive outbreak of leprosy that stroke Greece, Spinalonga's fate as a leper colony was sealed on the 30th of May 1903, when Prince George decided to establish a leprosarium on the island. The total isolation provided by Spinalonga seemed to be more effective than any other measure and the islet became the place where all lepers from Crete and the rest of the country were quarantined. During the Nazi occupation and for fear of contacting the disease, not even the conquerors dared step foot on the island and were only sending supplies to the lepers. It was only in 1957 that the cure for leprosy (Hansen disease) was discovered and Spinalonga was gradually evacuated. After decades of neglect the buildings were restored recently and the island was transformed into an archaeological site and tourist attraction. In 2001 the history of Spinalonga Island inspired the British author Victoria Hislop to write the novel "The Island".

EXPERIENCE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF SPINALONGA

Access to the island is offered by boats departing from Agios Nikolaos 60' trip, from Elounda 20' trip and from the quaint fishing village of Plaka 10' trip.

Contact: Tel. +30 2841 022 462,
 +30 2841 028 361, +30 2841 090 511
 Spinalonga, Plaka

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

GIORGOS TAVERN (GIOVANNI'S) in PLAKA

Just by the sea, with a great view and fresh seafood

Type: Tavern

Cuisine: Greek, seafood

Contact: Plaka, Tel. +30 2841 041 353

KANALI RESTAURANT in ELOUNDA

Intimate atmosphere by the canal of Elounda

Type: Restaurant

Cuisine: Greek seafood

Contact: Olous Area, Tel. +30 2841 042 075

TIP

If you feel like driving a remarkable sinuous route in order to enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of Mirabello Bay, you can reach the area by taking the provincial road that leads from Neapoli (54.5 km/39 mi from NUMO Hotel) to Plaka (17.7 km/ 11 mi from Neapoli). This route will take you through picturesque villages, with Kastelli being the most charming of them.



KRITSA VILLAGE

47km/29mi from NUMO Hotel,50'

Clinging to the craggy foothills of the Dikti range, Kritsa is one of the oldest and prettiest mountain villages of eastern Crete. This centuries-old settlement is known for its traditional architecture, its cottage and textile industries, its festivals and celebrations, as well as the excellent quality olive oil it produces which has received international distinctions. The upper part of village with its web of narrow, car-free lanes is especially atmospheric and offers a variety of charming cafes where you can enjoy a traditional Greek coffee, shops exhibiting local products and surprisingly sophisticated boutiques. The area's flora includes many kinds of plants, herbs, flowers and rare trees, an impressive collection of which is held in the Rodanthi Museum. In Kritsa village were also filmed scenes from Jules Dassin's film 'He who must die', an adaptation of Nikos Kazantzakis' novel "Christ Recrucified".

In the surroundings of the village one can find the ancient ruins of Lato (3.5 km/2.2mi from Kritsa) and the church of Panagia Kera (1km/0.6mi before entering Kritsa) with its stunning Byzantine frescoes.

EXPERIENCE

RODANTHI MUSEUM OF PLANTS AND HERBS

Contact: Ioannis Klontzas Str. 78,
Kritsa village, Tel. +30 694 44 13 496



PANAGIA KERA BYZANTINE CHURCH

Panagia Kera, the three aisled arch-roofed Basilica with a dome is one of the most significant religious monuments in Crete and was built in two phases. The middle aisle, dating from the 13th century is the oldest of the three, since the church was initially built as single aisled one with a dome and was consecrated to the Assumption of the Virgin. The other two aisles were added later one by one. The unique way it was built, along with its incredible frescoes make this church one of the most important monuments of the area.

The oldest wall paintings (midst of the 13th century) survive in the sanctuary crevice. In this church one can find scenes from the apocrypha gospels of Jacob (south aisle), depictions of intense naturalism and sentimental expression, something very rare in Byzantine art. Particular mention should be made to the depiction of Saint Francis of Assisi in the central aisle of the church, as well as to the scenes from the occult gospels on the aisle of Agia Anna.



ANCIENT CITY OF LATO

Directly after the town sign “Kritsa” a signpost shows to the ancient site of Lato. Lato owes its name to the goddess Leto (Doric type of Lato), mother of Apollo and Artemis. It is one of the most important city-states of the Dorians in Crete and is considered the most well-preserved city of the classical Hellenistic period. It is built between two hills in a very strategic location. The center of the town at the top of the hill, offers breathtaking views to Agios Nikolaos town, Lato’s ancient port.

EXPERIENCE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF LATO

An ancient Dorian settlement

Contact: Lato, close to Kritsa village
 Tel: +30 28410 22462, +30 28410 28361,
 +30 28410 90511



KATHARO PLATEAU

62km/29mi from NUMO Hotel,1h20'

At an altitude of 1150m/715mi and just 16km/10mi from Kritsa is the Katharo Plateau. The shepherds with their herds, the apple and oak trees, the stone walls all add to the unique beauty of this landscape. A narrow but beautiful road leads to the plateau through Kritsa. A fact worth mentioning is that Paleontologists find great interest in researching the plateau because of the fossils of elephants and dwarf-hippos that have been found in the 19th century and are dated around 540,000 years ago. This enhances their belief that Katharo used to be a lake where those prehistoric animals thrived.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

STEREOS in KATHARO PLATEAU

Embraced by the pure Cretan nature and the sound of running water.

TYPE: Tavern

Cuisine: Greek traditional

CONTACT: Katharo Plateau of Kritsa,
 Tel. +30 2841 051 872

FULL-DAY EXPLORATIONS

NUMOIERAPETRA



LASITHI PLATEAU

About 83km/51.6 mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h50'

Standing over 850m/2789ft above sea level, the virgin and peaceful Lasithi Plateau, the largest in Greece, is surrounded by the imposing wild peaks of Dikti Mountains. It is one of the few residential insular areas in the Mediterranean at such high altitude. About 18 traditional villages with small or almost no population, with Tzermiado being the main one of them, are spread all around the highland and are linked with a circular road of over 23km/14mi. Apart from tourism, the local economy is supported by the famed agricultural produce of the region which is abundant thanks to the fertile soil and the unique microclimate. Some decades ago the plateau used to be swarmed with thousands of windmills irrigating the crops from natural underground water reservoirs. It is sad that today only few of them are still standing and are rightfully included among the most typical sights of the plateau.

TIP

Two entrances lead to the Lasithi Plateau. The first village you meet as you enter coming from Neapoli, is called Agios Georgios and is 83km (53.4mi) from NUMO Hotel. If you feel like exploring a little more, it is worth leaving from the northern exit near Pinakiano village 86km (60mi) from Numo Hotel. After 8km/5mi you turn right following the sign and enter Krasi village for a refreshing stop under the village's point of reference; a perennial huge plane tree, a monument of nature ranked among the 5 largest trees in Europe. It is 2400 years old, and the perimeter of its trunk is 24m/79ft. Beautiful arched fountains right next to it offer their cool and crystal clear water to the visitors. Around the plane tree square scattered taverns and cafes welcome you for a meal or refreshment. Reach the highway following the signs to Malia.



DIKTAION ANDRON (CAVE OF ZEUS)

One of the most important reasons visiting Lasithi Plateau is to explore the impressive Diktaion Andron Cave, also known as the Cave of Zeus or Cave of Psychro. Legend has it that God Zeus was born here, though the same claim is attributed to another cave on the Nida plateau. The first feel you experience as you enter the cave is the significant drop of temperature which in combination with the presence of wild rock doves and bats nesting in the dark creates an unearthly atmosphere. Over the millennia dripping stalactites and stalagmites have been forming the interior of the cave at an altitude of 1025m/3363ft. The cave extends for over 2200m/1.4mi and after a descent of 200 steps (same way up) following the well-marked path you reach the main chamber.

From the parking area it is an about 20' uphill walk. You have the choice between the quite steep old stone path with oak trees on either side that extends on the right or the newer paved one on the left, which is easier but more exposed to the sun. For those not wishing to walk there is also the option of a donkey ride from the parking to the entrance of the cave.

TIP

Start your journey in Lasithi Plateau by visiting the Cave first thing in the morning, since it is very popular among visitors and both the parking lot and the cave itself can get quite busy later in the day.

EXPERIENCE

DIKTEON ANDRON CAVE

Contact: Lasithi Plateau above Psychro village
Tel: +30 2841 022 462,
+30 2841 024 943, +30 2841 022 382



ENJOY YOUR MEAL IN LASSITHI PLATEAU

CHALAVRO in PSYCHRO VILLAGE

Beautiful view over Lasithi Plateau, atmospheric traditional tavern

Type: Tavern

Cuisine: Greek traditional

Contact: Tel. +30 697 01 20 238

On the way up to Dikteon Andron Cave

VIDIANI MONASTERY

The 19th century monastery of Vidiani is located near the village of Kato Metochi at the feet of mountain Louloudaki. The surrounded with flowers monastery is dedicated to Zoodochos Pigi(Spring of Life) and a small fountain in the yard with the huge cypress trees symbolizes the spring of life and blossom. Remarkable is the carved icon-screen of the church and the stone carved windows with very elaborate masonry. The monastery is housing a small museum of natural history, a little shop selling herbs, an icon workshop and a small café where you can indulge in the nature under the shade of the trees. Access is very easy, as the peripheral road of the plateau runs just next to it.

EXPERIENCE

VIDIANI MONASTERY

Opening hours: 08:00 – 22:00

Contact: Lasithi Plateau, Kato Metochi village,
Tel. +30 2844 022 421



KNOSSOS MINOAN PALACE

5.5km/3.4mi from HERAKLION, 15'

Knossos, the famous Minoan Palace lies only a few kilometers southeast of Heraklion in the valley of the river Kairatos. The river used to rise in Archanes, run through Knossos and reach the sea at Katsabas, the Minoan harbor of Knossos. In Minoan times the river flowed all year round and the surrounding hills were covered in oak and cypress trees, where today we see vines and olives. The pine trees inside the archaeological site were planted by Sir Arthur Evans, the British archaeologist responsible for the first excavations.

Constant habitation for 9,000 years has brought about great changes to the natural environment, so it is hard to imagine what the Minoan landscape was like. The first settlement in the Knossos area was established circa 7000 BC, during the Neolithic Period. The economic, social, and political development of the settlement led to the construction of the majestic Palace of Knossos towards the end of the second millennium BC. Knossos was the seat of the legendary King Minos and the main center of power in Crete.

The first Palace was destroyed circa 1700 BC. It was rebuilt and destroyed again by fire, this time definitively, in 1350 BC. The environs of the Palace were transformed into a sacred grove of the goddess Rhea but never inhabited again. The Palace of Knossos is the monumental symbol of Minoan civilization, due to its construction, use of luxury materials, architectural plan, advanced building techniques and impressive size.

EXPERIENCE

PALACE OF KNOSSOS

Contact: Tel. +30 2810 231 940

TIP

The picturesque and colorful village of Epano Archanes, built at an altitude of 380 meters /1280 ft in the middle of a basin, is only 14km/8.6mi away from the city of Heraklion and only 7km/4.4mi, 10' from the Palace of Knossos. It has been prized by the European Union as model for residential development and offers a great variety of restaurants and taverns at the Central Square, and excellent opportunity to discover the world-famous Cretan cuisine and the exquisite local wines.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

LIKASTOS

Traditional atmospheric Greek tavern placed on the village square.

Type: Tavern

Cuisine: Greek Mediterranean

Contact: Tel. +30 2810 752 433

Eleftheriou Venizelou square, Epano Archanes Village



HERAKLION CAPITAL TOWN
100km/62mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h30'

Heraklion being the capital town of Crete is the commercial and administrative center of the island. It is surrounded by a magnificent medieval wall indicating a great historical past. The imposing medieval fortress Koules or Rocca al Mare, as the Venetians named it, crowns the modern port being one of the most impressive landmarks of the town. Visiting Heraklion is the perfect chance for a pleasant stroll on the 25th of August Street, the most historical and beautiful street of the town, connecting the Venetian harbor to the Square of Lions.

This pedestrian road is dominated by the neoclassical architecture of very imposing buildings like the Venetian Loggia (meaning Noble Club), one of the finest monuments left by the Venetians in Crete, which today houses the municipal services of Heraklion. Right next to the Loggia is the Byzantine church of Saint Titos, one of the most important monuments in the center of the town, surrounded by the small cafes of a lovely square. The Loggia was built under the general captain Francesco Morosini, who gave his name to the beautiful fountain at the Lions square only a few steps away.

A little further from the square, on 1866 Street starts the central market of Heraklion, where one can find a mix of small cafés and taverns, shops selling souvenirs, items made of leather, fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, cheese, and meat.



TIP

You can be part of the vibrant atmosphere of the always busy Lions square by people-watching, while indulging in the flavor of a traditional Bougatsa at Kirkor café. Bougatsa is a well-known Greek sweet, made of cream and dough with sugar and/or cinnamon on top.



EXPERIENCES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF HERAKLION

Contact: Tel. +30 2810 279 000, +30 2810 279 002, +30 2810 279 087

Xanthoudidou & Hatzidakí 1, Heraklion

KOULES (ROCCA A MARE) FORTRESS

Contact: Tel. +30 2810 243 559

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF CRETE

Contact: Tel. +30 2810 393 630

Sofokli Venizelou av., Heraklion

PESKESI

Cozy and old-style inspired surroundings with delicious food made from fresh Cretan ingredients.

Type: All day traditional restaurant with a modern twist

Cuisine: Authentic Cretan cuisine

Contact: Tel. +30 2810 288 887

Kapetan Haralampi 6-8, Heraklion

7 THALASSES

Romantic ocean inspired atmosphere and décor.

Type: Seafood restaurant

Cuisine: Mix of modern Mediterranean and Asian cuisine

Contact: Nea Alikarnassos, Heraklion Tel. +30 2810 342 945

Iraklitou & Irodotou 1, Nea Alikarnassos, Heraklion

NTORÉ

Casual all day penthouse café & restaurant with a beautiful view over Eleftherias Square

Type: Café & restaurant

Cuisine: Greek and international fusion cuisine

Contact: Tel +30 2816 007 996

Eleftherias square 29, Heraklion

KOUZEINERI

Stylish surroundings, international cuisine, and extensive wine list.

Type: Atmospheric meat restaurant

Cuisine: International cuisine

Contact: Tel. +30 2810 346 452

Agiou Titou & Evropis, Heraklion

TOUCAN

Atmospheric roof Restaurant – Café – Bar with a beautiful view over Plateia Eleftherias

Type: Restaurant

Cuisine: Greek and international fusion cuisine

Contact: Tel. +30 2816 007 994

Eleftherias square 29A 5th floor Ntoré Megaro, Heraklion

TIPS ON YOUR WAY TO/FROM HERAKLION**EXPERIENCE**

In the area of Hersonissos, you may visit the Cretan Open-air Museum "Lychnostatis" the aim of which is to promote the understanding and awareness of the Cretan folk cultural heritage. It is 30km/ 18.6 mi from Heraklion and 75km/46.6 mi from the Hotel.

LYCHNOSTATIS OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Contact: Hersonissos Tel. +30 2897 023 660

BEACH

If you wish to enjoy a refreshing swim, Stalis beach is a great opportunity. This popular coastal resort has plenty of cafeterias, restaurants, and bars to suit every taste. It is 30.7km/19mi from Heraklion and 73km/45.3 mi from the Hotel.



EXPERIENCE

TOPLOU MONASTERY

Contact: Sitia, Tel: +30 2843 061 226

TOPLOU MONASTERY WINERY & WINE TASTING ROOM

Organic wine and spirits

Contact: Tel. +30 2843 029 630

TOPLOU MONASTERY

Main road 82.5km/51.3mi from NUMO Hotel,1h30'

Provincial road 67.5km/42mi from NUMO Hotel,1h15'

Toplou Monastery is one of the most historic of Crete and is located in the northeastern tip of the island in a harsh, almost desert-like landscape. Resembling a fortress with its 10m/ 33ft high wall that was protecting it from enemy attacks, it stretches in a square area of 800m²/8.611ft² and its most characteristic feature is the imposing 33m/108ft high belfry. The monastery is house to some very old and priceless icons and well-preserved frescoes dating back in the 15th century. Among the treasures that are exhibited in the museum are several old and historical religious items such as bibles, silver-gilt crosses, Patriarchal Sigils, sultan decrees, seals, flags of the Greek revolution and vestments. Tradition has it that in the monastery there used to be 100 doors of which only 99 have been discovered. The monastery celebrates on September 26th and pilgrims from all over Greece visit the sanctuary to participate in the festivities.

The monastery takes great pride in its excellent organic products such as wine, honey, olive oil and raki. Right in the monastery you may find the winery and the small but welcoming wine tasting room. There you can taste the local wines and spirits assorted with traditional delicacies like cheese, olives and rusks (double baked bread) with tomato. All the wines for taste are also for sale at the monastery.



SITIA TOWN – KAZARMA FORTRESS

Main road 66.7km/41.44mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h15'
Provincial road 53km/33mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h

Sitia is the easternmost city of Crete offering you the opportunity for relaxing strolls in the old town with the traditional houses and the picturesque yards or along the waterfront where you can enjoy your coffee watching the passer-bys. The Byzantine castle Kazarma is the landmark of the town; today used for the local "Kornaria cultural events". East of the town lies a long sandy beach which is constantly exposed to the strong northern winds that prevail in the summertime (Meltemi) and swimming can be pleasant only on a calm day.

EXPERIENCE

KAZARMA FORTRESS OF SITIA

Contact: Tel. +30 2843 027 140



ANO ZAKROS

THE GORGE & THE MINOAN PALACE

Main road 111km/69mi from NUMO Hotel,
Provincial road 97.2km/60.4mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h55'

The mountain road via Vori & Chandras villages, 70km/43.5mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h30' offers an interesting experience through picturesque villages and wonderful landscapes but is at the same time very narrow, winding and demanding.

Zakros is located in one of the remotest areas of eastern Crete and is mostly known for the Minoan Palace that was built at the outlet of the beautiful Gorge of Kato Zakros. The gorge is also called Gorge of the Dead because of the caves on its sides that were housing preminoan graves. The area is of great historical significance as many archaeological treasures were discovered here.

This particularly beautiful gorge can be accessed from Ano Zakros village. It is 4km/2.48mi long and crossing it will take about 2 to 3 hours. At the end of the gorge is the quaint seaside village of Kato Zakros with taverns and a beach with crystal clear water. The signed trail in the gorge is part of the E4 European trail. Visitors who parked their cars at Ano Zakros can return later by bus from Kato Zakros instead of having to walk back through the gorge.

EXPERIENCE

MINOAN PALACE OF ZAKROS

Contact: Kato Zakros Village

Tel. +30 2843 026 897



VAI BEACH

Main road 91.2km/56.7mi from NUMO Hotel
Provincial road 76.2km/47.4mi from NUMO Hotel

The biggest and most important palm forest in Europe is here in Vai, next to one of the most famous beaches of Crete. The whole area is property of Toplou Monastery and was totally unknown until a popular commercial for the Bounty chocolate brand was filmed here in the early 1970s. The 5000 endemic Cretan Date palm trees are thriving thanks to the local warm and dry microclimate and offer shelter to birds heading to Africa stopping here during the migrating period.

Vai beach has golden sand with some fine pebbles and the water is usually calm. The beach is well organized providing the numerous visitors with facilities such as restrooms, sun loungers and straw umbrellas, water sports and wooden walkways for easy access; always to the point the protected environment is not disturbed. The beach is 200m/0.12mi walk from the parking area behind the forest and is considered easy for visitors with reduced mobility.

If you climb the steps that lead to the platform on the right side of the beach near the restaurant, you will be rewarded with the magnificent unobstructed views of the palm grove and the whole area.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

PALM BEACH VAI

Right on the beach next to ocean and surrounded by palm trees.

Type: Tavern

Cuisine: Greek traditional cuisine

Contact: Tel. +30 2843 061 129



KATO ZAKROS

Main road 111km/69mi from NUMO Hotel,
Provincial road 97.2km/60.4mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h55'

Usually calm
Fine pebbles
Normal depth of water
Popular among locals, not too crowded
Organized
Taverns nearby
Ideal for snorkeling

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

NOSTOS at KATO ZAKROS BEACH

Small, charming seafront tavern

Type: Family Tavern

Cuisine: Greek traditional Cretan

Contact: Old Provincial Road, Kato Zakros,
Tel. +30 2843 026 890



KOUREMENOS

Main road 85.6km/53.2mi from NUMO Hotel,1h.35'
Provincial road 72.8km45.2/mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h25'

Usually calm
 Sandy beach
 Shallow
 Windy and popular among windsurfers
 Organized
 Nearby taverns

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

RIZOVIGLO NEAR KOUREMENOS BEACH

200 meters from the beach and surrounded by olive trees.

Type: Tavern

Cuisine: Greek traditional

Open daily: Monday - Saturday: 15:00 – 22:00, Sunday:
 13:00 – 22:00

Contact: Kouremenos Beach, Sitia
 Tel. +30 698 94 75 331



HIONA

Main road 83.4km/51.8mi from NUMO Hotel,1h35'
Provincial road 70.8km/44mi from NUMO Hotel, 1h20'

Usually calm
 Whitish sandy beach
 Shallow
 Serene not too crowded
 Limited facilities

ENJOY YOUR MEAL

HIONA TAVERN AT HIONA BEACH

Traditional tastes with a sophisticated twist on the edge of the rock where the waves break.

Type: Fish Tavern

Cuisine: Greek traditional

Open daily: Monday - Sunday: 12:00 – 00:00

Contact: Hiona beach,Palekastros Sitia
 Tel. +30 2843 061 228 ,+30 694 882 9057



RICHTIS GORGE

51.7km/32.12mi Northeast of NUMO Hotel, 1h

This gorge of unbelievable natural beauty is located on the north side of Crete, between the towns of Agios Nikolaos and Sitia, and is one of the most well-known in Greece. The walk is approx. 3km/1.86mi long (3-4h) and stretches along Richtis river, passing through lush vegetation such as plane trees, oleander and sage. The route ends on a beach where hikers in the shade of tamarisk trees may enjoy the cool potable water of a fountain.

The highlight of the gorge is undoubtedly the beautiful Richtis waterfall, and the small pond formed below which is ideal for a refreshing dive. Even during the dry summers, the springs from the surrounding mountains still supply the gorge with enough water that falls from a height that exceeds the 20m/65.6ft.

The trail begins just outside the village of Exo Mouliana, at the stone-arched bridge of Lachanas and ends at the beautiful pebbly Richtis beach, east of the village of Kalavros. The elevation difference between the starting point and the beach is about 350m/1148ft. The bridge dates back to the 19th century when during the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey, many people lost their lives at the battle that took place there.

TIP

Most visitors leave their cars on the main road at Exo Mouliana and walk down the paved road to Lachanas bridge. You may save about a 30' walk by driving and parking next to the bridge, from where reaching the waterfall takes around 1.5-2 h. The shortest way to reach the waterfall is to drive on the narrow paved road to the beach of Richtis and walk for about 30' in the opposite direction of the river.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL 20'drive from Richtis Gorge

KATHODON

Colorful cozy balcony with unique sea view. Ideal for a coffee, a meal or a glass of wine while watching the sunset.

Type: Café / Tavern

Cuisine: Greek & Cretan

Contact: Myrsini village, Tel. +30 28430 94766

TIP

In order to visit the easternmost part of Crete you may take either the main road that leads from Ierapetra to Sitia via Pachia Ammos or the provincial one that takes you to Sitia via Koutsouras and Lithines village. The route of the main road is about 15km/9.3mi longer than the provincial one, with the first 19km/11.8mi up to Kavousi village being a very easy drive, followed by a winding road up to Hamezi village before Sitia town. The provincial route on the other hand, is shorter and offers a landscape of amazing natural beauty.

