

Karma
MINOAN
CRETE, GREECE



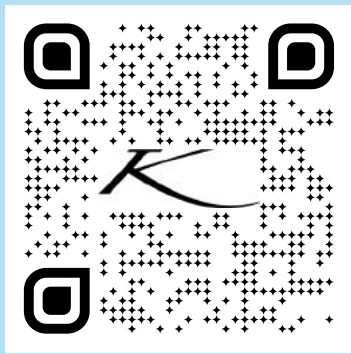
THINGS TO DO CRETE

WE CREATE... EXPERIENCES

CRETE, GREECE



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HOW TO GET THERE

BY PUBLIC BUS

The Airport bus stop is a couple of minutes' walk from the terminal building. Take the bus in the direction of Ierapetra, Sitia or Agios Nikolaos. The Bus which heads to Agios Nikolaos will drop you in Agios Nikolaos bus station from where it is recommended to take a taxi to Karma Minoan. In case you are on the buses heading to Ierapetra and Sitia, ask the bus driver to drop you at Blue Marine bus stop. Walk 3 min up the hill to reach Karma Minoan. The ticket cost around 10e. It is good to have cash prepared to pay for the ticket on the bus. Also you will see a ticket dispenser on the Airport bus stop where you can pay by card. But it is better to be on the safe side and to have smaller Euro notes available.

www.ktelherlas.gr/en

BY RENTAL CAR

Car can be rented from the airport or from the resort. Karma Minoan reception team is in charge of arranging the rental.

www.byrontravel.com

BY TAXI

Here are the details for arranging airport transfers through Karma Minoan:

✉ karmaminoan@karmagroup.com | 📞 **+306948128830**

They offer three options for airport transfers:

- **4-seater car**
Suitable for up to 4 passengers with 2 big suitcases and 2 small suitcases. Cost €100 one way.
- **Minivan**
Suitable for up to 6 passengers with 4 big suitcases and 2 small suitcases. Cost €180 one way.
- **Minibus**
Suitable for up to 9 passengers with 6 big suitcases and 3 small suitcases. Cost €200 one way.

Travelers can contact Karma Minoan through email or WhatsApp to arrange their airport transfers, ensuring a smooth and comfortable journey to and from the resort.

CRETE ON THE PLATE

OUR PICK OF THE TOP RESTAURANTS
IN THE REGION



MOCHLOS VILLAGE

Mochlos village sounds like a true gem for seafood aficionados! The Aegean Sea is renowned for its rich marine life, and enjoying the freshest catch in a picturesque village setting must be an unforgettable experience. Pairing that with Greek hospitality is the cherry on top – there's nothing quite like the warmth and generosity of Greek culture. From succulent grilled octopus to traditional Greek fish soups and everything in between, Mochlos Village seems like a paradise for foodies seeking authentic Mediterranean flavors.

Opening Times

Multiple taverns open 7 days a week from 11:00 till late (kitchen closing at 22:00)

PIATO RESTAURANT

Overlooking the beautiful Gulf of Mirabello, you will find the Piato restaurant. Here you can enjoy a unique and creative cuisine prepared with great care and meticulously supervised by the owner, a certified sommelier. With a warm welcome worthy of the Cretans, the establishment is appreciated and frequented by a large number of locals who have opted for gastronomic cuisine. Don't forget to book as the establishment has made a name for itself. Hospitality and delicacies are there for you.

+30 2841 023173 | piato.com.gr



KROUSTAS VILLAGE

For those with a palate inclined towards savory meats, Kroustas village is an absolute must-visit! Nestled in the mountains and just a short drive from Karma Minoan, this charming village offers a quintessential taste of traditional Cretan cuisine, particularly its renowned lamb dishes.

Opening Times

Multiple taverns open 7 days a week from 12:00 - 23:00

MACRAME BEACH CLUB

Discover Macrame Beach Club in Istro, Crete, where luxury meets tranquility. Enjoy pristine sands, stunning sea views, gourmet cuisine, and refreshing cocktails. Whether you're seeking a tranquil day in the sun, a romantic evening under the stars, or a lively beachside event, Macrame Beach Club provides the perfect backdrop for unforgettable memories. Join us and experience paradise.

www.instagram.com/macramebyvoulisma



MIGOMIS RESTAURANT

Agios Nikolaos, with its stunning lakeside setting, provides the perfect backdrop for a memorable dining experience at Migomis restaurant. Stepping into Migomis feels like entering a classic supper club, where elegance meets culinary innovation with a Greek twist.

Opening Times

From 12:00-24:00

Address

Nikolaou Plastira 20, Agios Nikolaos, Crete 72100 Greece

+30 2841 024353 | www.migomis.com

BEACHES TO VISIT
WHILE STAYING IN KARMA MINOAN



OFF-SITE GUEST EXPERIENCES



Voulisma Beach

Photo by Evangelos Moutakas on Unsplash

VOULISMA BEACH

Being in the less commercialized part of Crete, particularly in the East, offers a unique opportunity to explore some of the island's most breathtaking beaches. Voulisma Beach, also known as Golden Beach, is a shining example of Crete's coastal beauty, just a short 15-minute drive from Karma Minoan.

With its soft golden sand and crystal-clear turquoise waters, Voulisma Beach is a paradise for beach lovers seeking relaxation and recreation. Whether you prefer lounging under the warm Mediterranean sun, taking a refreshing dip in the sea, or engaging in exhilarating water sports, Voulisma Beach has something for everyone. And for those seeking a bit of beachside luxury, Beach Club Makrame provides the perfect setting to unwind in style. Picture yourself reclining on a comfortable sun lounger, sipping a refreshing cocktail as you gaze out at the endless expanse of the Aegean Sea.

ALMYROS BEACH

Almyros Beach sounds like a serene haven for those seeking a blend of natural beauty and convenience. Situated within walking distance of Agios Nikolaos, it offers the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of the city while remaining easily accessible.

What sets Almyros Beach apart is its unique feature of a flowing river meeting the sea. This creates a picturesque scene where the tranquil waters of the river gently merge with the azure waves of the Mediterranean, providing a peaceful ambiance for visitors to enjoy.

The soft sand and shallow waters make Almyros Beach ideal for families with children or anyone looking to wade into the sea without encountering deep waters. It's a safe and welcoming environment for swimmers of all levels, allowing everyone to enjoy the refreshing embrace of the Aegean.



Almyros Beach

unsplash.com



Vai Beach

<https://caravel.gr/>



Elounda Beach

goatsontheroad.com

ELOUNDA BEACH

Elounda Beach truly offers a slice of paradise nestled within its scenic bay, boasting captivating views of the majestic Kolokitha Peninsula. The combination of pristine sands, crystalline waters, and the rugged beauty of the coastline creates a breathtaking backdrop for a day of relaxation and exploration.

One of the highlights of visiting Elounda is the opportunity to embark on a boat excursion to Spinalonga. This historic island, once a leper colony, holds a wealth of cultural significance and intrigue. Whether you're basking in the sun on Elounda Beach, exploring the historic depths of Spinalonga, or savoring the flavors of the sea in a waterfront restaurant, a visit to this enchanting corner of Crete promises an unforgettable experience.

VAI BEACH

Driving to Vai Beach is a fantastic idea, especially for those enchanted by the allure of palm-fringed shores. Vai is renowned as the largest palm forest in Europe, and its eastern location adds to its mystique and allure.

As you approach Vai, you'll be greeted by a stunning vista of swaying palm trees against the backdrop of the sparkling Aegean Sea. The beach itself is a haven of tranquility, with golden sands stretching along the coast and crystal-clear waters inviting you for a refreshing swim.



Elafonisi Beach

seazetheday.gr



Matala Beach

discovergreece.com

ELAFONISI BEACH

Situated on the western coast of Crete, is renowned for its unique and captivating pink sands. This natural wonder is created by the presence of crushed shells and coral fragments, giving the beach its distinctive rosy hue. Set against the backdrop of the shimmering turquoise waters of the Mediterranean, Elafonisi is a paradise for beach lovers and nature enthusiasts alike. Beyond its pink sands, the beach offers opportunities for swimming, sunbathing, and exploring the nearby islet with its pristine beaches and shallow lagoons. Surrounded by rugged cliffs and unspoiled landscapes, Elafonisi Beach is a breathtaking destination that promises an unforgettable experience of beauty and serenity.

MATALA BEACH

Nestled in the central-south region of Crete, is a legendary destination with a bohemian vibe and a rich history as a hippie haven. This iconic beach boasts stunning cliffside caves once inhabited by the free-spirited community of the 1960s and 1970s. Today, it's a magnet for travelers seeking a laid-back atmosphere and a taste of counterculture charm. Matala hosts an annual music festival in June, drawing crowds with its eclectic lineup of performers and vibrant celebrations. With its golden sands, crystal-clear waters, and cultural allure, Matala Beach offers an unforgettable experience steeped in nostalgia and creativity.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CRETE





KNOSSOS PALACE

Located near Heraklion in Crete, is one of the most significant archaeological sites in Greece and a testament to the ancient Minoan civilization. Dating back over 3,000 years, this sprawling complex was the center of Minoan culture and power. Its intricate architecture, vibrant frescoes, and advanced engineering marvel visitors to this day, offering a glimpse into a sophisticated Bronze Age society. Knossos Palace is also steeped in myth and legend, with connections to the mythical labyrinth of King Minos and the legendary Minotaur. Today, it stands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts and curious travelers alike.

LATO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AND TRADITIONAL VILLAGE OF KRITSA

The Lato archaeological site and the nearby traditional village of Kritsa offer a fascinating glimpse into the rich history and culture of Crete.

Lato, located in the mountains near the modern town of Agios Nikolaos, was an ancient Greek city-state dating back to the 4th century BC. Perched on a steep slope overlooking the Mirabello Bay, Lato boasts impressive ruins, including well-preserved walls, houses, and public buildings. Visitors can explore the ancient streets, marvel at the remains of the city's agora and theater, and enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and coastline.

Just a short distance from Lato lies the picturesque village of Kritsa, known for its traditional Cretan architecture, narrow cobblestone streets, and welcoming atmosphere. Wander through the village's winding lanes, where colorful flowers spill from window boxes and local artisans sell their crafts. Visit the Byzantine-era churches, such as the Church of Panagia Kera, renowned for its stunning frescoes dating back to the 13th century.



Phaistos Disc

greekdestinations.gr



Snake Goddess

discovergreece.com



Archaeological Museum of Heraklion

discovergreece.com

Together, Lato archaeological site and the village of Kritsa offer a journey through time, allowing visitors to experience both the ancient and modern facets of Crete's cultural heritage. Whether exploring ancient ruins or strolling through charming village streets, this combination provides a captivating exploration of Crete's rich history and vibrant traditions.

ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF HERAKLION

Located in Crete, is a treasure trove of ancient artefacts that offer insight into the rich history of the island and its pivotal role in the development of Western civilization. Housing one of the most significant collections of Minoan art and artefacts in the world, the museum showcases exquisite pottery, intricate frescoes, and intricate sculptures dating back thousands of years. Highlights include iconic pieces such as the Phaistos Disc and the Snake Goddess figurines, providing visitors with a captivating glimpse into the culture, artistry, and daily life of the ancient Minoans. With its comprehensive exhibits and immersive displays, the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in the fascinating history of Crete and the Mediterranean region.

ZEUS CAVE

Also known as the Dikteon Cave or Psychro Cave, is a legendary site located on the island of Crete in Greece. Steeped in mythology, this cave is said to be the birthplace of Zeus, the king of the ancient Greek gods.

Nestled in the rugged terrain of the Dikti Mountains, the Zeus Cave is accessible via a scenic hike that rewards visitors with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. Upon reaching the



Zeus Cave



Spinalonga Island

Photo by Egor Myznik on Unsplash

cave entrance, visitors are greeted by a cavernous interior adorned with impressive stalactites and stalagmites, creating an otherworldly atmosphere.

According to Greek mythology, it was in this cave that Zeus was hidden and nurtured by nymphs after his birth, protected from his father Cronus who sought to devour him. As such, the Zeus Cave holds significant cultural and religious importance, serving as a place of worship and pilgrimage in ancient times.

Today, visitors can explore the cave's chambers, marvel at its natural formations, and soak in the sense of wonder and reverence that surrounds this legendary site. Whether you're a history buff, a nature enthusiast, or simply curious about Greek mythology, a visit to the Zeus Cave offers a captivating journey into the heart of ancient legend.

SPINALONGA ISLAND

Located off the northeastern coast of Crete, is a small yet historically significant islet with a compelling past. Originally a Venetian fortress, Spinalonga later served as a leper colony during the early 20th century.

The island's strategic location made it an important defensive stronghold throughout its history, with its fortified walls and structures bearing witness to centuries of conflict and conquest. However, it was during the early 20th century that Spinalonga gained notoriety as a place of isolation and suffering for those afflicted with leprosy.

From 1903 to 1957, Spinalonga functioned as a leper colony, housing hundreds of individuals who were forcibly removed from their communities due to the stigma surrounding the disease. Despite



Spinalonga Island

Photo by Joshua Kettle on Unsplash

the challenges they faced, the inhabitants of Spinalonga formed a close-knit community, supporting one another through their shared struggles.

Today, Spinalonga stands as a poignant reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring legacy of those who lived on the island. Visitors can explore the island's historic ruins, including the remnants of the Venetian fortress and the buildings once inhabited by the leper colony. Additionally, Spinalonga's captivating history has been immortalized in literature, most notably in Victoria Hislop's novel "The Island," which has drawn even more attention to this unique and evocative destination.

TOPLOU MONASTERY

Located in the northeastern part of Crete, is not only a place of spiritual significance but also a hub for wine and olive oil production. This historic monastery, dating back to the 15th century, boasts a rich cultural heritage and stunning architecture, making it a popular destination for visitors seeking both religious and historical experiences.

In addition to its religious functions, Toplou Monastery is renowned for its vineyards and olive groves, which have been cultivated for centuries by the monks who reside there. The monastery's wine and olive oil production are carried out with traditional methods and a commitment to quality, resulting in products that are highly esteemed both locally and internationally.

Visitors to Toplou Monastery have the opportunity to tour the vineyards and olive groves, learning about the cultivation and production processes firsthand. They can also sample the monastery's wines and olive oils, experiencing the rich flavors and aromas that are characteristic of the region. Beyond its agricultural pursuits, Toplou Monastery also houses a museum that showcases religious



Kritsa Village



Oil Olive Tour

tripadvisor.com

artefacts, icons, and manuscripts, offering insights into the monastery's history and cultural significance. Overall, the Toplou Monastery stands as a testament to the intersection of faith, tradition, and agricultural heritage in Crete, inviting visitors to explore its spiritual, historical, and culinary treasures.

THE VASSILAKIS ESTATE OLIVE OIL FARM

Nestled in the picturesque landscapes of Crete, Greece, is a premier destination for olive oil enthusiasts and travelers seeking an authentic taste of the island's culinary heritage. Dedicated to the art of olive cultivation and oil production, this renowned estate offers guided tours that provide a firsthand look at the olive oil-making process, from grove to bottle. Visitors can explore the lush olive groves, learn about the different olive varieties, and witness the traditional methods used to produce premium olive oil. Tastings of the estate's exquisite oils are also available, allowing guests to savor the unique flavors and aromas of Crete's finest olive oils. With its commitment to quality, sustainability, and tradition, the Vassilakis Estate Olive Oil Farm offers a memorable and educational experience that celebrates the rich cultural significance of olive oil in Crete.

TRADITIONAL VILLAGES

Exploring the traditional villages of Crete, including Kritsa, Kavousi, Fourni and Prina, offers a captivating journey into the island's rich cultural heritage and timeless charm.

Together, these traditional villages provide a window into the soul of Crete, where ancient traditions thrive amidst breathtaking natural beauty. Whether wandering through cobblestone streets, admiring centuries-old frescoes, or simply soaking in the serenity of the countryside, a visit to Kritsa, Kavousi, and Prina promises an unforgettable journey through the heart of Crete's cultural heritage.



Richtis Gorge

gocretesafari.gr



Sarakina Gorge

getexperience.com



Richtis Gorge

gocretesafari.gr

HIKING TRAILS

Embarking on hiking trails in eastern Crete, particularly Richtis and Sarakina Gorges, promises an exhilarating journey through some of the island's most breathtaking natural landscapes.

Richtis Gorge: A scenic trail that winds through lush vegetation, Richtis Gorge offers hikers a chance to immerse themselves in the unspoiled beauty of Crete's eastern countryside. The trail follows a riverbed dotted with cascading waterfalls, natural pools, and verdant foliage, leading to the stunning Richtis Waterfall at its climax. Along the way, visitors can marvel at the diverse flora and fauna, listen to the soothing sound of flowing water, and relish the serenity of the surrounding wilderness.

Sarakina Gorge: Another gem of eastern Crete, Sarakina Gorge beckons adventurers with its rugged terrain and dramatic rock formations. The trail takes hikers through a narrow gorge carved by centuries of erosion, with towering cliffs rising on either side. As you navigate the winding path, you'll encounter fascinating geological features, hidden caves, and stunning viewpoints offering panoramic vistas of the surrounding countryside. Sarakina Gorge culminates in a secluded oasis where visitors can cool off in the refreshing waters of natural springs.

Both Gorges offer hikers an opportunity to connect with nature, explore Crete's diverse landscapes, and experience the thrill of adventure in a pristine wilderness setting. Whether you're seeking a leisurely stroll or a challenging trek, these hiking trails are sure to leave you with unforgettable memories of eastern Crete's natural wonders.



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