



**THE TINY BOOK**  
**TRAVEL IN CRETE**

# Travel Guide To **CRETE**

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# YOUR GUIDE



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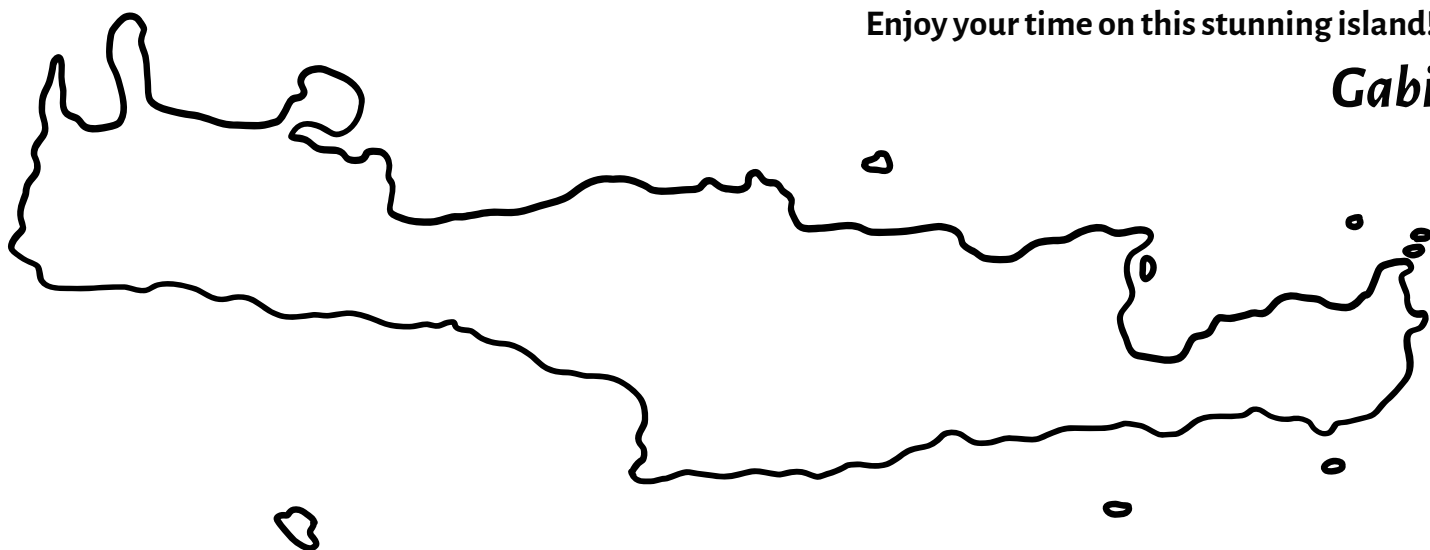
On my [TheTinyBook website](http://TheTinyBook.com), you can find dozens of free online travel guides to help you plan a trip to Crete. In this booklet, you will find my favorite travel planning tools and websites, which I use to plan my trips and excursions on the island for my family.

Rest assured, I've personally tested these tours and experiences and some of my cherished places to stay in Crete.

I have included links to all of them so you can get hold of tickets/ make bookings quickly. I hope you find them useful!

Enjoy your time on this stunning island!

*Gabi*





# Welcome To **CRETE**





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# RESOURCES



*I have encountered many travel providers over the years and am now an affiliate partner for some of them. This means that if you book through one of my links, I might make a small commission at no extra cost to you. I marked such links with a star \**

## ACCOMMODATION

**Booking.com** *\*[link]: For hotels, B&Bs, and home rentals all over Crete. I enjoy their 'free cancellation' options. Besides, loyal customers get additional discounts (Genious Program) and other perks. The good thing about booking is that they offer hotels and self-catering accommodation (villas and apartments).*

**Agoda.com** *\*[link]: This platform offers discounted rates, ranging from budget options to five-star luxury stays. You can find everything from tents to treehouses to tropical villas. In addition, they list more than 1.5 million private homes, such as city apartments, family homes, and pool villas.*

**Trivago.com** *\*[link]: This hotel search compares hotel prices and accommodation deals from hundreds of booking sites worldwide.*

## TOURS AND EXPERIENCES

**GetYourGuide** *\*[link]: This site aggregates several ticket and tour providers all over Crete. I like their vast selection of activities, the fact that they always show the tour provider's name and their very flexible cancellation policies. They sell guided tours and tickets, so despite their name, you won't be joining a guided tour if you don't want to.*

**Viator** *\*[link]: Similar to the previous tour aggregator, it often offers a wider range of activities on the island. They also feature a generous cancellation policy.*

**Tigets** *\*[link]: For hotels, B&Bs, and home rentals all over Crete. I enjoy their 'free cancellation' options. Besides, loyal customers get additional discounts (Genious Program) and other perks. The good thing about booking is that they offer hotels and self-catering accommodation (villas and apartments).*





# RESOURCES

## TRANSPORT AND USEFUL SERVICES

**Discover Cars** [\\*\[link\]](#): This powerful car rental search engine helps you find the best vehicles and cheaper car rental rates to explore Crete at your own pace.

**Welcome Pickups** [\\*\[link\]](#): This platform offers a convenient pre-paid airport transfer service, especially useful if you arrive on the island at night.

**Omio** [\\*\[link\]](#): This platform offers transport planning tools and tickets (buses, trains, ferries).

**Ferryhopper** [\\*\[link\]](#): If you plan to get to Crete from Athens by ferry or visit other islands, Ferryhopper helps you find the best ticket fees. It also lets you print the ticket beforehand, so you don't need to be at the port ahead of time and can head straight to the boat without any hassle.

## DIGITAL TRAVEL GUIDES

My guides provide an intimate understanding of Crete, ensuring a genuine and immersive experience. They uncover hidden gems and popular attractions alike, leaving no stone unturned. They also feature a comprehensive list of must-visit places, ensuring you maximize your Crete adventure. Besides, convenient bundles help you discover the essence of Crete, combining two comprehensive guides that promise an extraordinary journey!

[YOU CAN FIND ALL MY E-BOOKS HERE](#)

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

**Heymondo** [\\*\[link\]](#): This company offers customizable plans, letting you choose the coverage that best suits your itinerary and activities.

**Safetywing** [\\*\[link\]](#): This company offers straightforward insurance plans for long-term travelers and digital nomads.





# RESOURCES

## FREE GUIDES TO EXPLORE CRETE

**PRACTICAL TIPS**: *This article offers all the information to plan your trip, including details about transport, language, visa, SIM cards, theme parks, beaches, weather, landscape, and a lot more!*

**WHEN TO VISIT**: *This article tells you about different activities on the island in every season.*

**DRIVING IN CRETE**: *This helpful article unveils the secrets of Crete's roads, teaches you how to get ready for a fascinating road trip, and offers tips for car rental*

**ACCOMMODATION GUIDE**: *This article lists the best hotels and rental homes in every region*

**VILLAGES IN CRETE**: *This article includes the most picturesque villages and small towns to explore and discover Crete's authentic traditions.*





# RESOURCES

These are some of my favorite activities to explore the best areas and attractions on the island!

## KNOSSOS

- [Knossos Palace Skip-the-Line Guided Walking Tour](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [Palace of Knossos Entry Ticket & Optional Audio Guide](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [Palace of Knossos 3D Virtual Audio Tour by Table](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [Heraklion Archaeological Museum Ticket & Audio Guide](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>

## BALOS

- [From Kissamos Port: Boat Cruise to Balos Lagoon & Gramvousa](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [From Kissamos: Balos Gramvousa Sailing Cruise with Lunch](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [Balos and Falassarna Tour with Loungers and Lunch](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>

## ELAFONISI

- [From Chania: Day Trip to Elafonisi Island](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [From Heraklion: Elafonisi Beach Day Tour with Pickup](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [From Rethymno: Elafonissi Pink Sand Beach Tour](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>

## SAMARIA GORGE NATIONAL PARK

- [From Chania: Full-Day Samaria Gorge Trek Excursion](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [From Rethymno: Samaria Gorge Full-Day Trek with Pickup](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>
- [Evenos Travel - Coastal Paths and Multiday Trips](#)

## SPINALONGA ISLAND

- [Boat Trip to Spinalonga with Swim Stop](#) <sup>\*[link]</sup>

**LOOKING FOR GASTRONOMIC TOURS IN CHANIA'S OLD TOWN AND RETHYMNON'S OLD AND UNIQUE DAY TRIPS TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS AND CRETE'S VILLAGES?**

[JOIN MY EXPERIENCES!](#)

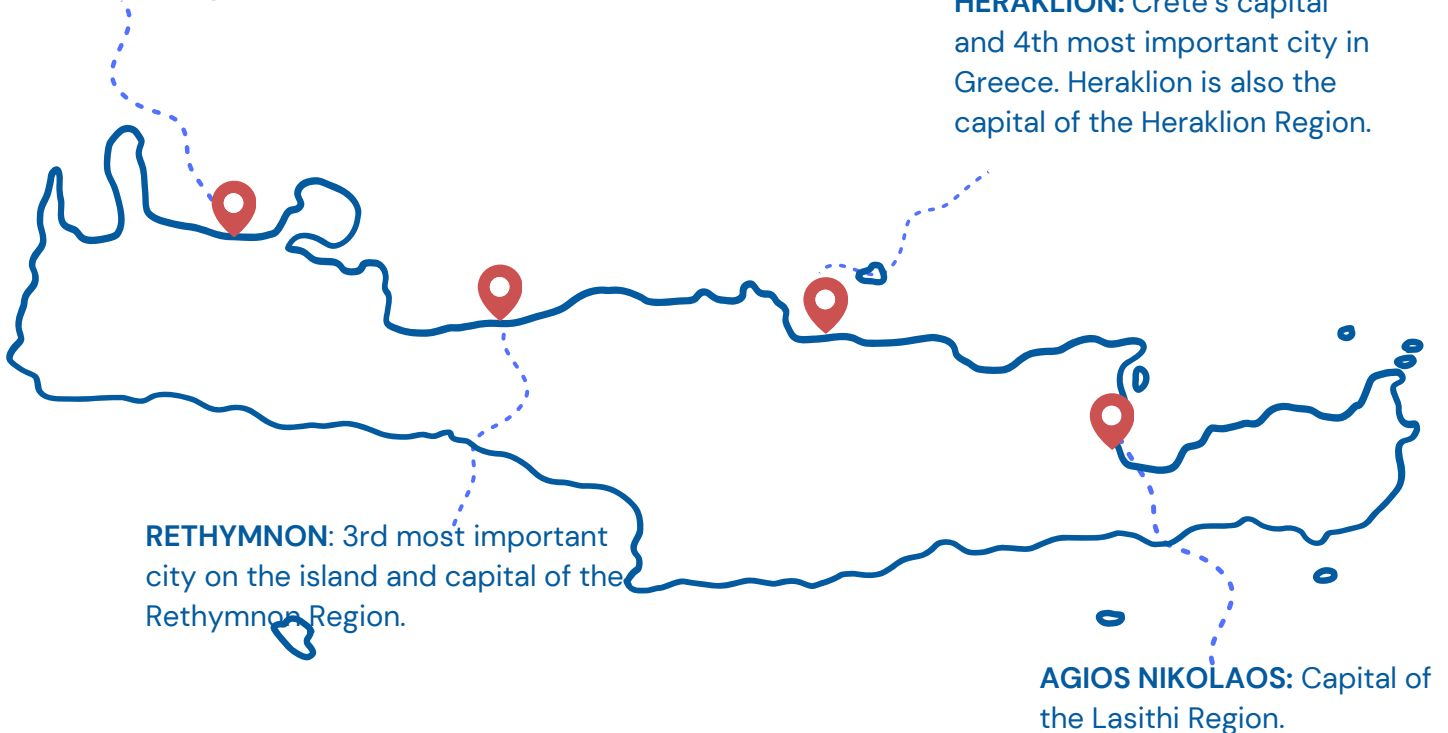




# CRETE FACTS

**CHANIA:** Crete's second city, home to a gorgeous old town and capital of the west Chania Region.

**HERAKLION:** Crete's capital and 4th most important city in Greece. Heraklion is also the capital of the Heraklion Region.



## Facts about Crete

- Crete is the biggest Greek island, the 5th biggest in the Mediterranean, and the 88th biggest island in the world. It is divided into four regions, from West to East: Chania, Rethymno, Heraklio, and Lasithi.
- Crete is 260 km long (161 miles), and the width ranges from 60 km at its widest point (37 miles) to 11 km at its narrowest (7 miles). Its total area is over 8300 square kilometers (5157 miles), making it Greece's biggest and most populous island.
- Myth: The most important god in the Greek pantheon, Zeus, was born on the island, according to the legend he was born in a Cretan cave. One of the best-known legends in Greek mythology takes place in Crete, inside the palace of King Minos (Knossos Palace).
- Also, following the Greek mythological tradition, Hercules drove all harmful animals away from Crete in an attempt to please the god Zeus. As a result, all animals in Crete are harmless.

# CRETE FACTS

- Crete is the birthplace of modern European civilization. The island's history can be traced back to the 7th millennium BC, more than four millennia before the Minoan civilization appeared on Crete. Besides, Knossos, now home to one of the most visited archaeological sites in Greece, is considered the oldest city in Europe.
- Crete was not a Greek island until December 1913, when it united with the country.
- Winters can be pretty cold in the White Mountains (Chania region), the Psiloritis (Rethymnon region), and the Dikti mountain range (Lasithi). The highest peaks see snow in winter.
- Different musical instruments originated on the island of Crete, including the laouto (or Cretan lute), the Cretan Lyra, and – some say – even the violin!
- Crete has its unique and own form of poetry, the mantinada. These short rhyming poems, often improvised, are usually performed with the music of the Cretan Lyra.
- Crete is home to the island of Gavdos, the southernmost point in Europe, about 170 nautical miles from Libya.
- 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.
- Olive trees have thrived on the island for centuries. Some of the two oldest olive trees in the world are still alive and still produce olives.
- The sea in Crete is truly transparent. The waters on the coast are so clear that it's possible to have a 40-meter-deep view from above. Consequently, the island of Crete is home to the most beaches awarded a Blue Flag in Greece.
- The island was the birthplace of several influential artists, including the Cretan writer Nikos Kazantzakis and the Cretan Renaissance painter El Greco. Opera singer Nana Mouskouri was born in Chania, and soap opera actor, John Aniston (Jennifer Aniston's father) was also born there.
- Wine has been produced on the island since the Minoan Era in the Bronze Age. The island boasts 13 native grape varieties.
- **[YOU CAN FIND MORE FUN AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CRETE HERE.](#)**

# Crete

## DESTINATIONS

### HISTORIC SITES



### Knossos Palace

*The Archaeological Palace of Knossos, in Heraklion, is the most famous Minoan site on the island. The complex is impressive, with about 1300 rooms connected by corridors and an entrance gate on each cardinal face.*

[Read more](#)

### Phaistos Palace

*The Archaeological Site of Phaistos, on the southern coast of Heraklion, is the island's second most important Minoan complex palace and was contemporary to Knossos.*

[Read more](#)



## Arkadi Monastery

*The Holy Monastery of Arkadi in Rethymno has long been integral to Crete's history and fight for freedom. It is one of the key historical sites you can visit to learn about Ottoman rule on the island.*

[Read more](#)



## Chania Old Town

*Chania's Old Town is a living symbol of Crete's multicultural identity. It is home to beautiful alleys, a romantic Venetian port, and an ancient Egyptian lighthouse. Chania is one of the most picturesque destinations in Crete, home to interesting churches, museums, and other attractions.*

[Read more](#)



## Rethymnon's Mosques

*Mosques in Rethymnon date from the Ottoman Empire's rule on the island. They were spiritual hubs, gathering places, and symbols of power. They were not only places of worship but also architectural masterpieces that showcased the skill and creativity of their builders.*

[Read more](#)



# NATURE TOURISM

## Beaches in Crete

Crete is known for its heavenly beaches. Balos, Elafonisi, Falasarna, and Matala, are some of the most famous shores. However, with a coastline of 1,046 km (650 miles), you will find beaches for all tastes in every region. Crystal clear waters, soft white sand, rocky coves, palm trees, a small islet, a dirt road to a remote location, or a boat trip... These are some of the ingredients that define the famous beaches of Crete.

[Read more](#)



## Lasithi Plateau

The silent area of the Lasithi Plateau, surrounded by the imposing heights of the Dikti Mountains, stands over 850 meters above sea level. The plains extending at the mountain range's foot are among the most fertile lands on Crete. The plateau covers a circuit over 23 kilometers long, following a road that links about 18 villages.

[Read more](#)

## Gorges in Crete

Crete is not only about beaches, friendly people, and tasty food. The island is full of breathtaking natural canyons where you can hike while enjoying the scenery and spectacular views. Among the most popular ones are **Kourtaliotiko** and **Patsos** in Rethymnon, **Rouvas** in Heraklion, **Agia Irini**, **Imbros**, and the famous **Samaria Gorge** in Chania.

[Read more](#)





# Cretan FOOD



# MOST POPULAR FOOD

## Dakos

*Dakos is an appetizer featuring chopped tomatoes, olives, and crumbled feta or mizithra cheese on top of a slice of dried bread or barley rusk.*



## Gamopilafo

*Gamopilafo is a main dish consisting of meat and poultry, next to rice cooked in meat broth. Traditionally, Gamopilafo is the primary dish in every wedding feast in Crete.*



## Antikristo

*Antikristo, which means "across the fire," is a special cooking method popular among Cretans. It is used to grill lamb or goat.*



# MOST POPULAR



## FOOD



### Boureki

*Boureki is a popular pie from Chania that consists mainly of potatoes, zucchini, mint leaves, and myzithra cheese*



### Kleftiko

*Kleftiko is a dish that comes in are many versions, the main Cretan variation consists of a paper wrap cooked in the oven filled with meat, vegetables, and potatoes.*



### Kohli Bourbouristi

*Kohli Bourbouristi are sails pan-fried in their shells, usually in hefty amounts of olive oil and different herbs to give the dish extra flavor.*



### Raki or Tsikoudia

*Raki is he most popular alcoholic beverage in Crete made after the wine harvest.*



[MORE INFO ABOUT CRETE'S GASTRONOMY](#)





Thank You



**EFXARISTO**



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