

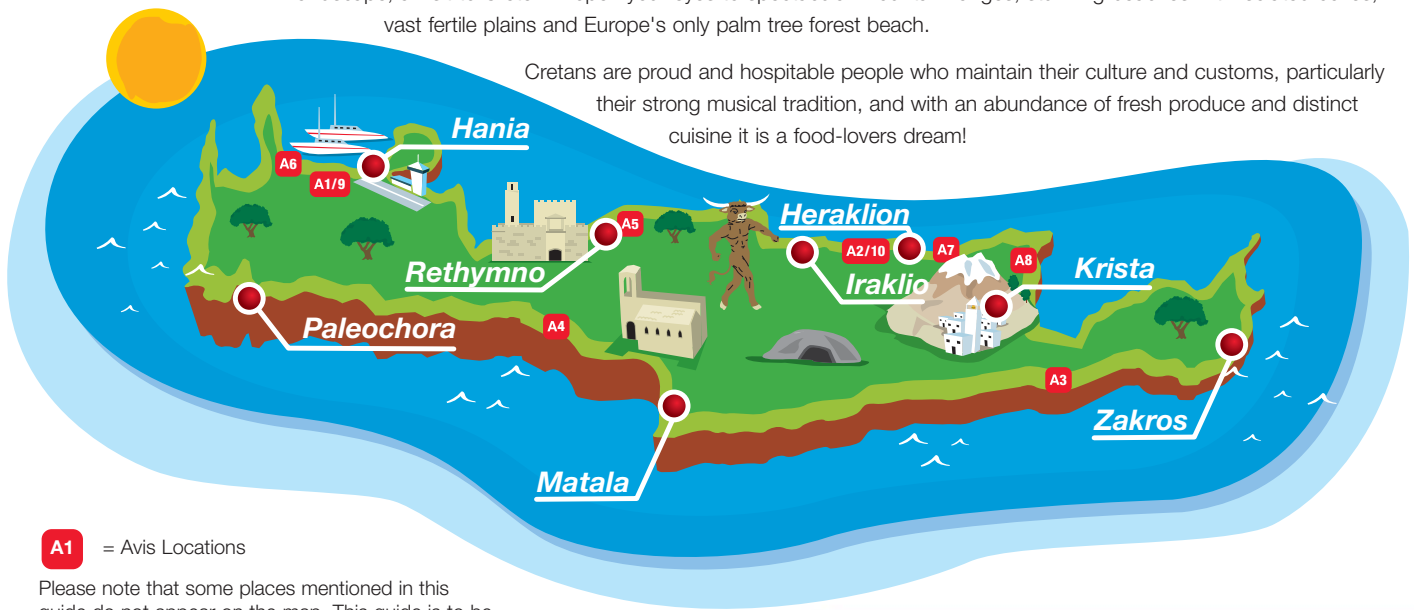
the crete guide



Discover Crete...

Crete is Greece's largest, most diverse and arguably most beautiful and fascinating island. Defined by the variety of its landscape, a visit to Crete will open your eyes to spectacular mountain ranges, stunning beaches with isolated coves, vast fertile plains and Europe's only palm tree forest beach.

Cretans are proud and hospitable people who maintain their culture and customs, particularly their strong musical tradition, and with an abundance of fresh produce and distinct cuisine it is a food-lovers dream!



A1 = Avis Locations

Please note that some places mentioned in this guide do not appear on the map. This guide is to be used as an overview of the destination.

The olive trees that grow on the island help produce approximately 20% of the world's olive oil!

Great spots to visit in an Avis car...

- Hire a car, pack a picnic and spend half a day at **Knossos**, 5km from Iraklio, the capital of Minoan Crete and the site is the island's major tourist attraction. Uncovered by British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans in the early 1900s, the ruins of Knossos was home to the mythical Minotaur kept by King Minos.
- Drive south of Iraklio to **Zaros** - an unspoilt village known for its spring water and bottling plant. The Byzantine monasteries and traditional villages tucked away in the hills are also worth exploring.
- Take a trip to **Hania** in western Crete and spend a few days in this evocative city. Its beautiful Venetian quarter is a web of atmospheric streets that lead onto a magnificent harbour. The prominent former mosque and other remnants of the city's Turkish rulers add to Hania's exotic charm.
- Explore the east side of the island and drive to the village of **Kritsa**, 11km from Agios Nikolaos and perched 600m up the mountainside. Renowned for its strong tradition of needlework and weaving this pretty mountain village is an interesting visit.

Please note that the information stated is subject to change and is used as reference only. Avis cannot take any responsibility if the information is incorrect.

Top tips for Crete

- **A right hand side road system** operates in Crete.
- **Speed limits:** Highway 90km/h
Built-up areas 50km/h
- **Goats** are everywhere in Crete and they like to feed next to the road. It is not uncommon to see a few of them walking in the road, even around a main highway!
- **Petrol stations** often close around 7pm, particularly in villages. Most petrol stations expect you to pay cash - they serve you, so you can choose for them to fill the tank or put in petrol to a cash value.
- **Drivers must be 21 or over** to drive and hold a valid driving licence.

AVIS

We try harder.



Getting the most out of Crete

Top selling tips

Always introduce car hire into every booking...

Q. What do you like to do on holiday?

"I hired a car in... and it was great for seeing / doing..."

Q. Have you been to the area before?

Yes *"So you know that there's a lot to do round there. Let me get some car hire prices for you"*

No *"Well there's lots to do in that area (such as) and the best way to see them is by hiring a car"*

Q. Do you normally hire a car on holiday?

Yes or No *"Let me get some prices for you, it usually works out cheaper to pre-book"*

Places to note...

Iraklio - The outstanding Archaeological Museum is second in size and importance only to the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. Even a superficial perusal of the contents requires half a day.

Rethymo - Crete's third largest town and one of the most picturesque, with a charming harbour and huge Venetian fortress. The delightful Venetian Ottoman quarter is a maze of narrow streets, wood-balconied houses and ornate Venetian monuments.

Frangokastello - A magnificent 14th century fortress on the coast 15km east of Hora Sfakion. It was built by the Venetians as a defence against pirates and rebel Sfakiots!

Lasithi - According to legend, the Dikteon Cave was the hiding place of newborn Zeus from his offspring-gobbling father, Cronos, and covers 2,200 sq metres with both stalactites and stalagmites.

Savings to be made...

Do more with your holiday by hiring a car. You could save money at the same time as well! Compare these excursion costs against car hire:

A coach trip from Agios Nikolaos City to Lasithi Plateau costs €37 per person, that's €148 for a family of four!

Benefits of renting a car...

- **Comfort** – choose an air conditioned car and travel in comfort.
- **Freedom** – explore those hidden treasures.
- **Value for money** – if you enjoy sightseeing, car hire can work out much better value for money than excursions.
- **Flexibility** – do what you want, when you want.
- **Reliability** – no need to wait around for buses.

Avis locations

- **Hania (CHQ) A1**
Hania International Airport
- **Heraklion (IR1) A2**
48 25th August Street
- **Ierapetra (IER) A3**
Makrigialos, Area Ierapetra
- **Plakias (P8C) A4**
Plakias Hapimag-Dannoni
- **Rethimo (REH) A5**
1 Ari Velouchioti Street, Paralia
- **Platanias (E15) A6**
Main Road
- **Chersonisos (RSZ) A7**
Venizelou Avenue
- **Agios Nikolaos (SC7) A8**
Akti Koundourou
- **Hania (CQ1) A9**
58 Tzanaka
- **Heraklion airport (HER) A10**

Join the festivities

January / February / March

Feast of St Basil is associated with a good start for the new year. An old Byzantine custom of slicing the Vassilopita (Basilcake or New Year Cake) gives the person who finds the hidden coin in his slice, good luck for the year.

The Greek National Anniversary and a major religious holiday with military parades in the larger towns and cities.

May / June / July

Labour day and the **Feast of the Flowers**. There is a general exodus to the country for picnics and the sky is filled with kites.

In Hania and Rethymnon they celebrate the anniversary of the **Battle of Crete**. At the end of June and early July, **Navy Week** is celebrated with entertainment in many of the ports of all Greece.

August / September / October

In Rethymnon the **Sultana Raisin Festival** is held.

The first week of August in the village of Anogia, a festival is held with hospitality offered to visitors.



Imagery kindly donated by Greek National Tourism

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