AROUND THE COVE





WELCOME

Crete is a remarkable place to visit

We present to you the gems we would ourselves suggest to friends and family on the island, be it the sightseeing, history or a plethora of activities catering for every taste.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy your time here and experience the true spirit of Cretan hospitality in and around Daios Cove.

Our top 30 hand-picked recommendations for you













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QUINTESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

QUINTESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES



THE RIB BOAT Mirabello Bay Excursion

Treat yourself and your loved ones to a sea excursion with a private skipper who will take you to calm, secluded beaches in and around the Cove area. This is the ideal trip for a special occasion or simply an indulgent escape with friends and family in the luxury and safety of our Technohull RIB Boat.

Explore the stunning coastline of the Cretan Sea and the Mirabello Bay





Highlights

- Visit the cobalt waters of Kryo Bay
- Wander around the fishing village of Plaka
- Explore Spinalonga island, a nominated UNESCO World Heritage site

The details

Pick-up point: Daios Cove Duration: 4 hours

QUINTESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES



LAND ROVER EXPERIENCE GREECE

The Land Rover Experience Greece is a unique opportunity to discover this part of the country, off the beaten track. Drive through quaint mountain villages and explore the untouched nature and stunning landscapes of Crete in the comfort of a Land Rover Evoque Cabriolet.

Highlights

– Crete's Wild East

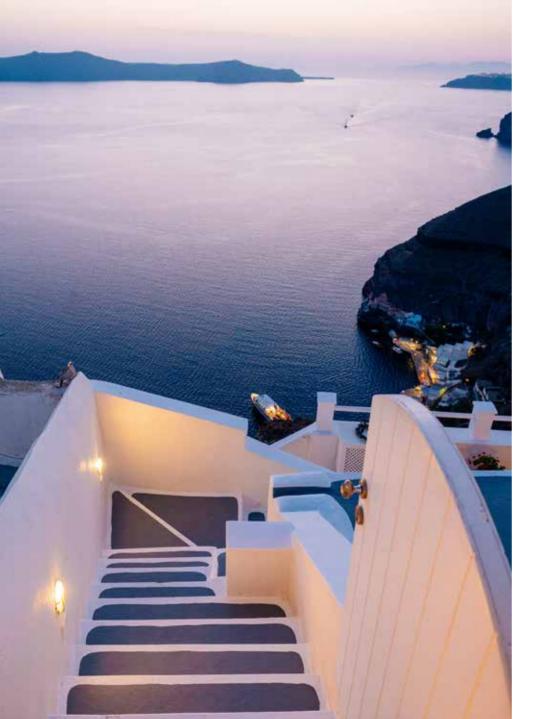
– Mountains & Sea: From Lassithi Plateau to Elounda

- Adventures in the South and the Magical Mountains of Crete

The details

Pick-up point: Daios Cove Duration: 4 hours





QUINTESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES



SANTORINI

The island of Santorini lies approximately half way between Crete and Athens and is one of the most famous Greek islands due to its volcanic history. Thousands of years ago an enormous volcanic eruption caused the centre of Santorini to sink leaving a crater along one side. Stunning panoramas and romantic sunsets are a few of the picture-perfect moments one can experience on Santorini.

Highlights

- Take the perfect picture overlooking the caldera and multicoloured cliffs
- Visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thira with its Minoan murals
- Take a trip to the volcanic caldera itself with the shoreline hot springs

The details

Resort - Heraklion Port: 50 min drive Heraklion Port - Santorini: 1 h 45 min by ferry



SURROUNDING AREA

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SURROUNDING AREA

AGIOS NIKOLAOS & VOULISMENI LAKE

Built around the tranquil and picturesque Lake Voulismeni, Agios Nikolaos is a lively shopping and dining destination by day that turns into a buzzing entertainment centre by night. No trip to Agios Nikolaos is complete without a visit to the carefully preserved Byzantine chapel of St Nicholas, built during the 7th century AD.

Highlights

- Capital of the Lassithi prefecture
- Panoramic views of Voulismeni Lake, said to be bottomless
- Excellent shopping in boutiques and modern stores by Greek designers

Distance from resort

7km, approximately 10 min drive





ELOUNDA

Elounda is a small seaside town on the southeast side of Crete just a few kilometres away from Plaka. Our favourites here include the fish tavernas with a fresh catch every day by kaiki boat and a swim in the secluded Kolokytha Bay (meaning pumpkin). Elounda was the filming location of the popular BBC series *Who Pays The Ferryman*? from the 1970s.

Highlights

- Exhibition of Byzantine icons
- Well-preserved frescoes dating to the 14th century
- Wine tasting at the Toplou Monastery Winery

Distance from resort

17km, approximately 25 min drive

PLAKA

Traditionally a fishing village, Plaka has become synonym to the best fish this side of the island. Homemade food and local delicacies are served in the tavernas of this charming village. Uninterrupted views to the island of Spinalonga round off the ultimate experience of the Mirabello Bay by sea and land.

Highlights

- Pebbly beach with clear waters at end of village
- Quaint coffee shops in the main village right by the sea

Distance from resort

22km, approximately 30 min drive



HERAKLION

The capital of Crete is best known for its exceptional Archaeological Museum as well as the surrounding area full of Minoan relics and the nearby Palace of Knossos.

However this city is full of surprises on every corner with amazing architecture, most notably the majestic Venetian fortress, which welcomes visitors to the port. Byzantine and Venetian castles, monuments and fortresses adorn this buzzing city from end to end. Heraklion is an excellent place to try traditional food with a modern twist and boasts one of the best shopping districts on the island.

Highlights

- Heraklion Archaeological Museum
- Venetian fortress at the port
- Nikos Kazantzakis museum
- Excellent shopping opportunity on the city's pedestrian high street

Distance from resort

70km approximately 80 min drive

TRADITION HISTORY MYTHOLOGY CHURCHES MONASTERIES



KRITSA

Kritsa is one of the oldest and most picturesque villages on Crete, built amphitheatrically on a rock hill. Just one glance at the endless olive groves in the area and it is easy to see how this tiny village has made a name for itself on the global stage for producing awardwinning extra virgin olive oil. The narrow streets are filled with little shops where one can find exceptional local products including herbs, honey and olive oil.

Highlights

- Award-winning extra virgin olive oil
- Known for its weaving tradition
- Excellent shopping opportunity in the village's modern boutiques and jewellery shops

Distance from resort

15km, approximately 25 min drive



TRADITION

MOCHLOS FISHING VILLAGE

A quiet, picturesque village east of the resort best known for the exquisite fish served in the tiny tavernas on the seafront. With views to the Minoan site (5 minute boat ride) and naturallyformed pools by the rocks to laze about in, this is the perfect opportunity for a calm day out by the sea.

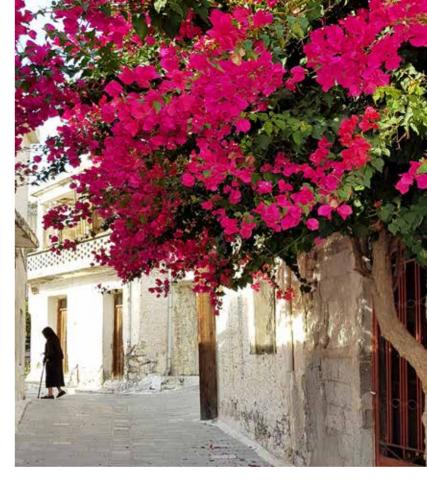
Highlights

- Eat mouthwatering fish dishes
- in the local tavernas on the sea – Experience the friendly locals in
- the cafes of the village

Distance from resort

30km, approximately 35 min drive





KROUSTAS

A charming traditional village which captures the essence of Crete - high up at 520m above sea level and stunning uninterrupted views to the Aegean Sea and the Mirabello Bay. The perfect place to try the local delicacies including the famous sweet cheese pie (myzithropita).

Highlights

- Quintessentially Cretan village
- Quaint narrow roads with lush greenery
- Opportunity to try local delicacies in the heart of the village

Distance from resort

17km, approximately 30 min drive



HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY

SPINALONGA

A tiny island just across from the fishing village of Plaka at the northern tip of the Kolokytha Penninsula. Before becoming the last known leper colony in 1903, Spinalonga served as a fortress built by the Venetians in order to protect the Mirabello Bay. It has recently been catapulted into modern culture thanks to Victoria Hislop's bestselling novel *The Island*.



Highlights

- Nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Last leper colony in Europe
- Venetian fortress

Our pick

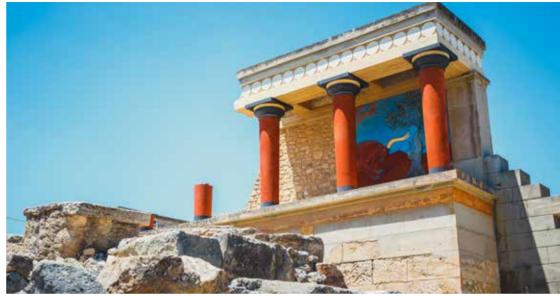
Best experienced by Technohull RIB Boat



HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY

HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY





ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF HERAKLION

Also known as the home of the artistic Minoan civilization par excellence, the museum holds the most notable and complete collection of artefacts covering over 5000 years of Crete's history. The museum sits on the site of the imposing Venetian Franciscan friary destroyed by an earthquake in 1856.

Highlights

- The Phaistos Disc with one of the most controversial inscriptions in the archaeological world
- The Bull Games fresco and the Bull's Head discovered at the Palace of Knossos

Distance from resort

75km, approximately 1 hr dive

THE MINOAN PALACE OF KNOSSOS

The Minoan Palace of Knossos was the seat of ancient King Minos and served as the centre of the settlement of the first European civilization, the Minoans, during the Bronze Age. The ancient Greek legends of the Minotaur, the Labyrinth as well as Ikarus and Daedalus are supposed to have come alive in Knossos.

Highlights

- The Great Palace
- The Temple Tomb
- Insight into ancient Minoan life and daily habits

Distance from resort

70km, approximately 1 hr drive



PSYCHRO CAVE

Psychro Cave otherwise also known as Dictaion Cave is a Minoan sacred cave on the Lasithi Plateau. It is believed to be the birthplace of Zeus, the king of the Gods of Olympus. A fascinating cave filled with stalagmites and stalactites lets the imagination run wild as to how this could have been the hiding place where Rhea decided to protect Zeus from his father Cronus. Artefacts from Psychro Cave can be found in the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the Louvre in Paris and the British Museum in London.

Highlights

- Birthplace of Zeus
- Imposing stalagmites and stalactites inside the cave

Distance from resort

60km , approximately 1 hr 20 min drive

PALACE OF ZAKROS

The ruins of the Palace of Zakros are located on the east coast of Crete, south of Palaikastro and due to the location acted as the Minoan gateway to the East. Discovery of an elephant tusk and six ox-hide ingots within the Palace point to the importance of Zakros as a commercial crossroads to and from Europe.

Highlights

- One of the four major Minoan Palaces on Crete
- Stunning location with breathtaking views to the sea

Distance from resort

105km, approximately 2 hr 10 min drive

Our pick

Best experienced by Land Rover Experience Greece





CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES



TOPLOU MONASTERY

Toplou is one of the most significant monasteries on Crete dedicated to Panagia (the Virgin Mary). Having to defend itself from pirates and invaders through the centuries, Toplou monastery is heavily fortified with a courtyard paved with sea pebbles and surrounded by strong, 10m (33ft) high square walls. A calm, spiritual place to experience, you could combine it with a visit to the exceptional Toplou Winery whose wines are completely organic, located adjacent to the monastery.

Highlights

- Exhibition of Byzantine icons
- Well-preserved frescoes dating to the 14th century
- Wine tasting at the Toplou Monastery Winery

Distance from resort

76km, approximately 1 hr 30 min drive



PANAGIA KERA

One of the most significant cultural and historical churches on the island, Panagia Kera houses some of the best-preserved Byzantine-era frescoes on Crete. The Baptism and the Entry Into Jerusalem from the New Testament are only a few of the scenes depicted on the frescoes as one enters the church. Located just one kilometre from the quaint traditional village of Kritsa it is regarded as a must-visit place on the island.

Highlights

- Byzantine-era frescoes
- Beautiful natural landscape surrounding the church

Distance from resort

13km, approximately 20 min drive

CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES

FANEROMENI MONASTERY

Panagia Faneromeni monastery is a male monastery built on a steep slope with breathtaking views to the Aegean Sea. The cave at the top of the monastery has been arranged to a chapel whose walls are full of frescoes. The monastery was also very significant historically as it was the location where the Cretan rebels were protected during the Venetian and Turkish occupation. The monastery celebrates on August 15th when swathes of pilgrims come from all over the island to pay their respects.



Highlights

- Chapel built into the rockface of the mountain
- Stunning views from 540m altitude

Distance from resort

17km, approximately 30 min drive

NATURE EXPERIENCES

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NATURE EXPERIENCES



KATHARO PLATEAU

The plateau of Katharo is the ultimate place to visit in order to comprehend the character of Cretan countryside and its majestic rustic landscape. At an altitude of 1200 metres you can leave your car, go for a walk, breathe in the fresh air and take in the outstanding nature around you. You will see shepherds and their flocks, eagles and other birds, wild goats to name but a few.

Highlights

- Breathtaking views to the sea from high ground and cooler temperatures
- Encounter quintessential Cretan life on the mountain
- Explore the nearby villages of Kroustas and Kritsa

Distance from resort

30km, approximately 45 minutes driving time



SAMARIÁ GORGE

One of Europe's longest canyons, the Samaria Gorge is definitely on the bucket list for many keen hikers who visit Crete. It is a 16km hike through raw Cretan beauty, immersed in the natural surroundings of soaring cliffs and passageways. It is a National Park of Greece and home to many endemic species of birds and flowers as well as the rare kri-kri (Cretan goat).

Highlights

- 16km hike from start to finish
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve site
- A natural haven for local biodiversity of flora and fauna

Distance from resort

246km, approximately 4 hours driving time

BEACHES

AGIA FOTIA BEACH

The ideal spot for you to enjoy the calm deep blue waters on a hot summer's day. A favourite with locals, the beach of Agia Fotia is a small bay surrounded by soaring cliffs that create a magical backdrop to a day in the sun.

Distance from resort

48km approximately 1 hour drive

ACHLIA BEACH

Nestled amongst the pine trees and surrounding slopes lies the quiet beach of Achlia. Its waters are almost always calm as this small cove is protected by the elements. Fine pebbly sand, turquoise waters and cooling shade in the trees are characteristic here.

Distance from resort

40km approximately 50 min drive

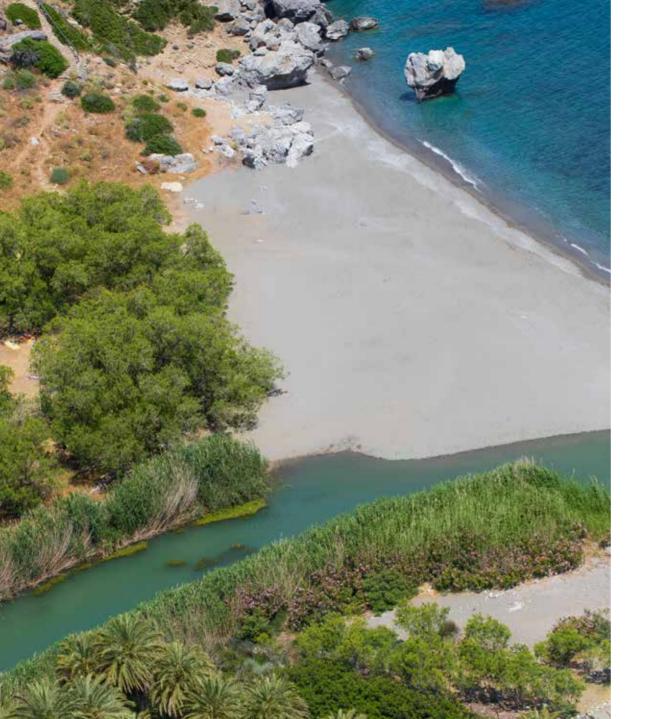
CHRISSI ISLAND

A favourite with beachgoers, Chrissi Island is also known as the Carribean of Crete due to the shades of crystal blue waters on its pink sandy beaches.

Distance from resort

24km (approximately 30 min drive) to lerapetra where the ferry leaves from. Ferry ride from lerapetra to Chrissi Island: approximately 1 hour





XEROKAMPOS BEACH

An oasis of calm in one of the most remote areas of the island, Xerokambos beach is an excellent snorkelling opportunity and a well-kept secret by the locals.

Distance from resort

94km approximately 1h50min drive

ZAKROS BEACH

The beautiful beach at the end of the small village of Kato Zakros lies within a protected bay. It is mainly pebbly with wonderful tranquil waters ideal for snorkeling and the rocky seabed provides a good setting for fishing.

Distance from resort

103km approximately 2hr drive

VAI BEACH

At the very tip of the eastern side of Crete lies Vai Beach also known as Palm beach and home to the Cretan Date Palm (Phoenix theophrasti). This exotic sandy beach with white sand is formed at the end of the palm forest and boasts beautiful cobalt waters, ideal for snorkeling. It is preferable to visit early or late summer as this beach can be very busy during high season.

Distance from resort

85km approximately 1hr 45min drive



ACTIVITIES





DIVING

Crete is the perfect place to experience diving whether you are a beginner, intermediate or an experienced diver. The waters in the area maintain a good temperature through to the winter months as well as excellent visibility.

Our diving centre and the Cove itself are a wonderful starting point as the surrounding rockery on the water is home to various types of fish and other marine life.

WINDSURFING/ KITESURFING

Boasting numerous wind certain beaches, the east of Crete has some exceptional spots to visit. We welcome you to try out these exciting sports at some of the most scenic spots for windsurfing or kitesurfing.

Highlights

- The area of Palekastro in Sitia and specifically Kouremenos Beach is popular with keen windsurfers on the island.
- The beach of Agios Panteleimon in Kalo Chorio, a 10-minute drive from the resort, is one of the best spots to kitesurf.

Highlights

An opportunity to meet the marine life of the Aegean Sea and encounter relics of the Minoans in many parts of the island.

ACTIVITIES



Tranquility with unrivalled views of the Lassithi Mountains





GOLF

The Crete Golf Club is an 18-hole golf course of high international standards on a terrain which tests the abilities of leisurely and competitive golfers alike. This oasis of calm with stunning views to the Lassithi Mountains and the Cretan countryside leaves you feeling free and invigorated after a day's golf on the course. Less than an hour away by car from Daios Cove it is the ideal destination for golfers of all ages and levels.

Highlights

- 18-hole golf course
- Opportunity for a great golfing experience on Crete
- Relaxed and calm environment

Distance from resort

40km, approximately 50 min drive



Highlights Fun day out with family and friends at a water park surrounded by green spaces

Distance from resort 40km, approximately 50 min drive

ACQUA PLUS WATERPARK

The Acqua Plus Waterpark has numerous water slides in various sizes and other rides for all ages. Leisurely bobble along on the Lazy River which travels all around the water park or get your adrenaline rush from the black and red hole water rides.

With experienced lifeguards and trained staff located all over the facility you are sure to have a safe and fun time. This is a wonderful opportunity for an active day out with family and friends at a waterpark just under an hour away from the resort.



ACTIVITIES



HIKING & CYCLING

The mountainous nature of the Cretan landscape presents many opportunities for hikers from East to West. One of the most famous hiking destinations on Crete is the Samaria Gorge, a challenging 16km walk through a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Just an hour away from the Cove you will find Richtis Gorge, a state protected park and one of the most stunning hikes ending on a beach after you have passed through the river and waterfalls.

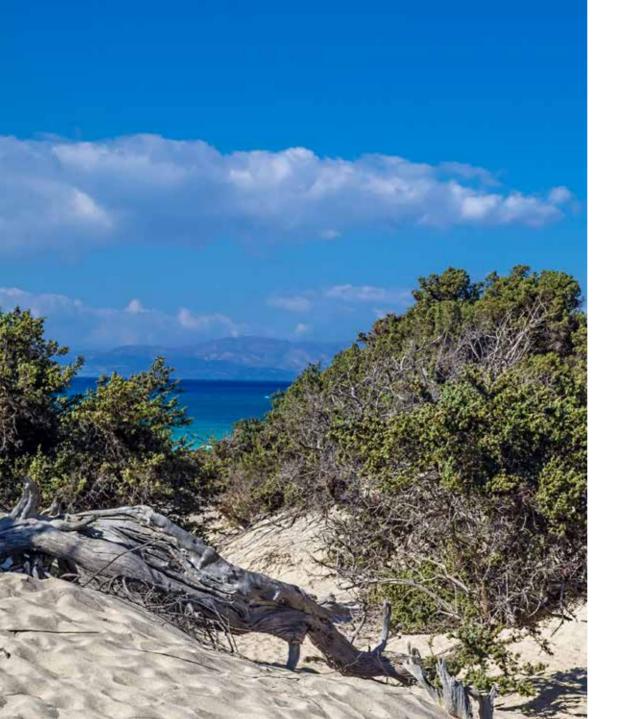
Whether you are looking for relaxed bike rides through hundred-year-old olive groves and quaint villages or ambitious cycling uphill and taking in the breathtaking views from the top, Crete has an abundance of terrains and tracks to offer.

Highlights

- Take in the smells of thyme, oleander and sage through a hike at Ricthis Gorge
- Visit Samaria Gorge, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Arrive at stunning views and standing points by bike or on foot







CRUISES BY SEA

ISOLATED ISLANDS

We introduce you to what we believe are the hidden gems of eastern Crete. A visit to any of these small islands is bound to leave you feeling deeply relaxed, connected to the sea and the natural Cretan landscape.

CHRISSI ISLAND

Located 8 miles south of lerapetra, the island of Chrissi is a Wildlife Refuge and boasts crystal clear waters and the protected forest of juniper trees. Taking its name from the pinkish-golden colour of its fine sand, Chrissi (meaning golden in Greek) island is also known as a paradise for geology enthusiasts due to the thousands of dead sea shells that have gathered over time and fossilized here.

PSIRA

This tiny island is known for its archaeological significance as a recently discovered Minoan settlement as well as for its secret desert beaches. An ideal spot to relax in the Mediterranean sun and enjoy the stunning natural surroundings on one of the island's tranquil beaches.

AGIOI PANTES

Directly opposite the town of Agios Nikolaos lies the islet of Agioi Pantes with its small church of the same name meaning All Saints. A beautiful beach with clear water for snorkelling is located directly in the middle of the islet. Sightings of the protected wild kri-kri goat are not uncommon here as they come to the water edge to drink seawater.

CRUISES BY SEA

RIB BOAT EXPERIENCE

Aboard the Technohull RIB Boat take in the astonishing rugged surroundings and discover the unique Cretan landscape from the sea.

Enjoy a great day out with family and friends with an experience on the water tailor-made by us for you. The Technohull RIB is certainly our speedboat of choice for an exhilarating time riding the waves.

Highlights

- Kryo Bay
- Kolokytha Cove
- Spinalonga Island
- Plaka Village
- Agioi Pantes

The details

Pick-up point: Daios Cove pier Duration: 4 hours





Experience the Mirabello Bay from a different perspective aboard our luxury private speedboat



CRUISES BY SEA

CRUISES BY SEA



SWELL

A luxury fly-bridge motor yacht with three spacious double cabins. The ideal cruiser to discover the surrounding coastline in supreme comfort.

EXCALIBUR

This 50ft fly-bridge motor yacht combines elegance and performance with three double cabins, abundant seating space with nice finishings.



CATA MARA

A stunning sailing yacht to take you on a sea journey in style with four double cabins.



ALMYRA

Luxury and grandeur are the main features of this sailing yacht, which has three double cabins and a generously-sized main cabin.



CRUISES BY AIR

HELICOPTER

Seeing the sites by land and by sea are remarkable experiences not to be missed. However here at Daios Cove we like to think outside the box and would like you to have a rounded view of the island. We present to you our helicopter service available to all our guests. Departing from the Cove's private helipad, take a helicopter ride and discover the amazing coastline and intricate landscapes of Crete from above or have yourself a helicopter lesson to remember.

Highlights

- Spend the day in the world's ancient capital, Athens
- Experience the cosmopolitan island of Mykonos
- Enjoy a dazzling sunset on Santorini
- See Samaria Gorge from above before hiking the famous canyon
- Visit the Venetian quarter of Chania



CRETAN FOOD

No visit to Crete is complete without mentioning the incredible Cretan Diet

CRETAN FOOD

We feel privileged to live and breathe the Cretan nature in our day to day life. We strive to reflect this in the resort's restaurants by using local, seasonal ingredients in recipes which embody the quintessential staples of this fascinating cuisine.

THE CRETAN DIET

A world-famous culinary heritage, it has provided Crete's inhabitants with longevity and a staggering number of centenarians due to its healthy nature. The Cretan cuisine's essentials are delightfully simple: **olive oil, olives, seasonal legumes and pulses**. Whether inside or outside the Cove we highly recommend you discover this wonderful world of taste, sense and smell in the form of understated, humble dishes. Simplicity at its best.

OUR PICKS

OLIVE OIL

The juice of the noble fruit that is the olive forms a dominant part of the Mediterranean culinary world. With Crete boasting some of the oldest olive trees in the world and small family quality farming, this staple is found in practically every dish on the island, sweet or savoury. Nowadays, two thirds of the island's cultivable land is put to olives producing consistently high-quality extra virgin olive oil.





HONEY

Nature's golden healer has a special place in the heart of Crete. The streams and currents flowing through the Cretan mountains have skillfully carved out imposing landscapes with a flora unique to the island. Therefore the honey produced by the wonderful bees who forage the endemic vegetation is highly nutritious and packed with antioxidants.



CAROB

This is the superfood that used to be called 'chocolate' by the locals in the olden days for its energy-giving properties. A frugal way of life on Crete meant that every single fruit the land generously gave was put to use. The miraculous carob is deeply entrenched in the life of Crete due to its high calcium (three times as much as full fat milk) and iron content.

CHEESE

The island's flagship cheeses, *graviera* and sweet or salty *myzithra* are a local's favourite at any point during the day. Traditionally, cheese is eaten unaccompanied on Crete, as a starter or dessert. These are authentic Cretan tastes which will stay with you well after your holiday.

HERBS

The Cretan terroir and its distinct biodiversity have provided the island with an exceptional variety of flowers and plants, many endemic to Crete. Fresh oregano, thyme, rosemary and dittany are only some of the extraordinary herbs that adorn every meat, fish or vegetable dish of the marvel that is the Cretan cuisine.



CRETAN FOOD



OUR CRETAN ESSENTIAL TASTES

DAKOS Cretan rusk doused in extra virgin olive oil, fresh tomato, soft local cheese, tiny olives and aromatic thyme

HOHLIOI (Snails) *boubouristoi* is a typical Cretan dish, a delicacy seasoned in wine and wild rosemary

HORTA Cretan green salad - local, seasonal greens are served up in extra virgin olive oil and zesty lemon

MYZITHROPITA A cheese pie with local *myzithra* cheese and a healthy dollop of honey

APAKI Smoked pork in sage, rosemary and bay leaves. Ideal served hot or cold

SKIOUFIHTA Cretan traditional pasta - homemade semolina pasta in butter with fresh *myzithra* or graviera cheese grated on top

GETTING AROUND

BUS

The island is well serviced by bus from Agios Nikolaos main bus station reaching all big towns and villages (through to lerapetra, Sitia on the east and Heraklion, Rethymnon and Chania on the western side).

RENTAL CAR

We are happy to help you choose a rental car to get you started on your journey of discovery on Crete. Pick your vehicle from a wide selection of cars to suit your style and needs and get on the road!

PRIVATE TRANSFER

For your comfort we are able to arrange private transfers with experienced, fully licensed chauffeurs from the resort to all areas of interest.

OUR SERVICES

We pride ourselves on creating bespoke experiences in and around Daios Cove for our guests. We genuinely look forward to hearing from you to discuss your time on Crete.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or assistance, kindly contact our Reservations Team at reservations@daioscove.com or on +30 2841 888015.

DAIOSCOVE.COM