

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.



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hand-picked recommendations for you

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QUINTESSENTIAL

EXPERIENCES





THE RIB BOAT

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.

Highlights

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

Explore the stunning coastline of the Cretan Sea and the bay around Daios Cove





DISCOVERY EXCURSIONS

Join a Discovery Excursion and explore the island off the beaten track. Drive through quaint mountain villages and discover the rugged coastline connecting with the stunning landscapes of Crete on an unparalleled trip in nature.

Highlights

- Mountains & Sea: Lassithi Highlands to Elounda
- Riviera – Vai Palm Beach and Toplou Monastery
- Sarakina Gorge

The details

Pick-up point: Daios Cove
Duration: 4 - 7.5hr





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.

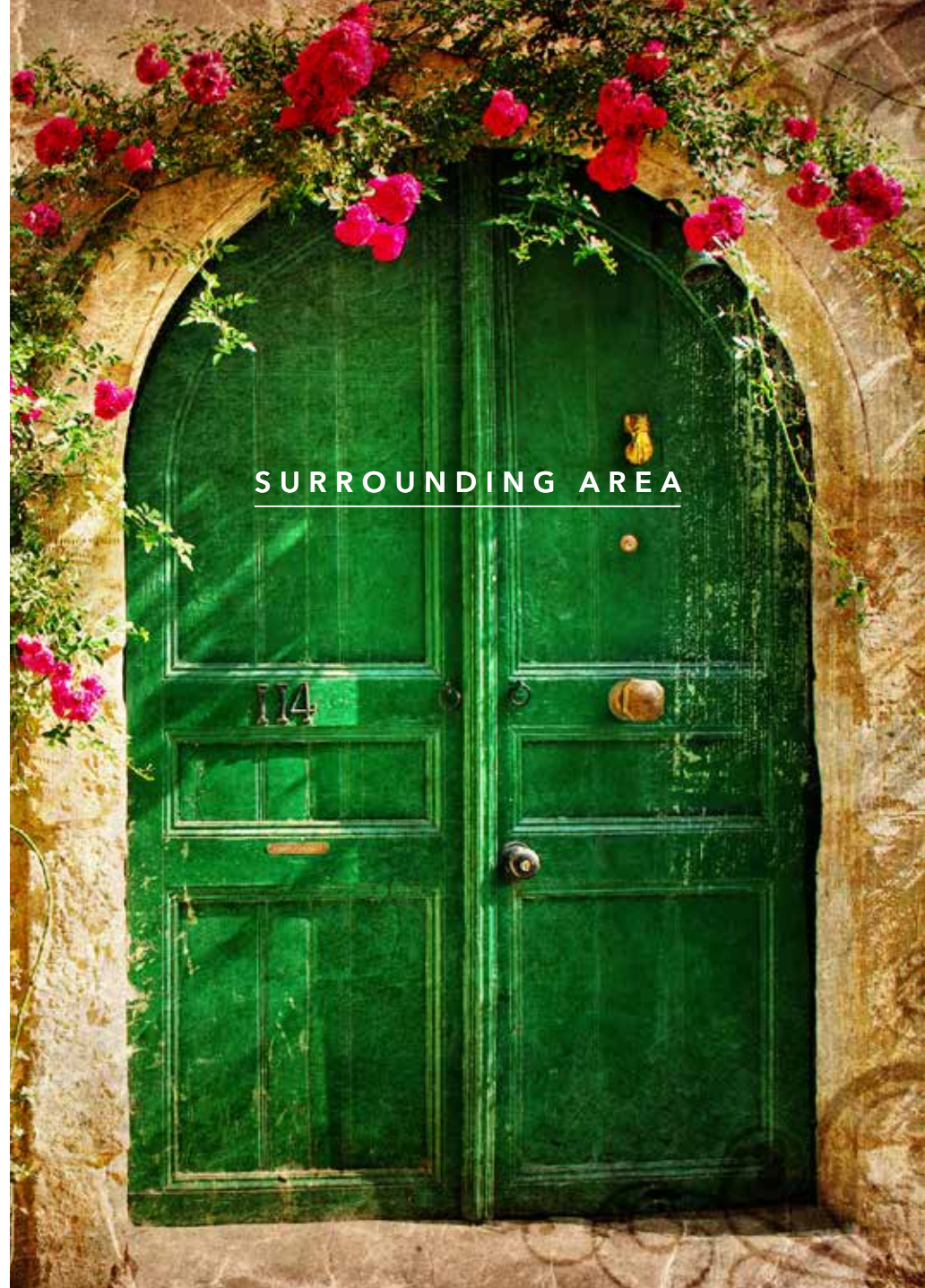
Highlights

- 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: 50min drive

Heraklion Port - Santorini: 1hr45min by ferry



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.

Distance from resort

7km, approximately 10min drive



ELOUNDA

Elounda is a small seaside town on the southeast side of Crete. Top picks here include the fish tavernas with a fresh catch every day 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.

Distance from resort

17km, approximately 25min drive



HERAKLION

The capital of Crete is best known for its exceptional Archaeological Museum as well as the nearby Palace of Knossos. 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.

Distance from resort

70km, approximately 60min 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.

Distance from resort

22km, approximately 30min drive



A large, ancient, gnarled tree with a thick, twisted trunk and dense green foliage stands in a desert landscape. The tree's trunk is heavily textured with deep grooves and knots. The background shows a dry, rocky hillside with sparse vegetation under a clear sky. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with warm, golden light filtering through the leaves.

TRADITION

HISTORY

MYTHOLOGY

CHURCHES

MONASTERIES



TRADITION

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 award-winning 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.

Distance from resort

15km, approximately 25min drive

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 naturally-formed pools by the rocks to laze about in, this is the perfect opportunity for a calm day out by the sea.

Distance from resort

30km, approximately 35min drive

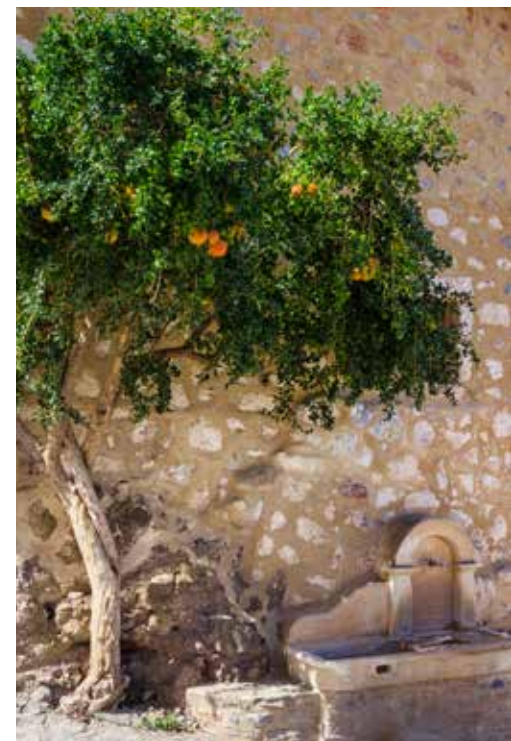


KROUSTAS

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).

Distance from resort

17km, approximately 30min drive





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
- Distance from Elounda / Plaka approximately 20min by boat

Top Tip

Best experienced by Technohull RIB Boat



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 1hr drive

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. Discover the ancient Greek legends of the Minotaur, the Labyrinth as well as Ikarus and Daedalus on our tour of Knossos featured in the Around the Cove weekly schedule.

Highlights

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

Distance from resort

70km, approximately 1hr drive





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.

Distance from resort

76km, approximately 1hr30 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.

Distance from resort

13km, approximately 20min drive



NATURE EXPERIENCES



KATHARO PLATEAU

The plateau of Katharo is the ultimate place to visit in order to comprehend the character of the 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 nearby villages with a walking and hiking trip featured in the Around The Cove activity schedule

Distance from resort

30km, approximately 45min drive



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 (approximately 5hr hike)
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve site
- A natural haven for local biodiversity of flora and fauna

Distance from resort

246km, approximately 4hr drive



BEACHES

BEACH

VOULISMA BEACH

A stunning destination known for its soft golden sand and crystal-clear turquoise waters. This awarded beach offers shallow, calm waters making it ideal for families, while sunbeds, umbrellas and nearby tavernas provide convenience for visitors.

Distance from resort 5km, approximately 10min drive

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.

Distance from resort 48km, approximately 1 hour drive

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 1hr50min 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. This exotic sandy beach with white sand is formed at the end of the palm forest and boasts beautiful cobalt waters.

Distance from resort 85km, approximately 1hr45min drive



ACTIVITIES





DIVING

Crete is the perfect place to experience diving. The waters in the area maintain a good temperature, 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.

HIKING & CYCLING

The mountainous nature of the Cretan landscape features in numerous hikes and cycling activities in the Around the Cove weekly schedule. Under an hour away from the Cove you will find Richtis Gorge, a state protected park and one of the most stunning hikes through a river and waterfalls ending on a beach. 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.





**Tranquility with
unrivalled views
of the Lassithi
Mountains**



ACQUA PLUS WATERPARK

The Acqua Plus Waterpark has numerous water slides in various sizes and other rides for all ages. With experienced lifeguards and trained staff located all over the facility you are sure to have a safe and fun time. With direct departures from the Cove, 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.

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.



GASTRONOMY TASTINGS

PESKESI ORGANIC FARM & COOKING TRIP

Join an interactive walk on an organic farm with local vegetables and learn about the nutritional value of Cretan honey and ancient olive oil. Use century-old seeds in a hands-on cooking class with our chef before gathering around a table and experience true Cretan hospitality in a one-of-a-kind farm-to-table meal.

Highlights

- Cretan hive
- Organic practices
- Hands-on cooking class

Distance from resort

65km, approximately 1hr20min drive



CULINARY GEMS OF CRETE

Wine, olive oil and cheese are more than just food in Crete—they are a way of life. The island's deep history, combined with original methods passed down through generations tell the story of Crete's land, people and timeless traditions. Discover three staples that have shaped the island's culture, economy and cuisine for thousands of years with a selection of tastings to excite your taste buds.

Highlights

- Wine
Lyrarakis Winery / Domaine Paterianakis / Amargiotakis Winery
- Olive Oil
Olive Oil Park by Physis / Vassilakis Estate
- Cheese
Tzermiado village / Agricultural Cooperative of Lassithi Plateau



An aerial photograph of a coastal resort. In the foreground, a cluster of buildings with flat roofs and swimming pools is situated on a hillside. The middle ground shows a large body of blue water with a boat moving away from the shore, leaving a white wake. The background features a rugged, rocky coastline with sparse vegetation.

CRUISES



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.

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.

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



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





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.



ALMYRA

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



CATA MARA

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



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

Flight time from resort

From Daios Cove to:

- Mykonos: 85min
- Santorini: 50min
- Chania: 50min
- Athens: 115min



GETTING AROUND

Bus

The island is well serviced by bus from Agios Nikolaos main bus station reaching all big towns and villages (through to Ierapetra, 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 Daio's Cove offering a weekly schedule of handpicked activities and excursions.

We genuinely look forward to hearing from you to discuss your time on Crete.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or assistance, kindly contact our Guest Relations Team at gr@daioshotels.com or on +30 2841 888015.

