

unlock the experiences





feel like a local

become one with the people, the land, and the nature

connect [verb]

is to bring together people or into contact so that a real or notional link is established

Vision, smell, hearing, taste, and touch.

Get connected with all five senses at once.

experience [noun]

practical contact with and observation of facts or events

During travelling you may experience the craziest, most exciting things, that will eventually become great life stories to tell.

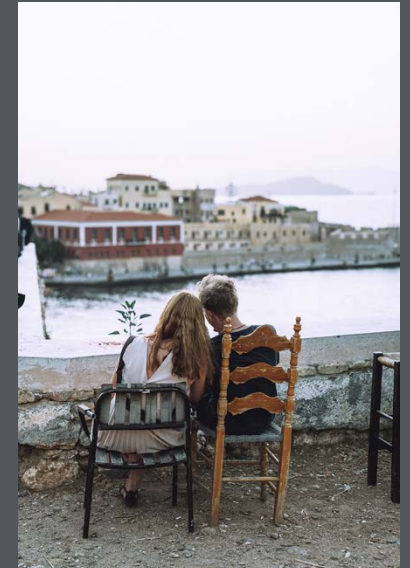
Unlocking experiences can provide you with happiness and satisfaction for the rest of your life.

chania, crete

The ancient name of the city was Kydonia. During the Byzantine period it was captured by the Arabs who changed the name to La Hanim, meaning The Palace in Arabic. When the Byzantines recaptured the city, they made the new name sound more Greek by changing it to Hania.

Venetians captured the city a few centuries later, using it as a provincial capital. They called the city La Canea in order to sound more Italian. When Turks captured the city they used the name Cania and the Greek inhabitants the name Hania. The latter became the official name in 1913, when Crete joined Greece.

It is only written "Chania" in English so that it may sound correct. The "H" must sound like in "him" or "her".





unlock the asterion's experiences



frosinis garden

ANOTHER GREAT OPTION WOULD BE TO VISIT THIS FAMILY-OWNED RESTAURANT WHICH IS A COMBINATION OF A TRADITIONAL CRETAN FARMHOUSE, COLONIAL STYLE SEMI-OUTDOOR SEATING ARRANGEMENT, AN ORGANIC CRETAN GARDEN AND A CHILLED SUMMER VIBE, WHILE COOKING IN TRADITIONAL WOODEN STOVES AND IRON CAULDRONS!

You start by picking the raw materials from their garden, then preparing the meal which you will have the Cretan way! You will learn recipes that you can even create at the comfort of your home!

While the food is being cooked you will also have the chance to visit a small local winery, and after the meal is done what better way to call it a day than to try amazing traditional sweets accompanied by our local spirit- raki!



winery tour

A FAMILY OWNED AWARD
WINNING WINERY

WITH A LEGACY SPANNING OVER 80 YEARS, THE KARAVITAKIS FAMILY HAS CREATED A BOUTIQUE WINERY IN PONTIKIANA VILLAGE IN CHANIA, CRETE. THE ESTATE CONSISTS OF 150 ACRES OF VINEYARDS BOTH PRIVATE AND CONTRACT ONES WITH CAREFULLY SELECTED TERROIRS FOR EACH AND EVERY VARIETY.

They produce award winning wines from local grape varietals, international ones while experimenting with rare varieties from around the world.

The winery features modern equipment, 2 wine tasting areas and a small church is nestled between beautiful vineyards and olive groves on the hilltops of Kolimbari area, just 30 minutes out of Chania.

With a selection of various wine tasting experiences available, as well as a selection of “mezedes”, these tours are ideal for everyone. From the experienced wine connoisseur to an amateur wine lover!





yachting cruises

DURING YOUR STAY WITH US, ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO DO IS ONE OF OUR PRIVATE YACHT CRUISES!

STARTING FROM THE OLD PORT IN CHANIA CITY, THESE TOURS GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT CHANIA'S MOST SCENIC BEACHES WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE INACCESSIBLE.

CHANIA IS A DESTINATION WHICH OFFERS A MYRIAD OF SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD PLEASE EVEN THE MOST DEMANDING ADVENTURERS AND CULTURE LOVERS.

Imagine witnessing Chania's infamous sunset on a yacht with your loved ones while sipping a glass of wine and feasting on local delicacies!

Whether it's a full day cruise lasting 7-8 hours or a half-day/ sunset cruise lasting approximately 4 hours- we've got you covered! Don't be shy to ask us anything you want about these wonderful experiences!

Balos Lagoon Menies Beach

yachting cruises



Balos Lagoon

THE MOST PHOTOGRAPHED BEACH IN CRETE

The famous lagoon of Balos is located approximately 56km northwest of Chania and 17km northwest of Kissamos, formed between the Cape Gramvousa and the small Cape Tigani. Balos is surely the mostly photographed beach in Crete, a very favorite subject of all tourist guides for Greece. It is no coincidence that Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited Balos with their private yacht back in the days.

Visit Balos with the Oceanis 37 Sailing yacht! What better way to visit one of Crete's most iconic beaches while sailing through the crystal-clear waters of the Cretan Sea?

- Booking the Oceanis 37 includes:
- Seasonal fresh fruits, snacks & water refreshments
 - 1 Bottle of Greek fine wine for every 4 Guests
 - Crew
 - Standard cleaning pack (final cleaning)
 - Port / Marine Fees
 - Applicable VAT

yachting cruises



Menies Beach

PERFECT FOR NATURE LOVERS

- The menu on board of the Duffin includes:
- Selection of bread
 - Mixed salad zucchini pie
 - Dolmadakia (vine leaves stuffed with rice)
 - Main dish choices: beef, pork or chicken cooked in tomato or lemon sauce, with pasta or salmon fillet in lemongrass and fennel, with potatoes in yogurt, mayonnaise, carrots, and dill dressing
 - Seasonal fruits
 - Traditional dessert
 - Wine, beers & soft drinks

- Another option to visit Menies would be the highly suggested Axopar 35ft Powerboat which includes:
- Seasonal fresh fruits, snacks & water refreshments
 - 1 Bottle of Greek fine wine for every 4 guests

Menies is located on the site of ancient Diktynna; it was the most important temple of the goddess Vritomartis (the Cretan version of goddess Artemis). Thousands worshippers used to come in the area from all over the island via the road that connected the sanctuary to the town of Polirinia; some parts of the paved road are still preserved throughout Rodopos peninsula. Vritomartis was worshiped here during the Hellenistic and Roman times. There are still a few remains of the ancient Roman temple, but remains of the Hellenistic temple have not been found.

Menies Beach is perfect for nature lovers, and for all those who hate the so-called "organized beaches" that are the norm of our modern tourist resorts in Greece and in any other seaside destinations.

Visit Menies Beach with the Duffin 60ft Powerboat, a yacht which represents trust and professionalism. The sensational oceanic performance with great common areas to relax in, the practical design and character of this yacht invites you to love it wherever your destination may be.



cooking experiences

FOLLOW US TO THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY
THROUGH THE CRETAN FLAVORS AND TASTE THE
REAL CRETAN WAY OF LIFE.

Up in the high peaks of the White Mountains, you will prepare some traditional and extremely tasty home-made dishes, using only healthy organic Cretan ingredients like extra-virgin olive oil, fresh vegetables picked from the garden, dairy products, and the most aromatic herbs.

You will have the chance to walk around our vegetable gardens to see, feel, smell, touch, and taste the pure products of Mother Earth. Your host will also reveal the secrets of local herbs, how the Cretan olive oil affects the people's health and useful tips about the local products you will use. You will prepare a traditional Cretan recipe with your own hands and learn how Cretans cook.

After the magnificent cooking experience, you will taste delicious Cretan wine paired with local cheese just like heaven on earth. The view of the mountain is breathtaking right out of our window. Later, you will prepare some appetizers like "Ntakos" and "Tzatziki" and of course, the popular Cretan Cheese-pies "Kalitsouni". You will definitely love the bread-making as well. In the meantime, the meal will be ready.

You will taste your own dishes, paired with fruity local wine, and taste some traditional jar desserts at the end. The healthy Mediterranean diet and the famous Cretan cuisine have already been revealed in front of your eyes.





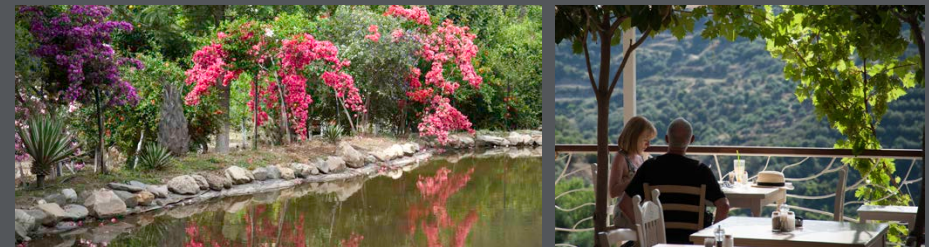
botanical park

NEARLY 20 HECTARES OF LAND ARE WAITING TO WELCOME YOU, FULL OF FRUIT TREES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, HERBS, MEDICINAL AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS, IN A PARK DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS, WHERE THE LAND'S FORMATION AND THE REGION'S MICROCLIMATE MAKE IT A PARADISE FOR HUNDREDS OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS!

In the midst of this colorful and vivid landscape stands a burnt centennial olive tree, a memorial and a reference to the dismal fires of 2003, the park's history, and origin. It lies just 18 kilometers outside the city, on the feet of the White Mountains. It is ideal for visitors of all ages, combining enjoyments that only Crete can offer!

No matter how you consider your visit here, whether as a scenic trek, or an interesting tour of nature's paths, the Botanical Park is the ideal alternative proposal for a day's escape from the city's noise and the fashionable beaches. The dramatic scenery here is composed of rare samples of the local flora and fauna, as well as tropical and subtropical species from all over the world, with new samples added daily, changing the look of the Botanical Park, and providing visitors with a motive to enjoy it over and over again!

This adventure in nature which lasts one to two hours, follows paths of unique natural beauty and provides visitors with the opportunity to get acquainted with the numerous different plants and trees that grow on the two hundred square kilometers of the well-designed planted hillside.





learn how to dance like a Cretan!

WITH A HISTORY SPANNING FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, CRETE HAS A HISTORY VERY FEW CULTURES CAN COMPARE WITH! THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, DANCING HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE CRETAN CULTURE AND WE OFFER YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN OUR TRADITIONAL DANCES WHILE EXPLORING THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF ALIKIANOS.

Enjoy a Greek coffee/tea at a local coffee shop while listening to the island's tales, secrets, and legends. You can even dress like a Cretan and learn everything about the traditional outfit. A local instructor will teach you our most famous dances while dancing with locals and learning about our traditions and customs! And to finish off the day you will taste local & traditional delicacies!





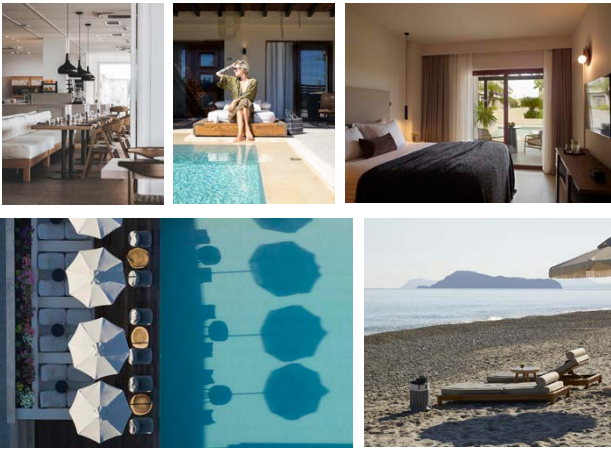
meet Asterion.

King Asterion looms large in the mythology of Crete. As the island's first king, his long reign is associated with Crete's rich cultural heritage, while as husband to the Phoenician princess Europa and stepfather to her children fathered by the mighty Zeus, he embodies the island's outward-looking ethos and deep-rooted hospitality. So, Asterion is the first King of Crete, the husband of Europa, and the stepfather of Minoas.

But where is he from?
What is his true origin?

Asterion was one of the Gods' favourites. Because they knew that he was different. He was a man with strong intuition, which helped him receive and understand the secrets of Gods. He was born from the explosion of a supernova, which made him so bright that it gave him the ability to create a magnificent civilization. He was a cosmic amphora comprised of flesh and bone that contained the essence of the universe. He was a wise creature, made from stardust, created from all the atoms of the big bang, a unique being, that evolved from the depths of space and time like a flaming star.

Like we all did.



meet yourself.

These attributes lie at the heart of the five-star Asterion Suites & Spa whose mission is to authentically celebrate the island's unique culture and hospitality with a sense of modern sophistication. Set in an idyllic beachfront location, this Cretan chic hotel draws from the myth of Asterion as much as from Crete's natural beauty, welcoming guests into an exclusive kingdom where traditional craftsmanship meets contemporary luxury; where eating ambrosia and drinking nectar reveals our star-made essence.

Meet Asterion.

The starmade King.

The son of a billion-star universe.

The host of a five-star hotel, a sanctuary where you can reign in your inner kingdom and expand the limits of your own universe.



asterionsuitesandspa.com