

About Crete: Useful & Useless Information

Banks: Usually open between 0830 until 1400 Monday thru Thursday and until 1330 on Fridays.

Harbor Shops & Restaurants: In the harbor area (Halidon Street & down) tend to be open most of the day until late evening, every day during high season.

Regular Shops: Summer Mon to Sat 0900–1430; Tues/Thu/Fri reopen at 1800 until 2100; Sun closed.

Winter Mon to Sat 0830–1400; Tues/Thu/Fri reopen at 1730 until 2030. Sun closed.

Chania/Athens Ferry Service: Two regular ferries depart Souda Port each evening at 2345 & 2359, arriving in Athens at 0600; they depart Athens for Chania at 1600, arriving in Souda at 2200; and at 1630 arriving at 2225. Ferries are the most economical transport to the capital city of Greece, costs start at approx 25 Euro for a one-way “tourist class” ticket, more for a sleeping cabin, etc.

Car Rental: Though public transport is good on the island, a “Do it yourself” approach with a rental vehicle is easy. Mountain villages not accessible by bus showcase the “real” Crete and allow a marvelous glimpse of the culture and the people. The main highway, called the National Highway, runs along the north coast and is the most convenient route to other major cities in Crete. To see the island and its magnificent landscape thoroughly, you must venture inland and to the southern coast. Roads inland & south vary from pretty good to slightly treacherous non-asphalt roads (more hole than road!) so careful driving and good judgment are critical. Please drive defensively!

Time Keeping: This is very rare in Crete and can be frustrating for the itinerary-keeping visitor. Usually, the only time you will encounter a local in a hurry is when he’s behind the wheel of a car! Just relax, join in with the peaceful pace and you will find that it really does grow on you.

Shrines: The miniature roadside churches that you see around the island, some very simple, others ornate, are small shrines built in memory of a loved one killed in a fatal accident at that spot. They usually contain a photo, an icon, flowers and oil for a lamp that is tended and kept lit year after year.

Raki/Tsikoudia: You will definitely be offered this harmless looking little shot glass of clear liquid at some time or another. First time tasters beware! Although strengths do vary, it can be rather strong. Raki is essentially a “village home brew” distilled from the grape skins after winemaking.

Sunshine: The summers in Crete are exceptionally long, with warm sunny days right through the end of the season and well into fall. Sun block is highly recommended as the sun is stronger here than in many other parts of the world.

Farmer's Markets (La'-eeh-kee): The “Laiki” market, which rotates each day to a different neighborhood, is a wonderful bazaar of all types of foods, fresh fruit, veggies, and bargains on everything from clothes and shoes to carpets and textiles. Saturday’s market is the largest –but get there early, the market closes down by about 1300. See MWR’s handout on the Laiki.

Bill paying: You have to pay your bills yourself in person (the only way to pay for utilities in this country). The phone company (OTE), is located in central Hania on Tzanakakis Street. The electric company (DEH), is located in the suburb of Pahiana on Sofoklis Venizelou Street. The water company (D.E.Y.A.), is located in downtown Hania on Kydonias Street (next to Town Hall, behind the kiosk). For your convenience, Kriti Info offers a bill paying service every Thursday and only charges \$5.00. Or call them for directions.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Local Police/Emergency	28210-21223 (Base Security)
Chania General Hospital	28210-22000
Chania Airport Arrivals/Departures	28210-63171
OTE Trouble Desk	121
OTE Internet Trouble Desk	801-11-35555
DEH Electric Company	125
Kriti Info MWR	28210-21288 (x1288) or 28210-21694
Local Taxi	28210-98700 or 28210-71455