



ARIA HOTELS

# CHANIA

COLLECTION OF EXPERIENCES



# 01

## Sites of Interest

**Ancient Aptera:** Ancient Aptera is an archaeological site located near Chania on the island of Crete, Greece. It holds the remains of a once-prosperous ancient city that dates to various periods of Cretan history, including Minoan, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine eras. The site is rich in historical significance and offers visitors a glimpse into the island's past. Ancient Aptera is situated on a hill overlooking the Souda Bay and the White Mountains, offering stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes and the sea. Ancient Aptera offers a captivating journey through time, allowing visitors to explore the remnants of a city that played a vital role in Crete's history. Its strategic position, archaeological significance, and breathtaking views make it a must-visit destination for those interested in ancient civilizations and the rich heritage of Crete.

**Samaria Gorge:** The Samaria Gorge is one of the most renowned natural attractions in Crete, Greece, and is often considered one of the island's most impressive and challenging hiking experiences. It is a stunningly beautiful and rugged canyon that offers hikers the opportunity to immerse themselves in the island's natural landscapes. The Samaria Gorge is located in the White Mountains of southwestern Crete, within the Samaria National Park. The gorge is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a haven for diverse flora and fauna, including rare Cretan wild goats known as kri-kri. Hiking the Samaria Gorge is a memorable and rewarding experience, offering an opportunity to connect with the natural beauty of Crete while challenging yourself with its rugged terrain. It's important to be prepared, take your time, and savor the stunning vistas along the way.



# 01

## Sites of Interest

**Chania Old Town:** As the sun sets, Chania Old Town comes alive with an enchanting ambiance. The waterfront promenade and narrow alleys are adorned with vibrant dining options, from traditional tavernas serving Cretan delicacies to international cuisine. Lively bars and entertainment venues ensure a vibrant nightlife. Exploring the streets reveals vibrant colors, blooming flowers, and local interactions that offer a true sense of community. Chania Old Town's fusion of history, architecture, commerce, and modern life creates an immersive experience. It captures the essence of Crete's cultural heritage, inviting visitors to traverse its captivating streets and relive the city's diverse past.

**Preveli Palm Forest & Preveli Monastery:** The Preveli Palm Forest and Preveli Monastery are two iconic and picturesque destinations located in the southern part of Crete, Greece. They offer a unique combination of natural beauty and cultural significance. The palm forest is characterized by its lush vegetation, towering palm trees, and a freshwater lagoon that adds to its charm while the Preveli Monastery, officially known as the Monastery of Preveli or the Monastery of Preveli Saint John the Theologian, is a historic monastery complex located just a short distance from the palm forest. It holds both religious and historical significance.



# 02

## Beaches

**Elafonissi Beach:** Elafonissi Beach, located on the southwestern coast of Crete, Greece, is a world-renowned destination known for its breathtaking natural beauty, unique pink sand, and crystal-clear turquoise waters. It is often described as one of the most beautiful beaches in the Mediterranean and is a must-visit for travelers seeking a picturesque and tranquil escape.

**Balos Beach:** Accessible by boat or a challenging hike, Balos is famous for its stunning lagoon, white sands, and blue-green waters. It's a breathtaking destination with a backdrop of rocky cliffs. Balos Beach is renowned for its stunning lagoon, characterized by shallow, crystal-clear turquoise waters that gradually transition to deeper shades of blue. The lagoon is surrounded by white and pink sands, creating a surreal and picturesque scene that is often compared to a tropical paradise.

**Falassarna Beach:** Featuring long stretches of golden sand and clear waters, Falassarna is a well-organized beach with amenities. It's known for its impressive sunsets and has a rich history as an ancient harbor. It is one of the most popular and well-loved beaches in the Chania region, offering a blend of relaxation, water sports, and breathtaking scenery. Falassarna is famous for its spectacular sunsets, which paint the sky with vibrant hues of orange, pink, and purple. Watching the sun set over the sea is a mesmerizing and romantic experience.





## 03 Activities

**Chania Music Festival:** The Chania Film Festival constitutes an international film festival that quickly transitioned from being an organization to a validated institution counting many collaborations and simultaneous events. It is a celebration of the 7th art and a place where local and international filmmakers have the artistic freedom to present their work and interact. Every year, during a 10-day period starting from the last week of October, the Chania Film Festival along with the cine-Classes, which is the educational branch of the festival, there is an artistic and creative, cinematic buzz across the city in so many levels.

**Wine & Olive Tasting:** Starting the journey we will discover the process of production of Cretan extra virgin olive oil in the modern Kanakis Olive Oil Mill through some secret knowledge as well as through the tasting of true local olive oil. In Dourakis winery we will wander through the vineyards, the wooden cellars of the winery, and feel the culture and history through the wonderful aromas of the different grape varieties. Complete your excursion with a light meal next to the running waters of the village of Vryses enjoying the dew and shade of the tree leaves.

# 03

## Activities

**Day Trips:** Chania, Crete, offers a variety of exciting day trip options that allow you to explore nearby attractions and experience the beauty and culture of the region. Take a trip to the archaeological site of Knossos, home to the ancient Minoan palace and ruins. Explore the remnants of this historic civilization. Visit the charming town of Rethymno, known for its well-preserved Venetian architecture, scenic harbor, and lovely Old Town. Explore historical sites, shops, and cafes. Lastly, take a boat tour of Souda Bay to enjoy scenic views of the coastline, nearby islands, and the bay itself.

**Water Sports:** Chania, Crete, offers a variety of exciting water sports and activities for those who love the sea and want to enjoy adventurous and active experiences! You can explore the underwater world around Chania by snorkeling in crystal-clear waters. Discover marine life, colorful fish, and perhaps even some small underwater caves. Dive into the depths of the Mediterranean Sea with guided scuba diving tours. Explore underwater reefs, shipwrecks, and marine ecosystems and experience the thrill of SUP Paddling as you come across the water and enjoy the freedom of riding the waves. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced water sports enthusiast, Chania offers a range of options to suit your interests and skill level.





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If you would like to book any of the experiences mentioned,  
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