



PLACES TO STAY

The best hotels in Crete

These Crete hotels come editor recommended for a picturesque stay on the largest Greek island

BY LAUREN BURVILL
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There are countless reasons why Crete remains one of the most popular [Greek Islands](#). It's big - the largest of the Greek islands, in fact - which means it's easy to find areas of seclusion and authenticity as well as historical sites and architectural ruins. For active travellers, the gorgeous hiking trails offer plenty of [things to do](#). Those looking to relax will revel in its beaches, which have proper sand, unlike those found on [Santorini](#) or [Mykonos](#). Our tip: venture to the eastern side of the island to find sandy stretches that are void of many people at all.

Then there's the food scene and the chance to explore quiet (or rowdy) tavernas where catch-fresh seafood dominates a simple menu of local delicacies. The hotels here seem to get better every year and span everything from romantic boutique boltholes to some of the best [family-friendly hotels in Europe](#). Villas too, are a popular choice for multigenerational groups looking to soak up the surroundings in the comfort of a private space. Here, we round up the best hotels in Crete, tried and tested by our editors.

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- [The best Airbnbs in Crete](#)
- [The best family-friendly hotels in Crete](#)
- [The best hotels in Greece](#)
- [The best Greek Island hotels](#)
- [The best family hotels in Greece](#)
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own. So very different from the run-of-the-mill resorts that Greece has become synonymous with, you'll feel clever for finding this spot. *Annabelle Spranklen*

Price: from £252 per night

Address: Thesi Nissi, Ag. Nikolaos 721 00, Greece

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Christos Drazos

HOTEL

Kapsaliana Village, Rethymno →

Crete's glorious beaches are difficult to resist, but if you want to experience a slice of the island's more authentic charms head inland to Kapsaliana, a stone-built village buried in olive groves and sweet-scented citrus orchards a few miles from 16th-century Arkadi, one of the island's best-known monasteries.

As patient as the ant in Aesop's fable, the resort's architect-owner Myron Toupogianis has been buying houses in the village since the 1970s and restoring them as rooms and suites linked by a warren of cobbled paths and original features. Think lofty timber-beamed ceilings, writing desks made from the giant pitted stone wheels of an olive press and beds handcrafted from sweet-scented olive wood - along with plenty of modern extras, including plump beds and walk-in showers. This beautifully restored village centres on a raised terrace where traditional Cretan-inspired breakfasts and dinners are served beneath the perfumed shade of citrus trees.

Price: from £172 per night

Address: Καρδαλιανά 741 50, Greece

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HOTEL

Elounda Peninsula, All Suite Hotel, Elounda →

On the eastern side of Crete (about an hour's drive from Heraklion airport), the Elounda Peninsula, All Suite Hotel is a sprawling resort with its own private beaches, sailing boat for charter and nine-hole golf course. In 2023 it unveiled a new waterside Italian restaurant in partnership with the Ferragamo fashion dynasty. Plus, there's a coveted Six Senses spa with a serious range of treatments and wellness programmes - including even a dedicated kid's spa menu. It's the kind of place that offers everything, giving little reason (but curiosity) to leave, especially when the weather is very hot. It's also the real winner for groups and families, with accommodation only comprising spacious suites and villas that are beautifully modern and minimal in style. We were staying in a one-bedroom villa that came with a huge outdoor terrace, private pool and pathway to a hidden cliffside swimming spot with steps directly into the sea. And as an LGBTQ+ couple, we can also attest to feeling very welcomed and comfortable. *Jenny Southan*

Price: from £396 per night

Address: Pigadakia, Schisma Elountas 720 53, Greece

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