



Hania

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ To Maridaki (p65)
- ➔ Taverna Tamam (p65)
- ➔ Thalassino Ageri (p66)
- ➔ Methexis (p86)
- ➔ To Skolio (p87)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Serenissima (p64)
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- ➔ Casa Delfino (p64)
- ➔ Elia Suites (p63)
- ➔ Elafonisi Resort (p88)

Why Go?

The west of Crete stands apart in so many ways. A land of giant mountains, grandiose legends and memorials to great battles past, it is presided over by the romantic port city of Hania (Χανιά), once Venice's jewel of a capital and now filled with arty hotels, interesting shops and some of Greece's best eateries. The region also boasts the grandest gorge in Europe, west coast beaches that are among the most beautiful in the world, Europe's southernmost possession (tranquil Gavdos, a remote island nearer to Africa than Greece), and mountain villages hardly affected by modernity. The steep mountains that ripple across the west and into the southern sea guarantee that the region generally remains untouched by the excesses of tourism. From the olive oil to moustachioed elders, if you want to see beautiful and traditional Crete, Hania and the west is definitely the place.

Road Distances (km)

Hora Sfakion	107			
Kissamos	59	106		
Paleohora	56	137	44	
Hania	38	73	38	72
	Omalos	Hora Sfakion	Kissamos	Paleohora



Hania Highlights

- 1 Soak up Hania's splendid **Venetian harbour** (p56).
- 2 Luxuriate on the fine pink-cream sands of **Elafonisi** (p88) in the remote southwest.
- 3 Enjoy live Cretan music in its natural habitat in laid-back **Paleohora** (p83).

- 4 Ride the waves at Crete's most entertaining beach, **Falasarna** (p97).
- 5 Hike grand **Samaria Gorge** (p94) to the southern sea, or trek its many neighbouring gorges.
- 6 Go by boat to escape the masses in the sparkling

southern hamlet of **Loutro** (p79).

- 7 Get (really) away from it all on the barely populated island of **Gavdos** (p89).
- 8 Swim magical teal lagoons at **Balos** (p99), on the western edge of remote Gramvousa Peninsula.