



Connecting Vector Science Globally  
**12-17 October 2025**  
Mikis Theodorakis Theatre  
Chania, Crete



## ABOUT CHANIA

Chania, the second-largest city of Crete and its former capital, is a vibrant hub of history and culture, shaped by diverse civilizations over the centuries. Built on the ancient site of **Minoan Kidonia**, it flourished under Arab, Byzantine, Venetian, and Turkish rule before being united with Greece in 1913. Today, it is known for its stunning Old Town and picturesque Venetian port. The city is home to a diverse range of museums, cultural venues, archaeological sites, and historic monuments that showcase this rich heritage.

The **Old Town**, encircled by Venetian walls, offers a blend of architectural styles and historic charm. Visitors can explore districts like **Kastelli**, the site of a Byzantine citadel and later Venetian palaces, or **Splantzia**, home to the historic Aghii Anargiri church. **Ovraika**, the Hebrew district, reflects the city's Jewish heritage, featuring landmarks such as the Folklore Museum and the Archeological Museum housed in Aghios Fragkiskos church. **Neoria**, the northeast district, preserves the Venetian shipyards, while **Stivanadika** is famous for its traditional leather workshops.

Chania's waterfront, with its iconic **Lighthouse** built in the Venetian and later Egyptian style, is a highlight of the Venetian port proudly overlooking the Old Town, and the 17th-century mosque of Yali Tzamii. The old and new parts of the city coexist seamlessly, offering a unique atmosphere. Chania is well-connected, with daily boat routes from Piraeus to Souda port and flights via Akrotiri Airport.

Other notable spots include the **Eleftherios Venizelos Memorial Tombs and Museum**, the serene **Municipal Garden**, the historic **Tampakaria** district, and the charming waterfront areas of **Koum Kapi** and **Nea Chora**, which host a great mix of seafood tavernas and laid-back spots for a relaxing evening out.

Whether wandering its maze-like alleys, visiting museums, or admiring its historic sites, Chania invites visitors to experience the rich heritage and charm of this timeless city.

## CHANIA THE ULTIMATE FOOD LOVER'S PARADISE

Chania offers a rich and diverse gastronomic experience rooted in the Mediterranean diet. The food of Chania is a reflection of the island's natural resources, its history, and its culture. Tavernas in Chania focus on authentic, traditional cooking and most emphasize seasonal ingredients and simple preparations that let the quality of the food shine. Taste culinary delights like fresh handmade wedding cookies, dry bread wreaths, graviera cheese (full fat sheep's cheese with appellation of controlled origin), sweet smelling anthotyros from Sfakia (fresh, soft, white cheese made of either sheep's or goat's milk), fresh stàka butter (the cream of the butter) for the Cretan wedding rice (rice cooked in meat broth), roasted goat or sea food delights – special ingredients blended in delicious sea-urchin salads or divine fish soups!

## HOW TO REACH CHANIA

**By Air: Chania Airport "Ioannis Daskalogiannis"** is located on the peninsula of Akrotiri (or Souda), about 20 minutes (14 km) from Chania Town. Chania Airport operates domestic flights to and from Athens Airport, Thessaloniki Airport and other airports in Greece. From April to early November, there are many direct charter flights to Chania Airport from the UK, Germany,



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Scandinavia and other European countries. Chania Airport is the 6th busiest airport in Greece with nearly 2 million passengers.

Alternatively, “**Nikos Kazantzakis**” **International Airport** located in the central north of Crete, 4.5 km from Heraklion town is a busy international airport receiving many flights from Athens and European cities every day. The travel time to Chania is 2h and 15min by car.

**By Ferry:** You can reach Chania by hopping onto a ferry from Athens. Ferries depart on a daily basis from the port of Piraeus in Athens and arrive at Souda Port.

### HOW TO REACH CHANIA TOWN FROM THE AIRPORT

**Public city bus:** There’s a bus available that can take you to Chania Town. The bus stop is located across from the Departures area, on the east side of the Terminal. Tickets can be purchased from the bus driver. The journey takes approximately 25 minutes and buses usually run between 6am and 11.45pm.

**Chania Airport Taxi:** Another way to get from the airport to Chania or elsewhere is by getting a taxi from the designated pickup area outside the terminal. The exact length and cost of your journey will depend on where you’re heading on the island.

## CONGRESS VENUE

### Mikis Theodorakis Theater

*Click to view [Location](#)*

A historic building, currently operating as a modern cultural centre that features a theatre with a capacity of 400 persons. The first months of 1912 marked the beginning of the construction works for this large stone building that was intended to house the Customs House in the **Venetian Harbor** of Chania between the seven shipyards and the “Grand Arsenal”. That is why the building is still known as “Old Customs House”. It was designed and built by Michalis Savvakis. In October 2017, the official opening of the Mikis Theodorakis Theatre took place, in the presence of the great composer.

## VISA APPLICATION SUPPORT

Not sure if you require a VISA to travel to Greece? Click [HERE](#) to view countries and guidelines of the **Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

Individuals or delegations who require an official letter of invitation for VISA application purposes or for authorization from their institution to attend the SOVE2025, must first complete registration and payment for the congress. Upon completing registration and payment, they can contact the congress secretariat at [sove2025@artion.com.gr](mailto:sove2025@artion.com.gr) with their request, providing the following information: Full name, address, passport information, phone number and email address. The letter of invitation does not financially obligate the SOVE2025 organizers in any way.

**Please note that all requests for invitation letters will be automatically rejected if the applicant has not completed their registration and payment first.**



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## USEFUL INFORMATION

### WEATHER IN OCTOBER

October in Chania brings mild and pleasant weather, ideal for exploring the city's charm and natural beauty. Daytime temperatures range from 23–26°C, while cooler evenings dip to 15–18°C. The sea remains warm, making it perfect for swimming. Although October marks the start of the rainy season, showers are infrequent, especially early in the month, and most days are sunny or partly cloudy.

### SHOPPING

Chania doesn't have large shopping malls or an abundance of international brands, which adds to the region's authentic charm. The main shopping hub is Chania Town, particularly the Old Town, where you'll find a variety of shops and boutiques offering clothes, shoes, books, accessories, and souvenirs. Local shops also feature an array of traditional Cretan products, such as raki, wine, rakomelo, cheese, and herbs, providing a perfect opportunity to take home a taste of Crete. Shops are open from **Monday to Saturday** from **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** and then re-open in the late afternoon, from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. Many stores in the Old Town stay open until late, allowing visitors to enjoy a leisurely combination of strolling and shopping. On **Sundays** most shops are closed, but some tourist-oriented shops may remain open in the afternoon.

### PEOPLE AND LIFE

People are friendly and always happy to help with any questions, making the experience even more welcoming. Cretans usually have a good time with family or friends at a traditional tavern listening to local music, enjoying local dishes, nevertheless Chania region boasts a vibrant nightlife scene, offering something for everyone, regardless of age or taste. In the popular resorts, you'll find a variety of clubs featuring live music and refreshing cocktails, as well as laid-back spots with a relaxed lounge vibe. There are also outdoor dance clubs, beach clubs, and many other venues playing a mix of music genres to keep the energy going.

### SERVICE CHARGE AND GRATUITIES

In Chania, as in much of Greece, service charges are generally not included in the bill, but tipping is appreciated for good service. In restaurants, cafes, and bars, it's common to leave a tip of around 5-10% of the total bill if you're satisfied with the service. For smaller bills, rounding up to the nearest euro is also a common practice.

### POWER SUPPLY

In Greece the power sockets are EU type (C and F) which work with C, E and F plugs. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

## USEFULL LINKS

<https://www.visitgreece.gr/islands/crete/chania/>

<https://www.discovergreece.com/crete/chania>

<https://www.incrediblecrete.gr/>

<https://chaniabus.gr/en>



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## Brochures and Travel guides

<https://www.incrediblecrete.gr/wp-content/uploads/travel-guides/English.pdf>

<https://www.incrediblecrete.gr/wp-content/uploads/travel-guides/Xartis.pdf>