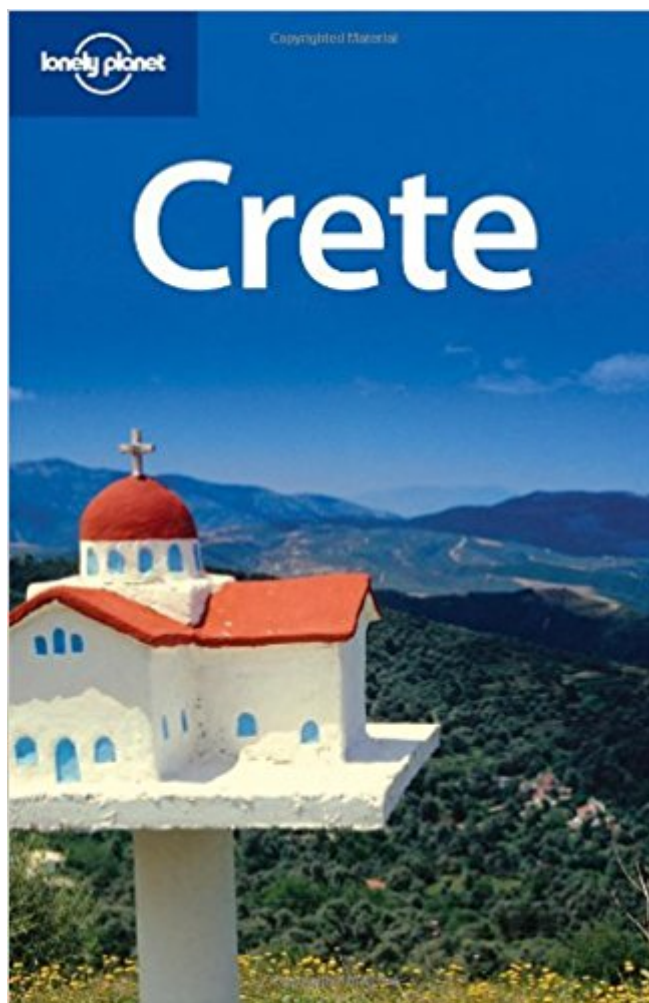


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Lonely Planet Crete (Regional Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Discover Crete
Stalk the ghost of the Minotaur in the labyrinthine Palace of Knossos
Stretch out in the sand and count the stars on the free-spirited island of Gavdos
Slam back a raki to the sound of pistol fire as you join the throng at a traditional Anogia wedding
Linger over freshly caught sea bass and just-picked wild greens at a family-run taverna
In This Guide:
One expert author, 57 days of in-country research, 40 detailed maps
Dedicated Outdoors chapter, guaranteed to get you out of your sunlounger
Content updated daily - visit lonelyplanet.com for up-to-the-minute reviews, updates and traveler insights.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Lonely Planet for honesty, history, irreverence and budget.” --Esquire

Who We Are
At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travelers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do
* We offer travelers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages.
* We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are.
* We update our guidebooks by visiting thousands of places in person to get the details right and tell it as it is.
* We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent.
* We challenge our growing community of travelers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world.
* We tell it like it is

without fear or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

This book was decent, but it could have been much better. It is not very big considering it is covering a very large destination, and they could have devoted much more detail to some of the rural areas of Crete. We spent most of our time in the Plakias and Spili areas which we loved. This book only had 1.5 pages of information about this area, and there were many things in these areas that the book should have covered in more detail. I am sure the same can be said for other areas as well. Perhaps an additional 100 pages would help to give the detail lacking in some of the areas. Having said all of that, it was the best of the three Crete travel guides that we purchased. I would recommend it based on that but with the caveat that it should have been better.

Lucky you, that you are going to Crete. If you have doubts about your travels, you can not go wrong with Lonely Planet. Crete is a great place. Good time had by all. We often found the LP recommendations before I even read about them in the book. So, if you are adventurous, you can very easily go to Crete without any guide books. Nonetheless, this books will give you hints if you only have a week to spend and want to hit the highlights. That said, Crete is huge. We had a month on Crete and barely got to know the west end. The most important question I had was, "Will we need a car?" The answer is "yes." They were easy to find and bargain for in person. Have a great trip!

I appreciate the Lonely Planet format which makes finding recommended food and lodging easy to refer. I also appreciated the detailed boxes on agrotourism, wineries, and the island's other cultural and geographic features. The "our pick" notations were helpful and the selections excellent and accurate for the places I visited with my wife (Chania Prefecture, Iraklion, and Elafonisi). The writer's/editors' love of Crete come through in the writing, steering you away from tourist traps and towards a more enriching Cretan experience. They seem to know the island better than most other mainstream travel guide publishers that I have read (possible exception of Rough Guide). My only suggestion for improvement would be to provide some more background detail/history for certain sites and cities than the brief description in each section currently provide. Overall, the LP Crete guide is a very helpful traveling companion for either a brief or extended trip.

Let me start by saying I have been to Crete before. I bought the book, rented a car and drove around Crete in 2005 using this guide only with the objective of looking for value for money accommodation and places of interest to me for this trip ie. beaches on the south west: Paleohora, Elafonissi, Plakias etc. The accommodation I stayed at was picked from the book and was superb. The prices (in 2005) were completely accurate. I am not a backpacker (such as the previous reviewer) and I had different aims from the guide and had a different experience. (Other guides are more informative if you are looking for more cultural experiences). For me, I can't wait for the next edition to come out to plan my next trip to this beautiful place.

The book is just a little more than a tourist guide. Maybe it can be useful when making a tour with a small suitcase and a credit card, but backpackers and budget travelers shouldn't lean too much on it. Do your own research when planning the trip and talk to your kind of travelers on the trip. I guess the author didn't do any research on her own but just copying the previous text. Maybe just some prices that are different than in the previous edition. Manos hotel in Chania is (let say) recommended by the book and it advertises that in the street proudly. When I asked for the room the price was double than written in the book and not negotiable. The hotel was dirty and the owner arrogant. This was just one of my experiences on the trip that don't fit into the guide. But O.K. this can happen. The problem are missing information. For instance that you can sleep half price in the Turk part of the historic centre of Chania etc. Overall: It is O.K. to have a guide on a trip but after visiting Nepal, India and Turkey with Lonely Planet is this one quite a disappointment to me.

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