Heraklion (Crete), Greece Port Review

To get the most from your shore excursion or your self-guided day on shore, ShoreFox provides you with useful information in this port review & port guide.

World Region
Mediterranean / European Atlantic

Time Zone
GMT +02:00

International Calling Code
+30

Language
Greek

Currency
Euro

Police / Emergency Phone Number
112

Overview

Heraklion is the biggest city and the capital of the Greek island of Crete. Its long history has attracted Minoans, Saracens, Byzantines, Venetians and Turks, who all left landmarks of their ancient high culture on this Mediterranean island.

Heraklion welcomes its visitors from the seaside with its Venetian fortress of Koules on the harbor walls, built in the early 1500s. Further exploring the city, you find Byzantine churches, Turkish fountains and Venetian residences, all mixed in one vibrant town, amongst traditional coffee shops, family taverns and restaurants. Heraklion offers an active night life and hosts various festivals and cultural events during summer time.

Heraklion is known for several impressive museums. The archaeological museum of Heraklion is one of the most important museums in Europe. The most noticeable archaeological finds of the Minoan culture - including colorful frescoes several thousand years old - are exhibited there. Classic Hellenic and Roman sculptures, frescoes, jewelry, wall-paintings and pottery can also be found, which makes it a must-see for all those interested in Crete's cultural history. Finds and pictures of Crete’s Historical and Folk Art Museum are also well worth a visit.

About half an hour by car outside of Heraklion is another historical highlight: The Palace of Knossos. Knossos was thought of as a city of myth and legend for centuries, until the English archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans started excavations in 1900. Evans implemented the term “Minoan” (after King Minos of Knossos) for the ancient inhabitants of Crete. The destruction of the city of Knossos – and Crete in general – was due to an earthquake, caused by the eruption of the volcano on the nearby island of Thera around 1600 or 1500 BCE. The invasion of the Mycenaeans, later in 1450 BCE, is believed to have further destroyed the city of Knossos and thus brought the final end to the Minoan civilization. Excavations allow you to visit several monuments of this ancient Minoan civilization, like the Great Palace, the Royal Villa, the House of the High Priest, the Caravan Serai (public baths with running water, where the travelers or visitors of Knossos would bath before visiting the King), and the Royal Temple Tomb-Sanctuary. The palace covered an area of about 22,000 square meters. Its intricate and multilevel layout is the basis for legends like the myth of the Labyrinth with the Minotaur. One of Heraklion’s most famous sons is Doménikos Theotokópoulos, born in 1541, and known under the nickname “El Greco” (the Greek). He was a painter, sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance.
Cruise Ship Pier Location
Cruise ships in Heraklion dock in the local port.

Taxi Transportation
Taxis are readily available at the front of the port.

Taxi Companies Contact Data
- Candia Taxi S.A., +30 281 036 1363
- Heraklion Taxi, +30 281 400 3084
- Taxi Service Heraklion, +30 694 521 9939

General Store Opening Hours
Opening hours can vary drastically. General stores are open from 9 am to 1:30 pm and again from and from 5 pm to 9 pm - Monday to Saturday. Tourist shops and convenience stores have longer opening hours, especially in high tourist season in the European summer.

Service Locations
Free wifi:
Free wifi can be found in many cafes, and there is a Starbucks in town with the same conditions as anywhere else.

Tourist office:
A tourist office is located in the terminal building.

Tipping / Bargaining Habits
In restaurants and taxis you can tip between 5% and 10%. Some restaurants will round-up the bill, so you should check this before tipping. Also you can expect a ‘service charge’ or a ‘cover charge’, which is the price of bread and water.

Special Dress Code
Heraklion has a Mediterranean climate, which can be very hot and dry in the summer. If you are going to be out exploring during the day (and we recommend that you do!) then it’s suggested to bring a hat and water with you, as well as plenty of sunscreen.

Safety Advice
Heraklion is considered a safe city overall. As always, be aware of your surroundings and lock up your valuables. Especially in large tourist areas, keep your wallets and purses close and beware of pickpockets.
Nice To Know

- Odos 1866 is the street where the famous local open-air market is held. Literally everything is sold on this market, including all souvenirs you can think off. It’s open Monday to Saturday 8 am to 2 pm.

Pharmacy / Hospital Contact Data

- Creta Interclinic S.A., Leoforos Minoos 63
- Euromedica S.A., Archiepiskopou Makariou 56
- SOS Emergency Assistance of Kyklades S.A., Magnias 2

Embassy / Consulate Contact Data

Embassy of the United States of America, 91 Vasiliis Sophias Avenue, 10160 Athens, Tel.: +30 210-721-2951, mail: AthensAmEmb@state.gov

British Embassy, 1, Ploutarchou str, 106 75 Athens, Tel.: +30 210 7272 600, mail: information.athens@fco.gov.uk

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Karaoli & Dimitriou 3, 106 75 Athens, Tel.: +30 210 72 85111, Fax: +30 210 7285335

We’ve put much care and experience into the content of these Port Reviews. But the world is also changing. Please double check before you relay on the provided information and give us a hint via hello@shorefox.com when you discover a required change. We appreciate your support.