

CMD Journeys

Crete for Families

A local guide to Greece's largest island with children: when to come, where to stay, what to do and a 7-day plan. By Maria and Marinos, born and raised in Crete.

Before you book

When to come

Crete has one of the longest seasons in Europe. For families, the sweet spot is late May, June and September: warm sea, long days, and comfortable temperatures for exploring.

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Spring, sea cool	Very good	Best	Hot, busy	Hottest, busiest	Best

In July and August, plan outings for the morning and keep the afternoons for the pool. October is lovely for sightseeing, though the sea is starting to cool.

Where to stay

For a first trip, choose one base and stay put. Crete is big, and mountain roads are slow.

Elounda and Agios Nikolaos

Calm bays and the best family resorts on the island. Close to Spinalonga and the Lasithi plateau.

The coast near Heraklion (Agia Pelagia, Hersonissos)

Short drives to Knossos and the airport. Plenty of villas with pools.

Chania and the west

A beautiful Venetian old town and the famous lagoons of Balos and Elafonisi. Best as a second base.

A private villa

Our favorite choice for three generations together: space, a pool, and everyone under one roof.

What children love

Ten family favorites



1. Knossos
The palace of the Minotaur myth. Go when it opens.

2. A mountain farm
Goats, milking, fresh cheese and warm cheese pies.

3. Spinalonga
A short boat ride to a fortress island.

4. The cave of Zeus
A steep 15–20 minute walk up. Not for strollers.

5. A day at sea
Sailing to Dia island, with snorkeling and lunch on board.

6. Pottery in Margarites
Children shape their own pot on the wheel.

7. Cooking with a family
Make a Cretan meal, then eat it together.

8. CretAquarium
Near Gournes. A cool break on a hot afternoon.

9. Bees and honey
A beekeeper, a glass hive and a tasting.

10. A lagoon beach
Shallow, warm water at Elafonisi or Balos.

Our suggested week

Seven days, one base



Knossos
Myths come alive



Spinalonga
Boat, fortress, swim



Margarites
Hands in the clay

Day 1	Arrive and rest. A swim and an early dinner by the sea.
Day 2	Knossos with a guide in the morning, the aquarium in the afternoon.
Day 3	A mountain farm. Back at the pool by mid-afternoon.
Day 4	Lasithi plateau, windmills and the cave of Zeus.
Day 5	Spinalonga by boat, lunch in Plaka, a swim at Voulisma.
Day 6	Sailing to Dia, or pottery in Margarites.
Day 7	Rethymno old town, then home.

Want to see Santorini too?

It is a day trip from Heraklion by fast ferry, about two hours each way. Best for children over 8. Read our full guide at cmdjourneys.com.

Practical

Our tips for families



Sightseeing in the morning

Between 1 and 5 pm in summer, the pool is the best place to be.

Late dinners are normal

Tavernas welcome children at any hour. Try fries cooked in olive oil.

Water shoes

Many of the most beautiful beaches have pebbles.

Child seats

Ask for them in every vehicle. With a private driver, they are always ready.

Keep one day free

It always turns out to be someone's favorite.

Book the special things early

Private boats, family villas and the best resorts fill up months ahead for June to September.

From us

We would love to plan your Crete

We are Maria and Marinos, born and raised in Crete. Marinos shows you the island; Maria makes sure every detail of your journey is right. One island we know by heart. One small team you can call any time.

Why CMD? It brings our names together: Maria Chalkiadaki and Marinos Doukiantzakis.

Our tours in Crete are rated 5.0 on Tripadvisor (279 reviews) and Google (98 reviews).

Start with a free 30-minute call

Tell us your dates, who is traveling and what your family enjoys. We reply personally within one working day.

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