

23 February 2019

We enjoyed a wonderful week in Crete. The weather was cold and rainy the first two days then cleared with warm sun for the remainder of our trip. With the exception of Balos lagoon we accomplished all the other activities listed on the preceding pages. We also walked the "E4" hike between the Arkadi monastery and Aefterna which was a great way to appreciate the rugged terrain.

Many thanks indeed to Yannis and Eva for their warm hospitality and a cooked dinner on our arrival after a delayed flight on a cold + rainy night.

2 March 2019

Unfortunately our vacation did not go as planned because of the worst rain/wind/thunderstorm in living memory here on Crete. Roads, bridges and highways were washed out and blocked by landslides, and we spent much of the first three days of our visit without power, heat or hot water. ~~The rain~~ We were able to salvage the remaining 4 days, but could not get to all the sights we wanted to see because of closed roads. We did get to Heraklion twice, where we visited Knossos, the Archaeological Museum, the Venetian Fortress and strolled around the lovely shopping district. We also really enjoyed our visit to the Roman town of Aptera, as well as exploring the old part of Rethymno.

9 March 2019

Thankfully much of the road cleanup was done when we arrived after the crazy rain fall last week. Unfortunately the pool was not in use though but that just got us out exploring!

We enjoyed:

- Kressos
- Crete Aquarium
- Elafonissi Beach - had the beach to ourselves!
- Preveli Beach - loved this place! Also had it to ourselves and there was a palm tree forest to see there too!
- old Chania & Rethymno
- Kalyvaki Beach - nice sand, shallow warm water  
- close by (35 min)
- Karavostas Beach - ~~at~~ also lovely.

Actually we had all the beaches to ourselves as it is still off season. But we swam and enjoyed the peace!

\*\* Really enjoyed the welcoming meal provided by Eva on arrival! Great hosts.

March 15, 2019

We've had a fantastic & relaxing holiday in this lovely holiday home. Eva & Yannis have been so helpful & really went above & beyond to help us. My husband needed to see a Dr while we were here & after calling Eva to find the best place to go her & Yannis ended up driving my husband to the specialist's office @ 7pm so that I could put our two toddlers to bed. Not only did they take him that night but also to a follow up appointment the next morning & Eva called me the following day to check on us. I really can't say enough about their wonderful hospitality & help - including the welcome meal.

The weather was off & on rainy but we had enough sunshine to get out & experience this lovely island. We went by the previous recommendations & went to 1 Old town Chania 2. Elofaoussi Beach 3 Knossos 4 Old town Rethymno. We loved driving around the island - amazingly diverse landscape. We also had lots of fun here - riding bikes & playing with the balls on the lawn, cooking on the clay oven, watching the local sheep grazing.

Mar 15-22 2019

What an amazing holiday - Eva was an excellent hostess and the meal she prepared was one of the best we had during our stay!!

Things we did (and highly recommend)

- Chania - Beautiful city - the walk to the light house was amazing - the old man selling art is a charmer. If you love pottery - this is a place to start
- Margaritis village (close to here) is also full of handmade beautiful pieces
- Rethym<sup>no</sup>~~no~~ is the closest town and the fort is a great spot to see the views. We ate most of our dinners there - along the board walk by the port... lots of places to pick from.
- Arkadi Monastery was one of our most favorite places (plan to spend a few hours)
- Lake Kournas is a quaint village - family owned olive oil company - sells from the shops - AMAZING!!
- We drove to Mount Ida - where the road was closed because of SNOW! (near the summit) Birth place of ZEUS - my husband thought that was cool (MOUNTAIN OF THE GODS :))
- Aptera (ancient city) - was a nice walk - beautiful drive
- LAST but not least - Klados Winery - met the owner, excellent host

can't

- Provided a wine tasting and tour of the facility and a look at the vineyard - try the 2017 white!

The water was too cold for a beach day but as it warms up there are beautiful beaches close to the resort.

The people of this island are super friendly and kind - they will recommend many things to do if you ask.

This was an amazing week and I cannot say enough about the comforts of this place.

Oh so feed the cats → they will entertain you for hours.

ly - 23 Mar - 30 Mar 19

We were a group of 6 and had a wonderful holiday at Prinos Resort! Eva and Yannis were excellent hosts and made us dinner for the first night and even went out of their way to pick-up breakfast things (eggs, milk, bread, cereal) for the next morning due to the closures of the long weekend (25 Mar was Greek National Day). Eva's food was so good we had her make dinner two nights after that! Her food remained the best we had in Crete. The resort was truly wonderful and we felt so comfortable coming back to it each night!

Weather wise, we lucked out for first part of the week with Sun and heat but then had some cloudy/windy/rainy days on Thurs/Fri/Sat: still wonderful days, all we had to do was more city/indoor activities. Here's our itinerary, for other Canadians to brainstorm trip ideas!

Day 1 - Sun 24 Mar - Drove to just South of Xania<sup>(Chania)</sup><sub>(Rania)</sub> and did a winery tour of the Andreas Dourakis Winery. A really great intro to Greece as we got copious local wines with a Greek lunch at the winery! On way back, stopped at Rethymno and walked its beautiful old core. Eva's dinner back at the resort!

Day 2 - Mon 25 Mar - Drove to Plakias on South coast and did a donkey ride with the Horse Centre. Beautiful and dramatic drive and landscape. Then went <sup>Riding</sup> to Preveli Beach and walk the 'Palm Forest' path. Amazing! Also checked out peaceful <sup>at night</sup> Preveli

ended day by watching sunset at Panormo Beach, close by the Resort. Preveli Beach is absolutely worth checking out!

3-26 Mar - Sunny Day, drove all the way to Elafofissi beach. Truly Spectacular white & Pink sands with Turquoise water and we had it all to ourselves. Then drove back north to Falassarna Beach: beautiful huge beach and empty, spectacular waves + ancient ruins of Falassarna nearby. Stopped in Xania in the evening: most beautiful city in Crete and had dinner at Tamam. Amazing meal, recommend the Giant Bean Starter and the calamari.

4-27 Mar - Went back to Rethymno on a sunny morning and walked the fortress: great views, good coffee. Drove inland to Ancient Lappa and the Green Oasis at Argyroupoli. Lappa was magical with ancient fountain and peaceful with only a few tourists as company. Green Oasis was a bit more touristy but still worth checking out on a hot day. Stopped in Rethymno again for gelato and coffee.

5-28 Mar - Did Archaeological Museum in Rethymno: small but impressive and worth a visit. A greyer day, drove to Moni Arkadiou (Crete's Alamo) and befriended the monastery's monks. Then went to Ancient Eleutherna: unexpectedly amazing, huge archaeological area with amazing ruins. Could've spent an entire day there.

6-29 Mar - Rainy and windy day. Stayed off mountain roads. Drove to Heraklion Archaeological Museum: huge collection, expect 3 hours minimum. Grabbed healthy lunch at The Chickpea and drove back to Pinos.

7-30 Mar - Prepped to head home but plan to see Knossos before late-night flight! to be leaving!



↳ APRIL 2019

Very clean and comfortable accommodations. Our stay was wonderful from beginning to end (despite some windy/rainy weather on our first couple days). We were welcomed by Eva & Yannis who prepared a delicious dinner. We couldn't have asked for more kind & gracious hosts.  
Thank you!

April 6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>

Fantastic and relaxing holiday! The villa is awesome and Eva & Yannis super friendly. The welcome dinner was delicious!

The few first days were pretty cold and super windy! But we traveled the island (~~east~~ west part). Renting a car is a must!

We went to Rethymno, Chania, Heraklion and down south to Plakias, Povelis et Matala. We loved to walk in the Kourtaliotiko canyon! We went scuba diving in Platanias, but the water was really cold!

People of the island are super nice and most of them speak English.

The food is so good everywhere as well!

Only regret, we did not make it to Elafonissi beach because of the weather!

We had a nice time! ~~and~~

Thanks Eva & Yannis

April 13-20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

We had a great family vacation in Crete. Eva and Jannis take good care of their resort and their guests! After two days exploring Athens we arrived in Crete late to a delicious meal waiting for us.

Day 1 - we stayed around the resort.

Day 2 - we explored the town and <sup>a</sup> nearby beach

Day 3 - we went to Melidoni Cave, very cool and we were the only 4 there! After that we drove to Bali Beach and had a wonderful supper Sea Side. Stick to the main roads if you decide to explore Bali! Thankful for a small sized rental car!!

Day 4 - we drove to Elafonisi beach. It is a beautiful pink sand beach. It was a bit of a long drive with mountain roads but worth it in our opinion. We stopped in Chania on our way home for supper.

Day 5 - We enjoyed the pool in the morning then ventured to the town of Rethymno. This place became our fav place to walk around and have supper.

Day 6 - We got up a bit earlier to drive to the southside of the island for a beach day in Plakias. The mountain driving wasn't too bad and it really isn't that far. The weather wasn't the best for a beach day but we had fun none the less. On the way home we stopped in Rethymno for supper and to buy some souvenirs. We highly recommend the little restaurant overlooking the boats and the lighthouse.

Day 7 - Writing this while I enjoy my tea and the view. We probably won't venture too far today. We have an early flight tomorrow.

We are returning to Germany well rested, tanned and well fed. It was a fabulous week.