



ATHENA
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

THE VENUE

The Central HMU Campus - <https://g.page/ELMEPA?share>

WELCOME TO CRETE (Kalos Orisate) – Sense the Authentic

Welcome to CRETE! Read almost everything about CRETE's history, civilization, and culture here: <https://www.incrediblecrete.gr/en/>

HOW TO GET TO CRETE

Crete is the largest island in Greece and the fifth largest one in the Mediterranean Sea. Here, you can admire the remnants of brilliant civilizations, explore glorious beaches, impressive mountainscapes, fertile valleys, and steep gorges, and become part of the island's rich gastronomic culture. Crete is, after all, a small universe teeming with beauties and treasures that you will probably need a lifetime to uncover!

Crete: "Sense the authentic."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxkc-02Tw-M>

To read more about the islands' history, please [check here](#).

The easiest way to get to the island of Crete is **by direct flight** to one of the two International Airports on the island. The two International

airports are the "[International Airport of Heraklion Nikos Kazantzakis](#)" (HER) in Heraklion and the "[International Airport of Chania Ioannis Daskalogiannis](#)" (CHQ) in Chania. The Airport of [Heraklion](#) is 7km far from the Heraklion city center, and the Airport of Chania is 14km away from the Chania city center. The distance between Heraklion and Chania is about 150 km which means two hours of driving or approximately three hours if you pick up the bus from Chania to Heraklion.

The ATHENA meeting hosted by HMU will take place in Heraklion, **so it is strongly advised to reserve your flights to Heraklion Nikos Kazantzakis Airport (HER)**. All major international carriers operate with direct flights to Heraklion (after April). However, many low-cost carriers have included Heraklion International Airport as their destination. If you wish to combine your visit with a short vacation, you can select a charter flight.

If a convenient direct flight to Heraklion cannot be found, there is an option **to fly via [Athens International Airport 'Eleftherios Venizelos'](#)**. There are **six** (starting at 06:55 AM and the last one at 22:55) daily flights operated by the [Aegean Airlines](#) from Athens to Heraklion and **three** daily flights (the first one at 07:30 and the last one at 20.00) used by [Sky Express](#) to Heraklion. Note that these times may change over the summer season.

Another alternative is to fly to Athens and then travel to Crete by boat. You can [take a bus from Athens International Airport to Piraeus port](#). You can take the boat and enjoy the Aegean Sea while traveling from Piraeus to Heraklion. The trip lasts about six hours, and the schedules and operators can be found here:

- Piraeus to Heraklion/ Heraklion to Piraeus: www.minoanlines.gr
- Piraeus to Heraklion/ Heraklion to Piraeus: www.anek.gr
- Piraeus to Heraklion/ Heraklion to Piraeus: www.superfast.com

It is strongly advised to reserve your trip well in advance.

ACCOMODATION in HERAKLION

June is a highly touristic season. It will be impossible for us to reserve a single place or to secure lower fares during the meetings' dates. We can suggest the following Hotels within the city:

- Capsis Astoria Heraklion Hotel – [please click here](#).
- Aquila Atlantis Hotel – [please check it here](#).
- Ibis Styles Heraklion Central – [please check it here](#).
- Olive Green Hotel – [please check it here](#).
- Lato Boutique Hotel – [please check it here](#).
- GDM Megaron Hotel – [please check it here](#).
- Atrion Hotel – [please check it here](#).
- Galaxy Hotel Heraklion – [please check it here](#).

Please use the following link in Booking.com to find more options for your accommodation in Heraklion down: <https://bit.ly/37QZqB6>

Another option is to use the [Airbnb option](#)

HOW TO GET TO HERAKLION CAMPUS

Once you arrive at the Airport of Heraklion, you can either take a **taxi** or a **bus** to take you to the place you want. If you're going to come directly to [HMU](#) from the Airport by bus, you can use **BUS NUMBER 12***: "[AIRPORT – ELMEPA](#)" (you disembark at station 1104 – Mediterranean University). If you are at the city center, you pick up BUS 12 from the Astoria Liberty Square (bus station 10218), and you disembark at bus station 1104 – Mediterranean University. However, we are working to arrange your daily transfer from the Heraklion City center to HMU during the meetings days.

Visiting the city bus services' website at <http://astiko-irakleiou.gr/en/#main>, you can find the exact location of the bus and how many minutes remain until it arrives at your bus stop.

To arrive at HMU, you can take a taxi; the approximate cost from the city center to the Hellenic Mediterranean University is about 10 euros. Use cash since many taxis do not offer a credit card option. Otherwise, please ask the reception of your hotel to call you a taxi with a credit card payment service. Taxis charge more for luggage.

Taxis: Website: <http://www.herakliontaxi.com/en/index.html>

*Bus Tickets for the urban buses can be found in little kiosks around the city, or you can buy them inside the bus with a bit of extra charge.

TRANSPORTATION WITHIN CRETE

BUSES THAT LINK HERAKLION TO THE REST OF CRETE: If you want to travel around Crete by bus from Heraklion, you can visit this website and check the available routes and tickets: <http://www.ktelherlas.gr/en/>

PLACES TO EAT in Heraklion

Please find below the links to some restaurants in the Heraklion City (almost everything is in the city center) to enjoy the local and the Greek cuisine.

1. 7THALASSES Seafood Restaurant – [check it here](#).
2. AVLI (Mediterranean cuisine) – [check it here](#).
3. Peskesi (the Mediterranean and Greek cuisine) – [check here](#).
4. Kouzeineri (European, Greek, and Mediterranean cuisine) – [check here](#).
5. April Greek eatery – [check it here](#).
6. Vourvouladiko (Greek and Cretan Cuisine) – [check it here](#).
7. Vrakas Restaurant (fish food) – [check it here](#).
8. Pagopeion Restaurant – [check it here](#).

ABOUT HERAKLION City

Heraklion in Greece, the hometown and resting place of Nikos Kazantzakis, is the largest town in Crete. It distinguishes itself for its impressive fortress, the Venetian port, and the fish taverns along the waterfront. Apart from the city, the entire region is also beautiful and unexplored.

The history of Heraklion started in the Minoan times, as is shown by the close ancient town of Knossos, the most developed of all Minoan towns in Crete. The town was found almost intact under ashes, which is why scientists believe that this civilization was destroyed by the volcanic eruption of Santorini. Excavations in Knossos have revealed a flourishing ancient town with an impressive palace and a vibrant cultural life. To read more about Heraklion City, please [check it here](#).

PLACES TO VISIT

There are several websites where you can find information on the places you can visit in Heraklion and Crete. You can follow this [link](#) to plan your activities beyond the meetings & other actions hours.

Let us suggest to you some links that may facilitate your search:

- **History & Archeological Sites**

Historical Museum of Crete – please [check here](#).

Heraklion Archaeological Museum – [check here](#).

Natural History Museum of Crete – [check here](#).

Knossos Palace – [check here](#).

For more museums and sights in Heraklion, please [check it here](#).

BEACHES NEARBY HERAKLION

- **Agia Pelagia** (30 minutes with the car) – [check here](#).
- **Ligaria Beach** (25 minutes with the car) – [check here](#).

For more information on other beaches in Heraklion, please [check here](#).

WORKING HOURS

- **Public Offices:** Monday – Friday 7:30 – 15:00
- **Post Offices:** Monday-Friday 7:30 – 14:00
- **Banks:** Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 14:30 and Friday 8:00 – 13:30
- **Shops** are open on Monday and Wednesday: 9:00 – 15:00, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9:00 – 14:00 and 17:30 – 21:00, and Saturday: 9:00 – 15:00.
- Although **pharmacies** have variable working hours, they are usually open from 08:00 to 14:00 on Monday and Wednesdays. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, they are also open from 17:30 to 21:00. There are also pharmacies that are open 24 hours and at weekends. You can find the lists of them on the doors of all pharmacies.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Radio Taxi:

- <https://www.cretataxi.com/>
- <https://www.herakliontaxiservices.com/>

Heraklion International Airport: only through the website – see above.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

National Emergency Center: 166

Emergency Hospitals, Pharmacies, Doctors: 14944

Police: 100

Fire Brigade: 199

Touristic Police: 171

Emergency Intervention of the Port Authority: 108

European Emergency Number: 112

Kostas Petridi's Number: +306932250964

The European Emergency Number was created to serve the citizens on a 24-hour basis, no matter in which country of the European Union they will need it. The call is answered immediately by a specialized professional with whom you can communicate in one of the primary European languages. The call from a fixed phone, a mobile phone, a telephone box, or a public telephone appliance is without charge. The European Emergency Number also operates in Greece and serves the visitors to our country. The number operates within the range of any mobile telephony network, even if your network does not function in a specific area, provided there is coverage by another network. For more information, visit the website of the General Secretariat of Civil Protection:

<https://www.civilprotection.gr/en>