

2006 EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN COMPUTER VISION

Candidate Site, Hersonissos, Crete, Greece



The Majestic Island of CRETE, Some attractions

General Information

In the southernmost part of Greece, the island of Crete lies in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea. Crete is a blessed land that for thousands of years has been the cultural and commercial crossroads of three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa.

In the birthplace of Zeus, bloomed the glorious Minoan civilization and lived great personalities of culture such as the great painter Domenicos Theotokopoulos, (called "El Greco") and Nikos Kazantzakis the author known for his Zorba the Greek.



Crete is a spirited and enchanting place with a wonderful climate. Ravishing scenery, picturesque harbours, ancient Minoan palaces and Byzantine churches are but a few of Crete's pleasures. Add to that the friendliness of the Cretan people and one has the setting for a memorable conference destination. Crete



demands to be explored by car or by jeep and there are several interesting excursions that may be organized. Heraklion, the capital of the island with its world class Archaeological Museum and the Palace of Knossos dating back to 1500BC, the town of Rethymno with its Venetian Fortress and the old Turkish quarter with mosques and minarets, the town of Chania, a typical Venetian town with a small secluded harbour with picturesque houses and cafes and last but not least, the port of Aghios Nikolaos and the village of Elounda around the Bay of Mirabello are all visiting points. Trekking through the

Samaria Gorge, mountain biking on the Lassithi Plateau with its countless windmills, listening to traditional Cretan music played by the lyra during one of the Cretan nights and shopping for handicrafts and local wines can be a part of interesting activities.

Palace of Knossos: This palace, in a beautiful site just southeast of Iraklio, is the most magnificent, intricate and evocative of Crete's Minoan sites. In order to give visitors an idea of what the palace looked like, its discoverer, Sir Arthur Evans, had parts of it reconstructed. Strategically placed copies of Minoan frescoes help infuse the site with the artistic spirit of these remarkable people. Arrive here early in the morning and visit the Throne Room, with its simple but beautifully proportioned throne, before the tour groups arrive.

The **Archaeological Museum of Heraklion** houses an unequalled collection of finds from all the periods of Cretan history, from Neolithic to Roman times, covering a period of six millennia. Among these, the most important findings are the ones from what is believed to be the first great European culture, the **Minoan** civilization. According to historic and archaeological sources, the Minoan culture came into existence about 3500 years ago and flourished for centuries reaching a cultural high point on the island of Crete between 1700-1450 B.C. A visit to the palace of **Knossos** (a few kilometers from Heraklion) gives an impression of the scale and grandeur of Minoan culture. Many beautiful works of art are on display in the Heraklion museum, along with a unique collection of ancient valuables. The museum consists of twenty halls in which artefacts are laid out in such a way that the visitor can follow the progress of the Minoans chronologically, room by room. Exhibits that have been dug out of palaces, houses, caves and graves are all displayed in units according to where they were found. The visitor will find outstanding examples of minute sculpture, ceramic art, masonry and cameos carved on tiny surfaces, as well as an array of precious jewellery, metalwork, furniture, tools, household items, weapons and idols. All these give us some indication as to the Minoans lifestyle, while the amazing collection of colorful frescoes bears witness to a world of sensitivity, tenderness and liveliness. They refer to the Minoans great love of movement and games, and express the joy that this ancient race found in nature and the world around them. We strongly recommend a visit to the Heraklion

museum. Excellent guidebooks are available in almost every European language for further information, and buses run daily from Rethymno to Heraklion see a Travel Agent or Tourist Information for more details.

Palace of Phaistos: The Palace of Phaistos with its superb architectural composition and its almost perfect construction, is considered to be the finest and most typical of all Minoan palaces. The ruins of the old and new palace are preserved today, the former having been protected under a shed. The nucleus of the new palace is a central peristyle court around which the rooms are arranged: the storerooms and shrines on the west side, the royal quarters on the north and the workshops on the east. To the west of the storerooms is the "theatral area" with the "processional ways" and, in the lower strata, the granaries of the Old Palace period (first palace). The West Propylon, the monumental entrance to the palace is the most impressive known structure of its kind. The finds from the palace are now exhibited in the Archaeological Museum of Herakleion.

Main

Important Dates

Venue

People

Submissions

Sponsors

Attractions

Financial

Getting there

Program

Samaria Gorge: Classified as a National park, Samaria Gorge is one of the most spectacular natural parks in Europe. Starting south of the settlement of Omalos, 42 Km south of Hania, spans for 18 Km as far as the south Crete coast. The only way to see the gorge is to walk through its entire length, sometime between May and October when passage is permitted, but rest assured that the five or so hours that you spend in this gorge will award you with incredible views.

Hania: Few visit Crete without seeing the Venetian port of Chania. When you arrive - by ferry at Souda or by air, make a beeline for the waterfront restaurants, Karnagio the fish restaurant and the old cobbled, narrow shoptlined streets. Take a drive to Vrisses, then up the winding, goat-laden road to Imbros, stop at one of the villages for a "Svakiani pitta" (a svakian pie - cheese filled and served with honey. The views here are stirring, the people of the Svakian region honest and fierce friends.

Last Update: Aprilil 6th, 2004

you can mail your comments to: nikos.paragios@computer.org