
Summer Programs in Crete

— July/August 2025 —

Highlights of just some of the Summer Activities 2025

- Two-day excursion to the village of Zaros with day trips to Phaestos 7 Matala and other locales--**July 24-26 (100 euros a person)** and includes bus transportation and housing (more details will be posted on locations and events on the website).
- **Discovering Kazantzakis Footsteps**--Five Hour Tour that includes stops at Megalo Kastros, Saint Minas, Kazantzakis Neighborhood, the Lions neighborhood, the gravesite and Myrtia (Museum) followed by a luncheon on **July 22 (100 euros a person)**.
- **Strata Event** at the Limani in Chania with Viglatores. Free for all to attend. Wear black pants/skirt and black shoes to participate in the Strata. **July 29 at 7:30 p.m.**
- Dance Workshops: Viglatores, Chania--**July 12 and August 12--10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. at the Viglatores Center in Alikianos**--Psilorities Dance Group, Chania--Late July and early August (dates tba)
- **Cretan Glendi in the beautiful village of Elos** in Kisammos, Crete, hosted by the residents of Elos (complete with dinner, music and dancing). **August 7 at 8 p.m.**
- **"Discover Your Roots" 8 day experience** sponsored by the Polytechnio of Chania and PAA for only **60 euros** a day and includes all activities and almost all meals for 9 PYA members each session: **July 15-July 22; July 22-July 29; July 29-August 5.**
- **Mikis Theodorakis Event at the Limani in Chania--August 3 (8:00 p.m.)**
- **Various Cooking Experiences** in three locations throughout Crete and **Kalitsounia Making Class** in Chania (July)
- **Visits to the various philanthropies that the PAA sponsors throughout Crete.** Please contact Evangelia Hobitakis if you would like to visit any of the sites in advance.

Two unique cooking experiences

- **Soul Cooking Workshop in Chania (Kalitsounia).** <https://www.soulcookingworkshops.com>
- July 12 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Cost: 40 euros, adults; 20 euros, children; kids ages 12 and under are 10 euros.

AND

- **FOOD STORYTELLING EXPERIENCES WITH ISABELLA ZAMPETAKIS**
 - Food Storytelling Lunch at Lyrarakis Winery with Isabella Zampetaki in Alagni, Heraklion.
 - July 16 (150 euros per person)
 - Food Storytelling Lunch at Tzitzikas restaurant with Isabella Zampetaki in Armenia, Chania.
 - July 30 (150 euros per person)
 - Food Storytelling Lunch at Kapsaliana Village Hotel Winery with Isabella Zampetaki in Kapsaliana, Rethymnon.
 - July 23.(160 euros per person)
- The Food Storytelling lunches are for a minimum of 4 people in all three locations. The dates for each event are noted above. Food storytelling lasts 90 minutes and is followed by lunch. You can watch a video of the experience she is offering at <https://youtu.be/QLoyGQCd4HM>

Strata Event with Viglatores on the Old Limani in Chania–Jul 29 at 7:30 p.m.

- Meet at the Sabbionara Bastion on the Limani at 7:30 p.m.
- If you participate, you must wear either black pants/black skirt and wear black shoes
- The event will last until at least 10:00 p.m. and may include more activities after the Strata (stay tuned for more information)

Dance Workshops with Viglatores and Psiloritias Omalos

Dance Groups in late July/August

- All members are welcome to participate in any or both of these workshops.
- Location is the Viglatores Dance Studio in Alikianos, Chania and Psiloritias Omalos Dance Studio, Chania
- Each workshop will focus on different dance styles and the history of the dance
- Viglatores is July 12 and August 12 (10:00 a.m.). Psiloritias' dates are TBA but will be on different dates than the dates with Viglatores
- Please let us know your level of dance experience

Discovering Kazantzakis Footsteps–Five Hour Tour in Iraklion, Crete, July 22

- Discovering Kazantzakis Footsteps--This is a five hour walking tour that includes:
 - Megalo Kastros
 - Saint Minas
 - Kazantzakis Neighborhood
 - Lions neighborhood
 - Gravesite of Kazantzakis
 - Myrtia (Museum) followed by a luncheon on July 22
 - Cost: 100 euros a person in Iraklion–10:00 am to 3:00 p.m.
- It will require walking and it will also include transportation from the Gravesite to the Myrtia Museum.
- You need to provide your own transportation to Iraklion. This tour will be led by a historian with the Kazantzakis Museum.

Honoring the 100th Anniversary of Mikis Theodorakis, Chania, 2025

Two Mikis Theodorakis Events will take place on Sunday, August 3.

- Event One will take place at his hometown of Galata during the day that will celebrate and honor many of Theodorakis' musical accomplishments and his lasting impact on the people of Crete (time is TBA)
- Event Two is a music and dance celebration at the Limani in Chania--August 3 (8:00 p.m.)
- All events are Free of Charge

Discover Your Roots–Three 8 day camps for up to 10 Youth members per camp for only 500 Euro for the week

The Polytechnio in Crete, along with the PAA, has developed a program for our youth members (18 to 25) to visit historical (and fun) locations in Western Crete with fellow youth members and staying at the dormitories of the Polytechnio

Event Timing: Three Sessions:

Week 1: June 30 - July 7, 2025

Week 2: July 7 - July 14, 2025

Week 3: July 14- July 21, 2025

Cost: \$500.00 per person for 8 days of activities, accommodations and meals

Contact us at Nkastrinakis@pancretan.org or go to <https://forms.gle/whNmAhVRamp8fNQ97> and sign up by May 15.

List of Events:

Day 1: Arrival and Check-in at 2:00 p.m. (Lunch and Dinner provided on campus)

Day 2: Visit to Stavros Beach (Zorba the Greek beach) at Akrotiri (swimming); Lunch on campus; Evening Visit to Chania Limani (Old Harbor); Dinner on campus

Day 3: Visit to Kalatha Beach (swimming); Lunch on campus; Visit Mournies, Birthplace of Venizelos and Theriso. Dinner on campus

Day 4: All day trip either to Gramvousa/Balos or Falasarna

Day 5: Visit to Venizelos Museum and Archaeological Museum in Halepa; Lunch on campus; Marathi in the afternoon for swimming; Dinner on campus

Day 6: Visit WW2 Allies Cemetery and Ancient Aptera; Lunch on campus; Visit WW2 German Cemetery & WW2 Museum in Platanias; Dinner on campus

Day 7: Visit the town of Chania with an guide specializing in the history/archeology of Chania; Lunch on campus; Visit Loutraki (swimming); Dinner on campus

Day 8: Check out by 11:00 a.m.

Merona Summer Program–Mousiko Didaskaleio

Dates: **August 3-8, 2025** in the village of Merona, Rethymnon, Crete

Website: <http://www.meronasmusic.com>. Registration begins after April 1

Contact Person: Mr. Kostas Angelakis, mobile +306937268890 (Also in Viber) or by email at kaggelaki@yahoo.com

Program: This week-long program brings youth from all over Greece to participate in various musical activities: learning to play various Cretan instruments; dance; song and incredible camaraderie. It's an experience of a lifetime and youth members will make lifelong friendships. Cost is 100 euro for the week (plus food and housing)

facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/meronascretanmusicworkshops>

World Council of Cretans Meeting Rethymnon, Crete

August 2, 2025

- All PAA members are invited to participate in this half day program that is hosted by the World Council of Cretans of which the PAA is an active member.
- The meeting will take place in Rethymnon and is scheduled for
 - **August 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**
- The Assembly will take place in the hall of "Archbishop of Australia Mr. Stylianos" at Center for Cultural and Social Ministry of the Holy Metropolis of Rethymno and Avlopotamos "THEOMITOR", which you find on Psychoudaki Pant Street. 5, Rethymno (from Timiou Stavrou Street).

A Cretan Glendi in Kissamos hosted by the village of Elos

The beautiful village of Elos in Kissamos, Crete, has generously extended their true Cretan philoxenia by hosting all members of the PAA for a Cretan Glendi, complete with dinner, music and dancing. August 7 at 8 p.m. Free for PAA/PYA members. Special thanks to the village of Elos and PAA member John Bertakis

Two Day Excursion to the historic village of Zaros, Phaestos & Matala in Eastern Crete-July 24-26, 2025

Join us for this unique program that explores new sites near Iraklion and Eastern Crete.

Zaros is a particularly attractive, an unspoiled village famous for its spring water, which is now bottled and sold all over Crete. Zaros also has some fine Byzantine monasteries and an emerald-green Lake Votomos (actually a reservoir). The lake is also the kick-off point for the 5km hike trail through the impressive Rouvas Gorge, a major lure for hikers, birders, and naturalists.

Phaestos was the second-most-important Minoan palace-city after Knossos and enjoys an awe-inspiring setting with panoramic views of the Messara Plain and Mt Psiloritis. It was built around 1700 BC atop an older, previously destroyed palace, and laid out around a central court.

Matala Caves were created in the Neolithic Age. Matala was the port of Phaistos during the Minoan period. In the year 220 BC, It has been suggested that the caves were once used as tombs, but it is more likely that they were used as living spaces. In the 1960s, the caves were occupied by famous hippies who were later driven out

Two-day excursion will take place--July 24-26 (100 euros per person) and will include bus transportation (from Chania) and 2 nights housing will be provided (a specific itinerary with additional events and locales will be posted on our website)

Additional Events/Opportunities NOT TO BE MISSED

- The Musical Group Harilaos at the Kipo (garden) Rethymnon
 - **August 4 at 8:30 p.m**
- Annual Coffee at the KIPO (garden) in Chania
 - **August 6 at 9:00 a.m.**
- Venizelion Event at Venizelos House in Halepa, Chania
 - **August 6 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Philanthropic Visits:** Visits to the various philanthropies throughout the island can be arranged once we know how many people will be participating in each region. These visits will take place in mid to late July and early August. We will contact you to let you know which philanthropies will allow us to visit and/or volunteer.

Greek Languages Classes offered for Free by the Greek Government to the Greeks in the Diaspora

Website: <https://www.staellinika.com/en/home>

Details: You just need to set-up an account (free) and start anytime

- Program: This program was brought to our attention by the **World Council of Cretans** of which we (PAA) are a member.
- StaEllinika is an initiative of the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the SNF Centre For Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU) with support by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF).
- Started in the fall of 2020, Staellinika offers a full curriculum targeting beginner heritage learners in schools and individuals at home.

Chania Events–Where to look for events this summer

- Chania Culture: <https://www.chania-culture.gr/>
- Explore Chania: <https://explorechania.gr/>
- Website Municipality of Chania: <https://www.chania.gr/>
- Facebook Municipality of Chania: <https://www.facebook.com/Chania.city>
- Instagram Municipality of Chania: <https://www.instagram.com/chania.gr/>
- Website Chania Tourism Board: <https://www.chaniatourism.gr/>
- Facebook Chania Tourism Board: <https://www.facebook.com/Chania.tourism>
- Instagram Chania Tourism Board: <https://www.instagram.com/chaniatourism/>

Sign Up in Advance to help us plan ahead

Please use the links provided below or go to our website and look for the Summer Activities in Crete on our homepage. Sign up in advance so that we can give our hosts and guides a headcount in advance for their planning purposes. We hope to see all of you in Crete this summer.

To sign up for all summer activities: <https://forms.gle/FmnnFir7biacnjzn8>

To sign up for the Discover Western Crete program:
<https://forms.gle/whNmAhVRamp8fNQ97>