

FIFTEEN FAB THINGS TO DO WHEN ITS RAINING IN EAST CRETE

If you're visiting East Crete between May and October rain is rare – but it happens. Luckily there are plenty of things to do when the weather's bad. So why not take the stress out of that occasional dull day with our list of fifteen fab things to do when the clouds gather over East Crete?

- 1. Buff up on your Minoan knowledge at The Sitia Archeological museum, which is the third largest on Crete. Near the main roundabout, on the corner of the main Sitia-Ierapetra road; tel: 2843023917
 - 2. Get to know Opap, Myrton and other local wines on a tour of Sitia's winery
- 3. Check out the collection of local weavings and other traditional homeware at Sitia's Folklore museum, Kapetatan Sifnos; tel: 28 2843022861
- 4. Mosey around Eastern Crete exhibits including artefacts from the early Minoan cemetery of Mochlos, Zakros palace, Lato and Elounda, at Aghios Nikolaos' Archaeological museum, Konstantinou Paleologou street; Tel: 28410-24943.
 - 5. Find out about local perfumes and edible weeds at Agios Nikolaos' Iris museum, 28th Oktovriou pedestrian street; Tel: 28410 25899 (call before you go – opening times are erratic)
- 6. Spend an hour supping on mezes in a typical kafeneion in the traditional village of Armeni, village square, Armeni, near Handras
- 7. Get under cover high up in the mountains as you discover the Dikteon Cave, one of Crete's most famous grottos packed with stalagmites and stalactites where, according to legend, Zeus was born. Mount Dicte range, just outside of the village of Psyhro, Lassithi plateau
- 8. Take a tour of an old olive press complete with working donkey, then buy everything from olive pate to oil at Agios Nikolaos Olive Farm
- 9. Learn about rural life a few decades ago with a visit to the rural museum at Handras. Take the main road into the village and turn left just after the post office. (No telephone, but open most morning until 2pm)
 - 10. Climb to the Lassithi plateau and take a tour of the pottery, weaving and other workshops at the Lasinthos Eco park. You can sit out the rain in the park's atmospheric little café and when the rain stops, take a tour of the tiny zoo
- 11. Pet one of the local working donkeys and support a good cause at the Brit-run Donkey Care Crete near Ierapetra

- 12 Visit **Asteria an art workshop** near Makri Gialos. Wait till the rain stops then **join in a star gazing session**
- 13. Stroll around **the Folklore museum** packed with a mixed bag of Minoan pottery and more recent artifacts including weaving tools and agricultural implements, at Myrtos
- 14. Marvel at the fabulous collection of Byzantine icons at Toplou monastery, on the road from Sitia to Ithanos
- 15. Gasp at gorgeous ornate sarcophagi and classical Hellenistic figurines in Ierapetra's Archeological museum housed in the town's old Ottoman Schoolhouse