

# **WELCOME TO GRAPEVINES VILLA 1!**



## Contents

1. Your stay at Grapevines .....	4
1.1 Assistance .....	4
1.2 Internet Access .....	4
1.3 Check in – Check out times .....	5
1.4 Emergency numbers .....	5
1.5 Swimming Pool .....	5
1.6 Swimming Pool Rules .....	5
1.7 Towels .....	6
1.8 Cleaning .....	6
1.9 Toilet Paper .....	6
1.10 Rubbish .....	6
1.11 Air Conditioning .....	6
1.12 No Smoking .....	7
1.12 Open fire / Barbecue .....	7
1.13 Front Door .....	7
1.14 Pets .....	7
1.15 Slips and falls .....	7
1.16 Children .....	7
1.17 Noise Levels .....	7
1.18 Care of the Property .....	8
2. Beaches .....	9
2.1 Lagoufa Beach .....	10
2.2 Analipsus Beach .....	11
2.3 Diaskari Beach .....	12
2.4 Long Beach / Makry-Gialos-Beach .....	13
2.5 Limanaki Beach .....	14
2.6 Ammoudi Beach .....	15
3. Activities .....	16
3.1 Makry-Gialos .....	16
3.2 Shops, Banks and Other Information .....	16
3.2 Getting around .....	17
3.3 South East Crete .....	18
3.4 Pefki Village .....	19
3.5 Pefki Gorge .....	20
3.6 Ierapetra .....	21

3.7 Sitia.....	21
3.8 Agios Nikolaos .....	22
3.9 Butterfly Gorge or Koutsouras Gorge .....	23
3.10 Island of Koufonissi.....	24
3.11 Gaidhouronísi / Chrissi Island .....	24
3.12 Spinalonga .....	25
3.13 Myrtos .....	26
3.14 Mochlos.....	27

# 1. Your stay at Grapevines

To ensure you have an enjoyable holiday, please familiarise yourself with the following:

## 1.1 Assistance

We want you to have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and the management team at Grapevines are here to help you during your stay.

The reception telephone number is **+302843501133** should you need to contact them when you are out and about. If you have any other problem, please call the emergency mobile 24 hours per day.

**Areti      +30 694 848 6850      and/or      Litsa      +30 697 848 9199**



## 1.2 Internet Access

The Grapevines has WiFi available throughout the complex. You will find the network-name and the password on a separate note in the villa.

### 1.3 Check in – Check out times

Rentals commence at 3 p.m. on the day of arrival and checkout is by 11 a.m. on the day of departure.

### 1.4 Emergency numbers

European Emergency Service Line	112
Hellenic Police	100
Local Police Station	+30 284 3051666
Hospital Ambulance	166
Hellenic Fire Department	199
Poison Centre	+30 210 7793777
Hellenic Coast Guard	108
National Child Protection Helpline	1056
Nearest Hospital	+30 284 2340222
Local Doctor	+30 694 8075555
Taxi Service	+30 697 9220099
Dentist	+30 284 3051717

### 1.5 Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is open from 09.00 till 20.00 daily.

There are no lifeguards at Grapevines! So we ask that you to ensure that anyone in your party, who is unable to swim confidently is accompanied whilst in the pool.

Note, that out of season (November – April) the pool is not usable.

### 1.6 Swimming Pool Rules

- Please can you shower at the poolside before using the pool.
- Please do not 'reserve' any of the sun beds by leaving your towels on them.
- You are welcome to eat and drink around the pool, but you are asked to ensure that you take any litter back to the apartment (or the Bins).
- Please note glass are not allowed around the poolside.

- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent in and around the area of the pool.
- Please keep noise to a minimum.
- No ball games in the pool area.
- No running.
- No pushing.
- No dining.

## 1.7 Towels

Please do not use the bathroom towels at the beach or around the pool. Beach towels are available from reception (please call).

## 1.8 Cleaning

Final cleaning is included in the rental price. If you require additional cleaning, please contact the reception (fees apply).

## 1.9 Toilet Paper

Toilet paper and all other sanitary items **must be placed in the bin** provided.

Flushing other sanitary items away will cause the drain to be blocked. Under these circumstances, the costs involved to unblock will be the client's responsibility.

## 1.10 Rubbish

Please ensure the rubbish is taken out regularly. There are bins and also recycle bins on the road opposite of Grapevines.

## 1.11 Air Conditioning

The apartment is equipped with air conditioning. However, please try and conserve as much energy as possible by turning your air conditioning off when you are away from the apartment for an extended period of time. The air conditioning can also heat.

## 1.12 No Smoking

Please note that **smoking is not allowed** in the apartment. There are plenty of places outside of the apartment to smoke. The Client will be responsible for any additional cleaning as a result of smoking in the property.

## 1.12 Open fire / Barbecue

Open fire is **not permitted** due to the high fire risk.

## 1.13 Front Door

Please note that the front door locks automatically when you close it, so please remember to take the keys with you, so that you don't get locked out!

## 1.14 Pets

Please note that pets are not normally allowed at the Resort. There are some feral cats in the area and we ask that you do not feed them; they start to rely on this food and they will not be accustomed to fending for themselves when the winter comes. They also can become a pest, fouling the patios around the pool, which is very unpleasant and not what we would wish for your stay.

## 1.15 Slips and falls

The floors in the apartment can be very slippery when wet, so please take care.

## 1.16 Children

Guests must accept responsibility for the safety of their children at all times, especially on the balconies, stairs and roof terrace. Children must be accompanied when around the complex and particularly the pool.

## 1.17 Noise Levels

Noise should be kept to a minimum after 11pm, in respect for the other guests staying at Grapevines. If other guests in the complex are not reasonable with their noise level, we ask that you report this to reception as soon as you can to allow them to deal with this.

## 1.18 Care of the Property

We understand that accidents do happen from time to time so we ask you to report all breakages- no matter how small- to the management team. Also, if there is anything that needs replacing, for example light bulbs or items that are not working, please report it to the management team so that they can make arrangements with our site management team to replace or repair them as soon as possible.

We ask that you take all reasonable and proper care of the property and its furniture, pictures, fittings and effects in or on the property and leave them in the same state of repair and in the same clean and tidy condition at the end of the rental period as at the beginning. Please ensure that the fridge is emptied and all perishable items and rubbish are removed prior to vacating the apartment.

## 2. Beaches

The scenery of Makry-Gialos is spectacular, with majestic mountains and beautiful bays.

Some of the best bays and beaches are the ones you 'just come across' whilst exploring the coast and stopping off.

The waters of Eastern Crete are so clear a snorkel and mask will allow you to view a large variety of marine life. If you forget yours, you can buy them reasonably cheaply in the village.



## 2.1 Lagoufa Beach



**Lagoufa Beach** is located just two minutes walk from the Grapevines Resort (**150 meters**).

Turn into the small road opposite the restaurant Alliotiko and follow this winding road along the hotel Atlantica Micri Poli Crete down to the beach.

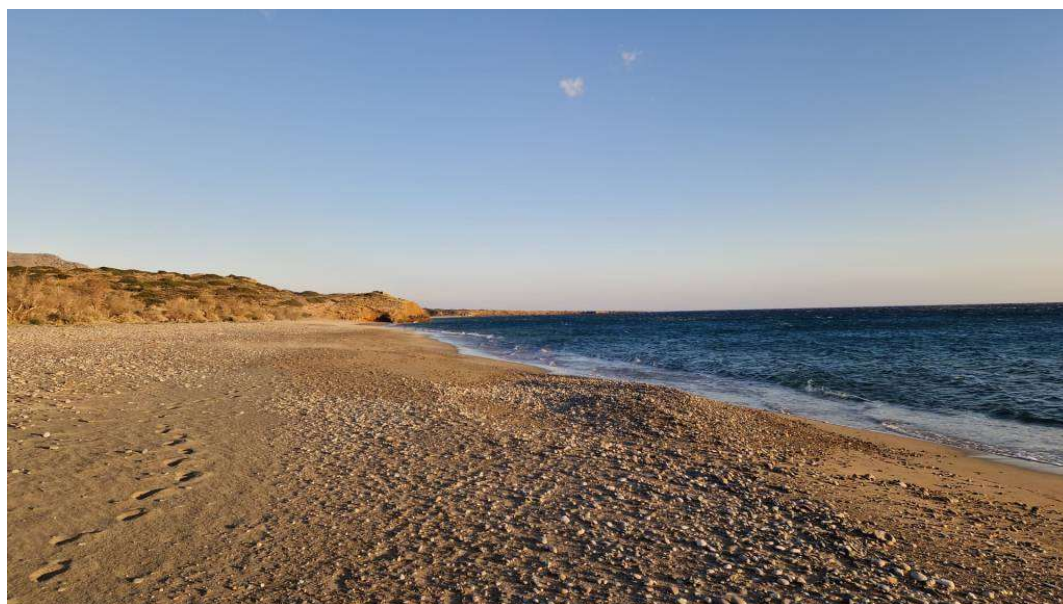


## 2.2 Analipsus Beach



You can reach **Analipsus Beach** via **Lagoufa Beach**. Just follow the path along the sea.

## 2.3 Diaskari Beach



### Our favorite!

You can reach **Diaskari Beach** on foot or by car. It is located **650 meters** away. Turn left on the main road (east) and then turn right just before you leave the village (there is a sign). You will arrive at a beautiful and magnificent beach with crystal clear waters and sand. The area is peaceful and generally preferred by people who want to avoid the very organized beaches.

There is a Tavern (open from May to October) that offers very good food. You can also rent umbrellas and sunbeds. WiFi is offered free of charge.

The beach is mainly sandy, with patches of pebbles in areas. To the east it gets more wild and stony. Especially if you go into the next bay called "**Lagada bay**". There naturist bathing is allowed and common.

## 2.4 Long Beach / Makry-Gialos-Beach



**Long Beach or Makry-Gialos Beach** is the beach to go to if you want restaurants and cafe's nearby. It's **just 600 meters** to the west direct in the town center. You can go there on foot or by car. There is a large parking lot (free of charge) in the middle of the town center.

The name Makry-Gialos means long beach, and the beach here is just that. It is **blue flag accredited** and has golden sands and safe shallow bathing, suitable for children of all ages.

If you are feeling adventurous there are a number of water based activities that operate from the beach including Ringo's, Bananas, pedalos etc.

## 2.5 Limanaki Beach



**Limanaki Beach** is located close to the small harbour of Makry-Gialos.

Go to the parking lot in the town center and then follow the sea promenade to the west.

West of Makry-Gialos and after the port there is the **beach of Kalamokanis**, which is a lovely pebbly beach lined with tamarisk trees.

## 2.6 Ammoudi Beach



„Where the dragnos live!“

**Ammoudi Beach** or **Dragons Cave Beach** is located in a beautiful bay just 3 kilometers / 5 minutes to the east.

It has golden sands and safe shallow bathing, suitable for children of all ages.

## 3. Activities

### 3.1 Makry-Gialos

The name Makry Gialos - or, alternatively, Makry-Gialos, Makrygialos, or Makrigialos - is also specifically given both to a village and tourist centre on the coast within the municipality, and to the nearby archaeological site of an ancient Minoan country house.

Down below along the main coastal road, farming can also be found along with the greenhouses, in which most of the produce grown is tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, aubergines and bananas, which grow all year round. The sun and the rich soil give more taste to the fruit and vegetables, and the region has won the gold medal for the extra virgin olive oil (SITIA 0.03).

Grapevines is located just to the top of Makry-Gialos village.

Whilst it is quite pleasant to walk into the main village, we suggest that you ensure you are visible if you do this after dark by wearing light coloured clothing

The area is not as developed as the north of the island and has a lot of the Cretan charm many holidaymakers are looking for. The Cretan people are renowned for their hospitality and a warm welcome awaits all visitors, especially the young and the young at heart.

The harbour area is a pleasant place to stroll around, with its own patch of sandy beach. The waterfront stretches east from the harbour, and is dotted with bars, restaurants, cafés and tavernas, many of which open onto the beach.

### 3.2 Shops, Banks and Other Information

#### **Banks:**

You will also find four ATM machines which are located outside the Pharmacy near to SunWing, outside the reception at the SunWing Hotel, opposite the National Bank of Greece and outside Pankritia Bank. You can exchange travellers cheques at some of the car hire and tourist offices.

#### **Parking:**

Please do not park where you see 'No Parking' signs there several designated parking areas in the village where you can park for free.

**Post:**

Stamps can be purchased from most places that sell postcards along with supermarkets. The nearest Post Office is in Markry-Gialos

**Shops:**

There are a wide range of shops in the village including small convenience shops, mini supermarkets, pharmacies, souvenir shops and some up-market jewellers, most of which open late into the evening. There are two bigger supermarkets in the village to the west (Koutsouras).

## 3.2 Getting around

**Buses:**

There is a regular bus service to Ierapetra and Sitia, which takes about 35 and 45 minutes respectively. The nearest bus stop is outside the SunWing hotel in Makry-Gialos (3 minutes from the property) and you can purchase tickets in the supermarket Proto, opposite the SunWing.

**Bikes:**

You can rent bikes at Goldwing bike rentals [www.goldwing.webnode.gr](http://www.goldwing.webnode.gr)  
It is also possible to hire a bicycle from the reception. (Call the reception)

**Motorbikes:**

Can be rent at <https://www.yiotisrental.com/> (ca. 10 km).

### 3.3 South East Crete

Crete is the largest and most southerly of the Greek islands and this provides visitors with interesting contrasts, known for its beautiful scenery, rugged mountains which rise to over 2000 meters above sea level, plateau, gorges, beautiful sandy beaches, history and rocky coves.

It measures about 200 Km from east to west, and between 12 to 58 Km from north to south at its narrowest and widest distances, making it one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean sea.

Crete has short, mild winters and dry, warm summers; this along with the fertility of the Cretan plains produces sufficient food to support an affluent local population, and for exports.

There is a rich history and culture to be discovered with archaeological sites spread across the island. Legend has it that Crete is the birthplace of Zeus, Icarus fell to his death ignoring his father's warnings about not flying too close to the sun here and our island is the home of the legendary Minotaur.

Visitors have plenty of opportunities to explore the island by car, walking, hiking, climbing and mountain biking (for the brave).

### 3.4 Pefki Village



Pefki has its own Folk Museum, housed in the village Primary School. Here you can see everyday objects used by Cretans in the past, such as looms, grape presses, pithos jars, tools, spinning wheels, oil lamps, etc. The objects have been donated to the Folk Museum by inhabitants of Pefki.

It's worth spending some time in Pefki village, wandering through the picturesque narrow streets and enjoying the peaceful atmosphere. During the evening Pefki can be lively with the open air restaurants, live music and occasional dancing!

### 3.5 Pefki Gorge



Pefki Gorge is a 3 hour, 5 km (3 mile) walk from the village of Pefki, through the pine wood in the mountains above Makry-Gialos, which ends at the Villea Village apartments in the centre of Makry-Gialos (this is on the right hand side as you drive through Makry-Gialos).

It is a mainly gentle walk on tracks and paths, but there is some rough terrain. The gorge is cut from the mountain by the Aspros Potamos (White River), but in the high heat of summer the river is dry.

The walk will lead you along ancient donkey tracks, through olive groves and through the impressive gorge stepped on either side by 200 metres of vertical cliffs.

The lower gorge is accessed from Makry-Gialos by taking the road to Aspros Potamos at the junction with Villea Village apartments, and passes by the White River Cottages and Aspros Potamos cottages before becoming tracks and paths through the narrows of the gorge itself.

The upper gorge is accessed off the main road west out of Pefki, where there is a small space to park a car, from which tracks lead down through farmland to the gorge proper. The walk is marked by painted red dots and arrows. Be prepared to scout around for them at certain points where tracks converge or where the path is less obvious.

### 3.6 Ierapetra

Is the largest town near Makry-Gialos, and the most southerly town in Europe, with a scenic harbour from where boats sail to the offshore desert island of Gaidhouronísi and the tourist attraction of Chrissi Island.

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ierapetra>

### 3.7 Sitia



Sitia is situated 70 km east of Agios Nikolaos City and 45 km northeast of Makry-Gialos.

Sitia was inhabited from the late Minoan period until the mid 1600 when the

Venetian conquerors destroyed it to prevent it from being surrendered to the Turk invaders. It was not inhabited for over than two centuries.

The present city started to be built in 1870 and was developed to become one of the most beautiful towns of Greece.

There are two museums; the Sitia Archaeological Museum which has exhibits for the period from 3.500 B.C to 500 A.D and the Folklore Museum exhibiting hand-woven materials, embroideries, local costumes and furniture.

Sitia also has a reasonable local wine producers.

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sitia>

### 3.8 Agios Nikolaos



Agios Nikolaos is situated 60 km east of Heraklion and 70 km west of Sitia town.

The city was named Agios Nikolaos after the Byzantine chapel of Saint Nicholas which is worth visiting to admire its 7th century architecture, the preserved frescos, the picturesque bell tower and the view of the city and Mirabello bay.

Agios Nikolaos has a lagoon called Vousmeni lagoon.

It has a circular shape and is surrounded on one side by cliffs and on the other side by shops restaurants and cafes. Originally, it was a freshwater lake until a canal was dug in 1870, connecting the lake with the harbour where fishing boats moored.

Legend has it that the goddess Athina used this lake to bath. There are several beaches at Agios Nikolaos city. The most popular is Almiros, a long and sandy beach situated 2.5 km away from the north end of the city. The beach has sun beds and umbrellas available for hire, a snack bar for fast food and refreshments, a volleyball court and water sports facilities.

### **3.9 Butterfly Gorge or Koutsouras Gorge**

Butterfly Gorge begins high up on the road to Orino and ends at Koutsouras National Park in the Lassithi region of Crete close to Makry-Gialos.

The walk will take you through a valley of abandoned Cretan villages and is named Butterfly Gorge because it used to have a huge number of butterflies in spring. There used to be many more but there are less since a major fire in 1993.

### 3.10 Island of Koufonissi



You can visit the island of Koufonissi on one of the many daily boat trips from Makry-Gialos or Ierapetra. The boats leave from the harbour in the morning and return in the afternoon. The island was once partly covered by a Roman factory producing scarlet dyes from sea shells, for the robes of the emperors. It also has wonderful beaches, where you can enjoy a swim and a packed lunch (you won't find a restaurant here).

### 3.11 Gaidhournísi / Chrissi Island



Gaidhournísi or Donkey Island and Chrissi Island are about 10km out to sea from Ierápetra, which is where you can take a boat to the island during the months of May to September. The journey takes about 50 minutes and the boats have an on-board bar.

Unlike Butterfly Gorge, Donkey Island doesn't actually have any donkeys on it!

### 3.12 Spinalonga



Spinalonga is situated off the North East coast of Crete next to the town of Elounda.

Originally a Venetian and Turkish fortress, Spinalonga was later used as a leper colony during the first half of the 20th century. It is known as one of the last active leper colonies of Europe.

On the island you can see the remains of the fortress and where the leper community lived.

### 3.13 Myrtos



Mirtos (Myrtos) is located 15 kilometers west of Ierapetra and can be reached from Makry Gialos in about 45 minutes. Mirtos is the warmest place in Europe, with an average of 320 days of sunshine.

The long, wide beach of dark sand is particularly noteworthy. Also worth mentioning is the beautiful, winding town with its white houses and the promenade with many good taverns and charming shops. It's also worth following the coastal road west for a few kilometers. Bays with beautiful swimming spots and steep cliffs drop into the sea open up again and again. The area is somewhat reminiscent of Highway 1 in the western United States.

Mirtos is worth a trip – for a swim or simply to enjoy the town and the surrounding area.

<https://www.mirtoscrete.gr/de/>

### 3.14 Mochlos



Mochlos is located 45 kilometers from Makry Gialos and can be reached in about 50 minutes. First, drive to Ierapetra and from there towards Agios Nikolaos. In Pachia Ammos, you reach the Agios Nikolaos-Sitia road and turn towards Sitia. From the village of Kavousi, the well-maintained coastal road or panoramic road winds up the mountain. A stop at the "Thea Platanou Kavousiou" viewpoint is always worthwhile!

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/nqpHNsL5psBDEtoV9>

Mochlos is not a seaside resort (okay, there is a small beach, and if you drive east from Mochlos, you'll reach Agios Andreas Beach), but a picturesque fishing village with great views and good cuisine. This means you can relax at "The Rock" year-round.

Author's recommendation: Visit Mochlos when it's windy and the waves are high. Due to the specific location, meter-high waves then pile up and crash against the rocks, the cliff or the pier in the harbor.