

# MILAN Short Training Event, February 25 – March 1, 2019, Chania, Greece

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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### *Some words about Chania*

Chania (also spelled: Haniá) is the capital city, a place where different civilizations have flourished throughout the centuries. Wandering around the Old Town's maze-like alleys with the beautiful Venetian mansions, the fountains and the elaborate churches will help you discover well-preserved historical monuments.

The city of Chania is built on the area of Minoan Kidonia, at the end of the homonym gulf between Akrotiri and Onicha peninsulas. It was the former capital city of Crete (from 1847 until 1972). Nowadays, it is the second largest city of Crete after Heraklion and capital of the homonym prefecture.

Chania includes the old and new city. It is one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities in Greece and for food lovers, it's a paradise!

Get familiar with the city of Chania by wandering around in its streets, visiting its museums and admiring the different architectural styles presenting the historical route of the city.

After Arabs and Byzantines it was conquered by Venetians in 1252 and was given to Turks in 1669, later it was annexed to the rest of the Greek State on December 1913 under the administration of Eleftherios Venizelos and King Konstantinos the 1st. The old town is an integral settlement with visible boundaries set by the Venetian walls surrounding it.

Chania has daily boat connection with Piraeus port from Souda port (7 km). Chania is also connected with Athens by airplane which you can take from Akrotiri airport 15 km E of the city.

The old town is built around the Venetian port and is also a relatively integral area where Venetian buildings and later Turkish elements compose a unique architectural style. Due to the historic center of Chania with its Venetian walls defining the borders between the old and new city and its ramparts, the city has been pronounced as preserved. It consists of five connected districts surrounding the Venetian port.

Its design was made by Venetian engineer Michelle Sammichelli. The Lighthouse is located at the end of the rock protecting the port from the north. It was built in 1570 by the Venetians and reconstructed in 1830 by the Egyptians and from there on preserves its current state.

On the east of Palea Poli is Splantzia (or Plaza) district built on the former Turkish district. Here you will see among others Aghii Anargiri church, the only Orthodox church which had the permission to operate during the period of the Venetian and Turkish occupations. You will also see



the Sintrivani square.

Neoria (or Chiones) district on the northeast side is located in the area of the former port of the city and of the Venetian ship yards of 14th and 16th centuries from which it also took its name.

Kastelli district is in the center of Palea Poli (Old Town) west of Neoria. It is the exalted location of the Byzantine citadel where “palatso” (palace) of the Venetian commander and the lodgings of Pashas of Chania were later built. Venetians used to call the area Castello Vecchio.

On the southeast of the old city lies the Hebrew district or else Ovraika. It reminds us the times when the developing Hebrew community of Chania was obliged by the Venetians to move to a delimited area called judeca where two synagogues were operating.



On the borders of Ovraika, in Chalides Street, you will see the Folklore Museum of Chania and Aghios Fragkiskos church (14th century) which houses the Archeological Museum of Chania. On the north side is the Turkish bath (chamam). In the south side of Ovraika and on Skridlof Street lies the so called Stivanadika (from stivani, the Cretan boots). Among the shops selling leather items and souvenirs survive some traditional shoe ateliers.

Turquoise waters lap against the white sandy beaches, that lie to the west of the city: Hrissi Akti, Ayia Marina, Áyioi Apóstoloi, Máleme, Kalathás, Stavrós, Plataniás, Kolympári, Falássarna, Ayia Roumeli, Souyiá, Ammoúdi, Fínikas, Vótsala, Loutró, Áyios Pávlos, Pahiá Ámmos, Fragokástello and Gávdos are only some of the beaches where you can bask in the sun. On the islet of Elafonissi, a beach with crystal clear waters and white sand dunes will take your breath away! The whole area forms part of the NATURA network.



No visit to Chania is complete unless you have sampled traditional local specialties: eggs with stáka, Cretan kalitsoúnia (sweet mini cheese pies), lamb served with spiny chicory, dácos (the traditional hard Cretan bread accompanied with tomato, mizithra cheese and plenty of virgin Cretan oil), snails boubouristí (popping fried snails), haniótiko bouréki (patty from Chania, a vegetable specialty), kserotígana (honey dipped spiral pastries) wedding cookies, dry bread wreaths, yraviéra cheese (full fat sheep’s cheese with appellation of controlled origin), sweet smelling anthótyros from Sfakiá (fresh, soft, white cheese made of either sheep’s or goat’s milk), fresh stáka butter (the cream of the butter) for the Cretan wedding rice (rice cooked in meat broth), roasted goat or sea food delights – special ingredients blended in delicious sea-urchin salads, or divine fish soups! Accompany your dinner with a glass of deep-red Cretan wine, the divine marouvás, or drink after your meal an ice-cold rakí, a traditional Cretan spirit distilled from pomace, with a delicate aroma of ripe grapes.

Sites about Chania:

[http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/greek\\_islands/crete](http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/greek_islands/crete)

<http://www.chania.eu/>

<http://www.chania.gr/en>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chania>

## *Traveling to Chania*

**By Air (best choice):** Fly to either **Chania Airport Ioannis Daskalogiannis (CHQ) which is the best option**; or to Heraklion airport (HER, located 2.5 hours away by car). The Chania Airport (CHQ), is around 14km from the city center. There are several daily domestic flights from the Athens International Airport (ATH) to Chania by Aegean Airlines and Olympic Airways. There are also direct scheduled and charter flights connecting Chania with several European cities (mainly in summer time).

Bus routes connect the airport with the city center (line Chania Airport – Chania). They last about 30 minutes, while the ticket price is 2.50 €. You may find updated information on bus routes (e.g. timetables) at: <https://www.e-ktel.com/en/>

**By Sea (From Athens):** Travel to Chania (or to Heraklion) by ferry.

Another option is to travel from Athens to Chania by ferry. Greek ferries are generally very modern and comfortable, and they connect Athens (Piraeus port) to Chania (Souda port) on a daily basis. The sea trip takes about 8,5 hours. The shipping companies that serve Chania ANEK Lines and MINOAN Lines.

Regular bus routes (buses leave every 20 min) also connect the port with the city center (line Souda - Chania). They last about 20-25 minutes.

## *Short Training Event Venue*

The short training event will be held on February 25 – March 1, 2019 (the detailed agenda of the short training event will be announced later) at the Technical University of Crete **at the TUC/MUSIC Laboratory premises** (This will possibly change depending on the number of the participants):

**Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications (TUC/MUSIC)  
Electrical and Computer Engineering School (ECE) School Building (1<sup>st</sup> floor, 141B section),  
Kounoupidiana Campus, Technical University of Crete (TUC), 73100 Chania, Crete**

Map: <http://www.tuc.gr/maps-buildings-en.html?bid=2>



**Figure 1 ECE Department Building, Kounoupidiana Campus, Technical University of Crete (TUC), at Chania, Crete, Greece**

The Technical University of Crete (TUC) is one of Greece's Higher Education Institutions, and places emphasis both on education and research. TUC comprises of five academic schools. The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) (former Electronic and Computer Engineering) was the second of its kind to be founded in Greece. It offers a five-year undergraduate program, and also graduate (MSc or PhD level) programs. The ECE School is deeply involved in basic and applied research activities.

The main campus of the Technical University of Crete (TUC) is located at Kounoupidiana, Akrotiri peninsula on 700 acres of its own land, granted by the State. It is 7 km NE of the city of Chania. There

are many interesting sites in Akrotiri, including the beautiful park with Venizelos' graves at Prophet Elijah (Profitis Ilias), three monasteries (Holy Trinity – Agia Triada- of the 17th century, Gouverneto of the 16th century and St. John the Hermit – Agios Ioannis o Erimitis - of the 18th century) and many beaches for swimming with the European Union Blue Flag certification. The international airport of Chania is 8km away at the SE of the Technical University of Crete campus, and the natural port of Souda is 7km away, towards the South.

More information can be found at:

- Technical University of Crete: <http://www.tuc.gr>
- School of Electrical and Computer Engineering: <http://www.ece.tuc.gr>
- Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications (TUC/MUSIC): <http://www.music.tuc.gr>

## TO REACH THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

### A) From Chania City Center to the meeting place:

Get a taxi or catch the bus from Chania (~8km).

Maps:

<https://tinyurl.com/yabcwlay>

<http://goo.gl/6FrLiZ>

The Chania City Bus service provides the following lines & routes departing from the “Old Market” (@ Chania city center).

- Technical University «ΠΟΛΥΤΕΧΝΕΙΟ» - Line 23 (route with several stops in the campus itself)
- Kounoupidiana – Line 18 (leaving you at the main entrance of the campus)

Please check the following URL for bus stops, timetable, bus fares and other information:

<http://chaniabus.gr/en/>

### B) From the airport to the meeting place:

The Chania airport is just 10 minutes away (~ 14km) from the meeting venue and about 25 minutes away from the city centre (by private car; public buses take a bit longer). Taking a taxi from the Airport is the best option to reach the University campus, since there is no direct connection by bus (~15-20 euros).

### C) From the port in Souda Bay to the meeting place

- get a taxi from the port in Souda Bay (~ 7km)

## *Accommodation*

We have created the following Google map with directions/distances from Chania City Center to the meeting place and some hotel recommendations with links to the hotels' websites to book your rooms:

<https://tinyurl.com/yabcwlay>

Of course, there are many other options that you can easily find and compare using a hotel booking site. For example, an efficient way to find and book your rooms at the best price (including the ones that we already proposed) is using <http://www.hotelscombined.com/> , which is a meta-search engine that acts as an umbrella on top of the main hotel booking search engines (such as booking.com etc.). All these sites provide an online map where you can see all the available hotels in a specific area. So, you can find other options near the hotels we proposed or elsewhere depending on your plans during your stay in Chania. Alternatively, you can use the reservation forms provided on the hotels' websites or contact the hotels directly.

### ***Contact Persons***

Don't hesitate to contact us for any information/help you may need.

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