

# Sitia *the pure Crete*



Sitia is a picturesque town, built in an amphitheatre shape beside the sea in the Gulf of Sitia. Our town is situated on the north-eastern edge of Crete. It is economically and administratively the centre of its own Province.

Sitia includes an airport, and a shipping port with connections to Piraeus and the islands of the South-East Aegean. Sitia is well known for its clean beaches with rich sand, many awarded the distinction of Blue Flag status. The people of our town are welcoming to visitors and are always ready to celebrate in true Cretan style. Sitia is famous also for its excellent wine.

The town of Sitia is widely believed to have taken its name from the ancient Hellenistic settlement of Itia, Itida or Sitea, hometown of Misona (one of the seven renowned ancient philosophers) and of Vitzenzos Kornaros, the poet who wrote Erotokritos. Others reject this theory and are still searching for the ancient town of Sitia wherever there are the ruins of Minoan settlements. It is certain however that the ruins of a Byzantine settlement can be found beneath present day Sitia.

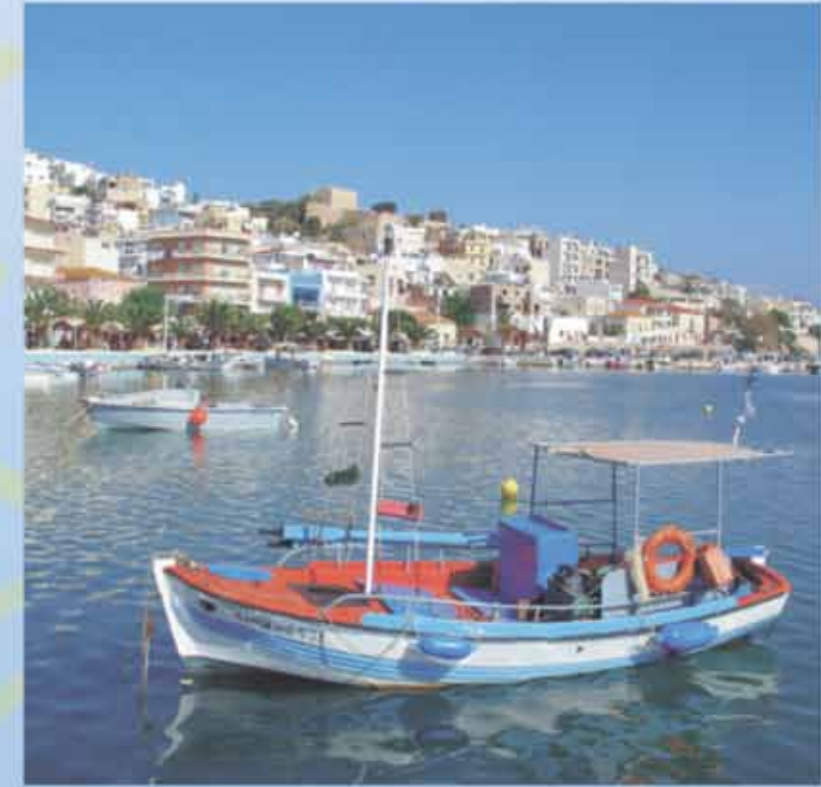
The town had a turbulent history up to 1651 in which year the Venetians razed the buildings left standing after the great earthquake of 1508 and the subsequent raid in 1538 by the infamous Barbarossa.



This is a small uninhabited island to the west of Mochlos where important artefacts from the pre-Minoan period have been found which provide evidence that Psira was an important sea port. An amphitheatrically shaped settlement was unearthed here together with clay pots and vases - considered some of the finest examples of Minoan art - which can now be seen in the Archaeological Museum at Heraklion.



There may be no other place on earth where nature and myth have so beautifully been mingled. The preservation of the ancient traditions in the hearts of the people of Sitia is due to the Minoan culture and its relation to nature. The Municipality of Sitia is a jewel in the Mediterranean landscape.



The castle fortress known today as "Kazarma" (Casa di arma), is the most imposing historical monument in Sitia. The Kazarma used to be a military and administrative centre which consisted of a Medieval dwelling surrounded by walls. The fortification of the town and of the Kazarma can be dated to the late Byzantine period.

Concerts, plays, lectures and art exhibitions all take place in the Kazarma during the summer months as part of the festival known as "Kornaria".

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