

Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Eras of cultural development of Crete II

(Keyword history: ancient history (Historical time - Today) - *Arkadi*)



Referring to the Info-bulletin 32●04/E of the **CRETE EnvironmentInfo** “Eras of cultural development of Crete I, (Keyword history: ancient history (Stone & Bronze Age), Minoicum)” which covers the period from 6200 – 1100 BC, this leaflet subsequently treats the period from 1100 BC until “today” (1913)

Doric Era (1100 – 700 BC)

The Dorian's, originally people from the Danube basin, reached Crete around 1100 BC. The Doric time was marked by profound changes. Due to the Dorian conquest Crete assimilated more and more the remaining Greece, in regards to tradition, religion, language and script.

Ancient Era (700 – 67 BC)

Ancient Crete stood on the edge of the Hellenistic world of which was characterized by unsafe times and pirates. It includes:

- Archaic Epoch (700 – 330 BC) and the
- Hellenistic Epoch (330 – 67 BC)

Roman Era (67 BC – 330 a.d.)

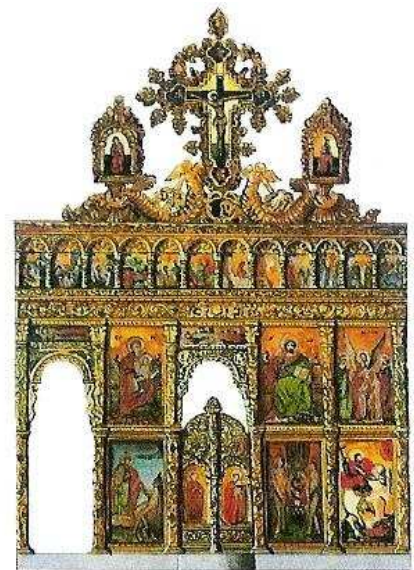
Around 67 BC the Romans conquered Crete. Roman reign lasted until the 4th century. During this time the Christianity emerged at Crete for the first time.

Byzantine Era (330 – 1204)

During Byzantine period (330-824) Crete was one of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire). The Arabian period (824 961) brought the Arabs on the island. The reconquest of Crete began in the second Byzantine period (961 1204); then Crete stood under Byzantine rule for around two centuries.

Venetian Era (1204 – 1669)

Especially during the 13th and 14th century, the Venetian time awoke violent unrest against the Venetian occupation on Crete. In response to each brutally quell revolt, like the *Lassithi* farmers, the Venetians depopulated the whole plateau (*Lassithi plateau*) and left it lie fallow over a century. Despite earthquakes and plague epidemics, towards the end of the 16th century Crete counted approximately 200,000 inhabitants.



The figure right shows the iconostasis of the Church in *Kemasti*. For the time being the development of the religious imagery in Crete correlated to the Byzantine Empire. As of the 15th century an independent style evolved under Venetian influence, the so-called "Cretan school" of the icon painting. The arrangement is set. Christ is located right, Maria left from central door, besides or below the Saints. Representations of festivals of Orthodox celebratory-calendar are on top.

1669 - 1898 Crete came under the control of the Ottomans. After the conquest the Turks divided the island in 3 counties. 1821 began the Greek war of independence; in June of same year the Cretan also revolt. The uprising was suppressed and bloodily expiated. Beginning 1864 there was civil commotions again at Crete. Especially the year 1866 was marked by bloody massacre (*Arkadi*). After the revolt of 1896, 1898 the great powers forced ultimately Crete to manage itself, however, by the reign of Prince George of Greece, a son of King George I who was employed as High Commissioner, rather than as part of Greece.

The figure right shows the Executive of Crete (1897-1898):

Front row: left MYLONJIANNIS (Representative of Sfakia), middle SFAKIANNAKIS (Chairman), right VENIZELOS (Representative of Chania).

Back row: from left to right: ZACHARAKIS (Rethymnon), CHATZIDAKIS (Heraklion) and JIAMALAKIS (Lassithi)

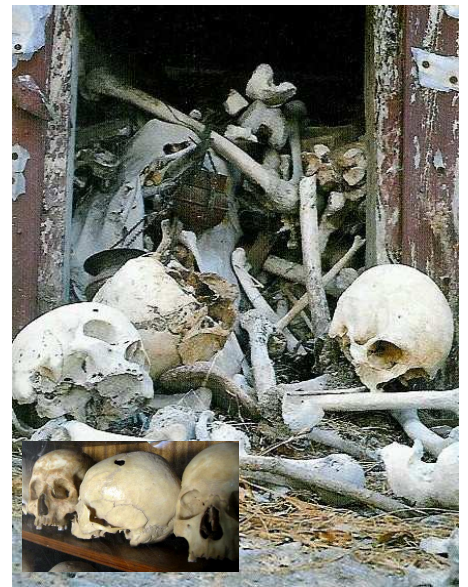


There was an autonomous Crete between 1898 and 1913; since the 17th of May 1913, based on the London treaties, Crete belongs officially to Greece.

In 1941, during World War II, Germans occupied Crete during a lightning attack despite intervention of the Allies and left a bloody trail. Although the military objective was the conquest of airports, the Cretan people had to suffer terribly under the lossy battles.

Arkadi - icon of Cretan resistance

Arkadi attracts many Greek, especially Cretan visitors because since the last century it is the most important Cretan national shrine. In 1866 the greatest tragedy occurred here during the Turkish occupation. 15,000 Turks, Egyptians and Albanians were blockading 964 Cretans which had retreated here. With permission of the abbot and the acceptance of all occupants, one insurgent (K. GIABOUDAKIS) blast the arsenal, when the Turks managed to invade the monastery. Only 114 insurgents survived explosion and massacre. The Turks complained 1,500 deaths. The skulls of some victims (70) are exhibited in the mausoleum (a former Windmill) at the car park of monastery (in two showcases).



The figures show from left to right: the charnel house, one of two skull cabinets and lots of human bones keep awake the tragedy. Detailed view of the skull cabinet

All pictures: *U. Kluge* (30.04.2003)

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