

Enorme Santanna Beach, Ierapetra

The hotel area

The hotel is located in Ierapetra, an area that has developed significantly in recent years. The sandy beach in front of the hotel is awarded with the Blue Flag as we keep all the necessary criteria. The town of Ierapetra provides traditional taverns, cafes and seaside Bars. There are also several mini & super Markets that you can find various products that you may need, like jewelers, shops with local products, Souvenir and pharmacies. The distance of Ierapetra town, is just 2,7 km .

Natural Environment

Milonas Gorge

The Gorge of Mylonas or Saint John is located 18km east of Ierapetra. It starts near the village of St. John, at an altitude of 500m, and ends at the beach of Kakia Skala. Descending the gorge from Saint John is impossible, as it is stopped by a high waterfall, and canyoning equipment is necessary. However, the high fall of the canyon of Mylonas can be accessed through two ascending trails that start near the beach of Kakia Skala. The first trail (easy – 20') comes on the pinewooded side of the gorge and a big part of it is the old concrete ditch, previously used for transferring water to Koutsounari. The other trail comes along the riverbed and especially in winter is very tiring (takes about 1:30 hour). At the end of the ascending trails, at an altitude of 300m, you will meet the high fall of Milonas, having a height of 20m. Below it you will meet a small pond with crystal clear water, ideal for a cooling bath. In winter and after heavy rainfalls, there is a second waterfall on the left of the main fall, forming a spectacular image.

Traditions and customs

Crete, the island of hospitality and tradition. It is important when we visit a place to learn about the culture that hides and the traditions, living the experience and protecting each area whether these are museums, either cities, villages and beaches to be maintained for the next Generations. The tradition will be perceived in many parts of the city, such as if you are visiting places with traditional music and Cretan dances. Areas that produce traditional products, such as milk, cheese, olives and you live in this experience. Visit various villages where they keep these traditions such as the villages: Messeleroi, Malles, Kalamafka, Myrtos, where you will find various traditional taverns to eat local food. Our island also has a natural heritage, and you have to discover the natural paradise that hides some blue beaches in our island. The most popular beaches in Lassithi are Chrissi Island & Vai.

The Cultural and Natural Heritage in our Island

Finally, you can discover the cultural heritage of the island. If you wish to live the history of Minoan Culture, visiting Knossos in Heraklion, the Archaeological Museum of Sitia and other museums where you can discover the history of the place.



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At Enorme Santanna Beach, we encourage all guests, staff, and contractors to help protect and support our local community, culture, and environment. Please follow these guidelines to ensure a positive impact on our destination:

1. Learn About the Destination

- Familiarize yourself with the local culture, traditions, and heritage.
- Take advantage of opportunities to experience local culture, such as visiting museums, historic sites, or participating in cultural activities.

2. Respect Local Culture and Lifestyle

- Behave respectfully toward local customs and ways of life.
- Dress appropriately in public and religious sites.
- Follow local etiquette and traditions during interactions with the community.

3. Choose Local Products and Services

- Support local businesses, restaurants, shops, and tour providers.
- Prefer locally-produced goods and experiences to benefit the community directly.

4. Use Low-Impact Transportation

- Opt for low-emission transport options such as public transport, walking, or cycling whenever safe and possible.
- Reduce the use of private cars and consider shared transport solutions.

5. Protect Environmentally, Historically, and Culturally Sensitive Areas

- Respect protected areas, including wildlife nesting sites, coral reefs, historic buildings, religious sites, and cultural monuments.
- Follow marked trails and guidelines, avoiding disturbance to sensitive environments.

6. Support Local Environmental and Social Initiatives

- Participate in or support community and environmental initiatives, such as local clean-up activities or charitable projects.
- Consider donating or volunteering for local non-profit organizations.

7. Protect Children and Vulnerable Individuals

- Avoid activities that may harm children or interfere with access to education, healthcare, or basic resources.
- Respect privacy and obtain consent before photographing or filming anyone, particularly children.

8. Protect Wildlife and Natural Habitats

- Avoid products or activities that can harm wildlife or their habitats (e.g., certain sunscreens, littering, feeding wild animals).
- Observe animals responsibly and maintain safe distances.

9. Safe Handling of Local Issues

- Follow guidance from staff regarding local environmental or social issues, including areas or situations that require special care.
- Report any concerns or emergencies to trained personnel to prevent harm to the community, environment, or yourself.



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Protecting Children – How You Can Help

At Enorme Santanna Beach, we are committed to protecting the rights and safety of all children. We ask our guests, staff, and partners to help us prevent and report any suspected case of child exploitation, abuse, or neglect.

If You See Something, Say Something

If you witness or suspect any form of child exploitation or abuse during your stay or while exploring the local area:

1. Report it immediately to our hotel staff or management.
Our trained team will take the appropriate action and contact the relevant authorities.
2. You can also contact the local police directly:
 Police (Dial 100) – Available 24/7 for emergencies in Greece.
3. Alternatively, you can reach out to:
 - The Smile of the Child (Το Χαμόγελο του Παιδιού)
 1056 (24-hour national helpline for children in need)
 www.hamogelo.gr

Celebrating Our Local Culture and Traditions

At **Enorme Santanna Beach**, we take pride in showcasing the rich culture, heritage, and traditions of Crete through every aspect of your stay. Our goal is to offer guests an authentic local experience that reflects the true spirit of our island.

Local Cuisine

Our restaurant menus feature traditional Cretan dishes prepared with **fresh, locally sourced ingredients**.

Try specialties such as *dakos*, *kalitsounia* (local cheese pies), and *lamb with stamnagathi* — all inspired by authentic recipes passed down through generations.

Each traditional dish is clearly marked on our menu, so you know when you are tasting a genuine local creation.

Local Art and Design

Throughout the hotel, you will find **artwork, pottery, and decorative elements** crafted by local artists and artisans.

These creations celebrate Cretan craftsmanship and tell stories of our island's history and lifestyle.

Music, Entertainment & Experiences

Guests can enjoy **Cretan music nights**, featuring local musicians performing traditional instruments such as the *lyra* and *laouto*.

We also collaborate with nearby cultural associations and local producers to offer experiences like **olive oil tasting**, **herbal workshops**, and **guided walks** that highlight the island's natural and cultural heritage.

Supporting Local Heritage

By choosing to stay with us, you are supporting **local farmers, artists, and small businesses** who preserve Crete's culture and traditions for future generations.