Religious Tourism

ENG

Municipality of Agios Nikolaos

#agiosnikolaoscrete

AGIOS NIKOLAOS
CRETE

Easter
in Agios Nikolaos

In the Greek Orthodox tradition, Spring and Easter always go hand in hand. And as Spring is the basis of all seasons, Easter and the Resurrection is the basis of life, in all its aspects and manifestations. That's why we celebrate Easter, as the most glorious and joyful celebration of Orthodoxy.

On the evening of Holy Saturday, right after the "Christ is Risen", around Lake Voulismeni, located in the heart of the city of Agios Nikolaos, the spectacular burning of Judas takes place in the midst of fireworks, lit candles and exchanged wishes.

Agios Nikolaos is an area full of colors, customs and traditions throughout the year. The Holy Week, as well as the Resurrection in Agios Nikolaos and all its municipal units allow locals and foreign visitors to participate, get to know, be accommodated, but also experience this great celebration in a unique way.

1. Megali Panagia

2. Agios Onoufrios

3. Metamorfosi Sotiros

4. Panagia Vigliotissa

5. Koufi Petra Monastery

6. Kremaston Monastery

7. Panagia Koumbelina

8. Panagia Keragoniotissa

9. Agios Ioannis Theologos

10. Agios Georgios Vrachassiotis Monastery

11. Agios Georgios Selinari Monastery

12. Fraro Monastery

13. Panagia Vrefotrofos

14. Agia Triada

15. Agios Nikolaos in Ormos

16. Panagia Kera

17. Agios Ioannis Prodromos

18. Panagia Odigitria

19. Afentis Christos

20. Michael Archangelos

21. Agios Ioannis in Lakkous

22. Kato Agios Georgios

23. Agios Panteleimon

24. Metamorfosi Sotiros

25. Agios Georgios

26. Early Christian Basilica

27. Agios Georgios in Skinias

28. Agios Panteleimon

29. Agios Georgios in Spinalonga

30. Aretiou Monastery

31. Kardamoutsa Monastery

32. Agios Konstantinos

33. Agios Antonios

34. Agia Varvara

35. Agia Anna

AGIOS NIKOLAOS
CRETE

1 Megali Panagia

The metropolitan church of Megali Panagia, dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, stands majestically at the northern end of the main square of Neapoli. The church was erected at the end of the 19th, beginning of the 20th century, and its construction lasted for a very long time, due to the economic difficulties of the time. It started in 1889, but the church was inaugurated in 1927. The cruciform shaped church has a dome, and its lower part is made of carved stonework made of gray local marble, much like all its openings. His wood-carved iconostasis and hagiographies were created between 1962 and 1965.

2 Agios Onoufrios

Externally, the southern façade of the church is made of three arches with a toothed frame; a revitalization of the architectural motifs of the Middle Byzantine period. Its iconography includes the established representations of the evangelical circle, among which the palm-bearing Christ, the Resurrection of Lazarus, and the Holy Washbasin, while on the northern wall there is a complex and quite rare circle of Agios Onuphrius.

Architectural Style
1. Triple aisle cruciform with dome
2. Single nave vaulted

Time period
1. 20th century
2. 14th century

Region
1. Neapoli
2. Voulismeni

Services
1. 15/8
2. 27/6

Frescoes
1. —
2. ✓

Access
1. Asphalt
2. Dirt Road

3 Metamorfosi Sotiros

The two-aisled church is located in the cemetery of Neapoli and is dedicated to the Metamorphosis of the Savior and Agioi Pantes. Originally, the church was three-aisled, but today the southern aisle is destroyed. The frescoes date back to the end of the 13th and early 14th century, with the most significant depiction being the nursing of the Virgin Mary from Agia Anna.

4 Panagia Vigliotissa

The church, which is dedicated to the Birth of the Virgin Mary, is about two kilometers west of Voulismeni at Vigli. The church was basically the katholikon of a completely destroyed today monastery, which operated -based on a written source- from 1594 until the 18th century. Today, the fully restored church has a cruciform shape, and dates back to 1300. Its iconography includes well-known scenes of the evangelical circle, with an emphasis on the Passions of Jesus, as well as on Virgin Mary.

Architectural Style
3. Double aisle church
4. Cruciform roof without dome

Time period
3. 12th-14th century
4. 13th-14th century

Region
3. Neapoli
4. Voulismeni

Services
3. 6/8
4. 8/9

Frescoes
3. ✔
4. ✔

Access
3. Asphalt
4. Dirt road

5 Koufi Petra Monastery

This monastery is mentioned indirectly on a contract of the monastery of Aretiou in the year 1630. The monastery remained abandoned for an unknown period of time, and was reestablished in 1866. The northern aisle, dedicated to the Annunciation, was founded in the 19th century, while the southern one, dedicated to the Birth of the Virgin Mary, was built in 1996. The rest of the buildings date back to the 19th and mainly the 20th century, as a result of the expansion and increased needs of the monastery.

Architectural Style
Double aisle

Time period
17th century

Region
Vrysses

Services
25/3
24/6

Frescoes
—

Access
Asphalt

Information
+30 28410 33013

6 Kremaston Monastery

The Monastery of Kremaston was founded in 1593 and is located 2.5 km away from Neapolis. From the mid-19th to the early 20th century, a rigorous interdisciplinary school was operated in the monastery. Originally, this monastery was habited by monks, but in 1993 it was converted into a nunnery. The 19th-century gold-plated wood-carved temple has despotic icons of the same period and an icon of the Cretan school with Jesus sitting on a thrown, from the 17th century. Architecturally interesting is the monastery's archontariki, where, according to the tradition, a Hidden School was operating during the Ottoman occupation.

Architectural Style
Single nave vaulted

Time period
16th century

Region
Vrysses

Services
8/11

Frescoes
—

Access
Asphalt

Information
+30 28410 32405

7 Panagia Koumbelina

The church of Panagia Koumbelina (which means with a dome) is built according to the architectural style of the simple inscribed cruciform with a dome, and is the only preserved church of this architectural type in the Municipality of Agios Nikolaos. The church was -most probably- constructed on the 12th century. In the 16th century, a wide vaulted roof with a transverse narthex was added on the west of the church. The only things preserved from its mural decoration are few frescoes and the Pantokrator painted on the dome between two medallions with angels, dating back to the early 14th century.

Architectural Style
Cruciform with dome

Time period
11th - 12th century

Region
Choumeriakos

Services
15/8

Frescoes
✔

Access
Asphalt

8 Panagia Keragoniotissa

The church has a single aisle and a dome, and is located in a place of incredible natural beauty, with tall and dense oak trees. Inside, and in particular at the edge of the sanctuary, there are frescoes dating back to the 14th century.

9 Agios Ioannis Theologos

The single-aisled, domed church of Agios Ioannis Theologos dates back to 1310. A great part of the frescoes preserved today depict the Crucification and the Ascension.

Architectural Style
8. Single nave vaulted
9. Single nave vaulted

Time period
8. 14th - 16th century
9. 14th century

Region
8. Latsida
9. Limnes

Services
8. 15/8
9. 8/5

Frescoes
8. ✔
9. ✔

Access
8. Asphalt
9. Asphalt

10 Agios Georgios Vrachassiotis Monastery

The Monastery of Agios Georgios Vrachassiotis flourished during the Venetian occupation. The Monastery's katholikon has two aisles. The northern and oldest aisle is dedicated to Agios Georgios and has frescoes dating back to the 15th century. In 1558 the church's bell tower was constructed on its western side, and in 1592 the southern aisle was added and dedicated to Agios Dimitrios.

11 Agios Georgios Selinari Monastery

The monastery was relatively recently established, during the 20th century. During the same time, its building complex was developed in two levels. At its eastern end, we stumble upon the small old chapel of Agios Georgios, while to the west there are newer buildings and two newly built churches dedicated to Theophania and the Resurrection. The church of Agios Georgios is already since the early 20th century an important religious center of the wider region, especially as a protector of travelers in Eastern Crete.

Architectural Style
10. Double aisle basilica
11. Single nave vaulted with pointed arch

Time period
10. 15th-16th century
11. 16th century

Region
10. Vrachassi
11. Vrachassi

Services
10. 23/4, 26/10 & 3/11
11. 23/4

Frescoes
10. ✔
11. ✔

Access
10. Dirt road
11. Asphalt

Information
11. +30 28410 71438

12 Fraro Monastery

The Catholic Monastery of the Order of the Franciscan monks, of which half of its abandoned katholikon is still preserved, is dedicated to Agios Antonios. Its founding dates back to the second half of the 14th century, when monk Petros Filagris, who later became Pope Alexander the 5th, lived.

Architectural Style
Double aisle with narthex

Time period
14th century

Region
Neapoli

Services
—

Frescoes
—

Access
Dirt Road

Mesa Potamoi
Exo Potamoi
Peponides
Vlachides
Pissidos
Karterides
Fioretzides
Exo Lakonia
Marnellides
Agios Minas
Agios Nikolaos
15 Agios Nikolaos
13 Panagia Vrefotrofos
14 Agia Triada
Michael Archangelos 20
Margieli
Flamouriana
Schisma
Chamilo
Kalyvos
Roussa Limni
Afentis Christos 19
Agios Ioannis Prodromos
Mardati
17
16 Panagia Kera
Panagia Odigitria 18
Kritsa
Katharo
Kroustas
22 Kato Agios Georgios
Vathy
Agios Pandeleimon
23
21 Agios Ioannis stous Lakkous
Istro
Pyrgos
Kalo Chorio
Metamorfosi Sotiros 25
24
Prina
Agios Georgios
Settlement
Municipal Boundaries
European Road (E75)
National Road
Country Road
Municipal Road
Other Asphalt Road
Main Dustroad
Other Dustroad
Trail
Catholic Monastery
Church
Early Christian Basilica
Monastery
A Pretty Map designed by
STARIDAS GEOGRAPHY

mi
0 0.78 1.56 2.34 3.12 3.9
nmi
0 0.67 1.34 2.01 2.68 3.35
Km
0 1.25 2.5 3.75 5 6.25
Map Scale
1:125,000
N
Agios Nicolaos
Koudoumalos
Finokalia
Patsopoulos
Dilakkos
Makrygennisa
Nofalias
Milatos
Sissi
Vrouchas
Karydi
Perambela
Dories
Syrmesso
Kourounes
Plaka
Kato Elounda
Epano Elounda
Schisma
Vrachassi
Latsida
Neapoli
Voulismeni
Kastelli
Fourni
Limnes
Kalos Lakkos
Drakos
Ellinika
Choumeriako
27 Agios Georgios
30 Aretiou Mon.
31 Kardamoutsa Mon.
32 Agios Konstantinos
33 Agios Antonios
34 Agia Varvara
35 Agia Anna
28 Agios Pandeleimon
29 Agios Georgios
11 Agios Georgios Selinari Mon.
8 Panagia Keragoniotissa
10 Agios Georgios Vrachassiotis Mon.
2
3
4 Panagia Vigliotissa
12
5 Koufi Petra Mon.
6 Kremaston Mon.
7 Panagia Koumbelina
9 Agios Ioannis Theologos
26 Elounda Early Christian Basilica

13 Panagia Vrefotrofos

This particularly elongated church dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the old part of the city of Agios Nikolaos is the result of two successive expansions to the west of the original single-aisled vaulted church. The original church and its first extension bear two layers of frescoes, of which the oldest -dating back to the early 14th century- is traced mainly in the eastern part, with scenes from Jesus and the Virgin Mary. The second layer, indicative of the so-called academic style of the second half of the 14th century, is traced only in the arch of the westernmost part of the church.

14 Agia Triada

The Cathedral of Agia Triada is located in the center of Agios Nikolaos. It is a Byzantine, three-aisled, cruciform church with a dome. Its middle aisle is dedicated to Agia Triada, the northern to the Three Hierarchs, and the southern to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary.
Two chapels were added to the original church, mainly serving as confessionals. The church is filled with frescoes, representing two trends of Byzantine Hagiography: the Cretan and the Macedonian.
In 2001-02, a mosaic was placed on the façade of the church of Agia Triada, in the narthex of "Trimorfos".

Architectural Style
13. Single nave vaulted
14. Triple aisle basilica with dome

Time period
13. 14th - 17th century
14. 20th century

Region
13. Agios Nikolaos
14. Agios Nikolaos

Services
13. 8/9 & 3 /2
14. Sunday of Pentecost 49 days after Easter

Frescoes
13. ✓
14. ✓

Access
13. Asphalt
14. Asphalt

15 Agios Nikolaos in Ormos

The church of Agios Nikolaos is located in a small bay, where ships anchored during the Byzantine and Venetian periods. It is a single-aisled church with a dome, and was most probably built before the Arab conquest of Crete in 827-828. Two layers of frescoes adorn its interior walls. The oldest layer is non-iconic and dates back to the period of iconoclasm.
The church is one of the few examples of early-Byzantine architecture in Crete, and gave its name to the city of Agios Nikolaos.

Architectural Style
Single nave basilica with dome

Time period
9th century

Region
Agios Nikolaos

Services
6/12

Frescoes
✔

Access
Asphalt

16 Panagia Kera

To the south and about 500 meters from the village of Kritsa we stumble upon the three-aisled, domed church of Panagia Kera, which is one of the most important monuments of Crete. The central aisle, dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, was probably constructed during the Middle Byzantine period. In the middle of the 13th century, the central aisle was frescoed. The church, in the early 14th century, underwent extensive renovation. During the first decades of the 14th century, the frescoes of the central aisle were renovated, and the two lateral aisles (the northern dedicated to Agios Antonios and the southern to Agia Anna) were then constructed and frescoed. The rich iconography and different styles make the church of Panagia Kera in Kritsa the most important monument in the region. Particular mention should be made to the depiction of Saint Francis of Assisi in the central aisle of the church, as well as to the scenes from the occult gospels on the aisle of Agia Anna.

17 Agios Ioannis Prodromos

Small, domed church, recently restored. Frescoes date back to 1359-60. Of particular interest is the depiction of the Second Coming on the western wall of the church, with the punishment of the wicked.

Architectural Style
16. Triple aisle vaulted with dome
17. Single nave vaulted

Time period
16. 13th-14th century
17. 14th century

Region
16. Kritsa
17. Kritsa

Services
16. 15/8
17. 29/8

Frescoes
16. ✔
17. ✔

Access
16. Asphalt
17. Asphalt

18 Panagia Odigitria

The two-aisled church dates back to the 19th century and is dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary and Agios Haralambos. The peculiarity of this church is that it combines elements of Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman architecture. Many portable icons are housed in this church, with the most important being the one of Panagia Galaktotrofousa (nursing).

19 Afentis Christos

A two-aisled church, which underwent three main construction phases. The original church was built in the Middle Byzantine period. Then in the beginning of the 14th century, a funerary structure was built on the west side, roofed with a cruciform dome and frescoed with performances from the Second Coming. The northern aisle of the church, dedicated to Agioi Anargyroi, was constructed in the mid-19th century.

20 Michael Archangelos

The church of Archangelos Michael is single-aisled and has a simplistic exterior, while on the inside it has one of the best preserved frescoes of the 15th century in Crete, dating back to 1431-32. Iconography includes five scenes from the evangelical cycle in the many part of the church, and four scenes in a compact circle of Archangel Michael: prophet Nathan checking out David, the Archangels announcing the remission of sins to David, and the Assembly of the Archangels.

Architectural Style
18. Double aisle basilica with dome
19. Double aisle church
20. Single nave vaulted

Time period
18. 19th century
19. 12th-14th century
20. 15th century

Region
18. Kritsa
19. Kritsa
20. Lakonia

Services
18. 21/11
19. 1/7 & 6/8
20. 8/11

Frescoes
18. —
19. ✓
20. ✓

Access
18. Asphalt
19. Asphalt
20. Asphalt

21 Agios Ioannis in Lakkous

The church, built on top of an older one, was frescoed in 1347-48. Iconography -as is common for small single-aisled island churches- includes evangelical scenes, whole-body and half-body saints, while on the eastern wall there is a fresco of Christ Anapeson.

22 Kato Agios Georgios

A single-aisled, domed church that was constructed and frescoed with the help of the locals in Krousta between 1310 and 1320, as mentioned in the inscription preserved inside the church.

Architectural Style
21. Single nave vaulted
22. Single nave vaulted

Time period
21. 14th century
22. 14th century

Region
21. Kroustas
22. Kroustas

Services
21. 26/9
22. 3/11

Frescoes
21. ✔
22. ✔

Access
21. Dirt road
22. Asphalt