



HANIA, CRETE- GREECE

2010 Course Dates and fees:

- January 4 - 29, 2010
- February 1 - 26, 2010
- March 1 - 26, 2010
- April 12 - May 7, 2010
- May 17 - June 11, 2010
- June 21 - July 16, 2010
- July 26 - August 20, 2010
- August 30 - September 24, 2010
- October 4 - 29, 2010
- November 8 - December 3, 2010

Crete Course Fee: ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE EUR 1575

Wherever you decide to do your TEFL course, you are unlikely to find a more charming and beautiful location than Crete. From the life and vitality of the old town of Hania to the medieval mountain villages, from the sun-drenched sandy beaches with their all-year-round sunshine to the Minoan ruins of Knossos - Crete seems to offer everything. The wild landscapes of the interior and the majestically unspoiled trekking opportunities of the nearby Samaria Gorge make you forget sometimes that you are never more than a few miles from a palm-fringed beach.

The largest of the Greek islands is cheaply and easily reachable by flight or ferry from Athens. Flights from Athens to Hania (airport code: CHQ) are reasonably priced, leave several times a day and take just 40 minutes. Fast and slow ferries are also available if you would prefer to take your time and cruise across the Aegean to Hania's local port. Upon arriving in Hania, you will be met by a member of our staff at the airport or ferry port and transferred to your beachfront accommodation. We will have everything arranged to welcome you to Crete and ensure a stress-free arrival.

Greece today is also the centre of the largest TEFL-teaching market in the world. With over 6,000 language schools (including many on Crete itself), the massive demand for qualified native-speaking teachers can allow a wonderful wealth of teaching opportunities. The network of boat services connecting the Aegean islands means that such other exotic locations as Rhodes, Santorini and Kos are all within cheap and easy reach.

TEFL Training Center:



The Via Lingua School in Crete is situated in the centre of Hania, Crete's second city (and former capital) on the North-West coast. Hania is a beautiful old Cretan town with a population of around 60,000. The old town centre is clustered around the 14th century Venetian harbour where much of the city's life and light is to be found. The town is large enough to offer a cosmopolitan atmosphere and a ready range of nightlife and places to see, but small enough that it's normally easy to get around on foot – whether from the school to your apartment or from the local bar down to the nearest beach.

Teaching English in Greece:



There is a considerable demand for the teaching of English as a foreign language and there are opportunities for regular and part-time employment. In Crete there are literally hundreds of "frontistiria" (private language schools) and the majority of Greek school children attend one after school hours. Many native English speakers work teaching English either in frontistiria or by giving private English lessons to pupils. Frontistiria are open during the school year, September to June, and usually close for 3 months in the summer. A Presidential Decree signed in 1997 made it possible for European Nationals to be generally employed in and also open Foreign Language Frontistiria. Officially you need a university degree to open or teach in a 'frontistiro' language school, but some will employ you without one. A TEFL or TESOL certificate is very useful, it will greatly improve your chances of employment and importantly you will learn how to teach English as a foreign language... which will include brushing up on your English grammar (can you distinguish the present perfect simple tense from the present perfect continuous?).

More information about teacher requirements, plus details of vacancies from the Panhellenic Association of Language School Owners (PALSO)

The Importance of English in Greece:

Teaching English as a foreign language jobs are widely advertised in newspapers and on the Internet all year round and most often from August to October. As well as applying before in Greece, you can also go to door-to-door around the frontistiria with your CV, again in the August to October period. If you are visiting them in person, it is not recommended that you spend time doing this any earlier than August because the schools often do not consider their recruitment needs much before the beginning of the academic year. Pay and conditions offered by language schools will vary enormously, so it is important to check these out in detail first before accepting a contract. If time is on your side, it may be worth speaking to several schools rather than taking the first job you are offered. Also, if you work in a frontistirio it is quite likely that you will be working mainly in the afternoons and evenings, since this is when children and adults are free to take their lessons. Many people who teach English as a foreign language in a school, also do private English on the side and this can become a lucrative activity in itself.

Food and Clothing:

A Cretan specialty is Stifado Salingariko - snail stew, and Chirino Kritiko - pork chops. One of the many local cheeses is Myzithra and Anthotiro, you must try also the Graviera Kritis (Cretan Gruyere). The Cretan olive oil is one of the best in Greece. Other traditional products of Crete is the Cretan Paximadia (Crisps). Apart from the many Greek taverns all over the island, you'll also find many international restaurants in the bigger summer resorts and the cities.



Dress code in monasteries and churches: No shorts, bikinis or sleeveless shirts. Take your hat off when you enter a church and do not use flash for photographs. Casual business attire is always a good bet! During the winter it can get a little cold at night and a coat or jersey of some sort is recommended. During the summer t-shirts and shorts are more suitable. For working as an English teacher in Greece, smart casual clothes are normally expected.

Climate:



The weather is mild throughout the winter and normally warm enough to sit outside the cafés in shirtsleeves all through the year. During the summer the temperature can rise to 40 degrees Centigrade (100° F) but the fact that you're never far from a palm-fringed beach helps to make this a little more bearable.

There is almost no rain at all between June and September. However, while the winter is not exactly wet, one does get the occasional thunderstorm between November and March.

Accommodation:

We offer fully furnished apartments with kitchenettes for your stay during the course. The apartments have a sea view and are located just 100 metres from a beautiful beach. Accommodation is normally available from the Sunday before the start until the Saturday after the completion of your TEFL course. If you are arriving earlier than this or wish to stay longer, please just let us know and this can normally be arranged for a small extra fee of 10 euros per night.

We can normally arrange either private or shared accommodation. Please specify your preference on your application; every attempt will be made to honour your request, but places are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. If you elect to live in a shared-bedroom apartment, you will always be matched with a roommate of the same gender, and usually of a similar age to yourself. Smoking preferences are taken into account as much as possible.

If you are attending the course with a friend or partner and wish to share accommodation, just let us know in advance and it can be arranged.

Please note that during the summer months of July, August and September, when demand for beachfront accommodation is at its height, it's important to book early to reserve your room and a spot on the course!

Communication, Telephone and Internet:

Greece has an internet universe and culture just like everywhere else and that means that unless you are staying in one of a few hotels which provide internet access, an Internet Cafe may be just the thing. If you do try to hook up to the telephone line in your Hotel or Domatia, you may need an adaptor. TIP 1: Connect your laptop to the internet. An easy way to "connect" your own laptop computer in Greece and on all your travels worldwide, is to set up an account with Net Roamer. They give you an ISP account that you can use worldwide without changing settings on your laptop. No more configuration nightmares and struggles to find

the local access number.

TIP 2: Local (greek) dial up at 1.86 euros/hour. Some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) now in Greece offer dial-up "pay-as-you-go" connections. The number you are calling to connect is a local call number, so it is charged to the phone you are calling from at 0.031 euros/minute (1.86 euros/hour). If you have a direct phone connection in your room, all you have to do is setup a dial-up connection on your laptop.

All GSM mobile phones (these are used in Europe and a few other countries) work in Greece. If you bring your own mobile phone with you, when you first switch it on in Greece you will be given a choice of which phone provider to use. Choose the one recommended by your home mobile phone service provider if, as is sometimes the case, this will give you better rates. Certain companies provide a fixed charge per minute when "roaming" outside the country your phone service is from. Where this does not apply, you will pay fairly high rates for outgoing calls. Incoming calls to your phone are expensive, because you pay for the international part of the call (from the country where your phone service is provided, to you, in Greece). It is ADVISABLE to check on rates and services when using your mobile phone overseas, with your phone service provider, before you travel. A better idea is to buy a local SIM card (meaning a local phone number which you slot into your phone) for about 15 Euros at a mobile phone or electronics store in Crete (even some kiosks) - there are many. If you are coming from the US and do not have a tri-band phone (that works on the European GSM frequencies), you can buy a complete "package" of cell phone & sim card - for about 40 euros (includes 8 euros worth of call time). At electronic stores (look for Vodafone, TIM, Cosmote or e-germanos shops).

Excursions and Cultural Highlights:



Weekends are free except for the course project and we run a variety of social programs to some of the most fascinating parts of the island of Crete. These include (but are not necessary limited to) a trek down the Samaria Gorge, visits to the beaches of Elafonisi, Falasarna and Gramvousa, trips to the Minoan ruins of Knossos (home of the Labyrinth and the Minotaur) and stays in one or more of the small villages on the South coast of the island where you can experience some more traditional Greek life, music, food and ambience in a relaxed and beautiful setting.

Special Offers:

Double-up discount: Book together with a friend for the same course and you can both claim a 100 EUR discount on the advertised price. Offer applies to all course dates and locations. We can also arrange for you to share the same accommodation if required.