

THE TRADITIONAL HOMES OF CRETE - HOTEL DESCRIPTION

The “Traditional Homes of Crete” are all stone homes built on the foundation of original homes of previous century, situated in Elounda, Crete enhanced with all modern amenities, 75 km from the town of Iraklion Crete and International Airport. Ten minutes on foot from the center of the town of Elounda, the Public Sandy Beach and the departure of boats to the island of SPINALONGA.

The owners of these old stone built houses have admiration and respect for their heritage, thus the need to revive and preserve the past. Acceding to the requirements of present times, these houses have been renovated and modernized. Realistically, we believe that it is rather difficult to make a fortune by renting these old houses. It is only therefore an expression of our affection for the preservation of old times, a small token of our debt to the history of the island and to preserve our identity from the concrete monstrosities, the new buildings of today, constructed with little taste or respect for the environment. Nowadays the thinking, living creatures are returning to nature and to their roots.

Location

The Traditional Homes of Crete

Situated in the peaceful village of Mavrikiano, just a 5-minute walk from the centre of Elounda.

Elounda Apartments

Centrally located in the seaside Elounda Town of Crete.

Elounda Apartments is situated 75 km from Heraklion City and 72 km from Heraklion International Airport. From Elounda Apartments you can explore famous places, such as Plaka Village at 13 km and the Minoan Palace of Malia at 35 km.

Almond Tree Villas

Located in the Elounda Village, the sea is 2.5 km away.

Within 30 km, you can visit the Minoan town of Gournia, while the Minoan Palace of Malia is at 35 km. The fishing village of Plaka connecting to the island of Spinalonga is at 5 km

Facilities:

- Air-condition
- Internet
- Hairdryer
- Fireplace
- Safe
- Parking

Services:

- Cleaning of the houses: three times/ week
- Change of sheets/towels: two times/week

Activities in the surrounding area

- Departure of boats to the Island of Spinalonga
- 3 minutes on foot from the central square

THE TRADITIONAL HOMES OF CRETE-ROOM'S DESCRIPTION

THE HOUSE OF MARGARITA:

Margarita is located in Mavrikiano, overlooking the bay and seaside village of Elounda. It can accommodate up to 6 persons (3 couples). On entering, the courtyard there is a small fully equipped kitchen on the left and a bathroom on the right. The ground floor consists of a sitting room with a stone fireplace, dining room and up a few steps to the first of the three bedrooms containing a double bed. From here, the stone steps lead to the first floor master bedroom with twin beds, up another flight of steps to the third bedroom with twin beds and a door leading to the veranda/terrace with a summer kitchen and dining area. Spectacular views of Elounda and Elounda Bay from the terrace.

All the furniture is old and handcrafted.

Location: The beach is located 10 minute walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house "MARGARITA"

We believe that every old house has its own history. The owners of Margarita have made a thorough study to produce a historical picture by seeking information from the relatives of the original owners and from the neighbours, all of whom gladly provided the information contained therein. The House was built in 1840, by G. Mavrikakis, whose family comprised of six children earning their living with sheep and cultivating the land producing carobs, almonds and wheat. This was the time of the Turkish occupation with the Headquarters of the region being in the main village of Elounda. Around 1865, Mavrikakis' eldest son, was discovered as having a love affair with a favourite woman of the local Pasha. The news resulted in the anger of the ruler. In a subsequent clash, Mavrikakis killed the Pasha and fled. The result was that the family was forced to move away to Sitia, in the east of Crete, to escape Turkish revenge.

The house was then occupied by Turkish officials, until the beginning of the 20th century when a population exchange took place between the Turks living in Greece and the Islands, and the Greeks living in Asia Minor. Partially destroyed, the property returned to the Mavrikakis family until 1960, when it was then sold to the well-known Greek film producer Kounduros. As a lover of tradition, he rebuilt the House adding the attic/loft area (upper bedroom), the terrace, the kitchen and bathroom on the left and right of the main entrance. The ground floor sitting area remained unchanged retaining all the basic features of its Cretan culture. Fifteen years later, in 1975, he sold the property to International Greek actor Fokas, who used it as a summer residence for ten years. In 1985, Fokas sold the House to Margarita Elliott, an American Consul working for the American Embassy in Athens. Later, after she resigned from her post she lived in it for long intervals, earning her living by making independent economic studies for companies and writing essays. She sold the House in 1994 to its present owners, ANEMOS EPE - The Traditional Homes of Crete. Hence, the House is named MARGARITA. The company will be renting 'Margarita' from now on, having made extensive preservation work to the terrace adding a summer kitchen, wood and stone repairs, with reverence to the traditional style and history of the property.

THE HOUSE OF LEONIDAS:

Leonidas is located in the village of Mavrikiano, a village overlooking Elounda. It can accommodate up to 4 persons. On entering Leonidas there is the sitting area with a fireplace, dining area and a

fully equipped kitchen area. The sofa converts to a child-sized single bed. The bathroom is located through a door on the left. On the right is the stone staircase to the upper floor. On the mezzanine floor, there is a single bed and a few steps more lead to the master bedroom and the terrace equipped with a summer kitchen and dining area.

Location: The beach is located 10 minute walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the House “LEONIDAS”

In fact 'Leonidas' is the most 'honest' of the properties owned by ANEMOS LTD. The reason being that most of the materials used, wood and stones, belonged to the original house and the ones added were from derelict houses in deserted villages scattered in the region of Elounda. The attic/loft area (the master bedroom) and the veranda have been added to meet modern requirements.

The staircase, door handles, bath taps, lamps, basins in both kitchens are all original pieces, but the best feature is the stone fireplace typical in old Cretan houses of the 19th century. The original House was bought in 1905 by the Sfirakis family, from a rich Turkish landowner, who had had it for the previous ten years. We assume that the House was built in or around 1895. The sale, though completed, resulted in only a portion of the money being paid to the Turk, as he had fled back to Turkey at the time of the population exchange between the two countries.

The House was seized in 1940 by the Italian occupying forces who ruled the Agios Nikolaos/Elounda region. When they left the house was uninhabitable as it had been partially destroyed. The Sfirakis family restored it and lived there for a while. In 1985, the House was sold to Margarita Elliott, an American Consul working for the American Embassy in Athens. Later, after she had resigned from her post, she annexed it to the House next door. She sold the House in 1994 to its present owners, ANEMOS LTD The Traditional Homes of Crete. The company will be renting 'Leonidas' from now on, having made extensive preservation work to the terrace adding a summer kitchen, wood and stone repairs, with reverence to the traditional style and history of the property.

THE HOUSE OF ARGYRO:

Argyro is a traditional stone house, built in 1905. Rebuilt in 1930 and again when it was bought by the well-known architect Theodosopoulos in 1965, who restored it as it is seen today. Stone steps from the street lead into the small stone courtyard with lots of flowers. On the right is an entrance to the small bathroom. On entering, the House is the small kitchen and the dining area is up a few steps containing a stone fireplace and a loft area over the kitchen with a large bed. The living room has a stone fireplace and sofas that convert into beds. From here the stone staircase leads to the terrace with summer kitchen and the master bedroom with a double bed. Wonderful views of the Gulf of Mirabello and Elounda from the covered terrace. The House can accommodate 4 adults (couples) and 2 children. All the furniture are old and handcrafted.

Location: The beach is located 10 minutes walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house "ARGYRO"

We believe that every house has its own History. The owners of this house have made a thorough study to produce a Historical picture, seeking information from the relatives of the original owners and neighbours who have gladly provided the information contained herein.

The Sfirakis family built the House in 1875; it comprised of a living room, the second section was the bedroom and behind that, were the stables accommodating sheep and goats.

The family was at odds with the Pasha of the region, due to their resistance in paying the heavy taxes levied. In a clash that resulted in the death of the Turkish tax collector at the hands of the eldest son, the family was forced to flee to the mountains to escape repercussions. The Turks demolished the House and the rest of the relatives fled to Agios Nikolaos and Sitia. When the Turks departed, the Sfirakis family returned and rebuilt the House using poor materials, which deteriorated quite quickly. The family were then forced to abandon the house in 1920. It then fell apart. The House was later sold to George Theodosopoulos, a well-known architect.

He was a lover of tradition and heritage, who reconstructed it adding the attic/loft (Master bedroom) and the terrace with outdoor kitchen and barbeque. He also added the kitchen at the entrance of the House, a wooden loft area above the kitchen and the small bathroom. On completion of these works in 1970, he gave the House to a Lady Friend who used it as a summer residence for fifteen years. Shortly after the death of the architect, the House was sold to Mrs Kakaounakis, but she never used it. She bought the property without ever having seen it. In 1994, she sold it to the present owners ANEMOS LTD- The Traditional Homes of Crete. Extensive repairs were undertaken to bring the House to its present condition.

THE HOUSE OF EFTERPI:

Efterpi is part of an old Church demolished by the Turks at the end of the 15th century, has been rebuilt using only stone and wood. Reverence and respect of the old structure has been exercised with the help of the local people and their stories. Furniture and fittings are copies of original pieces presently exhibited in the Historical Museum of Crete in Heraklion. The entrance to the Home leads to a small courtyard with an open sitting area and a complete summer kitchen. The door to the left leads into the main room with sitting area and two single beds. On the right is a fireplace, a single bed and the kitchen. At the back is a full sized bathroom with Jacuzzi. The wooden stairs to the right lead to the attic/loft area bedroom with double bed. The House can accommodate 5 adults in the two rooms.

Location: The beach is located 10 minute walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house "EFTERPI"

The Venetian occupation of the island ended in the 14th century when Ibraim Pasha, acting as Supreme General of the Ottoman Empire, took possession. For 400 consecutive years, Crete suffered the Turkish suppressive occupation. Contrary to the Venetian occupying forces, who promoted free language and religion, the Turks prohibited both. For the entire period of Turkish occupation Language was taught in 'Secret Schools' and Religious rites were observed in small obscure Churches scattered in the mountains. When these Houses were under construction, a fascinating discovery was made.

An iron Christian Cross wrapped in a cloth was found within a wall as well as a number of Icons. These Icons are now, prominently displayed on the same wall in the Houses of EFTERPI and DIMITRA. Legends

handed down through the generations have told us that on this site was a prominent Church dedicated to PROPHITIS ELIAS (the Prophet Eli), which had been constructed long before the Venetian period. It is probable that the Church being on the top of a hill overlooking Elounda/Elous, had served the Religious needs of the inhabitants of the region. The Church was burnt down and destroyed, by the Turks, at the beginning of the 15th century and was never reconstructed. A new, but smaller Church dedicated to PROPHITIS ELIAS, built in 1950, can be found just 50 metres away.

No engravings of the original Church have been found. The site came into the possession of the Mavrikakis family, who were the first to settle in the area, which in turn led to the village being named Mavrikiano. Descendants of the original family sold this property to ANEMOS LTD in 1999, who undertook the reconstruction with reverence to its history and the environment.

THE HOUSE OF KALLIOPI:

Kalliopi is part of an old Church demolished by the Turks at the end of the 15th century, has been rebuilt using only stone and wood. Reverence and respect of the old structure has been exercised, with the help of the local people and their stories. Furniture and fittings are copies of original pieces presently exhibited in the Historical Museum of Crete in Heraklion.

The entrance to the Home leads to a wooden veranda and the front door. On entering Kalliopi to the right is the main room with the sitting area to the left containing two single beds. On a lower level is the fireplace, a single bed and the indoor kitchen.

Towards the back of the home is a full sized bathroom with Jacuzzi. The wooden stairs lead to the attic/loft area with a large double bed. The House can accommodate four adults on two separate rooms. Air-conditioning available if required.

Location: The beach is located 10 minutes walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house "KALLIOPI"

The Venetian occupation of the island ended in the 14th century when Ibraim Pasha, acting as Supreme General of the Ottoman Empire, took possession. For 400 consecutive years, Crete suffered the Turkish suppressive occupation. Contrary to the Venetian occupying forces, who promoted free language and religion, the Turks prohibited both. For the entire period of Turkish occupation Language was taught in 'Secret Schools' and Religious rites were observed in small obscure Churches scattered in the mountains. When these Houses were under construction, a fascinating discovery was made.

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PROPHITIS ELIAS, built in 1950, can be found just 50 metres away. No engravings of the original Church have been found.

The site came into the possession of the Mavrikakis family, who were the first to settle in the area, which in turn led to the village being named Mavrikiano. Descendants of the original family sold this property to ANEMOS LTD in 1999, who undertook the reconstruction with reverence to its history and the environment.

THE HOUSE OF DIMITRA:

The outside door allows you to enter into a small sitting area. On the right is a fully equipped kitchen with all utensils. The door opposite directs you to the large outside area where there is a private dining table to sit 6 adults. View meters away is the swimming pool shared with the home of PENELOPE together with oven and barbeque. Opening the door next to the kitchen you will enter into the first bedroom with two single ironbeds of 1920 with sitting and fireplace. Next is the master bedroom with matrimonial bed and further a fully equipped bathroom with jacuzzi. The home accommodates 4 adults in two different and closed bedrooms.

Location: The beach is located 10 minutes walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house “DIMITRA”

The Venetian occupation of the island ended in the 14th century when Ibrahim Pasha, acting as Supreme General of the Ottoman Empire, took possession. For 400 consecutive years, Crete suffered the Turkish suppressive occupation. Contrary to the Venetian occupying forces, who promoted free language and religion, the Turks prohibited both. For the entire period of Turkish occupation Language was taught in 'Secret Schools' and Religious rites were observed in small obscure Churches scattered in the mountains. When these Houses were under construction, a fascinating discovery was made. An iron Christian Cross wrapped in a cloth was found within a wall as well as a number of Icons. These Icons are now, prominently displayed on the same wall in the Houses of EFTERPI and DIMITRA. Legends handed down through the generations have told us that on this site was a prominent Church dedicated to PROPHITIS ELIAS (the Prophet Eli), which had been constructed long before the Venetian period. It is probable that the Church being on the top of a hill overlooking Elounda/Elous, had served the Religious needs of the inhabitants of the region.

The Church was burnt down and destroyed, by the Turks, at the beginning of the 15th century and was never reconstructed. A new, but smaller Church dedicated to PROPHITIS ELIAS, built in 1950, can be found just 50 metres away. No engravings of the original Church have been found. The site came into the possession of the Mavrikakis family, who were the first to settle in the area, which in turn led to the village being named Mavrikiano. Descendants of the original family sold this property to ANEMOS LTD in 1999, who undertook the reconstruction with reverence to its history and the environment.

THE HOUSE OF PENELOPE:

The entrance leads to a common open area with an ample sized pool and a summer outdoor kitchen shared with the occupants of DIMITRA.

The stairs lead to the terrace and the entrance to the home. On the left is the fully equipped kitchen leading to the main twin-bedded room and to the right is the fireplace. The full sized bathroom is next to a smaller bedroom with twin beds. The wooden stairs lead to the attic/loft area with a double bed.

All the furniture are copies of originals found in the Historical Museum of Heraklion, Crete, but the lamps and fittings are original.

Tiles used are handmade, dated in 1920, taken from old demolished houses and the marble sink was found in a Turkish Hammam. The taps are copies of those of the 1920's. The reddish plaster on the walls is made of ground tiles, the same material that was used in the monasteries of the period 14th - 16th century. Private parking for two cars. There is evidence handed down through the generations that there was a church on this site many years ago.

Location: The beach is located 10 minutes walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house “PENELOPE”

The Venetian occupation of the island ended in the 14th century when Ibraim Pasha, acting as Supreme General of the Ottoman Empire, took possession. For 400 consecutive years, Crete suffered the Turkish suppressive occupation. Contrary to the Venetian occupying forces, who promoted free language and religion, the Turks prohibited both. For the entire period of Turkish occupation Language was taught in 'Secret Schools' and Religious rites were observed in small obscure Churches scattered in the mountains. When these Houses were under construction, a fascinating discovery was made.

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No engravings of the original Church have been found. The site came into the possession of the Mavrikakis family, who were the first to settle in the area, which in turn led to the village being named Mavrikiano. Descendants of the original family sold this property to ANEMOS LTD in 1999, who undertook the reconstruction with reverence to its history and the environment.

THE HOUSE OF ERATO:

In the entrance terrace, there is a pool and a summer kitchen with BBQ shared with the House of CLIO. On entering, the Home there is the main room with fireplace and two single beds, a fully equipped kitchen and a small bathroom with Jacuzzi. Up the stairs to the master bedroom with an old double bed c 1920 and lamps which belonged to the church when intact. Cartwheels dating back to the beginning of the last century have been transformed into the main lighting. Kitchen utensils are copies of originals and the plates are of a type still in use in most villages of Crete.

The House can accommodate four adults in separate rooms.

Furniture and fittings are copies of original pieces presently exhibited in the Historical Museum of Crete in Heraklion. There is evidence handed down through the generations that there was a church on this site many years ago.

Location: The beach is located 10 minute walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house “ERATO”

The Venetian occupation of the island ended in the 14th century when Ibrahim Pasha, acting as Supreme General of the Ottoman Empire, took possession. For 400 consecutive years, Crete suffered the Turkish suppressive occupation. Contrary to the Venetian occupying forces, who promoted free language and religion, the Turks prohibited both. For the entire period of Turkish occupation Language was taught in 'Secret Schools' and Religious rites were observed in small obscure Churches scattered in the mountains. When these Houses were under construction, a fascinating discovery was made.

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No engravings of the original Church have been found. The site came into the possession of the Mavrikakis family, who were the first to settle in the area, which in turn led to the village being named Mavrikiano. Descendants of the original family sold this property to ANEMOS LTD in 1999, who undertook the reconstruction with reverence to its history and the environment.

THE HOUSE OF CLIO:

An external staircase leads to the upper floor and an ample sized balcony with views of the area. In the main room, there are two single beds and a fireplace, to the left a fully equipped kitchen and on the right is the small bathroom with Jacuzzi. The master bedroom is up a few steps and contains an old double bed, c 1920. Cartwheels dating back to the beginning of the last century have been transformed into the main lighting. Kitchen utensils are copies of originals and the plates are of a type still in use in most villages of Crete. The pool and summer kitchen are shared with the House of ERATO. The House can accommodate four adults in separate rooms.

There is evidence handed down through the generations that there was a church on this site many years ago.

Location: The beach is located 10 minute walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house “CLIO”

The Venetian occupation of the island ended in the 14th century when Ibrahim Pasha, acting as Supreme General of the Ottoman Empire, took possession. For 400 consecutive years, Crete suffered the Turkish

suppressive occupation. Contrary to the Venetian occupying forces, who promoted free language and religion, the Turks prohibited both. For the entire period of Turkish occupation Language was taught in 'Secret Schools' and Religious rites were observed in small obscure Churches scattered in the mountains. When these Houses were under construction, a fascinating discovery was made.

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THE HOUSE OF MONASTERY:

The large outside door allows you to enter the small courtyard, in front of you is the small swimming pool and on the left the proper entrance of the house.

On the left is a comfortable sleeping room with a twin bed and on the right a complete bathroom (with bath).

The wooden stairs directs you to the mezzanine floor, and on the right is a bedroom with two single beds of 1930 style, and on the left is another bedroom with a large iron matrimonial bed of same age and style. The stairs continue to the first floor where it exists a complete kitchen, with a large Monasterial table to sit 6 pax further and next to the corridor is a small bathroom, followed by ample size sitting room.

The house is surrounded by balconies overlooking the picturesque town of Elounda and the Bay of Mirabello, it accommodates 6 pax in three different and closed bedrooms, to secure complete privacy. Location: The beach is located 10 minute walk away and about the same for the village of Elounda, about 1 kilometre.

The history of the house "MONASTERY"

The large Church which existed next to the Traditional Home of Monastery namely " Elias the Prophet " was built in 1880 shortly before the departure of the Turkish population living on the island to Asia Minor, to complete the exchange of the population and the Greeks living in Asia Minor to return to Greece. Due to the repeated uprisings, the Turkish suppression increased, and finally resulted to numerous killings of the Greek population, and part of the inhabitants in Church at the time.

The large Church including the small Monastery next to it, were demolished and burned to ashes. The existing presently small Church of " Elias the Prophet " was built in 1950 in the memory of the old Church and the Traditional Home of the Monastery rebuilt. In 2003, is a replica of the original one found in small engravings of the original during the excavations.

ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 1:

On entering the house to the right is a complete bathroom, and on the left is a double room with matrimonial bed. Up few steps and we arrive at the first floor, on the right are two single beds and further along is a complete kitchen and fire place with ample size of sitting and dining room with table to accommodate 4/6 persons. The house sleeps 4 adults in two different areas.

The ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 1 and the ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 2 share a garden area of 300 s.m. where every house has its own dining table, sun chairs, a large area with Lawn, and a super SWIMMING POOL (10m x 5m).

The history of the house “ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 1”

Both houses have been used as stables, for at least 50 years, and the present owners have inherited one donkey and small number of chickens when they bought it three years ago.

ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 2:

On opening the main door you come into a large room, on the right is the sitting area with the fire place, in the middle is the dining one with large Monasterial table to sit 6 adults, at the far end is a complete kitchen.

The stairs lead to the mesazine floor, on the left is a bedroom with matrimonial bed of 1930, in the middle is a complete bathroom, and from that point few stairs on the left lead to another bedroom with matrimonial iron bed of same age, an on the right to a bedroom with two single iron beds also of same age.

The house sleeps 6 adults in three different areas, and in three closed bedrooms.

The ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 1 and the ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 2 share a garden area of 300 s.m. where every house has its own dining table, sun chairs, a large area with Lawn, and a super SWIMMING POOL (10m x 5m).

The history of the house “ALMOND TREE HOUSE No 2”

Both houses have been used as stables, for at least 50 years, and the present owners have inherited one donkey and small number of chickens when they bought it three years ago.

ELOUNDA APARTMENTS:

The apartments 8 in number are situated in the middle of the town of Elounda and at the entrance of the large square of the town. They are all in a medium size building, elegantly constructed, and furnished, they are all same in size and occupancy, and look at the sea and Public beach nearby.

CHC HOTELS

Distance from the public sandy beach, and departure of boats to the Island of Spinalonga, and center of Main square, 3 minutes on foot.

Each apartment is in size 50 sq.

Entering is the sitting area, dining table to sit 4 adults, and complete kitchen with all utensils. On the right is the master bedroom with matrimonial bed and next is another bedroom with two single beds. Total number of beds 4.

At the very end , is a complete bathroom with proper bath, and hairdryer, Bedrooms, and sitting/dining area are all elegantly furnished with local Cretan material to underline the origin and taste of an Island of a 3.500 years history.

Facilities: A/C, Parking, Internet, safe, hairdryer.

Location:

Elounda and apartments, are situated at a distance of km 75 from Iraklion Town and Internation Airport, and 10 km. from the nearest large town of ST NICOLAS.

House sharing swimming pool: Erato with Clio, Dimitra with Penelope
Almond Tree Houses No1 & 2 sharing large swimming pool and garden of 300 sq.
Monastery owns a private swimming pool.