

Educational Tourism Routes – Crete #EduTourism



One of the main questions that the participants of the survey that took place in Greece and Cyprus within the framework of the project " Showcasing educational tourism for the promotion of natural and cultural heritage - EduTourism" to investigate the views of young people and tourism professionals on educational tourism, was to highlight the main characteristics of the selected areas to be included in the educational tourism packages.

The results of the survey showed that Crete as a destination for educational tourism can be based on its natural environment, history, tradition, religious heritage and gastronomy.

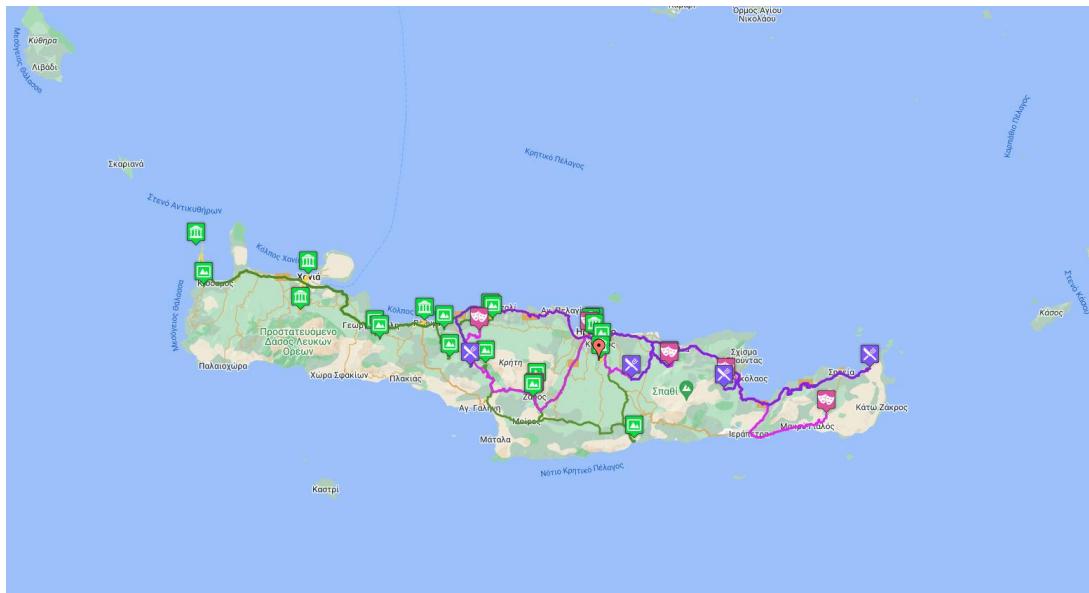
According to these characteristics, eight (8) educational tourism routes in Crete were crea

The routes consist of sites with multiple characteristics and several destinations are included in routes of different themes, thus highlighting the importance of Crete as an educational tourism destination.

The 1st route with the theme Gastronomy - Oenogastronomy includes Amari in Rethymnon, the village of Avdou in Heraklion, the village of Thrapsano in Heraklion, Kritsa in Lassithi and the Toplou Monastery in Sitia and has a duration of about 5 half hours. The visitor who will

follow this route can taste the famous Cretan olive oil, participate in the preparation of local dishes, taste wine fermented in traditional pithouses and the famous Cretan tsikoudia.

The 2nd route includes cultural destinations such as the Artistic Village of Verekyntos in Chania, the village of Margarites in Rethymnon, the Folklore Museum of Zaros in Heraklion, the village of Thrapzano and the village of Avdou. By taking this route, which lasts about 5 hours, one can observe ceramic craftsmen at work, be introduced to the art of pottery, see a re-enactment of the life of the inhabitants of earlier times and participate in a variety of cultural events.



The 3rd route combines the Natural Environment with the Religious Heritage, giving the visitor the opportunity to admire historical temples in places of unsurpassed natural beauty and includes the Gorge of Agios Antonios - Patsos, the forest of Rouvas, the Sylamiano - Knosano Gorge, the village of Avdou Pedialos, the gorge of Tsoutsouros and the Monastery of Toplou. It is a long route with a total duration between the destinations of about 8 half hours.

The 4th route is a tour of the culture and history of the prefectures of Heraklion and Lassithi and includes the Monastery of Toplou, the historic village of Lithines, the ancient city of Lato, the settlement of Kritsa and the village of Avdou Pediaos. On this route the visitor can see places of outstanding historical, folklore and artistic importance with the distance between the destinations lasting about 3 half hours.

In the 5th route one can cross historical destinations in Crete, starting from the fortress of Gramvousa, continuing with the historical village of Therissos, the Venetian fortress of Firka in Chania, Loggia and finally the Venetian Walls with the tomb of Kazantzakis in Heraklion with a total duration of 4 half hours.

The 6th educational tourism route in Crete is also historical and concerns the prefectures of Rethymnon and Heraklion. The route, which lasts 2 half hours, includes the Fortezza Castle, the Tower of Maroulas, the Cave of Melidoni in Rethymnon and the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion and the Necropolis at Fourni Archana in Heraklion. On this route the visitor can admire imposing buildings of great architecture and destinations of archaeological interest.

In the 7th route (4 half hours) the visitor can explore the natural environment and the history of Heraklion and Rethymnon, starting at Knosano-Syllamiano Gorge, then the forest of Rouva, the village of Zaros, the Platania Gorge, the village of Margarites, the Cave of Melidoni, and finally Lake Kournas.

The 8th and last route in Crete, lasting about 5 hours, consists of natural environment and cultural destinations. Here, the visitor can tour the area of Gramvousa, the Therissos Gorge, the Artistic Village of Verekynthos, the settlement of Maroulas, the village of Kournas, the village of Melidoni, and the area of Amari.

Alongside the routes in Crete, six (6) routes in Cyprus and three (3) cross-border routes were designed, linking historically, environmentally and culturally Crete and Cyprus. The aim is to create a new educational tourism package with significant benefits for the final target groups, which are young people aged 16-25 years old. The routes will be included in the EduTourism educational platform accompanied by rich audiovisual material and descriptions for all destinations

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