
GONIA MONASTERY

The monastery lies on the Rodopou peninsula. It was founded in 1618 and has fine icons and a particular treasure in the museum is a moving figure of Christ crucified, painted by one of Crete's most celebrated 17th artists, Konstantinos Palaiokepas. From the church terrace there is a wonderful view of Rodopou, the bay and Chania.

KEFALI

The village has a church containing some of the best frescos in the area Metamorphosis tou Sotirou, Transfiguration of the Saviour. In the dark interior, haloes and eyes stand out startlingly from the faded figures in the early 14th century frescoes, painted at a time when the resurgence of Byzantine culture under Crete's Venetian rulers was at its height. Visitors down the years scratched their graffiti dates in the wall of the church, some date back 400 years.

PLATANOS

It is a good place to refresh yourself before the long and spectacular climb across the mountainous coastline of western Crete. It is worth taking the side road that winds past the village houses where old men and women sit out under the trees, enjoying a wonderful view over the roofs of Platanos to the roll and rise of the back of the Rodopou peninsula. In the village church there are faded frescos and icons.

VOUKOLIES

Here, the Saturday morning market is a long-established tradition that you may want to join. And if you miss it, you can always go visit the wonderful Byzantine churches of Saint Constantine, Saint Andreas, Saint Athanasios and Saint Photios nearby.

DIKTYNNAION

The city developed mainly during the reign of Hadrian. It was a sanctuary dedicated to Diktyнна-Artemis. Today, there are remains of a temple, altar and water reservoir from this period and of earlier buildings. A giant statue of Trajan, a statuette of Artemis, and a representation of Venus have been excavated and can be seen in Gonias Monastery.

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