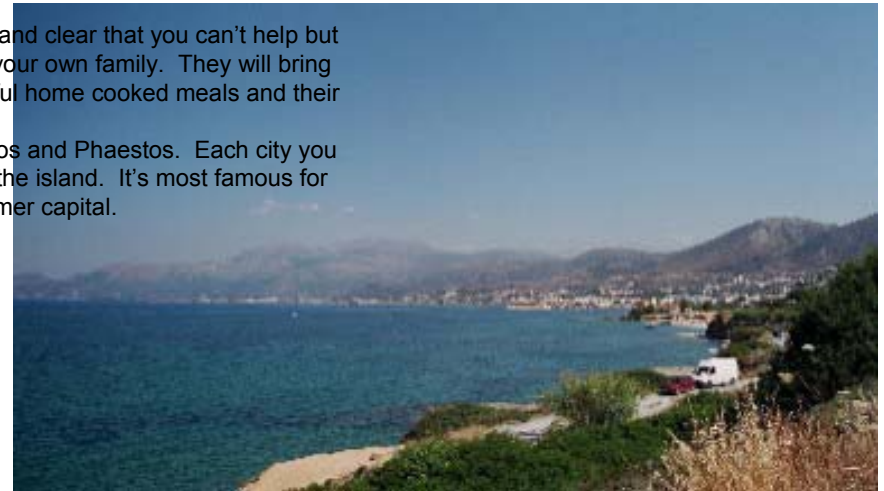


**Welcome to the beautiful island of Crete! Host to The McKenzie Institute's 9th McKenzie Institute Conference. And what a host country...**

The weather is beautiful, with warm sunny days, and the Sea of Crete so blue and clear that you can't help but find yourself going for a swim. The hospitality of the people is as if they were your own family. They will bring you into their tavernas, share photos of their family, and feed you with wonderful home cooked meals and their homemade krasi and raki to drink. Ahhh.... Etsi i-ne I zo-i! (*That's life.*)

The island is rich with history of the Minoans, Venetians, the palaces of Knossos and Phaestos. Each city you visit has its own story to tell. The **city of Chania** is located on the west end of the island. It's most famous for the picturesque old Venetian Quarter, but there are lots more to see of this former capital.

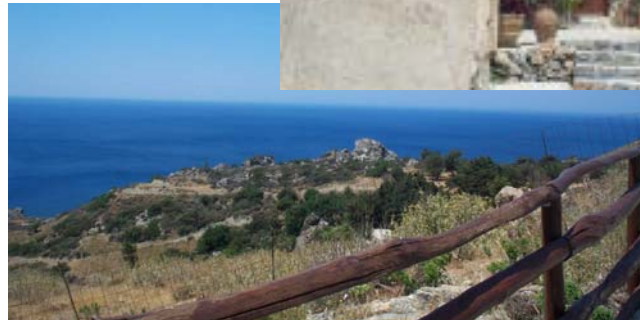


There are many artisans in this city which makes for an excellent shopping experience. The Covered Market and Leather lane are but a few of my favorites. The Venetian harbor and its massive fortifications is a sight that postcards are made from.

Traveling east toward the **city of Rethymno** you will find the Venetian-Ottoman quarter and another historic fortified harbor. The old quarter is a maze of streets full of shops and restaurants, and if you are too busy soaking up the culture, quite easy to become lost.



Traveling south you will find **Moni Prevali**, a monastery with an incredible view of the Libyan Sea. As with most of Crete's monasteries it played a large role in the rebellion of the Turkish rule. After the WWII Battle of Crete, many Allied soldiers were sheltered here before being evacuated to Egypt.



Traveling south east you will find Phaestos. **Phaestos** was the second most important palace city of Minoan Crete, behind Knossos. The layout of the palace is identical to Knossos. Rooms are arranged around a central court. Fortunately Sir Arthur Evans did not discover Phaestos and thus there was no reconstruction as was with Knossos. The palace city is still an active excavation site (and a good stop for a family photo.)



Returning north you will discover **Knossos, the capital of Minoan Crete**. Knossos was uncovered in 1900 by Sir Arthur Evans and is one of the most significant archaeological finds of the century. Evans financed the entire reconstruction, and as a result he took liberties to recreate his vision of the Minoan palace. Most of the ruins that you see date back to 1700 BC. The palace was designed to meet the needs of a complex city: domestic quarters for the king and queen, residences for officials and priests, homes of common people and burial grounds. There were public reception rooms, shrines, workshops, treasuries and storerooms. They even had indoor plumbing!



**Iraklion is the capital of Crete**, just west of the Knossos. Like most capitals it is a bustling hectic city with plenty of traffic. I found it much easier to get lost driving the streets of Iraklion than walking the Old Quarters of Chania and Rethymno.



The last city on the tour is Hersonissos, where the International McKenzie Conference was located. This is a resort town designed to meet the needs of tourism. The Creta Maris Resort and Conference Center, the site of our event, was well equipped and designed as an ideal conference venue. Many of the local Cretans have retreated to the pleasant little villages on the hill behind the main road.



For those of you who were unable to attend the conference, or were unable to spend more time, this was a wonderful opportunity missed. The conference itself, in Lawrence Dott's own words, was "outstanding", and the island of Crete was remarkable.

We hope you enjoy our review of the events as best we can convey them albeit missing the warm Mediterranean breezes. Yammas! ...*(Here's to us)* Yvonne Body, PT, Dip. MDT