

## Weather conditions in Crete

Crete straddles two climatic zones, the Mediterranean and the North African, mainly falling within the former. As such, the climate in Crete is primarily temperate. The atmosphere can be quite humid, depending on the proximity to the sea, while winter is fairly mild.

Snowfall is common on the mountains between December and May, but rare in the low lying areas, especially near the coast when it only stays on the ground for a few minutes or hours. However, a truly exceptional cold snap swept the island in February 2004 and twice in 2011, during which period the whole island was blanketed with snow. During the Cretan summer, average temperatures reach the high 20s-low 30s Celsius (mid 80s to mid 90s Fahrenheit), with maxima touching the upper 30s-mid 40s (above 110 °F / 43.3 °C).

The south coast, including the Mesara plain and Asterousia mountains, falls in the North African climatic zone, and thus enjoys significantly more sunny days and high temperatures throughout the year. In southern Crete, date palms bear fruit, and swallows remain year-round rather than migrate to Africa. The region around Ierapetra is renowned for its exceptional all-year-round agricultural production.

The best months to go for hiking is from September to June and for climbing all year long! You can climb almost the whole year as even the cold days you will find some place in the south with much lower temperatures than north. All you need is to read carefully our climbing section and especially the introduction articles of each area. You can always post a message to the [forums](#) too.

