

# Travel Guide to Takis Shelter



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RALLIS TRAVEL

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

JUNE 2021



# Takis Shelter

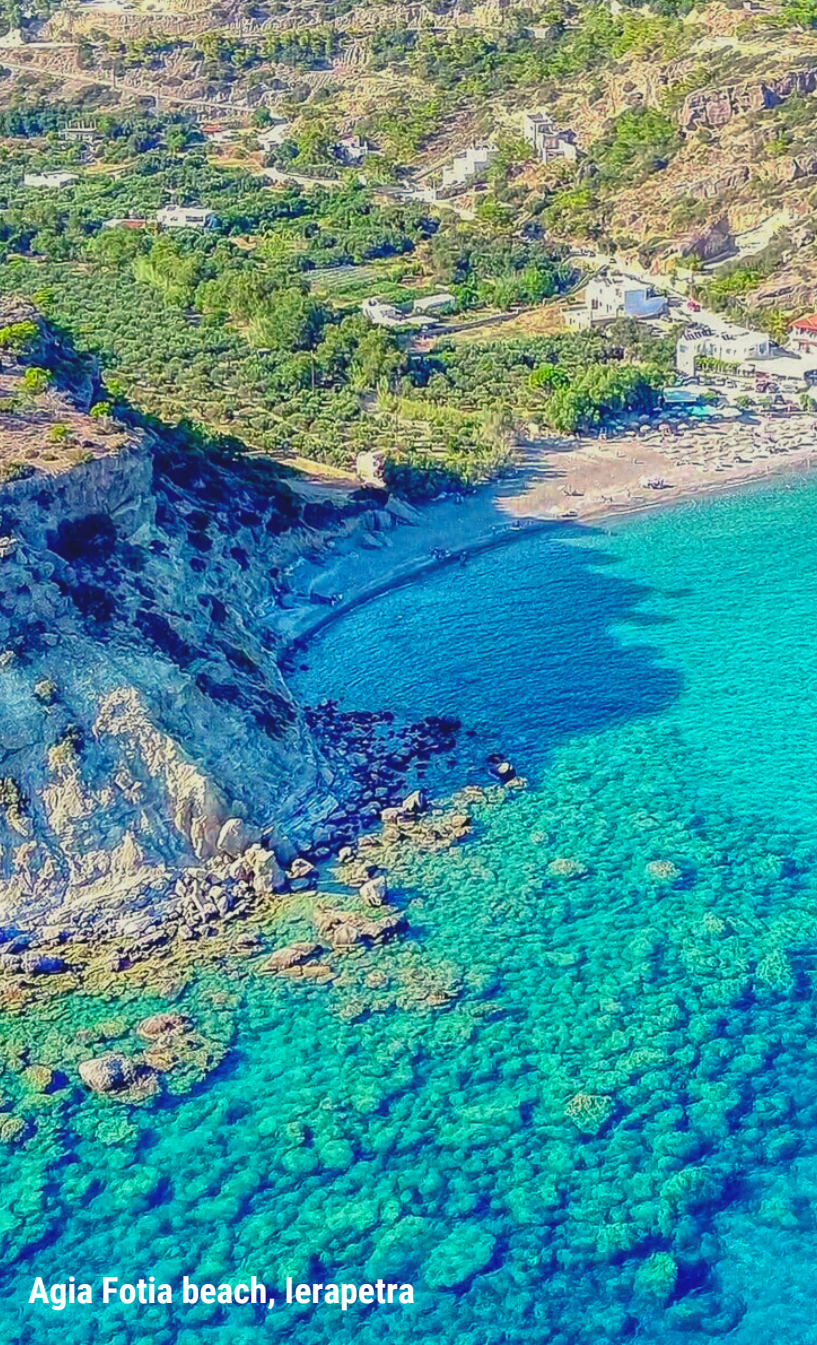
No chain. No cage. No kill

Takis was passing from the rubbish area of his hometown Ierapetra Greece and that changed his life. There he found a dog with a broken leg that he started to take care. Soon he was taking care of 40 dogs in that area. People started threatening him so Takis bought a land and built Takis shelter in 2013. Soon Takis' money ran out and he had no help from local authorities or from the government. He created a Facebook page in 2015 so that people can see his work and donate. 8 years later the shelter is over 33.000 m<sup>2</sup> and is running 100% from donations. The shelter now hosts more than 500 dogs, 50 cats, 10 goats and 4 sheep. The monthly expenses of the shelter are over 15.000 euros.

The stray problem in Greece is very big. The economic crisis caused a lot of people to abandon their dogs on the streets and because Greeks did not castrate their pets these dogs multiplied and now there are thousands of stray dogs and cats in Greece and more are being born every day.

Takis shelter needs first and foremost people to adopt its dogs and cats. Takis wants to do responsible adoptions so that his dogs and cats never suffer again. For this reason he doesn't ship animals. If you want to adopt an animal from Takis Shelter you will have to book a flight to Crete, visit the shelter, see the dogs and then choose and take the animal home with you.





Agia Fotia beach, Ierapetra

# Location

Takis Shelter is located in the island of Crete, Greece in the town of Ierapetra, the southernmost city of Europe. Many people combine their summer vacation with adopting their best friend. With Crete being such a huge tourist destination there are many cheap flights that land daily on the island. For many people, it is cheaper to have a vacation in Crete and adopt a dog than paying the adoption fees of a dog in their country.

To reach Takis shelter you will have to reach the island of Crete first. This can be done either by:

- Flying to Heraklion or Chania
- Taking a boat from Athens or the islands to Heraklion or Chania

**Heraklion is a 1.5 hour drive** from Takis shelter

**Chania is a 4 hour drive** from Takis shelter.

If you are going to adopt an animal from Takis shelter, we strongly recommend to book your return flight through Heraklion.





# Visiting the shelter

## Day Visits

**OPEN 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Monday - Saturday**

**CLOSED Sunday**

Please note: the number of people who can visit per day is limited. Do not appear at the shelter without booking an appointment.

You can book your appointment below:  
<https://takissshelter.org/visit>

There is no physical address to the shelter so after contacting the shelter you will be given a rendezvous point in the town of Ierapetra and a representative of the shelter will meet you there to lead you to the shelter. The shelter welcomes visitors who wish to bring donations, visit the dogs and cats, and look for a new family member.

Children under the age of 8 cannot enter the shelter for safety reasons. Also visiting the shelter if you have fear of dogs is not recommended as the dogs run free and they are not enclosed in kennels. Because of the dogs' needs, it is not possible to accommodate a different schedule on a daily basis. Thank you for your understanding.

For your comfort, please bring sunglasses, wind protection, sunscreen, and plenty of water or beverages. Sturdy shoes are strongly recommended.







Terry



Cola & Jersey

# Adoption

## 1. FILL OUT THE ADOPTION FORM

Before you book your flight you will need to apply to adopt an animal. You can do so through this link <https://takissshelter.org/adopt-dogs>

An adoption coordinator will contact you and walk you through the process and the possible animals you can adopt.

## 2. BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Before you book your tickets please contact the airline and make sure there is available kennel space for your pet on your flight back. Many people book tickets without having the ticket of the pet in mind and they end up changing or even losing their tickets.

If you need help making sure your airfare tickets are in order Rallis travel ( <http://rallistravel.com> ) is here to help you.

## 3. BOOK YOUR ACCOMODATION & YOUR TRANSFER

There are a lot of options ranging from cheap apartments to 5\* hotels around Takis shelter, however not all of them are pet friendly. Make sure and ask before you book.

If you want to visit other places besides Ierapetra during your vacation, or you need any help booking your accomodation & your transfer , Rallis travel ( <http://rallistravel.com> ) is here to help you.

## 4. CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOG

Takis shelter strongly recommends choosing your pet while at the shelter, because the personal contact and chemistry with the animal is very important.



# Adoption

## 5. GET TO KNOW THE DOG

Most dogs in Takis shelter have never been on a leash or lived in a house. Therefore it is important to spend some time walking the dog on the leash and bringing the dog to your room to get acquainted with you.

## 6. VET VISIT

All dogs visit the vet for a health check, to finish the adoption process and issue the animal passport, necessary for the dog to travel. This process takes about 1-1.5 hours

## 7. COSTS

All animals in Takis shelter are given for **FREE**.

However you will have to pay for:

- The pet's health check and passport (50-80 €) \*
- The IATA-compliant animal carrier (40-150 €) \*\*
- The pet's airfare (50-200 €) \*\*

\*Depending on the vaccines/exams the animal will need

\*\*Depending on the size of the animal

## 8. FLIGHT HOME

Please make sure that you are at the airport at least 2.5 hours before the flight.

## 9. BE PATIENT ON THE FIRST FEW DAYS

For most animals the flight is a scary experience. Please give them a break and be patient in the first few days as they will feel scared and uncomfortable. We suggest NOT to take the dog out on a walk the first few days until they get comfortable with the house, you and the leash.



Rosie



Willy



# Traveling during Covid-19

## A

It is compulsory for all incoming passengers on international flights to fill in the PLF (Passenger Locator Form) the previous day before the flight & you can find it in the link below:

<https://travel.gov.gr/#/>

## B

Passengers travelling on International flights to Greece , must meet ONE of the below criteria:

- Display a negative molecular test (PCR) for COVID-19 up to 72 hours before arrival. The certificate must be in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian or Russian, properly issued, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

OR

- Hold a certificate of vaccination. The certificate must be in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, language, issued by a Public authority, provided that the vaccination was completed at least 14 days before arrival to Greece. The vaccination certificate must include the name of the passenger, the type of vaccine administered and the number of doses.

OR

- Have a proof of recovery from COVID-19 valid as of two months after positive PCR or Antigen test up to nine months. The proof must be either in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian or Russian, properly issued, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

OR

- Hold EU digital COVID certificate, issued based on the EU requirements, in digital or paper form.



**To learn which rules apply for your return flight to your country you will have to check on your government's latest release on travel rules and regulations as these change daily, in different countries and different regions.**



# Traveling during Covid-19

ARE YOU IN CRETE & YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY?

Find out where you can take the Covid-19 Test to the informations below :

## LABORATORY COVID TEST

### IERAPETRA

Symnianiaki Aikaterini

A: Giannakou 14 , IERAPETRA

T : +30 2842026700

E : symnianiaki@gmail.com

### HERAKLION

Symantiraki Maria

A : Zografou 11, HERAKLION

T : +30 2810 346949

E : symantirakimaria@gmail.com

### CHANIA

IASIS - General Clinic Gavrilaki

A: Markou Botsari 76 , CHANIA

T : +30 2821070800

E : reception@iasishospital.gr





# Ierapetra

## TOP THINGS TO DO

### 1. CHRISSI ISLAND

Ierapetra is the launch pad for boat trips to uninhabited Chrissi Island. It is famous for its golden beaches, clear water shimmering in myriad shades of blue, cedar forest, traces of Minoan ruins, and Belegirina, a beach covered with a mountain of shells.

### 2. FORTRESS KALES

The medieval fortress "Kales", built at the edge of the mole of the ancient harbour, on the side of the old town. The fortress is reputed to have been built by the Venetian Genoese pirate Pescadone in 1212 and since then it has been strongly tied with Ierapetra's history.

### 3. VIRA POTZI RESTAURANT

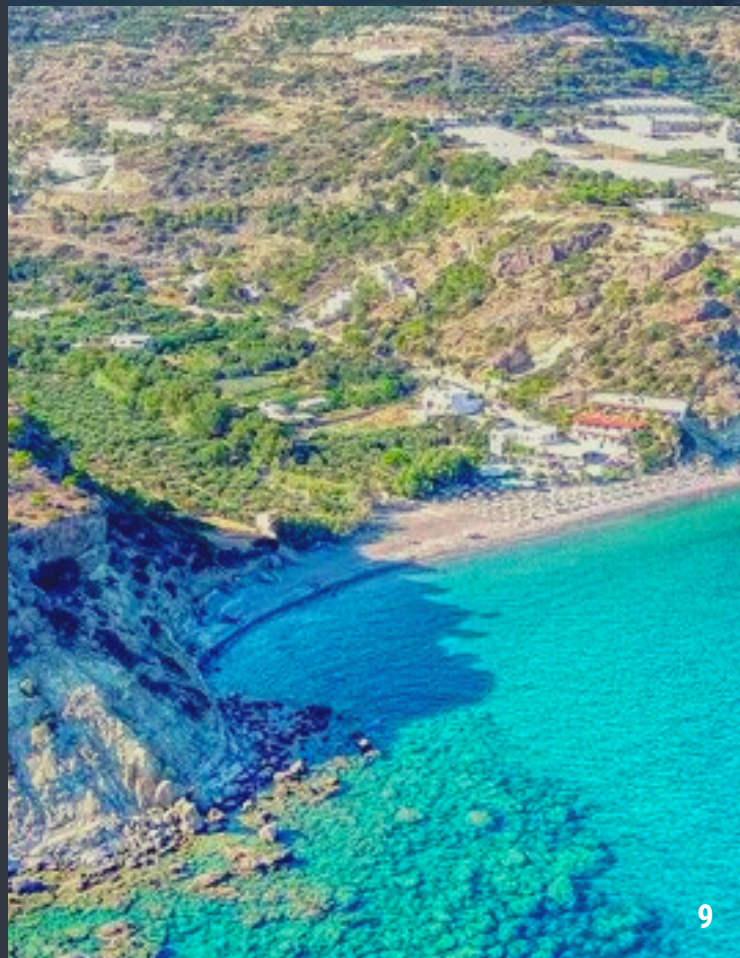
Next to the Kales Fortress, this next-gen Cretan seaside tavern has an enticing menu packed with culinary twists such as grilled calamari with zucchini sticks and fava (bean dip) or the crowd-pleasing shrimp orzo-pasta pilaf. A classy place with nary a plastic picture menu in sight.

### 4. ISLAND CAFE

With its mint-blue-and-white interior, modern tunes, and mixed crowd of different ages, this cafe-bar is a good spot no matter where the hands are on the clock. In season it practically never closes.

### 5. KOUTSOUNARI BEACH

The village of Koutsounari, some 7km east of Ierapetra, boasts one of the longest beaches in Crete (4.5km). It's great for sunbathing in relative solitude in the peak summer months and for extended walks any time. The beach is about 1km south of the village itself and consists of coarse greyish sand





# Things to do in Crete

Some travellers might prefer to plan a holiday in meticulous detail, while others would rather go with the flow and decide what to do on the spot. Whichever you are, these 6 places & ( not only) absolutely have to be on your list when visiting this Greek island.

## 1. Knossos Minoan Palace

Located about five kilometres (3.1mi) from Iraklio, Knossos is considered Europe's oldest city, and its Minoan Palace is a must-see. Discovered in 1878 by Minos Kalokairinos, Knossos was once a ceremonial and political hub of Minoan civilisation and culture.

## 2. Spinalonga

Off the coast of Elounda, Spinalonga is a small rocky island also known as the Leper Island, as it was a leper colony until 1957. Now abandoned, the island is a major attraction for visitors who want to explore the ghost town and plunge into its tragic past

## 3. Cretaquarium

One of Europe's biggest aquariums, Cretaquarium opened in 2005. From a plethora of marine organisms such as fish, sharks, jellyfish and even tiny sea horses, the aquarium displays the rich diversity of Mediterranean marine life. A fun activity for visitors of all ages





# Things to do in Crete

Crete beaches are out of this world. Surrounded by verdant nature, they have magical waters covering all the shades of blue and sugar-fine sand. Balos beach, Vai beach, and Elafonisi beach are some of the most scenic Crete beaches & not only!!

Lay under the sun, feel the water gently lapping at your feet, gaze out to the endless sea, take a dip into the paradise waters... Visiting the best beaches in Crete is a bucket list experience!

## 4.Elafonissi Beach

Elafonissi is a real slice of paradise. Located approximately 70km (43.4mi) from Chania, Elafonissi is a Natura 2000 Protection Program-listed area blessed with natural beauty, clear shallow waters and fine sand beaches.

## 5.Balos Beach

Balos is a fantastic location on the northwestern side of Crete, in the region of Chania. This amazing place is like the Caribbean side of Crete. With exotic waters, soft white sand and a huge island with a Venetian Castle on top, the beach of Balos amaze all visitors at first sight.

## 6.Vai Beach

On the northeastern side of Crete, in the region of Lassithi, is a fantastic beach called Vai. The special thing about this beach is that it is surrounded by the largest palm tree forest in Europe, consisting of 5,000 trees. The soft sand, the crystal water, and the natural beauty make this beach an inviting place for families.







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If you wish to visit the shelter, adopt a dog /cat & combine your vacation in the beautiful island of Crete or wherever you may need within Greece, we are here to help you book your flight, your accommodation & your transfer.

Our travel specialist is here for you to arrange you a tailored trip ONLY for you according to your needs!!

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Adopt  
don't  
shop

A photograph of a dog standing in front of a teepee made of reeds. The dog is looking up at the reeds. The background is a dense forest. The text "Adopt don't shop" is overlaid in a yellow, cursive font.