

*Antiquam exquirite matrem...* (AEN. 3.96)

Apollo's prophecy, misinterpreted by Anchises, leads Aeneas and his comrades to the island of Crete. Everything seems to prosper there and the place appears as an ideal place to be occupied by Trojans. However, a sudden pestilence destroys everything and the *promised land* turns into a hellish land. Trojans need to set sail once again...



## History of Crete and archaeological evidence

- Prehistoric Crete
- Minoan civilization
- Mycenaean civilization
- Archaic and Classical period
- Roman rule
- Byzantine Empire - first period
- Andalusian Arab rule
- Byzantine Empire - second period
- Venetian rule
- Ottoman rule



A clue to the vitality of the legend of Aeneas on the island was seen in some coins of the fourth century B.C. of the city of Aptaera (located on the coast just east of Chania), which depict the goddess Aphrodite on the obverse and Aeneas on the reverse.

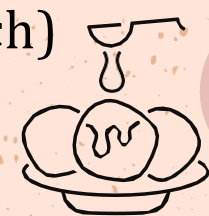
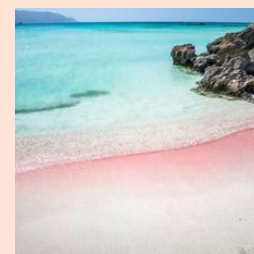
Cretean history was previously known only through myths and legends. British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans found and studied remains on Crete called the "Minoan" civilization after its king Minos.

Pergamea is a fictional settlement in the *Aeneid*. Pergamea is the name of the city that Aeneas and his crew began to found on the island of Crete. In Delos, Apollo had delivered them an oracle telling them that they would find a new city in their ancient country of origin (*antiquam exquirite matrem: Aen. 3.96*)

## Between fiction and reality, lies a past & a future - Crete Finding home

A plethora of activities and cultural aspects to discover:

- Hiking trails & mountains: Mount Ida
- Ports: Chania & Heraklion's ports
- Minoan Palaces & Fortresses
- Religious landmarks: Churches, mosques.
- Museums: Archeological & modern 3D/9D museums
- Festivals & Religious Feasts
- Beaches: Elafonissi Beach (Pink sand beach)
- Cretan cuisine: Dakos, Loukoumades..
- The Cretan Pentozali dance



"Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories."  
 Chimamanda Adichie [Nigerian Writer]

"Home for me is not my passport or accent but these very particular experiences and the places they occur"  
 Taiye Selasi [British-American writer on the multiplicity of identity]

It is through Aeneas's story in Crete that we are looking to find our own story, experience and find a piece of home for ourselves.

Heraklion's port (10 min from Heraklion's airport) & mount Ida mentioned in the *Aeneid*, can be a first destination to visitors.

