



Make the most of your stay by exploring the numerous and stunning natural attractions that abound in our area. Blue View Villas is delighted to suggest some of the most awe-inspiring destinations you may not miss.



## [Azilakodasos Wood](#)

The holm oak wood of Azilakodasos is located 11km west of Vrachasi and 9km south of Malia, in the foothills of Mount Selena in Dikti Range.

The small forest can be accessed either by walking the smooth path from Krassi village or by following the uphill trail from Chamoprina wood near Malia.

It is a beautiful forest with holm oaks or azilakes (in Cretan dialect), i.e., trees of the species *Quercus ilex*. These oaks are rare and can only be found in few other areas of Crete and Aegean islands, such as Ikaria. The distance from Blue View Villas to Azilakodasos Wood is 10.78 km or 6.7 miles.





## Trail Mohos - Malia

Before the arrival of tourism and the construction of the major roads in the 20th century, the inhabitants of Mohos had developed very close relationships with the rich and fertile area of Malia.

Thus, they built a stone path that connected the two areas. The trail is preserved in very good condition and attracts many hikers usually combine it with the Bulgarian footpath starting from Stalis so as their route is almost circular.

The trail starts from the picturesque village of Mohos, crosses the village's soccer field and soon starts climbing near the old mill park where once the locals used the windmills for grinding their grain.

After reaching the highest point of the route that has a unique sea view, we start the relaxing descent through a 2m wide stone paved path to Malia. In the middle of the distance, you can visit the small cave of Maria. The distance from Blue View Villas to the trail is 3.3 km or 2 miles.





## Maria's Cave

The cave of Maria is located west - southwest of Malia at an altitude of 106 meters along the trail that leads from Malia to Mochos.

The orientation of the cave is south east and the temperature of the cave is relatively high. During the summer months the humidity of the cave is quite high.

Its length is about 30m and there are several narrow passages.

From the first room in order to reach the main room, you have to pass through a very small opening. Life in the cave is not developed, probably due to many visitors.

The distance from Blue View Villas to Maria's Cave is 3.48 km or 2.16 miles.





## Aposelemis Gorge

The canyon Aposelemis exits at the settlement Agrianá (or Adrianna as its inhabitants call it) near Hersonissos. It is the longest and most important geological canyon in the northern part of the prefecture of Heraklion. It is crossed by the river Aposelemis, but the part of the canyon has water only after heavy rain, although the river at higher altitude has water during all wet months, due to the phyllite rocks.

Despite the long size, easy walk and its proximity to Heraklion it still remains quite unknown to most locals. The canyon Aposelemis forms across its route incredibly beautiful and impressive vertical walls of up to 200 meters and several rock shelters.

Despite the rough walls, the bed is quite smooth all the way without technical difficulties. In recent years the Municipality of Hersonissos has created a very beautiful path along the bed which makes walking enjoyable and easy. There are some recreation areas with wooden benches at the beginning and at the end of the trail. This important ecosystem hosts waterfowl birds and birds of prey, but the real surprise is a hidden riparian wood especially in its upper part.





The mixed forest is composed of old trees with huge trunks, real monuments of nature. There are plane, holm oak, oak, holly, carob, osier and other trees...

The path at several points is really hidden by the dense forest. Just before the south entrance, inside the river there are Xerokamares, an old stone bridge.

The easiest way to access the canyon is through its north exit. There is a dirt road that heads from the bridge of the old national road to Aposelemis gorge. Following this dirt road, we pass the picturesque and ruined settlement of Plevris, come below the bridge of the new highway until we reach the point where the trail starts. Crossing of the gorge requires at least two hours.

The distance from Blue View Villas to Aposelemis Gorge is 6.73 km or 4.18 miles.





## Havgas Gorge (Katharo) at Lassithi Plateau

Havgas Gorge is an amazing gorge of rare natural beauty, the unique gorge in Lassithi Plateau, (do not confuse that with the Gorge near Kalamafka). Hiking in the upper part of the gorge is difficult even for experienced climbers. The gorge carries water from Katharo Plateau to Lassithi Plateau.

It is located between the peaks of Katharios Lakkos (1197 m) and Kefala (1269 m). Its length is about 3-4 km and in some places the sides rise almost vertically to a great height.

The landscape in the canyon is virgin because it is relatively unknown and a very few lucky people decide to visit this. If you decide to hike in that, you can follow the E4 trail starting next to the reservoir of Agios Georgios, near the village of Agios Konstantinos in the Lassithi Plateau. Havgas hosts hundreds of species of animals and birds, being a very rich ecosystem, especially the small natural lake of the gorge. On the slopes of the mountains there are plenty of trees and herbaceous vegetation.

The distance from Blue View Villas to Havgas Gorge is 17.56 or 10.91 miles.





## Mylonas Waterfall and Gorge

The beautiful gorge of Mylonas or Agios Ioannis is located 18km east of Ierapetra. It starts near the village Agios Ioannis, at an altitude of 500m, and exits on the beach Kakia Skala. The most imposing wild part of the gorge has 4 high waterfalls, thus canyoning equipment is necessary.

However, the high fall of the canyon of Mylonas can be accessed through two ascending trails that begin near the beach of Kakia Skala.

The first trail (easy – 20') comes on the pine wooded side of the gorge and a big part of it is the old concrete ditch, previously used for transferring water to Koutsoynari. The other trail comes along the riverbed and especially in winter is very tiring (the time needed is about 1:30 hours)

At the end of the ascending trails, at an altitude of 300m, you will meet the 40m high fall of Mylonas with a small pond with crystal clear water, ideal for a cooling bath. In winter and after heavy rainfalls, there is a second waterfall on the left of the main fall, forming a spectacular image.

The distance from Blue View Villas to Mylonas Waterfall and Gorge is 48.51 km or 30.14 miles.





## Ha Gorge

The imposing Gorge of Ha is considered the most beautiful technical gorge in Crete. It is one dominant feature of the area of Ierapetra, in front of the beautiful village and the Minoan settlement of Vassiliki is where the gorge is located. It is formed on the western side of Mount Thripti and transports the waters from the plateau of Thripti to the isthmus of Ierapetra, which are then moved on the beach of Pachia Ammos.

It is considered one of the wildest gorges in Crete, a rare morphological wonder of nature, probably caused by a tectonic earthquake. It remains a virgin environment, untouched by man, who still finds its formation prohibitive for exploration or development. Canyoners consider it the King of the gorges of Crete. Ha has about 33 rappels, the largest is 35 meters high, therefore any attempt to cross it without technical equipment is impossible. At some points the walls come very close, just a few centimeters, which makes the gorge special. The entrance of the gorge is very narrow, about 3 m and opens from the top. Right before the entrance there is a pond, created by a small waterfall that comes from another lake above. This is not visible from the root of the mountain but you can see it once you climb carefully a few rocks. As you reach the inside, you can see many small ponds and waterfalls and as you proceed further inside, you will be in awe from the view. The distance from Blue View Villas to Ha Gorge is 44.50 km or 27.68 miles.







## Richtis Gorge

The amazing gorge of Richtis is located in Lasithi Prefecture on the north side between Agios Nikolaos and Sitia. It begins just outside the village Exo Mouliana and it ends at the Richtis beach, which is located on the east side of the village of Kalabro. The total length of the route is approximately 3 kilometers and the elevation difference between the starting point and the beach is about 350 meters. The gorge, even during the summer, has enough water which is regularly used by the locals.

Hiking in the gorge takes around 3-4 hours. The route starts from the stone-arched bridge of Lachanas (19th century), and it continues in a lush landscape in the river, an amazing scenery of East Crete. The mountain is actually above your head. Platan, oleander and sage are numerous, and the smells of fresh herbs constantly change. The highlight of course, is the beautiful waterfall of over 20 meters, and forms a small pond just below it. The path finishes in the beautiful pebbly beach of Richtis. The beach has enough tamarisk trees, with stone seats and tables around.

The distance from Blue View Villas to Richtis Gorge is 53.1 km or 33 miles.





## Kritsa Gorge

Kritsa Gorge starts near the picturesque village of Kritsa, 9.5km southwest of Agios Nikolaos and ends at the village Tapes. It's 4km long, reaching a width of only 1.5m in some places.

It is easily accessible with a few points that need attention, where you have to climb over some big rocks (not too hard). The only time you should not visit the gorge is when it has rained previously and there are ponds in the gorge, which block the passages. The entrance of the canyon near Kritsa is impressive, as the mountain is torn in two, shaping the narrow passage of Havgas (havgas is a common name for gorges in East Crete).

Apart from the main path starting next to the stone bridge of Kritsa, there's a second trail starting in the village. Near the starting point, there is a large rock, which you can climb quite easily. From there, the canyon becomes more impressive, with very narrow passages and tall walls surrounding you and blocking sun rays. It is a masterpiece of nature, which is worth a visit especially in spring, when flowers bloom and there is a little water.

The distance from Blue View Villas to Kritsa Gorge is 25,25 km or 15.69 miles.

