

Tarkan's Erasmus experience, Erasmus student at the Department of Political Science during the summer semester of the academic year 2014-2015.

I am Tarkan who was one of the erasmus students in Rethymno, Crete. Having been to Crete and lived in its amazing city, Rethymno for 5 months in my erasmus period, I have experienced lots of good memories, different culture, history, and entertainment... Before going to Crete, I have not thought that it would be amazing experienced for me; but now I am thinking that it was one of the best choices in my life.

Crete is an island that witnesses the History. You can see many museums, mosques, churches, castles or any other remains from history in any of the Crete's cities. Crete Island is one of the oldest land in the world and its history starts in 3000 B.C. It was homeland of many societies like Minoans, Venetians, Ottomans... When you are walking in beautiful Rethymno's narrow streets or other cities, you can feel yourself that you are in old times, especially if you are in Old town. One of the best examples of historical places in Rethymno is Venetian Castle, Fortezza that used by Venetians and Ottomans, and waking up by seeing this awesome castle was wonderful feeling (my home in Rethymno was opposite to Fortezza :). There are also some museums that I have seen like Old town Museum in the centre of the Oldtown in Rethymno. Also I have been some historical places out of the Rethymno like Spinalonga Castle in Eastern part of Crete, Knossos Palace near to Heraklio, Lion Square in Heraklio, Venetians Walls and Castles in Chania and Heraklio... You can smell the history in these places.

Crete has also lots of natural beauties. You can see them in the every centimeter of Crete. One of the best natural places that impressed me is Omalos plateau that is a natural park in the western part of Crete. You reach there by going in dangerous curvy roads, but it was amazing to be there. Also there are some natural beaches like Balos, Matala in Crete. Caves and huge rocks in Matala give you beautiful view when you are swimming, and of course if you are a good swimmer you can jump from them to cold water...

Finally, I would like to talk about awesome university, people, daily life and nights in Rethymno, Crete. I always felt that it is my home university when I was in Crete University. Everyone try to help us in the university. Officers, professors, students have been so nice to us... (To be honest some professors were strict, but if you do your best, you can get what you want). Moreover people in daily life were amazing to. Everyone is smiling to you, taxi driver, shopper, bank officer... If you are going to buy bread for your breakfast when your friends wait for bread, a man who is grocer can invite you for their amazing breakfast then you can find yourself in a fabulous breakfast -it was me- :)). Also if you are in restaurant for eating souvlaki, a waiter can offer raki or wine for you... Nights were fantastic in Rethymno. You have many opportunities to go for having fun. If you want to go club and dancing, Metropolis, Ice Club, and so many others wait for you. In these clubs you have many glass of beer because everyone offers a beer to someone. If you don't like to dance, you have many options to go tavern and listen to music like Simpligades, Rakadiko, Arabbas and so many others taverns. I have been to all of them with my friends, each of them were incredible... Being there with awesome people, drinking raki, ouzo, wine, eating lots of delicious meals were amazing to me.

Any second in Crete I didn't feel that I was in another country, I was in my country with my people. No words were enough to tell something about Crete... stay awesome, see you soon Crete (you will see some photo of mine at attached... these are the part of my memories in Crete).

