

ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN CRETE

By Vaishnavi Badiger and Eesha Bharatham



Origin of the creative idea

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Henry Morris Memorial Trust for their generous funding of £300 each to cover our travel expenses, enabling our project to go ahead. Eesha and I, Vaishnavi, share a passion for exploring *historical architecture* worldwide and noting the unique features of English architecture. Delving into *archaeology*, we aimed to uncover the history of our chosen destination, **Crete**. Notably, Crete houses Europe's renowned **Heraklion Archaeological Museum**, guiding us through prehistoric times to the present day and enriching our understanding of **Greece's Minoan culture**. Planning this project required meticulous budgeting, ensuring a cost-effective trip. We stayed in Malia and visited our pre-planned destinations, including **Knossos Palace, Malia Palace, and the museum of Heraklion**. Prior to the trip, we carefully organized our travel arrangements, meals, accommodation, and budget to ensure a smooth and successful journey.

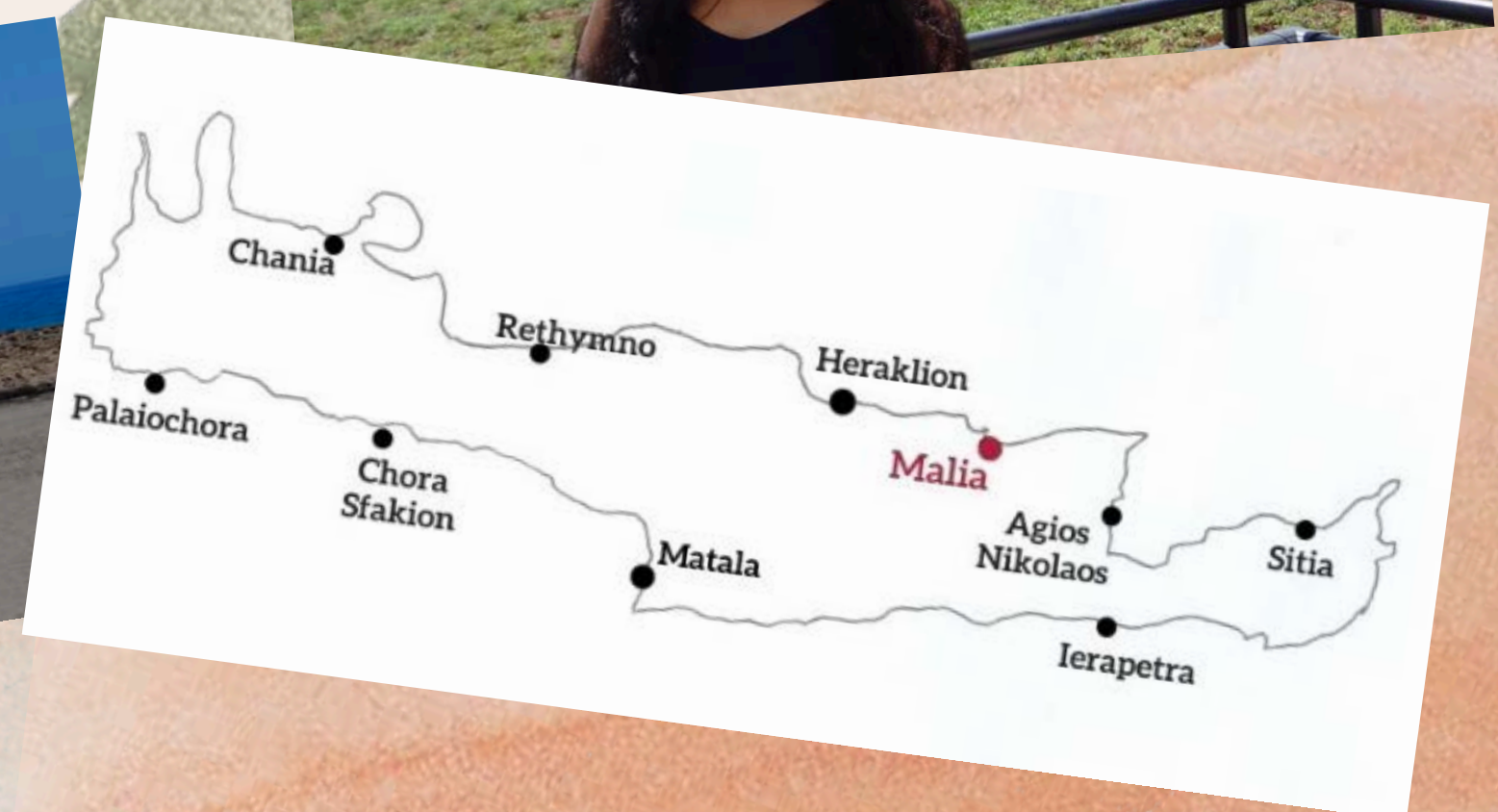
The Henry Morris Awards – Application Form
 If you have read these guidance notes and think you have a good idea for funding, you can complete the application form. Please answer all the questions as accurately and honestly as possible.

Name	Eesha
Email	20bhadv@svcpupils.org
Address	57 Old
Telephone	0749
Name of school or college If you have left education	
If you are applying on behalf of a group please add the names of the other members here Please note all group members must fill in separate application forms	Vaishnavi & Eesha
Please describe the project that you are seeking funding for Please include: • what exactly you plan to do • proposed dates And if applicable: • travel arrangements • accommodation arrangements	Our project aims to explore and document the archaeological sites and ancient ruins in Crete. We plan to stay at one of the hotels in the village of Old Hersonissos as this is between the three places we aim to go to. The Museum in Heraklion is the first destination as it is the most famous National Archaeological Museum there - entrance fees are 6 euros - by bus it takes 22 mins. second place to go to is the Malia archaeological site which is free to students under 18 we can get a bus from Hersonissos too (9 euros entrance) To go to Knossos we will have to go via taxi this palace (archaeological site) has alot of history behind it. Taxi will be 30-45 Euros for 19 mins. We plan to fly from here 25th May - 2 June.
How much will the project cost in total? Please provide a breakdown of the items that cost money. It is important to tell us as much information as you can	• Flight + hotel + coach transfer for £620 per person + 35 euros travel insurance • coach Cambridge ↔ Gatwick £96 (return) • 20 Euros / day for food x 5 days = 100 Euros • Entrance fees: 6 + 9 euros = 15 euros • Bus + travel: £5.00 day x 3 (for 3 days) = 15 euros ↳ depending on distance per person Total: £896 → flights price may change (1)

Malia

Malia is a cozy coastal town situated in the northeastern corner of the heraklion region.

We decided to stay in Malia due to it being located nearest to all the historic destinations we wanted to visit, and in Malia, we stayed in a cheap, safe and comfy home stay.

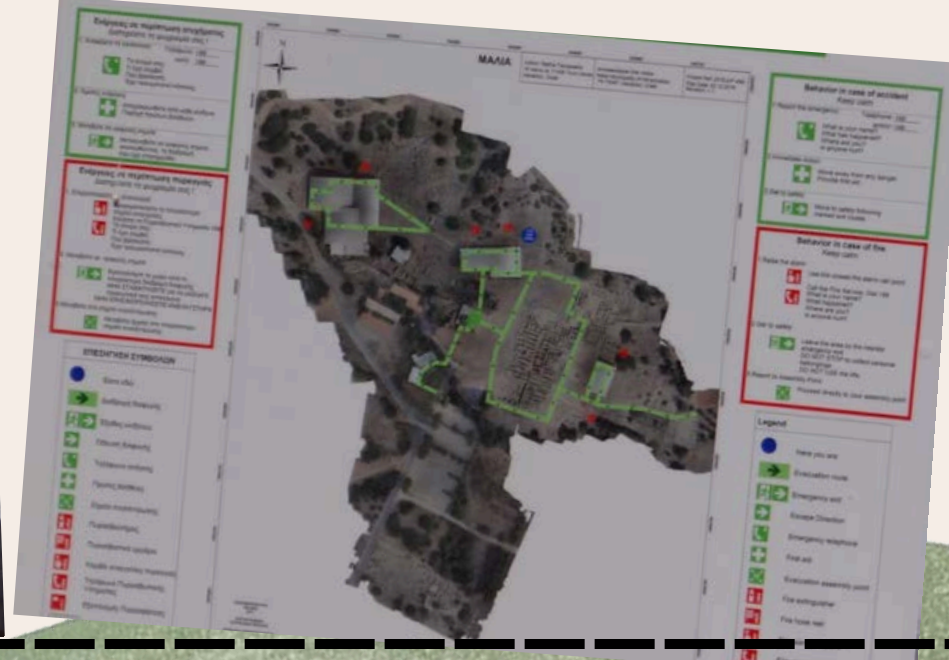


Day 1: Malia Palace:

Our first historical destination was **The Malia Palace**. We chose to visit The Malia Place first, as it was the closest to our home stay, which made for an easy walk to the historical site.

Malia palace is an archeological site which is on the north coast of Crete. It is known to be the *third largest Minoan palace*, which was built in the *1900 BCs*, however due to the many conflicts faced around that time, this lead to the palace being rebuilt and destroyed. The only things that weren't completely destroyed, were the **staircase, leading towards central court** and the **giant pithos** also known to be the storage jars or amphoras. The giant pithos is used to store olive oil and wine.





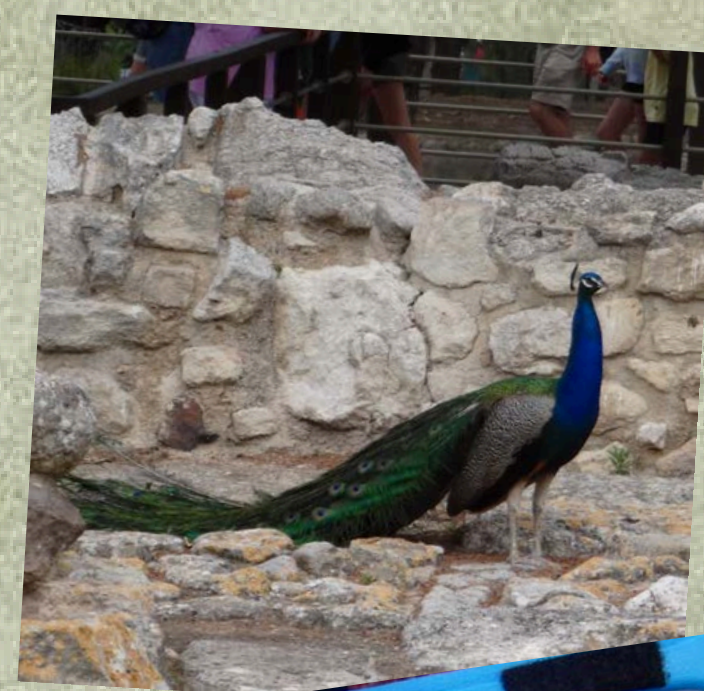
Being at The Malia Palace was a transcendental experience, with fewer crowds compared to other sites in Crete. Exploring this location allowed us to understand past conflicts and witness the original construction. We dedicated around 3 hours to this vast site, each part offering a unique perspective.



Day 2: Knossos Palace

The second place we visited, was **The Knossos Palace**. It is situated just on the outskirts of Heraklion city. This is also an archeological site from the *bronze age*. The cheapest and most enriching way to get to our destination was on a hop on hop of bus, which let us see and learn more of the history of the City of Heraklion, as well as explore the destinations we had planned to visit.

The Knossos Palace consisted of the ruins of the once powerful *Minoan royalty*. Although, sections such as the **corridor of procession** and the **paintings** stay intact and carefully preserved within the walls of the palace.



This Knossos Palace is a treasure trove of knowledge, offering fascinating facts that spark intriguing questions. One of our favorite areas in the palace was the **Corridor of the procession fresco**. It featured a sanctuary with three columns and 21 long, dimly lit rooms, only accessible through specific passages. These storage spaces accommodated large jars capable of *holding 78,000 liters each*. Approximately 400 jars were present, storing items like oil or wine. The management of these jars was under the priesthood, and the site showcased a double-hooded axis carved into the wall. All of these parts of the Palace remind us of how significant this time of period was in history.



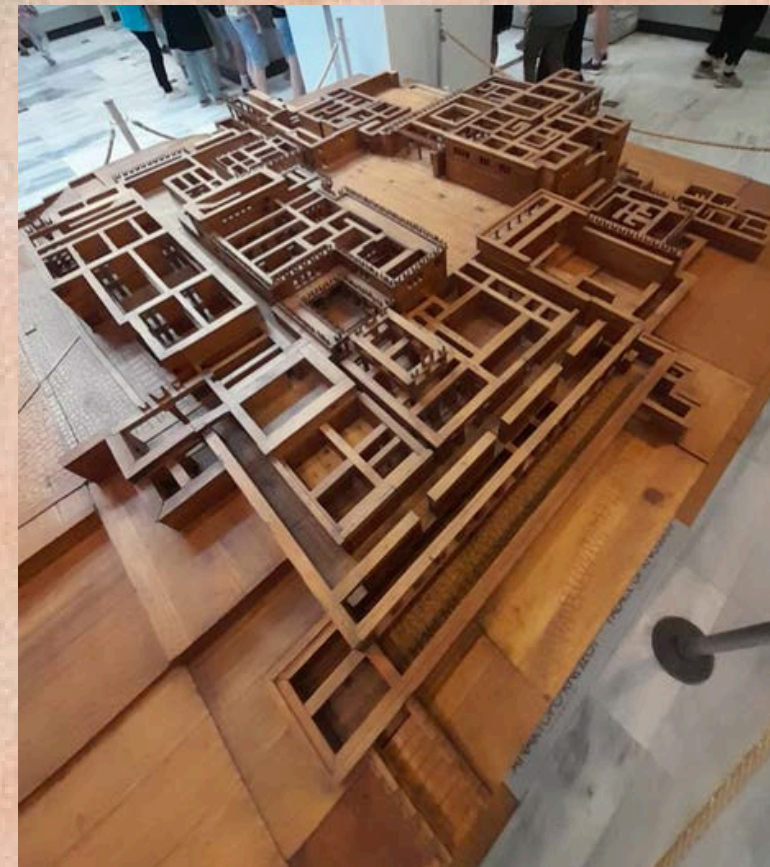
We also learnt about how this palace is home to the greek myth, Minos and the minotaur. Personally when I was younger, greek myths were something that interested me. I read many of these myths, such as Medusa, and the Chimera.

Visiting Crete really made my vision of these myths more precious and interests me even more. I would have never thought I would be visiting a place that holds such great value to me.



Day 3: The Museum of Heraklion

On the third day of our trip, we visited one of the most renowned museums in the world, also known to be among the oldest museums in Greece, **The Museum of Heraklion**. The museum showcases the vast and diverse *Minoan art, culture, religion and lifestyle*. The museum houses numerous incredible *sculptures, statues, and models dating back precisely 5,500 years to prehistoric Greece*. The artifacts displayed are captivating, with detailed explanations about their origins and historical significance accompanying each piece. The museum shows tourists the lifestyle tools and objects used in day to day life, giving an idea at how advanced minoan culture was even so many thousand years ago.





The largest known cemetery of the Neopalatial era is at Poros, the harbour of Knossos. The large, rock-cut chamber tombs remained in use from the Protopalatial to the end of the Neopalatial period (1800-1450 BC). Some burials were accompanied by rich grave offerings, such as gold signet rings and jewellery of gold and semiprecious stones, vessels decorated in the Floral and Marine Style, bronze weapons and helmets.

The cave tombs at Ai-Lias, Knossos, contained pithos and larnax burials with many vessels and a few precious offerings (1700-1600 BC). The great tholos tomb of Kamilaris was in constant use from the Protopalatial to the Postpalatial period (1800-1300 BC). The tomb and its annexes contained hundreds of ceramic and stone vessels, figurines and jewellery, some of them dated to the Neopalatial period (1700-1450 BC). The most important artefacts found are the three-dimensional clay models depicting rituals of worshipping the dead.

The Heraklion Archaeological Museum offered a unique experience compared to most museums in the UK. The detailed information provided here made the visit special. Delving into artifacts dating back thousands of years allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the Minoan culture's origins.



Η "ΑΙΟΡΑ"
 Πλήντο αγάλμα με γυναικεία μορφή που ανασταλά με τη βοήθεια νήματος ανάμεσα σε δύο στήλες. Πάνω στους στήλες καθίστανται πουλάκια που είναι συνοδοί της θεάς, όπως φαίνεται σε σενιές θεοφορήτων.

Αναπόδρα στηγμάτωμα της καθόδου της θεάς, από τα αντήρια στη γη, γνωστό από παραστάσεις κρητικών δακτυλιδίων Αγία Τριάδα, 1500-1450 π.Χ.

THE "SWING"
 Clay model of a female figure swinging on a string between two columns. On the columns are seated birds, the attendants of the goddess, as they appear in epiphany scenes.

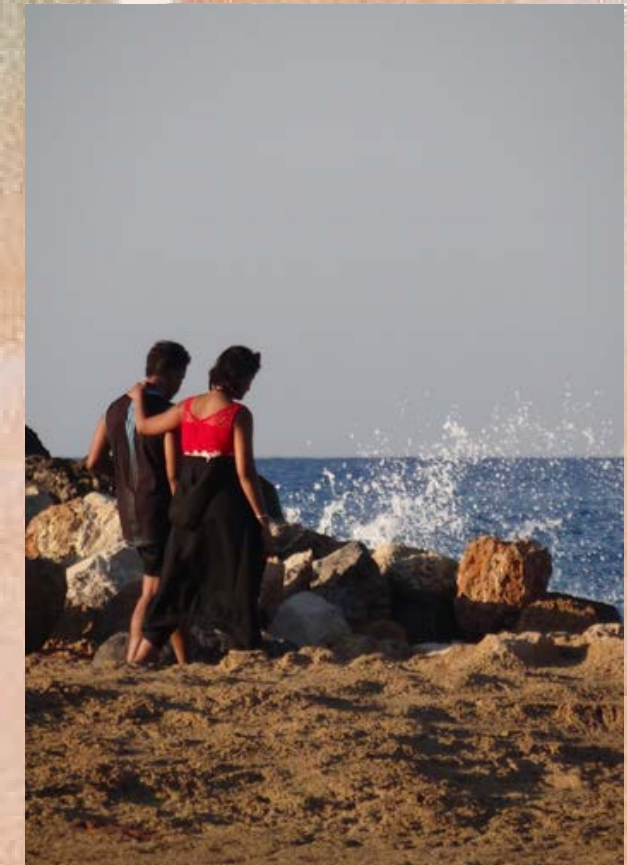
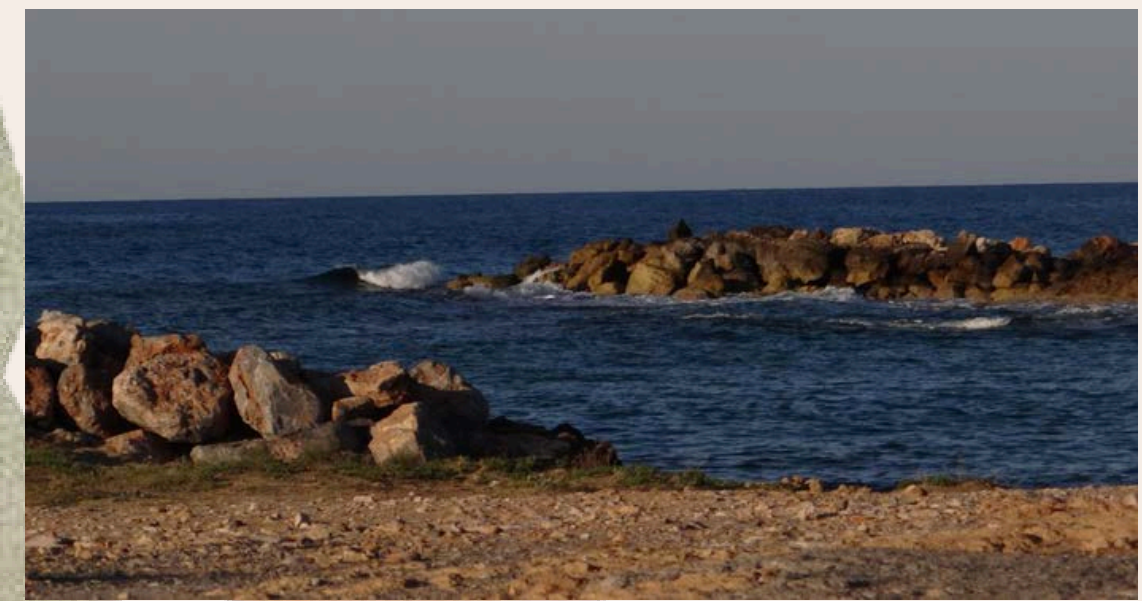
This is an image of the descent of the goddess, known from scenes on gold rings, Hagia Triada, 1500-1450 BC.



Exploring Malia

Being a student who is taking geography GCSE, I decided to delve into the human and physical geography of the Heraklion region. The terrain is mountainous, surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, with Crete's formation linked to tectonic plate movements. Engaging with the locals, we discovered that the Greek government is in debt amounting to \$300 billion. Moreover, we observed a prevalence of hotels, resorts, and rental services for vehicles compared to residential areas or car dealerships.

The locals of Malia were extremely kind and were always looking to help us. The environment is well taken care of, and all streets are litter free. Crete is such a safe place to visit. with its beautiful topology, it is a calming place to visit.



Personal reflection of the trip

I'm **Vaishnavi**, and this experience has deepened my knowledge of Greek mythology which was something I have always enjoyed reading and learning about, highlighting the unique architectural variances between the UK and Crete. Being a GCSE geography student, I broadened my understanding of the island's formation and its varied landscapes. Among all, exploring the coastal areas was a highlight, as beaches are truly enchanting places to visit. The hospitable and generous people of Crete made this trip truly special; we engaged with them, learning about their country and the intricacies of their daily lives. This trip was such an incredible experience which allowed me to make remarkable memories that are unforgettable.

I, **Eesha**, being a student who is taking photography gcse, and who loves nature and street photography, it was an absolute pleasure being able to travel around and explore the Heraklion street market square, and also enjoy the beaches after our project work for the day was over. As a history GCSE student, I love spending time at museums learning about the past and the lifestyle difference of the past to the present. It was fascinating to be able to travel and learn about the culture of Crete, while also mingling with the people of the area. I enjoyed this trip greatly, and I wish to cherish both the memories and the knowledge gained from this trip.

A decorative border made of watercolor brushstrokes in shades of orange, green, and blue, framing the central text.

Thank you

Report by Eesha & Vaishnavi