

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF IRAKLEIO CRETE





Housed in the center of Irakleio, it is a light, functional building, an important example of modern architecture in Greece. It was renovated just at the beginning of 2014 and the new impressive exhibition hosts representative exhibits from all the periods of Cretan history, from the Neolithic period to the Roman years.

The Minoan antiquities, of course, hold an exceptional place; the museum boasts the richest exhibition of Minoan antiquities in the world. One can see rich collections of vessels, elegant golden jewelry, microscopic masterpieces of micro-sculptures and metal art, weapons, household utensils, murals from the Knossos palace and the other archaeological sites on the island.



Among these works one can see the famous rhyton in the shape of a bull's head, a ritualistic vessel made from serpentine, with details made from gold, nacre, rock crystal and jasper, the famous Goddess of the Snakes, a figurine made from painted faience portraying a topless woman (probably a priestess or a goddess), the relief mural of the Prince with the Lilies, the well-known Parisienne, a fragment of a mural portraying an intensely made-up young woman, as well as the famous Disk of Phaistos, a clay disc with spiral hieroglyphic inscriptions that most likely is a religious text that has not yet been decrypted.