



R[OUTE]10

# Secrets

of the East



SITIA - MONI TOPLOU



YouTube



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A. Sitia > Toplou Holy Monastery

## HOLY MONASTERY OF TOPLOU

15km/25min from Sitia (35°.13'.16.30" N / 26°.12'.57.04" E)



### HOLY MONASTERY OF TOPLOU

Toplou, Sitia

T.: +30 28430 29630 ext.7

*Visit on opening hours*

Check more details on [www.winesofcrete.gr](http://www.winesofcrete.gr)

#### TIPS:

1. Wine press built on 1709 at Vai
2. Vai beach
3. Kato Zakros
4. "Hiona" tavern on Hiona beach
5. Archaeological site of Ancient Itanos

## Secrets of the East

Visiting the East of Crete is really worth your time. The paysage is totally different to the one in the West - you will feel you are on another island! There are interesting walks, great things to visit and amazing beaches to relax.

Heading East you can stop at the town of Agios Nikolaos for a coffee by the lake and then you will follow the sea route towards Sitia. A 15-minute drive and you will arrive to your first stop: the famous monastery and **winery of Toplou** which dates back to the 14th century! The monastery houses two museums, a religious one and a folklore one, with historical relics, manuscripts, books and beautiful etchings of great importance. The vineyards in the area go as far back as anyone can remember. There used to be an old domain in the palm grove, while there is a wine-press in the area dating back to 1709. Replanting started in 1975 and now

more than 60 acres are organically cultivated, producing 100.000 bottles of wine per year!

Continue driving west until you reach **Vai**: the renowned palm tree beach of the island. A really tropical-like place, perfect for relaxing and swimming.

If you are planning to spend the night south, this is a great option: head down to **Kato Zakros**, a small gulf beach with a few taverns and apartments to rent. There is also the small Gorge of the Dead where the ancient Minoans used its caves to bury their dead. A feeling of mystery and holiness surrounds the whole place.

The whole south east shores are great for swimming, with clear fresh, deep waters and beautiful beaches. You can make a round and go back through the town of Ierapetra. That's how you will have explored the whole east part of the island and its secrets.