

How to get from Athens to Plakias

You may wish to print this mail as it contains detailed information on travelling to Youth Hostel Plakias from various departure points, pick out the parts you need.

Starting from the new Athens International Airport you have two options:

- Fly to Iraklio (Heraklion) preferably, or Hania (Chania) which is expensive (about 60 -100 Euro) but very quick.
- Take the overnight ferry to Hania or Iraklio, a lot cheaper but much longer.

For the latest ferry info I have found the best site to be www.gtp.gr - just a warning though; you may have to experiment with place name spellings - Hania can begin with a C, an H or an X.

Ferries go from the port of Piraeus, most of them leaving at about 2100 hours. To get there take bus X96 which runs at least half hourly, all day and night, and takes about 1 and a half hours journey time. If you have time for some sight seeing in Athens then take bus X95 to the centre and then the Metro out to Piraeus. The tickets cost about 5 € (Bus) or 8 € (Metro).

When you get to Piraeus buy a ferry ticket from any of the travel agents near the port, they all have to charge the same price, do not pay on the boat. The price should be about 36 - 40 €. Ask at the travel agent where to find the ferry as Piraeus is a big port, usually the ferries to Crete are at the far end if you walk through the gates and keep the water on your left. Depending upon weather conditions the ferries arrive at about 0600 hours.

If you arrive at Iraklio (Heraklion) Airport you can take a taxi to the bus station for about 10.00 € or take the old blue and white bus no. 1 just beyond the car park. Buy a ticket at the little wooden hut or the machine (Zone Orange) for 1.10 €. Get off just after the bus climbs steeply beside the old town walls, along with most of the other people. When you get off the bus turn right and pass the big museum on your left.

Follow the old town wall down hill (not the road that the bus took!) and after about 10 minutes you will see the large Megaron Hotel building on your right and just beyond it a set of stone stairs leading down towards the sea. Follow the path at the bottom of the stairs and turn right at the main road. The bus station is straight in front of you.

If you arrive at Iraklio by ferry then leave the port by the main exit, turn right and the bus station is about 400 metres on the other side of the road.

For the "Greek latest" on the bus timetable go to <http://www.bus-service-crete-ktel.com/timetable.php>

Go into the bus station office come cafe and buy a ticket to Rethymno for 7.60 €. Luggage goes under the bus and it is best to sit on the opposite side from the driver to keep out of the sun and for sea views. Travel all the way though to Rethymno bus station, about 1 and a half hours.

Go into the bus station office come cafe and buy a ticket to Plakias (pronounced Plakya) for 4.50 €. Listen carefully for the bus to be called and note the number of the bus. Again luggage goes under the bus and it is best to sit on the same side as the driver for gorge and sea views.

If you have a long time to wait for the next bus then it is cool to leave your bags in a corner of the bus station and go off sight seeing in the old town. If you miss the last bus of the day then you have two options, either a taxi to Plakias for about 35.00 Euro or stay overnight in Rethymno, the hostel is recommended. To find the hostel turn right out of the bus station office and immediately right again up the concrete steps to the main road. Turn left and walk for about 15 minutes until you see the park on your right. Continue along the main road until you get to the end of the park then turn left and under the arch which leads to the old town. After only 30m turn right along Tobazi Street and you will see the hostel on your right after about 80m.

The bus journey to Plakias takes about 50 minutes depending upon which route the bus takes. Get off at Plakias sea front and walk with the sea on your right for about 150m, turn left and go past the pharmacy. At the end of this road turn left and follow the yellow triangular signs, you will be home in less than 10 minutes.

Have a good journey.

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