

Our Logo: The “Phaistos Disk” one of the oldest transportable text to be found to date, (still to be deciphered), has been excavated from the Phaistos Palace in Crete, and dates back to the Minoan Civilization (2nd millennium B.C.)



***12th International Symposium on Reproductive Physiology of Fish,
Crete, Greece, 15-19 May 2023***
“Reproductive science for aquaculture production and conservation”

6th Circular Announcement (5/2023) – Survival kit

Dear friends,

I am sending you here some information to help you make the most of your stay in Crete during the Symposium (Survival kit!). As always, for a “real time” update on all issues related to the symposium, please “**stay tuned**” to our website:

<https://12isrpf.weebly.com>

Travel information

The venue of the 12 ISRPF will be the [Aldemar Knossos Royal Beach Resort](#), located in the area of Chersonissos (also spelled Hersonissos), Crete, Greece. The venue is 25 km from the **international airport of Heraklion** (also spelled Iraklio), “**Nikos Kazantzakis**” (HER) and 30 km from the Harbor of Heraklion.

From the airport in Heraklion, you can get to the venue and the town of Chersonissos by **bus** or **taxi**. You can also rent a car, from a large number of different companies (both International and local). **Be careful if you will drive yourself.** Greeks are notorious of being "adventurous" drivers, and the road system in Crete is not the best!

The **bus station** is located at the entrance of the airport site, on the right side of the traffic lights as you are looking away from the airport. The bus will get you from Heraklion Airport to Chersonissos in about 45 minutes, and the ticket will cost 3-5€. Tickets can be bought from the bus driver when boarding or in a ticket kiosk at the bus stop.

Taxis are available right at the exit of the airport building (arrivals). A taxi trip will last about 25 minutes, and its cost is 40-50€.

Water supply

In general, **the tap water is not good for drinking** (too hard and silty), so you better avoid it.

Daily commuting to the Symposium venue

All people that made accommodation reservations through **the symposium registration site** (see below), can use the special bus of the symposium, which will pass by these hotels between **0:00 and 0:00 am**, and then depart from the symposium venue 15 min after the completion of the day’s events.

Hersonissos Maris Hotel
Panorama Sea View Studios
Sergios Hotel

Central Hersonissos Hotel
Iro Hotel

People staying in other hotels/apartments of their choice can use a **taxi from Chersonissos**. It should take you between 10 and 20 min to get to the venue, and the cost is between 5-10 €.

Evening activities and restaurants

During the week of the symposium, the sun sets around 19:20 and there is light until well after 20:00. So, take advantage of it to visit both the town of Chersonissos, but also Heraklion. A usual temperature for this period is around **20-24°C during the day and 15-18°C during the evenings.**

The town of Chersonissos

This is a **tourist town**, full of cafes, bars and restaurants that cater almost exclusively to our millions of tourists that visit the island every year. These, are located all along the beach road-promenade, and the main road that crosses the town, with a direction from East (town of Agios Nikolaos) to West (city of Heraklion), as indicated by the red box in the map below. There are also many small beaches with sheltered waters where you can enjoy an afternoon swim, though the water is still rather cold (for Mediterranean people!) at 17-18°C.

There are also many-many shops that you can buy local products such as **extra virgin olive oil** (Crete has the best olive oil in the world!), **exceptional honey** from thyme or orange blossoms, **unique local herbs** for “tea” (mountain tea, malotira, diktamo, erondas, mint and sage), **spices and herbs** for cooking (rosemary, marjoram, oregano, fennel, etc.), **woven products**, and **soaps and cosmetics** from olive oil, masticha resin and other herbal sources.



City of Heraklion

This is the capital of the island of Crete. It is an ancient walled town, that once belonged to the Republic of Venice (La Serenissima), who build the existing walls at the end of the 16th century AD, to protect it from the Ottomans. You can still see the Venetian “Loggia”, the local governor’s estate, and the “Morosini Fountain” build by the first representative of Venice, in the center of the town, the “Lions Square”.

Heraklion hosts the **Arcaeological Museum** (<https://www.heraklionmuseum.gr/en/>), with all the artifacts from the Knossos and Festos Palaces from the Minoan Civilization (2000 BC). The museum is a must-see, if you stay for an extra day.

Heraklion is home to two national Universities, a Medical School, and 5 research institutes of international reputation, and has thousands of students and scientists. Heraklion is **not a tourist town**, and (together with the town of Chania) it functions mainly as the hub for the arrival and departure of the 3,5 million tourists arriving in the island every year. Therefore, the tens of cafes, bars and restaurants that exist **cater almost exclusively to the local population**. Heraklion is a very lively, safe and enjoyable town to visit and spend your evenings. So, feel free to explore and eat at any restaurant, tasting local, but also Mediterranean cuisines.

Most of the restaurants and bars are located throughout the area enclosed by the red box in the map below. To get to Heraklion, **take a taxi from Chersonissos and ask to be dropped at “Eleftheria Square”**. To return, you can get taxis from the same area and also from the “Kornaros Square”.



There are also **buses from Chersonissos to Heraklion**, running until 20:00 during weekdays and until midnight on Saturday (<https://www.ktelherlas.gr/en/τινακες-δρομολογιων-9>).

WELCOME TO CRETE		KTEL ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ-ΛΑΖΙΟΙΟΥ - KTEL PUBLIC BUS		WELCOME TO CRETE	
Α' ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ - A BUS STATION		TEL.2810245020-2810246530 FAX.2810246539		www.ktelherlas.gr email:info@ktelherlas	
ΔΡΟΜΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΛΕΩΦΟΡΕΙΩΝ - TIMETABLE AUTO FROM 24-4-2023					
ΔΡΟΜΟΛΟΓΙΑ-DESTINATION		ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ ΕΩΣ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ - MONDAY TO FRIDAY		ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ-SATURDAY	
ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ	ΚΟΚΚΙΝΙ ΓΟΥΒΕΣ ΧΕΡΣΟΝΗΣΟΣ	06:00-06:30-07:00-7:30-08:15-08:45-09:15-09:45-10:45-11:45-12:15-13:00-13:45-14:15-14:45-15:00-15:15-15:45-16:15-16:45-17:15-17:45-18:45-19:15-19:45-20:45-21:30-22:00		06:00-06:30-07:00-7:30-08:15-08:45-09:15-09:45-10:45-11:45-12:15-13:00-13:45-14:15-14:45-15:00-15:15-15:45-16:15-16:45-17:15-17:45-18:45-19:45-20:45-21:30-22:00	
ΗΡΑΚΛΙΟΝ	ΧΕΡΣΟΝΙΣΣΟ ΣΤΑΛΙΔΑ ΜΑΛΙΑ				
	ΚΟΚΚΙΝΙ ΓΟΥΒΕΣ ΧΕΡΣΟΝΙΣΣΟ				
	ΣΤΑΛΙΔΑ ΜΑΛΙΑ				

Social activities

Please make your reservation for the Group Excursion and the Symposium dinner as soon as possible, at the latest with your registration and your pick up of your badge and symposium package.

Both the Group Excursion and Symposium dinner are FREE of CHARGE for students, courtesy of IRIDA SA.



Welcome reception – Sunday 14 May 2023 (19:00)

The Welcome Reception will take place at “**kafeneion**” (Coffee shop) of the **Aldemar Knossos Royal Beach Resort**, which offers the ideal scenery for welcoming the participants to Crete and to see old friends and colleagues, and meet new students and young researchers! The Welcome Reception is **free for all participants**, courtesy of the Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organization.



We will get to sample fish from the Greek aquaculture industry, courtesy of Galaxidi Marine Farm SA.



Group Excursion - Wednesday 17 May 2023 after lunch (13:30)

Participants may visit some of the most important historical sites of Crete, at an extra cost for regular registrants (45-47 €). There are two options available: the Knossos Palace (Heraklion Region) or Spinalonga Island (Lassithi Region). For both excursions, **please bring with you a high UV protection sunscreen**, as the sun is very strong in Greece, and you will be exposed to it for a few hours!

Guided tour to the Knossos Palace (the cradle of the Minoan Civilization)

Amongst all the ancient monuments in Crete, Knossos is the archaeological site that is a must-see in order to understand the greatness of the Minoan Civilization (2000 BC). The tour takes you to the village of Knossos where you will be led through the ruins of the ancient palace complex: the labyrinth, galleries and rooms of the Palace, and the Royal Palace of King Minos, the son Zeus (the God of Gods, in Greek Mythology) and Europa, who gave her name to our continent! Return to the hotel is after approximately 5 hours. The excursion includes transfers to/from Knossos Palace with luxury a/c coaches, a professional-official English-speaking guide per coach, and entrance fee and full guidance in Knossos Palace.



Guided tour to Spinalonga Island (a Venetian fortress, an Ottoman village and a Leper colony)



Participants will be transferred to the town of Elounda and then with a 10 min boat ride across to the island of Spinalonga. Once a Venetian Fortress built in 1579 and later an Ottoman village, in the 20th century it has become synonymous with human pain. In 1903, Spinalonga developed into a gathering place for people infected with Leprosy (Hansen's disease) from all over Crete, where they spent the rest of their life! Today, with the painful story forgotten, the colony is being restored and it offers a pleasant visit with spectacular scenery! The excursion includes transfers to/from Elounda with luxury a/c coach, a professional-official English-speaking guide per coach, boat ride to/from Spinalonga Island, and entrance fee and full guidance to the Island.

Symposium dinner – Thursday 18 May 2023, evening (19:00)

Due to the fact that the weather is not stable yet and the evenings are quite cool, the Symposium dinner will take place at a celebrations and event hall (Garden of the Senses, https://www.facebook.com/kiposaisthiseon/?locale=el_GR). The bus transfers between the venue and the hall will be done by coach, leaving the entrance of the venue (**Aldemar Knossos Royal Beach Resort**) at 19:00. One bus will depart from the hall to bring participants back to the hotel at 23:00. The remaining buses will depart from the restaurant between 24:00-01:00, depending on how the party goes!

We are sure that all will enjoy the hospitality and festive atmosphere in a local “γλέντι” (translated as “party”, pronounced “glendi”) with Cretan food and folk dances, so get your ticket too!

So, get ready for a most enjoyable time at the 12th ISRPF and the Island of Crete, Greece!

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Dicentrarchus labrax



Sparus aurata

