

## PLATANIAS – CRETE 5. - 12. APRIL 2022

The 3rd trip this year went to Crete. We booked flights with [Norwegian](#). We booked the apartment in Crete via [Booking.com](#). We no longer had to fill out an entry form, but we still had to have a valid vaccine passport. We drove to Gardermoen on April 4 and dropped the car off at [Dalen Parkering](#). Dalen Parkering has a bus that runs to and from the airport, [Oslo Airport Gardermoen](#). We were not to leave until the next day, but the plane was to leave so early that we thought it was most comfortable to spend the night at Gardermoen.



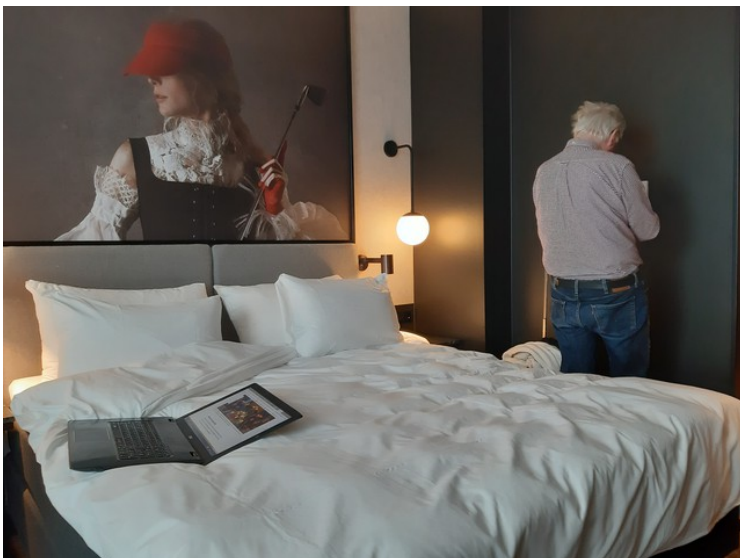
View from our terrace the day we left.



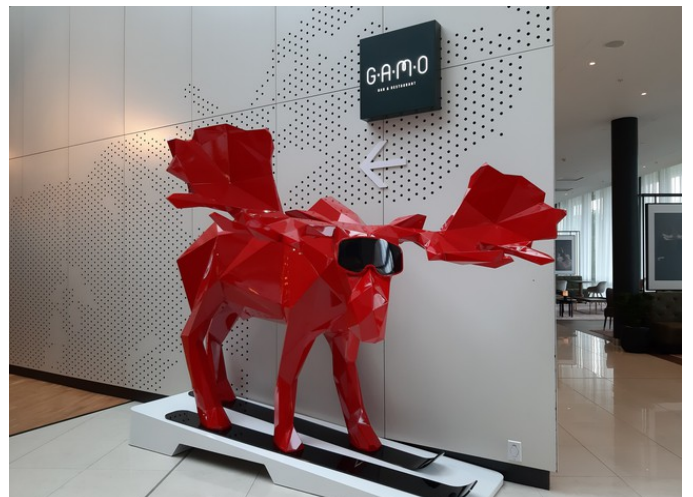
We have previously stayed at the Radisson Blue Airport Hotel. This is a short walk from the terminal. We thought that the room price had now increased so much that we chose [Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Oslo Airport](#). This is also within walking distance of the terminal.



The room looked like this.



I adjust the temperature in the room.



We arrived at the hotel so early that it was time to have dinner. Here we are on our way to the restaurant in the hotel.



The restaurant.



The menu.



Anne Berit had salmon filet.



I had entrecote on the bone.



This was the wine we had for the food.



We landed at [Chania International Airport](#), 'Ioannis Daskalogiannis' located on [Souda Bay](#). The airport is named after Ioannis Daskalogiannis, a rebel from Crete who fought against the Ottoman Empire in the 18th century. The airport is also used by the Greek Air Force, and by the United States. The Norwegian F16 task force for air operations over Libya was stationed here.

The next day we had to get up so early that we did not feel for breakfast before we left, but we had ordered food on the plane. Check-in at the terminal went smoothly and the plane left according to plan at 06.45.



This time we were going to stay in Platania which is marked with a square. To the right in the picture, the airport is also marked.  
The hotel had arranged a taxi for us, so the driver was ready with a note with our name on it.



Platania is a village located 10 km west of Chania and it is one of the most famous resorts in Crete. Platania are named after the plane trees that grow here.  
We were going to stay in the old town of Pano Platania which is located on a hill within the coastal town of Kato Platania.



The apartment is called [Blue Suite by Cosmos](#).  
This is the kitchen.



The kitchen. It was full of food that we could eat. The ad stated that the price we paid was with breakfast. We thought we got ready-made breakfast at the door every day, but we could eat whatever time we wanted, and the food was supplemented every day.



Bread and cereals.



Lots of oranges. The owner grew his own oranges.



The fridge was full of all kinds of food, water, milk, beer and wine.



The salon.



Bed and sofa in the living room.



The bedroom.



There were also lots of strawberries, so we had some white wine and strawberries.



There were even a barrel of chocolates and candies.  
We managed to eat everything.



This is from the rooftop restaurant (Cosmos). We got to come up and have a look. They were renovating, so it did not look like the picture.



On the terrace with wine and strawberries.



This is the view in the evening.

It had been abnormally cold all winter in Crete, and it was still cold when we were there. Our terrace was facing north so that it only got a little sun early in the morning and late at the evening. Besides, it was blowing from the north all the time, so we did not sit outside as much as we had hoped.



There was a restaurant ([Cosmos](#)) in the house where we stayed, but it had not opened for the season yet. We therefore went down the hill to a restaurant called [Agioklima](#).



The view from the restaurant.  
We look west towards the valley below.



We sat inside behind glass doors that could be closed when it was cold or windy. There was also plenty of space outside, but no one was sitting here when we were there.

We were here before the season started. There were few tourists, so most restaurants in the area had not opened yet.



Out there, there was also a parrot in a cage. It was taken in when it was too cold or it was blowing too much. I had to go out and talk to it.



Here is the whole cage.



There were some huge flowers here too.



Here we have just ordered. On the table was a vase of large [calla](#) flowers.



The first night I had Kleftiko. Kleftiko is said to be named after the Klepts, who were groups who fought against Ottoman rule in Greece between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries. They lived in the mountains and stole sheep that they cooked on coal in a covered hole or underground pit to avoid being discovered.



This is in the street just below the apartment.



There is a restaurant here too, but it had not opened for the season.



Here there is the view to the east in the direction of Agia Marina.



Here we look straight down towards Kato Platania.



A little further away we have a view back to where we stayed. It was the highest point in Platania.



This is the church in the old town. It's called Agios Demetrius.



This is right outside the cemetery.



The cemetery.



Walnut tree.



A small maple tree.



A door in the old town.





Calla in a garden.



Further down there is a tree in the middle of the road.



Sunrise.



Sunset.



There is a small harbor just down where we stayed.



The island we see off the coast is called [Agii Theodori](#).

It is protected and is used today as a reserve for the Cretan mountain goats, [Kri-kri](#). They are found only in the Samaria Gorge and on two other islands off Crete.

Many legends have been told about the creation of the island. The most common story says that in early Christian times the island did not exist at all. One day, the inhabitants saw a large monster and their baby approaching Crete, ready to attack.

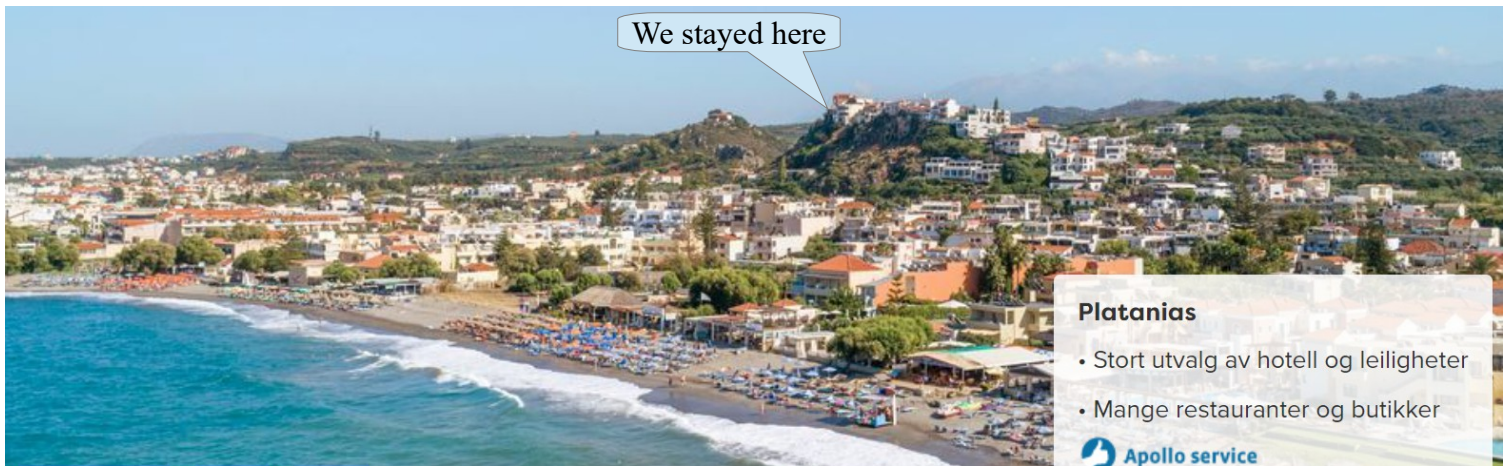
The locals threw spears and arrows from far away to kill them, but it did not help. The terrified women began to pray to the saints to survive. Their prayers were heard and both monsters were petrified, creating the two Theodori Islands.



There is a cave on the island that looks like an open mouth.



It is allowed to land on the island only once every spring, and a caretaker lives in this house.



Finally, a picture of Platanias that I found on Apollo's pages.

When we were going back to the airport we had booked a taxi. We got the same taxi driver as when we arrived.



When we had checked in, gone through the security check and sat in the departure hall, it turned out that we had sat right next to Asbjørn and Rigmor Mythen who were also going home. We rented an apartment with them in Almyrida in the winter of 2014-2015.

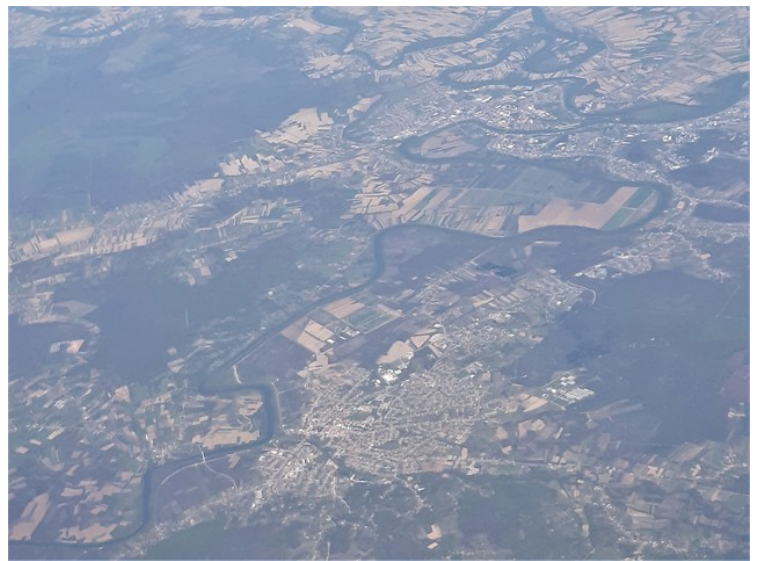


Then we were in the air again.

The flight was scheduled to leave at 12.40, but was delayed by 20 minutes due to the slot time they had been given on the trip north.



The flight was relatively low on this trip and it was mostly cloudless so it was possible to see cloud-covered mountains and various rivers.



We were supposed to be at Gardermoen at 16.00 but it was a little later. There was a bit of trouble with the luggage belt so we had to wait a little extra there as well, but we were home at 6 o'clock.