The old Venetian town of Rethymnon is a monument of its own, from a period during which the Cretan civilization harmoniously coalesced with the Venetian civilization. Its town planning web has remained unaltered with its old monuments preserved and highlighted, and despite the years, the town has remained lively, which is apparent. A stroll of a few hours will become a long journey in time where visitors may use their fantasy to visualize; from the Fortezza, galleys floating into the harbors, listening to the hooves of horses on the macadam roads, to quench their thirst at the Rimondi fountain and a rest on the Loggia steps, there where the nobles used to discuss and set the fate of the town...

Welcome!
A stroll in the town

This five kilometer route has been designed in a manner which will bring visitors in touch with the most significant monuments of the town, within a relatively short period of time. As shown on the map, the route may easily be adjusted according to the wishes of those walking. In addition, a small one kilometer route is recommended around the Fortezza (orange color). The town’s markets are also marked on the map, as well as places for coffee, food and drinks. The old harbor, which is the work of the Venetians, is one of the most picturesque images of Rethymnon. There are a number of taverns and cafeterias along the length of Rethymnon which are swarming with people. The walls, which have been preserved, are the remnants of the town’s older walls, while the lighthouse was built during the Turkish rule.
A little further down the harbor, at the crossroad of Arkadiou and Paleologou streets is the Venetian Loggia, which was where the noble Venetians would assemble and has been preserved in excellent condition. Archaeological replicas are sold today in this beautiful building by the Ministry of Culture.

Our route continues toward Paleologou Street and meets the Rimondi fountain, north of the Titus Petychakis square, situated in a busy area with cafeterias, restaurants and stores.

The Rimondi fountain

The Rimondi fountain is one of the Venetian’s most elegant architectural structures in the town of Rethymnon. It consists of three pillars with capitals of the Corinth order in between, from which three lion heads protrude with water springing out of them to this day. The Rimondi fountain, together with Loggia and the clock tower, a structure which unfortunately does not exist anymore, formed a triangle of public buildings, which were the heart of the Venetian town.
The Catholic church of Saint Anthony (Agios Antonios) stands a little further to the north, at the crossroad of Melissinou and Macedonias streets, while exactly on the opposite side, at the beginning of Chimaras Street, is the entrance to the Contemporary Art Centre. The street leads toward the Fortezza and the town’s archaeological museum is situated right in front of the fortress’s entrance, at the old building of the guards.

The Fortezza, an impressive fortress on the hill, north of the town, is one of the greatest Venetian fortresses and was built between 1573 and 1590. It is a polygonal structure with wide sloping walls and three bastions toward the side of the town.

Inside the castle there is a part of the Rector’s residence, the Council’s house, the Consistory Court, powder magazines, warehouses, barracks and Sultan Ibrahim’s mosque, with an impressive cupola in the position of the Venetian’s cathedral, all have been preserved and are conserved. An elegant open theatre was built in recent years in-
Archaeological Museum

The Archaeological Museum of Rethymnon hosts significant collections with finds from the Post-Neolithic period up to the Roman period. Specifically, finds from the caves of Gerani and Melidoni, the necropolis of the Armenians, as well as the archaeological sites of Monastiraki, Apodoulos and Vrysina, Stavromenos, Pangalochorio, Syvritus, Eleftherna and Argyroupolis, are exhibited.

side the fortress, which hosts events every summer during the famous Renaissance Festival. We will descend from the Fortezza to the “narrow street” (Nikiforou Foka Street), which is the longest backstreet of Rethymnon. Alternatively, one can arrive at the same point by taking a wonderful stroll around the fortress and passing through the square of Iroon Politechniou where the neoclassic building of the Prefecture’s Administration is situated.
Historical and Folklore Museum

The Museum is housed and listed as an urban, Venetian house of the 17th century at 28-30, Vernardou Street. The two-storey building with a yard is impressive mainly because of its architectural details. The Museum’s collections came from donations and purchases, and include weaves and weaving tools, embroideries, laces, ceramic baskets, metal art work, coins, costumes, historic heirlooms, etc.

By making a small detour at Kleidi Street, we will encounter the amazing renaissance door case with putti. A little further down, we will come upon the Church of the Lady of the Angels, whom the people of Rethymnon call the Little Virgin. The Venetians had built it and it was dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalene of the Dominican Order.

We will see an impressive door case at 30, Vernardou Street with an inscription. The building houses a workshop which produces kataifi pastry, made by traditional methods.

Further down, we will see the Historical and Folklore Museum of Rethymnon. From Vernardou Street, which is full of cafeterias and taverns, we then pass onto Arambatzoglou Street, a road with a number of small shops where the Museum of Zoe Enallia is situated. After the busy Petchakis square, we will head for the Neratze mosque which is an impressive structure that used to be the church of Santa Maria and the monastery of the Augustinian Monks, and towered over the center of the Venetian square. Today, it houses a conservatoire. A new square prevails in the area today and we will head through this toward the ba-
Silica of Saint Francis (Agios Frangiscus). The renovated area is currently used for exhibitions and other cultural events. From here, we will walk up Ethnikis Antistaseos Street (Small Market), which is the old town’s central road, heading toward the Great Door (Porta Guora), which is the only gate of the town’s external walls that has been preserved to this day. Outside the Great Door, the scene immediately changes, as the minute we pass onto the other side, we will find ourselves in a new modern town.

The door case of Rethymnon

The influence of the renaissance era on western architecture, with the exception of the public buildings, was best expressed in the private homes, especially on door cases. They are designed in various orders, such as the Doric, Ionian, Corinthian and Tuscan, and we will encounter them throughout the old town and especially on the streets of N. Fokas, Arambatzoglou, Vernardou and Arkadiou.

The Conservatoire’s door case.
Porta Guora

The Great Door, as the people of Rethymnon call it, was built during the era of Rector J. Guoro, which is why it took his name. It is one of the few remnants of the Town’s external walls. Its initial form bore the ridge of a gable, which was decorated with a relief of a lion of Saint Marcus.
To the east, through the newly reformed square of the Heroes (Iroon), the road leads to the large coastal avenue; however, our route will be along Arkadiou Street, which is the large commercial road of the old town where, at number 48 and 154, the impressive door cases which adorn the front sides of those two houses, are preserved. A detour from Tsouderon Street will bring us back on Ethnikis Antistaseos street, where our route will be completed through the picturesque Souliou Street with the small pretty shops which once accommodated the town’s shoe-makers.

Paleontological Museum of Rethymnos

Brief stops will be made during this route, which Crete has followed for the past 300 million years, at this beautiful museum housed in the reconstructed Mastamba Mosque and which is part of the Natural History Museum of Goulandris. The material of Crete’s indigenous Pleistocene elephants and deer are significant, all being finds from the region of Rethymnon. Fossils, amongst others, are also exhibited, coming from Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic marine depositions in Crete.
The markets of Rethymnon

It was not too many years ago when the area of Rethymnos did not exceed the boundaries of the Old Town and the market was restricted nearly exclusively on two roads. At the Small Market (Ethnikis Antistaseos Street), with its parallel roads, were grocery shops… while the Large Market (Arkadiou Street) was the modern road with large shops selling novelties, something which, mutatis mutandis, applies to this day. Rethymnon today, is a different town, but these two roads continue to be full of life and comprise the town’s commercial centre.

Shopping, drinking and dining

Rethymnon is a paradise for consumer. The two large commercial roads are Arkadiou Street and Ethnikis Antistaseos Street, known by the old people of Rethymnon as the Large and Small Market, respectively.

The first road, beginning from the Square of Iroon (Heroes) and ending at the harbor, is mainly full of modern clothes stores, where one may find all the famous fashion brands. There are also jewelry and accessory shops.

Ethnikis Antistaseos Street, in the center of the old town, is the busiest road and has a large variety of stores, boutiques, jewelry shops, spice shops, grocery stores, souvenir shops and more. The road ends at Titus Petychakis square, the Plane Tree, according to the people of Rethymnon, where, apart from tourist shops, there are many cafeterias and restaurants, as well as on Paleologou Street. Souliou and Arambatzoglou streets are the roads with the foremost small graphic tourist shops and it is very relaxing to shop there in
Coastal Avenue

The large coastal avenue of Rethymnon begins from the old harbor and proceeds eastward, three kilometers along the beautiful sandy coast with organized infrastructures. Tens of cafeterias, bars, restaurants, hotels and car rental businesses exist along its length, all at the service of visitors.

throughout the town, hidden in the back streets, there are small taverns and cafes which are worth discovering.

the small backstreets, which are usually swarmed with hundreds of visitors.

Vernardou Street is famous for its taverns and is favored by youngsters and students.

Last, the coastal zone, from Fortezza up to the old harbor and from there to the large coastal avenue of Venizelou, is full of cafeterias, clubs and restaurants. Of course,
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Venetian Harbor</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>Great Door</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Loggia</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Rimondi Fountain</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Directorate of Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Catholic Church</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Paleontological Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Contemporary Art Centre</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Cretan Art Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Kara Mousa Pasha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fortezza</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Metropolis</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Erofili Theatre</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ecclesiastical Museum</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Prefectural Administration</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Lady of the Angels</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Municipal garden</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Folklore Museum</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Zoe Enalia Museum</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Port Authority</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>House of Civilization</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Police Station</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Neratze Mosque</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>GNTO (Greek National Tourism Organization)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Old Town Square</td>
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<td>Tourist Police Harbor Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Agios Frangiscus (Saint Francis)</td>
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</tbody>
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- **P** Parking
- **Church**
- **Information**
- **Hospital**
- **Rest Rooms**
- **Buses**
- **Ferries**
- **Marina**
- **Lighthouse**
- **Taxi**
- **Post Office**

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**Chania**

- **Old Town**
- **New Town**
- **Pedestrian precinct**
- **Stores**
- **Food-Drinks**