

MARITIME MUSEUM OF CRETE



The Maritime Museum of Crete is located at the entrance to the Firka Fortress, where, on 1 December 1913, the Greek flag was raised, marking the official Union of Crete with Greece. The Museum was established to preserve and safeguard Greece's naval heritage, and in particular that of Crete, which has been a source of the nation's survival, progress, and maritime greatness.

The Maritime Museum of Crete maintains an active programme with a strong emphasis on outreach, temporary exhibitions, international collaborations, educational initiatives, and the promotion of Crete's maritime history. In the field of philately, its activities have been based on exhibits covering the following thematic areas:

- Navigation
- Lighthouses and Marine Wealth
- Christianity
- The Battle of Crete
- The Cretan State

The Museum's most recent philatelic activities are as follows:

- 2024: Philatelic exhibition "Lighthouses of the World", first presented in Chania and subsequently transferred to the Naval Museum of Santorini.
- 2024: Philatelic exhibition "NAVIGATION", held at the Central European Postal and Telegraph Museum, Piazza Vittorio Veneto, Trieste, Italy.
- 2025: The philatelic exhibition "NAVIGATION" was transferred to the headquarters of Pošta Slovenije (Slovenian Post) in Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- 2025: Participation in the Naval Week 2025 celebrations, offering guided tours of the philatelic exhibitions "Lighthouses of the World" and "Navigation".
- 2026: In cooperation with the Hellenic Philatelic Federation (HPF), and as part of the commemorative events marking the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, the Museum hosted, in one of its exhibition halls, George Thomareis' philatelic exhibit "Crete 1940–46: The Difficult Years."
- 2026: Participation in the 101st Panhellenic Philatelic Exhibition, held in Athens, with a one-frame exhibit entitled "Lighthouses of the World."

In recognition of the Maritime Museum of Crete's overall contribution, and in particular its promotion of philately through its exhibits and its outstanding outreach activities, the Hellenic Philatelic Federation, by decision of its General Assembly on 16 March 2025, proclaimed the Museum an Honorary Member of the Federation.

Official website of the Maritime Museum of Crete: <https://mar-mus-crete.gr/en/the-museum/>

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