



# THE SISSI ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Join us in an exciting archaeological and human experience on the trail of a lost civilisation, at the origins of ours

*Located on a hill on the northeastern coast of Crete and close to the modern village of Sissi and the famous palace of Malia, the Kephali site is a rare and precious witness of a period that remains largely unknown of Greek, and more broadly European history, the brilliant Minoan civilisation.*

## Why dig at Sissi?

Minoan civilisation flourished on the island of Crete from about 3000 BC onwards. Brightly painted frescoes, exquisite jewellery, "palatial" buildings organised around a central court, symbols of a strong administration and elaborate writing systems testify to the wealth and refinement of this civilisation, the first in the European continent. This prosperous society nevertheless came to a sudden end in the 15th century BC for reasons still unknown. Another unsolved mystery is the socio-political organisation of Minoan society.

Since our written sources remain undeciphered, only archaeology can help to unlock the secrets of this civilisation.

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Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Within these debates, the site of Sissi is a privileged witness. Since 2007, a team of archaeologists from the UCLouvain, together with a score of international experts, is investigating this important and strategically situated Minoan settlement. A cemetery, domestic workshops, a large multi-period residential complex as well as a monumental court-centred building have been brought to light, only a few kilometres away from the palatial town of Malia.

The exceptional nature of these remains as well as the strategic position of the Sissi archaeological site shows that its thorough exploration can shed new light on the relations between Minoan palaces and their densely inhabited hinterland.

Fondation Louvain-UCL  
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# One project, four missions



Within the last 10 years, the Sissi Archaeological Project has become one of the most important archaeological missions in Greece due to its broad chronological coverage, the remarkable nature of the unearthed remains and the quality of the research conducted by its international and multidisciplinary team. The project, however, is far more than just another excavation of Minoan ruins: its aim is to combine scientific, educational, and community interests.



## 1. Explore

The rules of power and the complex structure of Minoan society using advanced scientific technologies.

By donating 200 euros, you help to conduct DNA or stable isotope analyses on human bones that are more than 3500 years old, thus helping to trace the genealogy of our European ancestors

## 2. Protect

Fragile and priceless ruins of our common heritage which provides a unique access to Minoan society and to an authentic encounter between the present and the past.

By donating 500 euros, you guarantee the long-term conservation of a multi-millennial wall threatened by harsh weather and erosion and thus become a protagonist of the eventual reconversion of the site into an archaeological park



## 3. Educate

Future generations of archaeologists through qualitative on-site training in a multidisciplinary and international working environment.

By donating 1000 euros, you provide a student with the possibility to complete his/her academic training by several weeks of fieldwork while playing an active role in the progress of research in Minoan archaeology

## 4. Raise awareness

Among local and foreign communities about the safeguarding of Minoan heritage and empower them for its sustainable valorisation.

By donating 2000 euros, you help placing explanatory bilingual panels (in English and Greek) on the site, which allows the public to appreciate the Minoan ruins and helps it to connect to and care for the Minoan past

