

ABOUT KNOSSOS

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knossos>

Knossos alternative spellings **Knossus**, **Cnossus**, **Gnossus**, is the largest [Bronze Age archaeological site](#) on [Crete](#), probably the ceremonial and political center of the [Minoan civilization](#) and culture. It is a popular tourist destination today, as it is near the main city of [Heraklion](#) and has been substantially if imaginatively "rebuilt", making the site accessible to the casual visitor in a way that a field of unmarked ruins is not.

The great palace was built gradually between 1700 and 1400 BC, with periodic rebuildings after destruction. Structures preceded it on Kephala hill. The features currently most visible date mainly to the last period of habitation, which Evans termed [Late Minoan](#). The palace has an interesting layout^[2] - the original plan can no longer be seen because of the subsequent modifications. Also, there are not several main hallways. Instead, 1300 rooms are connected with corridors of varying sizes and direction. The six acres of the palace included a theatre, a main entrance on each of its four cardinal faces, and extensive storerooms (also called magazines). The storerooms contained [pithoi](#) (large clay vases) that held oil, grains, dried fish, beans, and olives. Many of the items were created at the palace itself, which had grain mills, oil presses, and wine presses. Beneath the pithoi were stone holes used to store more valuable objects, such as gold. The palace used advanced architectural techniques; for example, part of it was built up to five stories high.



Knossos Palace Aerial View



From archaeological museum of Heraklion

