

Gavdos Gathering information.
May 27 to June 5, 2025.
Agios Ioannis beach on Gavdos island, Greece.

Dear faerie.

About the gathering.

The Gavdos gathering's fabulousness comes from the faeries that attend and from the gorgeous Greek island beach setting. There is no need to register and there are no fees. You can just show up: it's just faeries gathering and being faeries together.

This year's gathering begins on the new moon. We will watch as the goddess delicately appears in the star-filled sky gradually and seductively revealing her beauty to us. Perhaps this can inspire us to create a ritual to new beginnings on the cycle of existence. Rebirth, renewal, reinvention, re-----. Bring any ideas for ritual and celebration that inspire you, the new moon ritual is just a suggestion.

Like in all faerie gatherings, you can expect content to arise from the faeries attending. There will, for sure, be daily heart circles. Also: rituals, workshops, and any other faerie activities we come up with.

Usually we organize one or more excursions, like hikes or a boat trip.

Food

Although there are no fees, there will be costs for you as you will have to travel to get there and, once there, you will have to eat and drink.

The food situation will be covered by Sofia's restaurant, one of the two restaurants closest to the beach. Her food is delicious and well-priced. Over the years, we have developed a real relationship with her and her team, and they have warmly embraced us and our faerie energy and occasional special diets. Of course, we can always take a break from eating at her place and eat somewhere else as long as she knows not to prepare food for us for that meal.

There is also a mini market near the beach with some things and simple food provisions.

Breakfast at Sofia's is a good time for the group to meet and plan the day of faerie activities and other practicalities.

Sleep

Camping on the beach of Agios Ioannis is free. For me, sleeping under the sky next to sea, sand dunes, rocks, and ancient cedar trees is magical, and I highly recommend it. You can bring your own favorite tent or buy a cheap tent nearby on Gavdos (or on Crete) so that you do not have to travel with one.

If camping is not your cup of tea, however, Sofia has a few rooms to rent also, but not enough for all faeries attending (I think she has 6 rooms). Sharing a room is always a possibility. Sofia can easily be found on the Internet at <https://www.sofiaroomsgavdos.com>.

Camping

Camping on Gavdos, as mentioned, is free. On the beach and in various nooks under the trees, there are established campsites that you are welcome to use, provided they are not occupied. You may find that the previous occupants have left several items for you to use. You are encouraged to use them respectfully and leave the site special for the next person. The whole beach has an alternative vibe about it and is very popular in the summer with people who want to get away from it all. This is one reason we are having the gathering so early in the season: to have lots of space and nice campsites for us to choose from.

The beach

Some words about the beach. Agios Ioannis is a long sandy beach with beautiful, old and rare cedar trees among sand dunes and rocks. It is a special protected biotope and people who stay there feel protective of it. This means probably no fires on the beach. It faces north towards Crete and I read on one Webpage that it was voted second most beautiful beach in the world in 2007 by the Travel Channel. To see photos of it, simply Google “Agios Ioannis Gavdos,” there are plenty of beautiful images that will give you an idea of its charm.

The beach, which is clothing optional, will not be exclusively our space, but it is big enough to provide quiet and sheltered spots for us to have undisturbed heart circles, etc.

Getting around

This gathering involves some physical activity. The restaurant and rooms, along with toilets and showers, are beyond the very edge of the beach and about 10-15 minutes by foot away from the central camping area. Expect to make this hike on a path through rocky and sandy areas back and forth at least once a day as we have our heart circles on the beach and our meals at Sofia's.

A 30-minute walk away there is a bigger (non nudie) beach with more shops, restaurants, and accommodation (this is where you can purchase a tent also). You can take the bus there too.

Make sure you have a flashlight or a good light on your phone for walking at night.

Packing

So, what to bring? Bring a tent and whatever you need to sleep on. And whatever else you need for camping on the beach. In case we go on a longer hike, bring footwear you can walk in comfortably and safely. Bring a suitably protective sunscreen for your skin type, or at least a large hat and fabrics to protect yourself from the sun when needed. If you can, bring other faerie things (beautiful décor, outfits, beach games, musical instruments, ritual objects, etc.)

Travel

How to get there. First you need to get to Crete. You can either fly to Crete or take an overnight boat from Athens (the port in Athens is called Piraeus or Pireas). The airport that is closest to the ports on Crete where we leave for Gavdos, is the airport of Chania (also spelled Hania). But you can also fly into the airport of Heraklion. Both these airports are on the northern coast of Crete.

From there you need to get to the southern coast to the ports of either Paleochora or Hora Sfakion (also known as Sfakia), depending on which day you will be travelling to Gavdos. The timetables for the ferries are to be found on the ANENDYK website (<https://anendyk.gr/routes/>). The boat leaves from Paleochora on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The boat leaves from Hora Sfakion on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There is no boat on Sunday. So I, and presumably most of the group, will be taking the boat at Paleochora on Tuesday morning.

The best way to get to either Paleochora or Hora Sfakion is to take a bus from the Chania bus station. This means that if you are flying into the Heraklion airport, you need to allow for extra time to get to Chania. It is possible to take a taxi to these ports, but that can be quite expensive. It is possible to get the early morning bus to either port on the day of your boat trip, but it is best to get to the port of departure the day before and spend the night there. You will probably find inexpensive accommodation at this time of the year without reserving but, if you like, book in advance. Closer to the date, we can get more precise information on bus routes as they are not yet all available.

Once on Gavdos, simply take the bus at the port for Agios Ioannis beach. Tell the bus driver you are going to Sofia's and he will drop you off in front of Sofia's. You are bound to see us there sooner or later if we are not already there. You can even ask Sofia by telling her you are with Efthimios' group.

If you let me know before hand that you are coming, I can keep you informed of my specific itinerary so that we can travel together. Usually, we travel more or less all together. Also, I can help you organize your trip. This information above may seem complicated, but it all makes sense once you figure it out.

Some advice: it is a good idea, if you can, to leave some time before and after the gathering for your travel. This way you will not stress about getting there and, if you have any time left, you can always spend it on Crete after you arrive or before you leave.

Chania, Paleochora, and Hora Sfakion are all beautiful places in which to spend some time. Enjoy them. It is appropriate that the trip to get to Gavdos is a kind of a mini odyssey. According to local legend, Odysseus spent seven years on Gavdos under the charms of the nymph Calypso before continuing his homeward journey.

Faerie wings, faerie hearts

This gathering is a radical faerie gathering open to all hearts and the vessels/bodies that hold them. If faerie culture, ideas, traditions, and basic practices are not that familiar to you, no need to feel shy or apprehensive. I or any other experienced faerie will be happy to share our knowledge and perspectives with you. As faerie godmothers we can help you grow, spread your faerie wings, and open your faerie hearts.

Legal stuff

A note on liability and insurance. In essence, this gathering is simply us getting together on a beach and being faeries. There is no person, organizing team, or association behind it that accepts or carries any liability. I, and these communications, are simply here to motivate you to join us and to help you get there and deal with any questions that you might have. As there are no gathering fees or organizing structure behind this gathering, any insurance (medical, accident, travel, etc.) you might feel you need is your responsibility. This has not been an issue in previous gatherings on Gavdos, but I feel it is important to make this point clear.

Communication

I have set up a communications group on the Signal app for attending faeries: GAVDOS 2025. I do not use a smart phone, but I can access and use this group on my laptop, so I will only be communicating on it when I am using my laptop computer. I also will have a group e-mail situation going. I can most easily be reached via text or phone call on my non-smart phone. My number is +30 6974271472. And here's my e-mail too: efthimios@aol.com. If you send me your number, I can add you to the Signal group. Send me an e-mail anyway, so I can have a list of participants.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information. Or just show up at any time, even without telling me. I envision the gathering to be completely open and stress free. A real beach paradise gathering with real faerie depth.

Looking forward to it.

Hugs,
Efthimios