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COASTAL & INLAND TOURISM

...in the Land of experiences



MUNICIPALITY
OF CHERONISSOS



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES

Bike Routes

of the Municipality of Chersonissos

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360cities.net/profile/chersonissos

www.youtube.com/c/ChersonissosMunicipality

twitter.com/mychersonissos

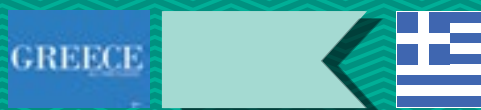
www.pinterest.co/mychersonissos

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Bike Routes

of the Municipality of Chersonissos

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A bicycle is an enjoyable and green means of transportation that is ideal for covering long or short distances based on your own abilities, providing you the opportunity to stop wherever you wish and create your own cycling adventure. At the same time, cycling helps you improve your physical condition and mental well-being.

The Municipality of Chersonissos, the most popular holiday destination in Greece, is situated in Crete, the most southern island of Europe, and is blessed with ideal weather conditions for cyclists all year round.

Plan your unique cycling experience, whether being a professional cyclist, a beginner of the sport or a cycling lover as you will find dozens of routes available around the Municipality of Chersonissos. Enjoy a biking tour with your family, or train while discovering unknown routes and experience a true adventure.

Asphalt and farm roads, challenging ascending parts, sea-side routes and ancient paths: all can be found here. Explore traditional villages, archaeological sites, monasteries, unique nature, picturesque cafes, and enjoy the hospitality and kindness of the locals.

The Municipality of Chersonissos welcomes cyclists of all levels from all over the world and invites them to enjoy the beauty, the history and the traditions of our region with the most healthy and enjoyable means of transport: the bicycle.

In this brochure you will find information of 4 routes for road cyclists as well as 5 routes for mountain cyclists of all levels. These tours cover the largest part of the Municipality of Chersonissos. There are road signs for all routes mentioned in the brochure.

1 Episkopi - Stamnoi - Sgourokefali



ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Mountain	21.5 klm	2 Hours

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape

Villages you meet

Episkopi, Stamnoi, Chochlakies, Sgourokefali

Cycle on a dirt road that starts at the village of Episkopi descending for 250 meters parallel to the gorge of Karteros. The route ends near the village Aitania, passing through a beautiful stream with many reeds that require special attention. On the way to the village of Stamnoi towards the direction of the village Chochlakies, you will meet two extraordinary byzantine churches, "Virgin Limniotissa" and "Saint George of Toupaki". As you go back from the village of Chochlakies to the village of Sgourokefali, the route goes through a dirt road and then an asphalt road until the village of Episkopi.

Caution!

In rainy weather, mud is collected by the stream bed just below the village of Aitania making the road surface slippery.

Route Map

Starting point

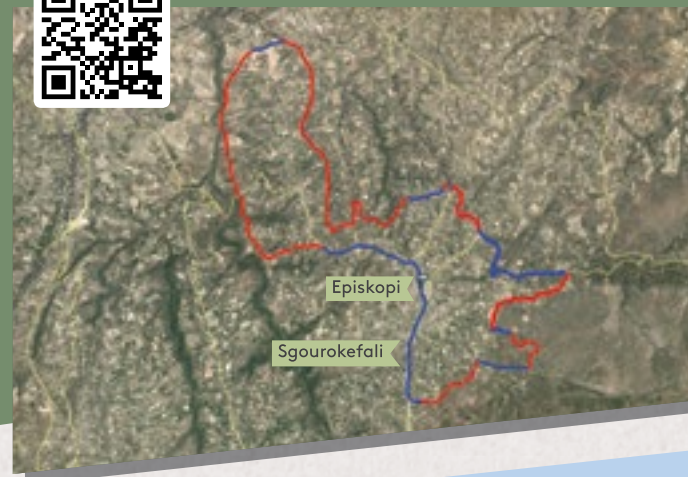


asphalt

trail

singletrack

spring



mtb1

Statistics

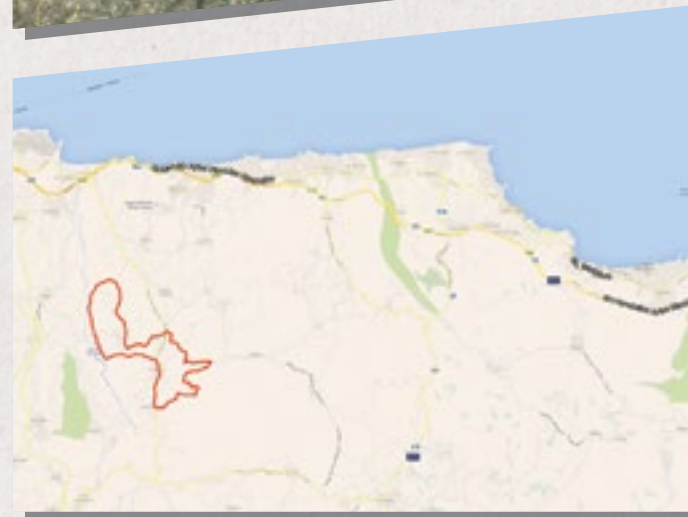
Highest Point
359 metres

Lowest Point
75 metres

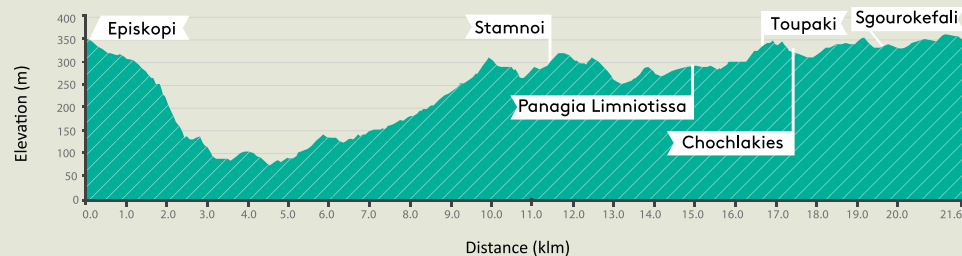
Total Ascending
590 metres

Starting Point
Episkopi

Finishing Point
Episkopi



Elevation Gain



Municipality of Chersonissos



7

2 Gouves - Voritsi - Charasso



ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Mountain	18 klm	1 hour and 30 Minutes

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape

Villages you meet

Gouves, Voritsi, Charasso, Koxari

The word "Charasso" in the Slavic language means "beautiful". The village was given its name by the Slavs under the leadership of the Roman Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas, who appreciated its beauty and wonderful views. In fact, as the name implies - although the route is rather short - it astounds with the enchanting landscape alternations and the picturesque villages you meet.

The route is quite easy, apart from a difficult ascending part just after the monastery on the way to the village Charasso.

Include in your route a visit at the cave of Skoteino and at the Monastery of Kera Eleoussa. The route may be combined with a refreshment in one of the many traditional cafes you meet on the way.



Route Map

Starting point



asphalt

trail

singletrack

spring



mtb2



Statistics

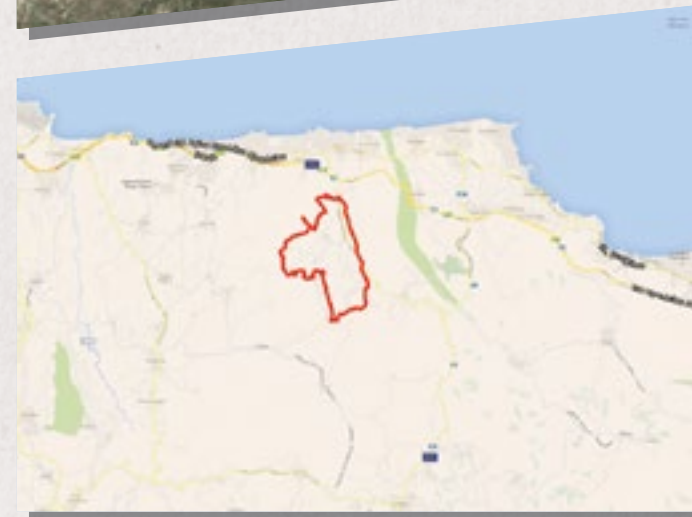
Highest Point
417 metres

Lowest Point
67 metres

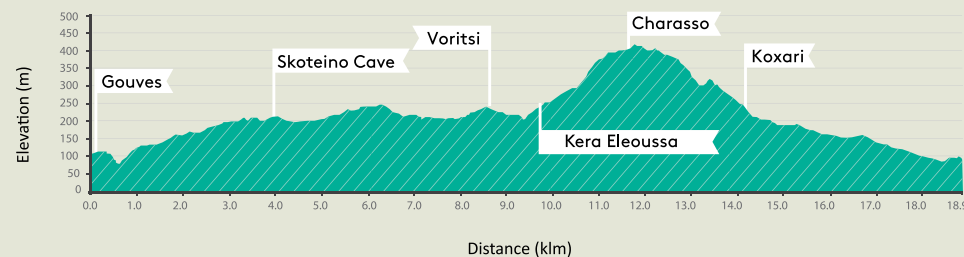
Total Ascending
540 metres

Starting Point
Gouves

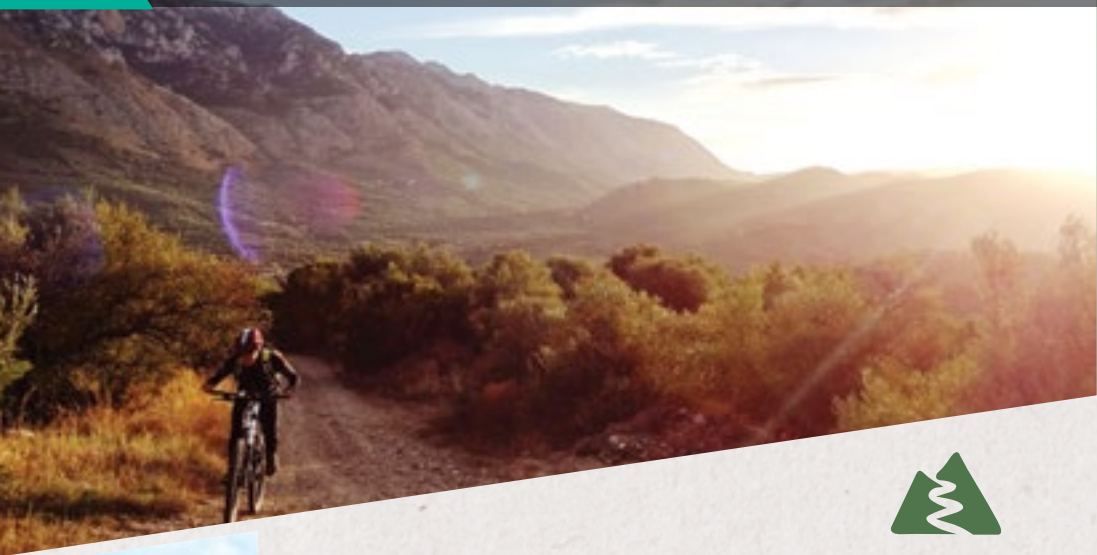
Finishing Point
Gouves



Elevation Gain



Municipality of Chersonissos



ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Mountain	10 klm	2 Hours

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape

Villages you meet

Mochos



An easy, circular route at the plateau of Mochos, ideal for families or beginners of the sport, with a small cycling ascending part.

Nearly the whole route passes through olive groves. Apart from some parts that are stony, the road surface is excellent.

In the second part of the route, just after you reach the end of the asphalt road, the views are astonishing.

After having reached the finishing point of the route, you are welcome to enjoy traditional dishes or refreshments at the beautiful square of Mochos village.

Route Map

Starting point



asphalt

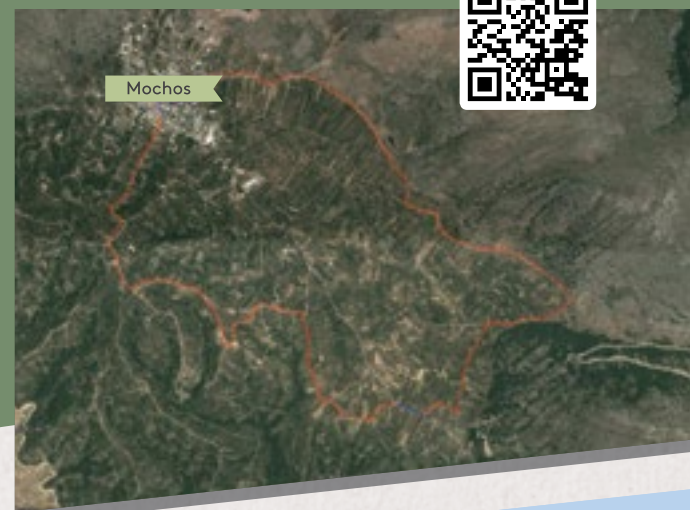
trail

singletrack

spring



mtb3



Statistics

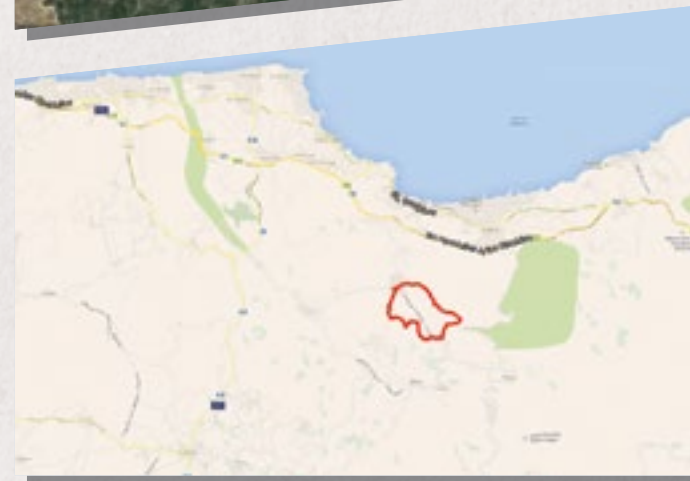
Highest Point
466 metres

Lowest Point
361 metres

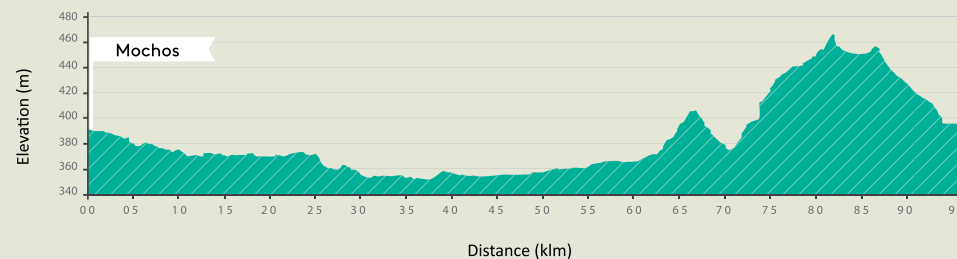
Total Ascending
200 metres

Starting Point
Mochos

Finishing Point
Mochos



Elevation Gain



Municipality of Chersonissos





ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Mountain	15.5 klm	2 Hours

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape
▲	▲	▲
▲	▲	▲
▲	▲	▲
▲	▲	▲

Villages you meet

Avdou, Kera, Gonies

A short but very impressive mountain ascending route, having the village of Avdou as its starting point continuing all the way to Kera, passing through an astonishing gorge parallel to the Rosa gorge. Although the road surface at the beginning starts with asphalt and cement, it will be challenging in some points, due to the steep gradient and the crumbling road. In the middle of the route you will find a fount of running water.

While descending, visit the historic . Further down, you will come across the little church of Virgin Apotiposi (Virgin Imprint). On the rock above the church, it is said that the imprint of Virgin Mary's hand is visible. While descending further, special attention needs to be paid just after the church of Apotiposi, due to the stony road.



Route Map

Starting point



asphalt



trail



singletrack



spring



mtb4

Statistics

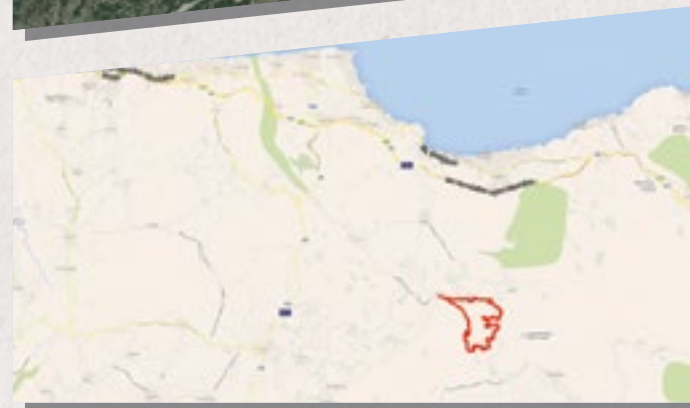
Highest Point
720 metres

Lowest Point
230 metres

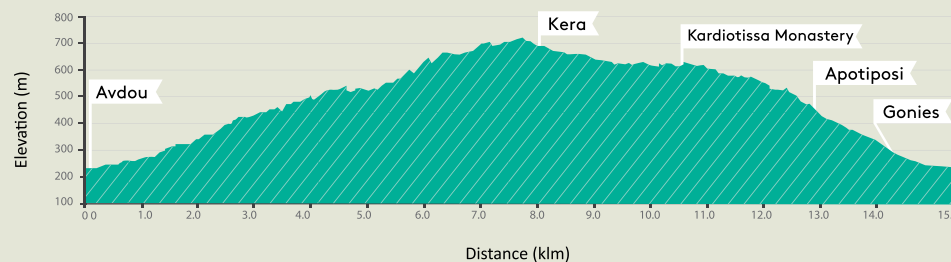
Total Ascending
530 metres

Starting Point
Avdou

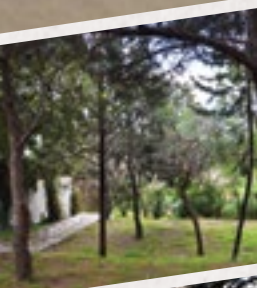
Finishing Point
Avdou



Elevation Gain



Municipality of Chersonissos



ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Road	45 klm	2 Hours and 30 Minutes

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape

Villages you meet

Kokkini Chani, Elia, Agios Ioannis, Stamnoi, Episkopi, Sgourokefali, Myrtia, Skalani



A cycling tour of average difficulty and altitude, ascending on asphalt road. Just like the route "Gouves to Smari", it is characterised by the continual ascent, reaching the most difficult points just before Skalani.

This route that passes through a charming farm scenery and ten picturesque villages, is ideal for training as well as visiting the numerous cafes, two museums (Argirakio War Ethnological Museum, at the village of Episkopi and Nikos Kazantzakis Museum at the village of Myrtia), and the historical Agkarathos Monastery just after the village of Sgourokefali.

Special attention needs to be paid while cycling on the steep descending slope after the village of Myrtia.

Route Map

Starting point



asphalt

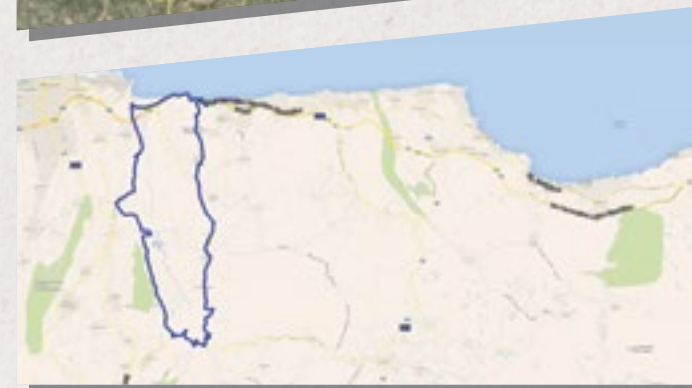
trail

singletrack

spring



road1



Statistics

Highest Point
357 metres

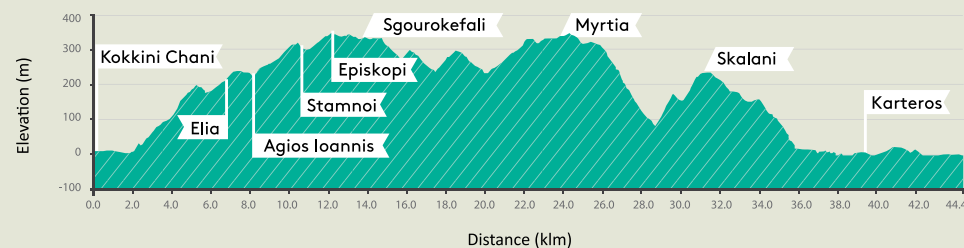
Lowest Point
0 metres

Total Ascending
843 metres

Starting Point:
Kokkini Chani

Finishing Point
Kokkini Chani

Elevation Gain



6 Kokkini Chani - Smari - Anopoli



ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Road	53 klm	3 Hours and 30 Minutes

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape

Villages you meet

Kokkini Chani, Gournes, Gouves, Koxari, Kalo Chorio, Mpitziaritano, Kasteli, Smari, Galifa, Galipe, Kenourgio Chorio, Ep. Vatheia, Agios Ioannis, Kato Vatheia, Anopoli

This route of 53 kilometres on asphalt road is ideal for training as well as visiting the 15 picturesque inland villages. You can stop along the way and enjoy a refreshment at one of the numerous traditional cafes or swim at one of the largest sandy beaches at Kokkini Chani or Gouves.

The route is rather easy with a quick warming up until you reach Gouves and it doesn't have many difficult ascending parts.



Route Map

Starting point



asphalt

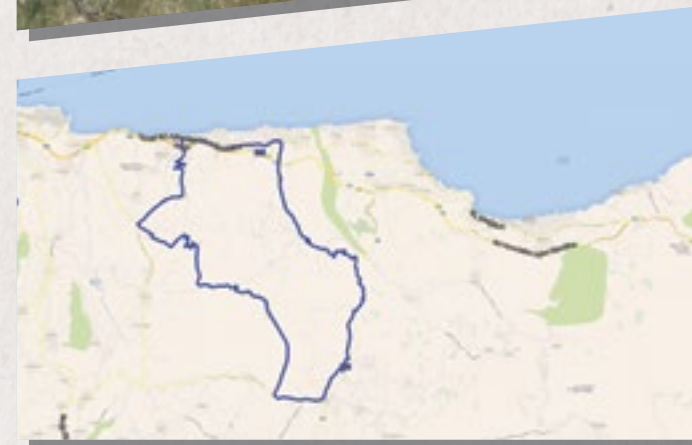
trail

singletrack

spring



road2



Statistics

Highest Point
385 metres

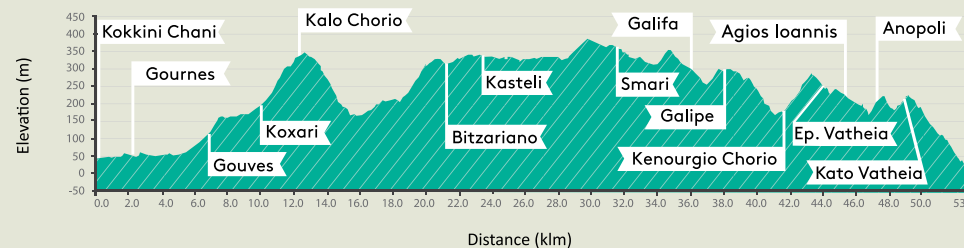
Lowest Point
25 metres

Total Ascending
1000 metres

Starting Point
Gouves

Finishing Point
Gouves

Elevation Gain



Municipality of Chersonissos

7 Malia - Krassi - Mochos - Stalis



ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Road	29.5 klm	2 Hours

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape

Villages you meet

Malia, Krassi, Mochos, Stalis

A small cycling route ascending from Malia to the village of Krassi and returning from the village of Mochos to Stalis, without any steep ascending parts or high altitude.

You can stop to drink fresh water that runs from a fount at the village of Krassi just below the largest plane-tree in Crete.

You will meet lovely traditional cafes for refreshments and relaxation in the village of Krassi as well as in the village of Mochos.



Route Map

Starting point



asphalt

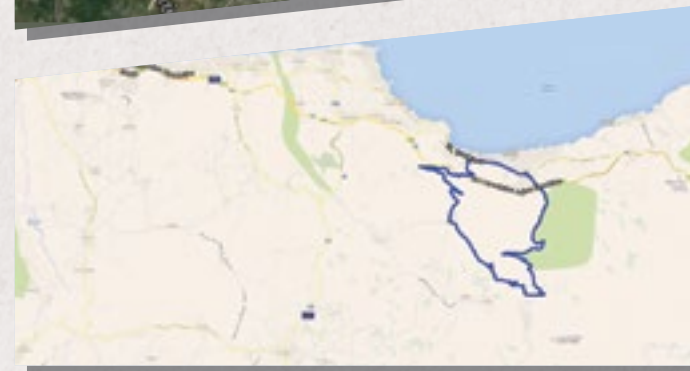
trail

singletrack

spring



road3



Statistics

Highest Point
611 metres

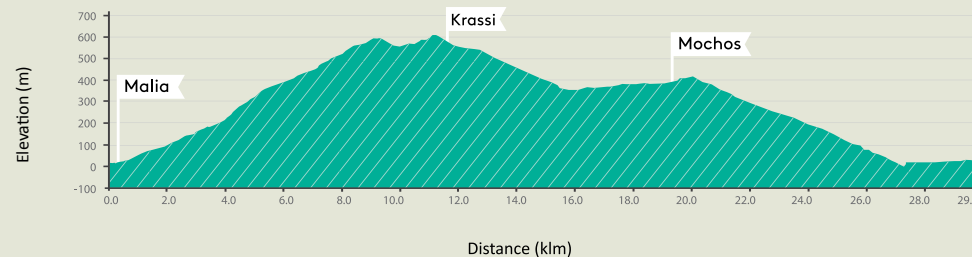
Lowest Point
18 metres

Total Ascending
876 metres

Starting Point
Malia

Finishing Point
Malia

Elevation Gain



Municipality of Chersonissos

8 Chersonissos - Avdou - Lassithi Plateau



ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
Road	31 klm	2 Hours

Route Evaluation

Fatigue	Difficulty	Landscape

Villages you meet

Chersonissos, Potamies, Avdou, Gonies, Kera



One of the most beautiful ascending tours in Crete. Even though it does not reach a high altitude, it captivates the cyclists due to its natural beauty and the unique landscape of Lassithi plateau.

You will start the route at Chersonissos and ascend towards the plateau, passing through the villages of Potamies, Avdou, Gonies and Kera. You just have to follow the signs found in any crossroad.

The route, apart from one small part just before the village of Kera, has average gradients and the road surface is very good. Cyclists wishing to add another 20 kilometres, are welcome to cycle around the even plateau of Lassithi.

Route Map

Starting point



asphalt

trail

singletrack

spring



road4



Statistics

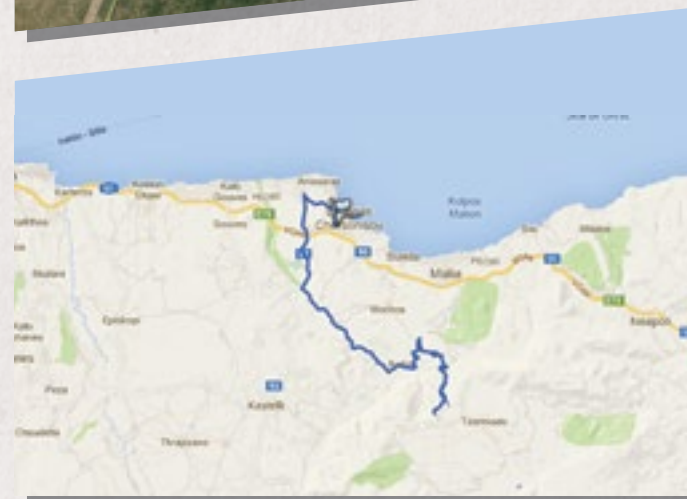
Highest Point
451 metres

Lowest Point
10 metres

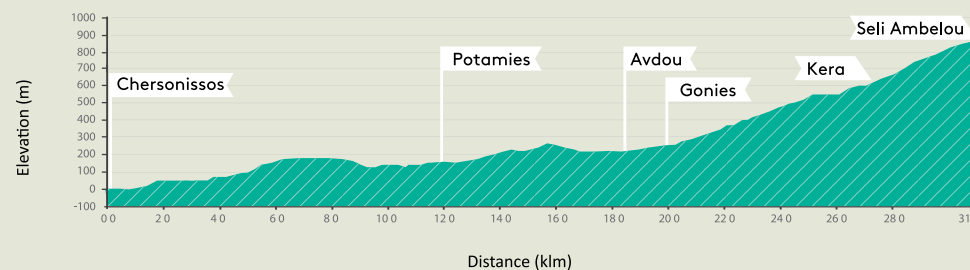
Total Ascending
1010 metres

Starting Point
Chersonissos

Finishing Point
Ampelos (Plateau)

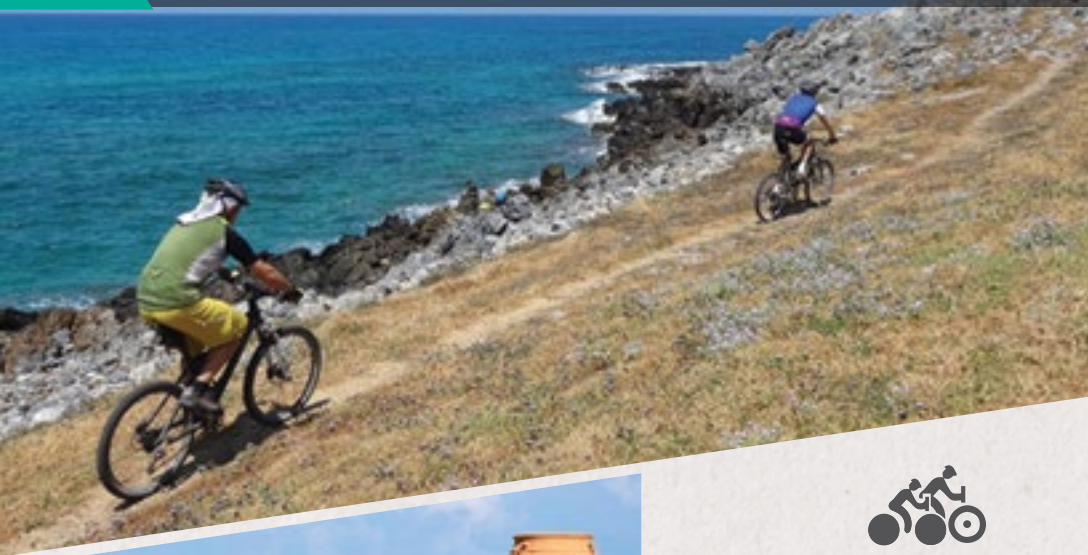


Elevation Gain



Municipality of Chersonissos





ROUTE CATEGORY	Distance	Ride time
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Kids and
family

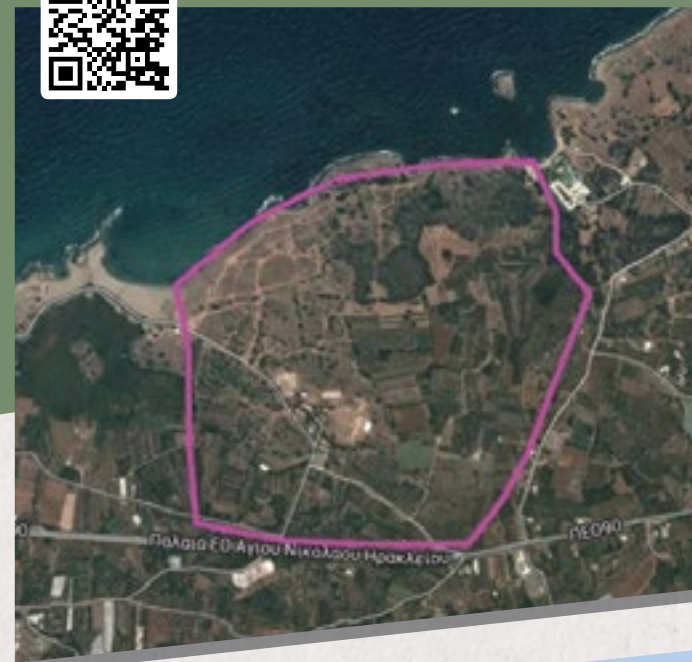
21.5 km

2 Hours

Villages you meet

Malia

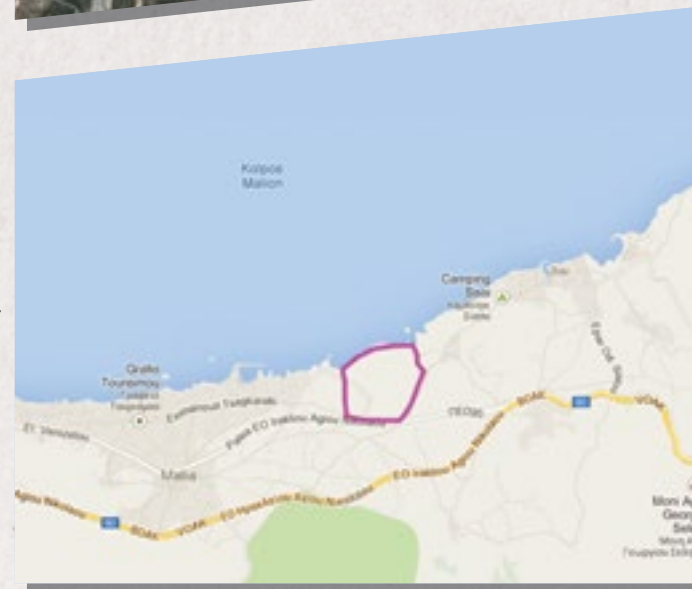
The wide even area around the archaeological site of Malia by the sea is a large cycling playground for families (ideal for young children) and beginners of the sport that do not wish to test their skill on a mountain. It is also proposed for advanced cyclists that wish to train. The road surface varies from stony to dirt road.



The north part of the area next to the sea is wild; bushes are spread around and many paths can be found.

In the southern part you will come across plenty of olive groves and farm roads. Next to it, there is a large wetland hosting many different kinds of birds.

This particular route is suggested as a day tour for the whole family, since you can combine it with a visit to the archaeological site along with swimming at the organised beach (*where showers, changing rooms and cafes can be found*).



Useful tips



Emergency telephone numbers

Chersonissos Police Station
+30 28970 22100

Tourist Police
+30 28970 21000

Port Authority
+30 28970 23111

Fire Station
+30 28970 25199

District Health Care
Centre of Chersonissos
+30 28970 22042

District Health Care Centre
of Gouves
+30 28970 41202

District Health Care Centre
of Malia
+30 2897340220

District Health Care Centre
of Mochos
+30 28970 61333

- Always use a helmet.
- Choose the right bicycle size
- Make sure your bike is in good condition.
- Choose a bike equipped with lights that will allow you to cycle in the dark and be visible to vehicles passing by.
- Cycle based on your skill and abilities.
- Always have your bike under control and do not perform unnecessary and dangerous manoeuvres.
- When the weather gets worse, cycle carefully and reduce your speed.
- When you cycle through residential areas, reduce your speed and warn pedestrians as a bicycle is not always perceived.
- Always carry a mobile phone in case of an accident.
- Do not pick fruit from trees and be careful not to cycle through farmed land.
- Do not disturb domestic and wild animals.
- Always close the gates you open.
- Enjoy your trip without leaving waste behind you.

The rule “carry only what is needed and necessary” is applied in cycling. You should always carry an air pump, one or two bottle cages and a saddle bag with a spare bicycle tube, two tire levers and a multi-tool.

The rest may be placed in a backpack. Choice of clothing depends on the weather. During winter months, a waterproof jacket is necessary even during sunny days. It is suggested cyclists to be equipped with clothing suitable for cycling.

For example, the waterproof jacket for cyclists has longer sleeves, that can be adjusted when you bend over the steering wheel and it is longer at the back, so that water splashed by the wheels does not affect you. Your clothing should have a light and bright color so that you are easily noticed.

Tools

- Oil
- Portable air-pump
- Pedal cleats with screws
- Extra valve
- Insulating tape
- One pair of brake pads
- French valve adaptor
- Replacement frame hanger for the back derailleur
- A small Swiss knife with pliers
- Bicycle tube
- Chain links
- Some long and short wire ties
- Patches and glue
- 2 tire levers

Clothing

- Helmet
 - Tights with good padding
 - Waterproof jacket for cyclists. It needs to be made from good quality breathable material and include a hood
 - Glasses
 - Cycling shoes
 - Windproof flyweight or windproof gilet
 - Baselayer
 - Cycling gloves
- Never go cycling without a helmet!

Equipment

Just as it applies to tools, there is no need for all cyclists to carry equipment, such as maps and first-aid kit. The equipment needed is the following:

- Money
- Mobile phone
- Front and back lights. The front light needs to be strong enough to see far ahead, not only to be seen as with the city lights. Also, it is suggested the front light to have a rechargeable battery for economy
- Small nylon bag
- Food (dry fruit and nuts)
- Map and map photocopy of the route you will follow
- Napkins
- Small first-aid kit
- 2 water bottles or a backpack, camelback type
- Sunscreen
- Whistle. To be used in case of emergency since it is the only way to be heard by someone who is far away or has taken a wrong turn when cycling in groups. It is suggested the whistle to be secured on one of the bag's straps, so that you can comfortably and easily pull it in your mouth.
- Small, absorbing towel for tours combined with swimming
- Camera (not necessary)

We would like to thank cyclingcreta.gr and mr.Giapitzakis civil servant of the Municipality of Chersonissos, for providing information about the routes along with some of the photographs used.

Municipality of Chersonissos