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COASTAL & INLAND TOURISM

...in the Land of experiences

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MUNICIPALITY
OF CHERSONISSOS



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES

Hiking Trails

of the Municipality of Chersonissos





Hiking Trails

of the Municipality of Chersonissos

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We would like to thank the Naturalist Association of Heraklion (www.fysi.gr) and mr.Giorgis Chronakis, civil servant of Municipality of Chersonissos, for providing information about hiking routes (description and GPS trails) and photos.

Hiking and mountaineering have become very popular as they provide a real insight of the place you are visiting and they add an exciting experience to your holidays.

The Municipality of Chersonissos, one of the most popular tourist destinations, has a topography that meets the hiking needs of every level of difficulty. It extends from the north coast of central Crete to the ridges of the Lasithi Mountains, and in combination with the mild climate of the area, hiking is feasible almost all year round.

In this leaflet, 10 hiking routes of all levels of difficulty are presented with maps, photographs and all the necessary information so that hikers can enjoy their walks. In these areas, hiking can be combined with visits to traditional villages, sights, archaeological sites and places of religious interest from the Minoan era to nowadays (churches and monasteries). Some of the routes take you through forgotten old paths that were used only by the locals for their daily transport (either with animals or on foot).

Each route has a QR-code with the note "download the route". This leads to a url where the route has been posted, including the information of this leaflet. It is also possible for the hiker to have the route on his/her mobile phone and follow it, through the free **WikiLoc application**.

If you are a beginner in hiking, we would recommend you not to start a route by yourself. Apart from the hiking and mountaineering clubs that are active all over Crete and organise hiking trips every Sunday, there are also professionals who can guide you to explore with safety the natural beauty of our Municipality and our island.

1 Skoteino - Charasso - Xerokamara



Difficulty

1

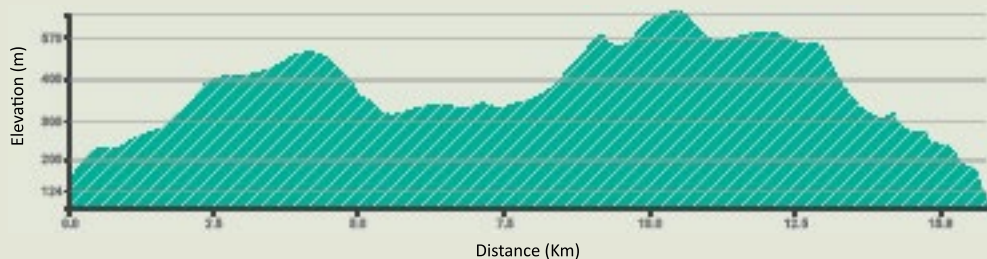


DOWNLOAD
THE ROUTE

Skoteino Cave - Kera Eleoussa - Charasso - Smari - Prophet Elias - Xerokamara

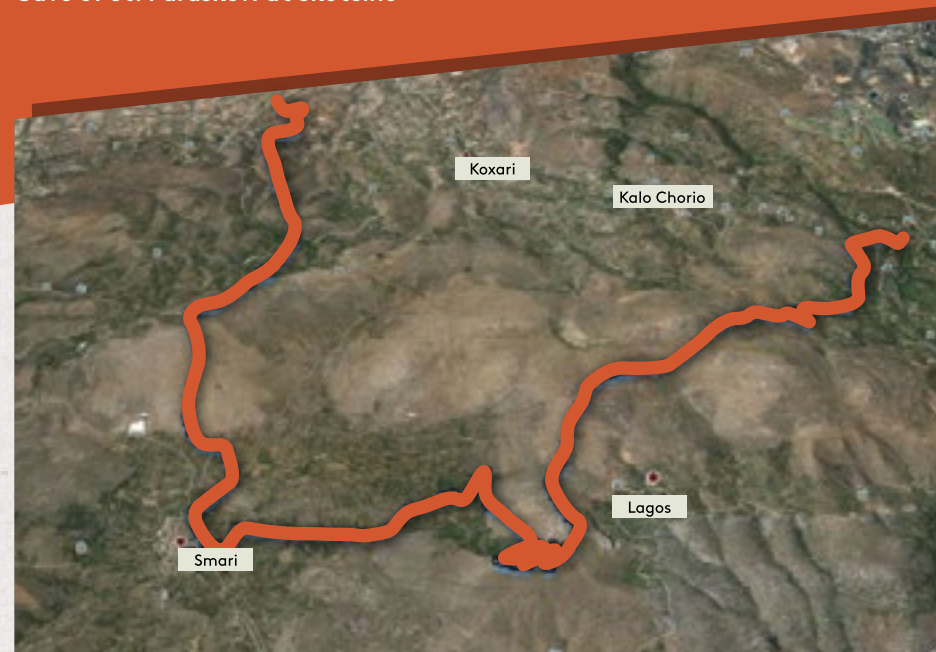
The route starts at Skoteino Cave (alt. 220m) near Skoteino village. Ascending towards the opposite eastern hill, you will reach the Monastery of Kera Eleoussa (alt. 240m). A dirt road leads to Charasso (alt. 400m). Passing by "Anemomylos" (alt. 450m) and through a path and a dirt road you will approach Smari (alt. 330m). Another dirt road will lead you to the church of Prophet Elias (alt. 540m) and afterwards to the top of the hill "Ancient Troulia" (alt. 570m). Heading north, via a footpath at first and a dirt road later, you end up at Xerokamara in Kalo Chorio (alt. 120m).

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance 16 Km	Duration 5:30 hrs	Proposed period March to July & September to November
Highest Point 569m	Lowest Point 120m	Villages we meet Skoteino, Charasso, Smari
Starting Point Cave of St. Paraskevi at Skoteino		Ending Point Xerokamara at Kalo Chorio



2 Potamies - Xerokamara - Aposselemis



Difficulty

1

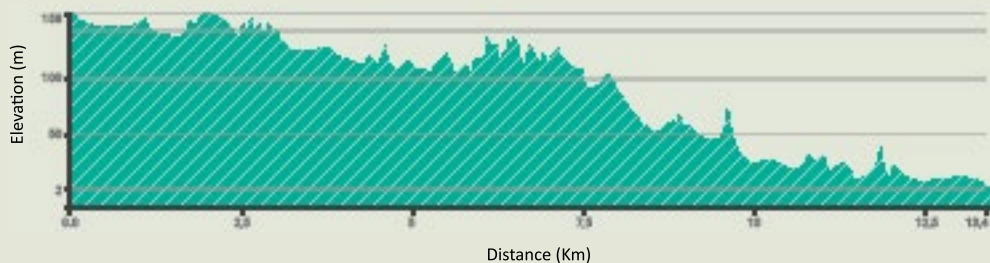


DOWNLOAD
THE ROUTE

Potamies - Xerokamara - Aposselemis

The route starts at Potamies Village (alt. 800m) on dirt road at first. Following the riverbed, you will pass from "Mavros Kolybos" and by turning right close to cultivated olive grove, you will meet the main asphalt road. After 300m, you will reach the pathway on the left and re-enter the riverbed. Passing by the ruins of the old aqueduct which supplied Chersonissos with water from Kalo Chorio. Along the gorge, there are plane, walnut and oak trees along with orchards and olive groves and is the refuge for many species of animals, particularly birds. Going through Xerokamara, "Kazania" and you will end up at the sea of Analipsi through the riverbed of Aposselemis.

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance 14 Km	Duration 5:00 hrs	Proposed period March to October
Highest Point 800m	Lowest Point 0m	Villages we meet Potamies, Xerokamara, Aposselemis
Starting Point Potamies	Ending Point Analipsi	





Difficulty

1

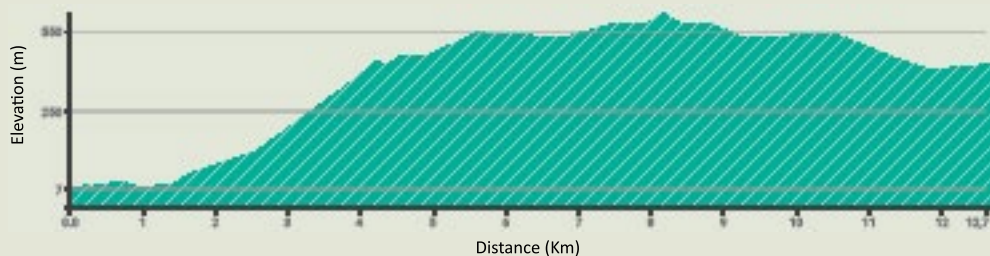
DOWNLOAD
THE ROUTE

Stalis - Voulgariko Monopati - Prophet Elias - Mochos

Start from Stalis (alt. 10m) initially on asphalt and later on dirt road. Crossing the bridge of the highway, you will reach the “Voulgariko Monopati” (Bulgarian Path). The hill ahead of you is called “Vigla”. When you come to the point where you can see Mochos, turn right on the dirt road to reach the church of Prophet Elias (alt. 540m). Go down the hill back on the same road to arrive at Mochos village (alt. 400m).

An alternative route starts from Prophet Elias and finishes in Potamies Village.

Elevation Gain

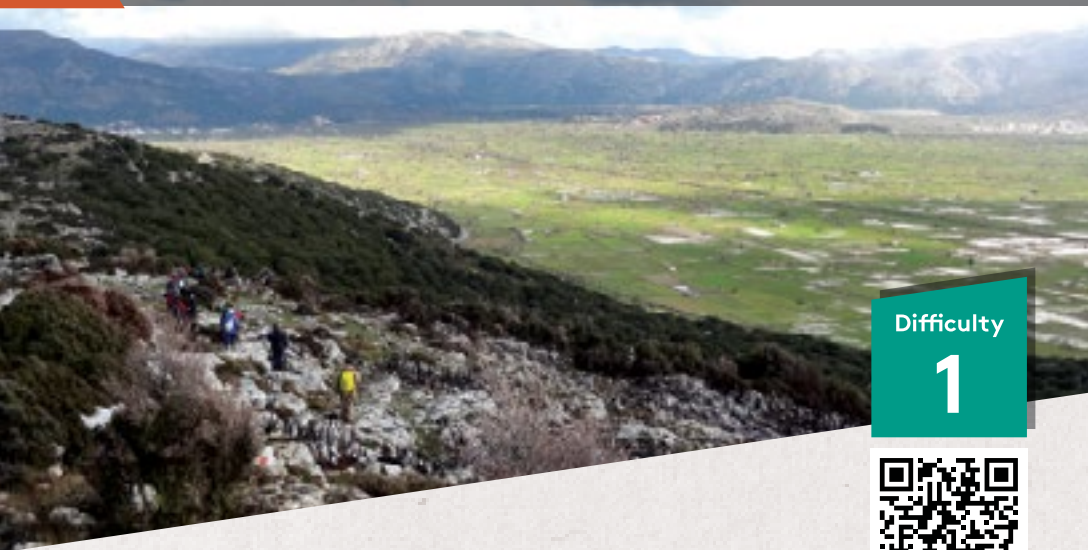


Route info

Distance 12 Km	Duration 4:00 hrs	Proposed period All year
Highest Point 540m	Lowest Point 10m	Villages we meet Stalis, Mochos
Starting Point Stalis		Ending Point Mochos



4 Kastamonitsa - Minoan Path



Difficulty

1



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THE ROUTE

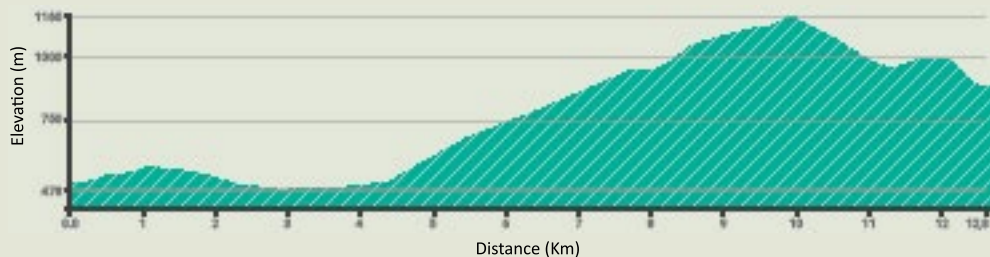
Kastamonitsa - Minoan Path - Louloudaki - Seli Ampelou

Heading north-east from Kastamonitsa Village (alt. 500m), passing “Makrys Toichos” (from where ancient Lyttos - east of the village Xydas - was supplied with water), you will reach the beginning of the Minoan path. The stone path leads you to “Tsouli’s Tomb” (alt. 950m).

If you head north-east, you will arrive at “Louloudaki” (alt. 1150m), and then you could descend to Seli Ampelou (alt. 890m).

You can choose an alternative and easier path with a different end point: from Tsouli’s tomb, the hiking ends at Chonos in Lasithi Plateau nearby the church of Panagia Vidiani, via a dirt road.

Elevation Gain

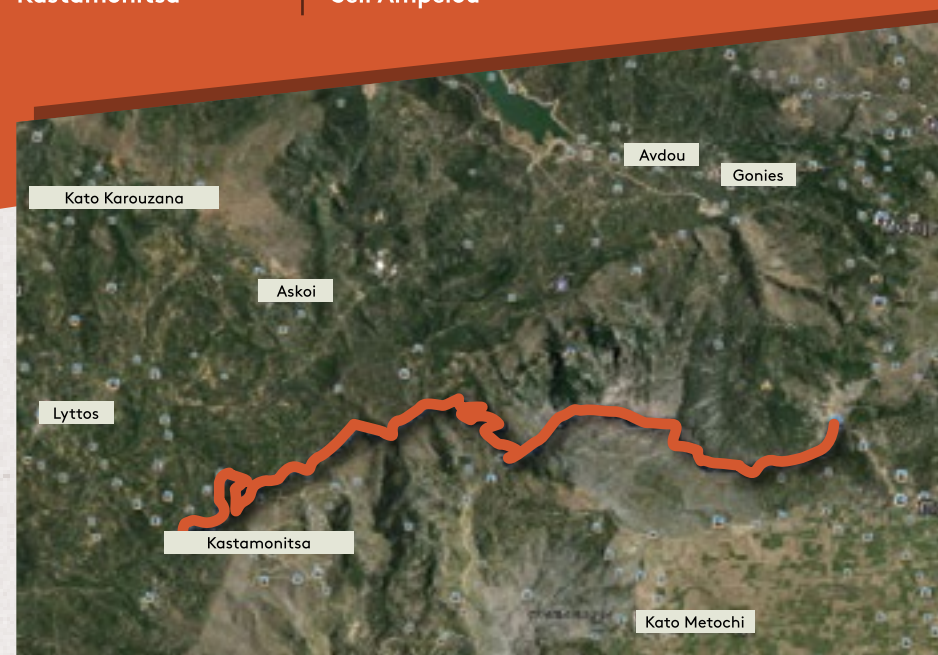


Route info

Distance 13 Km	Duration 5:00 hrs	Proposed period March to October
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Highest Point 1150m	Lowest Point 500m	Villages we meet Kastamonitsa
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Starting Point Kastamonitsa	Ending Point Seli Ampelou
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5 Krassi - Azilakodassos - Chamoprena



Difficulty

1

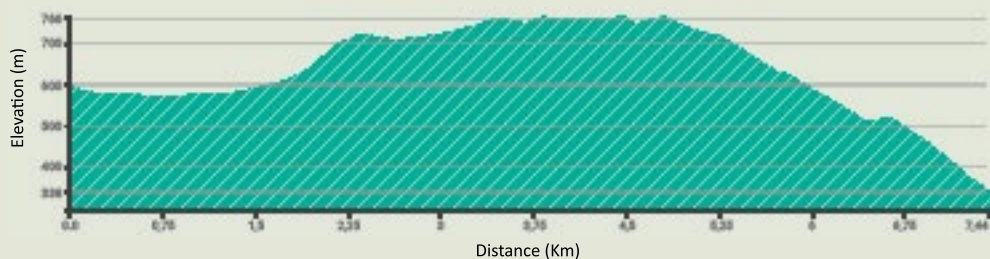


DOWNLOAD
THE ROUTE

Krassi - Azilakodassos - Chamoprena

The route starts at Krassi square (alt. 600m) where the perennial plane tree (monument of the nature) is located. Head north following the dirt road, and turn left in order to find the path that will lead you to Azilakodassos (Azilakas forest, alt. 760m). Returning from the same path, turn right at the junction and continue descending towards Chamoprena (alt. 340m).

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance 8 Km	Duration 4:00 hrs	Proposed period March to October
Highest Point 760m	Lowest Point 340m	Villages we meet Krassi
Starting Point Krassi		Ending Point Chamoprena





Difficulty

1

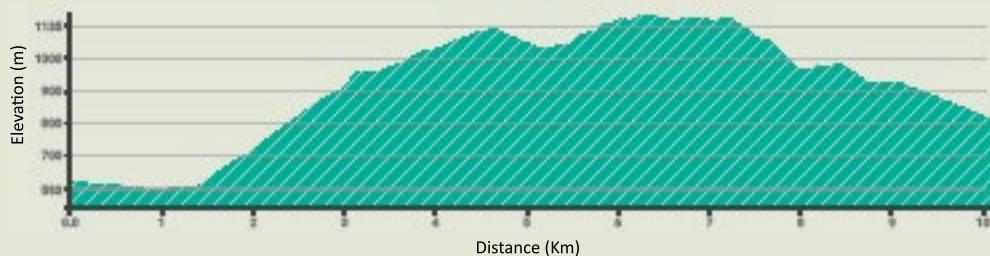
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THE ROUTE

Krassi - Karfi -Lagou

The route starts at Krassi Village (alt.620m). Heading east via a dirt road and then via a steep path, you will reach "Kalos Lakkos". At this point, turn right and pass through a forest with holm oaks. Continue by heading south until you reach Vitsilovryssi (alt. 1030m). Keep your ascending route, until you reach at a location called "Karfi" (alt. 1100m), where you will find an ancient Minoan settlement (1200 BC) and a sacred area for the Minoans.

The view from Karfi is breathtaking with extended views towards Lassithi Plateau and Heraklion. As you continue, you will pass through a forest with oak trees, having on your left the "Onesimus" plateau. The hiking ends at Lagos village (alt.825m) at Lassithi Plateau.

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance	Duration	Proposed period
10.5 Km	4:30 hrs	March to June & September to October

Highest Point	Lowest Point	Villages we meet
1100m	620m	Krassi, Lagou

Starting Point	Ending Point
Krassi	Lagou





Difficulty

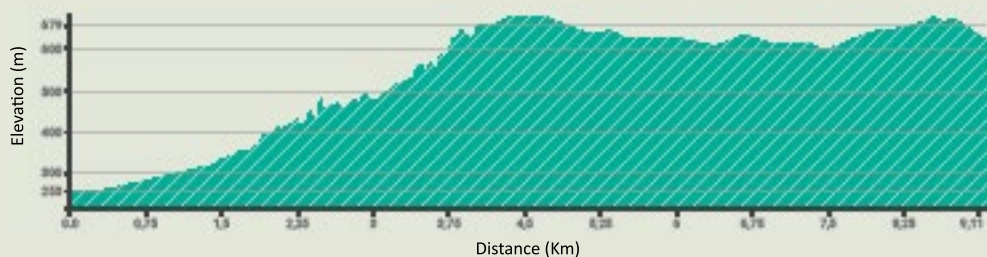
1


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THE ROUTE

Gonies - Roza Gorge - Kera - Krassi

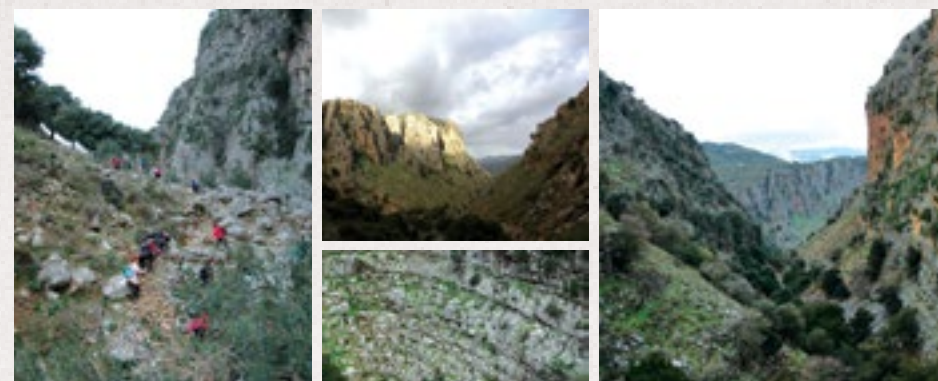
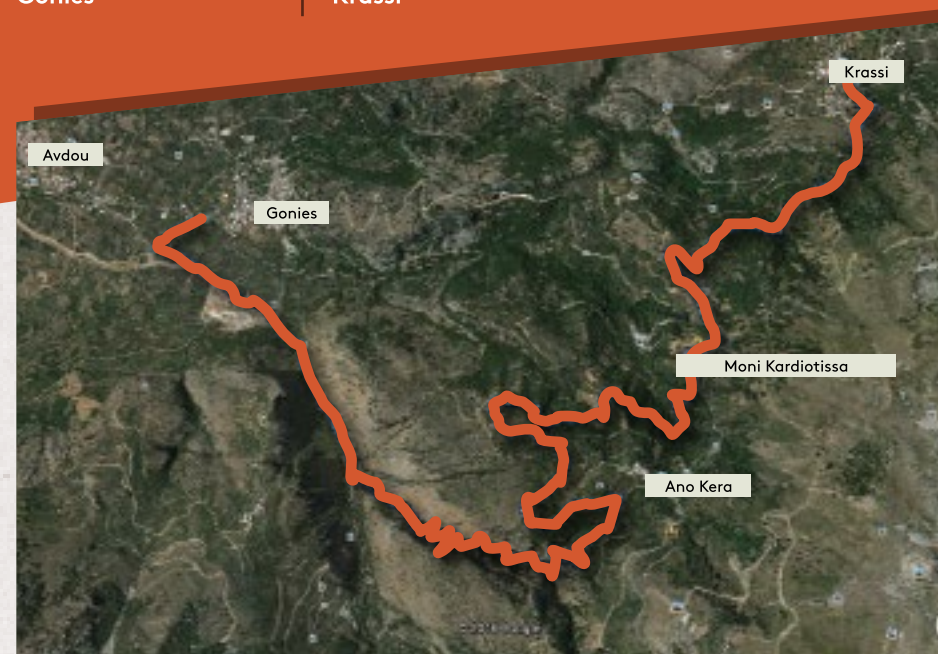
The route starts just outside Gonies village (alt. 270m) and continues entering the Roza Gorge. The route is ascending with some points where attention is needed. Exiting the gorge, follow the dirt road that leads to Panagia Kera "Kardiotissa" (alt.615m). Then pick the dirt road through oak trees to reach Krassi (alt. 620m) village with the famous plane tree.

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance 9.5 Km	Duration 4:00 hrs	Proposed period April to October
Highest Point 270m	Lowest Point 680m	Villages we meet Gonies, Krassi
Starting Point Gonies		Ending Point Krassi





Difficulty

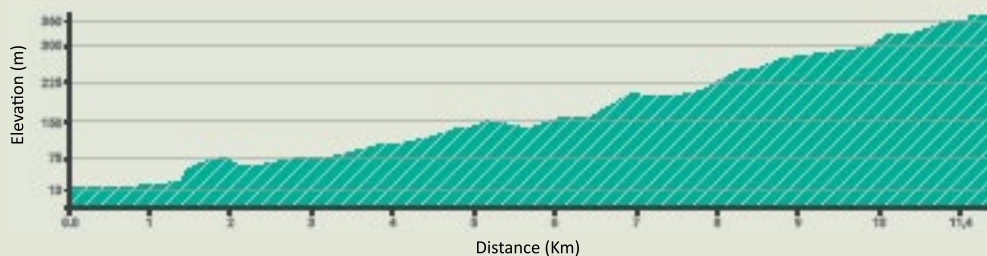
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THE ROUTE

Gournes - Ag. Anastassia Gorge - Episkopi

Start the route on the east side of Gournes (alt. 12m) and follow the dirt road until you enter the gorge. Continue your hiking passing through the gorge, enjoying the wild landscape with the oleanders. You will arrive at Ag.Anastassia chapel, (alt. 160m) that is built into a cave before you continue to reach Kenourgio Chorio (alt. 200m) with the old Venetian wine presses. Walk towards Skopela village and finish the route in Episkopi (alt. 300m).

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance 10 Km	Duration 4:00 hrs	Proposed period March to October
Highest Point 300m	Lowest Point 12m	Villages we meet Gournes, Kenourgio Chorio, Skopela, Episkopi
Starting Point Gournes		Ending Point Episkopi





Difficulty

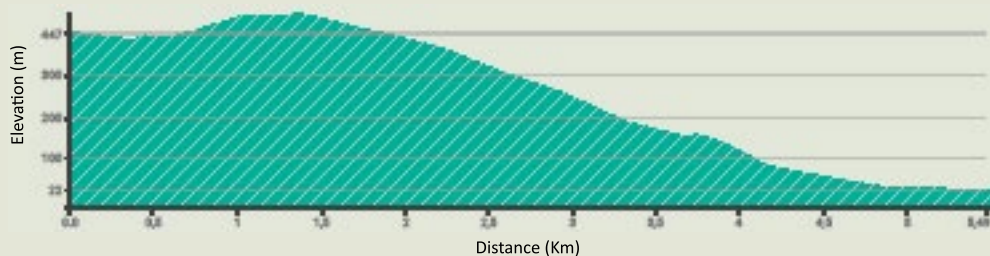
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THE ROUTE

Mochos - Malia

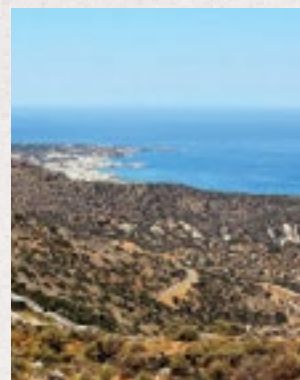
Start the route at the path that is located next to the football field of Mochos (alt. 400m.). Descend the stone path until you reach the highway "Heraklion - Agios Nikolaos" and enjoy the spectacular views. You will need to cross over a bridge in order to finish the route that will take you just outside Malia (alt. 75m.).

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance	Duration	Proposed period
4.3 Km	2:00 hrs	All year
Highest Point	Lowest Point	Villages we meet
400m	75m	Mochos, Malia
Starting Point		Ending Point
Mochos		Malia





10 Krassi - Selena

Difficulty

1



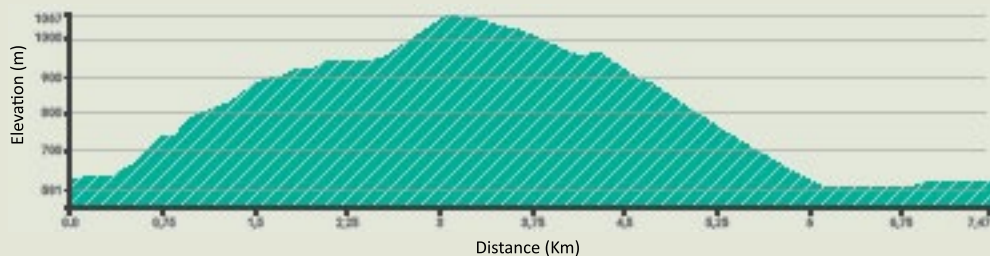
DOWNLOAD
THE ROUTE

Krassi - Selena - Krassi

Start the route at Krassi village (alt. 600m) and reach the church of Ag. Paraskevi in order to find the beginning of the path (alt. 650m). Follow the ascending path to the springs "Paspara" (alt. 730m.), up to "Kalos Lakos" (alt. 900m.) At that point, head east to reach "Mavros Azilakas" (alt. 1000m) in order to find the old path that was used to connect Lasithi Plateau with Vrahassi. Continue following the path to reach Selena (alt. 950m).

Walk about 150m to the east to reach the path that leads to "Poros Lagads" (alt. 640m). Then, return to Krassi via the springs "Paspara" using the same path as previously. Alternatively, you can return via the rural roads.

Elevation Gain



Route info

Distance	Duration	Proposed period
7.8 Km	3:30 hrs	
Highest Point	Lowest Point	Villages we meet
1160m	600m	Krassi
Starting Point	Ending Point	
Krassi	Krassi	

