

**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**  
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:**Hiking through the Lassithi Plateau**  
**Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)**

**Oropedio Lasithiou** or **Lasithi Plateau** (Οροπέδιο Λασιθίου) is a zoned plateau within the **Mount Dikti** (Dicte / Δίκη), around 800 m above sea level. It is about 5 to 6 miles in length and 3 to 4 miles wide. 21 Villages are built on the lower mountain slopes surroundings. The surrounding mountain ranges consist mostly of bright marble limestone; Best way to the plateau is from **Hersonissos** (Χερσόνησος - *Chersónisos*) on the North coast of Crete (about 15 miles east of Iraklion), via a well-developed asphalt road to **Tzermiado** (Τζερμιάδον), the largest town in the centre of the plateau, to be reached in around 30 to 45 minutes.

The plateau was already populated 5,000 years ago (Neolithic era). Remains from settlements and cult site from the Minoan period have been discovered as well, including the **Psychro** cave - the putative site of **Zeus'** birth. Due to the flat area the **Lasithi** is recommended for (light) walks. You reach the major sight (see figures) well and can experience nature and environment and also the Cretan lives in the **Lasithi**.

More detailed information can be found here: [www.kreta-umwelt-forum.de/lassithihochebene.htm](http://www.kreta-umwelt-forum.de/lassithihochebene.htm); - [/windmuehlenlassithi.htm](#); - [/menschenaufkreta2.htm](#); - [/gebeinhoehleagios.htm](#); - [/trapeza.htm](#); - [/diktaion.htm](#); - [/entdeckungsgeschichte.htm](#). (currently only in German) or [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lassithi\\_Plateau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lassithi_Plateau); <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dikti>



The figure left shows one of even a few intact windmills left in the **Lasithi**. More than 17,000 windmills earlier pumped the necessary water for irrigation of fields from the Chambers in the underground limestone rock. Almost all pinwheels are replaced by diesel operated pumps today and the image of the "**Lasithi** flooded with white sailing" on many postcards to tidal belongs to the past. The figure to the right shows the plateau from Southwest. The access is via a slope of **Gerakio** (Γεράκιον), (vehicles with all-wheeled drive only) throughout the **Dikti** Mountains towards **Kaminakio** (Καμινάκιον) in the **Lasithi**.



Besides the well-known and often described *Psychro* cave is also the *Trapeza* cave, which was used as a burial in the Minoan time, worth seeing. It is northeast of the town of *Tzermiado* and is to reach by foot from here (well sign-posted) in around 20 minutes.

The figure shows a 2003 discovered cave chamber with bones and skulls (presumably) from the late Neolithic (3800 - 2800 BC). The "temple" is located near *Diktaion Andron (Psychro-)* Cave, 200 m right of the road between *Kato Metohi (Κάτω Μετόχιον)* and *Aghios Charalampos (Αγιος Χαράλαμπος)*. The Chamber was closed again after the excavations, so that today only the "access" is visible.

Photos: *H.Eikamp/M.Petrakis* (2003)

## Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)

Green-veined White belongs to the family of the Pieridae, a large family of butterflies with about 76 genera containing approximately 1,100 species, mostly from tropical Africa and Asia. These moths are marked with a broad, dark wire drawing on the bottom of rear wing which is faded with rising generation number and a black drawing on top of the front wing. Male with one, female with two dark spots on the front wing top. The egg deposition is individually to the forage plant. Overwinter as belt doll to plant stalks. Flight times: Late April to September. For this moth *Lasithi* (with their fields, meadows, and waysides) in Crete is the ideal habitat.



The figures show the individual stages of metamorphose of Green-veined White with egg, grub, doll and moth

Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

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At this point tips for accommodation and property search on the north coast of the island



[www.tdsv.de/mariamar/](http://www.tdsv.de/mariamar/)

### Ktimatoemporiki Kritis

Property agency, in Chania, offers not only real estate of any kind but is endeavours to find the right solution and the right real estate for their customers.

### Ktimatoemporiki Kritis

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