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NATIONAL COMMITTEE ENVIRONMENT CRETE (Ecological awardees 1984 of county Offenbach a.M.; certified with European Ecological Award 1987)

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Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Excursion to the cave of Thériso / Prefecture Chania



From *Chania* follow the main road (marked in red on map in 1:125.000) towards south (Omalos Plateau / Samaira Canyon) until the village of *Fournes*. In *Fournes* branch off to the side road (marked in yellow) to *Meskla* (around 3.7 miles). In Meskla than follow a approx 7.5 miles long gravel road (marked in white on the map) via the small mountain village Zouvra to Thériso. The road is partly asphalted and can be used with e normal car. The route runs across the foothills of the mountain Xerakokefala (1,238 m) and offers beautiful views of the wild mountains of this region.

About 1.8 miles after the village of Thérios, where the road runs in a right curve besides the river Kladissos, lead (left the road) stairs (approx. 230 levels) with a wooden railing (to be used with caution because the stability leaves much to be desired) 150 metres up the mountainside; for way up takes (depending on conditions) 10-15 minutes. The narrow entrance to the cave is located at the end of the stairway trail.

A use (settlement) from Neolithic times is ascertained for the cave of Thériso. Based on stories of the locals the cave has "no end", and also German soldiers shall been buried in times of the 2nd World War¹. The cave is (including the entrance) very closely and in most sections (up to the 1.Hall) to commit only in "creeping"; steep passages and vertical tunnels (so right to the left shortly after access) are "sources of danger". The cave should be entered only with appropriate experience and extreme caution. Without strong lamps and cave equipment a inspection definitely is not a good idea. Also who do not climb in: there is a good and beautiful view in the Gorge of the "Therissou Canyon" from the cave entrance.









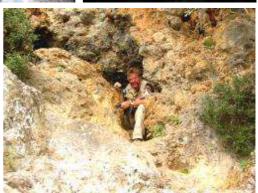


The fig. (above from left to right) show the way up and the cave entrance from outside (2 x) and inside.

Fig. right: the cave exit area;

Fig. left: a "creeping tunnel" within the cave with opening of a vertical tunnel (yellow mark).

Pics: Kluge / Eikamp (2004)









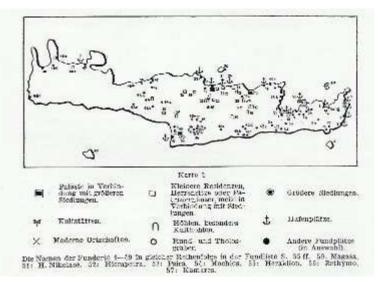
Pictures are showing (from left to right): overall view of the cave mountain, view into the Therissou Canyon from the cave and on the road besides the river.

Pictures: U. Kluge (2004)

The branch road leads through the Therissou-Canyon towards north back to *Chania* – or you follow around 2.4 miles past *Thériso* the right branching gravel road (meanwhile asphalted) towards *Panagia* (4.3 miles) which also lead through a beautiful and unspoiled countryside. From *Panagia* it then goes back through branch roads via *Mournies* to *Chania*.

¹ During World War II. German soldiers occupied Crete (1941). Despite the war with all its horrors there was interest to deal with cultural issues and the past of occupied Crete. At least this implies the contemporary document of a German soldier from the year 1942; therefore see images below.







SCHACHERMEYR, F. (1939): "Zur Rasse und Kultur im minoischen Kreta" [To the race and culture in the Minoan Crete]. – 61 pages, 20 images, 2 maps; Carl Winter Universitätsbuchhandlung, Heidelberg. - This publication was probably in the luggage of a German soldier, who sent it with appropriate comments 1942 from Rethymnon back to Germany. The publication includes (besides the shown "find point map 2" (p. 55) in particular a location list (annex p. 56-61), which among others lists cult caves at Crete, which today are hardly known or untraceable. Because the information about the geographical position of many locations are unfortunately too insufficient, it was certainly necessary to make "notes" to new findings. Unfortunately, these are not known!

Remark: the shown literature (including document) is located in the collection (library) of the editor.