

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Rock-Monastery Faneroménis at Gourniá / Northeast Crete



With reference to the directions in the info leaflet No. 075-05/E of **CRETE EnvironmentInfo** to the Minoan settlement place Gourniá, one reaches the monastery, by following from Gourniá the National road further westward for about 2 miles (Istro). Here one turns then right to the “Old Road” (towards camping site). After about 800 m refers a sign to the left branch to the monastery. The distance to the monastery leads across serpentines up into the mountains to about 600 m above sea level. The entire distance up to the monastery (over a partial very close runway) amounts to about 4.4 miles whereof about 0.6 miles are asphalted; the remainder of the distance consists of more unsealed “shaking runway” (which is still passable with a normal passenger car).

Ι. Μονή Φανερωμένης Faneromenis Monastery



History means that 1170 in a cave, which today is cubature by the monastery, an icon of the St. Maria was found. Since then it was begun to build a cave church first which was developed gradually to the monastery. The cave church was restored in 1953.

The monastery built in several terraces closely to the cliff has its own spring water supply and a guesthouse. At present it is managed by a monk (supported by “honorary” aids). On the 15th of August, the celebration of the Panagia, a large celebration takes place here.

From the monastery one has a beautiful view to the gulf of Mirabello; over the deeply cut valley away one can recognize the house line from Agios Nikolaos in the Northwest



Pictures show (beside the total view of the monastery) the entrance (left) and the access area to the inner court (centre picture). Picture right shows a view into the inner court from the 3rd terrace level. The cave church is located at the 4th terrace level.



The left photo shows the entrance to the cave church; at its left side is a further cave entrance (see arrow). The middle photo shows the ceiling area above the “altar”, painted with frescoes and decorated with icons. The right photo a lateral gallery at whose gable end, in the niches of the cave wall icons stand likewise.

The way back can be taken only via the same road. For this it is referred to two antique settlement remainders, which are in each case on the left of the runway at the mountain-slope. The first (with a village-similar character) is reached after about 2 miles of the way back, the second after further 600 meter.



The upper two photos show building remainders of the antique, village-similar settlement about 2 miles underneath the monastery. The lower two pictures were taken looking out of the building ruins from the 2nd 600 m further down; picture left thereby shows a view towards the monastery and to the antique settlement remainders (of the upper two photos), picture right towards the coast and to the gulf of Mirabello.

Pictures: (5540, 5546, 5561, 5574/28.07.2005) *U. Kluge* / (5312, 5314, 5317, 5319, 5320, 5323, 5324, 5330, 5331/28.07.2005) *H. Eikamp*