



Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

CretAquarium: an attraction for Crete!
Minoan settlement NIROS in Vathianos Kampos



The new built CretAquarium became inaugurated and opened in the middle of December 2005 on the former area of the US-Army in Gournes (about. 16 km east of Iraklion). It is located directly on the north coast at the beach of Gournes and can be reached well sign-posted via the “Old Road” Iraklion - Agio Nikolaos. The well-spaced building with its atrium in the entry area is architecturally very nice designed; also a Cafe and a Snack bar are integrated in the building complex.

The technical facilities are modern (and state of the art); the access takes place with smart card (bar code) through baffle gates. A round tour leads to individual small and large aquariums, which predominantly contain the communities of the Mediterranean, complemented by film containers about the Fish fauna generally. The documentation (with description) of aquarium contents is unfortunately very poor; also the illustrations of the fish in the aquariums with their names, which can be addressed by turning rollers in several languages, cannot compensate (see fig.). Unfortunately also the environmental aspect is missing within the at present still incomplete existence of the Mediterranean fauna; the marine pollution, its causes and consequences, are not appropriately taken into consideration. However, in principle the aquarium is worth seeing, even if the admission fee with 7 € per person seems something too expensive. The CretAquarium is opened between 10:00 and 17:30; further information (in Greek and English) can be found at www.cretaquarium.gr. Following some pictures of an attendance in December 2005.



The pictures are showing the building and snap-shots from individual aquaria whose fish population is probably extended by further kinds in the coming years. Detailed information's (in written and audio) about the contents of the aquaria could significantly increase the „Attractiveness“.

Pic.: U. Kluge / H. Eikamp (25.12.2005)

Minoan settlement NIROS in Vathianos Kampos

The small excavation is located nearby the CretAquarium. You reach it from Gournes on the “Old Road” towards Iraklion. It is located after approx. 1 mile in the midst of the village Vathianos, directly on the left of the main street.

In its arrangement it resembles all other small Minoan settlement places on Crete and exhibits no characteristics; it probably owes its presentation (for the public) its situation in a “tourist place”, which thereby offers, except beach vacation some culture-historical. Unfortunately the public information to this settlement place is very little to no present and the statement from a child mouth “only broken stones” is appropriate worded. NIROS can be visited only in the summer months; outside of the “tourist season” the roofed excavation (between Knossos and Malia) is closed, even if the sign attached for visitors documents contrary (only **Monday closed**).



ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟΣ ΧΩΡΟΣ ΝΙΡΟΥ ΧΑΝΙ			
ΩΡΑΡΙΟ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑΣ		VISITING HOURS	
ΘΕΡΙΝΟ ΩΡΑΡΙΟ		SUMMER SEASON	
ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ	ΚΛΕΙΣΤΟΣ	MONDAY	CLOSED
ΤΡΙΤΗ-ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ	8.30-15.00	TUESDAY-SUNDAY	8.30-15.00
ΧΕΙΜΕΡΙΝΟ ΩΡΑΡΙΟ		WINTER SEASON	
ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ	ΚΛΕΙΣΤΟΣ	MONDAY	CLOSED
ΤΡΙΤΗ-ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ	8.30-15.00	TUESDAY-SUNDAY	8.30-15.00



The accompanying imaged ground plan of the plant (cast in concrete, 50 x 90 cm) is located inconspicuously in front of the entrance within a flower bed and is unfortunately the only “source of information” to this archaeological place “on-site”.



The pictures show a view into the plant; left towards east and right towards south. The main part below the roof is well accessible; others (as in the left part of the left picture) are visible only "in squatting position".

Pictures: H. Eikamp



Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

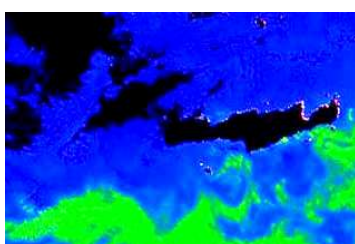
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Crete-**Impressions II:**

It was on the 22nd of September.2004, when we saw “Pegasus of papier-mâché” in Vrissis/North Crete. Pegasus is represented frequently in the Cretan art; it is the child of the sea god Poseidon and the Gorgon Medusa - and in the Greek mythology a “winged horse”. The word Pegasus means in Greek “fountain”. Two wells allegedly developed by Pegasus` hoofbeat at Zeus behest. In Greek mythology Pegasus was transformed after into a constellation.

Eikamp

Picture: H.



It happened on the 30th of September 2002 when an ESA Satellite made the AATSR picture of the water temperature around Crete. At this day the temperature was below 18 degree C. The black areas are countries or clouds.

Picture: ESA